

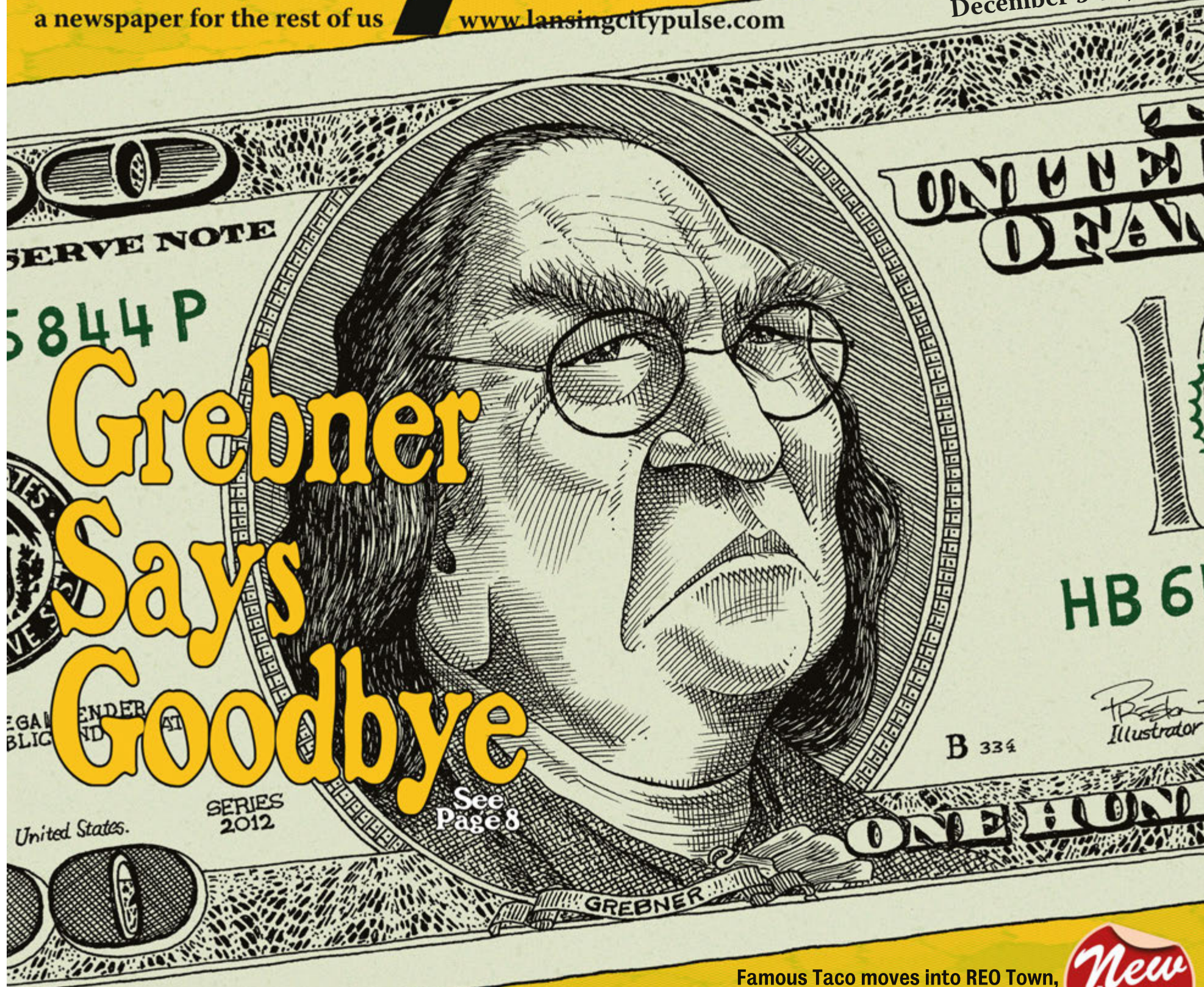
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December 5-11, 2012



Grebnier Says Goodbye

See Page 8

Famous Taco moves into REO Town,
DeWitt gets a dance studio and
Barber Loves settles in on the east side



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Feedback

Real losers

It's amazing that you can designate losers in the recent election ("All hail the winners," 11/14/12) without mentioning the real losers — representative government and, possibly, the citizens of Michigan. True, Debbie carried the state by a big margin. Democrats who were candidates for the state House of "non-Representatives" also carried the state by a margin of 53% to 45%, a margin of 350,000 votes. However, gerrymandering again carried the day for Republicans. The Republicans ended up with 53% of the seats versus 46% for the Democrats. Thus, Republicans have 59 seats as compared to 51 for the Democrats. If seats were distributed in proportion to the respective votes, the number of seats held by each party would be reversed. Looks like the Democrats goose is cooked for the foreseeable future; especially when the Michigan Democratic Party shows little or no interest in electoral reform along the lines of proportional representation. Imagine, Democrats in 59 districts have no representation in Michigan's House yet they pump a million votes into state-wide candidates' campaigns and get nothing from the Party in return. Makes me wonder why they bother.

— Dan Brown

DeWitt

Consolidation? How about detachment?

Sorry I'm not sorry to throw cold water on Bernero and Triplett's schemes ("The case for consolidation," 11/28/12), but everyone I know in East Lansing does not want consolidation, and Nathan Triplett does not speak for us. In fact, due to his and others mis-management-negligence-recklessness of our public affairs, a serious move is afoot to detach parts of East Lansing from East Lansing altogether, so that we join another township or create or own new city altogether, just so we don't have to deal with abusive and predatory corrupt politicians and all the senseless job and wealth-killing poor public policy decisions they've made.

— Jeffrey Hank
from www.lansingcitypulse.com

Have something to say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages?

Write a letter to the editor:

- E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
- Snail mail: City Pulse, 2001 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
- Fax: (517) 371-5800

(Please include your name, address and telephone number so we can reach you. Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. City Pulse reserves the right to edit letters and columns.)

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE #1181

LANSING CITY COUNCIL ADOPTED AN ORDINANCE ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2012, TO REPEAL SECTIONS 1460.01-1460.43 OF THE LANSING CODIFIED ORDINANCES AND REPLACE THEM WITH NEW SECTIONS 1460.01 - .03, ADOPTING THE 2009 INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE WITH CERTAIN ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, AND ALTERATIONS.

EFFECTIVE DATE: UPON PUBLICATION

NOTICE: THE FULL TEXT OF THIS ORDINANCE IS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK, 9TH FLOOR, CITY HALL, LANSING, MICHIGAN. A COPY OF THE FULL TEXT OF THIS ORDINANCE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CITY CLERK, 9TH FLOOR, CITY HALL, LANSING MICHIGAN AT A FEE DETERMINED BY CITY COUNCIL.

CHRIS SWOPE, LANSING CITY CLERK

CITY OF LANSING ADOPTED ORDINANCE #2569

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN, PROVIDING FOR THE REZONING OF A PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN AND FOR THE REVISION OF THE DISTRICT MAPS ADOPTED BY SECTION 1246.02 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES.

The City of Lansing ordains:

Section 1. That the district maps adopted by and incorporated as Section 1246.02 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing, Michigan be amended to provide as follows:

To change the zoning classification of the property described as follows:

Case Number: Z-4-2012
Address: 315 E. Jolly Road
Parcel Number: PPN: 33-01-01-33-452-020
Legal Descriptions: Commencing 696 Feet East & 38 Feet North of South 1/4 Corner Section 33, Thence North 243.5 Feet, East 252.54 Feet, South 241.54 Feet, West 253.8 Feet to the Point of Beginning; Section 33 T4N R2W, City of Lansing, Ingham County, State of Michigan, from "F" Commercial District to "G-2" Wholesale District.

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions hereof are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance was duly adopted by the Lansing City Council on November 19, 2012, and a copy is available in the office of the Lansing City Clerk, 9th Floor, City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect upon the expiration of seven (7) days from the date this notice of adoption is published in a newspaper of general circulation.

CityPULSE

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District Court ruling, statewide legalization effort are welcome news for Lansing-area cannabis advocates



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The author and the puppeteer reminisce on the story's transition from page to stage



**PAGE
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Annual unveiling of seasonal Beaujolais varietal is an event for wine fans



**COVER
ART**

GREBNER'S SPENT by DENNIS PRESTON

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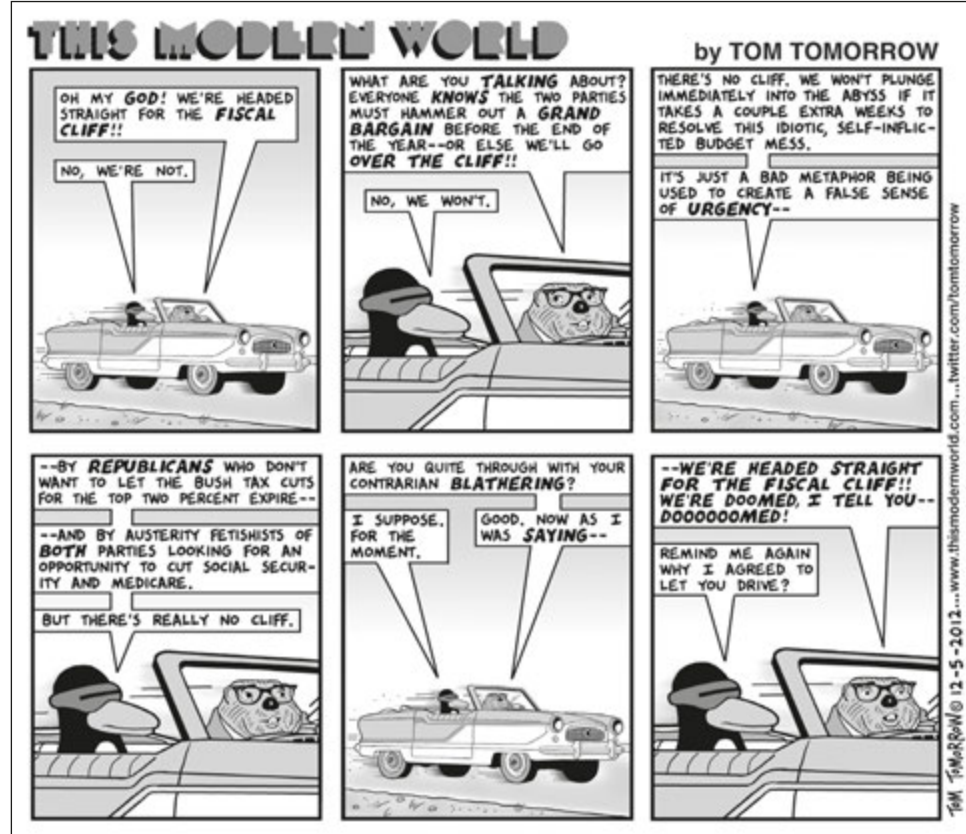
THIS WEEK David Hollister, head of Lansing Financial Health Team
Bill Rustem, director of strategy for Gov. Rick Snyder
Phil Denny, jazz saxophonist
Marc Breedlove, MSU professor of neuroscience



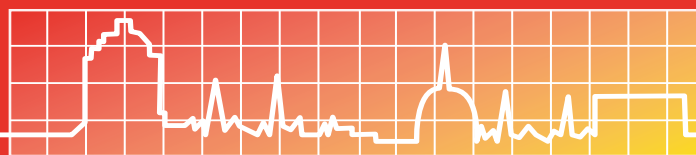
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PULSE



news & opinion

Changing strategy

Residents reject Niowave's landscaping plan. And they have a message: Fix the pole barn or we're coming to your neighborhoods with picket signs.

For five months, residents of the Walnut Neighborhood have been pushing a mantra on Niowave officials regarding the white, 14,000-square-foot pole barn they built on the property: "Fix the façade."

A plan surfaced recently to address the neighborhood's desire. Neighbors rejected it because the entirely landscape-based plan would not do enough to either hide the building or blend it in with the surrounding neighborhood, residents say. A tax break worth more than \$200,000 for the particle accelerator company hinges on neighborhood approval of improvements.

Now residents are planning to picket the neighborhoods of Niowave head honchos if the situation doesn't improve.

At a Walnut Neighborhood Organization meeting on Thursday, 11 people were in attendance — including City Council President Brian Jeffries and Council members Carol Wood and Jessica Yorko — to discuss next steps with the company. The message was undeniable: If Niowave officials don't do something about the pole barn soon, it's going to get personal.

"I'm amazed at how this happened," said WNO President Rina Risper. Niowave has shown an "inability to meet with neighbors and an inability to discuss this with transparency. The disregard for our quality of life is mind-boggling."

The group distributed two fliers at the meeting. One contained the addresses of Niowave officials Terry and Beth Grimm, Mark Sinila and

Jerry Hollister. The other was a draft list of "Asks" — essentially what the group wants to be done about the pole barn, which was built earlier this year as an addition to Niowave's Walnut School headquarters.

The list went as follows: Remove all chain link fencing around the property; remove signs on the building and property; eliminate the need for on-street employee parking; create a landscaped berm at the corner of Kilborn Street and Seymour Avenue; plant mature trees on the property; create a rain garden at the south storm drain; eliminate glare from the roof; improve the landscaping; and the kicker — replace the current façade to better blend with the original school building.

