

CityPULSE

FREE

a newspaper for the region

lansingcitypulse.com

December 18-25, 2013



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District - East Lansing
Michigan State University

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Gretchen Whitmer's Senate floor speech on rape insurance, in all of its passion and courage



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Local newsman showcases local talent with new variety show

Three wishes

We ask 27 local personalities what could make a difference for them ... and for us

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CityPULSE

This Bridal Edition will be distributed at the following bridal shows:

- Eagle Eye Friday.....Jan. 3
- Bridal World Lansing Center Sunday.....Jan. 5
- Kellogg Center Sunday.....Jan. 12
- Grand Ledge Opera House Sunday.....Feb. 16

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Whitmer rips 'rape insurance'

Tells lawmakers she was raped. Senate, unmoved, votes to mandate abortion rider provision.

(Senate Minority Leader Gretchen Whitmer, D-East Lansing, attacked new abortion legislation in a floor speech excerpted here. Both houses approved the measure.)

"Apparently the holiday season of goodwill toward men reads more like ill will toward women as the Republican male majority continues to ignorantly and unnecessarily weigh in on important women's health issues that they know nothing about.

As a legislator, a lawyer, a woman and a mother of two girls, I think the fact that rape insurance is even being discussed by this body is repulsive, let alone the way it has been orchestrated and shoved through the Legislature. And to those of you who are aghast that I would use a term like rape insurance to describe the proposal here in front of us, you should be more offended that it's an absolutely accurate description of what this proposal requires.

This tells women that were raped and became pregnant that they should have thought ahead and bought special insurance for it. By moving forward on this initiative, Senate Republicans want to



Whitmer

See Whitmer, Page 6

Feedback

'Repulsed'

Upon first reading recent article on Jim Harrison in City Pulse (12/11/13), I was repulsed. Mention is made of enjoyment had by Harrison and his friend Guy de la Valdene by eating "head cheese," and such exposure is nearly enough to make me vomit. Thoughts of killing a squealing pig, cutting off its head, and boiling the head for twenty-four hours would seem to be highly objectionable to anyone, not just to me.

People eat all kinds of disgusting things, if one thinks deeply about the issue. They feast on dogs, cats, grasshoppers, lobsters, sheep eyes, fowls, horses, calves, lambs, horses, goose liver, and bulls' balls. Human beings haven't yet evolved completely beyond a diet which might be called Cro-Magnam.

Robert DeMott goes so far as to say

Harrison "thinks deeply about things," and he compares Harrison to "Walden, Thoreau, and Transcendentalism." Come on now. Harrison certainly does not think deeply in at least two important aspect of his life, and Thoreau and Emerson were beyond Harrison and friends' joy in their sort of animal exploitation.

Harrison is said to have written 13 volumes of poetry. I'm remembering now Coleridge's poem "KublaKahn," end of which is often thought to refer to the creative artist, maybe specifically to a poet.. The lines go: "... he on honey-dew hath fed,/And drunk the milk of Paradise." The poem doesn't read: "... he on dove and quail hath fed;/ And feasted long on head cheese."

— Marion Owen-Fekete
Lansing

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MSU prof helps students find their inner songsmiths

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Upscale Lansing bistro a success by land and by sea

COVER ART

WISHES DON'T GROW IN BOXES by RACHEL HARPER

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CITY PULSE ON THE AIR



Editor & Publisher
Berl Schwartz

7 p.m. Wednesdays



THIS WEEK Joe Grimm, MSU professor of journalism
State Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge
John Kratus, MSU professor of music
State Sen. Gretchen Whitmer's speech on abortion legislation

PUBLIC NOTICES

Public Notice

EXTENSION: Request for Qualifications: Real Estate Professional Services. Ingham County Land Bank is seeking qualified professionals to list and sell residential properties. The RFQ Packet is currently available at the Ingham County Land Bank, 422 Adams, Lansing, Michigan 48906, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday or at www.inghamlandbank.org. The due date for responses has been **extended to January 8, 2014** and are due at the Land Bank offices by 1:00 pm. Responses will be opened January 8, 2014 at 1:00 pm. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply.

Notice of Public Sale

In accordance with Michigan State Law Storage Facility Act No. 443 and to satisfy an operator's lien, the contents of the following units will be sold at public auction on www.StorageBattles.com to the highest bidder ending on **December 27, 2013 at 12:30pm** for units located at **4200 Hunsaker Dr. East Lansing, MI 48823**

Unit#	Tenant Name
1208, 1041, 809, 303	George Rowan
104	Yuchen Huang
902	Yixiao Ren
1141	Yuxuan Duan

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Now what?

Five questions to consider as a new developer is brought on for the Red Cedar Golf Course redevelopment

Local officials announced last week they had gone to the bullpen to bring in a new player to help redevelop a 61-acre former golf course on Lansing's east side, replacing one of the original developers for reasons not immediately apparent.

Lansing's Joel Ferguson and Columbus, Ohio's Frank Kass announced their partnership at a press conference hosted at the Lansing Economic Area Partnership's REO Town offices Thursday. LEAP President and CEO Bob Trezise, Mayor Virg Bernero and Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann — a key player on the infrastructure side — joined Ferguson and Kass in elation over the transformative potential of the \$125 million project. Given its scale and location, they say the project could be the most important in the Midwest.

But as the Red Cedar Renaissance project builds momentum (again), a series of unknowns remains. They include, but are not limited to, the jettisoning of original developer Chris Jerome — whose family owns vacant car dealerships adjacent to and across the street from the golf course — and how much the developers will pay the city for the land. Some key questions:

Who is Frank Kass and what happened to the Jeromes?

No one's saying much about the breakup of Jerome and Ferguson, the original team chosen for the project instead of four others that submitted plans as part of a Request for Proposals last year. Original designs included an amphitheater and a hotel along with commercial and residential spaces.

Jerome, who spoke by phone from out of state after last week's press conference, declined to comment for this story. Ferguson offered a terse, "This is our team" without elaborating. Trezise said the city has "the right guy" in Kass with great potential for finding investors. Bernero said it's his understanding that Ferguson and Jerome "chose to go in another direction."

Relationships aside, the Jerome family still owns prime real estate around the golf course in former car dealerships on the north and south sides of Michigan Avenue. They could choose to develop it themselves or sell it to another interested party, potentially with increased values after Ferguson's and Kass' plan takes

shape.

Ferguson didn't rule out buying at least one of Jerome's properties, the former Sawyer Pontiac dealership on the same side of the street as the golf course.

"When this development is up, that property's going to be worth a lot of money," Ferguson said of the other dealership, Story Oldsmobile at 3165 E. Michigan Ave. across the street.

Trezise said Kass was tapped for his ability to bring investors and tenants from outside of the region — as well as experience, which is something Jerome didn't bring to the table.

"They seem to really grasp doing expensive, urban redevelopment projects," Trezise said, referring to Continental Real Estate Companies' efforts to develop portions of the two-mile stretch between



The latest "working model" of the design of the Red Cedar Renaissance project. Developer Joel Ferguson says it's subject to change based on public input.

downtown Columbus and Ohio State University.

Kass, Continental's CEO, compared it to downtown Lansing and MSU, with Red Cedar in the middle.

"This is going to be the beginning of filling in that gap," Kass said. "This is not my first rodeo."

How much input from charrettes will be included in final design?

In the coming months, LEAP will help facilitate public planning sessions to solicit ideas from residents about how the development should look. How walkable is it? How much green space will remain? How will traffic flow? These are a few questions that residents will weigh in on during the charrettes, a process that allows stakeholders of all sorts to offer ideas and suggestions to shape the project.

But how much of that will actually make it into the final design? Hard to say.

A rendering posted on a website related to Ferguson Development is considered a "working model" and differs from renderings when it was a Jerome/

Ferguson project. (The website, ferguson.danielfederspiel.com, features Ferguson's company, though the page banner promotes the law firm, Scott Norton Law. Ferguson was unaware the site existed last week.)

Either way, the design has changed at least slightly in the way buildings and parking is situated, which means the new team has committed to some work on the layout.

Ferguson stresses that the renderings are just preliminary. "We think the people in the community will add a lot of value that will tweak what our thoughts are," he said. "There's a real activist community over there. They want the best for the city and community and we do too. We're really open to how the people feel."



Property: Horticultural Laboratory Building (Eustace-Cole Hall), 468 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing

Owner: Michigan State University

A short walk along MSU's West Circle Drive rewards admirers of traditional architecture. There, a string of buildings referred to as Laboratory Row is capped at its north end by the home of the Honors College. Listed on both the National and State Historical registers, this picturesque building was likely designed by architect William D. Appleyard, though popular belief attributes the effort to horticulturalist Liberty Hyde Bailey.

The building's solid Queen Anne massing rises from a stone foundation and brick exterior, punctuated by an elaborately detailed, Richardsonian Romanesque arch at the main entrance. Although the wood shakes on the upper level present a weatherworn patina, they originally exhibited an attractive, decorative pattern. Jack arch-topped windows are arranged in well-balanced asymmetries, despite the later addition of a pair of windows — careful observers should be able to spot the new work.

Viewing the front elevation, the double-pitched gambrel roof and its attached tower call to mind a barn and silo — a perfect image for the horticulture building of the former Michigan Agricultural College. Now developed to a great university, it is perhaps a measure of maturity that, despite two schemes to demolish this building and its neighbors, they still remain.

— Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

"Eye Candy of the Week" is our weekly look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates with Eyesore of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call Andy Balaskovitz at 999-5064.

Red Cedar

from page 5

What is the market for mixed use, particularly retail?

The goal of the “high-end village” project is a mix of student and young-professional housing, a hotel, a restaurant and commercial retail. The southern half away from Michigan Avenue is intended to be a recreational green space. Trezise is encouraged by trends on the residential side, but what about retail — particularly at a site that will directly compete with Lansing Township’s Eastwood Towne Center?

“Because of the unique location of the property itself, I think it can attract certain kinds of retail and restaurants that are not currently around — but, again, that’s just our goal,” Trezise said.

Indeed, Red Cedar is uniquely positioned — it’s not your average development site. It thrives on high traffic and a close proximity to large employers, said Shawn O’Brien, senior vice president at CB Richard Ellis’ commercial real-estate office. Lacking those

and a “critical mass” of density lead to struggling projects, he said, particularly in green-fields.

When will polluted water discharges into the Red Cedar River be addressed?

The development and the redesigned floodplain are like two trains on separate tracks but nonetheless depend on the other to keep moving.

Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann has for years raised the flag for improving the Montgomery Drain district, which discharges storm water into the Red Cedar River at the south end of the property.

Ferguson says this work enhances the commercial development.

“The stronger we make the environment and the open space,” Ferguson said, the stronger the overall development will be.

