

FREE

CityPULSE

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May 8-14, 2013

Renewal at the symphony

Music director Timothy Muffitt stays in Lansing
See page 10



CityPULSE Special Pet Section

- Lansing vet helps pet owners make tough decisions
- Pooch-less restaurant patios may soon be a thing of the past
& a full list of pet services and supplies





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Feedback

Music is part of the core curriculum

"There is science in sound, math in composition, poetry in lyrics and there is a long rich history to music. What's more, students of music learn to take direction, to come together as a group to collaborate. Everything core education subjects are supposed to prepare you for is inherent in the arts from day one."

These are the words of Kevin Eubanks former director of the Tonight Show, music educator and now director of Jazz for the Theolonius Monk Institute of Jazz which enriches many public schools. Eubanks said recently in an interview that he was passionate about public school music.

I can tell you as a music educator that the "revolutionary model" that is planned for the Lansing Public Schools is "laughable." In the '60s, I taught in the Hightstown, N.J. public schools where classroom teachers were instructed to teach music K-4th grades. I wrote lesson plans and hopefully supported the teachers as best as I could. Parents should demand better for their children. Keep certified music teachers.

— Carolyn Henderson
Lansing

'Call it what it is'

I had to cringe at Steve Miller's ("Failing the test," 5/1/13) description of Michigan's so called right to work laws. In his otherwise insightful article he referred to them as the laws "which struck down forced unionization". This is so inaccurate it bears reviewing how a workplace ends up with a Union security clause in the first place.

A majority of employees must first decide to form a Union. They then must run a gantlet and spend vast amount of time, energy and money to get the government to run an election. Then at that election a majority of the employees must vote for the Union. Then, in bargaining, the employer must voluntarily agree to a Union security clause. Then a majority of the employees must vote for that contract.

After all that, no one is forced to join the union. Employees who decide to work at that Unionized place are only required to pay their share of the cost of represen-

tation. If an employee objects, they are given, in advance, any deductions that do not go directly to the cost of representation. "Forced unionization"? Hardly. More like democracy and checks and balances. But that was not good enough for our legislature.

Now, employees who choose to work at a unionized place can choose to freeload. The Union is required to represent them and spend money on their behalf but freeloaders do not have to pay their share.

There never was forced Unionization". There was only a system that allowed Unions and employers to bargain a contract that did not allow freeloaders. The legislature decided this gave working people too much power so they passed "right to work". It had only one purpose, weaken working people and their Unions. Let's call it what it is.

— Joe Marutiak
Lansing

No reason this can't work

This building ("Eyesore of the Week," 5/1/13) is non-descript and non-historical and the city should have made them clear and maintain that lot YEARS ago. When you allow this blight, it discourages homeowners in the surrounding neighborhood from maintaining and/or improving their own properties...and that is EXACTLY what has happened. There is no reason with other active businesses literally right across the street that this site couldn't be a successful business.

— BiddleCityGuy
from LansingCityPulse.com

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

- 1.) Write a letter to the editor.
 - E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
 - Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 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) 999-5061

(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.)

This week on lansingcitypulse.com ...

KIDS IN THE HALL, MAY 7: The Lansing City Council got a taste Monday during budget discussions of a new countywide millage that may surface. The Council also passed an ordinance that would prevent Niowave-like pole barn situations in the future.

VALU LAND MOVING IN, MAY 6: After two-and-a-half years of vacancy, the former site of an L&L Food Center will become the new home of Lansing's second Valu Land grocery store.

MARKET PLACE GETS A TIMELINE, MAY 3: After a six-year delay and recent news that there could be some legal trouble, developer Pat Gillespie now has a timeline in place for when he'll finish his Market Place development in downtown Lansing.

ON LSD, MAY 2: At a recent meeting, the Lansing Board of Education voted to pink slip 175 district employees, 140 of which are teachers. The move could save the district \$6.4 million.

Check out these stories and more only at lansingcitypulse.com

CityPULSE

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Week-long visioning sessions for Grand River/Michigan corridor come to a close



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English Inn tour peels back secrets of a 1927 country estate



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World class food and drinks make Gracie's the place to be

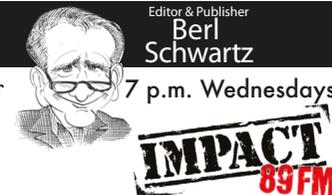


**COVER
ART**

MUFFITT by VINCE JOY

CITY PULSE ON THE AIR

THIS WEEK Timothy Muffitt, Lansing Symphony Orchestra music director and conductor
Aaron McCright, MSU professor of sociology
State Rep. Jeff Irwin, D-Ann Arbor
John A. Baker III, addiction psychiatrist, Sparrow Behavioral Center
Kim Thalison, Ingham Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition



THIS MODERN WORLD



PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

JNL's money grab

Lest we forget when Jackson National Life successfully argued its new headquarters was “obsolete” to lower its property tax payments. On Tuesday, a compromise was reached with the city.

As the local media drank up good jobs news last week like an alcoholic at a Christmas party, there's been no mention of the fact that less than three years ago, Jackson National Life Insurance Co. fought the city for hundreds of thousands of dollars in property taxes.

In 2010, Jackson National — which announced a \$100 million expansion and 1,000 new jobs last Tuesday — brought a case before the Michigan Tax Tribunal contesting the assessed value of its headquarters near the Okemos Road exit off of Interstate 96. The company claimed that two parcels — one of which includes the main, 300,000-square-foot office building it had custom built a decade earlier — were “functionally obsolete” and therefore it was paying too much in taxes on it. The city disagreed and, based on an appraisal, said the cash value of the property should increase.

The State Journal reported in March 2011

that the tribunal ordered a more than \$1 million tax refund to the insurance company, \$200,000 of which came from the city of Lansing. Officials with the city Assessor's and Treasurer's offices could not be reached to confirm those figures.

On Tuesday morning, Jackson National spokeswoman Melissa Hernandez said the company came to “an agreement on the value of the facility,” which included Mayor Virg Bernero's signing a “satisfaction agreement.”

“For all intents and purposes, the matter is now closed,” Hernandez said. She declined to provide any more details about the agreement “as a matter of legal policy.”

But what are we to make of this now,

particularly with the presumption that Jackson National is there to stay? Didn't the company's argument before the tax tribunal leave that prospect open? Last week, company President and CEO Mike Wells, joined by Gov. Rick Snyder and Bernero, announced a \$100 million expansion at the site, bringing with it 1,000 new jobs. With that will come a renewed tax-sharing agreement with Alaiedon Township (the JNL property is on Lansing property in the township) and tax incentives, though we don't know how much or for how long those will be. A variety of state grants and federal Community Development Block Grant money will also likely be part of the package. Of the company's 4,300 employees nationwide, nearly half are in mid-Michigan.

“I don't know what to make of it as a public official when corporations create wonderful buildings, create beautiful structures that benefit the community, and then they turn around when



Sam Inglot/City Pulse

Jackson National Insurance Co. disputed the value of this building with the city of Lansing in 2010, which resulted in a tax refund of reportedly more than \$1 million, \$200,000 of which came from the city.

it comes time to pay taxes to the community,” said Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing. “They seem willing to argue the beautiful structure they put a lot of money into isn't worth very much.”

Essentially, Jackson National argued that its long, narrow headquarters was uniquely built for them and therefore would be a tougher sell to future buyers, if that were to happen. It also contested the value of a data center on a nearby parcel. According to tribunal testimony, brokers familiar with the property called the headquarters a “white elephant” because of its “design, style, size and lack of adaptability.” The company also argued that adverse economic conditions were playing a factor, as it con-

tested assessments from the 2007, 2008 and 2009 tax years: “As unemployment goes up, the demand for office space goes down and purchasing power for spending within a region or community also diminishes, which has a definite influence on market value.”

Meanwhile, the city's appraiser said the headquarters was worth more than the \$48.4 million true cash value in 2009. The company thought it should have been \$19.5 million, while the city thought it was \$67.2 million. The tribunal found it had a true cash value of \$37 million after the company's petition.

The city's appraiser, Raymond Bologna, cited at the time a “flexible” interior design with “open floor plans and use of modular work stations that are able to be quickly reconfigured. ... The (building) finishes are above average to very good,” according to testimony.

Today, the 78-acre property has a taxable value of \$10.9 million and an assessed value of \$16.3 million. Last year Jackson National paid \$1.25 million in property taxes, which is about \$800,000 less than what it paid in 2008, according to county property records.

The tribunal sided with Jackson National, saying that the building would not be useful to a different buyer. Or: “The subject property's configuration and design has functional obsolescence built into the design,” according to the judgment.

Bob Trezise, president and CEO of the Lansing Economic Area Partnership, said Jackson National didn't have to expand in Lansing back in 2000. It could have done so in Colorado, bringing forward the oft-mentioned notion that Lansing must be competitive for business interests.

As for the perception created when arguing its property value: “I think that we're in severe global competition. When we have a business like Jackson National that is impacting on a daily basis thousands of families and having the kind of dramatic economic impact they do on the entire region, I think we have to help them remain and be competitive. The ultimate benefits will be



Property: 661 N. Cedar Road, Mason (personal parcel)

Owner: JE Coffee Corp.

Assessed value: \$32,060

In general, coffee shops have quite the adaptive reuse history — it's an inherent part of coffee-shop DNA. In mid-Michigan alone, coffee shops occupy existing storefronts, houses and gas stations. Often, coffee shops are the partner in a symbiotic relationship, none as prevalent as the one involving books. Think about it: Everybody Reads and the Avenue Café on Lansing's East Side; Archives Book Shop and Grand River Coffee in East Lansing. You get the idea.

But sometimes you get other pairings. Case in point: 661 N. Cedar Road in Mason. Is it a bank or is it a coffee shop? The building design, complete with four banking lanes, indicates a bank — a classic late 20th-century style one at that.

The Mason State Bank and Biggby Coffee make for a clever combination. It's a full-service Biggby with interior seating and a drive thru located at the rear of the building, while it's banking business as usual at the four Mason State Bank drive thrus.

All too often, buildings built for single use become obsolete at some point. This type of arrangement ensures that the entire building continues to be relevant. At any rate, it's very cool when a building intended for single use transitions to multi-use.