The list and plans to protest came after a landscaping proposal shown to three residents on Nov. 16 was rejected

cut it," said Mary Elaine Kiener, a Walnut Neighborhood resident. In an email to Niowave on Nov. 26, Kiener wrote: "There is an overwhelming LACK of support for a landscaping ONLY approach to 'fix the façade.'" She received no response. In the email, she invited Niowave to the WNO meeting on Thursday to discuss the issue. Behind a paper Niowave placard, there was an empty chair: No one showed.

Kiener said the neighborhood has sent a letter to Niowave with the denial and the list of "Asks." She said they have continually invited Niowave to the table to discuss the issue but officials never joined the conversation. She also said Niowave is hesitant to meet with any more than three residents at a time. Kiener has said the relationship is at an "all time low."

If Niowave continues to do nothing about the pole barn, residents plan to picket officials' neighborhoods. City Council members who attended Friday's meeting voiced their support for the group.

At-Large Councilwoman Wood said the wishes of the group have been "clear" from the beginning and that picketing can "make a difference" when all else has failed. Fourth Ward Councilwoman Yorko, who represents the Walnut Neighborhood, said residents shouldn't worry about potential costs as a barrier to what they want: "Shoot for the moon,"

she said.

The community is at a point where "they have to do what they have to in order to protect their interests," said Jeffries. "What I've seen ... is a relationship that is deteriorating. They can't get Niowave to the table. They've got to have an understanding. Months have been lost for that to happen because Niowave has not been at the table. There is a greater level of frustration ... they feel the need to get (Niowave's) attention another way."

"We've been very gracious," said Risper. "We need to change strategy" and let Niowave know "we are dead



Sam Inglot/City Pulse

Walnut Neighborhood residents have rejected a proposed landscaping plan to deal with the Niowave pole barn and now say they may picket company officials' homes. At a Thursday neighborhood meeting, Niowave was noticeably absent from conversations related to frustrations with their pole barn.

by the neighborhood after a series of discussion sessions over Thanksgiving weekend. Niowave retained Lansing-based landscape architect Bob Ford to come up with ideas to help address the neighborhood's concerns. Niowave asked that the neighborhood sign off on the landscaping and send a letter of agreement to the City Council.

A request for a \$230,000 personal property tax exemption has been "postponed" until Niowave "makes amends with the neighborhood," Niowave Chief Financial Officer Mark Sinila said recently.

"There was a general consensus that landscaping alone — as nice as Bob's plans were — are not going to



Property: State Christmas Tree

Owner: State of Michigan

Assessed value: It was free, but will cost the state about \$300 to light this season

Owner says: We hear it every year

Early last month, a 75-foot-tall, infundibuliform mass appeared in front of Michigan's state Capitol. The alarmed populace was told that it was merely the state's official Christmas tree, an extra large Concolor Fir from Jackson. But when the tree lights went on, people began to wonder. Thick bands of green and red lights tricked the eye into seeing a solid mass instead of a tree. At best, it looked like a Christmas tree stuffed in an ugly Christmas sweater. At worst, the tip of a nuclear missile. Was the state's Republican-led Legislature about to launch the long-dreaded, devastating counterstrike to the liberal war on Christmas?

Nah — the glow-cone is a sign of the times. Once upon a woolen sock, people decked Christmas trees with flickering candles, creating a random, starry effect. When every village in Europe burned to the ground, electric lights became an acceptable substitute. They weren't as beautiful, but if scattered delicately, they could still please the eye and let a tree look like a tree.

Now Americans mark Christmas by inflating puffy Santas and snow globes and rolling them onto muddy, snow-less front lawns. Don't deck the halls — brand them! The glowing blob on the state's front lawn fits right into that landscape.

— Lawrence Cosentino

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

See Niowave, Page 6

from page 5

— **Sam Inglot**



Not just for those employees, no doubt.

In his opinion, Clarke said that the HydroWorld employees were authorized to sell to the three undercover officers because — even though they didn't have state-issued registry cards — they had recommendations signed by physicians. He cited the May state Supreme Court ruling in *People vs. Kolanek* that patients don't need a state-issued registry card to qualify, only a physician recommendation.


"I would like more, safer dispensaries in

"This is a bipartisan issue," Gholson said. "People are coming out now."

— Andy Balaskovitz

PUBLIC NOTICES

Advertisement for Bid



Ingham County is accepting proposals from experienced and qualified contractors for the purpose of entering into a contract to reroof the Ingham County Fair Office building. The prebid notice is posted on-line at <http://pu.ingham.org> under the Current Bids link and assigned #61-12. Copies of the bid documents may be purchased from Capital City Reprographics, 1110 Center Street, Lansing, MI 48906, 517-482-5431. A mandatory pre-bid meeting is scheduled for December 12 at 11:00 AM, in the Ingham County Fairgrounds Office, 700 E. Ash Street, Mason, MI 48854; to register email nwallace@ingham.org. Each bid must be accompanied by a bid guarantee in an amount equal to 5 percent of the basic bid. Direct all questions to jhudson@ingham.org no later than 1:30 PM on December 14. Proposals are due on December 20 by 11:00 AM to: James C. Hudson, Jr., Director of Purchasing, Ingham County Purchasing Department, PO Box 319, 121 E. Maple St., Room 203, Mason, Michigan 48854.

It's Virg v. Who? in 2013

Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero reaffirmed to me last week he's running for a third term next year, hoping to become the fifth chief executive in the city's history to serve more than 10 years.

It's not only completely doable, but entirely probable. He crushed Councilwoman Carol Wood by 25 percentage points in 2009, winning all but one of the city's precincts in the process. Since then, Bernero has avoided any colossal blunders that would otherwise trip up an incumbent with voters.

Bernero did go back on his word in 2010, making his ill-fated gubernatorial run only days after winning his second term. But that venture can be written off as taking one for the team. He gave Democrats a true Democratic candidate after Lt. Gov. John Cherry quit the race.

He got his clock cleaned, no question about it. But his national presence as the defender of organized labor and working people at a time when everyone else was

running for the hills should more than offset his shockingly sudden change of heart.

Bernero and the Lansing City Council still don't get along. He's waffled between having five and three friends on the city's legislative body, but somehow he finds a way to get a lot of what he wants.

If we've learned anything from the hot-tempered Virg, though, he's got his share of opponents. One, if not more, of them will make a run at him. Some are easy to pick, and some will probably materialize out of the clear blue sky.

There are always the top-tier candidates, those sitting on Council who periodically give Virg a tough time. But I wouldn't be surprised to see a dark-horse candidate come out of the city employee ranks again.

Morale, I'm told, is in the dumps. Employees are tired of taking on more tasks for less compensation while watching the quality of the services they provided slip. Another candidate like Dale Abronowitz, a city employee who ran for mayor in 2005, should be expected.

Either way, it's not too early to pick out his most likely high-profile challengers and handicap their chances of success.

1. **Councilwoman A'Lynne Robinson** — The most likely candidate for a number of reasons, not the least of which being her recent second-place finish in

the 68th District House race primary last August.

Could she have beaten Andy Schor had it been a one-on-one race? Hard to say. It certainly would have made the race more interesting. On the campaign trail, Robinson makes a nice first impression and can make the time to run.

She's allegedly back on the anti-Bernero side of Council, setting herself up for another term as Council president if the Kathie Dunbar deal falls apart. She's also reportedly "everywhere," showing up at various events. It raises the question of whether a jump is eminent.

2. **Wood** — If nobody else steps up, she's the most likely. Wood has a built-in contingent of supporters who will go to bat for her come hell or high water. Of course, the issues that doomed her candidacy in 2009 will be there in 2013. But if the level of discontent against the incumbent mayor is strong, nobody can stoke that fire better than Wood.

She was the top vote-getter (again) in her 2011 at-large re-election campaign, withstanding another barrage of attacks from business interests and the pro-Bernero folks.

3. **Brian Jeffries** — If he did it, he'd probably stand the best chance of winning. It's always been the fire-in-the-belly question with Jeffries, who has a great gig at Michigan State University and

doesn't necessarily need the full-time job of mayor or the aggravation the position brings.

He runs strong citywide, earning the most votes in his at-large 2009 race. The issue here, obviously, is one of timing. Jeffries would have to choose between running for a third full term or making the mayoral leap. There's more certainty in one than the other.

4. **James Gill** — The former president of Lansing's NAACP (2003-2008), Gill ran for sheriff in 2004 as a Republican. Running for mayor would be a completely different race for the Lansing police detective. His candidacy would give the African American community someone to rally around if Robinson doesn't run.

Now here are a couple people being mentioned as strong candidates if they ran — but won't:

• **Joan Bauer** — The term-limited state representative has City Council experience from her pre-legislative days and huge support in the city of Lansing, but her interests are the state Senate when Sen. Gretchen Whitmer's term expires at the end of 2014.

• **Chris Swope** — A likely heir-apparent when Bernero decides he's had enough, the popular city clerk will bide his time. If something else better comes along in the meantime, though ...

Kyle Melinn is the editor of the MIRS Newsletter. He's at melinn@lansingcitypulse.com.



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Photos by Sam Inglot, Illustration by Rachel Harper/City Pulse

END OF AN ERA FOR THE MASTER OF VOTER LISTS

By WALT SORG

The man who crafted what has become an iconic political slogan — “No Worse Than the Rest” — is a study in contradictions. He’s controversial and outspoken while at the same time a champion for crafting electoral consensus and pragmatic solutions. His political career began with a successful political war against the county’s sheriff. Thirty-six years later, it is ending after an unsuccessful political battle with the county’s drain commissioner. But he has changed the way candidates run for office.

He is Mark Grebner. For nearly four decades, he has been a core part of government and politics in Ingham County. In three weeks, Grebner, 60, will leave the Ingham County Board of Commissioners after a career spanning 36 years.

He’s been compared with Ben Franklin. The physical resemblance is obvious. Less so are the shared passions for solving problems, whether it’s how to make sure poor families still have access to Ingham County parks or how to reelect the president.

Catching up with Grebner can be a challenge. He operates in his own time zone, generally arriving at his office (by bicycle) in mid-afternoon, working well

into the night and going to bed when first-shift GM workers are having breakfast.

The son of a K-12 schools superintendent, Grebner migrated from Kankakee,

Ill., in 1970 to attend Michigan State University as an Alumni Distinguished Scholar. He initially majored in public policy in James Madison College, shifting to urban policy. He graduated 11 years later. In the process, he may have been the only James Madison student to ever take calculus, statistics and chemical physics as elective courses.

As an undergraduate, he infuriated many on campus by surveying students and then publishing “Grading the Profs,” which he sold for 95 cents a copy. (He later published a similar booklet while in law school at the University of Michigan.)

An internship with the political arm of the UAW led to an assignment working on the campaign of an East Lansing minister, Lynn Jondahl, who was running for the state House of Representa-

tives. Grebner’s introduction to politics established the foundation for his intertwined business and political careers.

“His interest was in the political process,” Jondahl recalled. “He was: ‘Give

me a problem and then let’s sit down and solve it.”

Grebner quickly learned that he wasn’t especially suited for the structure and discipline of a campaign staff.

“I assumed the whole campaign world was like the Jondahl campaign: 100 volunteers, maybe 15 established committees, a system where everything had to go through three, four, five committees,” Grebner said in an interview last week. He loved Jondahl, but not the campaign structure.

“I hated meetings, and I discovered I couldn’t work in a campaign. That’s why I became a political consultant. I could tell candidates, ‘This is what I recommend. Do it or don’t,’ and then walk away.”

Frustrated with the endless Jondahl campaign meetings, Grebner decided to bypass the decision-by-consensus

process and unilaterally wrote his first campaign brochure. It was designed to introduce Jondahl to MSU students who, thanks to the 18-year-old vote, were the key to victory. Instead of mimicking the campaign’s 16-page booklet (the only campaign brochure ever labeled ‘literature’), he came up with a three-panel brochure with the headings: “What Lynn Jondahl Has Done,” “What Lynn Jondahl is Doing” and “What Lynn Jondahl Wants to Do.”

“Ten years later they were still using the piece,” Grebner chuckled.

The experience also set the pattern for his entire life. Longtime friend (and 1980s-era girlfriend) Aubrey Marron notes that Grebner has never worked for an employer. “It was all him doing what he wanted and selling it to other people. I think he’d have a hard time having a boss.”

So the honors college student morphed into a campaign consultant, initially charging candidates \$5 an hour. Practical Political Consulting, like so many student start-ups, began in his bedroom. A year later he doubled his hourly rate, and did so again in 1974. That was also the year he decided to run for the Ingham County Board of Commissioners. He lost

“I hated meetings, and I discovered I couldn’t work in a campaign. That’s why I became a political consultant. I could tell candidates, ‘This is what I recommend. Do it or don’t,’ and then walk away.”

-MARK GREBNER

Grebner

from page 8

in the primary by 18 votes. Two years later he was easily elected.

The next four years were filled with controversy.

DISGUST WITH CORRUPTION AND DISHONESTY

Marron says Grebner's politics are driven by disgust with corruption and dishonesty. In the 1970s, the Ingham County Republican establishment still had political control of the county and it was rife with corruption (some of it crim-

"I knew from the beginning there's a lot of substance there. ... He's not afraid to get into the ring with anyone, he's not a game player. You always know where he stands."