Lindemann has crews onsite taking soil borings to “determine the stability of soils” in the watershed and inventorying infrastructure. Essentially, Lindemann is designing a system that will “clean and polish” water runoff before it reaches the river.

“The outcome of that is going to be huge,” Lindemann said, referring to the scale of the

environmental results.

Lindemann’s project is in conjunction with the development, since he can’t design a filtration system before Ferguson’s and Kass’ design is finished. A series of public hearings and permit approvals also need to take place.

“All of this data we’re collecting now is going to be a foundation,” Lindemann said.

— Andy Balaskovitz



Whitmer

from page 4

essentially require Michigan women to plan ahead and financially invest in health care coverage for potentially having their bodies violated and assaulted. Even worse, it would force parents to have similar and unthinkable terrible discussions about planning the same for their daughters.

I have said it before and I will say it again: This is by far one of the most misogynistic proposals I have ever seen in the Michigan Legislature. And I am not the only one who knows that

Right to Life of Michigan has pushed this twice before, and two times before, two different Republican governors stood up and vetoed it with conviction. ...

Unfortunately in their thirst for political power at all costs, Right to Life refused to abandon their extremist agenda in the face of political and public opposition to this terrible idea. Instead, they started this petition drive to circumvent the governor entirely. More shamefully, their plan is to circumvent the people of Michigan. ...

The reality is, over the past couple of weeks I’ve heard from nearly as many Republicans as I have democrats, including many Republicans that even signed Right to

Life’s initiative who are disgusted to find out you are subverting the democratic process to make this law. To claim something is a citizen’s initiative or that you are only acting on the will of the people, you have to be able to back that up. But you can’t even come close.

Not only are you trying to enact a law brought to us by only 4 percent of our population, but polling suggests only one-third of Michigan’s entire population supports your plan. By the way, I’ve seen the polling, and that abysmal support is true in every one of your districts. In what world does that constitute a will of the people? ...

Your action is in complete disregard of the variety of circumstances women face — circumstances you either don’t understand or frankly don’t care about. This applies to a planned pregnancy that has gone awry, wherein a woman needs a medically necessary D & C procedure. It also applies to the deplorable acts of rape and incest that result in an unwanted pregnancy. These women will have no recourse unless they anticipated the unimaginable — unless they planned to have these unspeakable things happen to them. ...

I have a lot more prepared remarks here but I think it’s important for me to just mention a couple things. ... Because there are people in this chamber who have lived through things you can’t even imagine. I have a colleague who I was trying to encourage to tell his story, but he’s still grieving. But it was a planned pregnancy that went awry and required a D & C.

And I started to think about that and I thought: I can’t push one of my colleagues to share a tough story if I’m not brave enough to share one of my own. And so I’m about to tell you something that I have not shared with many people in my life. But over 20 years ago I was a victim of rape. And thank God it didn’t result in a pregnancy. Because I can’t imagine going through what I went through and then having to consider what to do about an unwanted pregnancy from an attacker. And as a mother with two girls, the thought that they would go through something like I did keeps me up at night. I thought this was all behind me. You know how tough I can be. The thought and the memory of that still haunts me.

If this were law then and I had become pregnant, I would not be able to have coverage because of this. How extreme does this measure need to be? I’m not the only woman in our state that has faced that horrible circumstance. I am not enjoying talking about it. It’s something I have hidden for a long time. But I think you need to see the face of the women that you are impacting by this vote today. I think you need to think of the girls that we are raising and what kind of a state we want to be where you would put your approval on something this extreme.

I ask that you at least let the people of the state have a vote on this. Don’t ram it through using some loophole that is going to impact 100 percent of the women in this state when only 4 percent of the people signed on to a petition.

Let the people decide. Let the people of Michigan decide.”

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1319, a City-initiated Ordinance to amend Section 50-36, and 50-37, of Chapter 50 – Zoning – of the Code of the City of East Lansing.

- To require that the elevations/façade treatment plan submitted and approved as part of a Site Plan and/or Special Use Permit application not be changed without additional review and approval.
- To implement a tiered process for review and approval of changes to an approved plan based on the significance of the proposed modification.
- To place the burden of conformance with the approved elevation/façade treatment plan on the owner of the property and makes nonconformance a violation under Section 50-33 of Chapter 50.

2. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Trowbridge Village, LLC for Site Plan and Special Use Permit approval for the properties at 920-940, 950-956, 962-968, 990, 1000, and 1020 Trowbridge Road. The multi-part application includes the following requests:

- Remodeling of the Trowbridge Plaza main building and approval of a SDM/SDD license for carry-out beer, wine, and spirits for the grocery store in the building. (subject to special use permit approval)
- Conversion of the existing Tavern license for Hobie’s Restaurant to a Class C liquor license. (subject to special use permit approval)
- Construction of a four-story, mixed-use building adjacent to Trowbridge Road. (subject to site plan and special use permit approval)
- Construction of a five-story, mixed-use building on the site of the former Oodles of Noodles. (subject to site plan and special use permit approval)

In total, the project involves the remodeling of 46,224 square feet of existing retail space, construction of 15,705 square feet of retail/restaurant/office space, 149 apartments in four- and five-story buildings (8 studios, 38 one-bedroom units, 95 two-bedroom units, and 8 four-bedroom units), and associated parking. The property is zoned B-2, Retail Sales Business District.

Call (517) 319-6930, the Department of Planning, Building and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, for additional information. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. These matters will be on the agenda for the next Planning Commission meeting after the public hearing is held, at which time the Commission may vote on them. The Planning Commission’s recommendations are then placed on the agenda of the next City Council meeting. The City Council will make the final decision on these applications.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services should write or call the Planning Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823. Phone: (517) 319-6930. TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777.

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The list is in

This year's top 10 tax delinquents

"Unfortunately," says Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing, the number of foreclosures isn't improving in greater Lansing. "The level of foreclosure activity looks to stay quite elevated for at least the third year running."

Schertzing's office prepared this year's list of the top 10 property tax delinquents in Ingham County, which

reflects taxes owed from 2011. The top 10 owe a total of \$636,755.12, which represents 14 percent of the debt owed to the county for 2011 and prior property taxes. The full list is inserted in this issue.

The number of parcels in this year's full list increased slightly — by 1.3 percent — from 2012, from 1,417 to 1,436, according to the Treasurer's Office.

Property owners have until March 31 to pay taxes owed from 2011.

— City Pulse staff

TOP TEN TAX DELINQUENTS OF 2013

NAME	PAYOFF	PARCEL NO./PROPERTY
1 101 S. Washington Development LLC	\$215,295.72	33-01-01-16-401-002, 101 S. Washington Sq., Lansing
2 DJF Landholding LLC	\$69,111.67	33-01-05-09-401-012, 134 E. Edgewood Blvd., Lansing
3 B & J Moving and Storage Inc.	\$62,889.00	33-01-01-04-176-051, 3110 Turner St., Lansing
4 CB Labath LLC	\$53,742.17	33-25-05-02-200-036, 3490 Belle Chase Way, Lansing
5 GSD Petroleum LLC	\$50,418.25	4 parcels in Lansing
6 Fady Inc.	\$41,770.81	8 parcels in Lansing
7 Okemos 2221 LLC	\$40,447.04	33-06-06-04-202-012, 2221 University Park, Okemos
8 Farrell Stefan V & Tamara L	\$37,078.39	15 parcels in Lansing
9 Allen David E Realty Inc.	\$33,570.44	4 parcels in Lansing
10 Eaton Federal Savings Bank	\$32,431.63	44 parcels in Williamston

Source: Ingham County Treasurer's Office

Illustration by Jonathan Griffith

Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing

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ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC • THEATER

Variety revival

Local newsman showcases local talent with new variety show

By ALLAN I. ROSS

Variety shows were once as ubiquitous as reality television ... and were eminently more culturally enriching, thank you very much. Forget real housewives and Jersey goombas — where else could you see flamenco dancing followed by vaudevillian slapstick wrapped up with a performance by the biggest rock band on the planet, all before bedtime?

"The Evan Michael Show"

Premieres 8 a.m. Jan. 1
My18 WHTV
Regular season begins late
January, 10 p.m. Saturdays
For information on
performing or appearing
in the studio audience,
go to facebook.com/
theevanmichaelsow

Ed Sullivan perfected the format. Carol Burnett put her spin on it. So did Jackie Gleason, Dinah Shore, hell, even Johnny Cash. And now, as America

revels in a second Golden Age of the *boobytus tubitus*, that old Ghost of Prime Time Past is making a resurgence, at least locally. Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to "The Evan Michael Show."

"For years I've wanted to start my own show, but my schedule makes that pretty tough," said Evan Pinsonnault, morning news anchor at WLNS-TV. "I'd had some ideas, but I was taking the time to make sure I could do it right."

"The Evan Michael Show" (more on that name later) has already taped three sample episodes; one as a charity event at Michigan State University's University Club, the other as a pair of back-to-back test runs in the Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre, which will be its permanent home starting next month. But on New Year's Eve, the official one-hour pilot — which will be the first to actually reach local sets

— tapes at the University Club at 9 p.m. It airs the next morning at 8 a.m.

"We're not leaving a whole lot of room for mistakes — that's going to be a pretty quick turnaround," said Pinsonnault, 30, who came to Lansing four years ago to join the local CBS affiliate. In addition to his desk work, he launched "Pick a Place for Pinsonnault," a regular segment that focused on local events, and he reinvigorated the station's human interest entertainment piece, "Tell Me Something Good." He also wasted



Photo by Studio M Portraits

Evan Pinsonnault (left) gets jazzy with musician Brad Fowler at a recent test taping of "The Evan Michael Show," a new variety show that debuts Jan. 1 on My18.

no time falling in with the local community theater scene and making himself a one-man brand as an emcee, stand-up comedian and fill-in singer for hire. But none of these, he felt, was the true outlet for his creativity.

"Originally I was thinking I wanted to be a game show host, but after I met Taylor, he convinced me that a variety show would be a better fit," Pinsonnault said. "I think he was on to something."

That would be Taylor Kelsaw, a transplant from Burbank, Calif., who landed in Lansing three years ago when his partner accepted a position at MSU. Kelsaw, 53, started in TV production 16 years ago with "Jeopardy," where he was the director of promotional marketing. That led to work on other shows, including "Wheel of Fortune," "The Price is Right," "Access Hollywood" and "Oprah." In 2003, he became vice president of a product placement company, working on the "Matrix" sequels, "24" and last year's Clint Eastwood film, "Trouble with the Curve."

"Ever since I worked with my mentor Merv Griffin, I've had an idea for a variety show but I didn't think I could recreate that," Kelsaw said. "Fortuitously I met Evan and I thought, here's the guy who could host it."