— Amanda Harrell-Seyburn

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

JNL

from page 5

great to us as a community. Everything else will sort itself out and pay itself off.”

Schertzing called it a “contradiction” that the company announces it wants to bring employees to “live, work and play here, but oh by the way we don’t want to pay for services for the community in which we live, work and play.

“They provide jobs, which is critical of course. But why is paying taxes less important than paying wages?”

— Andy Balaskovitz

Wrapping up charrette week

Week-long visioning sessions for Grand River/Michigan corridor come to a close

For over three hours inside the Lansing Center last week, politicians worked alongside concerned citizens, engineers and planners alongside transportation advocates to visualize the future of Grand River and Michigan avenues between the Capitol and Webberville.

“Let’s put a brew pub every mile-and-a-half”; “I want to see very purposeful nodes of higher density development”; “streetscape” in East Lansing between campus and Park Lake Road; “Frondor needs more visual appeal”; and, “Is there any reason for someone to develop here?” were a few of the comments overheard at a “vision charrette” for the 20 miles covering Lansing, East Lansing, Meridian Township, Williamston and Webberville.

“This represents regional collaboration. Connecting communities is important,” said John Elsinga, Delhi Township manager. “We want multi-modal that’s vibrant versus a sea of asphalt and empty buildings.”

Elsinga’s assessment of the Grand

River/Michigan avenues corridor? “Needs work.”

Wednesday’s event at the Lansing Center, with about 150 participants ranging from mayors to retirees, launched the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission’s “Michigan Ave.-Grand River Ave. Vision Charrette,” which continued over the past week with a design open house and a work-in-progress presentation. The exercise is funded by a three-year, \$3 million sustainability grant the planning commission received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development last year. In October, a second charrette week will focus on two or three areas of the cor-

See Charrette, Page 7

The fees within

How Lansing fees would change under Mayor Virg Bernero’s budget

Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero has introduced 33 new

fees and proposes increasing 86 existing fees for various city services as part of his budget that would start July 1. The changes are projected to raise about \$500,000 in new revenue for city coffers.

While some would be covered by insurance companies, such as motor vehicle assistance from the Fire Department, most involve parks and recreation-related increases — for example, renting the

River Trail for a special event or registering grave-stone markers.

Below are all proposed fee changes — new, increases and decreases — in Bernero’s \$112 million budget. The City Charter requires the City Council to adopt a final budget no later than May 20.

— Andy Balaskovitz

DEPARTMENT AND FEE	FY13	FY14
NEW FEES		
FIRE DEPT. (motor vehicle assistance)		
Assistance.....		\$200
Hazmat.....		\$400
Extrication.....		\$500
Vehicle fires.....		\$250
Confined space standby.....		\$350
Rescue training.....		\$150
Ambulance call, oxygen administration.....		\$50
Downed wire standby (charge utility company).....		\$200
Fire inspection fees.....		\$75 - \$100
PARKS AND REC DEPT.		
Weddings, Cooley Sunken Gardens.....		\$100
Fee per field (for scoreboard use).....		\$10
Ranney, Gier, Davis.....		\$25
Kircher Municipal Field and lights.....		\$40
Gate fee, adults (16 and under free).....		\$3
Teen drop in.....		\$2
A Very Fairy Party.....		\$8
Kidstriathlon.....		\$15
Sensory Science.....		\$15
Social Club.....		\$8
Therapeutic Recreation, individual.....		\$15
TR Day Program, 2-5 people.....		\$35
TR Day Program, 6-10 people.....		\$55
Cemetery burial spaces monument, four-grave (resident).....		\$4,400
Cemetery burial spaces monument, four-grave (non-resident).....		\$6,600
PLANNING DEPT.		
Sign permits, technology fee.....		\$5
Demolition permits, technology fee.....		\$5
PUBLIC SERVICE DEPT.		
Utility research (per half hour).....		\$30
Late payment fee.....		\$0.15
Noise ordinance waiver application.....		\$100
Noise ordinance waiver mailing.....		\$1/parcel
Commercial recycling late fee.....		\$5
Residential recycling cart switch.....		\$25
Special event trash.....		\$120
INCREASES		
CITY ATTORNEY		
Diversion program (community service)....	\$150	\$300
FIRE DEPT. (ambulance)		
Treatment/no support.....	\$663.75	\$675
Basic Life Support.....	\$663.75	\$675
Advanced Life Support I.....	\$796.25	\$825
Advanced Life Support II.....	\$893	\$900
FIRE DEPT. (fire inspection)		
Inspections (plan review/suppression).....	\$100	\$125

DEPARTMENT AND FEE	FY13	FY14
Plan review/alarm.....	\$100	\$125
Parking tickets (firelanes).....	\$30	\$60
PARKS AND REC DEPT.		
Showmobile rental, resident.....	\$350	\$375
Showmobile rental, non-resident.....	\$650	\$675
Showmobile extensions, resident.....	\$750	\$775
Showmobile extensions, non-resident.....	\$1,550	\$1,575
Weddings, Cooley Gardens.....	\$50	\$100
PARKS AND REC DEPT. (sports and leisure)		
Rec league team fee, 12 games.....	\$226	\$240
Team fee, 12 games.....	\$260	\$264
Team fee, 16 games.....	\$308	\$325
Team fee, 20 games.....	\$375	\$395
Team fee, 12 games.....	\$226	\$246
Team fee.....	\$280	\$300
Tournaments.....	\$75	\$100
Team entry.....	\$199	\$210
Kidscamp, non-resident.....	\$35	\$55
Local excellence training (summer), non-resident.....	\$35	\$70
Local excellence training (fall/winter), non-resident.....	\$45	\$70
National Junior Tennis, non-resident.....	\$30	\$65
National Junior Tennis (fall/winter), non-resident.....	\$45	\$60
Volunteer, non-resident.....	\$35	\$55
After-school program.....	\$10	\$20
River Trail use for special events.....	\$75	\$100
Golf, 9 holes.....	\$11	\$12
Golf, 18 holes.....	\$17	\$18
Golf cart, 9 holes.....	\$7	\$8
PARKS AND REC DEPT. (cemetery)		
Monument foundation.....	\$.30/sq. in.	\$.50/sq. in.
Government marker foundation.....	\$66	\$70
Marker registration and cuts.....	\$45	\$50
Internment, adult.....	\$750	\$800
Internment, child (3.5 feet to 5 feet).....	\$400	\$425
Internment, child (2.5 feet to 3.5 feet).....	\$200	\$225
Cremated remains.....	\$350	\$400
Columbarium.....	\$125	\$150
After hours, weekday after 3 p.m.....	\$300	\$350
After hours, Saturday before 1 p.m.....	\$300	\$350
After hours, Saturday after 1 p.m.....	\$400	\$500
After hours, Sunday and city holiday before 1 p.m.....	\$400	\$650
Burial, single grave (resident).....	\$800	\$900
Burial, single grave (non-resident).....	\$1,200	\$1,350
Monument, two-grave (resident).....	\$2,000	\$2,200
Monument, two-grave (non-resident).....	\$3,000	\$3,300
Monument, three-grave (resident).....	\$4,500	\$4,950

DEPARTMENT AND FEE	FY13	FY14
Monument, three-grave (non-resident).....	\$4,500	\$4,950
Child.....	\$300	\$325
Infant.....	\$150	\$200
Columbarium niche (resident).....	\$550	\$650
Columbarium niche (non-resident).....	\$825	\$975
Disinterment and re-interment in same cemetery, adult.....	\$700	\$1,000
Disinterment and re-interment in same cemetery, child and infant.....	\$255	\$350
Disinterment and re-interment in same cemetery, cremated remains.....	\$225	\$325
PLANNING DEPT.		
Building permits.....	\$60	\$70
Electrical permits.....	\$70	\$80
Mechanical permits.....	\$70	\$80
Plumbing permits.....	\$70	\$80
Parking fines, early pay option.....	\$7	\$10
Overnight parking (2 a.m.-5 a.m.).....	\$9	\$20
PUBLIC SERVICE DEPT.		
Overhead street banner.....	\$100	\$120
Sunday premium for events.....	\$0.15	\$0.20
Traffic control plan (city provided).....	\$95	\$100
Traffic control plan (applicant provided)....	\$35	\$50
Type II barricade/barrel.....	\$5.75	\$6
Traffic cones 18" or 24".....	\$2.75	\$3
Traffic cones 42" (furnish, operate).....	\$5	\$6
Pedestal mounted sign (furnish, operate)....	\$10	\$15
Arrow/message board.....	\$50	\$100
Traffic cones 42" (furnish).....	\$3.75	\$4
Pedestal mounted sign (furnish).....	\$7.50	\$10
Hot Mix Asphalt utility cut, with 4 revisits.....	\$75.75	\$81
HMA utility cut, with 4 revisits.....	\$25.25	\$27
Winter seasonal cut, with 1 revisit.....	\$10	\$12
Saw cut and excavate utility cut, prepare for ill.....	\$5	\$6
Sidewalk replacement.....	\$11.33	\$12
HMA utility cut, with 2 revisits.....	\$39	\$45
HMA utility cut, with 2 revisits.....	\$13	\$15
Winter seasonal cut, with 1 revisit.....	\$10	\$12
Recycling fee.....	\$89.75	\$92.50
Special event recycling bins.....	\$7.50	\$10
Special event dumpster.....	\$585	\$615
Special event trash cart.....	\$15	\$20
DECREASES/ELIMINATION		
PLANNING DEPT.		
Historic designation fee.....	\$100 - \$1,500.	No fee
PUBLIC SERVICE DEPT.		
Prints/aerials/sheet.....	\$20	\$5
Water wall (traffic barrier).....	\$190	\$50
Recycling cart (two or more).....	\$42	\$25

Charrette

from page 6

ridor for a more “intensive, detailed look” for future development, said Susan Pigg, the commission’s executive director.

“This is going to result in a lot of summary ideas, recommendations and visions that we can share with all of the municipalities along the corridor for them to consider how and if they want to implement them into their own municipal plans and activities,” she said.

The visioning session had three rules: Focus on what you’d like to see, not how you’d get it; build up each other’s ideas, not tear them down; and draw your ideas. Nearly half of the participants were over 50 years old, according to a survey taken during the session.

