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November 30-December 6, 2011



TAKING AIM:
THE ANTI-GAY AGENDA IN
THE STATE LEGISLATURE
SEE PAGE 8



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812 Everett Dr, Lansing
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2 Bedroom, 1 Bath



1417 Sheldon St, Lansing
\$63,000

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3 Bedroom, 1 Bath



326 Isbell St, Lansing
\$80,000

1080 Sq. Ft.
3 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath



5219 Hughes Rd, Lansing
\$100,000

1232 Sq. Ft.
3 Bedroom, 2 Bath



2029 Hillcrest, Lansing
\$65,000

796 Sq. Ft.
2 Bedroom, 1 Bath



4123 Balmoral Dr, Lansing
\$75,000

1224 Sq. Ft.
3 Bedroom, 2 Bath



3401 Churchill Ave, Lansing
\$70,000

943 Sq. Ft.
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Feedback

Look for Made in USA product labels

Mr. Link in his November 9th column overlooked one very significant label; "Made in USA". The "Made in USA" tag means a product produced under the EPA environmental laws and the worker safety laws of OSHA. Contrast this to the "Made in China" label; products produced under a repressive Communist regime with little or no pollution controls or worker safety concerns. Our air is cleaner today because of EPA rules, but also because we have exported our pollution to China. Think about these issues when you look for the "Made in USA" label.

— Dave Pfaff
DeWitt

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

Now you have two ways to sound off:

1.) 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

2.) Write a guest column:

Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 371-5600 ext. 10

(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.)

Fix 'Matt's Law'

(This letter was written by Kevin Epling of East Lansing, who has championed anti-bullying legislation since his son, Matt, committed suicide while a high school freshman. The bill is named for his son.)

As our elected officials in the Michigan's Senate head back to office this week, we can

only hope our Republican leadership took the past two weeks off not only for hunting, but for personal reflection as well. They have the ability to right their wrongs and pass the revised version of "Matt's Law" as it was intended, to protect all children without any loopholes. Michigan became the laughing stock of the nation and of international media when they added a clause to inexplicably allow bullying on "religious grounds". Even clergy members of several denominations said the move was outrageous and denounced it. Yet sadly, some Senators still tried to defend it.

After the dust settled, I saw a tremendous real-world lesson about the power of bullying for everyone in Michigan. It contained all the dynamics of the perfect anti-bullying scenario.

1) Bullying is an abuse of Power and Control: (getting others to do things or act in a certain way to belong) One Party had power over another and chose to exert it simply because they could, and assumed no one will protest, or face consequences.

2) Silent Bystanders: Those Senators who went along with the idea and said nothing. (Seemingly at their own peril or for fear of retaliation, allowing the power base to grow.)

3) Active Bystanders: Those Senators who stood up and spoke out and championed change and alerted others to the language within the bill.

4) The Community Shift: Community opinions in the form of hundreds of letters/emails/phone calls/news media reports (even 5th graders in FL) who said, we as a society do not condone bullying and do not support this. (Anti-Bullying IS a Community issue)

5) Agents Of Change: Those individuals, parents, students, reporters who actively spoke out and made changes to the law for the betterment of the children and greater society.

Our Senators can redeem themselves by adopting the House version of "Matt's Law" and I challenge them to do so. As an "apology" to the people of Michigan they should also make the following amendments:

1) Reporting of incidents must be submitted to the State Board of Education.

2) The word "Adults" should be added where applicable so everyone within the school system follows the same rules.

3) The language for cyberbullying must be strengthened to allow schools jurisdiction over matters that happen off school grounds and impact the school environment.

The current cyberbullying language is weak and creates another loophole. A national expert noted it was weak and offered his suggestions. The House Leadership did not adopt the input. Being behind 47 states, when national experts speak, our officials should listen, not ignore such advice.

Our family and Michigan itself suffered a great indignity a few weeks ago, and our MI Republican Senators owe us an apology. More importantly, they owe our children the right to learn in a safe environment. If they can't, we must remember those who chose "party over children" come election time.

— Kevin Epling

CityPULSE

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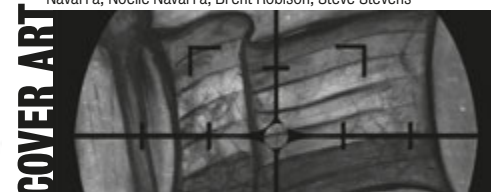


7 p.m. Wednesdays

This Week

State House candidate Andy Schor

State Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge



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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

SO YOU'RE SAYING PEOPLE WHO LOSE THEIR HOMES OR JOBS HAVE ONLY THEMSELVES TO BLAME?

EXACTLY! THEY SHOULD HAVE MADE BETTER DECISIONS!

AND IF SOMEONE GETS REALLY SICK AND DOESN'T HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE, OR HAS AN INSURANCE COMPANY THAT DENIES TREATMENT?

DON'T COME WHINING TO ME! MAYBE THEY CAN HOLD A BAKE SALE OR SOMETHING!

SO AS FAR AS YOU'RE CONCERNED, ANYONE WHO SUFFERS AN UNEXPECTED SETBACK IS BASICALLY ON THEIR OWN?

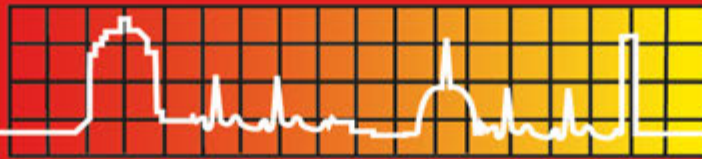
THAT'S WHAT FREEDOM IS ABOUT! THIS IS A COUNTRY OF RUGGED INDIVIDUALISTS! WE TAKE CARE OF OURSELVES! WE DON'T NEED--

WELL, THAT WAS A LITTLE HEAVY-HANDED, DON'T YOU THINK?

IT'S A SIX-PANEL CARTOON, WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF ROOM FOR NUANCE.

NO PROBLEM... I GOT THIS...

I'LL JUST LIE HERE AND THINK ABOUT ANY RAND...



A house gets its 'before' picture

Ingham County Land Bank gives 530 Pacific Ave. a second chance

(For the next several months, Lawrence Cosentino will follow the progress of one house being renovated for sale by the Ingham County Land Bank. This is the first in an occasional series.)

Two Bibles and a bottle of Bud Light rested on the piano at tax-foreclosed 530 Pacific Ave., next to a heart-shaped sign on the living room wall.

"Whatsoever lot God gives you in life ... build on it," the sign read.

The prescient sign made Chris Kolbe, the Ingham County Land Bank's new marketing man, do a double-take when he visited the house last week.

"Honestly, I did not stage that," he said.

Sure enough, the leaky, abandoned house on Lansing's south side is slated for a \$50,000 renovation in the next three to four months. The Land Bank bought the two-story 1925 house across from the old John Bean factory in July for \$6,371 in back taxes owed by the absent owner.

Despite some cheerful kid art scrawled on the walls, the place looked well shredded.

"I can see walls coming out," Kolbe said. "It's the original plaster and it's getting pretty bad."

Kolbe said 530 Pacific is about "middle of the road" among some 40 Land Bank fix-up projects now under way all over Lansing. "We've had better, and we've had a lot worse," he shrugged.

The spate of rehabs makes up the prettier half of a two-pronged push to blunt the blighting tide of foreclosure and abandonment. The bad-cop half is a late-fall round of 30 demolitions — 15 in November and 15 in December — targeting houses the Land Bank deems incorrigible.

Last week, Kolbe picked his way through the books, toys, broken lamps and heaps of clothes strewn throughout 530 Pacific, from front porch to back door.

He was unfazed by the torn wallpaper, crumbling walls and collapsed drop ceilings. He didn't blink at the rusting hulk of a furnace or the huge hole in the wall behind the kitchen sink.

The plucky area just south of I-496,

anchored by an old factory that is hosting a dozens of new businesses, makes 530 Pacific an ideal Land Bank project.

"This house has good bones," Kolbe said. "The only structural support it needs is maybe under the porch. Those floors are all yellow pine, and they refinish pretty nice. Right now people like wood floors."

Meanwhile, at the Land Bank's office just south of Old Town, in a vault-like vestibule of giant file cabinets, 530 Pacific is growing into a thick folder of inspection checklists, contracts, subcontracts, financial records and other documents. The Land Bank owns about 800 properties, of which about 100 are undergoing demolition or rehabbing.

The housing market has been full of distractions and disruptions in recent years, but the

sure, but the stimulus will be spent by the end of next year.

The current wave of rehabs and demolitions is partly funded by that federal money. Barring a freak housing boom, Eric Schertzing, Ingham County treasurer and chairman of the board of the Land Bank, is pretty sure he won't be rehabbing 40 houses this time next year.

"We have a challenge," Schertzing declared. "What are we going to do in 2013 and 2014, when we will still have some significant issues? We need to come up with that answer as a community — the city, the county, [the State of Michigan], whoever else is in the mix."

Fortunately, the worst of the crisis seems to be easing. Tax foreclosures have "leveled off" at 250 to 300 a year in Lansing, according to Schertzing, while mortgage foreclosures have "noticeably declined." In 2011, about 1,700 to 1,800 homes went through mortgage foreclosure in Ingham County, of which 1,200 to 1,300 were in Lansing. Schertzing said that's a 20 percent drop from 2010.

Prospects are also looking better at the



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

530 Pacific Ave. is one of about 40 Lansing homes presently being rehabbed by the Land Bank. This year the Land Bank has closed sales on 30 rehabbed homes, up from 21 in 2010, and is aiming to fix up 50 homes in 2012.

"middle of the road" project on Pacific Avenue lies at the heart of the Land Bank's mission — to fast-track tax-reverted property to productive use and shore up plunging property values in key neighborhoods.

It hasn't been easy to stick to that mission.

Soon after the Land Bank pitched its tent in 2005, the mortgage foreclosure avalanche crashed down on the market. A timely \$18 million infusion of federal stimulus money helped the Land Bank ramp up operations and handle mortgage foreclosed houses as well as tax foreclo-

sales end of the housing pipeline. The Land Bank closed sales on 30 of its rehabbed houses so far this year, compared to 21 in 2010, and hit the \$100,000 mark on a few of the newest rehab jobs.

"That begins to reset the entire market," Schertzing said.

In the next three to four months, 530 Pacific will get a standard Land Bank makeover, including gutted and rebuilt kitchen and bathrooms, energy efficient windows, a

Eyesore of the week



Property: 1635 Vermont Ave., Lansing
 Owner: Lois Goddard
 Taxpayer: Lois Goddard
 Assessed: \$27,600
 Owner says: Unable to be reached for comment

Architecture critic Amanda Harrell-Seyburn says: Every once in a while the simplest structure surprises — vertical wood siding at 1635 Vermont Ave. This type of siding is relatively rare in contrast to its cousin, horizontal siding, that dominates Lansing's residential architecture. The vertical choice is wise as it does for this small house what pinstripes do for a man in a suit — it makes the house appear taller. A new paint job will really make this quite a smart-looking house.

A pink paint job is reason enough to label this home an eyesore, but this house's problems extend far beyond the color. Windows on the front and side of the house are boarded up. The front door, which has not been replaced with plywood, no longer latches and blows open in the breeze. It appears as if the previous owner was in the middle of whitewashing over the unfortunate color when something happened to make them stop — after only a quarter of the front of the house had been completed. The rusted-out basketball hoop over the slowly collapsing garage completes the house's look of abandonment. However cute it may have been originally, it is far from looking that way now.

— Nysa Rabinowitz

"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 Nysa Rabinowitz at 999-5064.

See Rehab Page 7

Rehab

from page 5



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

The kitchen at 530 Pacific Ave. will be gutted and redone from floor to ceiling, with new plumbing, fixtures and cabinets.

new roof and furnace, new plumbing, refinished floors and new wiring.

An energy audit, followed by huddles with contractors, will get the project under way. However, as of last week, there were still heaps of stuff strewn through the house. About 20 coats were hanging in the front closet. A massive dining room table lay on its edge. Shelves and boxes were crammed with a seemingly random mix of authors, from Steve Martin to Charles Dickens to Sen. John McCain.

Instead of tossing everything into a Dumpster, Schertzing would like to see the Land Bank link up with area volunteers who are willing to pick through the flotsam at 530 Pacific and other Land Bank projects. With so many balls in the air, his overworked staff doesn't have time to sift through everything.

"We'd especially like to find a home for the piano," Kolbe said.

— Lawrence Cosentino

Time to tow away road commissions



Three hurdles need to be cleared if advocates of abolishing the Ingham County Road Commission are going to succeed.

The Legislature needs to pass a bill allowing county leaders to dissolve their road commissions.

The governor needs to sign the bill. And then nine of the 16 members of Ingham County Board of Commissioners need to support Commissioner Andy Schor's proposal to do so.

None of the three seem unattainable. It couldn't happen soon enough.

This isn't an indictment of current Road Commission Chairwoman Shirley

Rodgers and the rest of the current crew. Rodgers brings up good points about the good-ol'-boy network in Mason that probably isn't limited to the road commission.

She is rubbing people the wrong way with her micromanaging of personnel decisions as she tries to get more minority representation into the workforce, but Rodgers isn't running a one-woman crusade. And change for the better doesn't come without upsetting the applecart.

Rodgers sees an injustice and she's out to correct it.

That said, the road commission is in the news, yet again, which should really be the exception and not the norm. If it's not Rodgers, it's the hubbub over the fifth lane on Okemos Road. Or it's the controversy about township officials feeling left out. Or Waverly Road. Or something.

This is all coming from a board that's completely unaccountable to voters. Its members serve six years. In the same time, term-limited state representatives are elected and re-elected three times.

Commissioner Mark Grebner wants all five of the county road commissioners to resign. All five of them can — and are — telling him to take a hike.

They don't have to return telephone calls. They don't have to listen to a majority of citizens. They don't have to listen to their staff. They get their money from the state, and it's up to them to spend it.

Instead of taking politics out of improving and plowing roads — which is what road commissions are supposed to do — these fiefdoms are just another sandbox for political play.

Putting county road improvement duties under a new county commission committee makes the most sense. The 16-member board manages to run the Health Department, animal control and the parks.

The two counties that don't have road commissions — Wayne and Macomb — are two of the state's largest, and they're doing fine. There's no public outcry, and they have many more roads to manage than Ingham.

Scrapping the road commission saves Ingham County about \$70,000. But more important, it gives citizens an elected official they can hold accountable. Don't like that potholed county road? Call your county commission and complain. You don't like their response? Call your neighbors and vote him or her out.

Ingham County's roads have a professional manager charged with managing the fewer than 70 employees and overseeing 1,249 miles of road. Let the professionals do their jobs and let elected officials have the final sign-off on the \$22 million Ingham County has been allotted in recent years.