The two met at one of the Pinsonnault's charity gigs last year and the idea was

hatched. They took their time, building a bank of ideas and coming up with concepts. "This is the guy who could change the face of television locally and nationally," Kelsaw said. "It's a return to a beloved format that needs a charismatic figure to make it work. Evan has that appeal."

But really, a variety show? Isn't that a little innocuous for a culture steeped in sarcasm and PG-13 humor?

"It's a conscious decision to play it safe," Pinsonnault said. "A lot of people trust in me, and I don't want to jeopardize (that by doing) anything offensive. Sarcasm can be misinterpreted. I want to stay positive — I just want to throw that elbow into the side."

Still, a variety show could hardly be considered an elevator to the top. Postmillennial incarnations of the format were met with resounding "mehs," including the 2009 debacle, "Osbornes Reloaded,"

starring Ozzy Osbourne and family that only lasted one episode. But Pinsonnault insists "The Evan Michael Show" has something those shows lacked.

"They had the talent, but there was no audience," Pinsonnault said. "There is a rich bed of talent in the Lansing area (but) there's never been the right showcase for that talent. It's a celebration of — and a party for — the performing arts, and I think local audiences are ready for it."

The show will occasionally be cohosted by Lansing-based sax man Phil Denny, with the musical director being local conductor John Dale Smith. And even though the first official episode has yet to air, the show already has a recurring guest: Local theater vet Ken Beachler.

"Reality TV killed a lot of things, including the outlet for good writers to write," Beachler said. "This show is beautifully planned, and the writing is outstanding. It's a return to form for performing arts, and it's going to be a wonderful way to introduce or reintroduce Lansing to that talent."

Beachler has performed on stage with Pinsonnault several times, including last year's "Follies" at Riverwalk Theatre. The two have developed a crackling rapport, both on stage and off. At the New Year's Eve taping, Beachler will trade barbs with Pinsonnault and sing a few songs. Old school stuff.

"I've heard people say already that a variety show is not of this time, but it fits his personality perfectly," Beachler said. "I think he could swing it."

Kelsaw said the show will feature many MSU student producers, directors, technicians and camera operators, anchoring the show into the university.

"It's one thing for a student going to look for a job after graduation with a degree in telecommunications," Kelsaw said. "It's another thing to say, I also worked for two years on a weekly TV show that was broadcast throughout mid-Michigan."

Or throughout the state — and even

See Variety, Page 9

CityPULSE

Join City Pulse's Arts & Culture editor Allan I. Ross (right) on WLNS-TV6 every Thursday after 6 a.m. with Evan Pinsonnault for a preview of weekend happenings.



Variety

from page 8

possibly the country — if Pinsonnault's plans pan out.

"Lansing is the center of the state, which I think it's fair to say is in the center of the Midwest," Pinsonnault says. "If this show takes off the way I think it will, there's no reason to think it couldn't go national."

Just don't expect it to become "The Evan Pinsonnault Show."

"I've heard every way possible to butcher my last name," Pinsonnault laments. "But my dad asked me not to change my name, so

I'm just sticking with my middle name. Plus the "M-I" in Michael fits perfectly into the Michigan (silhouette) in the show's logo."

All shows will be taped before a live studio audience on Tuesdays at the Pasant. Guests will feature mostly Lansing talent, including singer-songwriters, actors, musicians, comedians and puppeteers. Visiting artists and performers will also be welcome. Pinsonnault lists dream guests as Michigan natives Jeff Daniels, Tim Allen and Aretha Franklin. But he's quick to point out that today's nobody is tomorrow's Madonna.

"Everyone got started somewhere," Pinsonnault says. "I'd love to be able to give someone their first break. That's what having a variety show is about."



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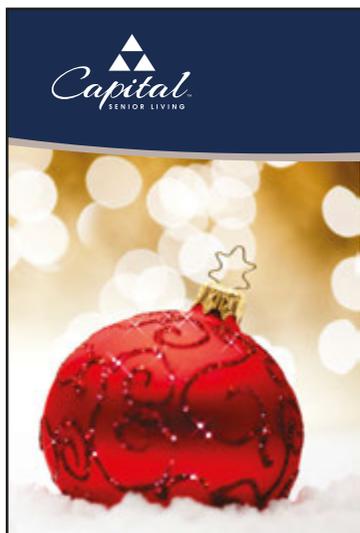
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Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsny

Dec 19-24

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "Life is best organized as a series of daring ventures from a secure base," wrote psychologist John Bowlby. Some of you Aries enjoy the "daring venture" part of that formula, but neglect the "secure base" aspect. That's why your daring ventures may on occasion go awry. If you are that type of Ram, the first half of 2014 will be an excellent time to correct your bad habit. Life will be offering you considerable help and inspiration in building a strong foundation. And if you already appreciate how important it is for your pursuit of excitement to be rooted in well-crafted stability, the coming months will be golden.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Here's a tale of three renowned Taurus brainiacs: Immanuel Kant, John Stuart Mill, and Bertrand Russell. They all had IQs over 175 and all made major contributions to philosophy. Yet all three were physically inept. Kant had trouble keeping a sharp point on his writing instrument, the quill, because he was clumsy using a knife. Mill was so undexterous he found it a chore to tie a knot. Russell's physical prowess was so limited he was incapable of brewing a pot of tea. Chances are that you are neither as brilliant nor as uncoordinated as these three men. And yet, like them, there is a disconnect between your mind and body -- some glitch in the way the two of them communicate with each other. The coming year will be an excellent time to heal the disconnect and fix the glitch.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A horticultural company in the UK is selling TomTato plants to home gardeners. Each bush grows both cherry tomatoes and white potatoes. The magic was accomplished through hand-crafted hybridization, not genetic engineering. I foresee a comparable marvel in your long-term future, Gemini. I'm not sure about the exact form it will take. Maybe you will create a product or situation that allows you to satisfy two different needs simultaneously. It's possible you will find a way to express two of your talents in a single mode. Or perhaps you will be able to unite two sides of you that have previously been unbonded. Congratulations in advance!

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "To destroy is always the first step in any creation," said the poet E. E. Cummings. Do you buy that idea, Cancerian? I hope so, because the cosmos has scheduled you to instigate some major creative action in 2014. In order to fulfill that potential, you will have to metaphorically smash, burn, and dissolve any old structures that have been standing in the way of the future. You will have to eliminate as many of the "yes, buts" and "I can'ts" and "not nows" as you possibly can.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): When did you first fall from grace? Do you remember? It has happened to most of us. We spend time being privileged or cared about or respected, and then, suddenly, we no longer are. We lose our innocence. Love disappears. Our status as a favorite comes to an end. That's the bad news, Leo. The good news is that I think the months ahead may be time for you to climb back up to one of those high states of grace that you fell from once upon a time. The omens suggest that even now you're making yourself ready to rise back up -- and sooner than you think, there will be an invitation to do so.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Leonardo da Vinci created the painting *St. Jerome in the Wilderness* around 1480. It now hangs in the Pinacoteca Vaticana, a museum in Vatican City. For several centuries, though, the treasured work of art was missing. Legend tells us that in the early 19th century, Napoleon's uncle found the lower half of the painting in a junk shop in Rome. Years later he stumbled upon the top half in another back alley, where it was being used as a wedge in a shoemaker's bench. I foresee the possibility of a comparable sequence unfolding for you in 2014, Virgo. You just may manage to restore a lost beauty to its proper place of honor, one step at a time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The Italian painter Tintoretto (1518-1594) was a Libra. He worked with such vigor and passion that he was nicknamed *Il Furioso* -- The Furious. One of his crowning achievements was his painting *Paradise*, which is 74 feet long and 30 feet tall -- about the size of a tennis court. It adorns a huge wall in the Doge's Palace, a landmark in Venice. I propose that Tintoretto serve as one of your inspirational role models in 2014. The coming months will be an excellent time for you to work hard at crafting your own personal version of paradise on earth. You may not be so wildly robust to deserve the title "Il Furioso." But then again, you might.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Between 2002 and 2009, Buddhist monk Endo Mitsunaga spent a thousand days meditating as he did a ceremonial walk around Mount Hiei in Japan. In 2006, English writer Dave Cornthwaite took 90 days to skateboard across the entire length of Australia, a distance of 3,618 miles. The first man's intentions were spiritual, the second man's adventurous. The coming months will be prime time for you to contemplate both kinds of journeys, Scorpio. The astrological omens suggest that you will generate extra good fortune for yourself by seeking out unfamiliar experiences on the open road. To get yourself in the mood, ruminate on the theme of pilgrimage.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Many farms in California's Tulare County grow produce for super-market chains. Here's the problem: Those big stores only want fruits and vegetable that look perfect. So if there are brown spots on the apples or if the zucchinis grow crooked or if the carrots get too big, they are rejected. As a result, 30 percent of the crops go unharvested. That's sad because a lot of poor people who live in Tulare don't have enough to eat. Fortunately, some enterprising food activists have begun to work out arrangements with farmers to collect the wasted produce and distribute it to the hungry folks. I gather there's a comparable situation in your life, Sagittarius: unplucked resources and ignored treasures. In 2014, I hope you take dramatic action to harvest and use them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Derrick Brown has a poem entitled "Pussycat Interstellar Naked Hotrod Mofo Ladybug Lustblaster!" I hope that at least once in 2014 you will get up the nerve to call someone you love by that name. Even if you can't quite bring yourself to utter those actual words, it will be healing for you to get to the point where you feel wild enough to say them. Here's what I'm driving at, Capricorn: In the coming months, you will be wise to shed any inhibitions that have interfered with you getting all of the free-flowing intimacy you'd love to have.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "Artists who are content merely to hone their gifts eventually come to little," says the Belgian writer Simon Leys. "The ones who truly leave their mark have the strength and the courage to explore and exploit their shortcomings." I'd like to borrow that wisdom and provide it for you to use in 2014, Aquarius. Even if you're not an artist, you will be able to achieve an interesting kind of success if you're willing to make use of the raw materials and untapped potential of your so-called flaws and weaknesses. Whatever is unripe in you will be the key to your creativity.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In 2014, you will have the mojo to escape a frustration that has drained you and pained you for a long time. I mean you can end its hold on you for good. The coming months will also provide you with the chance to activate and cultivate a labor of love that will last as long as you live. While this project may not bloom overnight, it will reveal its staying power in dramatic fashion. And you will be able to draw on the staunch faith you'll need to devote yourself to it until its full blessings ripen.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsny's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.

1-2-3

"IF YOU WERE GIVEN three wishes TO BE GRANTED INSTANTLY ..."

CITY PULSE ASKS LOCAL FIGURES WHAT'S ON TOP OF THEIR WISH LISTS THIS SEASON



DEBORAH DIESEN
Grand Ledge-based children's author

For every child on the planet:

- Health, safety, and stability.
- Lots and lots of love.
- A really good book!