East Lansing Planning Director Tim Dempsey said that in his community “there’s interest in better connecting our downtown with the rest of the corridor, especially for pedestrians.”

Ideas are good and all, but what do these vision sessions accomplish in the way of real change? That remains to be seen, Dempsey said, but even small change is worth the effort.

“Any time you have people dreaming about what could be, you’re always going to have ideas that don’t come to fruition,” he said. “But if you can realize at least some, you’ve achieved something significant.”

Session leader Victor Dover, of the urban design team Dover, Kohl & Partners,



Andy Balaskovitz/City Pulse
More than 100 participants contributed their ideas for how to improve the Grand River/ Michigan Avenue corridor at a charrette session last week, which focused on sketching and writing on area maps.

said “charrette” is a French term for “cart,” originating from student architects who were given tight design deadlines in school and would wheel their finished product to advisors. Essentially, charrettes are about “getting as much done with as little time as possible,” Dover said.

Participants broke into groups for two hours, writing thoughts and sketching pictures on aerial views of the entire corridor and different sections. A short presentation by each table followed, which unfolded into a retelling of what participants wanted to see. Session organizers said such a compilation of ideas — which largely focused on diversifying transportation options and maximizing green space along the corridor — is the first of its kind. The goal is to gath-

er the information into a digestible report to be handed over to city officials, planning experts and private developers.

“Cities are like a great assembly of a work of art — always changing,” Dover said. “We’re taking the work of many and turning it into something that is simple and advisable.”

— Andy Balaskovitz



Butler Corridor Coalition

In an effort to “redefine the neighborhood,” a community group forms to reshape and connect the neighborhood northwest of the Capitol

Ora B. Fuller has lived above her store, Shanora’s Wigs and General Merchandise at 829 W. Saginaw St., for the past 32 years. She’s seen the neighborhood around her survive a reputation as a drug and crime infested area — a reputation she doesn’t think was totally deserved. And now she sees it coming back.

“I’m glad that it’s better, it’s a lot better,” Fuller said of the Genesee Neighborhood. “I’ve lived in this neighborhood for 30-some years. I like the neighborhood. If I didn’t, I wouldn’t have been here so long.”

One particular development in the area has Fuller excited. She was pleased to see Zero Day, a nonprofit that helps train veterans in construction trades, buy the mostly vacant Genesee School Building two blocks south of her business. Fuller is not alone.

See Butler, Page 7

PUBLIC NOTICES

Pursuant to 24 CFR 982.206, Public Housing Commissions must provide public notice to open their waiting list

Lansing Housing Commission is accepting **ELECTRONIC** preliminary applications for

South Washington Park Apartment 1 Bedroom and Efficiency Units
May 10, 2013 through May 24, 2013

Hildebrandt Park & Scattered Sites, 2, 3 and 4 Bedrooms
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You may apply at: www.lanshc.org then clicking the link that says “Apply Here” or by going to <https://www.waitlistcheck.com/MI058>.

NOTE: Only Electronic Preliminary Applications may be submitted. **ABSOLUTELY NO** applications can be submitted at any Lansing Housing Commission (“LHC”) office.

LHC is a federally funded Public housing Agency which provides housing opportunities for low-income families. Prior to admission, LHC verifies the family’s income and other household circumstances, including criminal, landlord and financial history for all adults in the household.

Households deemed both eligible and suitable for admission will be offered an opportunity to lease a unit with LHC. Households have the option of paying either an income based rent (based on a family’s ability to pay (usually 30% of a family’s monthly adjusted income), regardless of the size of the leased unit) or a flat rent (based on the number of bedrooms in the leased unit). Gas, electricity, water and sewer are included in the rent for South Washington Park Apartments.

Priority for admission will be given to applicants who qualify for one or more of LHC’s Local Preferences (pending verification by LHC):

- Person(s) displaced by a federally declared disaster occurring after July 1,2005
- Working Families
- Victims of Domestic Violence
- Elderly or Disabled
- South Washington Park 1 bedroom and Efficiency Apartments only: “foster care ward age 18 or older approved for the Independent living program

NOTE: ALL LHC managed properties are NON SMOKING.



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Corridor

from page 7

A group of folks in the area have begun to channel that energy — and that of another future development down the road — into a neighborhood group called the Butler Corridor Coalition.

The coalition will have its first community forum on Saturday to discuss ways of improving the area's sense of community, aesthetics and business opportunities.

The conversation began earlier this year after two key developments along North Butler Boulevard, which runs north/south through the heart of the Genesee Neighborhood, took form within weeks of each other. One was the sale of the old school to Zero Day, which occurred just after the Michigan Association of Broadcasters purchased five acres of property known as the Ottawa/Butler block bounded by Ottawa, Sycamore and Ionia streets and Butler. Karole White, president of the broadcasters association, has said the group hopes to build a new headquarters at the corner

Butler Corridor Coalition meeting

Saturday
First Presbyterian Church
510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

of Ottawa and Sycamore and may contact developers to plan ideas for the rest of the five acres.

The Genesee School is two blocks south of Saginaw Street. The MAB property is two more south from there at the end of the .4-mile corridor.

"Up and down the Butler Corridor became like a symbol of an area where we just looked the other way," said Gretchen Cochran, president of the Downtown Neighborhood Association. "We knew it could be better but we've never sat down and put our heads together. Now we have an opportunity with both the broadcasters and the veterans group to work with them all together with the neighborhood."

The Downtown Neighborhood Association, the Genesee Street School

Coalition, the Genesee Neighborhood Association and the Westside Commercial Association will all be involved with the coalition, Cochran said. Zero Day and the broadcasters association will also be partners.

Like a lot of Lansing neighborhoods, the pavement along Butler and the cross streets is often torn up and crumbling. Some of the sidewalks are useable, while others can be hazardous. The neighborhood has some pristine turn-of-the-century homes, but it's also spotted with blighted properties and unkempt lawns. The neighborhood has a diverse mix of racial and economic backgrounds.

Rory Neuner, who works for the Westside Commercial Association, said the coalition has mapped out a "walk shed" — a one-third-of-a-mile radius around Butler Boulevard that will be the targeted area of discussion. The area crosses Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard west to Carey Street and goes east just past North Chestnut Street. To the north, the area touches West Oakland Road and goes south to the Hall of Justice.

M.C. Rothhorn, a Downtown Neighborhood Organization board member who lives on Leitram Court around the corner from the Genesee School, said the purpose of the "walk shed" was to shake things up with residents in the area.

"We're trying to redefine the neighborhood. We are purposely not using existing borders in an effort to try to be more inclusive," he said. "(The east) side of MLK has traditionally been separated from west side of MLK and we're going to break that up."

The goals of the coalition will vary and a lot will depend on what happens at the first meeting, but a few things that people for this story talked about were: walkability, small business development, community gardens, fighting blight, increasing property values and creating a better sense of community.

"We'll all put our heads together and figure out what we love about the corridor and what we'd like to be different," Cochran said.

— Sam Inglot

Ease in with pilot

In a rare change of pace, the state House of Representatives wants more facts before deciding on a controversial policy.

At issue: drugs, and the extent to which government can and should tell people how to live their lives. It is one of those gray-area issues pitting the legitimate concern over abuse of illegal drugs against civil liberties and unreasonably stigmatizing welfare recipients.

Nobody can say for certain if there is a problem unique to welfare recipients, or if the proposed solution will work. Given the conflict over policy imperatives and



WALT SORG

the lack of data, the House is doing what any university academic would do: Find out more through a one-year pilot program.

Complicating the debate is a bill flawed through shoddy drafting that could entrap welfare recipients engaged in legal activity. Those flaws can and should be fixed through amendments.

HB 4118 mandates a one-year, three-county pilot program targeting illegal drug abuse by welfare recipients. It allows drug testing only of adult recipients suspected of abusing controlled substances. Drug abusers are required to participate in rehab programs.

The bill split Democrats in mid-Michigan's House delegation. Tom Cochran, D-Mason, and Theresa Abed, D-Grand Ledge, joined most Republicans in supporting the legislation. Reps. Andy Schor, D-Lansing, and Sam Singh, D-East Lansing, voted in opposition.

Is this a "nanny state" overreach, or a legitimate state interest?

"Nanny state" is a sensitive subject, whether it's efforts by New York's mayor to limit the size of soft-drink cups or seat-belt and motorcycle-helmet laws. All are good for you, but is it government's role to dictate smart choices? On issues such as this, the answer is usually: "It depends."

Backers say HB 4118 doesn't cross into nanny-statism because it deals only with those engaging in illegal activity. The loose language of the bill, though, may also ensnare recipients engaged in legal activities: users of medical marijuana and people legally using prescription painkillers such as Vicodin and OxyContin.

Cochran admits concern about the pilot drug-testing program having the potential of being overly broad as it relates to legal use of marijuana and narcotic painkillers.

"Certainly if it's a legal prescription and they are taking it for chronic pain, those people should not be included in this," he said.

Even so, Cochran conceded it's a close

call as to whether this is regulatory excess.

"Yes, there are some issues from a libertarian point of view regarding the state dictating what people can and cannot do. But this is a pilot program. Let's give it a try and see how it works. Hopefully we can help out some people."

This is the second effort by Michigan lawmakers to drug test welfare recipients. A 1997 law, the nation's first, mandated drug testing of all welfare recipients. That was stopped through a federal lawsuit. A 2003 agreement between the state and ACLU limited drug testing to "reasonable suspicion." (A similar 2011 Florida law was overturned by federal courts earlier this year.)

This proposal avoids that trap by requiring testing only after suspicion of drug abuse based on "an empirically validated substance abuse screening tool." It is similar in concept to the "implied consent" doctrine used to enforce laws against drunk driving: Take a breathalyzer or lose your license.

But the bill needs fixing.

In addition to being silent on legal uses of controlled substances, it doesn't define what constitutes "abuse" of a controlled substance. Is "abuse" any illegal use of a controlled substance? Or only use that results in negative behaviors?

It also raises privacy concerns, leaving the door open for information to be shared with law enforcement.

The pilot program needs to answer two questions: Is this needed? And will it work?

Existing data is spotty and contradictory.