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See Road, Page 7

Road

from page 6

The holdup seems to be in the Michigan House, where a measure that allows county commissioners to shut down their road commissions stalled after Republicans in Northern Michigan balked.

The Yoopers and those Up North have good relationships with their road commissioners and don't want the bodies dissolved by a rogue band of power-hungry county commissioners.

They support changes that require county boards to jump through hoops before putting a road commission elimination question on the ballot.

Making the process overly difficult chases away interest in making the change, which may be the point, but it defeats the purpose.

The current proposal lets county do

away with road commissions if they want. If elected leaders like their boards, they can keep them. To calm down opponents, county voters should be given a window to override the commission's decision through local referendum, if the public feels that attached to its road commission.

It's hard to imagine voters rushing to take advantage of the opportunity, but the safeguard is needed.

If Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville is right, Michigan is the second-most governed state in the country. We have county, township, city, villages governments combined with school boards and community college boards and ISDs and regional groups and all the rest.

Getting rid of county road commissions is an easy first step.

(Kyle Melinn is the editor of the MIRS Newsletter. He can be reached at melinn@lansingcitypulse.com.)

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**City of Lansing
Notice of Public Hearing
ELMET North America Inc.**

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, Lansing, MI, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of the transfer of Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate (IFT-01-2011) requested by the applicant indicated below:

Applicant: ELMET North America Inc.

Description of subject property:
4063 Grand Oak Drive, Lansing, MI, 48911
Parcel# 33-01-05-02-471-063

ENTIRE LOT 20 AND THAT PART OF LOT 21 OAKWOOD EXECUTIVE PARK, A SUBDIVISION OF A PART OF ENTIRE LOTS 22 AND 23 AND THAT PART OF LOT 21 OAKWOOD EXECUTIVE PARK, A SUBDIVISION OF A PART OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 2, T3N, R2W, DELHI TOWNSHIP AND A PART OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 2, T3N, R2W, CITY OF LANSING, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN AS RECORDED IN LIBER 50 OF PLATS, PAGES 38-41, INGHAM COUNTY RECORDS, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS; COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 20; THENCE N60°30'46"E 557.17 FEET ALONG THE NORTHERLY LINE OF HIGHWAY 1-96 TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE PARCEL TO BE DESCRIBED; THENCE N29°28'18"W 212.08 FEET TO THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF GRAND OAK DRIVE; THENCE ALONG SAID LINE THE FOLLOWING FIVE COURSES: N67°05'27"E 139.06 FEET; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY 93.19 FEET ALONG THE ARC OF A 233.00 FOOT RADIUS CURVE TO THE LEFT WHOSE CHORD BEARS N55°37'59"E 92.57 FEET; THENCE S44°10'30"W 82.72 FEET; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY 113.27 FEET ALONG THE ARC OF A 142.00 FOOT RADIUS CURVE TO THE RIGHT WHOSE CHORD BEARS N67°01'35"E 110.29 FEET; THENCE S89°52'46"W 122.31 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 23; THENCE S29°29'14"E 154.80 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF LOT 23 TO THE NORTHERLY LINE OF HIGHWAY 1-96; THENCE ALONG SAID LINE S60°30'46"W 525.99 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. ENTIRE PARCEL CONTAINS 2.48 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AND IS SUBJECT TO ANY EASEMENTS OR RESTRICTIONS OF USE OR RECORD.

Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate (IFT-01-2011) requested by ELMET North America Inc. will result in the abatement of real and/or personal property taxes located within the subject property. Further information regarding this application for property tax abatement may be obtained from Mr. Ken Szymusiak, Economic Development Corporation of the City of Lansing, 401 S. Washington Sq., Suite 100, Lansing, Michigan, 48933, (517) 485-5412.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICES

RESOLUTION #2011-343
BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANSING

WHEREAS, City Clerk Chris Swope submitted a recommended list of dates for the Lansing City Council meetings for 2012 to the Lansing City Council; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Virg Bernero has requested the State of the City Address to be January 30; and

WHEREAS, the Lansing City Charter requires the City Council to meet weekly at least 50 weeks a year; and

WHEREAS, the Committee of the Whole has reviewed the City Clerk's recommendations and concurs with the list of recommended meeting dates for 2012; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Lansing City Council hereby approves the recommendations of City Clerk Chris Swope for Lansing City Council meeting dates for 2012 as follows:

January 5, 2012 – Thursday at 2:30 p.m.
January 9
January 19 – Thursday at 1:30 p.m. due to Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 23
January 30, 5:00 p.m. for the State of the City Address, location t.b.a.
February 6, 13, 20, 27
March 5, 12, 19, 26
April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
May 7, 14, 21
May 31 – Thursday at 1:30 p.m. due to Memorial Day
June 4, 11, 18, 25
July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
August 6, 13, 20, 27
September 6 – Thursday at 1:30 p.m. due to Labor Day
September 10, 17, 24
October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
November 5
November 15 – Thursday at 1:30 p.m. due to Veterans Day
November 19, 26
December 3, 10

Except as otherwise noted, all meetings will be on a Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor City Hall.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Council shall meet as a Committee of the Whole on Thursday, January 5 at 1:30 p.m.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk

**City of Lansing
Notice of Public Hearing**

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, Lansing, MI, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, other interested persons, including but not limited to the City Assessor and representatives of the affected taxing units, to appear and be heard on the approval of a New Personal Property Exemption (PPE-02-11) requested by the applicant indicated below:

Applicant: ELMET North America Inc.
Applicant's Address: PO Box 601, DeWitt, MI, 48820

Location of subject property:
4063 Grand Oak Drive, Lansing, MI, 48911
Parcel# 33-01-05-02-471-063

ENTIRE LOT 20 AND THAT PART OF LOT 21 OAKWOOD EXECUTIVE PARK, A SUBDIVISION OF A PART OF ENTIRE LOTS 22 AND 23 AND THAT PART OF LOT 21 OAKWOOD EXECUTIVE PARK, A SUBDIVISION OF A PART OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 2, T3N, R2W, DELHI TOWNSHIP AND A PART OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 2, T3N, R2W, CITY OF LANSING, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN AS RECORDED IN LIBER 50 OF PLATS, PAGES 38-41, INGHAM COUNTY RECORDS, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS; COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 20; THENCE N60°30'46"E 557.17 FEET ALONG THE NORTHERLY LINE OF HIGHWAY 1-96 TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE PARCEL TO BE DESCRIBED; THENCE N29°28'18"W 212.08 FEET TO THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF GRAND OAK DRIVE; THENCE ALONG SAID LINE THE FOLLOWING FIVE COURSES: N67°05'27"E 139.06 FEET; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY 93.19 FEET ALONG THE ARC OF A 233.00 FOOT RADIUS CURVE TO THE LEFT WHOSE CHORD BEARS N55°37'59"E 92.57 FEET; THENCE S44°10'30"W 82.72 FEET; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY 113.27 FEET ALONG THE ARC OF A 142.00 FOOT RADIUS CURVE TO THE RIGHT WHOSE CHORD BEARS N67°01'35"E 110.29 FEET; THENCE S89°52'46"W 122.31 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 23; THENCE S29°29'14"E 154.80 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF LOT 23 TO THE NORTHERLY LINE OF HIGHWAY 1-96; THENCE ALONG SAID LINE S60°30'46"W 525.99 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. ENTIRE PARCEL CONTAINS 2.48 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AND IS SUBJECT TO ANY EASEMENTS OR RESTRICTIONS OF USE OR RECORD.

Approval of a New Personal Property Exemption (PPE-02-11) requested by ELMET North America Inc. will result in the abatement of new personal property taxes located within the subject property that is eligible for the tax exemption. Further information regarding this application for property tax abatement may be obtained from Mr. Ken Szymusiak, Economic Development Corporation of the City of Lansing, 401 S. Washington Sq., Suite 100, Lansing, Michigan, 48933, (517) 485-5412.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk

Coincidence, pattern or attack?

For LGBT advocates, a series of unfortunate legislation



T. Hunter



Jones



McMillin



Dievendorf



Whitmer



Agema



A. Hunter



Haveman

By **ANDY BALASKOVITZ**

If it was a game, Gretchen Whitmer won. Just ask Rick Jones.

When Jones, a Republican state senator from Grand Ledge, gives his side of the anti-bullying saga that took place at the Capitol four weeks ago, he blames Democrats — namely Whitmer, the Democrats' Senate leader — for staging what turned out to be a national media frenzy.

As Jones tells it, the story of how 16 words — “This section does not prohibit a statement of a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction ...” — became a “license to bully” began Nov. 2, the same day the Senate passed its controversial anti-bullying bill along party lines.

Jones, the bill's primary sponsor, said he's being wrongly labeled as the architect of the religious exemption language. In an interview last week, he said that on the day of the vote the Republican caucus

attorney, Fred Hall, “was concerned that nobody misinterpret the bill as taking away First Amendment rights. He wrote the clause and added it, I did not. That was right before we voted.” From there, the bill reached the Senate floor.

“As usual, there was some debating on the floor,” Jones said. “No one came to me from the other side of the aisle and said ‘I have 12 Democratic votes for you if you take that line out.’ No one did that.”

“Had Senate Minority Leader Whitmer walked across the floor ... I would have jumped through hoops to (strike the language). But nobody bothered to say anything. Instead, like a good politician, she twisted it for political gain and got a lot of national media attention out of it.”

Whitmer responded in an interview Monday — after a brief chuckle.

“If the consequences weren't so serious about kids' safety in schools, that would be funny. ... It's absolutely pathetic and ludicrous to say it's anyone's fault but their own (that the Senate's bill passed with the language),” Whitmer said. “I understand they're mad they became the laughing stock of the nation. But they need to man up and take responsibility.”

It's been a month since the high-stakes politicking. On Tuesday, the Senate passed nearly unanimously a different version of an anti-bullying bill, sans the religious exemption, sending it to Gov. Rick Snyder's desk for final approval. Jones and Whitmer both voted for it.

For leaders of Michigan's gay community, though, the bill falls short of what they sought: Specific protection for GLBT individuals and those who are perceived as gay.

They say the measure remains but one example of how this Legislature refuses to include protections in state law for LGBT individuals, even though several communities throughout the state — including Lansing and East Lansing — have done so.

Five bills in particular are up for consideration, while another is on its way to Snyder's desk, that advocates see as a coordinated effort by mostly conservative lawmakers to “reframe the narrative” from thwarting LGBT rights to economic concerns or religious freedom, one political activist said.

“I'm not a big conspiracy theorist, but so much of this is going on across the country,” said Amy Hunter, president of the Equality Michigan Pride PAC. “There seems to be at all levels — statewide office, the Legislature, the state attorney general — this sort of attack on gay and transgender communities.”

Whitmer said whether the legislation is coordinated, “I certainly think it appears that way. It's a pattern of ignorance and intolerance that I think is detrimental to individuals in our state. ... I think it's a social agenda. I don't know if it's coordinated but it's certainly a pattern.”

Republicans interviewed for this story all deny that what's going on in this legislative session is any sort of coordinated attack.

Ari Adler, spokesman for Speaker of the House Jase Bolger, R-Marshall, said, “I don't think it's correct to say it's a coordinated attack of any kind. That's not true.”

Jones also denies it: “Nothing that I have ever done has attacked people based on LGBT issues. I don't know of anything, any movement in Lansing to do that. ... I'm not part of any coordinated effort if that's the perception.”

State Rep. Joe Haveman, R-Holland, is sponsoring a bill that would allow counselors at higher education institutions to refuse service to individuals based on “a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction.” Democratic floor leader Tupac Hunter from Detroit sponsors an identical bill in the Senate. Haveman said on whether his bill is related to other proposed legislation that could threaten to strip rights from the LGBT community: “You're so far wrong on that. ... The gay community, the LGBT community takes everything as an attack on them. You're feeding that story.”

4770, 4771

In May, a Republican representative from Grandville sought to withhold 5 percent of state funding for Michigan universities that offer same-sex partner health benefits. That ultimately failed after Snyder's legal counsel advised lawmakers that it would be unconstitutional because universities act autonomously from the state.

Dave Agema, R-Grandville, chairman of the House GOP caucus, said at the time

that universities are “not above the law” and offering same-sex partner benefits flies in the face of the 2004 ballot initiative banning same-sex marriage in the state. Agema's amendment never made it in the budget, but on May 22, he vowed (on Facebook) to bring back separate legislation to tackle the issue.

House Bills 4770 and 4771, which passed in the House Sept. 15 and now await Senate approval, would prohibit public employers — including universities and colleges — from offering domestic partner benefits and would prohibit such benefits from being a topic of collective bargaining.

Agema, who could not be reached for comment, often cites in the media and on his personal Facebook account that the 2004 ballot initiative should prohibit offering same-sex partner benefits, along with an opinion from former Attorney General Mike Cox and the state Supreme Court. But in January, the Michigan Civil Service Commission approved a benefits package negotiated between the United Auto Workers and the Office of the State Employer that includes domestic partner benefits for either same-sex or opposite-sex partners and their dependents.

Meanwhile, the House Fiscal Agency reported that the state would save about \$8 million by not having to cover such benefits in HB 4770. Adler said this is the main reason Bolger supports the bill — not for social reasons.

“When it came through the House and we passed it, there are certainly some members of the caucus (for whom) that's a domestic partner issue. Others say it's an economic issue,” Adler said. “We pushed it through primarily looking at what's going on with the economics.”

But cost projections were off dramatically. In September, state Personnel Director Jeremy Stephens told the Civil Service Commission that preliminary numbers show fewer than 100 people within the state's 47,692-member workforce taking advantage of the benefits for a total cost to the state of \$600,000.

Says Whitmer: “I don't think there is an economic benefit from these pieces of leg-

House Bills 4770, 4771

Sponsor: Rep. Dave Agema, R-Grandville

Status: Passed House, in Senate Committee of the Whole

What it would do: Eliminate domestic partner benefits for public employees — including those at universities — and also restricts such benefits from collective bargaining.

Supporters say: It would save taxpayers about \$8 million, according to the House Fiscal Agency. Proponents also say it's illegal for public employees to receive domestic partner benefits, in light of a 2004 amendment banning same-sex marriage.

Opponents say: The amount to be saved is questionable — the state personnel director the real annual cost is more like \$600,000 — and it's uncertain who would leave the state or not come to work here because of the ban. Opponents also say it would be illegal to put such requirements upon autonomous universities.

House Bill 5040 / Senate Bill 518

Sponsors: Rep. Joe Haveman, R-Holland; Sen. Tupac Hunter, D-Detroit

Status: Both bills are in committee

What it would do: Allow student counselors and social workers to refuse service to individuals when there is a conflict of religious or moral beliefs.