- REPUBLICAN INGHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONER RANDY SCHAFER ON GREBNER

inal). Led by Sheriff Kenneth Preadmore and Circuit Judge Ray Hotchkiss, the ruling clique included Prosecutor Ray Scodeller, LCC President Phil Gannon, Lansing State Journal publisher Hal Fildey and local broadcasting pioneer Hal Gross. Grebner focused on taking down what he viewed as a "corrupt good ole boy network."

"Preadmore was genuinely corrupt," Grebner said. "He was caught stealing money from the county and extorted the board. Preadmore went after me and then expanded to the other three Democrats on the finance committee. He then expanded it further to include virtually the entire board, including commissioners Dave Hollister, Debbie Stabenow and Bill Sederburg."

Preadmore finally took his case against Grebner, alleging 27 criminal counts, to newly elected Prosecutor Peter Houk. No charges were filed. The prosecutor's investigator determined that Grebner hadn't been embezzling county money, but actually had been underpaid to the tune of about \$320. The case file now sits in Grebner's desk, compliments of Preadmore's successor, Democrat Allan Davis. Grebner calls his successful campaign against Preadmore "the most important accomplishment" of his life.

BACK TO SCHOOL, BACK TO THE BOARD

Grebner, exhausted by both the investigation and his 11 years as an MSU undergraduate, left the board in 1981

to attend U.M. Law School, returning to the board in 1985. He rejoined the county commission the same day Republican Randy Schafer was sworn in for his first term. A nearly three-decade collaboration had begun due, in part, to the recommendation of one of the other commissioners who had fought with Preadmore, Democrat Tom Mitchell.

"I had a lot of respect for Tom Mitchell," Schafer said. "He told me a lot about Mark. I knew from the beginning there's a lot of substance there."

The Ingham County Board of Commissioners has been a breeding ground for future state legislators. Board alumni include Stabenow, Hollister, Diane Byrum, Lynne Martinez, Fred Stackable, William Sederburg, Laura Baird and Andy Schor. Grebner never had the itch to follow in their footsteps, preferring the relatively low-visibility job of county commissioner because it was a place where he could (and did) get things done.

He wrote and then fought to enact the county's ethics policies. "It isn't the 10 Commandments, just something designed to keep the board from doing things that will cause problems." He took the lead in creating a combined 9-1-1 dispatch system, and devised the financing system for a unified county public transit system.

The bike-riding commissioner's lifelong dedication to alternative transportation also led to a place on CATA's Board of Directors, where he will continue to serve in 2013.

Each project was crafted with Grebner's disdain for "feuding, posturing and useless meetings." His method of operation modeled Nike's mantra: "Just Do It." He pushed through a countywide 9-1-1 millage without first getting local governments to agree on a collaboration. The millage wasn't even levied in the first year as turf wars continued. Ultimately, Grebner's solution won out. The new county 9-1-1 dispatch center opened earlier this year with the active participation of the entire county.

THE MAN WITH THE LISTS

While serving on the county commission, Grebner built his political consulting business, gradually expanding Practical Political Consulting out of his bedroom and into a series of offices in downtown East Lansing. He moved so often in the early years that his business address was a post office box at the MSU Union.

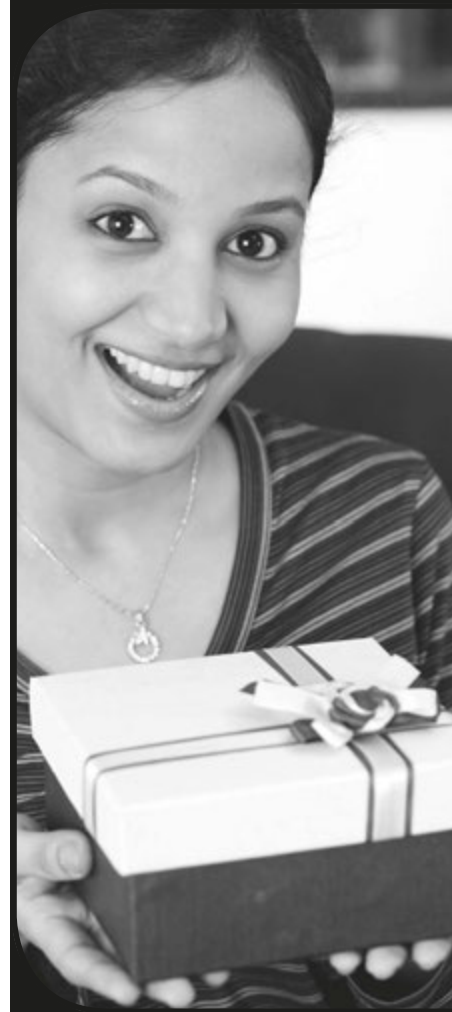
Computers were still pretty much a novelty in the 1970s. In the beginning, Grebner's all-valuable voter data was preserved on punch cards. He would use a Red Flyer wagon to haul boxes of cards to the MSU computer center,



Courtesy Photo

A photo of Grebner (left) and his now-deceased pot-bellied pig, Ruby, from a profile in The New York Times in 2000. The Times reported that Ruby belonged to a former girlfriend who had moved to California. When Grebner "sent the pig to live on a farm, it got so fat it could neither walk nor see." Ruby went on to lose about 100 pounds, the Times said. Ruby passed away about five years ago.

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Grebner

from page 9

renting time to massage his data and print out the lists that quickly became a standard tool of political campaigns. In 2000, The New York Times called the lists “the hottest of hot commodities in hot races.”

“He was among the first to keep exploring and exploiting the possibilities of technology,” Jondahl said. “He became the go-to person for all of us in regard to (efficient use of campaign data), both because he could do it and because he understood the importance of it.”

Unlike virtually all other political suppliers, Grebner decided to offer credit to candidates.

Grebner saw it as a simple marketing decision. Campaigns used his data to raise money; they were more likely to buy from him if they didn’t have to pay until the checks started coming in.

Of course, that has left PPC holding the bag for some long-forgotten campaigns. A framed NSF check for \$3,000 from the Gary Hart presidential campaign greets visitors to the company’s offices above Pinball Pete’s. Hart’s check was written the day before a sex scandal involving the candidate and Donna Rice effectively ended his 1988 campaign.

Over the years, Grebner has become a national force in political strategy. A tactic he pioneered was a critical part of the Obama campaign’s get-out-the-vote strategy. Research Grebner conducted nearly a decade ago in tandem with two Yale political science professors was at the heart of the concept of “social pressure” to improve voter turnout. Described in the book, “The Victory Lab,” the tactic involves using direct mail to pressure likely supporters into voting: “... they sent voters a copy of their own public vote histories, along with their neighbors’, and a threat to deliver an updated set after the election. It was marvelously effective, increasing turnout among those who received it by 20 percent.”

Grebner also worked with researchers and East Lansing native Nate Silver (who had predicted an Obama victory over Romney as far back as June) to expose a polling firm that was selling fraudulent research to the power liberal blog “The Daily Kos.”

Grebner continues to work on campaigns, although he has sold Practical Political Consulting to fellow Commissioner Penelope Tsernoglou and Alan Fox, while continuing as a PPC employee. While he insists he “enjoys the rock-band farewell tour” of his departure, Grebner insists that he isn’t retiring, but just being practical.

“We have a pension system that is really screwed up. I will make nearly as much from my pension as I would if I stayed on the board. Effectively, I’d be working for a net of a dollar or two an hour.”

In other words, he’s very open to double-dipping. “I could be back on the board of commissioners, I could take some other job. I don’t have a plan to do so, but you never know.”

One possibility is another run for drain commissioner in four years. Grebner continues to be highly critical of

“Personally, I think of him as mildly outrageous. To me, that is the best kind of person.”

**-FORMER STATE REP. LYNN JONDAHL,
D-EAST LANSING**

20-year incumbent Pat Lindemann and doesn’t rule out a 2016 campaign, especially if Lindemann does not retire.

There’s no love lost between the two longtime county officials. But even Lindemann concedes that Grebner has been “a stabilizing factor over the years. In general, I think his influence has been positive.”

Grebner readily admits — as he did during this summer’s campaign — that winning the drain commissioner job would significantly increase his county pension. While his primary motivation is the belief that he can do a far better job managing the powerful office, his candor about personal financial considerations typifies Grebner’s unswerving willingness to speak his mind regardless of the consequences.

He may also work for fundamental political reform in Michigan. He advocates an end to partisan redistricting (gerrymandering), enactment of “any reason” absentee voting and full disclosure of all campaign spending, including that of unions and business associations.

One certainty: Grebner will continue to be one of the area’s most controversial and interesting political voices.

“I’ve seen Mark take on everyone imaginable,” said fellow Commissioner Schafer. “He’s not afraid to get into the ring with anyone, he’s not a game player. You always know where he stands.”

“His legacy was to be out there breaking new ground: how voters vote and why they vote the way they do,” said his first “client,” Lynn Jondahl. “We wandered into the process wanting to run for office and not knowing how. Mark’s legacy was to help us fill in the blanks.”

“Personally, I think of him as mildly outrageous,” said Jondahl. “To me, that is the best kind of person.”

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Arts & Culture

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‘War Horse’ men

The author and the puppeteer reminisce on the story's transition from page to stage

By ALLAN I. ROSS

It's a heartbreaking story, made all the more touching because it's based on actual events. In the early days of World War I, a British family has to sell their beloved horse to the frontline cavalry. The family's son, too young to fight, lies about his age in order to enlist so he can find his horse among the ranks and bring him home.

“War Horse”

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In the early 1980s, British children's author Michael Morpurgo turned that account into “War Horse,” a book geared for elementary schoolers that spawned the

popular stage play, which hits the Wharton Center for a five-day run starting today. If that doesn't exactly seem like happy story time reading, Morpurgo was never a writer who saw his audience as one having divisive lines drawn through it.

“I don't write for children — I write for everyone,” he said, talking from his home in England. “I write about children, and sometimes this strays into difficult territory, such as grief and loss. The problem is that most people concern themselves with what children ought to be thinking about and don't stop to think about what they actually are thinking about.”

Morpurgo wrote “War Horse” during the Cold War, during a time when most kids weren't reading — or even thinking — about bloody hostilities in the world.

“War had been put on hold for a bit, in a way,” he says. “All that fighting seemed far away. But then when the wars started breaking out, they started to realize that, sadly, this is how we solve problems.”

Morpurgo has worked closely with children for over 40 years as a teacher, an author and through his charity, Farm for City Children. He says the biggest change between this generation and all previous batches is its almost unlimited access to information. Which is good, if you can handle that kind of access.

“These days, the world comes into your bedroom, whether you like it or not,” Morpurgo says. “The world of the children and the adults has considerably overlapped, but they're not being taught how to deal with the feelings they have for what they're



Courtesy photo

It takes three puppeteers to operate each horse in “War Horse,” but the illusion is “astounding,” according to Handspring Puppetry founder Basil Jones.

seeing. In our countries, sadly, coffins are coming home. Children see this and they know perfectly well that someone has died. They know this is serious, they're frightened and upset, but they only have a superficial understanding of what all these things mean — this war, this suffering. It's important that we don't fill their lives up with useless information. We still need to touch their emotions and hearts.”

Morpurgo set “War Horse” during WWI, which he thinks has a different cultural resonance than other modern wars, particularly in the way it affects British and Americans differently.

“You lost twice as many people in World War I than you did in World War II, but the former gets such short shrift,” he says. “I've always wondered why that is. I think that's why (Steven) Spielberg chose to make this into a movie. I think he wanted to discover something new about history that he never knew before. I knew when I started I didn't want to write another war story about one side or another. I wanted to write a universal story about the suffering that happened that killed 100 million people.

“That's what was unique about telling

this story through the eyes of a horse. You don't see in German and French anymore. In a way, this story becomes a metaphor about war.”



Morpurgo

When “War Horse” was published in 1982, it “did all right,” according to Morpurgo. He said it then “sat around rather quietly” for 25 years, selling 1,000 or so copies per year, until he was approached by the National Theater of London, which wanted to make a play of it. He agreed, but when he heard how they were planning on portraying the horses, Morpurgo balked.

“Puppets?” Morpurgo remembers thinking. “It's a searing story — I just didn't see how that could work. But then I saw something on a video that the company had done with a giraffe, and it blew me away. I didn't know puppets could have that effect on me, to make the hair stand up on the back of my neck.”

To bring the novel to life on stage, the play's producers enlisted South Africa's Handspring Puppet Company, under the direction of the company's co-founders Basil Jones and Adrienne Kohler. The two formed the company 31 years ago as a teaching tool for schools, but a national emergency in 1985

cut off all their funding and forced them to turn to television and theater for work. Jones said it was here that the dramatic qualities of the medium really took hold.

“Puppets make the every day extraordinary,” Jones said recently from the Handspring headquarters in Cape Town, South Africa. “Just the very act of leaning forward, stretching for a glass of water — these small things become epic when they're being done by a puppet. Actors struggle to die. Puppets struggle to live.”

Their first “adult” puppet show was “Episodes of an Easter Rising,” a play based on a banned radio script about two women living on a farm together who harbor a man subversive to the government.

“One eventually becomes aware that the women are lovers, which was only incidental to the story,” Jones said. “But sexual politics had influenced their macro-politics. For Adrienne and I, being gay, that really spoke to us. It was a great way of starting to do this kind of work.”