A seven-year study by the Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan found that 16 percent to 21 percent of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families had used illicit drugs in a 12-month period. About 3.5 percent had a drug dependence or abuse problem. Those numbers are somewhat higher than in the overall population as reported by the Centers for Disease Control. But both a Senate Fiscal Agency study and a short-lived mandatory testing program in Florida last year found no significant differences in drug abuse rates between welfare recipients and the general public.

Critics say the bill unfairly targets welfare recipients. In a constituent email earlier this week, Schor told constituents "it unfairly targets and punishes low-income families seeking temporary assistance. There is no evidence showing that there is a higher use of drugs amongst low-income individuals or that there is any cost savings for the state attached to implementing this type of program."

A "fairness amendment," extending the pilot program to include legislators, was defeated on a voice vote.

Will it work? We don't know. A pilot study makes sense. Good policy decisions should be based on valid, complete information.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Z-5-2012, 600 E. Michigan Avenue
Rezoning from "H" Light Industrial District to "G-1" Business District

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 3, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI, to consider Z-5-2012. This is a request by Studio Intrigue Architects, LLC to rezone the property at 600 E. Michigan Avenue, legally described as:

West 18 feet Lot 13, also Lots 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 & 19 Connards Subdivision of Lot 1 Block 242

from "H" Light Industrial District to "G-1" Business District. The purpose of the rezoning is to permit the construction of a mixed use building on the site.

For more information about this case, phone City Council Offices on City business days, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted if received before 5:00 p.m., Monday, June 3, 2013, at the Lansing City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 1696.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICES



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS: Info at <http://pu.ingham.org>, click Current Bids. Send inquiries to jhjudgins@ingham.org. Email nwallace@ingham.org to register for mandatory pre-bid meeting(s): **56-13:** Ingham County is having a mtg for asphalt contractors for reconstructing a portion of existing asphalt parking lots, and drives on 5/14 at 2:30PM, Human Services Building, Room A, 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing, MI. Bids due 5/29, 11AM. **53-13:** Ingham Co. seeks bids to upgrade electrical pedestals for existing campsites at the Fairgrounds, including new conduit, wire and pedestals to provide improved power. Mtg on 5/16 at 10AM, Community Hall, Fairgrounds Office, 700 E. Ash, Mason, MI. Bids due 6/3, 11AM.



NOTICE OF LETTING OF DRAIN CONTRACT AND DAY OF REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENTS

**Ingham County Drain Commissioner
Patrick E. Lindemann**

EMBER OAKS DRAIN

NOTICE IS NOW GIVEN, that I, Patrick E. Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, will receive sealed construction bids on **Thursday, May 23, 2013**, at the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office located at 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854, until 10:00 a.m. local time, when bids will be opened and publicly announced for the construction, maintenance and improvement of a certain drain known and designated as the "Ember Oaks Drain" located and established in Meridian Charter Township in said County. Bids must be delivered to 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, MI 48854 within the timeframe listed above in accordance with the Bidding Documents.

The Drain project consists of bank repair and restoration, grade control stilling areas, riffles, rip rap, leveling of spoils, earthmoving and a timber boardwalk. Maintenance and improvement of the Drain will be let in one section and is described as follows, each having the average depth and width as set forth.

550 feet of open channel maintenance, bank repair, and associated structural stabilizations having an average depth of 1.5 feet and a bottom width of 4 feet.

A single timber boardwalk bridge crossing the Ember Oaks Drain Main Branch at station 0+50 having a width of 8 feet.

All stations are 100 feet apart; there are no culverts contained within this contract.

In the construction, maintenance and improvement of the Drain, the following approximate quantities and type of tile or pipe, along with appurtenances, will be required and contract let for the same. The following quantities are approximate and final payment will be made on measured quantities:

Estimated Qty	Unit	Description
1	LS	Mobilization
1	LS	Site Access
1	LS	Selective Clearing, Open Channel Excavation, Spoil Leveling
1	LS	Timber Boardwalk
18	EA	Grade Control Stilling Area
4	EA	Fieldstone Rip Rap Riffles
150	SY	Fieldstone Rip Rap
200	LF	Log Revetments
100	LF	Clay Cut Off Wall
65	LF	Clay Berm
200	SY	Clay Base Material
12	EA	2.5" DBH White Oak
12	EA	2.5" DBH Sugar Maple
12	EA	2.5" DBH American Basswood
12	EA	2.5" DBH Serviceberry
1	LS	Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control
1	LS	Cleanup and Restoration

Plans and Bidding Documents may be viewed beginning on **Wednesday, May 8, 2013**, at the office of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854. Bidders wishing to download the Plans and Specifications at NO COST may do so by registering as a planholder with Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick, Inc. over the phone at (586) 726-1234 and obtaining download instructions. For bidders wishing to purchase the Plans and Specifications, a fee of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) will be required for each set of proposed plans and specifications and will not be refunded. A mailing fee of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) to cover handling and postage will be charged to anyone wishing to receive the plans and specifications via United Parcel Services.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at **10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 14, 2013**, at the West entrance of the Red Cedar Glen Preserve, located at the end of Sylvan Glen Road east of Dobie Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864. Representatives of the Drain Commissioner and Engineer will be present at the pre-bid conference to discuss the contract. Prospective bidders are required to attend and participate in the conference. All bidders must sign in by name of attendee, business represented, and email address. Only bids from bidders in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be opened. All others will be considered non-responsive. The Engineer will transmit any Addenda the Engineer considers necessary in response to questions arising at the conference to all prospective Bidders of record. Oral statements may not be relied upon and will not be binding or legally effective.

This contract will be let in accordance with the Contract Documents now on file in the Office of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner and available to interested parties. Bids will be made and received in accordance with these documents. Contract will be made with the lowest responsible Bidder giving adequate security for the performance of the work. I reserve the right to reject any and all bids, and to adjourn such bid letting to such time and place as I shall publicly announce.

The date for the substantial completion of such contract is August 30, 2013, with final completion by November 1, 2013, and the terms of payment are contained in the contract specifications. Any responsible person wanting to bid on the above-mentioned work will be required to deposit bid security in the amount specified in the bidding documents as a guarantee that they will enter into a contract and furnish the required bonds as prescribed by the contract specifications and applicable law. All bids shall remain open for ninety (90) days after the day of the bid opening, but I reserve the right at my sole discretion to release any bid and bid security before that date.

DAY OF REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENTS

NOTICE IS FURTHER HEREBY GIVEN that on **Friday, June 7, 2013** the apportionments for benefits to the lands comprised within the "Ember Oaks Drain Special Assessment District," will be subject to review for one day from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office, located at 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854, or at such other time and place to which I may adjourn. At the meeting to review the apportionment of benefits, I will have the tentative apportionments against parcels and municipalities within the drainage district available to review. At said review, the computation of costs for maintenance and improvement of the Drain will also be open for inspection by any interested parties.

Pursuant to Section 155 of the Michigan Drain Code of 1956, as amended, any owner of land within the special assessment district for the Ember Oaks Drain or any city, village, township, or county aggrieved by the tentative apportionment of benefits made by the Drain Commissioner may appeal the apportionment within ten (10) calendar days after the day of review of apportionment by making an application to the Ingham County Probate Court for appointment of a Board of Review.

Any drain assessments against land will be collected in the same manner as property taxes. If drain assessments against land are collected by installment, the landowner may pay the assessments in full with any interest to-date at any time and thereby avoid further interest charges.

The following is a description of parcels of land constituting the special assessment district for the Ember Oaks Drain:

33-02-02-35-102-004	33-02-02-35-301-013	33-02-02-35-351-002
33-02-02-35-127-002	33-02-02-35-301-014	33-02-02-35-351-003
33-02-02-35-151-004	33-02-02-35-301-015	33-02-02-35-351-005
33-02-02-35-151-005	33-02-02-35-301-016	33-02-02-35-351-006
33-02-02-35-176-001	33-02-02-35-301-017	33-02-02-35-351-007
33-02-02-35-176-002	33-02-02-35-301-018	33-02-02-35-351-008
33-02-02-35-200-009	33-02-02-35-301-019	33-02-02-35-352-001
33-02-02-35-200-012	33-02-02-35-301-020	33-02-02-35-352-002
33-02-02-35-300-011	33-02-02-35-301-021	33-02-02-35-352-003
33-02-02-35-300-027	33-02-02-35-301-022	33-02-02-35-352-004
33-02-02-35-301-001	33-02-02-35-301-023	33-02-02-35-352-005
33-02-02-35-301-002	33-02-02-35-301-024	33-02-02-35-352-006
33-02-02-35-301-003	33-02-02-35-326-001	33-02-02-35-352-007
33-02-02-35-301-004	33-02-02-35-326-002	33-02-02-35-352-008
33-02-02-35-301-005	33-02-02-35-326-003	33-02-02-35-352-009
33-02-02-35-301-006	33-02-02-35-326-004	33-02-02-35-353-001
33-02-02-35-301-007	33-02-02-35-326-005	33-02-02-35-353-002
33-02-02-35-301-008	33-02-02-35-326-006	33-02-02-35-353-003
33-02-02-35-301-009	33-02-02-35-327-001	33-02-02-35-353-004
33-02-02-35-301-010	33-02-02-35-327-002	33-02-02-35-501-001
33-02-02-35-301-011	33-02-02-35-327-004	33-02-02-35-501-002
33-02-02-35-301-012	33-02-02-35-351-001	

In addition to the assessed parcels and tracts of land listed above, Meridian Charter Township and the County of Ingham shall be specially assessed at large for benefits of the improvements and maintenance.

NOW THEREFORE, all unknown and non-resident persons, owners and persons interested in the above-described special assessment district, and you:

- Clerk of Ingham County;
- Chair of the Ingham County Board of Commissioners;
- Supervisor of Meridian Charter Township;
- Managing Director of the Ingham County Department of Transportation and Roads

are hereby notified that at the time and place aforesaid, or at such time and place thereafter to which said bid letting may be adjourned, I shall proceed to receive bids for the maintenance and improvement of the Ember Oaks Drain, in the manner hereinbefore stated, and, also, that at such time and place as stated above from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. local time, the apportionment of benefits and the lands comprised within the Ember Oaks Drain Drainage District special assessment district will be subject to review;

AND YOU AND EACH OF YOU, owners and persons interested in the aforesaid lands and public corporations, are cited to appear at the time and place of such bid letting and day of review of apportionments aforesaid, and be heard with respect to such special assessments and your interests in relation thereto, if you so desire.