Supporters say: After a graduate student at Eastern Michigan University was punished for not counseling someone who was gay and referred them to someone else because of her religion, her religious freedom was blocked by the school.

Opponents say: This legislation would allow counselors and social workers to discriminate LGBT individuals by refusing to serve them.

islation. That's what (Republicans) claim as a justification for everything they push. They know how desperate the people of Michigan are for jobs. I think it's a phony argument to justify intolerance."

Moreover, opponents — including the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, the ACLU of Michigan, the Michigan Townships Association, Equality Michigan and the Michigan State Employees Association — say the legislation would give the state a reputation of intolerance, keeping out and driving away talented employees. Also, opponents say the 2004 same-sex marriage amendment is not indicative of voters in 2011.

"An anti-equality ballot initiative passed almost a decade ago no longer represents the will of Michigan voters — a fact that clearly demonstrates that discrimination should not be written into a constitution," Emily Dievendorf, policy director for Equality Michigan, said in an e-mail.

5039

State Rep. Tom McMillin, R-Rochester Hills, introduced House Bill 5039 on Oct. 5. It's before the House's Judiciary Committee, though it is not clear whether the committee will take action on it this year.

The bill seeks to amend the state's Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1976 by prohibiting state agencies or local units of governments — including schools and a "community college district" — from adopting rules, regulations or ordinances "that includes, as a protected class, any classification not specifically included as a

protected class under this act." It also voids "Any existing ordinance, rule, regulation, or policy that includes, as a protected class, any classification not specifically included as a protected class under this act."

Part of what the Elliott Larsen Act does is prohibit discriminatory practices based on "religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, familial status, or marital status."

McMillin, an accountant and business owner in his second term, could not be reached for comment.

The Lansing and East Lansing city councils have each approved resolutions against the proposed legislation. Lansing's Human Rights Ordinance as amended in 2006 prohibits discrimination in "housing, employment and public accommodations" based on "sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and student status" — categories that are not included in the Elliott Larsen Act. In its resolution urging local legislators to vote against HB 5039, the Council states: "The state has no legitimate interest in restricting the ability of local units of government to adopt anti-discrimination ordinances that reflect the values and unique circumstances of our communities."

"Proposed House Bill 5039 would void the City of Lansing's ordinance prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and student status."

Adler said Bolger has not yet taken a position on McMillin's proposal. Adler said he's skeptical that the House will vote on this bill this year.

Hunter, of Equality Michigan's Pride PAC, offered this possibility about HB 5039's power, if adopted: "It may also prevent school districts from enacting enumerated anti-bullying policy. Wouldn't that be convenient?"

5040/518

Named the "Julea Ward Freedom of Conscience Act," the House version of this bill was introduced on the same day as McMillin's HB 5039. The Senate's identical version — sponsored by Tupac Hunter — was referred to a committee in June.

These bills would prohibit universities and colleges from disciplining or discriminating against counseling or social work students who refuse their services "that conflict with a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction of the student, if the student refers the client to a counselor who will provide the counseling or services."

The proposals are in response to an incident at Eastern Michigan University where Julea Ward, a graduate student, was reportedly kicked out of a program for refusing to counsel someone who was gay and referred them to another counselor. AnnArbor.com reported in October that EMU officials had removed Ward for violating the American Counseling Association's code of ethics. The case is before the state Court of Appeals.

Haveman, who is sponsoring the House version, said the bills are being misconstrued as blocking the rights of LGBT individuals. On the contrary, Haveman said, Ward was "treated very poorly based on her religious beliefs. She was really discriminated against based on her religious beliefs."

Amy Hunter, of Equality Michigan's Pride PAC, said Haveman's argument is "an attempt to reframe the dialogue around First Amendment protections. It's not really about allowing her to exercise her conscience. In my thinking, she should go into a different line of work — counseling is not about her, it's about the client."

4163

The Legislature agreed on an anti-bullying bill Tuesday that requires school districts that don't already have an anti-bullying policy to adopt one within six months

after the governor signs the bill.

However, it's not what LGBT advocates had in mind. That vision would have afforded protections specifically based on sexual orientation and gender identification — as well as for any other child — and would require more stringent reporting on the part of schools, Hunter said.

Equality Michigan's Amy Hunter praised the decision to remove the controversial "license to bully" language, but she still condemned the bill overall.

"It's still not enumerated," she said, referring to such commonly targeted characteristics such as effeminacy. "It doesn't have teeth. It doesn't have the back-end reporting requirements that are needed."

"Studies don't just suggest, they pretty much unequivocally say that states that

See LGBT, Page 10

House Bill 5039


Sponsor: Rep. Tom McMillin, R-Rochester Hills

Status: Introduced Oct. 5; in House Judiciary Committee

What it would do: Restrict local governments and school districts from adopting non-discrimination policies that go beyond the 1976 Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act. It also would void current policies, like the city of Lansing's Human Rights Ordinance. Elliott Larsen Act does not protect sexual orientation, gender identity or student status.

Supporters say: McMillin could not be reached for comment.

Opponents say: This bill would eliminate local communities' ability to extend civil rights protections for individuals.



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LGBT

from page 9

have non-enumerated anti-bullying bills, or districts, show no difference in the amount of bullying in relation to states or school districts (with them). They might as well not even have the darn thing."

But Jones, who sponsored the controversial Senate bill that fell flat, sees it differently. He said, "Any time you add enumerations you exclude children. You could never possibly list every reason a child can be bullied. It's a better policy legally to say no child be bullied."

Jones also said if all bullying cases had to be reported by school boards, "you're adding

an unfunded mandate, then it gets very hard to pass a bill. My goal is to get something done. Let's get something passed. We've been talking about this for years."

Adler echoed Jones' concerns about adding enumerations to the bill. He also said, "We ended up using a brand new bill that had already been in the House because (the Senate's version), in name alone, was toxic."

Do they have legs?

While only one of these bills is guaranteed to go before the governor, they all could. For now, it's uncertain how Snyder will react to any of this legislation if it passes the House and Senate. A request for comment from the Governor's Office was not returned.

Dievendorf, of Equality Michigan, said Snyder has a chance to prove himself on

whether he supports any of these proposals.

"Governor Snyder prides himself on being a pragmatist moderate. He is from Ann Arbor. We can assume that, like all of us, he has friends he would do real harm to by approving legislative anti-equality initiatives. The fair-minded in Michigan are just waiting to see if he will be the grown up in the room or cave to partisan politics," she said in an e-mail.

For Amy Hunter, HB 5039 is "the thing I really have my head around." That's the proposal that would strike down local communities' non-discrimination ordinances and prevent them from enacting anything more stringent than the 1976 Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act. "I don't want to go the route of the courts with it," she said.

But local units of government are where Hunter also sees progress being made on equal protections based on sexual orientation and gender identification. The Pride PAC endorses candidates in local elections.

"We ran a modest but successful and well-received campaign to have everyday folks nominate people as pro-equality candidates to try and get people interested in the electoral process, particularly at the local level," she said. "These are folks who have a major impact on daily lives. ... We're trying to make the argument of why it's important for the state, for the well being of everyone in the state, why it makes economic sense to embrace diversity. These are not esoteric issues — it's for the well being of the state."

House Bill 4163

Sponsor: Rep. Phil Potvin, R-Cadillac

Status: Passed House Nov. 10, passed Senate Tuesday. Awaits Gov. Snyder approval

What it would do: Create a statewide anti-bullying policy that would require school districts to institute such policies within six months after adoption.

Supporters say: At least there isn't language (which was in a previous version) that would have exempted statements based on religious or moral beliefs. A non-enumerated bill means individuals aren't singled out and everyone is covered. Signals an end to a several-year debate on adopting an anti-bullying policy.

Opponents say: The bill won't have teeth. Those who wanted a strong bill said an enumerated bill — that specifically protects LGBT individuals — with stronger reporting requirements would have been effective, as is shown in other states.

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Arts & Culture

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Playing a different game

Having left the basketball court behind, Delvon Roe takes on a challenge: a professional acting career

By NICOLE LaCHANCE

In the high-pressure world of college sports, it's easy for players to become consumed by the game and for a career-stopping injury to seem like the end of the world. This September, Michigan State University senior Delvon Roe chose to end a promising basketball career due to chronic knee pain. But he's found there is life beyond the court.

After his decision not to play in his senior year, Roe decided to pursue an acting career. The theater major has already been cast in two films, "AWOL," with Liam Hemsworth, and "Gametime," with Danny Glover and James Brolin, both set to be released next year.

He is also in the running to play Earvin "Magic" Johnson in "Magic/Bird," a Broadway play inspired by the friendship between Johnson and fellow basketball legend Larry Bird.

"I love the ability to step outside yourself as a person and become someone totally different," Roe said. Another great thing about acting is the ability to put aside your personal problems and dive into a character, he added.

Unlike basketball, which he has been

playing since childhood, acting was not always an interest for Roe. In fact, it was not until he came to MSU that the thought even crossed his mind. As a criminal justice major, Roe was required to take two theater classes. His teachers noticed his natural acting ability and urged him to become a theater major, which he refused. It was not until a tutor really pushed him to enter theater that he decided to make the switch, he said.

"I'm so glad that she pushed me to start acting," he said. "I really feel like I have a lot of opportunities in the future."

Roe auditioned for the theater program and was accepted. He was also required to audition for the spring plays, and was subsequently cast a wrestler in "As You Like It." Roe enjoyed this role because it gave him a chance to experience wrestling, which he had never done before.

His acting experience at MSU led him to sign with manager Nadia Sellers of Okemos Modeling. Earlier this year, he played a supporting role in his first movie, the war film "AWOL," an experience that he says he greatly enjoyed.

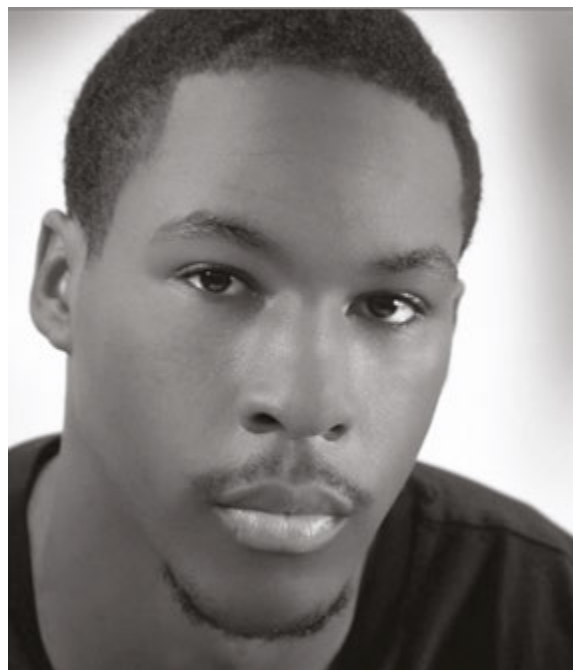
"In movies each day is something different," Roe said. "The last scene of a movie is really the first scene of shoot. To see that transform into a movie is really special." He would prefer to focus more on movies in the future, but will always love the art of a theater production, he added.

If it weren't for his chronic knee problems, however, he would never have pursued those opportunities and would of instead focused on a career in the National Basketball Association.

"That's why I really believe everything happens for a reason," he said. "If I had been playing I would not have been able to do 'AWOL.' I wouldn't have had the time."

Basketball will always be a part of Roe's life. He still hangs out with his former teammates and frequently watches their games, he

For more information about Delvon Roe, visit his page at the Internet Movie Database at www.imdb.com/name/nm4615544/.



Courtesy Photo

Although he won't be playing basketball for Michigan State University, Delvon Roe won't be bored: He has two movies opening next year and he's auditioned to play Earvin "Magic" Johnson in the Broadway production of "Magic/Bird."

See Roe, Page 12

Downward (hot) dog

Warm up your muscles — and everything else — in the steamy studios of East Lansing Hot Yoga

By CARLEE SCHEPELER

Michigan may soon turn into a frozen tundra once again. But take one step inside Patricia Sutherland's new hot yoga studio, and you might soon forget there's any such thing as winter.

The 900-square-foot room heats to 105 degrees and 40 percent humidity during classes. A full-length mirror covers one of the walls.

"It's helpful to be able to see yourself, so you can focus on the poses and what's going on with your body," said Sutherland, a self-described hippie.

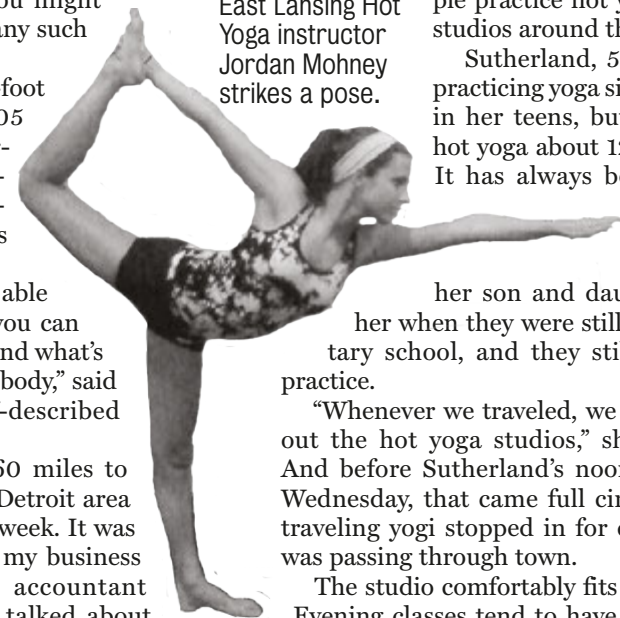
"I was driving 60 miles to do hot yoga in the Detroit area a couple of times a week. It was on those trips that my business partner (Lansing accountant Tom Anton) and I talked about how crazy it is that there was no hot yoga studio in the Lansing area."

Anton and Sutherland struggled to find an appropriate retail space, but final-

ly found it in Trowbridge Plaza, next to Subway. East Lansing Hot Yoga opened on Sept. 28.

Courtesy Photo

East Lansing Hot Yoga instructor Jordan Mohney strikes a pose.



More than a million people practice hot yoga in 850 studios around the world.

Sutherland, 51, has been practicing yoga since she was in her teens, but first tried hot yoga about 12 years ago. It has always been a family affair:

She started taking

her son and daughter with her when they were still in elementary school, and they still regularly practice.

"Whenever we traveled, we would seek out the hot yoga studios," she recalled. And before Sutherland's noon class last Wednesday, that came full circle when a traveling yogi stopped in for class as she was passing through town.

The studio comfortably fits around 30. Evening classes tend to have the biggest turnout, so beginners might have a more worthwhile experience in the 6 or 9 a.m.