The show was a huge success, giving Handspring a solid foothold in the genre of dramatic puppetry. It also allowed them to explore aspects of theater that are impossible to try with human actors — namely, the phenomenon of having a living, breathing, acting and reacting animal on stage. They created chimps, hyenas and the 15-foot tall working giraffe that got under Morpurgo's skin (go ahead and YouTube it — it's really impressive), which also earned them the job with “War Horse.”

“We are presenting animals as part of the lives of people — you usually can't do that in theater,” Jones said. “We feel it's important to show how animals are part of our lives, especially with (“War Horse”) which commemorates our ancient relationship with horses. For 10,000 years, that relationship was so vital to us for transportation, for companionship. Only recently have we parted company. It's so intense to see them on stage like this. I think it triggers a part of popular memory that we've lost, that togetherness with another animal.”

The show's horse puppets aren't physically realistic — they are made out of bent cane tied together with wire, and each one has three visible puppeteers operating them. But Jones said that the manner in which the puppeteers create the illusion of breath really sell those raw materials as a real, living animal.

“One of the most amazing things happens in this show,” Jones says. “You have four horse legs and six human legs, but the humans disappear about five minutes into show. It's absolutely astonishing. You can see them, if you want to, but don't. The puppeteers get so into it. The level of devotion is so complete, it's almost religious. They are the priests of the puppet.”

'We're angels made out of dirt'

Marc Breedlove is the 12th and final speaker in Michigan State University's semester-long series

"Whom You Love: the biology of sexual orientation," which he conceived, in part, to demonstrate that homosexuality is a natural occurrence in humans. Breedlove, a Rosenberg Professor of Neuroscience at MSU, has co-authored three college-level textbooks and over 120 scientific articles. He has served on the editorial boards of scientific journals and has research support from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

His lecture, "Whom You Love: The Road We've Traveled," will provide an overview of the series — which has attracted over 1,000 attendees — and give additional evidence that processes at work

before birth have an influence on the development of sexual orientation. He will also discuss the documentary he hopes to make based on interviews conducted with the previous speakers utilizing funds from a successful Kickstarter campaign, which raised \$23,000.

Are you happy with how the series turned out?

Very much so. I think it was a great success. We had a lot of people show up who asked some very interesting questions, and the feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive. One interesting aspect we hadn't counted on were parents of homosexuals showing up who were curious about how their children became gay. But it's like Lady Gaga said: They were born that way.

What will your speech consist of?

My talk will be somewhat personal — until 1998 or so, I was very skeptical that there were any prenatal influences on human sexual orientation. I thought it was more likely that social influences determined whether one grew up to be gay or straight. Specifically, I thought that early experience — things that happened too early for us to remember — probably started each individual down a psychological pathway that would lead to either heterosexuality or homosexuality. But then some findings started coming out that simply could not be explained by social influences. In the 14 years since, there have been even more results that can only be explained by major influences from prenatal events, before we can possibly have any social interactions.

Another, somewhat personal issue I'll talk about is why, to me at least, there's really no connection between biological influences on sexual orientation and the issue of gay rights. Even when I thought sexual orientation was probably determined solely by social influences, I was still very pro-gay rights. To me, sexual orientation, no matter how it arises, is irrelevant to an individual's rights. I think it's important for people to see how my view — that biological processes influence sexual orientation — is not something I'm motivated



Marc Breedlove

that characteristic, like skin color or gender.

Finally, I'll talk a bit about what I was taught, as child growing up in the Ozarks, about homosexuality. There is a folk theory about how people become gay that is, I suspect, quite common among our citizens. This alternative theory almost never gets discussed in this national debate that we're having about gay rights. I think that's unfortunate, because once you understand this folk psychology notion of homosexuality, you can see why some people are so homophobic. But, more importantly, when you explicitly consider this folk theory, bring it out of the shadows, it really doesn't hold up to the light of day.

What inspired you to pursue this field of research?

I never intended to study sexual behavior. Despite my weird last name, I don't think I'm any more obsessed about sex than the average person. My interest has always been in animal behavior, and in graduate school at UCLA, I got interested in how hormones can reliably alter the behavior of a wide range of animals. So pretty much my entire adult life has been spent in studying how hormones like testosterone can change the structure and function of the brain and spinal cord in laboratory rodents. I love doing that research and I think it's important, but I never really thought it was relevant to human sexual orientation.

Then, in 1999, I saw an opportunity to look for an influence of prenatal testosterone on human sexual orientation and I decided, just on a lark really, to give it a try. Much to my surprise, the data indicated that prenatal hormones do influence human sexual orientation. I'll talk about that work, too. The take-home lesson is that nature has a say in whom you love.

What do you think this lecture series could do for the social views of homosexuality?

I think the most important goal of this lecture series, and of the video documentary that we will pull together from interviews with these great scientists, is to help people stop and think about sexual orientation and how it arises. For all our social and cultural sophistication, I think it's good to be reminded that we are animals after all, and that we are subject to biological influences, too. I don't think there's anything debasing or shameful about that.

For my money, humans are that much more fascinating because we are a mix of both earthy, biological processes and lofty, intellectual activity. We're angels made out of dirt.

For more information on this series, go to whomyoulove.com.

to believe by my political views.

Having said that, psychologists have found that, in general, people who attribute sexual orientation to biological influences tend to be more accepting of homosexuality. I think it's harder to reject people for a single characteristic if you believe they had no control over

(SCENE) Metrospace Poetry Contest Winner

Earlier this fall, City Pulse and East Lansing's (SCENE) Metrospace teamed up to sponsor a poetry contest. It was open to the public, and the poems were allowed to reflect any theme.

The winner, **Carrie Preston** of Brookline, Mass., was announced at a reading on Nov. 28 at (SCENE). Preston, a former MSU student who grew up in Okemos, is plugged into the local poetry scene.



Carrie Preston

Having given you so little (draft #12)

tonight I want to give you
all the birches of my childhood,
their sadness.

Take them

as a half moon
droops low
like an eyelid
brushed with silver shadow.

Take them

as an apology
for my sharpness.

You cannot see your gifts:

the shavings of time
you carve for me,
as easily as you draw curls
with scissors along a ribbon
to decorate a present
so I can finish one more thing
before we go;

the way your wood-rough hands
capable of carrying anything, softened,
gathered up my wisps of hair
with a crescent shaped barrette;

the slivers of me you've always known,
never demanding I be full.

Having given you so little

I want to hold you
the way the birch bark holds its branch
coiling a little at the edges.

Branching out

Turner-Dodge House launches unique fundraiser featuring novelty Christmas tress

By MARY C. CUSACK

Some people consider the Esquire Club on Center Street to be the northern border of Lansing's Old Town district. Others might call the Golden Harvest the line of demarcation. Michael Beebe hopes to change people's perceptions so that when they think of the edge of Old Town, the Turner-Dodge House springs to mind.

The Greek Revival-style mansion is a few blocks off the path beaten by consumers of Old Town art, antiques and popcorn, and Beebe's plan is to entice that foot traffic in with shiny things — hanging

Old Town Festival of Trees

Turner-Dodge House
Dec. 11-23
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday
100 E. North St.
Lansing
\$5 per person/\$10 per family
(517) 483-4220

ornaments, to be precise. This month, the Turner-Dodge House is hosting a fundraising event called the Old Town Festival of Trees. Beebe, president of the Friends of Turner-Dodge House, and Jennifer

McDaniels, Turner-Dodge House coordinator, are decking the halls on all three floors of the historical mansion with 25 Christmas trees created by Old Town businesses and Friends members.

"We're kind of on the north end, and get left out of a lot of activities," said Beebe, who proposed the idea shortly after taking over as president. "I thought, let's do something fun for the holidays that creates a connection with Old Town."

The goal of the event is twofold: to raise funds (collected as an admission charge) that will support projects that preserve and enhance the historical building, and raise awareness of Old Town's semi-hidden gem. The group has already achieved the latter, forging new collaborations between the house and local businesses. After shopping the idea around, Beebe was pleased to get such a strong response. He even volunteered his personal work called "Birds of a Feather," a Victorian-influenced tree flocked with bird ornaments, both vintage and new, with sumptuous peacock feathers throughout and crowning the tree.

While some businesses declined to participate because of the busy holiday season, others found it critical to building interest in Old Town. Rick Preuss, owner of Preuss Pets, said he couldn't turn down the chance to participate, despite busy family schedules and the holiday shopping frenzy.

"If there's something going on in Old



Mary C. Cusack/City Pulse

The Old Town Festival of Trees will feature 25 custom-made Christmas trees, such as this one, designed by Friends of Turner-Dodge House president Michael Beebe.

Town, we want to be involved as much as humanly possible," Preuss said. "It's part of the energy of Old Town — you feel left out if you're not a part of it."

Preuss' daughter Kirbay is the mastermind behind the Preuss tree, despite her busy schedule.

"My daughter has finals and two jobs, the last thing she really needs to be doing is volunteering to do this," Preuss said, "but it's part of what her (constitution) is. That's one of her passions — Old Town."

While Old Town solidarity is a significant reason to participate, Beebe added a bit of healthy competition. Three prizes for the best trees will be awarded by a celebrity jury, made up of WLNS anchors Jane Aldrich and Evan Pinsonnault and Wharton Center public relations manager Bob Hoffman.

Each tree will be a unique reflection of their creator. The Nature Conservancy tree includes handmade animal ornaments. Lamb's Gate Antiques has incorporated a dress mannequin with antique spools and baubles. And the Preuss entry is rumored to feature live fish. Rick Preuss couldn't confirm what elements Kirbay would incorporate, but is "quite faithful that she'll do something out of the box."

The Turner-Dodge House is the last remaining city-owned mansion in Michigan that isn't a museum. It was built in 1858 by Lansing pioneer James Turner, who gave it to his daughter, Abby, and son-in-law, Frank Dodge. The building is available for tours throughout the week (except Mondays) and can be rented out for special occasions.



Sam Inglot/City Pulse

The cast of "Titus Andronicus" uses innovative choreography to stage some of the plays more violent scenes.

Shakespeare's revenge

By DANA CASADEI

In the 16th century, revenge plays were all the rage. Audiences enjoyed the violence, plotting and planning, and one of the bloodiest works of the era was Shakespeare's "Titus Andronicus." It was actually deemed too violent during the Victorian Era before its popularity bounced back during the middle of the 20th century.

This weekend, Lansing Community College Theatre Department brings the graphic work to the stage, but don't expect to see any "Saw"- or "Kill Bill"-level blood flying across the stage. The meaning behind the words, however, should hit home with audiences.

"Titus' emotions and his mental state on his return home from war is something that's relevant today," said director Paige Dunckel. The story focuses on Titus, who has been off fighting for the last 10 years and returns home with his prisoners of war, including Tamora, the Queen of the Goths. After a group discussion, the cast agreed that Titus had what would be described today as a

severe case of PTSD.

"We're saying he brings home his experience in war and every horror that he saw," Dunckel said. "But he makes bad choices at the beginning, which cause a downward spiral in his life. It's tragic."

What ensues is a war of revenge between Titus and Tamora, filled with plans and devious behavior from all involved.

"It's not gory, it's not gross, but it is striking," Dunckel said.

Dunckel's show has taken many aspects that aren't usually seen, such as a violent rape and mutilation scene, and found a way to show it without turning it into torture porn. Much of the violence will be seen through choreography created by Roberta Otten, giving it somewhat of an abstract representation without weapons. The action is transformed into a dance to show the struggle of what happened without making it lewd.

"The whole idea is to point out the violence that Titus' choice creates," Dunckel said.

"Titus Andronicus"

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THE SCREENING ROOM

by ALLAN I. ROSS

Doc on Detroit folk singer is stranger than fiction

By ALLAN I. ROSS

Fourteen years ago, a poverty-stricken demolition worker from Detroit took the stage of a South African arena. He stood there, guitar in hand, while the thousands in attendance drowned out his attempt to launch into a song. They showered him with a five-minute ovation, screaming his name and shouting that they loved him while he slowly took it all in.

The man's name, Sixto Rodriguez, was bigger in that country than Elvis Presley's or Bob Dylan's — but everyone believed he had committed suicide 20 years prior. His sudden reappearance after so long had

created a national media frenzy that left many wondering: Could this be an imposter?

"Searching for Sugar Man" is a stranger-than-fiction documentary about Rodriguez, a singer/songwriter whose music transcended the art form. Besides being good damned music, it also lit a fire under a nation embroiled in one of the 20th century's most notorious socio-political upheavals. Rodriguez's music may not have launched the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa, but it did become popular at just the right time to inspire an entire generation that was beginning to turn against its violently racist national culture. And it was all done without Rodriguez even knowing his music had made it overseas.

In the early 1970s, Rodriguez was discovered singing in a smoke-filled bar near the Detroit River. He was soft-spoken, humble and shy (he often played with his back to the audience), but his ethereal voice and haunting lyrics earned him the attention of high level music executives who sensed stardom in him. They got him in the studio



Courtesy Photo

Sixto Rodriguez, in an undated publicity photo from the 1970s.

where he recorded two dynamic albums that the critics loved but listeners ignored. Then Rodriguez quietly faded back into obscurity.

However, his music somehow made it to Cape Town, South Africa, where his oblique drug references and immodest lyrics such as, "I wonder how many times you had sex/ And I wonder do you know who'll be next," made him a bootleg viral hit. Of course, once the authorities caught on, his music was summarily banned, which only made it that much hotter. Nothing makes kids love stuff more than if they know it pisses off the authorities. A South African label picked up the albums, sold 500,000 copies, and mailed the royalties off to the States, to be divvied amongst the presumed deceased's family.