This review of apportionments is consistent with Section 154 of the Michigan Drain Code of 1956, as amended.

Proceedings conducted at the pre-bid conference, bid opening and day of review are subject to the Michigan Open Meetings Act. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation should contact Patrick E. Lindemann, the Ingham County Drain Commissioner at (517) 676-8395, or through the Michigan Relay Center at (800) 649-3777 (TDD) at least fourteen (14) days before each to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

Dated: May 3, 2013

Patrick E. Lindemann
Ingham County Drain Commissioner
707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854



On a roll

Lansing Symphony maestro Timothy Muffitt signs on for three more years



By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Audiences trust him. Musicians love to play for him. He digs the Lansing Lugnuts. Best of all, after seven years as Lansing Symphony music director, Timothy Muffitt has cans of symphonic whoop-ass he hasn't even opened yet.

"The next few seasons are sketched out and I'm very excited about bringing them to life," Muffitt said.

This week, the symphony announced that Muffitt's contract has been renewed through 2016.

"A lot is lining up in favor of the orchestra," Muffitt said. "I feel like the work we do is appreciated. Who would want to leave that?"

Bucking a national trend, the orchestra's ticket sales are up 8 percent this year compared to last year, according to symphony general manager Courtney Millbrook. What is more, the number of subscribers has grown for the first time since Millbrook came on board in 2009.

Muffitt can get downy and delicate with Debussy, but he gravitates more toward massive symphonies by titans like Mahler, Bruckner and Shostakovich and judicious splashes of new music even Detroit doesn't deliver.

"He has some considerable momentum going," principal bassoonist Michael Kroth said. "Some orchestras can't even get enough bodies to play these large works. He's bringing the big orchestra back."

Thursday's no-doze season finale is a classic example of the Muffitt stretch, ending with a crushing suite from Sergei Prokofiev's ballet "Romeo and Juliet," assembled by the maestro himself. (See related story, p. 12.) "This is stuff you don't usually hear," Kroth said, sounding juiced from Sunday's first rehearsal. "Since Tim has been here, we've done more interesting repertoire than we've done before."

Audience loyalty is like pizza dough, and Muffitt knows how to knead it. "There's plenty of stretch, but it's not overstretch," Kroth said. "Part of the job is to educate the audience and get them to come back for more. What he's got going now is really terrific."

**'I FEEL LIKE THE WORK WE DO
HERE IS APPRECIATED. WHO
WOULD WANT TO LEAVE THAT?'**

**-Lansing Symphony music director
Timothy Muffitt**

Muffitt said both the symphony and the Lansing area are "on a roll," and he wants in.

"At this point in my life I want to make a contribution," Muffitt said. "I want the work I do to have lasting impact. The state of Michigan is an artistically receptive place."

Muffitt sees signs of cultural and economic resurgence all over town, from contemporary art at Michigan State University's Broad Art Museum to the artisan food at Red Haven restaurant.

"Getting a restaurant like that is like having a Webern symphony on the concert program," he said, referring to the envelope-pushing concert scheduled for Nov. 9. (See related



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Timothy Muffitt, whose contract was renewed this week for another three years as Lansing Symphony music director, romps with the Sun on downtown Lansing's River Trail. Muffitt said he wants to contribute to a city that is on a cultural roll, from ambitious programs at the symphony to the art at the Broad Museum to artisan food.

story, p. 11.)

Muffitt, 51, has been married for a year to his wife, Elise. He divides his time between Lansing and Baton Rouge, where he's music director of the Baton Rouge Symphony. While in Lansing, he loves to go to Lugnut games and spends a lot of time in local nature spots like Harris Nature Center and Lake Lansing trails.

"You can get out of our semi-urban setting very quickly and be in a lovely place," he said.

Where Muffitt's conducting style is concerned, three players used the same five words to describe him: "It's all about the music."

"He's commanding in a thoughtful kind of way," principal trombonist Ava Ordman said.

"He brings the music to life in a way I haven't experienced with too many conductors," principal horn Janine Gaboury said.

"I love playing for him," Kroth said. "He's inspiring from the podium."

Lisa Pegher was a guest soloist for a live-wire sprint through Joseph Schwantner's Percussion Concerto in March 2008. She will team with Muffitt again next season for a concerto by Jennifer Higdon.

"He's totally the opposite of the typical maestro-with-a-God-complex," Pegher said. "He's under-respected. He should be guest conducting in New York or Chicago."

Like many orchestras based near university towns, the Lansing Symphony is a potentially awkward mix of long-time professor pros and young players fresh out of school. Muffitt has turned that potential implosion into a two-stage rocket, harnessing experience to guide enthusiasm.

"He can find a way to make all of those parties happy," Kroth said. "He can work with seasoned pros and yet keep it warm and inviting for those new guys."

Last month, Gaboury completed a circuit of freelance gigs with the Flint, Ann Arbor, Saginaw and Grand Rapids orchestras. She said Sunday's rehearsal in Lansing came as a relief.

"He's very professional and just feels more on top of things than the other orchestras I've played with," Gaboury said.

Gaboury would like to see more concerts at other places

around the city, higher pay that would help the orchestra retain top players and a goal that has eluded the orchestra for decades: a downtown symphony hall. "There are things that hold us back from really moving to the next level," she said. "But it's more to do with budget, not artistic direction or artistic level."

Millbrook's management strategy has been realistic: Hold the number of subscription concerts at six, let Muffitt the charismatic maestro generate buzz and let Muffitt the educator gently push the envelope.

The strategy is working. Ticket sales for the past season's opener, with two piano concertos played by MSU legend Ralph Votapek, was "way over" expectations, Millbrook said. A March concert pairing Dvorak's New World Symphony with a jazz-orchestral hybrid piece was also a big seller. Even the tank treads of Shostakovich's Tenth Symphony, epic centerpiece of an Oct. 10 concert, didn't scare people away.

"Tim has moved the needle on what people's expectations are," Millbrook said. At the other end of the envelope, pops concerts, often with Muffitt's enthusiastic participation, are reliable near-sellouts.

After a sharp decline in the wake of the 2008 recession, Millbrook said the symphony is "holding its own" on another crucial source of cash — corporate sponsors and foundations. "We've held at between \$450,000 and \$500,000, and we need that to be \$100,000 more to be the orchestra we want to be," she said.

This season, a 74-year-old series of young people's concerts returned after budget cuts forced them out of the picture for one season. Next year, the symphony will join Carnegie Hall's Link Up program, long a staple of New York schools, to bring classical music programs to Lansing-area schools.

Generally, the maestro is game for whatever helps the organization, but there are limits. This summer, with a grant from the City of Lansing, the symphony will offer its first free Summer Pops concert in downtown Lansing. The theme, voted by audience members over the past season, is "Music of the '80s." That's the 1980s.

"I told Tim he could dress like 'Miami Vice,'" Millbrook said. "I doubt he will."

On and off the trail

A peek at the 2013-'14 season

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

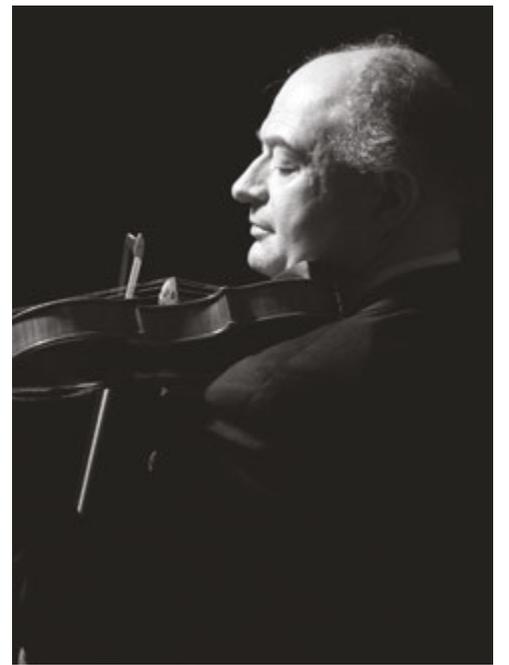
Would you rather watch a Ken Burns video or be airdropped straight to Yosemite? Classical music's perennial favorites are a lot like the national parks. The crags of Brahms' Fourth Symphony, the mesas of Mozart's Requiem or the arches of the "Polovtsian Dances" are best experienced first hand. That's reason enough for the Lansing Symphony to bring them alive in 2013-'14.

But the symphony's new season, announced this week, also has a significant off-road component.

"We're going to step off the trail for a little bit and see what's over there," said returning conductor Tim Muffitt, rolling with the comparison.

Muffitt laid a lot of groundwork for the orchestra's first excursion of the new season, which opens Sept. 13. He introduced young percussionist Lisa Pegher to Lansing audiences in 2008, with a crowd-pleasing concerto by Joseph Schwantner. Last season, he snuck in the music of Jennifer Higdon, whom he called "one of our most important living American composers," with the tintinnabulating mini-symphony "Blue Cathedrals." Next season he's bringing the two together, with Pegher playing Higdon's percussion concerto. Antonin Dvorak's 7th Symphony, rarely heard in comparison to his hoary 9th, is also on the slate.

For Oct. 5, Muffitt put together what he called a "dream concert." One of the world's top violinists, Ilya Kaler, will play both Prokofiev violin concertos in one night. (Kaler and cellist Amit Peled combined for a sublime performance of the Brahms Double



Courtesy Photos

Soloists play a crucial role in the 2013-14 season, including Lansing Symphony principal trombonist Ava Ordman (left) March 29, 28-year-old cellist David Requiro (center) Jan. 11, and one of the world's top violinists, Ilya Kaler, Oct. 5.

Concerto in Lansing in 2010.) Muffitt wanted to pair the Russian-born violinist with the über-Russian composer since the first time they worked together, on the Tchaikovsky concerto. "That was 10 years ago and now I'm finally able to make it happen," Muffitt said.

A milestone for the symphony, if not for Lansing culture in general, opens the Nov. 9 concert. Topping a triple bill with Mozart's Requiem and Beethoven's 8th Symphony, Lansing will get its first-ever straight-up hit of 12-tone music (organized not by melody or harmony, but by "rows" of non-repeating notes): Anton Webern's delicate Op. 21 Symphony, which Muffitt recorded in 2012 with Baton Rouge musicians. Webern in Lansing? "How about that?" Muffitt said — and he rarely says things like that. The grouping makes sense, though, because Mozart, Beethoven and Webern were all Viennese radicals.