See Hot Yoga, Page 12



Courtesy Photo

Unlock 'The Key'

The death of a Larry Flynt-style porn peddler leads a teenager (Kaitlyn Marie Giguere, pictured above) into a maze of family secrets in "The Key," a feature from writer-director (and Okemos native) Jack Schaberg. The locally produced thriller co-stars Christine Marie, Don Cochran, Joseph Lushi, Sherzad Sinjari, Mike Lepara, Dereck Gauss and Gordon Clark. It will be shown at 5:15, 7:30 and 9:45 p.m. Dec. 8 at Celebration Cinema, 200 E. Edgewood Blvd. in Lansing. Tickets are \$5.50 for all seats for the 5:15 show; \$8.50 for adults, \$7.75 for students, \$7 for seniors and \$6.50 for children at evening shows. Visit celebrationcinema.com, or call (517) 393-7469.

Hot Yoga

from page 11

classes, which typically attract 10 people or fewer.

"It's almost like one-on-one training," Sutherland said. "It's the perfect way to start your day."

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RiverwalkTheatre.com

Almost 30 classes are held per week, and a free class is offered every Saturday. A \$5 class is held Tuesdays at noon with lower heat, so beginners can transition into full heat if they prefer.

"We don't recommend (hot yoga) for pregnant women," Sutherland said, but otherwise she encourages anyone who is interested to give it a try.

"It seems to help people with all kinds of conditions, so long as they listen to their bodies," she said. "If a person has to sit down, that's OK — we encourage that."

She advises people not to come to class with a full stomach — a light snack beforehand is preferred — and to arrive well-hydrated. Students are encouraged to

East Lansing Hot Yoga

924 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing
Offering 29 60- or 90-minute classes per week
For prices and times, visit www.eastlansinghotyoga.com
(517) 337-0399

wear light, comfortable clothing, (Teachers haven't yet had anyone pass out — and they'd like to keep it that way.)

About 60 percent of the turnout is typically college students.

The teachers say that hot yoga benefits anyone involved in intensive sports, because it increases flexibility that many athletes may lack.

One of Sutherland's regulars is a runner who underwent surgery and is now able to run four miles again without stopping.



Courtesy Photo

A Tuesday night class gets ready to warm up at East Lansing Hot Yoga.

"It's 100 percent due to the hot yoga, because our focus is so much on the breathing," she said. Unlike other sports, she says, yoga is nearly impossible to overdo.

"Your muscles are more tense in cooler weather," said Laura Hagler, one of the studio's primary teachers.

"Only after about half an hour of warming up are your muscles warm enough and supple enough to start doing the poses as you should."

A typical class begins with breathing exercises and a few sets of standing poses. While all skill levels practice together, the more advanced people are often so focused that they don't notice what's going on around them.

"Once you've tried it with heat, you don't want to go back," Sutherland said.

Roe

from page 11

said, adding that they are enjoying his career as well.

"They're glad I'm doing something that I love to do and that I have the opportunity to do," he said. "Most people love to do two different things but never get to explore that second opportunity. I am fortunate enough to have the opportunity to do two things I love in my life."


There are many parallels between basketball and acting, Roe said. In basketball, you have to have confidence and learn to be calm, just as in acting.

After his graduation next May, Roe would like to pursue acting full time and has set ambitious goals for himself.

"I would like to work my way up to becoming one of the best actors there is," he said, adding that he has a long day to go. "I feel if I put my mind, and heart and everything I have into it, one day I could possibly get to those goals."

In acting and basketball, Roe believes in pursuing things with all your heart — and that's advice he would like to pass onto others.

"Really believe in what your abilities are," he said. "Believe that you are meant to do what you are doing, and if you want to do it go out and do it 100 percent."



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Celebrate Christmas twice in one night

Mid-Michigan Family Theatre presents a pair of holiday-themed productions

By **CRISTINA TOSCANO**

It's the season of giving, and Mid-Michigan Family Theater is not about to be stingy. Director Bill Gordon has put together a double feature of holiday-themed plays, "The Goblins and the Gravedigger" and "The Christmas Coat," opening Friday.

That's not all: Gordon says a there will be a generous dose of Christmas carols in the productions as well.

"The Goblins and the Gravedigger," based on an episode from Charles Dickens' "The Pickwick Papers," puts a spin on Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol."

While everyone in a small English village is excitedly preparing for the Christmas festivities in 1860, the town's lonely and cantankerous sexton, Gabriel Grubb (played by Chuck Sartorius), heads toward the cemetery and encounters three goblins, played by Erin Deal, Sabrina Boxer and Olivia Schafer. They take him on the ride of his life to view events in his past that



Courtesy Photo

Charles Dickens' "The Pickwick Papers" inspired "The Goblins and the Gravedigger," one of the one-acts Mid-Michigan Family Theatre is presenting.

will lead to his new future.

A pair of real-life siblings — 10-year-

old Adele Colson and 8-year-old Forrest Colson — play the brother and sister at the center of "The Christmas Coat."

Dick is a shoe-shine boy and Maggie is his match-selling sister. They find themselves on the streets during Christmas Eve, unable to find any food or shelter, due to lack of sales.

But their luck changes when they meet a poor woman named Mrs. Sullivan (Julie Waterbury) and a gentleman (Antonio Bellosillo) who changes their lives.

"Goblins" and "Coat" are also part of the Stages of the Law series: Tickets for the Dec. 10 performance are two-for-one, and the evening features a talkback with Cooley Law School Professor Chris Church, followed by a reception.

'The Goblins and the Gravedigger' and 'The Christmas Coat'

Mid-Michigan Family Theatre
440 Frandor Ave., Lansing
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7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 3 p.m. Sundays \$6 for students and adults; \$4 for pre-school age. Tickets are two-for-one on Dec. 10 for Stages of the Law night.
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THE SCREENING ROOM

by JAMES SANFORD

Diane Keaton's memoir makes for lovely listening

When should you choose the audiobook over the printed version of a new memoir? When the author is Oscar winner Diane Keaton. Reading her recently published "Then Again," the endearing, feisty and sometimes remarkably frank star sounds as if she's sharing these stories in an intimate conversation over tea and scones.

She's an irresistibly charming narrator as she guides you through not only her own story but also the chronicle of her late mother. Dorothy Dean Hall Keaton kept dozens of private journals throughout her life, and Keaton uses excerpts from them to contrast her own experiences. For example, by the time she was 60, her mother had seen her four children grow up and move on; just before her 50th birthday, Keaton adopted her first baby, so by the time she is 60 she's only midway through the mothering years.

By any standards, Keaton's life is charmed. In the early 1960s, she admires Woody Allen while he performs stand-up comedy on TV and she swoons over Warren Beatty's performance in "Splendor in the Grass." Less than 20 years later, she will have had long-term relationships with both men, associations that brought out the best in her as an actress as well: She won an Academy Award as best actress in Allen's 1977 hit "Annie Hall," then earned another Oscar nomination (and some of the best reviews of her career) playing the opportunistic would-be journalist Louise Bryant in "Reds," Beatty's 1981 epic.

Keaton acknowledges these triumphs — and, lest she start to sound too egocentric, she also shares a telling, unflattering story about her aloof reaction to being praised by Audrey Hepburn after collecting her Oscar for "Annie." She's equally willing to talk about her disappointments, bad reviews and her down periods in the mid-

1980s and mid-1990s in which she lost her box office appeal and felt "washed up as an actress" and yearned to become a director or a documentarian. Her turbulent affair with Beatty eventually collapses because, she realizes, "I didn't want to love Warren Beatty — I wanted to be Warren Beatty," the self-assured, multi-talented artist who acts, produces and directs.

As for Keaton's mother, she balances maintaining a picture-perfect 1950s home with dabbling in photography and art (she and her daughter are both collage enthusiasts), although there's an undercurrent of dissatisfaction in her diaries. When she expresses admiration for her daughter's accomplishments, there's an inescapable hint of envy, as well. In the final chapters of "Then Again," Keaton provides a heart-wrenching study of her mom's slow deterioration as Alzheimer's wipes away her memories and eventually forces her to stop writing because she can no longer put together sentences. In a wickedly ironic twist, the maternal Dorothy fades away just as Diane is beginning to feel comfortable with her new role as a parent.

"Then Again" supplies some fascinating anecdotes about moviemaking — including notes about Al Pacino's love of long, late-night conversations and an aside about "First Wives Club" co-star Goldie Hawn guzzling health-food shakes while she smoked — but it's ultimately a wonderful mother/daughter story.

It would undoubtedly be a moving tale on the page. But hearing it adds a completely different dimension. Keaton jokes, sighs and sometimes sounds as if she can barely hold it together long enough to finish reading the sadder sections. It's a knockout of a one-woman show, and if I hadn't been listening to it in my car, I would have gladly given her a standing ovation.



'Then Again' by Diane Keaton

Published in hardback, eBook and on CD by Random House. Available for audio download at Random House, Audible, eMusic and other audiobook vendors.

Twenty1 is a lucky number for Griffin and McCallum

Filmmakers host a screening of their collaborations

By MARY C. CUSACK

Filmmakers A.E. Griffin and Michael McCallum may be the hardest working men in Michigan show business. It's impossible to count how many productions they have worked on, both independently and collectively, because they don't stop working long enough to draft a proper curriculum vitae.

The pair has organized a fund- and awareness-raising event at the Michigan Brewing Co. in downtown Lansing on Sunday. Audiences will see five short pieces from Griffin's body of work, most of which feature McCallum in lead roles. A sixth piece by another member of their film posse, Justin Muschong, will be included in the mix.

The event will support McCallum's Rebel Pictures and Griffin's UnSAFE Film Office's continued entries into national and international film festivals as well as film projects in the works.

The event could be considered a premiere, according to McCallum.

"We're excited about this because all of those films haven't played together," he said, nor have they been screened publicly in the Lansing area.

The films were created for an annual event called the 21 Day Filmmaking Competition, sponsored by the Philadelphia nonprofit Project Twenty1. Filmmakers have 21 days to create a short film that contains elements specified by the organizers.

Griffin has participated in the competition for the past five years. He said the challenge of making a high-quality short film in 21 days intrigued him: "For me, it meant accepting the challenge to tell a strong story; one with an emotional impact in less than 10 minutes."

But while he has enjoyed participating, 2011 marked Griffin's final year in the competition.

"I feel I've accomplished all I wanted to do with a 10-minute film in this style of competition," he explained. To avoid overstaying his welcome and risk falling into a creative rut, Griffin said he "decided that it was time to retire from it when I was confident we could leave on our terms and on

a high note."

A quick look at the films, along with the number of awards they have won at various film festivals:

"Red Seven" (best acting winner at the 2007 Project Twenty1 competition; also nominated for best film, best directing, best marketing): An intense crime caper that is less about the caper and more



Courtesy photo

Director A.E. Griffin's thriller "The Girl With Blue Eyes" is one of the films in the 'Project Twenty1' event Sunday at Michigan Brewing Co. in Lansing.

about the relationships between the trio of would-be criminals.

"Playback" (Grace Anne Rowan won as best actress winner in a short film at Detroit Independent Film Festival in 2010; nominated for best acting and best editing at Project Twenty1 in 2008): Grace Anne Rowan deserves her win as best actress for this dark and slightly disturbing piece. While the audience is never quite sure what has happened, we know through an audio tape narrative and flashy flashbacks that something bad indeed has occurred.

"Tumbler: The Boom" (best writing winner at Project Twenty1 in 2009): A film by Chris Karcia and Griffin/McCallum collaborator Justin Muschong, this imaginative short features a voice-over that tells a fairy tale of New York, while the visuals reveal the sad truth of scam artist Spencer's attempt to make it big in the Big Apple.

"Tumbler: The Echo" (best score win-

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Twenty1

from page 16

ner at Project Twenty1 in 2009, and honorable mention for best film at Detroit Independent Film Festival in 2011): Griffin's piece is a sideways sequel to "Tumbler: The Boom" and also a cinematographic love letter to the Chicago skyline. Wayne, who was Spencer's unseen partner in crime in "Boom," returns to Chicago and attempts to patch things up with Michelle, the woman he left at the altar. The story is told from Michelle's point of view, but reality is steeped in ambiguity.

"All of the Highs, None of the Lows" (best acting winner at Project Twenty1 in 2010; nominated for best actress (Shirley Clemens) and best supporting actress (Brittany Risner), best original score, best

soundtrack, best director, best cinematography at the Maverick Movie Awards in 2010; nominated for best actress (Shirley Clemens) at Detroit Independent Film Festival in 2011): This film could also be called "Days of Vodka and Roses," as a couple struggles with the husband's alcoholism. The drama is juxtaposed with scenes of a pretty girl flirting over the phone with her boyfriend while traipsing the sunny city streets. It is a bit predictable that when the two stories collide, it can't end well.

"The Girl with the Blue Eyes" (best director winner and audience choice winner at Project Twenty1 in 2011; also nominated for best film, best marketing, best sound design and best editing): The screening ends with a bang with this action-packed piece, a slick, abridged hybrid of "La Femme Nikita" and Hong Kong action flicks such as "Naked Killer."

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Courtesy photo

Bruce Allen Kopytek looks back at the many Jacobson's department store locations, including the spacious East Lansing store, which closed in 2000.

Reminiscing about retail

Author charts the rise and fall of Jacobson's

By BILL CASTANIER

For more than 58 years, Jacobson's was the upscale outfitter for the greater Lansing area, selling everything from dainty white gloves to imported Biedermann Christmas ornaments.

In the heyday of the East Lansing Jacobson's, you could take your kids to "Breakfast With Santa" or sit down for an elegant dinner in the Asian-inspired 1970 East Room restaurant. As a Michigan State University grad, you knew you'd arrived when you bought your business attire there, or registered for your wedding. Opening a Christmas present in a Jacobson's box was extra-special, making your heart beat a little faster.

Now you can relive some of those memories — and maybe reflect on your first formal for the J-Hop — with "Jacobson's: I Miss It So." Bruce Allen Kopytek, a Shelby Township architect, has written the history of Jacobson's department stores, which began in Reed City in 1838, and grew to

become a chain of 30 stores in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Florida before succumbing to suburbanization, malls and changing shopping tastes.

The delightful book profiles the architecture, the employees and the man behind Jacobson's, the company chairman Nathan Rosenfeld. The author writes about Rosenfeld's keen business acumen, but also about his whimsical approach to business.

For example, he tells how Rosenfeld would award "Million Dollar Roundtable" pins to buyers who basically screwed up and their selections resulted in "million-dollar markdowns." His reasoning, Kopytek writes, was that "the reward was for taking risks, and in spite of their mistakes, they were able to learn from them."

Rosenfeld's legendary sense of humor also found its way into some store products. There may be someone out there with a tie originally designed by Rosenfeld as a motivational gift to employees: Emblazoned with the acronym YCDBSOYA — "You Can't

Do Business Sitting On Your Assets" — the tie became a bestseller in the store.