"Sugar Man" takes place mostly in the mid-'90s as two South African fans — a

record store owner and a journalist — form an unlikely bond and join forces in finding out what really happened to Rodriguez. Interviews include former government censors who show how tracks on his album were defaced with scissors to keep stations from playing them and American music producers who are as befuddled as anyone how the albums failed to take off.

The director, Swedish filmmaker Malik Bendjelloul, deftly incorporates nearly a dozen of Rodriguez's tracks into the film, leaving the audience wondering the same thing. Why weren't these songs hits? It's a testament to both the finicky nature of show business, where sometimes lightning doesn't strike despite all the right ingredients being there, and to underlying racist sentiments in America (one exec thinks Rodriguez's name kept a lot of people away — "No one was playing Mexican music at the time.")

What the movie lacks, however, is teeth. It's made all but explicit that the owner of Rodriguez's former label pocketed all the overseas royalties — they even land an interview with him and ask him as much— but the guy is allowed to double talk his way out of it. Additionally, it could be inferred that the gory tales of Rodriguez's suicide —with methods of death ranging from self-immolation on stage to a pill overdose in prison — were manufactured by the South African government, which hoped to quell interest in his work. However, no one bothers to ask the big question of where the rumors started. Perhaps there's still lingering fear of reprisal in South Africa?

As for that demolition worker: he's back in Detroit, living in a shack, fanning the flames of a tiny stove with a piece of cardboard to keep himself warm. He's 70 years old now, hiding himself behind long hair and wide black glasses. But as he walks down the unshoveled streets of Detroit on his way to gut another building, you can't help thinking he looks kinda like that guy on the cover of that album that no one you know has ever heard of.

"Searching for Sugar Man"

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Heart of a Spartan

Noon to 2 p.m.
Sunday, December 9th

Book Signing with
Michigan Author
RICHARD P. SMITH

Meet Richard P. Smith, author of numerous Michigan hunting books! *Deer Hunting*, *Great Michigan Deer Tales Books 1-5*, *Stand Hunting for Whitetails*, *Tracking Wounded Deer*, *Animal Tracks and Signs of North America*, *Black Bear Hunting*, and *Understanding Michigan Black Bear* will all be available and can be signed and personalized by the author!

These books make a perfect gift for hard-to-buy-for family members who love to hunt in our great state!

2-6 p.m. December 10th
Noon-6 p.m.
December 15th & 16th

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OUT on the TOWN

Wednesday, December 5

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Community Yoga. Power yoga class. 6 p.m. FREE. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

After-School Youth Gardening Programming. Ages 11-17. 3:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

Swing Guitar Christmas. Guitar instruction by Ray Kamalay. Course Number- 43335. 6-7:30 p.m. \$139. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 483-1860.

U.S. Citizenship Class. Learn steps to apply for citizenship & get ready for interview. 6-7 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300. cadl.org.

Escape & Rejuvenate. Meditative movement & guided meditation. 12:15 p.m. FREE. ACC Natural Healing and Wellness, 617 Ionia, Lansing. massageandwellnesslansing.com, meetup.com/lansingbodymindspirit.

KRP Open Work Shop. Work on your bike or practice on others'. 6-9 p.m. FREE. Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 755-4174.

See Out on the Town, Page 17



Meditation

Quan Am Buddhist Temple
Every Thursday 7-8:30 p.m.
1840 N. College Rd., Mason, MI 48854
Everyone welcome - For information:
Call: (517) 347-1655 or (517) 853-1675
quanamtemple.org

Listings deadline is 5 p.m. the THURSDAY BEFORE publication. Paid classes will be listed in print at the cost of one enrollment (maximum \$20). Please submit them to the events calendar at www.lansingcitypulse.com. If you need help, please call Dana at (517) 999-5069. Email information to calendar@lansingcitypulse.com.

DEC. 7-9

What a Wonderful World

Not many radio listeners get to see what the inside of a studio looks like. They can only imagine where their favorite hosts read the news and play their favorite tunes. This weekend, the Mid Michigan Family Theatre will take viewers inside the North Pole Radio show, giving them an insider's view of a radio station in 1946. The holiday musical will feature hosts Sandy Snow and Storm Phillips, played by Teresa Hurd and David Brooks, respectively, welcoming a variety of guests, including everyone's favorite jolly man, Santa himself. Don't be a fat-head and get ready for some killer-diller (that's 1940s lingo for "don't be a fool, and get ready for some good stuff.") 7 p.m. Dec. 7; 3 p.m. Dec. 8; 3 p.m. Dec. 9. \$7 students & adults, \$5 preschool. Alfreda Schmidt Community Center, 5815 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 483-6686. mmft.net.

From the Soul

Christmas presents usually consist of hot button items that were fought for on Black Friday. You know the ones that have been all over your TV and computer screens since last January. This weekend, take the opportunity to get something unique for loved ones. The Woodlands Indian art market will feature items from Michigan artists, including Sally Thielen and Velva Emmer, among others. Things you won't find: Furbies, iPhones or video games. Things you will: porcelain canoes, beadwork holiday ornaments and handmade blankets. Emmer will also demonstrate the art of black ash basketry. The Nokomis Learning Center is dedicated to the preservation of the Anishinaabe people, which includes the Odawa, Potawatomi and Ojibwa nations. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Dec. 8 & 9. FREE. Nokomis Learning Center, 5153 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 349-5777. nokomis.org.



Courtesy Photo

DEC. 9

Someone to Watch Over Me

The lives of musicians seem so glamorous: the constant parties, the celebrity status and so much money they don't know what to do with it all. Anyone that's an artist in the real world knows that isn't quite true. This Sunday, The Green Door is holding a benefit to help musician Johnny Barrera, a.k.a. Johnny B. In October, he went to the hospital for chest pains, underwent surgery to have stints put in and doesn't have health insurance to cover the cost. The evening will have more than nine hours of live entertainment to help pay his bills. There will also be a silent auction and raffles throughout the day. 3 p.m. \$10. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-6376. greendoorlive.com.

Feels so Good

Here in the days of Auto-Tune and YouTube, it's becoming increasingly rare to watch a non-lip-synced, genuine performance. Gone are the days of Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin — hello Taylor Swift and "Gangnam Style." Next Wednesday, however, the Roma Bakery and Deli will host a man who needs no electronic help: Italian singer Gino Federici, who will perform a special Christmas celebration. Federici — who, like Roma, has been at it for over 40 years — will also have a meet-and-greet after his performance. Guests will enjoy homemade sweet treats and coffee as they sit back and have Federici's voice bring them back to a different era. No Internet service needed. Noon-2 p.m. FREE. Roma Bakery & Deli, 428 N. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 485-9466. romabakerydeli.com.



Courtesy Photo

DEC. 12

TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S
MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICHTUPICA

THUR. DEC.
6TH



GRAMMY NOMINEES AT WHARTON

Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre, 7:30 p.m.,
\$43/\$15 students.

Tiempo Libre, a Miami-based "timba" group, returns to Wharton Center for the third time on Thursday. The high-energy group has consistently toured since its genesis in 2001, nabbing three Grammy nominations along the way. "It's a mix between salsa and jazz," said Tiempo Libre pianist Jorge Gómez. "We play Latin jazz, we play cha-cha-cha, dancehall, and rumba." The seven-piece's latest album, "Secret Radio," is a tribute to their teen years back in their homeland of Cuba — a time when listening to American music was forbidden in Cuba. "It was illegal, so we'd wait until 1 a.m. and go to the roof with an antenna trying to get a signal from the United States," Gómez said. "We'd start recording music like Chaka Khan, Stevie Wonder, and Michael Jackson ... The next morning we'd make a huge party with the music."

SMOOTH CHRISTMAS SHOW



SAT. DEC.
8TH

Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$15, \$20 VIP, doors at 6:30 p.m., show at 7:30 p.m.

Local smooth jazz saxophonist Phil Denny released his debut album "Crossover" in August, hitting #21 on the National Smooth Jazz Billboard chart. Saturday, he hosts the Phil Denny & Friends Christmas Collective concert at LCC's Dart Auditorium. Hosting the event is WLNS anchor Evan Pinsonnault. Denny, along with an assortment of local musicians, will collaborate on fresh, lively arrangements of holiday favorites. Sharing the bill are Lin Rountree (soul-jazz trumpeter), Orrick Ewing (Grammy nominated bassist) and Brandon Marceal (flutist). Singers are also on the long roster, including Mike Eyia (Latin guitarist/vocalist/percussionist), Darnell Kendrick (soulful and jazzy vocalist) and Lansing's Queen of the Blues, Twyla Birdsong.

MATCHBOX 20'S BUDDY AT (SCENE)



SAT. DEC.
8TH

(SCENE) MetroSpace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. All ages, \$15. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Chris Trapper began his career as the front man for late-90's alternative rock band The Push Stars, whom The New York Times called "classic pop perfection." Saturday, the Boston-based songwriter plays an intimate alt-acoustic set at (SCENE) MetroSpace. Trapper released four albums with the Push Stars and also toured with some big names, including Matchbox 20. Rob Thomas (Matchbox 20's front man) is also featured on Trapper's 2011 song "Here All Along," from "The Few and the Far Between" album. Trapper is likely most known for his song "This Time," the No. 1-selling tune on the Grammy nominated soundtrack for "August Rush," a Warner Brothers film starring Robin Williams and Jonathan Rhys Meyers.

HOLIDAY "IN THE ROUND" HITS DEWITT



SAT. DEC.
8TH

Christ United Church, 1000 W. Webb Road, DeWitt, all ages. \$10 advance, \$12 door, 8 p.m.

Songwriters Jamie-Sue Seal and John Latini host a special concert this Saturday, complete with festive songs and comic relief. The event, "Jammin' Round with Jamie-Sue," has been an ongoing series for nearly a decade and is perhaps the only traditional in-the-round set-up in the Midwest. Latini has been awarded songwriting honors in three states and is a two-time Detroit blues champion. Meanwhile Seal, who releases solo records on her Smokin' Sleddog Records label, also handles publicity for the Ten Pound Fiddle. Seal and Latini tour the country as a duo, performing roots and cabaret shows. This event also includes guest artists J. Oscar Bittering from Grand Rapids and Daniel Bracken from the Mount Pleasant area. For more information, go to smokin sleddogrecords.com.

DECEMBERSONGS AT PUMP HOUSE



MON. DEC.
10TH

Pump House, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing, all ages, 7 p.m., \$20 advance, \$25 suggested donation at door.

The holiday folk group Decembersongs returns to the Pump House on Monday. Decembersongs is a touring group made up of four singer/songwriters performing seasonal tunes. The show features Amy Speace (Nashville), Dan Navarro (Los Angeles), Grammy-nominated Sally Barris and Grammy-winner Jon Vezner. The group will play in the round, trading songs, harmonizing, and accompanying each other on mostly original holiday pieces, along with some traditional favorites. While all of the songwriters have a few feathers in their caps, songwriting legend Judy Collins is particular fond of Speace, who said, "Amy Speace is a remarkable artist, writer, singer and performer ... I am a total fan." Meanwhile, Navarro's songs have been recorded by the likes of Pat Benatar, The Bangles and Dionne Warwick.

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

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Bar 30, 2324 Showtime Drive	D.J. Skitzo, 10 p.m.	D.J. John Beltran, 10 p.m.	D.J. John Beltran, 10 p.m.	D.J. Skitzo, 10 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		D.J., 9 p.m.	Frog & the Beeftones, 9 p.m.	Frog & the Beeftones, 9 p.m.
Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 N. East St.	Open Mic Night, 8 p.m.	Al Jackson, 8 p.m.	Al Jackson, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.	Al Jackson, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Mighty Medicine, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.		Tryst Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.	The Smoking Jackets, 9:30 p.m.	The Smoking Jackets, 9:30 p.m.
The Firm, 229 S. Washington Square		DnW Sound DJs, 9 p.m.	Various DJs, 9 p.m.	
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.	Fighting Unlucky, 6 p.m.	Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karoke with Joanie Daniels, 7 p.m.	Jones 'N, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Second Nature, 9:30 p.m.	Donald Kinsey, 9:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9:30 p.m.	Still Rain, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Fly Paper, 8 p.m.	Make Me Famous, 5 p.m.	El Guapo, 7 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Eumatic, 9 p.m.		Doug Mains & The City Folk, 9 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic Night, 9:30 p.m.	Lincoln County Process, 10 p.m.	Big Willy, 10 p.m.	Big Willy, 10 p.m.
Rookies, 16460 S. US 27	Sammy Gold, 7-10 p.m.	Water Pong DJ, 9 p.m.	Karaoke dance party with DJ Sassy, 9 p.m.	Live Bands with DJs & DJ Sassy, 9 p.m.
Rum Runners, 601 East Michigan Ave.	Open Mic Night, 9 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 9 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 7 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 7 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 10 p.m.	Burnside, 9 p.m.	Burnside, 9 p.m.
Uli's Haus of Rock, 419 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.			Various bands, 9 p.m.	Various Bands, 8 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Drive		Mike Eyia Quartet, 7 p.m.	Joe Wright, 7 p.m.	
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert	D.J., 9 p.m.	D.J., 9 p.m.	D.J., 9 p.m.	Bullwhip, 9 p.m.

