

SHOW YOUR LOVE

VALENTINE'S DAY TRIVIA

**Excited about the impending holiday?** Here are some fun facts about Cupid's favorite time of year to make you even more excited about the year's most romantic day.

**Seventy-three percent** of people buying flowers for that special someone on Valentine's Day are men, making only 27 percent of the buyers women.

**Cupid, the son of Venus, who is the Roman goddess of love and beauty, often is associated with the holiday for this reason.** His pack of arrows are thought to have the ability to arouse feelings of affection in those they strike.

**Coming second only to Christmas, Valentine's Day is the biggest day to send seasonally-related cards, with around 1 billion being sent each year.**

**More than 650 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged between children ages 5 to 10 and their teachers, classmates and family members.** Teachers receive the most Valentine's Day cards, followed by children, mothers and wives.

**The British Museum houses the oldest "valentine" on record, which was made in the 1400s.** Early European cards were made on colored paper with inks and watercolors.

**One legend says that St. Valentine himself fell in love with a girl while imprisoned, and before he was put to death wrote her a letter explaining his feelings.** Signing the letter "From your Valentine," he originated the term, which is still popular today.

**More than 36 million boxes of chocolate in the shape of hearts will be sold in honor of Valentine's Day.**

**On average, men spend around \$130 on Valentine's Day goodies such as candy, jewelry and the date itself, which is about double what women spend on the apparently more generous males in their lives.**

**When planning the perfect romantic exchange, keep in mind that statistically, men prefer receiving gifts first thing in the morning while women enjoy the anticipation of receiving gifts after a romantic dinner.**

SOURCE: CANDY-ABOUT.COM

# FACES + PLACES



HELLO, MY NAME IS

**Mohammed Al-Kabour**

Mohammed Al-Kabour wants to help represent international students from the Gulf states area transition to living at MSU. That's why he formed the Arabian Gulf State Student Club in September 2008, a group in which he is now the president. "We sort of went off the idea of the Gulf Cooperation Council," said Al-Kabour in reference to the regional organization made up of Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. "Our goal is to get the international students from the (Arabian Gulf states) involved in the MSU." Al-Kabour said that in 2007 there were 105 students at MSU from the region and that he believes there are more now. The club looks to help these international students join the MSU community and to educate the MSU community about the Gulf states.

—Compiled by Daniel Lascombe, photo by Gabrielle Moore, The State News

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Wednesday

## Love In Bloom



Lansing resident Ruth Leyrer, owner of Bancroft Flowers R.L. Designs, 1417 E. Michigan Ave., in Lansing, laughs with her employee Barry Crossweller, also of Lansing, on Tuesday afternoon. The two were putting floral arrangements together for the Valentine's Day rush. Leyrer has been working with flowers for 38 years and bought the floral business about six years ago. JOSH RADTKE/ THE STATE NEWS

Shop owner says gift of flowers is expression of love, no matter the occasion

By Julie Baker  
THE STATE NEWS

Lansing — It's a cool 60 degrees in the building — a temperature meant for keeping flower petals in perfect form. Ruth Leyrer intended for the store to be a treat for the senses. Upon entering Bancroft Flowers R.L. Designs, 1417 E. Michigan Ave., in Lansing, it's the hint of fresh floral smell that hits first. Then it's the color — the deep greens of potted plants, the vibrant yellows and oranges of gerber daisies in the fresh flower case, as well as the passionate reds of roses

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To see a video of Leyrer making a bouquet, visit [statene.ws.com/multimedia](http://statene.ws.com/multimedia).

**Flower power**

Different colors mean different things in the world of flowers. Pink is a passionate color, red would express love from the heart and yellow shows friendship.

The most fragrant flowers include stock flowers, roses and stargazer lilies.

For flower shops, holidays generally help them financially for a couple months. Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter and Mother's Day are some of the biggest flower giving times.

During the summer, weddings and general flower-giving are popular. SOURCE: BANCROFT FLOWERS RL DESIGNS

BUSINESS

### Munchies wings please regulars

By Daniel Luscombe  
THE STATE NEWS

Lansing — A large yellow-and-red sign outside Munchies Chicken & Fish, 4100 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., in Lansing, reads in all capital letters "Cheapest wings in town, period." When it comes to the quality of wings, business manager Bob Creagh stresses that just because the wings are a deal, it does not mean the customer is getting anything less. "These are whole wings, not wing dings, so you're getting the entire wing. We're not slicing them up and calling them

a wing ding," Creagh said. Creagh, a 1979 MSU graduate with a business administration degree, said Munchies gets a fair share of business from MSU and recently filled an order for 200 wings from an MSU faith-based organization throwing a Super Bowl party. Creagh said although the restaurant offers their customers plenty of bargains, business during times of hardship is still difficult. "Business is tough right now, of course. It's challenging for everybody. We're no different," Creagh said. While the restaurant serves the standard chicken-and-fish

fare, the menu also includes some more unusual items. "I would say for a unique experience, try chicken liver and chicken gizzards, something that most students of today's world would not normally eat," Creagh said. Cleaned, washed, steamed, cooled and pressure-fried, the chicken gizzards at Munchies are chewy, crispy pieces of chicken that are spicily seasoned. A bit of hot sauce can also be added for an extra kick. "Some people just come for gizzards because they can't get gizzards anywhere else, and

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SEAN COOK/ THE STATE NEWS

Munchies Chicken & Fish employee Terae Jennings, left, puts together a to-go order of wedge fries and chicken wings for Lansing resident Willia Jones, right. Jennings, who has worked for Munchies for three years, said the fried chicken gizzards bring in customers from miles away because so few restaurants serve them.