The 202-page book also highlights Rosenfeld's attention to detail, a trait he shared with his wife, Marjorie. Before the opening of the East Lansing store in 1970, Rosenfeld noticed the life-sized Russian wolfhounds in a display lacked dog licenses: They were in place the next day when the store opened.

Rosenfeld's staff meetings were held at a round table where everyone's opinions were equal; Marjorie demanded that her tuna casserole be served at meetings of the company's board of directors.

Kopytek is especially adept at describing the architecture and interiors of the Jacobson's physical plants, and he singles out some of the more dazzling stores in Ann Arbor, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Battle Creek, Grosse Pointe, Dearborn and the flagship store in Birmingham.

East Lansing's varied locations are described and tracked in a chapter titled "A Capital Idea." The East Lansing Jacobson's was first housed in several locations along Grand River until 1970, when they were pulled together (with the exception of the home furnishings store) in a new state-of-the-art 117,000 square-foot location, which closed in 2000 when Jacobson's relocated to the Meridian Mall. (The East Lansing space was taken over by Varnes and Noble, which plans to close by the end of the year.)

When the Jacobson's chain folded in 2002, the Meridian Mall location was converted to a Younkers.

A masterful researcher, Kopytek attributes his interest in department stores to his mother "dragging him downtown to Hudson's as a child" and his family's extensive traveling. Even as young boy Kopytek kept notes about his department store adventures. When he was laid off from his job a couple years ago as an architect, he started a blog (TheDepartmentStoreMuseum.blogspot.com) to give himself something to do.

"I was searching frantically for a job," he said, "and I needed a project or I'd go crazy."

Kopytek had spent most of his architectural career designing banks and credit unions. "You know what happened there," he said.

A comment on his blog advised him to contact The History Press, which was looking for someone to write a book on the Jacobson's chain.

For background, Kopytek called on various historical collections but especially the Ella Sharpe Museum in Jackson, which houses Jacobson's corporate records. He also was able to gain unlimited access to Mark Rosenfeld, who became chairman after his father's death in 1982.

Two especially enjoyable chapters are "Let's Do Lunch" and "Nathanisms." "Let's Do Lunch" examines Jacobson's food service, including reproductions of menus and recipes for some of the more popular dishes served in the restaurants.

"Nathanisms" is a collection of down-home colloquialisms about life or business uttered or written by Rosenfeld. One of my favorites: "Consumer credit should be used to benefit the consumer and not the retailer who tries to make his profit on finance charges."

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Courtesy photo

Saper Galleries features "Love and Family: The Ceramic Relief Tiles of Ruth Faktor."

New Exhibits

Art Alley

"Speaking with Images," paintings and illustrations by Stefan Johnson. Reception: 7-10 p.m. Dec. 2. Hours: 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday. 1133 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 898-4046.

Creole Gallery

"Working Women Artists," creative works, art and artifacts: ceramics, photography, jewelry, drawings, painting, prints and more. Reception: Noon-5 p.m. Dec. 3. Hours: 1-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. 1218 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-2736.

East Lansing Public Art Gallery

"Interpretations," the work of Flint native and photographer Jennifer Walker. Reception: 1-2 p.m. Dec. 4. Also: "Annual East Lansing Elementary Schools Art Exhibit" showcases a variety of student work in the North Foyer Gallery. Reception: 1:30-4 p.m. Dec. 4. Hours: 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday; noon-8 p.m. Sunday. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 241-9230.

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MICA Gallery

Artists showing work include Greg Limmer, Anne Nolan, Dennis Preston, Mary Cusack, Bruce Thayer and Ilene Curtis. Reception: Noon-4 p.m. Dec. 4. Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. 1210 Turner St., Lansing (517) 371-4600. www.oldtownarts.org.

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Multiple artists from the Mid-Michigan Art Guild will display their work. Reception: 2-4 p.m. Dec. 4. Hours: 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 1-7 p.m. Sunday. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 349-0250.

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Williamston Depot Museum

Holiday open house, featuring a Christmas exhibition by Val Berryman with the theme "The Art of Christmas." Reception: 2-4 p.m. December 4. Hours: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday. 2-4 p.m. Second Sunday of the Month. 369 West Grand River Williamston. (517) 655-1030. www.williamston-museum.org.

Ongoing

Lansing Art Gallery

Holiday Art Market, works inspired by the down-river area by Detroit artists and educators Jeanne Bieri, Martine MacDonald and Nancy Patek. Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. 119 N. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 374-6400. www.lansingartgallery.com.

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AMY ALKON
advicemy@aol.com

Q: Two years ago, my man left his 22-year marriage to be with me, but he told me he loved his former wife and would always want a friendship with her. I accepted that (I'm friends with my ex), but I'm bothered by the amount of contact they have. They do have two adult children and own property together. But, although she's living with a new partner, she sometimes wants to borrow his car, have him pick up the dogs, or drop off some paperwork. They phone about every other day, and not a week goes by without his stopping over — occasionally for a family dinner. I get plenty of his time, energy and affection, and I know their relationship isn't romantic. The issue is split loyalty — all the effort he's putting into remaining "loving friends" with a woman who'd love to see our relationship fail. Am I being petty and jealous? It feels like she's clinging hard — and so is he.

—The One Who Stole Her Man

A: Once you get to a certain age, there's no starting a relationship with a clean slate. You meet somebody and it's never "Hi, here I am, just me and this little suitcase!" — unless his entire family disappeared into a giant sinkhole or went back in time while on vacation and was caught in the volcanic eruption at Pompeii.

There is much to be said for having a mature attitude about one's divorce. Friends of the divorced encourage it by emailing inspirational quotes like "When one door closes, another door opens." Annoyingly, in this case, that quote continues "And then that first door opens back up and a woman leans out and asks what time your man'll be coming over to take the dog to the vet."

Jealousy is the guard dog of human relationships, an evolutionary adaptation that helps us defend ourselves against mate-swiping. As cognitive psychologist Dr. Nando Pelusi and I discussed recently on my weekly radio show (blogtalkradio.com/amyalkon), jealousy is productive

when there's a real threat that your partner might fall for someone else and leave you for them. Jealousy is counterproductive when you *know* he's going to leave you for someone else — but just for a few hours a week to drop off some paperwork and deworm the dog.

Of course, to be human is to be small and petty. (To be successfully small and petty is to not let it show.) Lashing out, snapping, "Excuse me, but wasn't she supposed to get her husband privileges revoked in the divorce?" will just make him defensive. Instead, use your vulnerability in a powerful way. Evoke his sympathy by saying something like "Listen, I understand that you two have kids and property and a friendship, but I'm feeling a little insecure about all the time and attention you're devoting to her." Chances are he'll reassure you by explaining why you have nothing to worry about, and maybe even consider dialing it back a little. On the bright side, you're with a guy who isn't one to drop-kick his obligations the moment some husband-stealing hussy comes along. Maybe try to laugh at how happy endings are sometimes the messiest and enough to make you pine for a good old Jerry Springer-style breakup. At least when one's dumping the other's clothes on the front lawn, pouring gasoline on them, and lighting them on fire, the logical human response isn't ringing the perpetrator up and asking to borrow their car.

Q: One of my coolest girlfriends is in love with a total dud. He gets wasted at every party, talks in front of her about how hot other women are, and is generally pretty disrespectful of her. I keep wanting to yank him aside and ask him whether he knows how lucky he is. Now I'm thinking I need to yank my friend aside and tell her she can do better.

—Disgusted

A: It's considered an act of friendship to tell a girlfriend that she's got a piece of spinach stuck between her teeth. You'd think she'd be equally appreciative when

you point out that she's got a soulmate stuck in some other woman's cleavage. But, her ego is probably all tied up in her belief that she's found love, and she'd probably just get combative. Instead of telling her she's making a mistake, try to get her to come to that conclusion by borrowing from an addiction therapy technique called "motivational interviewing." Get her to talk about what she wants (all the wonderful qualities she's seeking in a man), and then gently ask her how that stacks up against what she has. By drawing the discrepancies out of her, you're leading her to do the math: She hasn't so much fallen in love as she's slipped in a pile of something somebody should've picked up with a plastic bag.

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To read more of Amy's advice and guidance, please visit our Web site at www.lansingcitypulse.com

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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

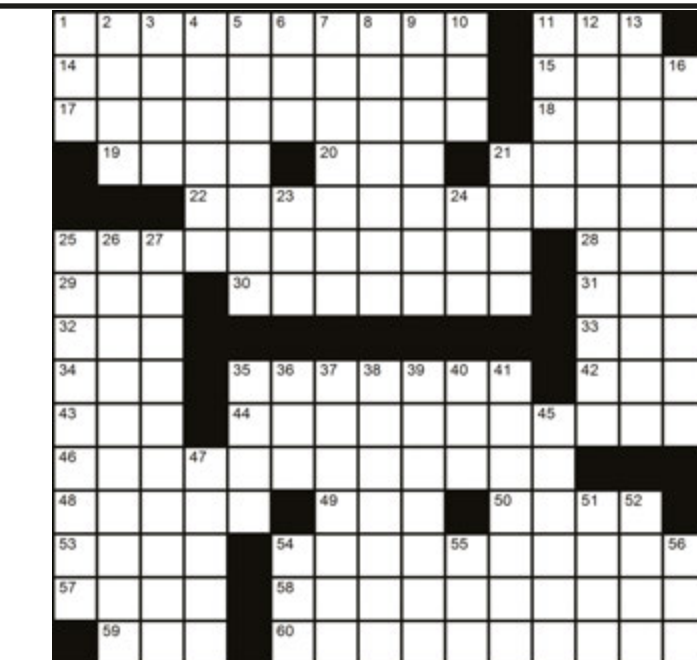
"Out for the Day"
—dish up, dig in,
drop out.

by Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Late November drowsiness
11 ___ Friday's (restaurant chain)
14 You, you, you, or me
15 Dungeons & Dragons creatures
17 They're used in repair of fractures
18 Bump into
19 "Gone in 60 Seconds" director Dominic
20 Org. that assigns numerical IDs
21 Fashion model/volleyball player Gabrielle
22 Tone Loc single released just after "Funky Cold Medina"

- 25 Controversial engineering
28 Lacto-___ vegetarian
29 "Then what happened?"
30 Think it could possibly be
31 Himalayan country: abbr.
32 Trippy stuff
33 "This American Life" host Glass
34 Vietnam Memorial designer Maya
35 They're found in kids' books
42 Massive Brit. lexicon
43 Shiba ___ (cute dog breed)
44 Duration of amateur boxing matches, often
46 Seasonal help
48 Forbidden topics:



- var.
49 WWII naval vessel
50 "There ___ substitute for..."
53 Suffix after Manhattan or McCarthy
54 Giving the cold shoulder
57 Part of CD
58 They swing on a steady basis
59 UK mil. award
60 Cause of 1-across, it's said
- 6 "___ Blues" (Beatles song)
7 It goes under your glass
8 Away from the workplace
9 "Axis ___" (1995 album by The Shamen)
10 "Bite my shiny metal ___!" ("Futurama" phrase)
11 "Anger Management" actress
12 Scallion
13 Like Antarctica
16 Note takers' needs
21 Hopeful, as outlooks go
23 "I'm ___ Boat"
24 1968 federal law regulating firearms, for short
25 Extremely angry
26 Stealthily implied
- 27 69 and 101, but not 86
35 Rural rds.
36 Their, to a Herr
37 Searcher for oil
38 Mass per unit volume
39 It has a descender when written in lower case
40 Before, to a poet
41 Alfonso of baseball
45 Use a plunger
47 Village Voice gossip columnist Michael
51 "The Secret of ___" (1982 animated movie)
52 Draft classification
54 Invoice fig.
55 "Wayne's World" rejoinder
56 Channel that revived "The Newlywed Game"

City Pulse Classifieds

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

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City Pulse needs a driver with car to deliver the paper on Wednesdays starting by 9 a.m. Call (517) 999-5069.

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OUT on the TOWN

Wednesday, November 30

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Wreath Making Class. Make one for the holidays. 3:30-6:30 p.m. \$5 materials, \$3 bring your own. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156. www.dewittlibrary.org.

Making Parenting Fun. Include discipline, chores, homework, nutrition, activities and more. 7-8 p.m. FREE. South Church of the Nazarene, 401 W. Holmes Road, Lansing.

Grande Paraders Square Dance Club. Round dancing and alternating plus and more. 7 p.m. \$4 members; \$5. Holt 9th Grade Campus, 5780 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 694-0087.

Race/Inequality. Thomas Sugrue on Detroit as the site of racialized poverty. 6-8:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 323-6452. www.cadl.org.

After School Art Program. Enrolling for Creative Connections, activities for ages 7-12. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643. www.reachstudioart.org.

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. Grand Ledge Baptist Church, 1120 W. Willow Hwy., Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954.

Community Yoga. Power yoga class. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

Meditation. Practice in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, 3015 S. Washington Sqr., Lansing. (517) 351-5866.

Practice Your English. Practice speaking/listening to English in a relaxing atmosphere. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

See Out on the Town, Page 23

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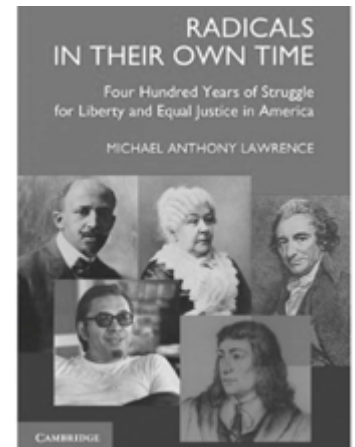
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Listings deadline is 5 p.m. the THURSDAY BEFORE publication. Paid classes will be listed in print at the cost of one enrollment (maximum \$20). Please submit them to the events calendar at www.lansingcitypulse.com. If you need help, please call Jessica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

Dec. 1

MSU professor examines radicals

MSU Professor of Law Michael Lawrence visits Everybody Reads to share: “Radicals in their Own Time: Four Hundred Years of Struggle for Liberty and Equal Justice in America.” The book explores the lives of Roger Williams, Thomas Paine, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, W.E.B Du Bois and Vine Deloria. Lawrence emphasizes two significant observations among the five radicals: Each stressed the necessity of governmental tolerance for the autonomy of all, as well as the belief that religious orthodoxy has been a major source of society’s problems. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads, books and stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-9900.



Courtesy Photo

Dec. 3

Fund-raiser to erect Busby sculpture

On Friday, Creole Gallery opens its doors for an evening filled with live music, refreshments, appetizers and a silent auction. The night celebrates the legacy of the late Robert Busby, artist, jazz musician and motivating force in the Old Town community. The goal is to raise the final funds needed to pay for the installment of a sculpture by Maureen Bergquist Gray. Creole will showcase Busby’s art, as well as auction off one piece of his work. There will also be works by local artists in the silent auction including Dennis Preston’s City Pulse Cover, as well as music by saxophonist Steve Fulger. All proceeds go to the Robert Busby Memorial Fund. 7-10 p.m. \$75 per person, \$125 per couple. The Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner St., Old Town Lansing. (517) 485-4283. www.RobertPBusby.org. www.iloveoldtown.org.