Sunday Karaoke, 9 p.m. Drag Queens Gone Wild, 11 p.m., Spiral Dance Bar; DJ Mike, 9:30 p.m., LeRoy's Bar & Grill; Open Mic, 5 p.m., Open Blues Jam, 7-11 p.m. Uli's Haus of Rock.
Monday Steppin' In It, 9:30 p.m., Green Door; Easy Babies funk trio, 10 p.m., The Exchange. Open-Mic Mondays, 6:30 p.m., Michigan Brewing Company-Lansing. Monday Funday, 9 p.m., The Firm.
Tuesday Tommy Foster & Guitar Bob, 9 p.m., The Exchange; Neon Tuesday, 9 p.m., Mac's Bar. Jazz Tuesday Open Jam, 9 p.m., Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave.

Out on the town

from page 15

The Origins of Christmas. Discussion. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434.
Figure Drawing. Easels & drawing boards provided. 7:30-10 p.m. \$5, \$3 students. Kresge Art Center, located at Physics & Auditorium roads, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 337-1170.
Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. First Congregational United Church of Christ, 210 W. Saginaw Hwy., Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954.

EVENTS

Practice Your English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.
Fenner Nature Center Walking Group. 5 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. mynaturecenter.org.
ENO Annual Holiday Party. Bring a dish to pass. 6 p.m. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster

Ave., Lansing. (517) 908-2552.
Holiday Open House. Noon-7:30 p.m. Smith Floral and Greenhouses, 124 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-5327.

MUSIC

Jazz Wednesdays. Featuring new jazz artists each week. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Gracie's Place, 151 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-1100.
Benjamin Francis Leftwich. Noon, \$8 advance, \$10 at door. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795. macsbar.com.
Together, Let's Jam! Music activities. All ability levels. 7:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 841-B Timberlane St., East Lansing. (517) 353-5340. cms.music.msu.edu.
Faculty Recital. Ralph Votapek, piano. 7:30 p.m. \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, FREE students with ID & under 18. Cook Recital Hall, Music Building, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.
Wednesday Jam Session. Featuring Caroline Glaeser, Samuel Winternheimer, Judson Branam IV & Jordan Vale. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Hobie's, 930 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing.

Marshall Music Open Jam. All ages and levels welcome. 6 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700.
Whiskey Pickers. 8 p.m. \$5. (SCENE) Metrospace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6832.

THEATER

"War Horse." A boy's quest to bring his horse home from WWI, featuring life-size horse puppets. 7:30 p.m. \$32-\$72. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Baby Time. Books & songs for 2 years & younger, with a parent/caregiver. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 x3.

Thursday, December 6 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Yoga 2XL. Learn to move with confidence. 7:15-8:15 p.m. \$8 suggested donation. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

Writers Roundtable. Get feedback on your work. 6-7:45 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.
QiGong & Tai Chi classes. Light exercises for those who have physical limitations, senior citizens or just need to unwind. 8 a.m. Up to \$8. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.
After-School Youth Gardening Programming. Kids time: activities on gardening, healthy recipes & games. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.
Knee High Naturalist. Hike, crafts & activities. 10-11 a.m. \$5 child per class. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224.
Water media. All levels welcome, with Donna Randall. Preregistration required. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing.
SmArts Workshop. Speaker Jan Jenkins. 10 a.m.-Noon. \$10 non-members, \$5 Basic SmArts Members, FREE Level 2 SmArts members. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St. Lansing. lansingarts.org.
Infertility Support Group. 6-7:30 p.m. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave.,

See Out on the Town, Page 18

Divorce & Family Law

- Divorce
- Custody
- Child Support
- Parenting
- Spousal Support
- Alimony
- Probate
- Juvenile
- Adoption
- Inter-state Divorce
- Paternity

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Out on the town

from page 17

Lansing. (517) 372-9163.
Codependents Anonymous. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Community Mental Health Building, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 672-4072.

EVENTS

Euchre. No partner needed. 6-9 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.
Karaoke. With Atomic D. 9 p.m. LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 482-0184.
Spanish Conversation Group. Both English & Spanish will be spoken. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.
Holiday Drop & Shop. Ages 3 and up. Crafts & snacks. Call to register. 5-7 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtdl.org.
Greater Lansing Food Bank Fundraiser. Portion of each meal donated to charity. Noon-4 p.m. International Center, 450 Administration Bldg., East Lansing.
Voices from the Underground. Celebration of independent media & bookstores. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5634. peaceedcenter.org.
Pink Slip Christmas Party. Speaker Rob Fowler, workshops & panel discussion. 4:45-8 p.m. FREE. Meridian Christian Church, 2600 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 775-5589. pinkslipmidmichigan.org.
Poetry Slam. Open to all. 8 p.m. FREE. (SCENE) Metrospace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6832. scenemetrospace.com.

MUSIC

Holiday Concert in Theater. Holiday music. 7 p.m. Varies. Lansing Mall Cinema, 921 Mall Drive, Lansing. (517) 886-3456.
Suzuki Strings Winter Concert. MSU Community Music School's students. 5:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 841-B Timberlane St., East Lansing. (517) 353-5340.
Thursday Night Jazz. Featuring Peter Nelson Quartet. 9 p.m. FREE. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-3234.
Tiempo Libre. Latin music. 7:30 p.m. \$43, \$15 student with ID. Pasant Theatre, Bogue St. and Wilson Road, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000.
Stan Budzynski & 3rd Degree. 8 p.m.-Midnight. FREE. The Firm, 227 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 487-3663. thefirlounge.com.

THEATER

"Ebenezer." Ebenezer Scrooge, 15 years after the Ghosts of Christmas visited. 8 p.m. \$20. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-7469.
"War Horse." 1:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (Please see details Dec. 5.)
"Guys & Dolls." Classic gangster musical. 7:30 p.m. \$8 adults, \$7 students. Williamston High School, 3939 Vanneter Road, Williamston. gowcs.net.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Storytime With Ms. Deb. Three books & a craft. 10 a.m. FREE. Barnes & Noble, Lansing, 5132 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 327-0437.
Book Signing with Jonathan Rand. Author of "Michigan & American Chillers" series. 5 p.m. FREE. Barnes and Noble Lansing, 5132 W, Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 327-0437. bn.com.
Ken Wachsberger Book Signing. Author of "Voices from the Underground" series. 6 p.m. Everybody Reads Books & Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-9900.

Friday, December 7

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Escape & Rejuvenate. 12:15 p.m. ACC Natural Healing and Wellness, 617 Ionia, Lansing. (Please see details Dec. 5.)
Season of Light. Holiday customs that have astronomical connection. 8 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students & seniors, \$2 under 12. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-4676.
Oil Painting. For all levels with Patricia Singer. Pre-registration required. 10 a.m.-Noon. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing.
Alcoholics Anonymous. With ASL interpretation. 8 p.m. FREE. Alano Club East, 220 S. Howard St., Lansing. (517) 482-8957.
Alcoholics Anonymous. Closed women's meeting. 7:30 p.m. FREE. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 6500 Amwood Drive, Lansing. (517) 882-9733.

EVENTS

Salsa Dancing. Salsa lesson, 10 p.m. Dancing, 10:30 p.m. 10 p.m. \$5. Los Tres Amigos, 1227 East Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (616) 466-9435.
Fall Storytime. Stories, rhymes & crafts. Ages 2-5. 10:30-11:15 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.
Opening Reception. Artists James McFarland & Julian Van Dyke. 5-11 p.m. Hotwater Works, 2116 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.
Nite Ride Around Town. 8-10 mile bike ride around Lansing, stop halfway for food and drinks. 5:30 p.m. FREE. Beaumont Tower, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 347-1689.
Annual Christmas Jubilee. Bring Christmas

dessert. 3-7 p.m. FREE. The Inspirational Center, 408 Kalamazoo Plaza, Lansing. (517) 882-5160.
MSU Community Club. "Star of Wonder," MSU planetarium. 12:30 p.m. MSU Credit Union, Mt. Hope and Farm Lane, East Lansing. (517) 332-7415.

MUSIC

Grand River Radio Diner. Featuring Matt Gabriel & Kari Lynch. Noon- 1 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 483-1710.
Make Me Famous. 5 p.m. \$10. The Loft, Harem Urban Lounge, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.
Jazz Orchestra I, II & III. 7:30 p.m. \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, FREE students with ID & under 18. Demonstration Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.
Donny & the Dorsals Christmas Beach Party. 8-11 p.m. \$2, FREE those in beach attire. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 853-0550. donnyandthedorsals.com.
First Friday. Live music & food. 7-9 p.m. Great Lakes Art Works, 306 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-4293.
LCC Jazz Band. 8 p.m. FREE. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1546.
Ten Pound Fiddle Series. Featuring Joel Mabus. 8 p.m. \$15, \$12 Fiddle members, \$5 students. Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St., East Lansing. (517) 337-7744. tenpoundfiddle.org.
Grand River Band. 6-8:30 p.m. FREE. Fay's Evelyn Bay Coffee, 134 S. Cochran Road, Charlotte. (517) 505-2809.
Men of Orpheus Chorus Christmas Concert. 7 p.m. FREE, donations. Molly Grove Chapel of First Presbyterian Church, 510 West Ottawa St., Lansing. (517) 351-0675. menoforpheus.org.

THEATER

"Ebenezer." 8 p.m. \$25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (Please see details Dec. 6.)
"War Horse." 8 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (Please see details Dec. 5.)
"Guys & Dolls." 7:30 p.m. \$8 adults, \$7 students. Williamston High School, 3939 Vanneter Road, Williamston. (Please see details Dec. 6.)
"Titus Andronicus." Shakespeare tragedy. 8 p.m. \$10, \$5 students/seniors, LCC staff & alumni. LCC Black Box Theatre, Room 168 Gannon Building, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1546.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Music & Movement Storytime. Dance and sing to music, learn to play with instruments. 1 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3.
Local Writers' Group. All ages & skill levels welcome. 6-8 p.m. FREE. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 853-0550.

Saturday, December 8

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Tai Chi in the Park. Meditation at 8:15 a.m. followed by Tai Chi at 9 a.m. 8:15 a.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.
Beginner Tai Chi. Build strength & reduce stress. 8-9 a.m. \$8. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.
U.S. Citizenship Class. 10-11:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (Please see details Dec. 5.)
Home Buyer Education. Steps to take when buying a home. 9:30 a.m. FREE. Center for Financial Health, 230 N. Washington Square, Lansing. (517)

708-2550. centerforfinancialhealth.org.
Season of Light. 8 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students & seniors, \$2 under 12. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. (Please see details Dec. 7.)
Forest Bathing. Practice of shinrin-yoku. Walking & relaxing. 3 p.m. Lake Lansing North Park, 6260 E. Lake Drive, Haslett. (517) 420-5820.
CADL Super Saturday. Make a gingerbread house. Registration required. 10-11:30 a.m. & 1-2:30 p.m. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6367. cadl.org.
Overeaters Anonymous. 9:30 a.m. FREE. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

EVENTS

Beer & Wine Tasting. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Vine and Brew, 2311 Jolly Road, Okemos.
Jug & Mug Ski Club. Featuring Warren Miller film "Flow State." 7 p.m. \$10 advance, \$15 door. MacDonald Middle School, 1601 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. (517) 663-1854. elps.k12.mi.us.
Fenner Nature Center Walking Group. 8-9 a.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (Please see details Dec. 5.)
Cheese Sampling. 1-5 p.m. FREE. Vine and Brew, 2311 Jolly Road, Okemos. (517) 708-2030.
Scandinavian Society of Greater Lansing Christmas Party. Bring dish to pass. 2-5 p.m. Faith United Methodist Church, 4301 S. Waverly Road, Lansing. (517) 482-8357.
Holiday in the Log Cabin. Activities, tours & more. 3-5 p.m. \$3 non-members, FREE members. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 322-0030. woldumar.org.
Live Nativity Scene. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Memorial Lutheran Church, 1022 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston.
Discover North Meridian Road Park. With a naturalist guide. 10 a.m. \$3. North Meridian Road Park, 5191 N. Meridian Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866.
Ye Olde Christmas. Horse-drawn carriage rides, music & more. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460.
Kids Open House. Photos with Santa. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Smith Floral and Greenhouses, 124 E Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-5327.

St. Nicholas Bake Sale. Noon-6:30 p.m. Resurrection Church, 1531 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.
Holiday Open House. Pet photos with Santa, bake sale & more. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Capital Area Humane Society, 7095 W Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 626-6060.
Jingle Belle Women's 5K. Run/walk for women. 10 a.m. \$30. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014. dtdl.org.
Art for the Soul. Holiday home sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 6177 Zimmer Road, Williamston.
Not So Silent Night. Benefit for REACH Studio Art Center. 7-9:30 p.m. \$12 advance, \$15 door, FREE under 13. Michigan Museum of Surveying, 220 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 999-3643.
Pancake Breakfast. 9 a.m.-noon. Donations. Faith United Methodist Church, 4301 S. Waverly Road, Lansing. (517) 882-0661.
Second Saturday Supper. 5-6:15 p.m. \$8, \$4 children. Mayflower Congregational Church, 2901 W. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-3139.
Drop & Shop. Activities for children & lunch. Ages 3 & up. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Redeemer Church, 2727 West Holmes Road, Lansing.
Carnivale De Law. Variety of activities. Fundraiser Lansing Art Works. 2-11 p.m. FREE, donations. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.
Children's Holiday Sing-a-long. With Jen Sygit. Cookie decorating. 10 a.m. \$5 suggested donation.