If the genie grants those three, everybody else's wishes are bound to come true, too.



RHODA WOLFF
Manager, Schuler Books & Music, Eastwood Towne Center

This feels like a Miss America contest:

- More people would read — when they don't, the whole community loses out.
- Adopt a dog or cat.
- Wish the Tigers would win the World Series.

My own wishes which someone asked me about:

- That everyone's wishes come true.
- A massive pendulum swing on the political landscape.
- A society where everyone is warm and fed.



NANCY ROBERTSON
State librarian, Library of Michigan

- I wish for all of Michigan's libraries to have the ability and continued effort to look outward to their community's needs, particularly to help the underserved and those in need of services that empower them to succeed in whatever endeavor they undertake.
- I wish every school building in Michigan would have a library and a librarian to ensure educational success for all of our students.
- Finally, I wish for everyone a book, the ability to read it, and a passion for reading more.



MAUREEN HIRTEN
Director, Capital Area District Libraries

The first one is easy:

- I wish for a successful millage outcome for CADL in 2014.
- The second one is pretty "libraryish": I wish that everyone who enjoys reading, listening

and watching (books, music and movies) finds the perfect "next one." Coincidentally, CADL staff can help make that wish come true.

- My third one is for the country. I wish that Congress finds ways to compromise and agrees to put the best interests of the country first.



BOB TREZISE
President & CEO, Lansing Economic Area Partnership

- That our Greater Lansing region continues to celebrate its unique and individual character — that's what makes us strong — yet continues to unify under one Pure Lansing belief that we are one region competing on a global stage for jobs and talent. To me, beyond the obvious hoping that private business continues to invest and create jobs in the Greater Lansing region, is that all municipalities, businesses, public institutions and private citizens prioritize money and resources to creating an international place — a place that truly retains and attracts talent and families (thus business and jobs). Yes, I believe it is in that order.
- Greater Lansing becomes

one of the nation's leading entrepreneurial environments. The wish is that MSU, Spartan Innovations and MSU President Simon, as well as LEAP's New Economy Division, continue the hopeful and emerging partnership between the two in working to increase commercialization of ideas and products from MSU into viable, job producing innovative, high tech businesses that produce exportable products and create good jobs for our region and then throughout the nation and world.

- Of course, I wish for more wishes: That our region's parents and schools nurture and generate a total regional population that one day exceeds 50 percent or 60 percent as college graduates. That we focus as much education on the value of liberal arts as we do STEM. That downtown Lansing would have two new hotels. That our region's population would grow by 100,000 in 20 years. That a casino is built in downtown Lansing, stopping the giant sucking sound of people and money leaving our region for casinos far away or online while prompting the expansion of our conference center and hotel business everywhere. That downtown East Lansing becomes downtown MSU, the state's talent portal for corporations wishing to introduce themselves to their future talent and workforce — MSU students. That our region becomes the Accelerator Region of North America. That newspapers remain a thriving and critical component to the Lansing region, unlike so many other regions.



CHAD BADGERO
Founder & artistic director, Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

OK, first of all, I love this story, and it's also really hard. With that said, here

are my three wishes this holiday season:

- I wish for quality access to art, culture, and education for everyone in the state of Michigan. These are areas I feel are significant in creating kind, wise, creative, passionate people and yet are so often devoid of funding, left by the wayside, or ignored when it comes to developing diverse and dynamic communities and lives.
- I wish for marriage equality in Michigan. I've had too many friends and loved ones move out of state or whose relationships are ignored by our state government in a situation that is a very, very basic case of civil rights. Plus, I'm getting married next year and it would be sweet to have same-sex marriage legalized by then — I have high hopes!
- I wish for continued success for my theater company, Peppermint Creek. As we are celebrating our 11th season as a nonprofit in Lansing, my wish is to have longevity, financial and artistic success, and for the people of Lansing to continue to embrace us and our mission.



GINO FEDERICI
Singer

- Healthy and energetic throughout the rest of my life.
- Be a multi-platinum recording artist.
- Set up the first Goya Center in Lansing.



KELLY ROSSMAN-MCKINNEY
CEO, Truscott-Rossman

- **Statesmanship** would replace partisanship at all levels of government (as in, why can't they all just get along?).



MARK SCHAUER
Former Congressman, likely Democratic gubernatorial candidate

- Regionalization would be pursued aggressively but diplomatically — sans name-calling and insults and instead with decorum, compassion and commitment to the greater good.
- (If) "aging gracefully" actually felt even remotely close to graceful.
- Good schools for every Michigan student — More than one in 10 Michigan school districts are facing deficits, which means larger class sizes and less individual attention for our kids. As the son of a teacher, my dad taught me that good schools mean good jobs. My first wish would be for Michigan to live up to its constitutional promise of a quality education for every child.
- Unemployment below the national average — Michigan has the third worst unemployment rate in the country, and we're ranked 47th for business and careers. We put the world on wheels and built the middle class — I know we can do better. My second wish would be to get our unemployment rate below the national average by investing in our highly skilled workers and small businesses to compete for good jobs.
- Secure Retirements for Michigan Seniors — The new pension tax on hard-earned retirement income is costing Michigan seniors thousands each year. For seniors living on a fixed income, that means less to spend on things like gas, prescription drugs, and family Christmas gifts. For my final wish, I would help ensure Michigan seniors have secure retirements by eliminating the tax on pensions.



TIM BARRON
Host of "Tim Barron Mornings," 92.9 FM-WLMI

• Though it sounds cliché to say END WORLD HUNGER ... It is cliché for good reason — it's at the top of many a wish list, including mine. Since so many of our modern global issues — including terrorism, hate groups masked as religions and redneckery — stem from the hopelessness of hunger AND ignorance.

• I would have to place K-THRU-COLLEGE-LEVEL SECULAR-BASED EDUCATION FOR ALL HUMANS in second. These first two would give a swell jump start to a better world — indeed with all these newly well-fed and educated folks everywhere, we might find America getting itself "discovered" like the Europeans "discovered" the Native Americans — and boy could that get interesting!

• The final wish is selfishly for me — EXACTLY 100 MILLION DOLLARS (US). A million isn't what it used to be — trust me on this — and a billion is too much (emperors clothes time and all that!). A hundred million, however — I could actually blow. So it will keep me grounded to have a realistic yet very nice pile of dough with which I can live well, take care of my family and continue to quietly and sometimes not so quietly help people I naturally encounter through the course of my life ... as I choose to.



TONY BALTIMORE
Director of external affairs, U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers

• To see loved ones who have gone on before ... miss them dearly. Would like them to see the man I have become. And my beautiful

wife, Taylor.

- That Congress (government as a whole, really) would get to doing the people's work. Taking care of America's people and making sure that taxpayers are a top priority. Hopefully this would instill trust and faith back into elected officials to govern. Maybe our approval rating would go up.
- Well of course to hit the Lotto ... No brainer. Won't make life happier so to say. I'm pretty blessed already. But it makes it a whole lot easier ...
- For all of you to have a Merry Christmas and safe Happy New Year! (Can I get four? I was good this year.)



"BOOGIE" BOB BALDORI
Musician, film producer and attorney

- World peace.
- Family happiness.
- A bass player and a guitar player who don't play too loud.



JOE QUICK
Actor

- Marriage/family equality for all in Michigan. I'd like to see the same rights as heterosexual couples and families have with respect to marriage, benefits, dual-parent adoption, etc., apply to myself and so many of my loving, committed friends and family members in same-sex partnerships.
- Student loan forgiveness/affordable college education. I'd definitely wish for more affordable post-secondary education, especially for those that have significant financial barriers. I'd love to see my own debt forgiven/decreased to allow for further schooling. And, of course, more cash

to stimulate the local economy!

- More time and money to travel. I do a fair amount of traveling within Pure Michigan, and have seen much of the United States but, as a former anthropologist, I am itching to have more time and resources to travel abroad.



ETIENNE CHARLES
Trumpeter and professor of jazz at MSU

- Direct flight from Lansing to Trinidad.
- A heavier coat.
- For my students to relax and not stress out during finals week!



RANDY GELISPIE
Drummer and professor of jazz at MSU

- First, I wish I could bring back all my loved ones that have passed on and all the great musicians. Bring 'em back.
- I wish I had billions of dollars so I could give most of it away to the poor folks who need it.
- I wish I could hear children's laughter all over the world. That's the only thing that doesn't have any negativity.



LYNN CRANDALL
Astrologer

- To travel a lot and be in a warmer place. This is really awful.
- To finally finish the book I've been working on forever.
- From the point of view of an astrologer, I wish Comet

Ison hadn't melted. (Comet Ison, recently touted as the comet of the century, fizzled out from buzzing the Sun too closely last week.) There's a lot of speculation that it went out with Nelson Mandela. Comets often take important people out or bring them in, but when they bring them in, you don't find out for several years.



ADDIANN HINDS
Actress

- At the top of my list is eliminating racism. And that probably would be second and third. It saddens me very much. I have no wishes for myself. I live the kind of life I want. I have my house. My career keeps on going on, and that's fun. I have no wishes about that at all.



DOAK BLOSS
Actor

- My first wish would be that I could marry the man I've shared the last 20 years of my life with — in Michigan. No more lawsuits over my employer's ability to cover him on my insurance policy, no more separate tax returns, no more anxiety about property rights should one of us die. There wouldn't be a lot of fanfare, I'm not sure we'd even have a ceremony; we'd just be rock-solid legally recognized as two valued members of the community who have chosen to belong to one other.
- My second is for my cat, Gus, who came to live with us in 2010 after spending four winters trying to insinuate his way into a friend's house. This sounds a little odd, but my wish would be that Gus, who is more affectionate than any cocker spaniel I've ever met, would have a slightly

smaller heart. I don't mean metaphorically; I mean the actual organ, which is enlarged and will probably lead to his sudden passing one day. Barring a cure for that condition, my wish is that he stay the same crazy clown he is now for as long as he's with us.

- My third wish — let's aim big here — would be for people across Lansing, across Michigan, and across the U.S. to stop talking about the economic downturn as something that just "happened" to us, randomly, like a spell of bad weather. I'd like to see us awaken to the fact that banks, corporations, and politicians did this to us, intentionally, to increase profit, cheapen labor, minimize human values, and disenfranchise those most likely to dissent. I'd like us to realize that we are not powerless, and that powerlessness is instead an illusion created to keep us from acting and voting in accordance with our own values and self-interest.



JEN SYGIT
Singer/songwriter and host of Eclecticiana on WLNZ

My three wishes:

- End all wars
- Feed the hungry
- Ten million dollars (my selfish wish, but I could also use it to do good! So it's a win win.)