Courtesy Photo

Dec. 2

The bigger the brighter

Downtown East Lansing hopes Saturday will initiate a new holiday tradition. “Winter Glow” features winter activities and the lighting of luminaries throughout downtown at 5 p.m. The day includes ice carving, a reindeer petting zoo, photos with Santa, horse and carriage rides, a kids’ winter carnival, marshmallow roasting, merchant activities, roasted chestnuts, hot chocolate and more. Winter Glow also features a music tent, an outdoor movie and “East Lansing’s Favorite Things”: a holiday gift guide and a winter market. 3-6 p.m. FREE. Downtown East Lansing, with information booth on the corner of Albert Ave. and M.A.C. Ave. (517) 337-1731. www.thecityofeastlansing.com



Courtesy Photo

Dec. 3

Tis the season for Old Town

Take a trip back in time by visiting Old Town to experience a cheerful Victorian scene during the fifth annual Old Town Dickens Village. The festivities begin at 10 a.m. with the Scrooge Scramble, a 5k run/walk through Old Town and the Lansing River Trail. Visitors can build a gingerbread house at Favorites Café, make a holiday card at Gallery 1212, watch the “Wizard of Oz” puppet show or relax on a horse-drawn carriage ride around the neighborhood. The Greater American Fierce Beard Organization will hold a beards/moustache competition to show off members beards and give tips on how to get the perfect moustache. Noon-5 p.m. FREE. Downtown Old Town, Lansing. For a complete list of activities and Scrooge Scramble registration, visit Old Town Dickens Village under Events at www.iloveoldtown.org. (517) 485-4283.

TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

(SCENE) COMPOSES ITSELF

The gallery will host a concert tonight featuring the Sixth Species Ensemble, a Michigan State University-based ensemble spearheaded by MSU music graduate Phillip Sink, who is also a composer, saxophonist and teacher. The concert features new works by fellow university composers, including Victor Marquez, Phillip Sink, Louis Andriessen, Tim Patterson and Mark O'Connor. The Sixth Species Ensemble has been a semester-long collaboration in which MSU musicians join forces as a composer collective devoted to performing only new works by living composers. One of the pieces the ensemble will perform is Sink's own song cycle, "Dans les Nuages," for baritone, harp, vibraphone and bass clarinet. To preview Sink's song, "When We Were Young," recorded by the Sixth Species Ensemble, visit www.phillipsink.com.

Wednesday, Nov. 30 @ (SCENE) Metrospace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. \$5 public, \$3 with student ID, all ages, doors at 7 p.m.; music at 7:30 p.m.

MAC'S BAR GETS HEAVY

Since Cavalcade signed with Housecore Records (a label owned by former Pantera frontman Phil Anselmo) the Lansing-based weird-metal band has kept busy playing shows, recording tracks for an upcoming album, and even touring with Down, Anselmo's own metal band. "(The members of Cavalcade) are extreme in their own sense, but they bring a whole new element to the genre," Anselmo said in a 2010 interview. On Friday, Cavalcade plays Mac's Bar, along with headliners Sleepdealer, a Grand

Rapids "doom-pop-dream-metal band" with no shortage of obnoxious screams. Opening the show is Record of War, a Lansing hard-rock band made up of Tyler Babcock, Erik Jacobsen and Greg Maher (previously from the local Lansing band Endless Aisle), along with John Peterson on vocals.

Friday, Dec. 2 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18 and over. \$5, 9 p.m.

COUNTRY-FRIED TEX-MEX TUNES AT FIDDLE



Courtesy Photo

Tish Hinojosa

A long-time favorite on the national folk scene, Tish Hinojosa spends most of her time in Europe, only doing a couple of American tours each year. On Friday, she plays the Ten Pound Fiddle; the music starts at 8 p.m. In this rare swing through the Midwest, she'll perform songs influenced by harmonious country, folk music, even some Hispanic sounds. Concertgoers can expect songs sung in English, but also a few in Spanish. Born in 1965, Hinojosa was the youngest of 13 children and was raised by Mexican immigrants. After becoming a fixture in the folk-music world, she's charted twice on the Billboard Country Charts and has recorded 18 albums, including some titles for Rounder Records, a notable American-roots label.

Hinojosa's latest CD, "Our Little Planet" (CRS/Varese Sarabande Records), features a stripped-down country-western sound. The 12 original songs on this collection feature a deeply Americana mix of traditional bluegrass and her trademark sound of contemporary

folk and Tex-Mex. Check out songs and videos at www.mundotish.com.

Friday, Dec. 2 @ Ten Pound Fiddle — Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove Street East Lansing, Lansing. Public \$15, members \$12, students \$5. Box office at 7 p.m., doors at 7:30 p.m., music at 8 p.m. More information at: www.tenpoundfiddle.org.

YOU BETTER WERK



Courtesy Photo

The Werks

Ohio-based jam-band The Werks returns to Mac's Bar on Saturday for a night of "psychedelic dance rock." Since it formed in 2007, the band has released three albums, and made a name for itself across the map, thanks to devoted fans and busy promotional street teams. The group produces a dance-party vibe that fuses the shredding guitars, wild organ jams and even some straightforward classic rock. Its signature sound is centered on its use of funk-slap bass, synthesizers and modern dance beats. The band holds its annual Werk Out Music and Arts Festival each September.

Opening the show is Ty Beat, who combines electronica, hip hop and live-instrumentation into a varied set of experimental music. The Grand Rapids native is equal parts songwriter, producer and drummer. He applies rock-and-roll styling to original hip-hop grooves, creating a live show that's somewhere between a "gritty punk rock show and late-night Detroit rave." Fans of DJ Shadow might want to check out this set.

Saturday, Dec. 3 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18 and over. \$10, 9 p.m.

SUPERDRE RETURNS TO LANSING



Courtesy Photo

SuperDre

Emerging Michigan-born producer and DJ SuperDre spins funky-minimal techno Saturday at The Loft. Also performing are locals Robert Perry and DJ Sammy.

SuperDre, a Grand Rapids DJ/beat maker, has shared bills with the likes of DJ Irene, John Acquaviva and Terrence Parker. She performs most of her sets on turntables, but she also incorporates the use of midi controllers. For more information, visit www.reverbnation.com/superdre.

Saturday, Dec. 3 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, \$5 advance, \$7 for 21 and over, \$10 for 18 and over, must be 18 to enter, doors 9 p.m.

UPCOMING SHOW?

POST IT AT
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TURNITDOWN

LIVE AND LOCAL

To be listed in Live and Local, e-mail your information to liveandlocal@lansingcitypulse.com by Thursday of the week before publication.

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
621, 621 E. Michigan Ave.	Phil Denny, 8 p.m.	Native Sons, 9 p.m.	Shawn Martin, 9 p.m.	DJ Cutt Nice, 7 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		DJ with Travis, 9 p.m.	Smiling Villains, 9 p.m.	Smiling Villains, 9 p.m.
Brannigan Brothers, 210 S. Washington Square		Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m.	Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m.	Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Cloud Magic, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	3rd Degree, 9 p.m.	Tryst Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.		
The Firm, 227 S. Washington Square	John Beltran, 9 p.m.	DJ Skitzo, 9 p.m.	DJ Donnie D, 9 p.m.	DJ Skitzo, 9 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.	Driver & Rider Show, 7 p.m.	Kathy Ford Band, 7 p.m.	Karaoke, 7 p.m.	
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Hooties & Blastica, 9:30 p.m.	Vegas Flu, 9:30 p.m.	3rd Degree, 9:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Burton's Garden, 9 p.m.	Billards Music, 9 p.m.	Superdre, 8 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.			Sleepdealer, 9 p.m.	The Werks, 9 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.		Jen Sygit & The Lincoln County Press, 10 p.m.	Zydacrunch, 10 p.m.	Zydacrunch, 10 p.m.
Rookies, 16460 S. US 27		Karaoke with Bob, 9 p.m.	Karaoke with DJ Roy, 9 p.m.	Karaoke with DJ Roy, 9 p.m.
Rick's American Cafe, 224 Abbott Road		ICE DJs, 10:30 p.m.	Hulkster, 10:30 p.m.	J.Y.D. Band, 10:30 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & The Beeftones, 9 p.m.	Dr. Gun, 9 p.m.	Time to Play, 9 p.m.

Sunday Open Jam with Bad Gravy, 9:30 p.m., Green Door; 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., Uli's Haus of Rock.
Monday Steppin' In It, 9:30 p.m., Green Door; Easy Babies funk trio, 10 p.m., The Exchange.
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 21

Free After School Tutoring. Our tutors create an Individual Learning Plan. 2:40-4:50 p.m. FREE. Eastern High School, 220 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 755-1050. www.lansingschools.net.

EVENTS

Hope for the Holidays. With Gwen Kapcia from Gorsline Runciman Funeral homes followed by a short service. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. www.PilgrimUCC.com.

MUSIC

Jazz Wednesdays. Live entertainment. 7-10 p.m. FREE. ENSO, 16800 Chandler Road. East Lansing. (517) 333-1656. www.enjoyenso.com.

Jazz Wednesdays. Featuring the Jeff Shoup Trio. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Gracies Place, 151 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-1100.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Lansing Area Science Fiction Association Weekly Meeting. Informal dinner and lively conversation. Needed: knowledge of great literary science-fiction as opposed to mass media "sci-fi." 7 p.m. FREE. Sammy's Lounge, 301 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 402-4481.

Thursday, December 1

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

EcoTrek Fitness Outdoor Workout. For all fitness levels. 5:45-7 p.m. \$12. Hawk Meadows Park, Off Delta River Drive, Delta. (517) 243-6538. www.ecotrekfitness.com.

E-Reader. Learn about different electronics. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156. www.dewittlibrary.org.

Stroke Education & Support Group. Information from experts to provide help. 1:30-2:30 p.m. FREE. Burcham Hills Retirement Community, 2700 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. (517) 827-2309.

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.

Free After School Tutoring. 2:40-4:50 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Nov. 30)

EVENTS

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

Morning Storytime. All ages welcome for stories, songs, rhymes, and fun. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014.

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

Hilary Williams at MSU. Graphic designer cultivates communications through analysis. 7 p.m. FREE. South Kedzie Hall, corner of Farm Lane and Auditorium. (517) 432-3961. art.msu.edu.

Rooftop Reindeer & Holiday Open House. Reindeer, refreshments and activities. 5 p.m. FREE. CADL Foster Library, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5185. www.cadl.org/events.

Kindred Spirits Arts & Crafts Show. Hand-made items. Great gifts. 2-8 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St., Lansing. (517) 351-1815.

World AIDS Day. Features people in our community speaking about the effects of living with HIV. With live performances. 11 a.m. FREE. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 394-3719.

Dessert and Silent Auction. Fundraiser for Food Systems Program and more. 5-8 p.m. \$15. North West Initiative, 1012 N. Walnut St., Lansing. (517) 999-2894.

THEATER

"The Surprising Story of the Three Little Pigs." Each child attending will select a free book after the show. 7 p.m. \$5, \$3 per ticket for groups of 10 or more. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 755-4167. www.riverwalktheatre.com.

"This Wonderful Life." John Lepard returns to the stage in his award-winning role as George Bailey, Mr. Potter, and Bedford Falls in this re-told classic. 8 p.m. \$20-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-SHOW. www.williamstontheatre.org.

Auditions. All-of-us Express Children's Theatre is holding auditions for "Robin Hood." Ages 9-18. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 333-2580.

Friday, December 2

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Squirrels in Michigan. Home schooled children can enhance science education. 1 p.m. \$4 class; \$10 season. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

LGBT Media Night and Discussion. Watch LGBT movies and shows, followed by discussion. Room 262. 4:30 p.m. FREE. LCC Gannon Building, 422 N Washington Sqr., Lansing.

EVENTS

Teen Advisory Group. Plan teen events and give suggestions. Ages 13-18. 5-6 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext.3. www.dttl.org.

Teen DIY: Jewelry. Ages 13-18. Get crafty with jewelry for yourself or friends and family. 6-9 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. www.dttl.org.

Home: Perspectives on the Familiar & False

Dichotomies. Rethinking aesthetics in art and everyday life. 5-7 p.m. FREE. Kresge Art Museum, located at Physics and Auditorium roads, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 353-9834. www.art.msu.edu.

MSU's Community Club Holiday. Erik Runkle, speaks on the history of the poinsettia. 12:30 p.m. FREE. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 349-3579.

Green Friday. Shopping, dining and sales featured, Participating business hours will vary. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. FREE. Downtown East Lansing, Grand River Ave., East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com/greenfriday.

Deadline for Mayor's Grant. The Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Board will oversee the grant process, benefiting neighborhoods and the amounts to be granted. 5 p.m. FREE. Lansing Neighborhood Council, 5815 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 393-9883. www.lansingneighborhoods.com/mayorsgrants.html.

Santa Call Deadline. Personal phone calls from Santa Claus to local children; fill form out online. 5 p.m. Suggested donation \$2. Delta Township Parks and Recreation, 7710 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. (517) 323-8555. www.deltami.gov/parks.

MUSIC

Tish Hinojosa. Live music. 8 p.m. \$15 Public, \$12 Members, \$5 Students. Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St., East Lansing. www.tenpoundfiddle.org.

Community Concert. Shu-han Lu, piano. Noon. FREE. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 353-9958. www.thepeopleschurch.com.

THEATER

"The Surprising Story of the Three Little Pigs." 7 p.m. \$7, \$5 kids. (Please See Details Dec. 1)

"This Wonderful Life." 8 p.m. \$20-25. (Please See Details Dec. 1)

"An Evening of Futurism and DaDa." Freshman theater students have spent the semester harnessing their creativity to produce an evening of short performances. 8 p.m. \$10. MSU Auditorium, 150 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (800) WHARTON. www.events.msu.edu.

"Happendance Exposed." A sneak preview of six of the "works in progress" for Happendance's upcoming concert (Feb. 23-25); give your feedback. 8 p.m. FREE. Happendance Studios, 3448 Hagadorn Road, Okemos. (517) 333-3528.

Auditions. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Dec. 1)

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Cheri Hallwood. Author of "Winter's First Snowflake." 2-4 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-8840.

Saturday, December 3

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Overeaters Anonymous. 9:30 a.m. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-6003.

Beginner Tai Chi. Can build strength and reduce stress. 8-9 a.m. \$8. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

Tai Chi in the Park. Meditation at 8:45 a.m. followed by Tai Chi. 9:30 a.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. Contact Bob Teachout (517) 272-9.