ERASER-FREE SUDOKU

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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. For solving tips, visit www.SundayCrosswords.com

Answers on page 21

Out on the town

from page 18

Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 203-8937.

MUSIC

Suzuki Piano Recitals. 12 p.m. & 2 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 841-B Timberlane St., East Lansing. (517) 353-5340. cms.music.msu.edu.

All School Recital. 3 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 841-B Timberlane St., East Lansing. (517) 353-5340. cms.music.msu.edu.

Phil Denny & Friends Christmas Collective Concert. 6:30 p.m. \$20 VIP, \$15. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 204-3188. brownpapertickets.com.

Music for Habitat. Featuring Time2Play. 9 p.m. FREE. Buddies Bar & Grill, 1937 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. **A Jazzy Little Christmas.** Featuring MSU Professors of Jazz. 8 p.m. \$20 adults, \$18 seniors, \$10 students with ID & under 18. Pasant Theatre, Bogue St. & Wilson Road, East Lansing.

Holiday In The Round. Variety of music. 8 p.m. \$10 advance, \$12 door. Christ United Church, 1000 W. Webb Road, DeWitt. (517) 651-5487.

Double Trouble. Tribute to Elvis Presley & Roy

Orbison. 8 p.m. \$20. Leslie American Legion, 422 Woodworth St., Leslie. (517) 676-1721. **Chris Trapper.** 7 p.m. \$15. (SCENE) Metrospace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6832.

THEATER

"Ebenezer." 3 p.m. & 8 p.m. \$22 & \$25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (Please see details Dec. 6.)

"The S.O.S. Christmas Variety Show." TV station hopes to improve their bottom line. 8 p.m. \$15 adults, \$7 children. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700.

"War Horse." 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (Please see details Dec. 5.)

"Titus Andronicus." 8 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, Room 168 Gannon Building, 411 N. Grand Ave. Lansing. (Please see details Dec. 7.)

"Guys & Dolls." 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. Williamston High School, 3939 Vanneter Road, Williamston. (Please see details Dec. 6.)

Christmas in the Village. Crafts, refreshments & more. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Meridian Historical Village, 5113 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 347-7300. **Christmas Tea.** 1-2 p.m. \$10. Meridian Historical Village, 5113 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 347-7300.

MUSIC

Music on the Patio. Featuring Brad Maitland & Dan Wixon. 6-9 p.m. FREE. Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 267-3800.

New Horizons Band Concert. 3 p.m. FREE. MacDonald Middle School, 1601 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. (517) 333-7600. cms.music.msu.edu.

MSU Community Music School Choral Union. 3 p.m. Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing.

The Jazz Doggs. 10 p.m. Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

Squid The Whale. 6:30 p.m. \$8. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795.

Messiah Sing-along. Bring your own scores. 3 p.m. \$10. Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Holiday Music Christmas Contata. Refreshments, music & more. 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. FREE. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 349-4220.

THEATER

"Ebenezer." 2 p.m. \$22. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (Please see details Dec. 6.)

"War Horse." 1 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (Please see details Dec. 5.)

"Titus Andronicus." 2 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, Room 168 Gannon Building, 411 N. Grand Ave. Lansing. (Please see details Dec. 7.)

"The S.O.S. Christmas Variety Show." 2 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (Please see details Dec. 8.)

"Grace Falling." Staged reading. 7 p.m. FREE. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

Monday, December 10

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Fall Babytime. Beginning story time for babies under 2. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public

See Out on the Town, Page 20

228 Museum Drive, next to Impression 5

Riverwalk Theatre

The SOS Christmas Variety Show

It's 1965 and a Lansing TV station hopes to improve their bottom line with a Christmas variety show. The station's location - a motel with a pool - draws a wild assortment of characters. Includes parodies of "I Spy," "Honey West," and "Big Valley" plus a mix of musical favorites.

Save Our Studio

RESERVATIONS 482-5700

December 8 & 9

\$15 adults age 16+; \$7 children
8 pm Saturday • 2 pm Sunday

RiverwalkTheatre.com

Advice Goddess & Savage Love

CAN NOW BE READ ONLINE

www.lansingcitypulse.com



Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Into the Great Wide Open"--a wild grid for the 600th Jonesin' puzzle.
by Matt Jones

Across

1 What Burger King tried to serve on a sundae in 2012
6 Sheep's sound
9 L times VI
12 Stopping point in a Carlo Levi novel
13 Fails to live up to
15 Arty district
16 Character voiced by Danny DeVito, with "The"
17 "See above," in footnotes
19 Gp. for doctors
20 "You pick the place"
21 Cocktails with a recipe on the Kahlua label
28 Break room thefts that suck (especially when you put your name on them)
30 B, L or T, e.g.
31 Quicktime file extension
32 Genetic message "venue"
33 OTC sleep-aid introduced in 2012
34 H.S. diploma alternative
35 Three-letter Best Picture nominee
36 "Later, skaters"
38 Bait shop stock
39 "Buffalo Stance" singer Cherry
40 Mountain chain in Utah
41 "Count us in!"

43 Quid pro quo deal
46 Highest-ranking
47 Botanist Gray
50 They're not usually syndicated
55 Sighting subject
56 Costanza mantra
57 Blemish
58 Political theorist Hannah
59 Reggae musician ____-Mouse
60 Train depot, for short
61 Foot, in kid-speak
62 Rail option, to Rodrigo

Down

1 Strings virtuoso Fleck
2 Mushroom cloud maker
3 Possibly-venomous creature
4 Suffix after pay

5 Reject
6 Roy G. ____
7 "____ was saying..."
8 Its symbol contains itself at the end
9 World capital that after which the chemical element hafnium is named
10 Sports Illustrated's "Sportswoman of the Year," 1976
11 It gets hung indoors
14 Medical device used to alleviate pain
15 Itch-inducing shrub
18 Surname in fashion
22 1991 e-commerce company acquired by Oracle in 2011
23 Former New Jersey Senator
24 Type of band with a clarinetist
25 From the 20-yard-line

to the goal line
26 Hidden attribute
27 English dogs with a keen sense of smell
29 Record half
30 The 411
32 ____ Nabisco (one-time tobacco merger)
37 Hurry, old school
41 Program from FDR
42 Bad blood
43 Seedy places
44 "Hawaii Five-O" nemesis
45 Tree-to-be
47 Jules or Ed
48 Fuel
49 Dam on the Nile
51 Exam for a future atty.
52 It's nada
53 Cookie introduced in 1912
54 "Dark am ____ lovely" (passage from the Song of Solomon)

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Answers Page 21

Out on the town

from page 19

Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Escape & Rejuvenate. 12:15 p.m. ACC Natural Healing and Wellness, 617 Ionia, Lansing. (Please see details Dec. 5.)

American Sewing Guild Lansing Clippers' Meeting. Presentation on zippers. 6:30-9 p.m. FREE. UAW Local 652, 426 Clare St., Lansing. (517) 699-8062. lansingclippers.com.

Christmas In The Kitchen. Learn recipes. Q&A follow. 6:15 p.m. FREE. Holt Seventh Day Adventist Fellowship, 5682 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 694-0649.

Divorced, Separated, Widowed Conversation Group. 7:30 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272.

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (989) 587-4609.

Chronic Pain Support Group. For those experiencing any level of chronic physical pain. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

EVENTS

Monday Morning Movie. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.

Social Bridge & Euchre. No partner needed. 1-4 p.m. bridge, 6-9 p.m. euchre \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

JAMM Monthly Meeting. Open jam. 6:30 p.m. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

MUSIC

Open Mic Blues Mondays. Sign up to play. Spoken word acts welcome. 6:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. MBC, 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 977-1349.

THEATER

Auditions for Oliver Twist. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 339-2145. mmft.net.

Tuesday, December 11

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. 7 p.m. FREE to visit. Eaton Rapids Medical Center, 1500 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. (517) 543-0786.

Yoga 40. All ages welcome. 7:15 p.m. Suggested \$7. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

Intro to Computers. With professional instructors. 2:30-4 p.m. FREE. Capital Area Michigan Works, 2110 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 492-5500.

On the Way To Wellness. Nutrition & wellness coaching. 9:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. \$10. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 349-9536.

Computer Class. Learn Excel. 7 p.m. FREE. Community of Christ, 1514 W. Miller Road, Lansing. (517) 882-3122.

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

QiGong & Tai Chi classes. Light exercises for those with physical limitations, senior citizens or just need to unwind. 8 a.m. Up to \$8. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

See Out on the Town, Page 21

REO TOWN FAMOUS TACO/KICK IT OUT! DANCE STUDIO/BARBER LOVE



Sam Inglot/City Pulse

The new Famous Taco location returns to REO Town, into the same building that launched the franchise five decades ago.



By SAM INGLOT
and ALLAN I. ROSS

The **Famous Taco** franchise is returning to its roots with the opening of a third location. Its newest restaurant, at 1107 S. Washington Ave., is actually the spot where the founding Delacruz family opened its original Mexican restaurant — then called Acapulco — in 1968.

"It's been almost 45 years since we have been there," said Frank Delacruz, whose parents started the mini-chain. (Delacruz passed the franchise reins to his wife, Peggy, last year.) "I wish my dad had taken a picture of the place back then."

He said Acapulco outgrew the small diner in a matter of months. But he said the smaller location is perfect for what they want out of the new Famous Taco. He said a big part of the restaurant is doing delivery and catering, which works for the smaller seating area and the proximity to downtown. The interior is cozy, with only a few booths but the bright colors and custom décor give you the sense that you're dining at a Lansing landmark. And keeping true to the Famous Taco tradition, the new place will serve \$1 tacos after 2 p.m. everyday.

Dance party

Denise Krumm, 41, started dancing at the age of 4. Having spent nearly her entire life absorbed in dancing — from competitive dance throughout high school to a 15-year coaching career — opening a 1,000-square-foot dance studio was the next step in her saga. **Kick It Out! Dance Studio**, 1880 Haslett Road, opened July 1 and business has been going "very well," according to Krumm.

As director and owner (she no longer instructs due to an injury) she's got a full lineup of instructors who teach a multitude of dance classes ranging from ballet and jazz to hip-hop. She also offers Zumba, line dancing and belly dancing.

"There's not an age that says you have to stop dancing — that's my whole idea behind the studio," says Krumm. "If you have the physical capabilities and the mindset, they're no reason you can't get out and dance."

There will be a holiday open house 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 16 with a variety of demonstrations and performances to showcase the studio's talent and opportunities.

Love moves

Barber Love has completed its eastward trek down Michigan Avenue. Since the original location opened in 2002 at 1454 E. Michigan Ave., it has moved two times: once to 2003 E. Michigan Ave., where it stayed for eight years, and then last week to its final destination

at 2305 E. Michigan Ave.

Owner Kris McCorkle, 35, said he was able to purchase the building at the new location. He still has five chairs (he says the sixth chair at the old location went unused), and the price of a haircut will remain \$12.

Originally from Paw Paw, McCorkle moved to Lansing in 1997 to attend Lansing Barber College. He said he worked with a buddy for four years before he opened the first Barber Love with a business partner. He eventually bought that partner out, and has been cutting solo for the last three years.

The new location is 650 square feet, which isn't any bigger from his previous locations, but McCorkle said the updates make it more than worthwhile, including new flooring and new TVs. "It's a new look for Barber Love," he said. "Same old barbers, though."

Kick It Out! Dance Studio

Most classes: 5 p.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday
Zumba, competitive dance: 10:30 a.m. Saturdays
1880 Haslett Road Suite F, East Lansing
(517) 582-6784
kickitoutdance.com

Famous Taco


9 a.m. - 8 p.m. daily
1107 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
(517) 482-TACO (8226)

Barber Love


9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday & Friday;
noon-6:30 p.m. Wednesday; 9-1:30 p.m.
Saturday
Closed Sunday-Monday
2305 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
(517) 702-0636

CityPULSE


NEWSMAKERS



Hosted by
Berl Schwartz



David Hollister
Head of Lansing Financial Health Team



Bill Rustem
Director of strategy for Gov. Rick Snyder

Comcast Ch. 16 Lansing: 11 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 2
Comcast Ch. 30 Meridian Township: 11:30 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2; 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, through Saturday, Dec. 8; and 11:30 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8.

Watch past episodes at vimeo.com/channels/citypulse

Out on the town

from page 20

After-School Youth Gardening Programming. Kids time: activities on gardening, healty recipies & games. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. **Seeking Safety.** For people with trauma & PTSD. 1:30-3 p.m. FREE. JIMHO, 520 Cherry St., Lansing. (517) 887-4312. **Renegotiating Black Studies.** Speaker Dr. Gerald Howe. 6:30-8:30 p.m. International Center, 450 Administration Bldg., East Lansing. **Water media.** All levels welcome, with Donna Randall. Preregistration required. 6-8:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. **Schizophrenics Anonymous.** 10 a.m. Room 215-F, Community Mental Health Building, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 485-3775. **Codependents Anonymous.** 5:45-6:45 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books & Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 672-4072.