JOEL MABUS
Singer/songwriter

- That smart-phone addicts would take their eyes off the screen once in a while, at least in public. At least while driving.
- That the Tea Party tossers would just give it a rest.
- That young artsy urbanites (especially on public radio) would quit the "vocal fry" mannerism of

speaking — it is sooo 2008.



SCOTT HARRIS
Owner, Everybody Reads Bookstore

- World peace, for sure.
- End to diseases that cause suffering. I know we still have to cull the population, so some people have to die, but they shouldn't have to suffer.
- Fair and equitable distribution of resources.



RUELAIN STOKES
Poet

- I want to grab the hand of the Muse of Creative Endeavor and never let go.
- I want humans to "civilize capitalism" by constructing a safety net and regulations that limit greed and economically driven cruelty.
- I want us to build societies in which children (and adults) can thrive. Thanks for making these take effect immediately. I feel so much happier



RICHARD SHERMAN
Principal flutist of the Lansing Symphony

- Unlimited free seasonal lattes from Starbucks.
- Weekly dinners for a year with my favorite Classical composers (ie Bach, Debussy and Mozart) with the expressed intention of commissioning new works from them.
- To be a Jedi knight with the light saber color of my choice.

They write the songs

MSU prof helps students find their inner songsmiths

By JORDAN BRADLEY

The usual thinking behind signing up for a university humanities class is “enrichment,” not “career establishment.” But after MSU music education Professor John Kratus’ first course in songwriting in 2000, two of his 18 students dropped out of school shortly afterward ... to pursue careers in music.

“I had either created a great weeder class or I had found something important,” Kratus said. “And it snowballed from there.”

Kratus has been playing guitar, performing and writing music since he was 13. When he became a faculty member at MSU in his mid-20s, songwriting was put aside, he said, for research into children’s creativ-



Matt Eble (left) and Evan Mikalonis perform at the Dec. 7 student showcase as part of their final project.

ity and teaching. Then, in his late 30s, he returned to composing, writing six hours of music in two months and realized the vitality of music in life.

“Songs are pretty important things,” he said. “They’re a way for people to share themselves.”

In 2000, he launched the class that would become Creative Process, which was specifically created to reach out to non-music major students (the only musical requirement is that students have basic piano or guitar skills). The class offers a space for music majors and non-music majors alike to grow in their songwriting, learn techniques and receive feedback from their peers.

“I’d never written a song before this class,” said Christie Fowler, who completed the course this semester. “It’s been a trip.” Fowler, 21, a fourth year music education major, said she chose the class because it sounded interesting and fit into her schedule. But she said the class

pushed her “out of the box.” Matt Eble, 19, a mechanical engineering sophomore, said he fell into the class through a scheduling mix-up. Despite his non-music major, Eble has been playing guitar for seven years. He looked at the class as a way to “try something different” with his musical style.

Kratus said the class consists of 20 students from different backgrounds, ranging from freshmen to seniors, with interests including Brazilian music, rap and heavy metal. Lessons include “songs that tell a story,” “songs that describe a feeling” and “developing a personal style.”

“One of the things I found was that even though they were from very different backgrounds, (the students) came to know each other so well through their songs,” Kratus said. “They almost feel like a family.”

On the first day, all the students are required to sing in front of the class, either a song they’ve written or a cover. Then, each

week, students must perform a partially completed song, a completed song or a revised song; they are graded on the best six completed or revised songs of the semester. Additionally, all students are required to perform in public twice during the semester, whether it’s in a dorm lounge or at an open mic night.

Kratus said that most students brought something to the class to share that even their friends didn’t know about them. That kind of environment opens up possibilities for risks, which can lead to better work.

“It was nice to have a group of people critique you in a positive way,” Eble said. “Whenever I (brought) a song in, I just (wanted) them to tear it up and tell me how to improve.”

Earlier this month, the class showcased its best work in a concert in Studio 60 of the MSU Auditorium. A few of the performances were collaborations between students within the class. Evan Mikalonis, 22, a College of the Arts and Humanities senior, played an original song with Eble. Though they didn’t know each other before the class, the two are thinking of creating a full-length album together.

The songs performed throughout the evening included themes of joy, disappointment, friendship and love. Kratus said he was proud of his students’ hard work throughout the semester. For many of them, this was their first time on a stage.

“This is the star moment,” he said.

A number of the students planned to continue to pursue songwriting. Jordyn Davis, 18, an environmental engineering freshman, planned to put out a single to “see how the world responds to it.” She was grateful for the class, saying that it forced her to stop overthinking and just write.

Fowler thought of incorporating elements of the class in her own future classroom with her music students.

Malik Clifton, 18, a criminal justice freshman, recommended the course to anyone who could get in.

“Dr. Kratus was an awesome teacher,” he said. “You even discover things about yourself that you might not have ever known.”

No word yet how many majors were switched for next semester.

**Go to
lansingcitypulse.com
to hear some of the
songs completed
in the Creative
Process class.**

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Diesen's sphere

Grand Ledge author recommends kids books this holiday season

By **BILL CASTANIER**

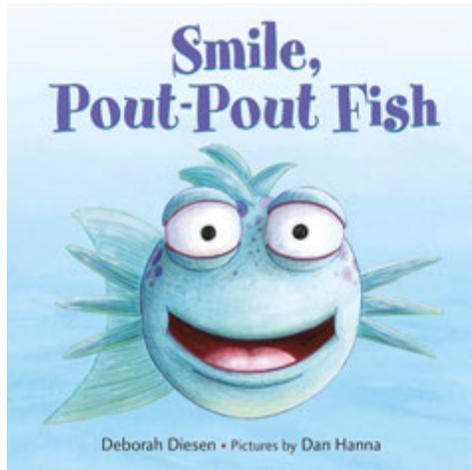
Books make great presents. "The key to a really fun book for very young readers is it must be enjoyed by the child and also the adult," said Grand Ledge children's book author Deborah Diesen. Her advice: When selecting a book as a present, parents and grandparents should keep themselves in mind and buy something they know they'll have to read repeatedly.

Additionally, she said, it's a good idea to ask librarians and booksellers for their recommendations. This is an area within Diesen's sphere of expertise; she has worked as both a librarian and as a bookseller.

Not many authors can say their grouchy kid was a springboard to getting their first book published. But a kid with an exaggerated pout turned into what has become a franchise for Diesen.

"My son was having a bit of a grouchy day and making a pouty face," Diesen said. She made a face back and said, "We look like a pout-pout fish."

She scribbled those words down and began working on a children's picture book. Diesen said she had the first draft within a week. Five years later, in 2008, "The Pout-



Local author Deborah Diesen's has sold 1.8 million copies of her children's book series featuring Pout-Pout Fish.

"Pout Fish" was published. Diesen, 46, had been writing what she calls "elementary poetry" since grade school, but when her kids were born she said it was "like a crash course in children's literature."

Following the first "Pout-Pout" book, Diesen wrote another children's book, "The Bare-Footed, Bad-Tempered Baby Brigade," in 2010, followed closely by a second "Pout-Pout" book, "The Pout-Pout Fish in the Big-Big Dark." Another book, "Picture Day Perfection," about a boy having some fun on class photo day, was published earlier this year.

The "Pout-Pout" series will have two more additions in 2014: "Smile, Pout-Pout Fish" is a board book that will be out in January to

be followed by "The Pout-Pout Fish Goes to School" in June.

Diesen went from an unknown to a relative superstar in the children's book publishing industry since 2008, with more than 1.8 million "Pout-Pout" books in print. This summer her celebrity status was ratcheted up another notch when Kohl's selected two of her books for their in-store summer promotion, pairing them with three plush critter fish and a Pout-Pout tote bag.

Despite her success, Diesen said her personal life hasn't changed much, which includes her job as a bookkeeper at the Allen Neighborhood Center.

Following her success, Diesen began experimenting with somewhat longer formats, including writing a manuscript for a quirky young adult book that involves a single mom and a young boy on a road trip with a taxidermied armadillo.

"You can make a book, but it's just a thing until kids enjoy it," she said.

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SUDOKU SOLUTION
From Pg. 16

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION
From Pg. 16

U	R	I	S	T	A	L	I	B	S	A	P	S		
M	O	N	K	A	M	U	S	E	A	A	Q	U		
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C	O	N	S	I	D	T	A	G	G	I	S	T		
K	N	O	T	N	E	A	T	O	S	P	A	S		

OUT ON THE TOWN

Events must be entered through the calendar at www.lansingcitypulse.com. Deadline is 5 p.m. Thursdays for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Jonathan at (517) 999-5069.

Calling all Singers! Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass needed for Ingham Festival Chorale 2014. Director: Brandon Williams, MSU Doctoral Candidate. Selections: Gospel Mass-R. Ray; Festival Sanctus-J. Leavitt; Sanctus No. IV-J.S. Bach; two more songs. Music fee. No auditions. Practice 3-5 P.M. Sundays starting January 5 at Mason First United Methodist Church 'On the Square'. Concert March 30, location TBA. Questions? 487-5528

Wednesday, December 18

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Meditation. For beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, 3015 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 351-5866.

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St. Lansing. (517) 272-9840.

Drawing Class. All skill levels, with Penny Collins. Pre-registration required. 6-8:30 p.m. \$60 for four weeks. Gallery 1212 Old Town, 1212 Turner St. Lansing. (517) 999-1212. gallery1212.com.

A War on Christmas? War on Christmas or another conspiracy theory? 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. First Congregational United Church of Christ, 210 W. Saginaw Highway, Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954.

EVENTS

DTDLD Book Club. Discuss M.L. Stedman's "The Light Between Oceans." 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtdl.org.

Practice Your English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Allen Street Farmers Market. Locally grown, baked and prepared foods, live music. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St. Lansing. (517) 999-3911.

MUSIC

Ukulele Workshop. Anna Zang hosts the monthly Ukulele workshop. 6 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700.

Marshall Students' Recital. Students perform

See Out on the Town, Page 16

THURSDAY, DEC. 19 >> TEASE-O-RAMA

If you haven't been naughty enough this year, there's one more chance to be. Spiral Video and Dance Bar will tease the audience with burlesque dancers and drag queens. You can keep the night's memories forever by posing in the sexy Santa photo booth — or keep it blurry at the bar with \$2 well or \$3 call drinks. 1247 Center St., Lansing. Doors at 9 p.m., show at 11 p.m. \$5 for 21 and up/\$10 if you're 18-20. Sorry, youngsters.

FRIDAY, DEC. 20 >> HOLIDAY ALL-NIGHTER



even if you can't afford to take in a new pet, there are ways to make life a little easier for the sad cases locked up at the local shelter.