Domestic Violence Support Group. For those who are or have experienced physical, emotional, financial, or verbal abuse. Noon-1:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

EVENTS

Art Reception. Celebrate this month's featured exhibit "Winter Wonderland," featuring local artists. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014. www.dttl.org.

Guided Walk. Explore one of Meridian Township's most beautiful parks with a naturalist guide from the Harris Nature Center. 10 a.m. \$3. Lake Lansing North Park, 6260 E. Lake Drive, Haslett. (517) 349-3866.

Salsa Dancing. DJ Adrian "Ace" Lopez hosts. Singles welcome. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. \$5. Gregory's Bar & Grille, 2510 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. (517) 323-7122.

Stuff the Bus. Jaycees provide shoppers the chance to help stuff a CATA bus with clothes, coats, necessities and toys to benefit local families. 11 a.m.-8 p.m. FREE. Walmart, 3225 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (248) 716-0539.

Holiday Home Sale. Original art by local artists in a beautiful setting. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. 6177 Zimmer Road, Williamston. cameronm@msu.edu.

Create a Gingerbread House. All materials will be provided. 10 a.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363. www.cadl.org/events.

Step to Holiday Music. Join in, or simply enjoy the music softly echoing through the museum. 1-3 pm, \$6; \$4 seniors; \$2 - 6-17; FREE 5 and under. Michigan Historical Museum, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 241-6852.

Drag Show. Annual fundraiser for the Lansing Community College Gay/Straight Alliance. 8-11 p.m. \$5. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. Spennyj@lcc.edu.

Williamston Holiday Light Parade. Call to be in parade. 6 p.m. FREE. Downtown Williamston, Grand River Ave., Williamston. (517) 655-1549.

Smith Floral Open House. Poinsettias, Christmas Cactus, indoor and outdoor wreaths and garlands, Kissing Balls and a variety of gifts. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Smith Floral and Greenhouses, 124 E Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-5327.

"Like There's No Tomorrow." Ski film hosted by the Jug and Mug Ski Club. 7 p.m. FREE. MacDonald Middle School, 1601 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. (517) 335-9403. www.elps.k12.mi.us.


Holiday in the Log Cabin. Enjoy a tour of the Moon Family's log cabin built in the 1860s. 3-5 p.m. \$3; \$1 members. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 322-0030.

MUSIC

Arnie's Karaoke. 9 p.m. FREE. Rocky's Roadhouse, 2470 Cedar St., Holt. (517) 694-2698.

Temesgen Hussein. Playing the krar and the Begena. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Altu's Ethiopian Cuisine, 1312 Michigan Ave., East Lansing. (517) 333-6295.

Jazz Brunch. Featuring Grammy-nominated Betty Joplin. Proceeds to fund service projects and scholarships. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. \$45. Marriott, 300 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. vjoysmith@comcast.net.



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Free

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ERASER-FREE SUDOKU

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HARD

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 25

Out on the town

from page 23

Charlotte Holiday Concert. Presenting a variety of Christmas music. 7:30 p.m. \$10; \$5 students; FREE under 12. Charlotte Performing Arts Center, 378 State St., Charlotte. (517) 490-0481.

Community Concert. Yoon Ji Kim, piano solo. 7 p.m. FREE. Burcham Hills Retirement Community, 2700 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. (517) 353-9958.

THEATER

"The Surprising Story of the Three Little Pigs." 2 & 4:30 p.m. \$7, \$5 kids. (Please See Details Dec. 1)

"This Wonderful Life." 3 p.m. & 8 p.m. \$20-25. (Please See Details Dec. 1)

"An Evening of Futurism and DaDa." 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. \$10. (Please See Details Dec. 2)

Auditions. Ages 9-18. 10 a.m.-Noon, FREE. (Please See Details Dec. 1)

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Taylor Joseph. Author of "The Flight," 1-3 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-8840. www.schulerbooks.com.

Sunday, December 4

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Overeaters Anonymous. 2 p.m. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-8789. www.becauseeverybodyreads.com.

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 672-4072. www.cadl.org.

EVENTS

Holiday at the Center. Children's Day, Jingle Jam,

face painting and crafts, plus visit by Santa Claus. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Shiawassee Arts Center, 206 Curwood Castle Drive, Owosso. (989) 723-8354.

Holiday Open House. A Christmas exhibition by Val Berryman. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Williamston Depot Museum, 369 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston. (517) 655-1030. www.williamstonmuseum.org.

MUSIC

Capital City Ringers. "12 Bells of Christmas," featuring "Silent Night" and more. 5 p.m. FREE. Okemos Presbyterian Church, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 321-3221. www.capitalcityringers.com.

Community Concert. Almost Unique Brass Quintet. 1:30 p.m. FREE. Michigan Historical Museum, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 353-9958.

Messiah with Choral Union. Handel's Messiah, Part I. 7 p.m. \$10. Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (800) WHARTON.

THEATER

Franco D'Ambrosio: "Christmas in New York." Take a musical tour with all Christmas favorites. 7 p.m. \$35. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON.

"The Surprising Story of the Three Little Pigs." 2 p.m. \$7, \$5 kids. (Please See Details Dec. 1)

"This Wonderful Life." 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. \$20-25. (Please See Details Dec. 1)

Jumpin' Auditions. For "The Joint is Jumpin': The Roots of Rock 'n Roll Ragtime, Gospel, Jazz, Blues & Rockabilly." 3 p.m. or 7 p.m. FREE. Lansing Community College Gannon Building, 422 N. Washington Square, Lansing. www.lcc.edu/cma/events.

"An Evening of Futurism and DaDa." 2 p.m. \$10. (Please See Details Dec. 2)

Monday, December 5

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Divorced, Separated, Widowed Conversation Group. For those ready to move on with their lives. 7:30 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272.

Cooking with Norm. Norm Robison's popular cooking demonstration. Theme: "You Give Me the Crepes." 6:30 p.m. FREE. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156.

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

GriefShare Seminar. A DVD series, with small support group discussion. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Lansing Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-9477.

Homeschool Science Series. Eight-week series, introducing students to scientific principles. Grades 3 to 5. 1:30-2:30 p.m. FREE. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 485-8116.

EVENTS

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

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

Holiday Crafting Event. Activate your creative side. 5:30-8 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

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

MUSIC

Open-Mic Mondays. Play solo, duo, with your band. 6:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. Michigan Brewing Company, 402 Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 977-1349.

Capital City Ringers. 5 p.m. FREE. (Please See

Details Dec. 4)

Faculty Recital. Panayis Lyras, piano. 7:30 p.m. \$10; \$8 seniors; FREE students. MSU Auditorium, 150 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (800) WHARTON.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Raphael Rubinstein. Poet and art critic has authored numerous publications. 7 p.m. FREE. South Kedzie Hall, corner of Farm Lane and Auditorium. (517) 432-3961. art.msu.edu.

Jonathan Rand Book Signing. Recognized for his Michigan Chiller and American Chiller series. 5-7 p.m. FREE. Michigan Historical Museum, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 373-1359.

Tuesday, December 6

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Anyone wanting to lose weight is welcome. 7 p.m. FREE to visit. Eaton Rapids Medical Center, 1500 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. Judy @ (517) 543-0786.

Schizophrenics Anonymous Self-help Support Group. For persons with schizophrenia and related disorders. 5:30 p.m. FREE. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-3775.

Compassionate Friends Support Group. For grieving parents who have lost a child of any age. 7:30-9:30 p.m. FREE. Salvation Army (South) Community Center, 701 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 708-7370.

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 505-0068.

Schizophrenics Anonymous Self-help Support Group. For persons with schizophrenia and related disorders. 10 a.m. FREE. Clinton-Eaton-Ingham Community Mental Health center, 812 East Jolly

See Out on the Town, Page 25

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Out on the town

from page 24

Road, Lansing. (517) 614-7820. www.ceicmh.org.
Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. 5:45-6:45 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-9900. www.becauseeverybodyreads.com.
Yoga 40. For those in their 40s, 50s, 60s and beyond. 7:15 p.m. Suggested \$7. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.
Women's Self-Defense Workshop. Learn to set physical and emotional boundaries. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.
Homeschool Science. Grades 5 to 7. 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. FREE. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 485-8816.
EcoTrek Fitness Outdoor Workout. For all fitness levels. 5:45-7 p.m. \$12 per person. Lansing River Trail, Clippert St., Lansing. (517) 243-6538.
Digital Downloads. Learn how to download the library's collection of free eBooks. 6 p.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840. www.cadl.org/events.
Holiday Glitter. Annual fundraiser for the Arts Council of Greater Lansing. 6-9 p.m. \$75; \$150 patron tickets. MSU Henry Center for Executive Development, 3535 Forest Road, Lansing. (517) 372-4636.

EVENTS

DTDL Crafters. Conversation, knitting, and more. Bring own supplies. 2:30-4 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext 4. www.dtdl.org.
Morning Storytime. Songs, rhymes, and fun. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014.
Speakeasies Toastmasters Club Meeting. In Building 3, second floor room B. 12:05-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham Community Health Center, 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 282-5149.
Game On. Play a variety of board and video games. 3-5 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 x3.
Ace Deville's Tantalizing Tuesdays. Show starts at 11:30 p.m. includes professional male dancers. 9 p.m. \$3 21; \$7 18 and over. Fahrenheit Ultra Lounge, 6810 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 488-1517.
Salsa Dancing. DJ Mojito spins tunes for salsa. 9 p.m.-Midnight, FREE. 621, 621 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-2212.
DJ-hosted Trivia. Prizes awarded to the top three teams. 8-9:30 p.m. FREE. Tin Can, 644 Migaldi Lane, (517) 925-8658. (517) 708-3441.
Holiday Concert in Theater. Chicago The Band Presents an Evening of Holiday Music and Greatest Hits. 7 p.m. Price varies. Jackson 10, 1501 N. Wisner

St, Jackson. (818) 761-6100. www.ggti.com.
Zonta Club of Lansing. And installation of new members. Noon, \$15. Country Club of Lansing, 2200 Moores River Drive, Lansing. (517) 881-6737.

MUSIC

Open Jazz Jam. Weekly jazz series hosted by the Jeff Shoup Quartet. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 487-4464.
Wind Symphony. Soloist Daniel Stull, euphonium. Corigliano/McKenzie. 7:30 p.m. \$10; \$8 seniors; FREE students. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (800) WHARTON.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Helen's Book Night. Books make great gifts. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156. www.dewittlibrary.org.

Wednesday, December 7

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. (Please See Details Nov. 30)
Community Yoga.. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Nov. 30)
Meditation. 7-9 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Nov. 30)
Free After School Tutoring. 2:40-4:50 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Nov. 30)
Grande Paraders Square Dance Club. 7 p.m. \$4 members; \$5. (Please See Details Nov. 30)

EVENTS

Practice Your English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Nov. 30)
Holiday Origami. Ages 7-13. With expert Tim Novak demonstrating origami sleighs, snowflakes and trees. 6 p.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840. www.cadl.org/events.
ENO Holiday Party. Eastside Neighborhood Organization will provide the main dish, while you can bring a dish to share with everyone. 6 p.m. FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-3249.

MUSIC

Jazz Wednesdays. Live entertainment. 7-10 p.m. FREE. ENSO, 16800 Chandler Road. East Lansing. (517) 333-1656. www.enjoyenso.com.
Jazz Wednesdays. Featuring the Jeff Shoup Trio. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Gracie's Place, 151 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-1100.
Community Concert. Live concert. 7 p.m. FREE. Independence Village of East Lansing, 2530 Marfitt Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-9958.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Lansing Area Science Fiction Meeting. 7 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Nov. 30)
Baby Time. 10:30 a.m. FREE. (Please See Details Nov. 30)

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsny

November 30-December 6

ARIES (March 21-April 19): This would be an excellent week to head down to Pucon, Chile and hire a daredevil to fly you in a helicopter into the caldera of the active Villarrica volcano, whereupon you would bungee-jump out of the copter down to within 700 feet of the molten lava. If that's too extreme or expensive for your tastes, I urge you to come up a milder adventure that will still bring you a close encounter with primal heat and light — and maybe even some divine fire.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): As a mouse looks for food or shelter, it is flexible enough to fit through a hole as small as a quarter of an inch. You would really benefit from having a talent like that right now, Taurus. Of course, even if you are as slippery and pliable as you'll need to be, you will also have to be on high alert for the inviting possibilities, some of which may be brief or subtle. For example, let's say you spy an interesting-looking person with whom you'd love to chat. The window of opportunity may be open for less than ten seconds. Seize that moment! Refuse to get hung up in shyness. Don't convince yourself that another chance will come along later.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): One of my Gemini acquaintances, Tara, has been playing a slow-moving game of tag with three friends since they were all in second grade together. They're 27 years old now, and still live in the same city. Currently, Tara is "It," and has been so for quite some time. But she confided in me that she plans to make a move this week. She says she'll sneak up on one of the other players during his lunch break at work, tag him, and run away before he can tag her back. I told her she's likely to meet with success, since this is an excellent time for you Geminis to gain an advantage in pretty much any kind of game you're playing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "Far more crucial than what we know or do not know is what we do not want to know," wrote philosopher Eric Hoffer. This is a good idea for you to contemplate right now. I realize it may be a challenge for you to figure out what you would rather not know and are afraid to know and might even be allergic to knowing. Still, I hope you'll make the effort. Maybe you could enlist a smart ally who'd be skillful in helping you uncover the taboo truth. And maybe you could formulate an intention to be as objective as you've ever been.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Biologists say there are 680 species of trees and shrubs in the U.S. and Canada. By comparison, Lambir Hills National Park on the island of Borneo is the home of 1,175 species on its 128 acres. I suspect you will feel right at home in places like Lambir Hills in the coming week, Leo. Your own creative urges will be running hotter than usual, and are most likely to thrive in contexts that are themselves teeming with lush fertility and rich diversity. Please surround yourself with inspirational influences, thereby giving yourself the best possible chance to express yourself with vivid imagination.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "People travel to faraway places to watch, in fascination, the kind of people they ignore at home," wrote philosopher Dagobert D. Runes. Your assignment, Virgo, should you choose to accept it, is to refute that assertion. In other words, I'm inviting you to travel to all of your usual haunts and treat everything that happens there with the attitude of a first-time visitor. Just assume that the familiar people and places in your life have stimulating gifts to give and lessons to impart. Remember, though, they can't do that to the fullest unless you expect them to.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The human brain is composed of 30 percent protein and 70 percent fat. So it wouldn't be incorrect to refer to you as a fathead. In order to nourish your brain cells, you've got to eat foods that provide two essential fatty acids your body doesn't manufacture: omega-3 ALA and omega-6 LA.