EVENTS

Fall Storytime. Features stories, rhymes & a craft for ages 2-5. 10:30-11:15 a.m. & 6:30-7:15 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

MUSIC

Jazz Tuesdays. Hosted by the Jeff Shoup Quartet & will feature regular guest artists from the MSU Jazz Studies Department. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. **Holiday Concert.** DeWitt community singers. 7:30 p.m. FREE. DeWitt Christian Church, 2931 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt. **Holiday Concert.** Music & treats. 8 p.m. FREE. University Lutheran Church, 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. (517) 332-2559. ulcel.org.

THEATER

Auditions for Oliver Twist. 6:30-8:00 p.m. FREE. Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 339-2145. mmft.net.

Wednesday, December 12

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Meditation. For beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, 3015 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 351-5866. **Community Yoga.** Power yoga class. 6 p.m. FREE. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260. **After-School Youth Gardening Programming.** 3:30-5:30 p.m. Hunter Park Community

GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (Please see details Dec. 5.) **Swing Guitar Christmas.** 6-7:30 p.m. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (Please see details Dec. 5.) **U.S. Citizenship Class.** 6-7 p.m. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (Please see details Dec. 5.) **Escape & Rejuvenate.** 12:15 p.m. ACC Natural Healing and Wellness, 617 Ionia, Lansing. (Please see details Dec. 5.) **KRP Open Work Shop.** 6-9 p.m. Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. (Please see details Dec. 5.) **Christmas or Armageddon?** Discussion. 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 Hwy., Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954.

EVENTS

Practice Your English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. **Fenner Nature Center Walking Group.** 5 p.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (Please see details Dec. 5.)

MUSIC

Jazz Wednesdays. Featuring new jazz artists each week. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Gracie's Place, 151 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-1100. **Wednesday Jam Session.** Featuring Caroline Glaeser, Samuel Winternheimer, Judson Branam IV & Jordan Vale. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Hobie's, 930 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing. **Stan Budzynski & 3rd Degree.** 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. FREE. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-6376. greendoorlive.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Baby Time. 10:30 a.m. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (Please see details Dec. 5.)

City Pulse Classifieds

Interested in placing a classified ad in City Pulse?
(517) 999-5066 or adcopy@lansingcitypulse.com

Distribution Driver - PT Job opening
to stock schedule racks in Greater Lansing area. flexible hours. Must have van or SUV w/own insurance, computer, cell phone w/text and energy. e-mail resume to: garrett@wayforwardinfo.com

City Pulse is seeking candidates to join its sales team. Full time and part time positions available. Sales experience required, preferably in advertising/marketing. Opportunity to grow. EEO. Submit resume to monique@lansingcitypulse.com.

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsný

December 5-11

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Spencer Silver was a co-inventor of Post-it notes, those small, colorful pieces of paper you can temporarily attach to things and then remove to use again and again. Speaking about the process he went through to develop this simple marvel, he said, "If I had thought about it, I wouldn't have done the experiment. The literature was full of examples that said you can't do this." I'd like to make him your patron saint for the next few weeks, Aries. Like him, you now have the chance to make practical breakthroughs that may have seemed impossible, or at least unlikely. Ignore conventional wisdom — including your own. Trust your mischievous intuition.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The axolotl is a kind of salamander that has an extraordinary capacity for regenerating itself. If it loses a leg in an accident, it will grow a new one in its place. It can even fix its damaged organs, including eyes, heart, and brain. And get this: There's never any scar tissue left behind when its work is done. Its power to heal itself is pretty much perfect. I nominate the axolotl to be your power animal in the coming weeks, Taurus. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you now have an extraordinary ability to restore any part of your soul that got hurt or stolen or lost.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In the coming months, I hope that you will get sweet revenge. In fact, I *predict* that you will get sweet revenge. Keep in mind that I'm not talking about angry, roaring vindication. I don't mean you will destroy the reputations of your adversaries or reduce them to humiliating poverty or laugh at them as they grovel for mercy while lying in a muddy gutter. No, Gemini. The kind of revenge I foresee is that you will achieve a ringing triumph by mastering a challenge they all believed would defeat you. And your ascent to victory starts now.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): I would love to speak with you about your hesitancy to fully confront your difficulties. But I will not speak forthrightly, since I'm pretty sure that would irritate you. It might even motivate you to procrastinate even further. So instead I will make a lame joke about how if you don't stop avoiding the obvious, you will probably get bitten in the butt by a spider. I will try to subtly guilt-trip you into taking action by implying that I'll be annoyed at you if you don't. I will wax sarcastic and suggest that maybe just this once, ignorance is bliss. Hopefully that will nudge you into dealing straightforwardly with the unrest that's bubbling.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "Drama is life with all the boring parts cut out of it," said Leo filmmaker Alfred Hitchcock. By that criterion, I'm guessing that your experience in the coming week will have a high concentration of magic and stimulation. You should be free from having to slog through stale details and prosaic storylines. Your word of power will be *succulence*. For best results, I suggest you take active control of the unfolding adventures. Be the director and lead actor in your drama, not a passive participant who merely reacts to what the other actors are doing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): One of my spiritual teachers once told me that a good spiritual teacher makes an effort not to seem too perfect. She said some teachers even cultivate odd quirks and harmless failings on purpose. Why? To get the best learning experience, students must be discouraged from over-idealizing the wise advisors they look up to. It's crucial they understand that achieving utter purity is impossible and unrealistic. Being perceived as an infallible expert is dangerous for teachers, too; it makes them prone to egotistical grandiosity. I bring this up, Virgo, because it's an excellent time to reduce the likelihood that you'll be seduced by the illusion of perfection.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): This would be a good week to talk to yourself far more than you usually do. If you're the type of person who never talks to yourself,

this is a perfect time to start. And I do mean that you should speak the words out loud. Actually address yourself with passionate, humorous, ironic, sincere, insightful comments, as you would any person you care about. Why am I suggesting this? Because according to my interpretation of the astrological omens, you would benefit from the shock of literally hearing how your mind works. Even more importantly: The cheerleading you do, the encouragement you deliver, and the motivational speeches you give would have an unusually powerful impact if they were audibly articulated.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In the fairy tale "Beauty and the Beast," a grotesque human-like creature hosts the heroine in his home, treating her like a queen. She accepts his hospitality but rejects his constant requests to marry him. Eventually, he collapses from heartache. Moved by the depth of his suffering, she breaks into tears and confesses her deep affection for him. This shatters the spell and magically transforms the Beast back into the handsome prince he originally was. Your life may have parallels to this story in the coming months, Scorpio. You might be tested. Can you discern the truth about a valuable resource that doesn't look very sexy? Will you be able to see beauty embedded in a rough or shabby form?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you thoroughly shuffle a deck of cards, the novel arrangement you create is probably unique in all of human history; its specific order has never before occurred. I suspect the same principle applies to our lives: Each new day brings a singular set of circumstances that neither you nor anyone else in the last 10,000 years has ever had the pleasure of being challenged and intrigued by. There is always some fresh opportunity, however small, that is being offered you for the first time. I think it's important for you to keep this perspective in mind during the coming week. Be alert for what you have never seen or experienced before.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): I wish I could do more than just fantasize about helping you achieve greater freedom. In my dreams, I am obliterating delusions that keep you moored to false idols. I am setting fire to the unnecessary burdens you lug around. And I am tearing you away from the galling compromises you made once upon a time in order to please people who don't deserve to have so much power over you. But it's actually a good thing I can't just wave a magic wand to make all this happen. Here's a much better solution: You will clarify your analysis of the binds you're in, super-charge your willpower, and liberate yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In his book *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues*, Tom Robbins talks about a gourmet who "gave up everything, traveled thousands of miles and spent his last dime to get to the highest lamasery in the Himalayas to taste the dish he'd longed for his whole life, Tibetan peach pie. When he got there . . . the lamas said they were all out of peach. 'Okay,' said the gourmet, 'make it apple.'" I suspect you'll be having a comparable experience sometime soon, Aquarius. You may not get the exact treat you wanted, but what you'll receive in its place is something that's pretty damn good. I urge you to accept the gift as is!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "Having 'a sense of self' means possessing a set of stories about who we are," according to William Kittredge in his book *The Nature of Generosity*. He says there are two basic types of stories: The first is "cautionary tales, which warn us" and therefore protect us. The second consists of "celebratory" tales, which we use to heal and calm ourselves. I believe that you Pisceans are now in a phase when you primarily need celebratory stories. It's time to define yourself with accounts of what you love and value and regard as precious.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Brezsný'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.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 18

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

From Pg. 19

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M	A	R			A	R	E	N	D	T		E	E	K	A

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Michael Brenton/City Pulse

The 2012 Beaujolais Nouveau is now available from a variety of labels. This year's wine is full of fruit flavors and is meant to be drunk as soon as possible.

The most wonderful wine of the year

Annual unveiling of seasonal Beaujolais varietal is an event for wine fans

By MICHAEL BRENTON

Le Beaujolais nouveau est arrive! Translation: The new Beaujolais has arrived. What began as a local French tradition for efficiently creating and consuming wine from the current year harvest gradually morphed into a worldwide tradition and celebration.

Beaujolais Nouveau wine, created exclusively from handpicked Gamay grapes grown in the Beaujolais region of Burgundy, France, goes through a unique winemaking process such that it can be released for consumption only weeks after the juice was resting inside berries on the vine. Moments after harvest, the grapes are dumped into stainless steel tanks where they go through a process of carbonic maceration. Instead of being crushed, then fermented, the berries are allowed to ferment while still in the skins, resting in an enclosed oxygen deficient/carbon dioxide rich environment. This process inhibits the extraction of drying tannins from the skins, while emphasizing bright, fresh, fruit. Total time from harvest to bottle may be as little as six to eight weeks. The volume of wine produced is huge.

From a marketing perspective, the evolution of Beaujolais Nouveau is a phenomenon developed in large part by noted French wine négociant Georges DuBoeuf. A négociant contracts with small growers to produce grapes, or even finished wine, frequently to the négociant's specifications, then blends the wine and sells it behind his label. DuBoeuf contracts with hundreds of local vineyards



and produces millions of bottles which, by French law, cannot be released before 12:01 a.m. on the third Thursday of November. Beaujolais

Nouveau is transported around the world where traditions of midnight parties, dinners and wine tastings have added to the eager anticipation for each year's new release.

The 2012 harvest yield was light, lending itself to small and intensely concentrated berries. This carries over into the finished wine. Traditionally marketed in bottles with brightly colored labels, this year's production shows particular appeal.

The standard bottling of Georges DuBoeuf Beaujolais Nouveau seems deeper and more concentrated than is typical, with a bit more tannic structure, almost like a conventional aged wine. Emphasizing tart cherry and bright acidity, it is still just a bit rough around the edges. I wouldn't be surprised if it improves in bottle for a few months. But, like all Beaujolais Nouveau, it is meant to be consumed immediately and certainly within its first year of life.

A version of Beaujolais Nouveau from Mommessin is much softer, rounder and delicate than the basic DuBoeuf bottling. It, too, shows berry fruit, plus just a hint of banana overtone frequently found in Beaujolais Nouveau wines, but much less so this year. I suspect some consumers will prefer the Mommessin because of its

See Uncorked, Page 23

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Uncorked

from page 22

smoother mouthfeel, although I go for the gutsier DuBoeuf basic Nouveau.

Another Nouveau, this one under the Albert Bichot label, is a fruit bomb with red raspberry and cherry aromas, again tinged with just a touch of banana. A huge fruit bouquet is somewhat counterbalanced by a rather short “finish,” or aftertaste.

A higher end DuBoeuf is represented by the Beaujolais-Villages Nouveau Cuvée Spéciale. A step up in quality, it has a silkier mouth feel and more integrated tannins than the base DuBoeuf Nouveau, but more concentration and depth of flavor than the somewhat more economically priced Mommessin. The fruit takes center stage.

These wines are not only good values (priced between \$8.50 and \$12), they have widespread appeal when served at holiday events. For fanciers of dry white wine, Beaujolais Nouveau can be a great “gateway” to move into appreciation of red wine. The soft, approachable berry character of these wines makes them ideal accompaniments to holiday meals such as turkey or ham. They can also be used as a very reasonably priced alternative to lighter styles of Pinot Noir.

To sample the Gamay grape produced in a more conventional format, consider

the Mommessin Saint-Amour Les Pechers 2010. This has a bit darker fruit in the nose, plus more concentration, structure and depth of flavor, but it continues to be an easy drinking wine. With aeration the flavor profile becomes softer and broader. This would be another good Pinot Noir alternative, at a price point around \$17.

DuBoeuf Jean Descombes, a 2010 Cru Beaujolais from the Morgon region of Beaujolais, showed even greater depth of color, structure, and blackberry/dark berry/dark cherry flavors, accompanied by mild tannins in the back palate giving delineation to the wine. This is a much beefier wine, demonstrating the differences between Nouveau and wines created with conventional winemaking techniques. At a \$17 price point, it is a good value.

Finally, a 2010 Georges DuBoeuf Beaujolais-Villages (not Nouveau) highlights bright berry nose, spicy overtones bordering on cinnamon, smooth mouth feel and a soft very mild tannic edge, which kicks in on the finish. Look to spend around \$10.

These can be refreshing, easy drinking, great value wines to serve at holiday parties and with holiday meals. Happy holidays, all!

In Vino Veritas
(Michael Brenton is president of the Greater Lansing Vintners Club. His column appears monthly.)

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