The Ingham County Animal Shelter is holding a "Holiday All-Nighter." Volunteers are camping out at the shelter, helping animals find new homes. The goals are twofold: heighten awareness of pets who need permanent homes and keep company for the ones who are in the shelter. Hey, everyone likes a friend, especially this time of the

If you think this time of the year is hard on you, think about the pets that get abandoned because their owners can't make ends meet. Don't worry, no Sarah McLachlan music playing here, but

year. The shelter will be closed Dec. 22-25.

And if you are looking to add a new member to your family, now is the perfect time. Adoption fees have been reduced to \$25, which includes spaying/neutering, vaccinations and a microchip. Of course, you'll need to provide your own leash, collar, chew toys and catnip. But the Ingham County Animal Shelter is making it easier for you.

And if playing with animals isn't fun enough, there will be events all night long to keep the adoption party going. You will have a chance to win door prizes, pose with Chippy, the shelter's mascot and compete in the All-Nighter Pajama Contest, which starts at 11 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Animal Shelter, 600 Citrus St., Mason. Find the event on Facebook for more details.



FRIDAY, DEC. 20 >> THE COFFEEHOUSE AT ALL SAINTS

All Saints Episcopal Church is giving you and your family a chance to celebrate the holidays early. Gather around as Pastor Kit reads "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." Other performances will include readings of Christmas favorites as well as piano and guitar performances, which might invite you to sing along. If you take pride in your apple pie, bring it to share. The fun begins around 7:30 p.m. in the Undercroft, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. FREE.

FRIDAY, DEC. 20-SATURDAY, DEC. 21 >> SISTRUM'S WINTER CONCERT & MATINEE

On Friday, Lansing women's chorus, Sistrum, will perform its second annual winter concert, "Bright and Gay Cabaret," at 8 p.m. The group will split off into small ensemble performances and then rejoin for powerful musical numbers. Warm up your vocal cords because you'll also be in the spotlight during an audience sing-along. Meet other Lansing locals over festive refreshments as you share a table and listen to a variety of holiday songs from around the globe. (You can purchase a table in advance.) On Saturday, Sistrum will present its first-ever matinee performance at 2 p.m. Both performances will be at Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. Advanced tickets are available at sistrum.org for \$12 or at the door for \$15-25.

SATURDAY, DEC. 21 >> MICHAEL MCDONALD



In the movie "The 40 Year-Old Virgin," the soulful voice of Michael McDonald helped Paul Rudd sell a TV set, which kept him from burning the place to the ground. Now McDonald will bring the house down himself with his show, "This Christmas," at the Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall. He will sing holiday tunes and some of his greatest hits. If you listen to the whole set maybe he'll throw in a DVD; Paul Rudd would. "This Christmas." Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. \$35-\$65. (800) WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.

SUNDAY, DEC. 22 >> "HOLIDAY POPS" BY LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Arts Chorale of Greater Lansing and vocalist Mara Bonde will join the symphony to perform popular holiday songs. Fifteen talented students from the Lansing area will have the chance to play side-by-side with these skilled performers for three musical numbers. 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22 at Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. \$20-\$47 (Students can get 50 percent off rush tickets one hour prior to the performance.) (517) 487-5011, lansingsymphony.org.

TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE
BY RICH TUPICA



SUN. DEC 22ND

BIG D AT THE LOFT

Sunday, Dec. 22 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. \$18, \$15 adv., all ages, 7 p.m.

Big D and the Kids Table, a veteran six-piece band led by David McWane, brings its classic brand of Boston-style ska-punk to Mac's Bar; openers are the Pietasters, Lawnchair Crisis, Take a Hint and The Snails. Big D has toured for 18 years playing punk clubs and huge festivals. McWane said the members consider themselves "modern American gypsies." Over the years the band has gigged with the Suicide Machines, Reel Big Fish and RX Bandits. Since it formed in 1995, the band has released 10 full-length albums, five split singles and six EPs. This year marked the release of its latest disc, the "Stroll" LP, released on Strictly Rude Records.

TWYLA'S GOSPEL & BLUES CHRISTMAS



SAT. DEC 21ST

The Avenue Café, 2120 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. \$20, \$15, \$10 students, 7 p.m.

"A Gospel and Blues Christmas Musicale" at The Avenue Café, hosted by local blues vocalist Twyla Birdsong, features Christmas carol classics, traditional and contemporary gospel songs and Christmas blues tunes. Aside from Birdsong, performers include Sharrie Williams (gospel/blues), Eddie "Blue" Lester, Charles Allen (former contestant on "American Idol"), Cindy McElroy (folk), James Suddeth (the "Minster of Music") and Brian Lange (sax/vocals). The program also features the MSU Children's Choir. Birdsong will also sing a duet with her mother, Alice Birdsong Fleming. Some of the proceeds will sponsor the family of a deployed service member. The family will also receive a Christmas tree, donated by Peacock Road Tree Farm.

LIGHTS AND CAVES HOLIDAY SHOW



SAT. DEC 21ST

Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. \$10, \$8 adv., all ages, 7 p.m.

Lansing-based indie band Lights and Caves formed one year ago and has already played alongside MGMT at the 2013 Common Ground and recorded its upcoming debut disc, "In Satori." The release features seven songs, including the single "Carry Me Home." The website absolutepunk.net called the record "one of the best releases this year and the one that should turn their influences into peers." This weekend the band, which includes Elliot Street Lunatic's Jason Marr, headlines a holiday-themed rock show at Mac's Bar. The band also features Dillon Gorden (vocals/guitar), Evan Rudman (drums/vocals) and Stefan Wiseman (bass/vocals). The all-ages gig also includes performances from Squirrel Shaped Fish, MS80, Levi & Shannon and Narco Debut.

WAYLAND AT ULI'S CHRISTMAS PARTY



SAT. DEC 21ST

Uli's Haus of Rock, 4519 S. Martin Luther King Blvd., \$10, 18+, 8 p.m.

Wayland, named after the band's Michigan hometown, returns to Uli's Haus of Rock for the annual Christmas party. Wayland is promoting its new single, "Reno," a hard-rocking tune released in July that's getting airplay across the country. The single is a follow up to "Welcome to My Head," a four-song EP. Fans of the Black Crowes, Bob Seger or Buck Cherry might dig this band. Opening the show is Blackened Earth, a Jackson-based hard-rock outfit that's been gigging for over 15 years. Also performing is Purgatory Grove, a local death metal band with riffs reminiscent of New Wave.

PETER NELSON AT THE AVENUE



THU. DEC 26TH

The Avenue Café, 2120 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, \$5, 6:30 p.m.

Back in July, the Peter Nelson Jazz Quartet released its "Watercolors" LP. The 11-song record is stocked with romantic string melodies and fast-paced swing and Afro-Caribbean rhythms. Nelson describes it as "music that's danceable and grooves" with "melancholic muted brass statements." Shortly after the record release, Nelson relocated to New York to further pursue music. Nelson returns to The Avenue Café for his "Night After Christmas" performance. He will perform his newly penned originals and some holiday classics with special guests: Marta Bagratuni (cellist/vocalist), and vocalists Zack Myers and Devin Smith. Vahag Bagratuni, a New York-based actor who has a bit role in "The Wolf of Wall Street," will perform spoken word.

UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT RICH TUPICA AT RICH@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM >>> TO BE LISTED IN LIVE & LOCAL E-MAIL LIVEANDLOCAL@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.		Filthy Still, 9 p.m.	MI CATS Benefit, 7 p.m.	Twyla Birdsong Christmas 7 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Blvd.		DJ, 9 p.m.	Soulstice, 9 p.m.	Soulstice, 9 p.m.
Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 E. N. East St.		Kenny Smith, 8 p.m.	Kenny Smith, 8 p.m.	Kenny Smith, 8 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Nick Plural, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Vosberg Acoustic Jams, 9 p.m.	Skoryoke Open Mic, 9 p.m.	Blue Haired Bettys, 9 p.m.	Big Willy & the Toe Tappers, 9 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.		Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karaoke w/ Joanie Daniels, 7 p.m.	Home Spun Band, 9 p.m.
Harem, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		DJ Thor, 9 p.m.	DJ Skitz, 9 p.m.	DJ ELEMNT, 9 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	ReinBeer Games, 6 p.m.			Old School Christmas Party, 9 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Snap Johnson, 9 p.m.	Courage My Love, 6 p.m.	Lights and Caves, 7 p.m.
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.			The Dirty Helens, 8 p.m.	
Tin Can DeWitt, 13175 Schavey Rd.	DJ Floyd's Trivia, 8 p.m.	Off the Ledge, 8 p.m.		
Tin Can West, 644 Migaldi Ln.	Water Pong w/ DJ Daver, 11 p.m.	Well Enough Alone, 9 p.m.		
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & The Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.	Lady Luck, 8:30 p.m.	Lady Luck, 8:30 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Drive	Hittin Home, 6 p.m.	Steve Cowles, 6 p.m.	Joe Wright, 6 p.m.	Dan McLaughlin, 6 p.m.
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.	Steve Armstrong, 9 p.m.

PLAY IN A BAND? BOOK SHOWS? LIVE & LOCAL LISTS UPCOMING GIGS!

To get listed just email us at liveandlocal@lansingcitypulse.com or call (517) 999-6710

WHAT TODO: Submit information by the Friday before publication (City Pulse comes out every Wednesday.) Be sure to tell us the name of the performer and the day, date and time of the performance. Only submit information for the following week's paper.

Out on the town

from page 14

at the annual holiday recital. 7 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700. marshallmusic.com.

Thursday, December 19

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. The group meets on Thursdays (except holidays). 5:15 p.m. \$5 monthly. New Hope Church, 1340 Haslett Road, Haslett. (517) 339-9000. newhopehaslett.com.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Weigh in, 6 p.m. Meeting, 6:30 p.m. FREE to visit. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 882-9080.

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363.

Computer Training. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Faith United Methodist Church, 4301 S. Waverly Road, Lansing. (517)

393-3347.

Meditation. For beginners and experienced on Thursdays. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Quan Am Temple, 1840 N. College Ave. Mason. (517) 853-1675. quanamtemple.org.

Family Education Day with PNC. Crunch time for carrots with PNC Bank. 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460.

Tarot Study Group. With Dawne Botke, 7 p.m. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 1824 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 883-3619. triplegoddessbookstore.net.

EVENTS

Spanish Conversation Group. English and Spanish spoken. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Euchre. Come play Euchre and meet new people. No partner needed. 6-9 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

Karaoke. Atomic D. 9 p.m. LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St. Lansing. (517) 482-0184.

Ladies Silver Blades Figure Skating Club. Lessons, exercise and practice for adult women. All skill levels.

9:30-11:30 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd. East Lansing. (517) 574-4380.

SoupGrant Dinner. Discuss community projects with SoupGrant Lansing. 6:30 p.m. \$5. Grace Lutheran Church, 528 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. soupgrantlansing.wordpress.com.