"All three of them took music into a place that no one imagined it would ever go at the time they were writing," Muffitt said. "They belong together."

The Jan. 11 concert is a tough-Russian, nice-Russian workover, with Igor Stravinsky's rarely heard "Fairy's Kiss" and Shostakovich's first cello concerto (with David Requiro as soloist) for bicep flexers, and Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake" and "Sleeping Beauty" making with the nice.

Webern notwithstanding, the season's biggest envelope-pusher lurks at the heart of the March 29 concert. Each year, Muffitt plants one of the symphony's top musicians front and center for a concerto turn, sometimes with forgettable results, but no one is likely to forget this year's entry: a raw, primordial trombone concerto by American Donald Erb, performed by an audience favorite, principal trombonist Ava Ordman. The mu-

sic calls for the trombonist to play multiphonics, guttural didgeridoo sounds and even scream through the horn. "It's hard to imagine a piece of music more perfectly suited to a musical personality than this piece is for Ava," Muffitt said. "It's a wild piece of music." Ordman said she already started working out at the gym, in addition to practicing, to get ready for March. As soon as the hot-dog Erb concerto was in place, the rest of that night's all-American program — Copland, Gershwin and Bernstein — curled around it like a bun.

The season ends April 30 with big statements new and old

"Rainbow Body" was written in 2000 by American composer Christopher Theofanidis, but it has already become one of the most often performed pieces of the post-modern era. The season closes with a definitive wham — Johannes Brahms' magisterial Fourth Symphony.

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The case for Sergei marriage

Rachmaninoff, Prokofiev make for double Russian climax to symphony season

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

As far as anybody knows, these two guys don't compare tattoos, but there's a palpable rapport between Lansing Symphony maestro Timothy Muffitt and Christopher O'Riley, the guest soloist for the Lansing Symphony season finale. That's rare in the one-night-stand, fortissimo-and-forget orchestral world.

Several prior missions together, beginning with O'Riley's first Lansing appearance in 2009, have helped them prepare for the war

in store. A double blast of Russian power — Sergei Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 1, with O'Riley as soloist, and Sergei Prokofiev's juggernaut "Romeo and Juliet" — will end the Lansing Symphony season with bangs, whimpers and other passionate noises.

O'Riley, known for championing non-classical musicians like Radiohead and sporting henna arm vines, has a musical philosophy much like Muffitt's: keep an open mind, but never dumb it down.

"In many ways, he is the quintessential 21st century musician," Muffitt said. "Chris is aware that there's a broad range of great music out there."

Last week, O'Riley and Muffitt both sounded high from an exhilarating ride through the Rachmaninoff First in March, with Muffitt's other band, the Baton Rouge Symphony.

"We both came to great agreement about tempi, and then threw it all away and really goosed it for the performance," O'Riley said.

Threw it all away? Really? "We're basically seat-of-the pants sort of guys," O'Riley said.

Two solid rehearsals, Muffitt said, gave them the confidence to succumb to impulse on stage — as they plan to do next week — having built even more confidence.

"We were both probably wondering, 'Is this OK? Are you OK?'" Muffitt said. "The last thing I want to do is push the artist beyond their comfort zone. But Chris' comfort zone is pretty broad. So we went with it. It was exciting."

O'Riley said the give and take went both ways. The intricate tango of soloist and orchestra came alive, in part, because nobody was looking at their feet.

"There were details in the way he would shape the melody that I found very compelling, and I would incorporate that into my interpretation," O'Riley said.

Maestro and pianist hit it off from the first time they worked together.

"It's like any relationship," Muffitt said. "There is chemistry or there isn't. Chris and



Courtesy Photo

Guest pianist Christopher O'Riley said that when he and Timothy Muffitt did the Rachmaninoff First Concerto in Baton Rouge in March, they prepared carefully, then 'threw it all away and goosed it.' They'll reprise the feat in Lansing Thursday.

I think about music and approach the collaborative process in much the same way."

Their mutual admiration goes way beyond the usual thrilled-to-be-working-with-so-and-so boilerplate. In Baton Rouge, where O'Riley was an artist in residence, the pair hung out daily and talked about all kinds of music, from John Cage to "Pictures at an Exhibition" — by Emerson, Lake & Palmer as well as Mussorgsky.

"The conversation never came to an awkward pause," Muffitt said. "We had a lot to talk about."

O'Riley, in turn, called Muffitt "the most warmhearted person I know."

"He is a great collaborator and a very exciting technician with the orchestra," he said. "He gets a very particular, very energized, fi-

ery sort of sound."

And "fiery" is also a fine word for Rachmaninoff's First, a product of the composer's first blush of genius. It was O'Riley who first turned Muffitt's attention to the concerto, which he'd never conducted before. The First is played much less often than the much-hyped "Rach 3."

"This is as much a concerto for orchestra as well as piano," O'Riley said. "The virtuosity required will keep folks on their toes."

An eclectic set of encores by O'Riley is almost a certainty next week. Last time around, he treated the Lansing audience to a transcription of Radiohead's "You" and Debussy's delicate "Goldfish." This time, bet on a cameo appearance by another rock star — mega-virtuoso and infamous inflamer of women, Franz Liszt. Liszt is often compared to today's rock stars — with the brooding, the hair and the dangerous air — but O'Riley has a deeper reason to play his music than that.

"Liszt was also a great proselytizer for other people's music, and I like to think that I am that, in terms of arrangements — classical and otherwise," he said.

O'Riley's next proselytizing stint involves unreleased films of Andy Warhol, for which he's arranging music by the Velvet Underground and Nico.

But let's not the second Sergei at the altar. As a finale to the Lansing Symphony season — and a bookend to the epochal performance of Sergei Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony that got Muffitt the Lansing job in 2005 — the maestro prepared a new suite from the bone-grinding, heartbreaking ballet, "Romeo and Juliet."

This is music everybody knows, probably in bastardized form, even if they think they don't. It's been excerpted and imitated to death, especially in commercials and movies, but Muffitt is out to bring it to the concert stage in full glory.

"I feel like we have some artistic license in ballet suites," he said. "I just tried to put together something that hits all the high points but maintains the integrity of the story."

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Xanadu at Medovue

English Inn tour peels back secrets of a 1927 country estate

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

When choosing her jewelry for the night, the lady of the house could reach under the vanity and press a hidden button, revealing a secret panel in the bathroom. It was probably also used to hide hooch during Prohibition.

"Secrets of the English Inn," the Historical Society of Greater Lansing's next fundraising tour, serves up one small surprise after another, like a 15.9-acre tray of hors d'oeuvres..

How stressful was it to run an automotive manufacturing company during the Great Depression? How hard did the era's 1 Per-

"It's in constant use, and everything still fits perfectly. We're still discovering new details in the house and grounds."

**-Erik Nelson,
English Inn managing partner**

centers party? On May 15, the English Inn's cast iron gate will creak open to reveal a little-known local Xanadu called Medovue, the Eaton Rapids home of Irving Reuter, a top General Motors executive in the late 1920s and early '30s. (The answer to both questions, incidentally, can be found in Reuter's shower, studded with five powerful heads to riot-hose him awake each morning.)

Now a restaurant, pub and bed-and-breakfast, the well-preserved 1927 complex has all the Honduran mahogany, stone fireplaces, gazebos, pergolas and Tudor Revival trappings you'd ever want to gawk at. Its checkered history, however, is the real attraction. To thicken

Secrets of the English Inn

6 p.m. May 15
677 S. Michigan Road, Eaton Rapids
\$50 including hors d'oeuvres
Fundraiser for the Historical Society of Greater Lansing
lansinghistory.org
(517) 282-0671

Reuter was a gifted gadget man who perfected and patented key electrical parts, such as generators, starters and ignition coils, for Remy Electric, later swallowed by GM. His life got more complicated as he shot up through the ranks, becoming general manager and president of Oldsmobile Motor Car Co. in 1925. He didn't want the job, but an impressed board of directors coaxed him into it.

When Reuter met his future wife, Janet, she was studying as a singer in Europe, but soon she was sucked into her husband's slipstream.

As soon as the Reuters moved into the Medovue estate in 1928, they started hosting the area's business elite, and ended up in the Michigan and American Who's Whos.

Their guests schmoozed, dined and slept in a richly appointed, 19-room mansion with several outbuildings, two of which have been converted into lodgings. The original dining room is paneled in Honduran mahogany, cut and placed so the grain matches from panel to panel.

What sticks in the mind about Medovue isn't so much the predictable grandeur of another wealthy Tudor pile as the numberless details hidden within. There's a wrought iron gate inside the front door that enabled the owners to leave a vestibule bathroom open for weary travelers from Eaton Rapids to Lansing. Open the broom closets and a light automatically goes on, as it would in a refrigerator. English Inn managing partner Erik Nelson marvels that the mechanism still works after nearly 80 years.

"It's in constant use, and everything still fits perfectly," Nelson said. "We're still discovering new details in the house and grounds."

In 1996, Nelson's parents, Gary and Donna Nelson, bought the English Inn from Dusty Rhodes, who had turned it into Dusty's English Inn, before opening Dusty's Cellar in Okemos.

Under all that impressively fitted and finished stone and wood is a floor of iron and concrete. A few years ago, when the kitchen floor was torn up to install a commercial kitchen, they had to use jackhammers to replace the planks sunk directly into the concrete.

Kenneth Black, one of Lansing's top architects, designed a substantial addition to the main house in the '50s. Contrary to his modernist reputation, Black out-Tudored the original. He later recalled that he and George Hagamier, the contractor, were standing on the front lawn, talking about the work, when Janet Reuter stuck her head out of one of the four casement windows on the second floor and yelled, "Get off my grass, you dumb sons of bitches."

But oh, she loved lavender. One of the house's six bathrooms, with its floor-to-ceiling Pewabic tile, will make you feel the most lavender you've ever felt in your life. The Pewabic tiles get whimsical in another bathroom, checkered in yellow and black, with fish blowing bubbles on the top edge.

But the detail that stops the show is invisibly tucked into Janet Reuter's dressing room.

