

YOUR LIFE LINES

NEW THIS WEEK

Indiana Jones arrives on DVD

Two decades means nothing for Indiana Jones. Harrison Ford's iconic character hadn't been in a movie since 1989, but that didn't stop '08's "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" from grossing \$317 million at the box office. It's new Tuesday on DVD.

Also new: "Mongol," "The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A Veggie Tales Movie," "The Sarah Silverman Program: Season Two," "The Strangers."

Music: "Little Honey" by Lucinda Williams, "Gossip In The Grain" by Ray LaMontagne, "Perfect Symmetry" by Keane, "Songs of Joy and Peace" by Yo-Yo Ma, "Multi-Dimensional Warrior" by Santana.

Video games: "FIFA Soccer '09" (360, PS3), "Dead Space" (360, PS3), "Saints Row 2" (360).

Books: "Lion Among Men" by Gregory Maguire, "The Brass Verdict" by Michael Connelly, "Fire" by Katherine Neville.

HELP OTHERS

Shoebboxes wanted

Operation Christmas Child this year will offer more locations to bring shoeboxes to be shipped to needy children overseas. Shoeboxes filled with small toys, candy, books, school supplies and personal care items should be dropped off the week of Nov. 17 at locations in Wyoming, Rockford, Holland/Zeeland, Muskegon, Ionia, Lowell, Walker and Hart. For details on how to fill a shoebox and where to drop it off, visit samaritanspurse.org. More info: (800) 498-8576.

GONZO'S GUIDE

Pistons game Tuesday in GR



John Gonzalez

Tickets still are available to see a Deere-troit Pistons pre-season game at the Van Andel Arena.

5. Kent Harvest Trails, daily, 20 Kent County farms and stands, hours and fees vary by location. Brochures: D&W Food Centers, Family Fare stores, Kent/MSU Extension Service, 775 Ball Ave. NE, kentharvesttrails.org.

4. The Capitol Steps with Peter "Madcat" Ruth, 7 p.m. tonight, 6 p.m. Democracy Expo, Fountain Street Church, 24 Fountain St. NE, \$25, students \$15, 234-0177, fountainstreet.org/speakers.

3. United States Air Force Band of Flight, 4 and 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Van Singel Fine Arts Center, 8500 Burlingame Ave. SW, Byron Center, free with ticket at United Bank offices in Byron Center, Caledonia, Dorr, Hopkins, Wayland, 878-6800, vsfac.com.

2. "A Taste of Opera: P is for Puccini," sponsored by Opera Grand Rapids, 6 p.m. Tuesday, Grand Rapids Public Museum, 272 Pearl St. NW, \$100, 451-2741, operagr.com.

1. Meijer Basketball Classic: Detroit Pistons vs. San Antonio Spurs, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Van Andel Arena, 130 W. Fulton St., \$19-\$275, 456-3333, vanandelarena.com.

— Listen to John D. Gonzalez on the "Barnaby & Friends" show, 7-9 a.m. weekdays on WLHT-FM (95.7)

TUNE IN TONIGHT

Slater's 'Enemy' debuts

Christian Slater stars in "My Own Worst Enemy" (10 p.m., NBC). One of his children is played by Grand Rapids native Taylor Lautner.

— Kevin McDonough, United Feature Syndicate

SEE MOMMY BLOG

LOCAL WOMEN USE WEB TO CONNECT WITH PARENTS ACROSS THE GLOBE

BY JUANITA WESTABY
THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

Two generations ago, when moms got their kids on the school bus for the day, they gathered for coffee from 9-11 a.m.

Today their granddaughters are tucking their kids in bed, and then firing up their laptops for mom blogging from 9-11 p.m.

They're still solving all the mom problems, though.

"I think it's our way of socializing," said local up-and-coming blogger, Shanda Bauman, of Wyoming.