Holiday Tease—O-Rama. Burlesque and drag show with holiday twist. 11 p.m. \$5/21 and up, \$10/18 and up. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St. Lansing. (517) 898-3625.

MUSIC

Rally In The Alley: Open Mic. 6:30 p.m. FREE. American Legion Post 48, 731 North Clinton St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-1232.

Live Music at P Squared. Live music every Thursday. 8 p.m. FREE. P Squared Wine Bar, 107 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 507-5074.

Drum Circle. Hand drum session led by Ian Levine. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700. marshallmusic.com.

Kathy Ford Band. Live music. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 484-4825. sirpizza-mi.com.

Friday, December 20

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Oil Painting. For all levels with Patricia Singer. Preregistration required. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$60 for four weeks. Gallery 1212 Old Town, 1212 Turner St. Lansing. (517) 999-1212. gallery1212.com.

Live Cello Candlelight Yoga. Beginners welcome. 7 p.m.-8:15 p.m. \$15. Scene MetroSpace, 110 Charles St. East Lansing. (517) 333-2580. kintla.net.

Alcoholics Anonymous. A closed women's meeting. 7:30 p.m. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 6500 Amwood Drive, Lansing. (517) 882-9733.

EVENTS

Lansing Bike Party. Bike ride with TGIF stop. 5:30 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

Holiday All-Nighter. \$25 adoptions, games and prizes. 4 p.m.-4 a.m. Ingham County Animal Control & Shelter, 600 Curtis St., Mason. (517) 676-8370. ac.ingham.org.

MUSIC

Velocity Shift Live. Classic and modern rock. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Buddies Grill, 2040 Aurelius Road, Holt. (517) 699-3670.

Grand River Radio Diner/WLNZ 98.7. Featuring Iron

Cowgirl Missy and Hall & Morgan. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 483-1710. lcc.edu/radio.

Children/Youth Choir Auditions. Call CMS to schedule an appointment. 4-6 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661. cms.msu.edu.

Bright & Gay Cabaret. Classic holiday, Kwanzaa and Hannukah songs. 8 p.m. \$12 in advance/\$90 tables of 8/\$15-\$25 at the door. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave. Lansing. sistrum.org.

Saturday, December 21

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Tai Chi in the Park. Taught by Bob Teachout. 9 a.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

Domestic Violence Support Group. Noon-1:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

Holiday Yoga Classes for Kids. Brought to you by the KIDS YOGA PROJECT. 2-4 p.m. \$25. American Martial Arts & Fitness Academy, 402 E. Saginaw St. Lansing. (517) 930-9076. preranayoga.com.

Sistrum. Classic holiday music. Festive refreshments. 2 p.m. \$12/\$90 tables of 8/\$15-\$25 at the door. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. sistrum.org.

EVENTS

Art Reception. Celebrate this month's featured exhibit. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014. dtld.org.

Celebrate Winter Solstice. Hot cider samples, games, storytelling and more. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460. lansingcitymarket.com.

Book Signing "The Divine Apprentice." With local author Allen J. Johnston. 1-6 p.m. FREE. Barnes and Noble, 5132 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 327-0437.

MUSIC

Home Spun Band. Live music. 8 p.m. FREE. Grand Ledge Country Club, 5811 E. St. Joseph Highway, Grand Ledge. (517) 484-4825.

Michael McDonald. Winner of five Grammys. 8 p.m. Tickets start from \$35. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

East Lansing Gospel Choir. Second annual Christmas concert. 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing High School, 509 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. (517) 755-7332. elps.us.

Sunday, December 22

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. Third floor meeting room. 2-3 p.m. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300.

See Out on the Town, Page 17

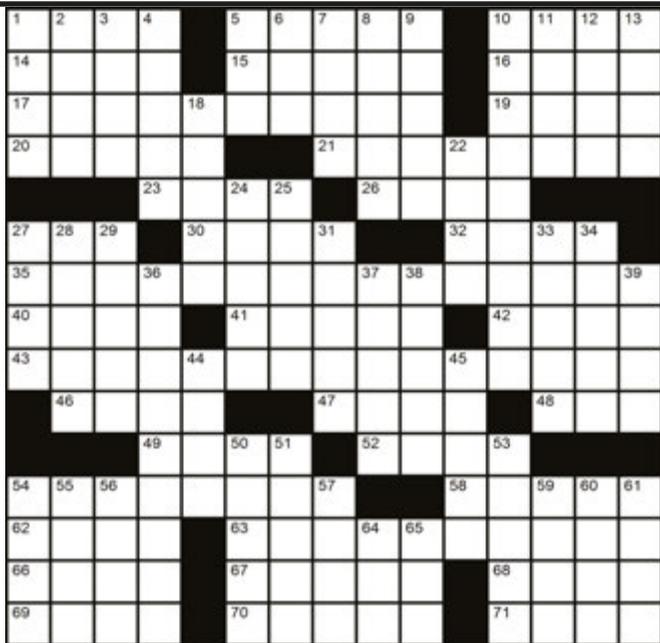
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Time Shift"--set it and forget it.
Matt Jones

Across

- 1 "Armageddon" author Leon
- 5 Mos Def collaborator Kweli
- 10 Drains, as of energy
- 14 Jazz great Thelonious
- 15 Crack up
- 16 "___ se habla espaOol"
- 17 Guy who avoids fighting (one hour behind)?
- 19 Litter critter
- 20 Bite-size
- 21 Handy children's game
- 23 Advance
- 26 Deep sleep
- 27 Consumer protection org.



- tion Aquila
- 62 Retail chain that offers meatballs
- 63 Airline hanging on the edge (three hours ahead)?
- 66 Takes for a ride
- 67 Suitcase attachment
- 68 Kernel
- 69 Slip or square follower
- 70 "Gee, that's swell!"
- 71 Places for peels

Down

- 1 Strike callers
- 2 Go outside the service area
- 3 ___ Empire
- 4 Technique
- 5 Mai ___ (bar order) composer
- 54 2,640 feet
- 58 Bird in the constella-

- 8 Late singer Hayes
- 9 Japanese box lunch
- 10 Snidely stated, perhaps
- 11 Pastel shade of blue
- 12 Jello Biafra's genre
- 13 Web presence
- 18 Ice cream concoction
- 22 Singer/songwriter Tori
- 24 Beijing Olympic gold medalist sprinter ___ Powell
- 25 "Elysium" director Blomkamp
- 27 College VIP
- 28 Disinterested
- 29 "The ___ Vista Social Club"
- 31 Hayao Miyazaki genre
- 33 Allowed
- 34 How hair may sometimes stand
- 36 "Hold it right there, buster!"

- 37 "The Voice" judge/coach Green
- 38 Intense devotion
- 39 Person who'll argue about Windows vs. Linux
- 44 Baba au ___
- 45 Derive by reasoning
- 50 Promotional gimmick
- 51 Former Washington senator ___ Gorton
- 53 Viper features
- 54 The ___ from French Lick (Larry Bird)
- 55 "Konvicted" hip-hop artist
- 56 Joking Jay
- 57 Shakira's "___ Noche Voy Contigo"
- 59 Golf lesson subject
- 60 Maggie's sister
- 61 CPR experts
- 64 Skin design, briefly
- 65 Star's propulsion, maybe?

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2								4	
	8	7							
4	9		5						
				3			6	1	
		5							8
	3	9		5				7	
				1				3	
8		1	7				9		

BEGINNER

TO PLAY

Fill in the grid so that every row, column, and outlined 3-by-3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 exactly once. No guessing is required. The solution is unique.

To avoid erasing, pencil in your possible answers in the scratchpad space beneath the short line in each vacant square.

Answers on page 13

THE INSTITUTION/FLEXCITY

Alan I. Ross/City Pulse
Paul Nagel,
co-owner of The
Institution, a
1,000-square-foot
fitness studio that
opened last week
in downtown
Lansing.



By ALLAN I. ROSS

A new fitness studio opened last week in downtown Lansing, just in time to help folks looking to fight their urge to load up on carbs and hibernate. **The Institution**, a group exercise and training studio, held its grand opening at 216 S. Washington Square. Co-owner Paul Nagel, a certified personal trainer who retired from the army in 2009 after 20 years



of service, opened the 1,000-square-foot business with his partner, Jennifer Battle.

"I've trained thousands of soldier in physical fitness — it's what I'm best at," Nagel said. "Fitness is our passion. We want to help change lives." Services include personal training, nutritional guidance and group training in several well-known exercise systems, including Zumba, Insanity, Body and R.I.P.P.E.D. Group

membership rates run \$55 per month, with personal training classes costing \$35 per half hour and \$55 per hour.

There is also a free Saturday fitness program at the studio on for kids ages 6- 12 from 11 a.m.-noon. Additionally, Nagel said he's reached out to the Lansing School District and will provide physical education three days a week at 18 elementary schools.

"It's hard to grasp our kids aren't going to outlive us because of their sedentary lifestyles," Nagel said. "Fighting childhood obesity is very important to us."

The gym was formerly a location for **FLEXcity**, which moved two blocks up the street to 119 N. Washington Square, above the **Downtown YMCA Fitness Center**.

FLEXcity opened in January 2012 and was able to more than double in size to 2,200 square feet when it moved in August. Co-owner Jenny Quinn said she and her

partner also intend to open a second location Grand Rapids next month.

"We've got over 300 clients now, and we offer a variety of fitness classes to fit many different types of lifestyles and fitness goals," Quinn said. Classes range in price from \$15 for a single drop-in class to \$125 for unlimited monthly access, with the first class free. The studio developed a signature workout called FLEX56, an hour-long class with strength, endurance and flexibility conditioning.

The Institution

216 S. Washington, Suite.C,
Lansing
Hours vary by class schedules
(517) 512-1554
institutionfitness.com

FLEXcity

119 N. Washington Square,
Ste. 300A, Lansing
Hours vary by class schedules
(517) 580-4848
flexcityfitness.com

Medical Center, 1500 S. Main St. Eaton Rapids. (517) 543-0786.

Intro to Computers. Learn from professionals. 2:30-4 p.m. FREE. Capital Area Michigan Works, 2110 S. Cedar St., Lansing.

Hopeful Hearts Grief Group. A grief group held to help cope after losing a loved one. 10-11 a.m. FREE. Marquette Activity Room, 5968 Park Lake Road. (517) 381 4866.

Speakeasies Toastmasters. Become a better speaker. 12:05-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar St. Lansing.

EVENTS

Christmas Eve Service. Old-fashioned service with carols. 6 p.m. FREE. Christ Community Church of Greater Lansing, 227 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-0600. christcommunitylansing.org.