One vanity drawer is half as deep as the



Courtesy Photo (top)
Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse (left)

English Inn was originally Medovue (above), the estate of top General Motors exec Irving Reuter. English Inn managing partner Erik Nelson (left) pulls out the sneaky half-drawer in the vanity to reveal the hidden battery that powers the secret button that opens the secret compartment that contained Janet Reuter's jewelry.

others, the better to conceal a clunky, cylindrical battery pack, a bit rusty but still bright red. A button under the vanity top, powered by the battery, activates a hidden panel over the fireplace in the bedroom, where her jewelry was kept.

It must have been a high life, but Irving Reuter burned out on it pretty fast. By 1936, he was headed out the door of GM, having managed both the Pontiac and Opel divisions as well as Oldsmobile. (He spoke excellent German.) The Reuters shoved off and divided their time between Asheville, N.C., and Florida. They started a foundation that doled out tens of millions of dollars to scores of charities, including Habitat for Humanity.

Records show that one Charles S. Holden owned the estate until the Catholic Church bought it in 1940. A 1939 brochure refers to Medovue as Rhodora Acres, doubtless after a woman that was important to Holden.

Visitors can ponder a paradox of human vanity on the second floor, where, as a gesture of modesty, Archbishop Albers used the

smallest room he could find: Reuters' walk-in closet for his bedroom. The cross he put on the ceiling, directly over the bed, is still there.

Beginning in 1957, the estate had a brief interlude as the home of Youth Unlimited, a school for about 30 gifted youngsters staffed by faculty from Albion College.

Gov. G. Mennen Williams called the project "the number one project of its kind in America today." A clipping from the Jackson Citizen Patriot in Nelson's file called the program "one of the answers to the Russians' Sputnik." The project had long folded by 1996, when the Nelsons bought it.

Through the years, the massive Tudor pile absorbed these comings and goings without any signs of shock. Black, who designed the cozy oak bar room, once asked Albers what he did with it; he told Black he put some candles on the bar, painted the letters "IHS" on the front and used it as an altar. Now that it's back to service as a pub, there's a lingering air of benediction.

"We still take confession," Nelson said.



Fluffington PULSE



Endless love

MSU vet helps pet owners with animal hospice care services

By **ALLANI I. ROSS**

The death of a pet is often the first experience many of us have with loss. Dogs, cats, hamsters and rabbits all have shorter lifespans than humans, giving pet owners, especially young ones, an inside track to the pain of letting go. It's easy for outsiders to dismiss it as "just an animal," but a pet's death is a pain that often runs deep.

"Eighty percent of all Americans consider pets to be family members, and 30 percent of pet owners suffer debilitating grief when their pet dies," said Page Yaxley, a doctor of veterinary medicine at Michigan State University. "Losing a pet can be just as traumatic as losing a person."

Yaxley is the founder of Veterinary Hospice Care, which provides comprehensive in-home services for dying dogs and cats throughout the state. Care consists of mobility assistance, nutritional guidance, hygiene upkeep, wound management and pain management. She said that the care for each patient is tailored to that pet's specific needs. The owner is usually required to fill in a key participatory role.

"These are people who want more options than just euthanasia or letting their pet suffer," Yaxley said. "We provide a means for people to give their pets a comfortable, stress-free lifestyle when it gets close to the end."

Yaxley said she was inspired to launch a

hospice care service because of a gap that she saw in her own training.

"Most vets receive less than one hour of end-of-life care as part of their education," Yaxley said. "We are just not trained to deal with this aspect of veterinary medicine, and we often fall short when dealing with clients. Medical doctors have a core curriculum in end-of-life care, and it's shocking that we don't — especially because we're trained in euthanasia."

Yaxley, 36, said that her experience in losing her own dog — and the lack of empathy she found in her fellow vets — triggered her interest in starting a hospice care service. She said she pitched the idea to MSU's veterinary college in 2010 and began servicing clients about a year later. Since then, Yaxley said that she has seen over 100 patients — and had to temporarily stop taking on new clients recently due to demand. Most of her patients comes from referrals from either former clients or the MSU vet school. Prices depend on the distance she needs to travel and the care that's required.

"There are other pet hospice services around, but only two in the country are based out of a veterinary teaching college, and the other one is in Colorado," Yaxley said. "Because we're based out of a college, we can offer a level of expertise that other services just can't provide."

Okemos resident Mary Ferro was re-



Sam Inglot/City Pulse

Page Yaxley (right) with a Leni, a 2-year-old female boxer, and her owner, Brian Wise, who visited the MSU vet clinic recently. Yaxley is one of the few pet hospice care providers in the country.

ferred to Yaxley in March when Gus, her 10-year-old English bulldog, developed T-cell lymphoma.

"My vet never suggested euthanasia," Ferro said. "When they referred me to hospice, that was their way of saying Gus was at the end and that I'd have to make some tough decisions."

Ferro said that Gus died in comfort on March 22 and is buried in the backyard. Pearl, Ferro's other British bulldog, was diagnosed with a heart mass soon afterward and also came under Yaxley's care. The 10-year-old dog's health deteriorated quickly, and last Saturday she also died at home. Ferro, 57, said she's had dogs "off and on" throughout her life, but found a special kinship with Gus and Pearl.

"There's just something about English bulldogs—their personalities are so unique," she said. "Page was a big support and a good source of comfort for me through this diffi-

cult time. I never wanted to take (my dogs) somewhere where they'd be scared, and she made everything so easy at home. My dad was in hospice — it was great for him, and I'm so grateful that they offer this for pets, I think this is a wonderful program."

Yaxley thinks pet hospice care will become more popular in the years ahead as public demand grows and medicine improves. She offers her services to pets throughout Michigan (she's traveled as far north as Petoskey) suffering from chronic debilitating illness or terminal illness. For now, Yaxley only offers care to dogs and cats, as hospice care focuses on pain management and it's difficult to gauge the pain of other species.

"Our goal is to provide comfort," Yaxley said. "The difference is that people can tell you how much pain they're in and where it's at. We don't have that luxury with animals — they hide their pain — so we just do the best we can. It's a non-stop learning process."




Your dog here →

Legislation would allow dogs to dine outdoors with owners

By **SAM INGLOT**

Some dog owners like taking their four-legged friends with them everywhere they go, but that's illegal in some spots — such as restaurant patios. However, legislation to change that was introduced in the state House earlier this year.

A recent bill sponsored by Rep. Margaret O'Brien, R-Portage, would allow cities and restaurants to decide whether your dog can join you next time you go out to dinner. The bill would allow cities to pass an ordinance allowing dogs in restaurants, and individual businesses could then decide whether they wished to allow canines in their outdoor dining areas.

The bill was introduced in late February and has been in the House Committee on Tourism ever since. There has been some testimony regarding the bill, but it's in committee until some kinks are worked out with liability and health code issues, said Matt Blakely, policy director for the committee's



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

A new bill may make it legal for dogs to sit with their owners on Michigan restaurant patios. The Waterfront Bar and Grill in downtown Lansing has dog water dishes ready to go.

chairman, Rep. Peter Pettalia, R- Presque Isle.

The goal, O'Brien told MLive, is to make Michigan a more attractive state for dog-loving tourists.

"Michigan is a destination tourism state," said O'Brien, who's sponsoring HB4335. "We just want to make sure we have one more tool in the belt."

"I think it would be good," said Nick Marcy, manager at the Waterfront Bar and Grill in downtown Lansing, which has a patio that can seat about 120 people. "I think it would be good for business. If someone is walking by with their dog, it might encourage them to stop by."

Marcy said Waterfront allows dog owners to tie their dogs up outside, near the edge of their patio, but they have to keep them out of the area to comply with the law. The bar even stocks dog water dishes, which get a lot of use.

Allowing dogs on patios might work for restaurants with spacious patios, but for smaller ones like East Lansing's Peanut Barrel, dogs just get in the way.

"We don't allow dogs unless they are assisting someone," said Meghan Comer, manager at Peanut Barrel. "It's so small it can sometimes get crowded, and a dog could pose a danger to the servers."

As a dog owner, Marcy said he'd be down for bringing his dog to dine with him.

"I would love that," he said.

Pet Listings

A guide to products and services for Lansing area pet owners

PET SUPPLIES:

GONE 2 THE DOGS. Online store featuring custom collars, harnesses, leashes and toys. gone2thedogs.biz.

PETCO. Small pets and pet supplies. 9 a.m.- 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 10 a.m.- 7 p.m. Sunday. 510 Frandor Ave., Lansing Township. (517) 333-8544. petco.com.

PETSMART. Pet supplies, grooming and full veterinary service. 9 a.m.- 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. Sunday. 5135 Times Square Place, Okemos. (517) 347-6656. 305 N. Marketplace Blvd., Lansing. (517) 622-1542. petsmart.com.

PET SUPPLIES PLUS. Small pets and pet supplies, grooming. 9 a.m.- 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. Sunday. 2100 W. Grand River Ave. Okemos. (517) 347-1508. Also : 6030 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 3, Lansing. (517) 887-8130. petsuppliesplus.com

PREUSS PETS. Fresh and saltwater fish, birds, reptiles, small animals and supplies. 10 a.m.- 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.- 6 p.m. Sunday. 1127 N. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 339-1762. preusspets.com.

SOLDAN'S FEEDS AND PET SUPPLIES. Animal supplies for pets and barnyard animals, with five locations in the area. 5200 S. Martin Luther King Blvd., Lansing. 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday; 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. (517) 882-1611; 1802 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. Sunday.

(517) 349-8435. 5206 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. (517) 323-6920. 515 Lansing St., Charlotte. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. 12286 Old U.S. 27, DeWitt. 9 a.m.- 8 p.m. Monday-Friday; 9 a.m.- 6 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. soldanspet.com.

TRICK YOUR BULLY. Dog food, supplements, accessories and more. 1136 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; noon-5 p.m. Saturday. (517) 999-5005. trickyyourbully.com

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AFFORDABLE PET SITTERS PLUS. In-home visits. 2920 Amherst Dr., Lansing. (517) 323-7167.

ANNABELLE'S PET STATION. Training, grooming and daycare. Daycare hours: 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday. Salon hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and second Saturday each month. 600 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 599-0995.