Since you're now in a "brain-building" phase of your astrological cycle, I urge you to get more than your minimum requirements of these basics. If I may be permitted to resurrect a now-out-of-fashion slang term, I suggest that you also expose yourself to a lot of extraordinarily *phat* sources of intellectual stimulation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The *mawashi* is the loincloth that Japanese sumo wrestlers wear while competing. It's rare for the garment to come off, even in the heat of a match, but it did happen once in 2000, when a wrestler named Asanokiri suddenly found himself standing naked during his bout with Chiyohakuho. In conformity with sumo's rules, Asanokiri was immediately disqualified. I don't think you're at risk for being rendered literally unclothed in the heat of a showdown or a plot twist, Scorpio. But I do advise you to take extra precautions to prevent a metaphorical version of that occurrence. Get your act very together, and keep it very together.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "Dear Mr. Breznsny: My name is Sonny McGee and I own a website that caters to people who are addicted to playing poker. I'm a big fan of your horoscopes, and I'm wondering if you would like to advertise your work to our audience. Gamblers love astrology! Get in touch. - Sagittarian Wheeler Dealer." Dear Wheeler Dealer: Thanks for your interest, but I'll pass. I don't like to encourage anyone to focus their gambling urges on trivial matters like card games, sports events, and lotteries. I prefer they direct that mojo to high-minded stuff like daring themselves to excel, pursuing exciting and idealistic adventures, and doing brave things to help save the world. By the way, it's prime time for you Sagittarians to ratchet up your commitment to those kinds of gambles.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): I hope you're not so perversely attached to your demons that you're inclined to keep providing them with a comfortable home. Why? Because the coming weeks will be an excellent time for you to permanently banish them from the premises. Yes, I know it may seem lonely at first without their nagging, disruptive voices chattering away in your head. But I really do encourage you to bid them adieu. By the way, as you plan your exorcism, you might want to include a humorous touch or two. They're allergic to satire and mockery, you know.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The Beauvais Cathedral in northern France has been called "the most daring achievement of Gothic architecture." Its soaring facades, carved wooden doors, stained glass windows, and astronomical clock demonstrate high artistry. There's a problem with the place, however — it has never been completed. Work began in the year 1225, and experts are still talking about how to solve certain ongoing difficulties with its construction. I don't know when this happy ending will occur, Aquarius, but I do expect that in 2012 you will be able to put the finishing touches on your own personal version of the Beauvais Cathedral. And now would be a good time to formulate definite plans to do so.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In my prayers, I've been negotiating with the Goddess to grant you the power to change the course of rivers, at least in a metaphorical way. I've also beseeched her to show you how to overthrow the Puppet Master and convert overwrought hawks into savvy doves. The Goddess seems to be seriously considering these appeals, and has even hinted she might offer you instructions on how to shape a new Adam out of one of Eve's ribs, mythically speaking. In return, she does have one request: that you do what you can to make sure the sun rises on schedule for the next ten days.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 20

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Chris Gallford/City Pulse

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And hear Berl Schwartz of City Pulse call Tim an Ignorant Slut – or worse! Every Wednesday at 8:30!



foodfinder

Food Finder listings are rotated each week based on space. If you have an update for the listings, please e-mail food@lansingcitypulse.com.

CAFES & DINERS

RESTAURANT

MEDITERAN DELI — This bright, casual deli is set up as a New York-style take-out, but there are about 10 seats, if you want to sit by the window and watch the world go by. It offers fresh rotisserie chicken, pork and lamb, as well as fresh salads and wraps. 333 S. Washington Sq., Lansing. 11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (lunch), 4:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. (dinner) Monday-Friday, 4 p.m.-9 p.m. Saturday (dinner only). Closed Sundays. Deli side is open 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday. (517) 372-1072. www.restaurantmediteran.com. TO, OM, \$.

SAWYER'S GOURMET PANCAKE HOUSE

— You may have had blueberry pancakes before — but how about mango? Sawyer's is known for its all-natural, organic and local approach to food, as well as for its diverse menu (which goes far beyond pancakes). 608 W. Saginaw St., Lansing. 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday-Sunday. (517) 485-9410. OM, \$\$.

SOPHIA'S HOUSE OF PANCAKES

— Pancakes and omelets fill the tables at Sophia's, but a dinner menu includes other favorites, such as stuffed chicken breast. 1010 Charlevoix Drive, Grand Ledge. 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. (517) 627-3222. TO, WiFi, \$.

STATESIDE DELI AND GRILL

— When Spencer Soka moved to mid-Michigan, he grew tired of driving all the way to his home city of Southfield for a good corned beef sandwich. Now the Stateside comes to East Lansing, featuring traditional Philly cheese steaks (with real Cheez Whiz!) and a deep-fryer with

killer onion rings. 313 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, Friday 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Noon-8 p.m. Sunday. (517) 853-3033. Second location at 3552 Meridian Crossings, Okemos. 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. (517) 853-1100. www.statesidedeli.com. TO, OM, \$.

SOUP SPOON CAFÉ

— Offering gourmet meals for lunch or dinner, this café keeps customers coming for dishes like pan-seared Atlantic salmon drizzled with garlic-dill or honey soy sauce. 1419 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday; 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 7 a.m.-midnight Friday; 8 a.m.-midnight Saturday; closed Sunday. (517) 316-2377. www.soupspooncafe.com. OM, D, TO, WiFi, \$.

SPOTTED DOG CAFÉ

— Menu favorites at this downtown breakfast and lunch spot include the chicken salad and spicy Thai slaw with chicken. 221 S. Washington Square, Lansing. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday; closed Saturday & Sunday. (517) 485-7574. www.spotteddogcafe.com. TO, D, OM, P, \$.

SUGAR SHACK

— A cupcake connoisseur's paradise, Sugar Shack has nothing but sweets to make your mouth sing: enormous and slightly less than enormous cupcakes, brownies, cookies, pies and more. 215 N. Clippert St., Lansing. Summer hours: 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Sunday; School year: 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. (517) 316-2009. TO, D, OM, \$.

TED DEE'S SANDWICH SHOP

— This downtown Lansing spot serves a variety of deli sand-

wiches and specialties, like the chicken cheese panini. It also offers soups, fresh salads and desserts. Every Friday there is a pulled pork sandwich special. 119 S. Washington Square, Lansing. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; 11-2 Saturday closed Sunday. (517) 374-2784. www.ted-dees.com. TO, D (orders of \$20 or more), OM, WiFi, \$.

THEIO'S

— Serving breakfast around the clock, Theio's is also great place to grab a burger for lunch or satisfy a late-night craving. 2650 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. Open 24 hours. (517) 487-3955. TO, P, WiFi, \$.

TONY'S

— A lively restaurant near the Michigan State University campus that has something for everyone, with breakfast all day, lunch specialties, burgers and dinners, such as the hot turkey sandwich. 350 Albert Ave., East Lansing. Summer hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m. 7 days a week; School year hours are 8 a.m.-8 p.m. 7 days a week. (517) 332-5553. TO, WiFi, \$.

ZEUS'S CONEY ISLAND

— This eatery offers Greek classics, like chicken kabobs marinated for 24 hours in lemon juice, olive oil and a blend of secret herbs. Plus American favorites like wallye. 6525 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 7a.m. - 9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday & Saturday. (517) 272-7900. OM, TO, WiFi, \$.

CASUAL DINING

ALTU'S — Traditional Ethiopian food served with specials, including the Friday special of spicy shredded beef with jalapenos and ginger served with Ethiopian bread, yellow cabbage and a house salad.

1312 Michigan Ave., East Lansing. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; closed Sunday & Monday. (517) 333-6295. www.EatAtAltus.com, OM, TO, P \$

BAJA GRILLE

— This family-owned restaurant in downtown Mason offers a wide range of options, from fresh seafood and hamburgers to homemade soups and chili. 402 S. Jefferson St., Mason. 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday; Closed Sunday. (517) 244-1181. www.bajagrille.net. TO, \$

BEST STEAK HOUSE

— Low-cost dining for meat lovers, serving steaks and sandwiches, including a modified Philly cheesesteak. 3020 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. (517) 337-2210. TO, RES, OM \$\$.

BLUE GILL GRILL

— This eclectic restaurant features a variety of fresh fish, including grouper, salmon, walleye, cod and bluegill made with a unique blend of spices in a secret family recipe. 1591 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett. 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Monday-Saturday; 12 p.m.-2 a.m. Sunday. (517) 339-4900. www.bluegillgrill.com. FB, TO, RES (eight or more), OM, WiFi, \$

THE BOARDROOM

— A downtown watering hole for CEOs and average Joes. A full bar and to-go beer and wine attracts thirsty revelers, and a menu that includes hand-pattied, char broiled burgers, served on Great Harvest bread, brings the hungry. 107 E. Allegan, Lansing. 11a.m.-2 a.m. Monday-Wednesday, 11 a.m.-12 a.m. Thursday-Saturday; 4 p.m.-2 a.m. (517) 316-2312. TO, WiFi, P, FB, \$.

See Dining, Page 27

Average price per person, not including drinks:

\$ Less than \$8 | \$\$ \$8 to \$14 | \$\$\$ \$14 to \$20 | \$\$\$\$ Over \$20

FB Full Bar **WB** Wine & Beer **TO** Take Out **OM** Online Menu
RES Reservations **P** Patio **WiFi** Wireless Internet **D** Delivery

Dining

from page 26

BRUNCH HOUSE — Owner Leo Farhat has peppered his traditional breakfast house menu with dishes rooted in his Lebanese heritage. Try “Leo’s house special,” which begins with seasoned beef, onions and pine nuts sauteed in a frying pan, then combined with a couple of eggs. 1040 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday, and 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday (517) 484-1567 TO, WiFi, \$

CLARA’S LANSING STATION — The cozy atmosphere and first-rate service outclass the food at this one-time railroad station. The novel-length menu offers a vast array of options, including American fare, Tex-Mex, seafood, basket meals, sandwiches galore and much more. (Reviewed by Joe Torok in our June 15 issue.) 637 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday & Saturday; 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday. (517) 372-7120. www.claras.com, OM, TO, FB, WiFi, P, RES \$\$-\$\$\$

CONRAD’S COLLEGE TOWN GRILL — Featuring creative sandwiches such as the J.F.K. (with chicken, jalapenos, mozzarella and honey mustard) and a full slew of breakfast items, burgers and (we swear, this is what the menu calls them) “Magical Munchies.” 101 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 4 p.m.-3 a.m. Monday-Friday, noon-3 a.m. Saturday, noon-10 p.m. Sunday. (517) 333-2723. www.conrads-grill.com. D, OM, \$.

CORAL GABLES — Serving meals for generations, this family-style restaurant offers handmade desserts, homemade soups and a small menu of homemade Greek specialties. 2838 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday; 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 7 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday; 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday; 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday. (517) 337-1311. www.coralgablesrestaurant.com, WB, WiFi, FB, TO, OM, \$\$

DIMITRI’S — The former stalwart of

downtown Lansing now serves Delta Township with a full dinner menu along with familiar Coney dogs, burgers and fries. Also find full breakfasts and dinners like barbeque beef brisket and tilapia with lemon butter cream sauce. 6334 W. Saginaw, Lansing; Monday-Saturday 7 a.m.-8:30 p.m.; Sunday 8 a.m.-3 p.m.; (517) 323-6867; TO, \$\$

EL BURRITO — A cozy, authentic taqueria offering homemade Mexican cooking and baked goods. Stop by early for a breakfast burrito, try a lunch special entrée that comes with rice and beans, or fill a taco with marinated pork, beef tongue, chicken or a number of other meats. 5920 S. Cedar St., Lansing. 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Monday-Tuesday; 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday; Friday; 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday; Closed Sunday. (517) 272-1665. TO, \$.

FISH & CHIPS — Serving fish, fries and more on Lansing east side for almost 40 years. Dine in or pull up to the drive-thru window for dinner on the go. 2418 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday. 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday. (517) 487-5774. TO, P, \$

FORK IN THE ROAD ARTISAN DINER — Contemporary American cuisine with a local and organic focus and a menu that combines gourmet grilled cheese, “Ballin’ Ass Tacos,” homemade meatloaf

and much more. Menu adjusts by season. It’s a gift to this area’s dining scene, an early holiday present that will hopefully keep on giving for many years to come. (Reviewed by Joe Torok in our Nov. 9 issue.) 2010 W. Saginaw St., Lansing. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday, closed Monday. (517) 580-3556. forkintheroaddiner.com. TO, OM, \$\$\$

GENO’S PIZZERIA — Owner Geno Abbey has captured the essence of East Coast-style pie. The dough is made fresh from scratch several times a day, the sauce is composed of hand-crushed San Marzano tomatoes (considered the world’s best for making sauces) flown in from Italy, and all vegetable toppings are garden-fresh. 208 S. Washington Sq., Lansing. 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday, 11:30-9p.m. Saturday. Closed Sundays. (517) 580-7124. www.genospizzeria.com. OM, \$\$.

GRACIE’S PLACE — A classy, cozy restaurant in downtown Williamston offering customer favorites like the Dancing Zorba vegetarian sandwich with grilled veggies, roasted eggplant, zucchini, portabella mushrooms and baby tomatoes on a whole wheat tortilla with roasted red pepper hummus. Now open for dinner Thursday-Saturday. (Reviewed by Joe Torok in our July 27 issue.) 151 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; closed Sunday. (517) 655-1100. www.gra-

ciessplacebistro.com BW, TO, RES, P, WiFi, \$\$

HARRY’S PLACE — A bar and grill with Greek roots. Try the Greek chicken—a half chicken roasted in lemon oil sauce and doused with Mediterranean herbs. 404 N. Verlinden Ave., Lansing. 10 a.m.-11:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday, closed Sunday. (517) 484-9661. TO, FB, \$.

JOSE’S CUBAN SANDWICH & DELI — Hearty sandwiches are heated up in a plancha — a flat grill press — at this inconspicuous eatery that’s well worth discovering. Try the medianoche (“midnight”), with roasted pork, ham, Swiss cheese and onion, or the brie chicken, augmented with onion, cilantro and guacamole. Two locations. 401 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Friday, noon-8 p.m. Saturday, closed Sunday. 2315 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Thursday-Saturday, noon-8 p.m. Sunday. (517) 862-8420. TO, D, OM, \$.

LOGAN’S ROADHOUSE — This national chain specializes in ribs, steaks and burgers, but the menu is large enough, with salads, lots of sides and a kid’s menu, for even finicky eaters to find a meal. Monday-Wednesday: two meals for \$14.99. 5800 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday. (517) 327-4751. www.logansroadhouse.com WB, TO, FB, OM, \$\$.



Joe Torok/City Pulse

The recently opened Fork in the Road Artisan Diner emphasizes local ingredients and plans to adjust its menu to suit each season.

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