Her year-old blog, Parents with Style (parentswithstyle.blogspot.com), is part of two elite groups. The first is Mommies United, a consortium of four moms who review parenting and children's products. She also is listed as a favorite on Role Mommy, a New York City-based blog frequently tapped by journalists looking for a mom's point of view.

The blogging women Bauman works with are some of her dearest friends, although not your typical close friend. "I have never met them except for e-mail and by phone," she pointed out.

Bauman, whose day job is with Ryerson Metal Sales, gets daughter Nevaeh, 3, and son Korbyn, 1, in bed and then puts in a couple of more hours writing about products manufacturers have sent her to try for free.

"It is fun, and it is addicting but I'm not going out, and I'm earning a little bit of money," she said.

Like most writing endeavors, mom blogging is an economic crapshoot.

Some pioneers in the field have garnered advertising, book deals and TV shows.

For others, it's an outlet.

Like Bauman, Claire Roys works at Ryerson during the day and blogs at night.

"I work to pay the bills. I do enjoy it, but I do the blog for me. And for Alex. She loves it when things arrive in the mail," Roys said.

Roys' blog, Bits from a Brit, (bitfromabrit.blogspot.com) has the attention of manufacturers who send her things to test, usually involving husband, Steven, and 18-month-old daughter, Alexandria. Roys, who is from England, has a built-in audience in Europe and Australia.

While Bauman earns a small amount of money with a gift products Web site (www.lemonkisses.com), Roys is content to sim-

SEE BLOGS, D2



PRESS ILLUSTRATION/ED RIOJAS

Baseball sensation behind 'Rookie' film to deliver dose of inspiration at fundraiser

BY MATT VANDE BUNTE
THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

KENTWOOD — As a wide-eyed boy watching a game at Boston's Fenway Park, Jim Morris imagined himself on the field. Twenty-five years later, he achieved his improbable dream.

Urged on by the high school kids he coached, the "washed-up" ballplayer took the mound in a big-league uniform and struck out the likes of All-Stars Frank Thomas, Alfonso Soriano and Jim Thome.

Morris, whose life was portrayed in the 2002 Disney movie "The Rookie," will talk about his unlikely journey at a fundraiser for the Conductive Learning Center.

"They thought I was out of my mind," Morris said about skeptics of his baseball comeback at age 35. "I didn't tell a whole lot of people. Basically, my high school kids and my 8-year-old son knew about it.

"I just think God had a purpose for me."

A first-round draft pick in 1983,

IF YOU GO

An evening of inspiration

What: A dinner and auction fundraiser for the Conductive Learning Center, a school for children with neuromuscular disorders

Who: Former major league baseball player Jim Morris, subject of the 2002 movie "The Rookie," will speak.

When: 6 p.m. Oct. 21

Where: Cultural Center of St. Nicholas, 2250 East Paris Ave. SE

Tickets: \$125 for adults, \$50 for children 10 and older. Call the center at 575-0575.

Details: Aquinas.edu/clc

Morris did not reach the major leagues the first time around. But when trying to motivate his high school players to pursue their dreams, they countered by challeng-



COURTESY PHOTO

Sharing his story: Jim Morris will speak Oct. 21 at the dinner and auction fundraiser for the Conductive Learning Center.

ing Morris to give his own dream a second shot.

He succeeded. Morris pitched in 21 games for the Tampa Bay Devil

SEE FUNDRAISER, D2

GEEK GUIDE

More 'Halo' planned for Xbox 360

THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

The makers of Xbox 360 first-person shooter "Halo" series last week announced a sequel to a sequel.

Bungie, a video game development company, is expected to offer "Halo 3: Recon," which puts the player in the role of a Marine, not the super human Master Chief character.

The new video game will not require the "Halo 3" game disc and includes all of the multi-player components of the last version of the game, officials said.

The game is scheduled for release in fall 2009.

— *Something new is coming to AT&T U-Verse customers Tuesday. Visit the "Geek Guide" Web log at mlive.com/grpress Tuesday for details.*