Wednesday, December 25

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Christmas Satsanga & Meditation Gathering. Blessing, meditation and silent prayer. 10:15 a.m. FREE. Self Realization Meditation Healing Centre, 7187 Drumheller Road, Bath. (517) 641-6201.

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. First Congregational United Church of Christ, 210 W. Saginaw Highway, Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954.

Meditation. For beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, 3015 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 351-5866.

Thursday, December 26

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Weigh-in, 6 p.m. Meeting, 6:30 p.m. FREE to visit. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 882-9080.

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and

activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave. Lansing. (517) 367-6363.

Meditation. For beginners and experienced on Thursdays. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Quan Am Temple, 1840 N. College Ave. Mason. (517) 853-1675.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. The group meets on Thursdays. 5:15 p.m. \$5 monthly. New Hope Church, 1340 Haslett Road, Haslett. (517) 339-9000. **Tarot Study Group.** With Dawne Botke, 7 p.m. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 2019 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 883-3619. triplegoddessbookstore.net.

EVENTS

Spanish Conversation Group. English and Spanish spoken. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Euchre. Come play Euchre and meet new people. No partner needed. 6-9 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

Karaoke. Atomic D. 9 p.m. LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St. Lansing. (517) 482-0184.

Ladies Silver Blades Figure Skating Club. Lessons, exercise and practice for adult women. All skill levels. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd. East Lansing. (517) 574-4380.

MUSIC

Rally In The Alley: Open Mic. 6:30 p.m. FREE. American Legion Post 48, 731 North Clinton St. Grand Ledge. (517) 627-1232.

Live Music at P Squared. Live music every Thursday, 8 p.m. FREE. P Squared Wine Bar, 107 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 507-5074.

The Night After Christmas. Featuring the Peter Nelson Collective. 7-9 p.m. \$5. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. 517-853-0550. facebook.com/avenuecafe2021.

Out on the town

from page 16

Juggling. Learn how to juggle. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St. East Lansing. (517) 485-9190.

Spiritual Talk, Pure Meditation & Silent Prayer. 7 p.m. FREE. Self Realization Meditation Healing Centre, 7187 Drumheller Road, Bath. (517) 641-6201.

Holiday Yoga Classes for kids. 2-4 p.m. \$25. American Martial Arts & Fitness Academy, 402 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 930-9076. preranayoga.com.

EVENTS

Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance. Cash bar. 6-10 p.m. \$8. Fraternal Order of Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-7838.

MUSIC

Lessons, Carols and Compline. Voces Jubilantes from Ohio performs. 8 p.m. FREE. Church of the Resurrection, 1531 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-4749.

Monday, December 23

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Zumba Gold. All skill levels. 11 a.m.-Noon, \$8 drop-in rate, \$35 five-visit punch card, \$65 10-visit punch card. Kick it Out! Dance Studio, 1880 Haslett Road, East Lansing. (517) 582-6784.

Adult Rape Survivor Support Group. Pre-registration preferred. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Women's

Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

Job Seekers Support Group. Find the right job or career. 10 am.-Noon, FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

EVENTS

Social Bridge. Come play Bridge and meet new people. No partner needed. 1-4 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

Mac's Monday Comedy Night. Hosted by Mark Roebuck and Dan Currie. 9:30 p.m. FREE. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795.

Club Shakespeare. Rehearsing "Scenes of Shakespeare." 6-8:45 p.m. Donations. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 348-5728. cadl.org.

Holiday Yoga Classes for Kids. 9-11 a.m. \$25. American Martial Arts & Fitness Academy, 402 E. Saginaw St. Lansing. (517) 930-9076.

MUSIC

Open-Mic Blues Mondays. Sign up to play solo, duo, with your band. Spoken-word acts welcome. 6:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. Midtown Beer Co., 402 Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 977-1349.

Tuesday, December 24

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Anyone wanting to lose weight is welcome. 7 p.m. FREE to visit. Eaton Rapids

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HE ATE

SHE ATE



Upscale Lansing bistro a success by land and by sea

Reality bites

By **MARK NIXON**

Woody Allen famously said he hated reality, “but it’s still the best place to get a good steak.”

Alas, finding a good steak, reality-wise, can mean a long and disappointing journey. So many restaurants attempt to seal the deal one of three ways: With sheer bulk, by adding some unpronounceable glop to mask inferior meat or by concocting a menu that oozes over-promise.

To paraphrase another famous guy — Elvis — let’s have a little less conversation and a little more action.

So welcome to Capital Prime Steakhouse, where reality bites — in the best sense of the term.

While steak doesn’t top my list of favorite restaurant foods, on our first visit I ordered a rare 6-ounce filet mignon. Honestly, it’s one of the best steaks I’ve had in years, as good or better than those I’ve tasted in Las Vegas, a place known for great steaks.

There are seven different cuts of beefsteak on Capital Prime’s dinner menu, and if the filet mignon is any indication, all should be worth trying.

What I like best about Capital Prime is that, despite its name, there are some wonderful dishes that have nothing to do with beef. The Capital Shrimp appetizer arrives in an outsized martini glass. The shrimp is slightly crisped, then tossed with a spiced remoulade. Six of us tried it and all pronounced it various degrees of outstanding.

Another appetizer, Scallops Dynamite, was not as successful. The scallops were tender and not overdone, but they were covered in what was described as a spicy crab crust and basil drizzle. Those add-ons shroud the scallops’ natural, sweet flavor. High marks to presentation, however: The scallops were served in their own half-shells. It was eye candy. I’m surprised our server wasn’t humming a sea shanty when the dish docked at our table.

On to the salmon. I’m married to someone who thinks canned salmon is good. She is married to someone who has only enjoyed salmon twice — both times in Alaska. I never order salmon in these parts, but I tasted a bite of Cedar Planked Salmon (billed as fresh caught Nova Scotia salmon) ordered by one of our dining companions. I considered it excellent — so make it three times in my life that I’ve enjoyed salmon.

On separate visits, we tried seafood chowder (not your typical New England clam chowder but a broth-based version) served

See He Ate, Page 19

Capital Prime Steaks & Seafood

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A view to a kale

By **GABRIELLE JOHNSON**

When I went to Capital Prime recently, I was impressed with the makeover the restaurant has undergone since converting into a steakhouse from its previous incarnation, Bar 30. The walls are a deep, smoky blue and modern chandeliers and artwork hang from the walls. There is a definite feeling of swank.

We started with the calamari, which was plentiful but mushy. Another girlfriend passed her steak frites around the table, which came with house-made ketchup and garlic aioli, which is one of my favorite things in life — and this one was a good one. The tarragon butter that came with the bread was to die for.

For dinner I had the 6-ounce filet, which was cooked properly and had a nice sear, but was unfortunately doused in zip sauce, a combination of rendered butter and beef bordelaise. The sauce was entirely too salty and masked the taste of the steak. I’d have liked garlic aioli on the side instead.

My dinner salad was fresh, but the red onions were overpowering. I liked the light, tangy citrus vinaigrette. I opted for a double serving of vegetables instead of mashed potatoes, but was disappointed with the measly serving of broccoli. How much does broccoli cost? Throw a few more pieces on the plate.

I was completely disappointed with the service we had received that night and would have liked the opportunity to have a dialogue with the manager. We felt rushed, which is especially unfortunate when you’re paying a pretty penny for your meal.

The boyfriend and I returned to try out Capital Prime’s lunch service. We tried the Capital Shrimp, which has crispy battered shrimp tossed in remoulade. They were hot, fresh and I would order these again in an instant; then again, I would eat a reindeer if it was battered and doused in remoulade.

I was excited to see a kale salad on the menu. I ordered that in a combo with half of a hot prime rib sandwich. While the flavor of kale can be overpowering (“It tastes like the ground” is a common complaint from the boyfriend I’m trying to be healthy) and the texture chewy, kale substantially mellows out if you massage it with your fingertips. This kale was topped with the citrus vinaigrette that I liked so much on my first visit, and had blue cheese, crumbled bacon, dried cherries, candied pecans and apple slices.

My sandwich, however, was not as

See She Ate, Page 19

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He Ate

from page 18

piping hot. Not the best I've tasted — that distinction goes to a little cafe in Labrador — but still several notches above what's found in local restaurants.

High marks also go to the calamari; tender and delicate, far removed from the rubber band texture so prevalent in restaurant calamari.

I found the best seafood to be the plump and tender Coconut Curry Mussels. Harvested off Prince Edward Island, they rank up right up there with the great mussels I've eaten in Belgium and Nova Scotia.

On two visits, six of us ate chicken, beef

and various seafood dishes. The compliments were plentiful, the complaints minimal. For instance, my Michigan lake perch was supposed to come with pommes frites but didn't. To be fair, I didn't bother to ask the server since I was already getting full.

If there are downsides to Capital Prime, they are location and price. The restaurant is parked in the "backyard" of Eastwood Towne Center near an unfinished parking ramp. You have to look for the restaurant, set some distance from Eastwood's bustling hub. As one dinner companion put it, the place has "no sense of place."

And if you're on a restrictive budget, be advised that dinner entrées aren't cheap. My filet mignon was \$23.50. Most appetizers are in the \$10-\$13

range. Dinner for two with drinks and an appetizer will run about \$100, comparable to some of the very high-end restaurants in Greater Lansing.

I believe the quality of the ingredients and the care in preparation make the prices reasonable. But, let your wallet be your guide.

For those who imbibe, let me recommend a First Kiss. This cocktail is made

with St. Germain, a liqueur distilled using elderflowers. It is one of the most evocative tastes to reach my lips in a long time. I won't elucidate precisely what the taste of St. Germain evokes. Let's just say saintliness doesn't come to mind.

I'm putting St. Germain on my Christmas list, but if I'm naughty and Santa isn't nice, I'm going back to Capital Prime for a second First Kiss.

She Ate

from page 18

good. The meat and vegetables were both quite dry, and the vegetables were cooked well past the point of mushy. The boyfriend liked his lobster macaroni and cheese well enough, but wished that he would have paid attention to the description on the menu more carefully and was surprised

when the "macaroni" turned out to be penne. Nevertheless, the lobster was plentiful in the dish and the cheese sauce wasn't too weighty for a (relatively) light lunch.

Our gluttony got the better of us and we ordered the carrot cake for dessert. It was nothing to blow your diet over. The cake was too full of currants to properly come together, and the few bites that we took essentially fell apart before they reached our mouths. I wished I had another dinner roll to provide my happy ending.

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Meet Yuri.

She's a hip-hop dancer and avid museum visitor born and raised in Japan. She recently moved to Tokyo to attend university, where she studies Latin American Culture and has even learned to speak a little Spanish. We first spotted her working at our Shibuya store and asked her to model for us. As a child, Yuri was always singing, dancing, drawing and playing basketball. Today, she enjoys taking photos of her travels, dancing, collecting magazines and modeling for us in her free time.

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