BEST FRIENDS PET CARE. Boarding, day and night care, training and grooming. 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; 3 p.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. 2920 Port Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 327-1070. bestfriendspetcare.com.

CRITTER CARE. In-home pet care, dog walking and exercising. 5100 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. (517) 203-2273.

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Pet Listings

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overnight boarding, grooming and training classes. 5325 W Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing. 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday; 7 a.m.-noon and 4 p.m.-7 p.m. Saturday; 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. (517) 322-2229. doggydaycareandspa.com.

THE ELEGANT POOCH. Crate-less grooming. 3022 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 483-2260. theelegantpooch.com.

GOOD DOG! TRAINING. Dog walking/training and pet sitting. (517) 349-0502. janetasmith.com.

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Burn after reading

All-star '8' brings gay marriage debate to Lansing, hoping to end it

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

A timeless saga of the human spirit that will inspire generations to come?

Screw that.

"Our hope is that this play will be obsolete in two years," Chad Badgero declared.

'8,' a documentary play by Dustin Lance Black

Fundraiser for American Foundation for Equal Rights
Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
8 p.m. Friday
Miller Performing Arts Center
6025 Curry Lane, Lansing
\$10-15
peppermintcreek.org

On Friday, Badgero directs a star-studded, one-time-only staged reading of "8," a multi-layered account of the 2009 federal trial over Proposition 8, California's gay marriage ban.

The California court refused to release a video record of the trial, an embarrassing fiasco for proponents of Prop 8. In response, Dustin Lance Black — who won an Academy Award in 2009 for writing the screenplay for "Milk" — crafted a gay-marriage passion play out of trial transcripts

and interviews. Since the show's New York premiere in September 2011, it has been re-enacted by groups ranging from community theater troupes to Hollywood royalty — a March 2012 Los Angeles production featured George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Martin Sheen, Jamie Lee Curtis, Kevin Bacon and a dozen other megastars.

For Friday's reading, Badgero lassoed an A-list of Lansing luminaries. Tucked into the huge cast of 21 are familiar faces like TV anchorman-about-town Evan Pinsonnault as Freedom to Marry founder Evan Wolfson; "Quizbusters" host Matt Ottinger as a broadcast journalist; Lansing Community College performing arts coordinator Melissa Kaplan as plaintiff Kris Perry; Brad Rutledge, one of Badgero's Peppermint Creek mainstays, plays pro-Prop-8 attorney Charles Cooper; and theater titan Ken Beachler presides over the whole shebang as suffer-no-bullshit Judge Vaughan Walker.

"8" is more than a lightning primer on the legal precedents and arguments that frame the gay marriage debate. To flesh out the courtroom wrangles and show why they matter, Black wove testimony from the trial with personal interviews dramatizing the human impact of laws like Prop 8 or Michigan's constitutional ban on gay marriage.

Leaving the high rhetoric to the attorneys, first-hand accounts describe what it's like to endure corrosive, day-to-day stigma as second-class citizens.

"My partner and I want to open an



Courtesy Photo
Kris Koop Ouellette (left) and Melissa Kaplan are part of an all-star local cast conducting a staged reading of "8" Friday.

account," plaintiff Paul Katami says to a bank teller in one exchange.

"A business account? An LLC?" the teller blinks back.

It's like that every day, Katami testifies. "Being able to call him my husband is something everyone understands,"

he declares.

Clips of anti-gay scare commercials used in the run-up to the Prop 8 referendum are starkly juxtaposed to bankrupt testimony from "experts" who couldn't come up with a single example of the al-

See '8', Page 19



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THE SCREENING ROOM

by ALLAN I. ROSS

Heavy metal

Intelligent 'Iron Man 3' gets more than armor-deep

Since the superhero genre was reinvigorated in 2000 with the earnest "X-Men" flick, comic book movies have become, with a few exceptions, less laughable and more laugh-all-the-way-to-the-bankable — and attracting top-tier acting talent, to boot.

The one-two punch of Heath Ledger's posthumous Academy Award for playing the Joker in 2009's "The Dark Knight"

and last year's \$1.5 billion grossing "Marvel's The Avengers" cemented the genre as something to be taken seriously. Suddenly you don't have to check your brain at the door anymore if you want enjoy superbeings slugging it out over major metropolitan areas.

In that vein, "Iron Man 3" plays more as a follow-up to "The Avengers" than an entry in its own franchise, but it's not just reaping leftover goodwill; the third solo outing of Robert Downey Jr. as Tony Stark as Iron Man actually takes the time to explore the mentality of a man who, in quick succession, learned of the existence of extraterrestrial life and proceeded to murder the hell out of it.

Global self-defense or not, an experience like that has gotta take its toll on the human psyche, and the film deals with Stark's emotional fallout from the experience in "The Avengers." Sure, Spider-Man is plagued with doubt and Batman is haunted by his childhood, but when's the last time you saw a hero grapple with the existential quandaries



Courtesy Photo

Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.) strikes a contemplative pose in "Iron Man 3." This is the latest film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe series, which includes last year's blockbuster, "The Avengers."

that come from saving the world?

Of course, "Iron Man 3" has plenty of action, including a thrilling high altitude rescue of plummeting airline passengers and an eye-popping firefight finale, but it's not all repulsor beams and snarky one-liners. Get this — it also works as a cogent examination of what it means to be an American living in an age of domestic terrorism.

The film's antagonist this time out is the Mandarin, Iron Man's main foe in the comic books, but he's no mustache-twirling ethno-stereotype anymore. Played by Ben Kingsley, the character has been updated to be a smoke-and-mirrors amalgamation of several real-world American enemies. The Mandarin instills terrorism's fear of the unknown without copping to xenophobia.

This is beyond a smart superhero flick; it's a thinking man's action film that just so happens to have a billionaire playboy zipping around in a

flying metal suit.

The story also does a couple of inventive things that are surprisingly effective: First, the plot manages to keep Stark out of his armor for most of the movie, showcasing the character's resourcefulness; he's not just a thrill-seeking alpha male — he's James Bond as his own Q.

Ironically, "Iron Man 3"'s other notable feature is the prevalence of various iterations of the suits, and nearly all the supporting characters get a turn to don one.

Sidekicks Gwyneth Paltrow and Don Cheadle shine in their respective subplots, and Guy Pearce, playing another of the film's slippery foils, impressively goes toe-to-toe — and ego-to-ego — with Stark.

This is only the second time in the chair for "Lethal Weapon" scribe Shane Black, who worked with Downey on his directorial debut, "Kiss Kiss Bang Bang." Black displays a mastery of crackly dialogue and the ability to incorporate action into a coherent storyline, which calls to mind the work of James Cameron and Joss Whedon.

Fortunately, it doesn't look like the steam's running out of either the genre in general or Marvel Cinematic Universe franchise specifically — which includes Captain America, Thor and the upcoming Guardians of the Galaxy and Ant-Man movies — leaving Black plenty of room to fire up those rocket boosters again someday.

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'8'

from page 17

leged harm they argued that gay marriage would inflict on society.

"It's easy to make statements on TV commercials, where you can't be cross-examined under oath," Boies says.

Diego Love-Ramirez plays Dr. Ian Meyer, an expert witness who testifies on the mental health impact of discrimination on gay couples. Love-Ramirez said he was hit especially hard by the "protect our children" tone of anti-gay-marriage rhetoric: He and his husband, Kent Love, have a 2-year-old son named Lucas. Love-Ramirez said he might never have come to Michigan if he knew it would go into "decline" on gay rights, but he is hopeful that things will turn around.

"People who come to the show will see that our community is coming together, from very well-known people to people who are not so well known," he said.

The gay rights struggle has given rise to a new form of drama that is part journalism, part activism, part town meeting and part news crawl. In March, Badgero directed "The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later," which documented the aftermath of the 1998 hate-crime murder of Matthew Shepard.

Since the play's debut, the American Foundation for Equal Rights, or AFER, has licensed "8" to hundreds of schools and community theaters nationwide. The rights are

given free to college theater departments, theaters with a "social mission," and even to couples who want to read excerpts at their weddings. However, the play can only be presented one night — productions are limited to maximize geographical spread. And if a theater company charges admission, part of the proceeds goes to the foundation.

One pair of plaintiffs, a lesbian couple, is played by Kaplan and Kris Koop Ouelette, a New York actress who played in Broadway's "Phantom of the Opera" (as all three female principals) and "Cats," and recently moved to Lansing. The male gay couple is played by Michael Banghart, a mainstay in Badgero's company, and Josh Brewer, a law student and actor who wasn't known to Badgero before auditions, but "simply gave the most sincere, beautiful reading I've ever seen." For the first time, Badgero has acknowledged the play's personal meaning for him by casting a non-actor — his boyfriend, Matthew Swan — in a bit part.

The production is a point of local pride for Badgero, among the most tireless and enthusiastic boosters of Lansing's cultural scene. After years as a volunteer with the Old Town Commercial Association and several more with the Arts Council of Greater Lansing, Badgero was recently named Arts Education Program Manager at the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs.

"I want Lansing to be a town that has done '8,'" he said. "Not, 'let's watch the L.A. production on YouTube.' The dialogue is happening everywhere and we should be having it in Lansing."

Big top tabbies

Performing cat show rolls into East Lansing this week

By DANA CASADEI

The traveling show coming to the Hannah Community Center this week features animals you're more likely to find dozing in a warm sunbeam on your living room

The Amazing Acro-Cats

7 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday
\$18 adults, \$15 kids 12 and under

East Lansing Hannah Community Center
819 Abbot Road, East Lansing
circuscats.com

steadily for the last four years, combining elements of amusement and education. But really: How do you train a cat?

"It's all positive reinforcement, with some begging and pleading at times," Martin said. "You never know what's going to happen."

The Acro-Cats jump through hoops, walk on tightropes and perform tricks on command. The group also features the Rock Cats, a faux rock band made up of cats



Courtesy Photo

The traveling Rock Cats have been trained to "play" guitars, keyboards and drums.

"playing" guitars, keyboards and drums. Oh, and there's a chicken on tambourine.

The first show was held in a California art gallery, which Martin described as "horrible."

"The people still loved the show even though the cats were kind of like whomp, whomp, whomp," she said, with a trombone fail sound effect. But it didn't derail her. The second show was more successful, and then it "just kind of took off from there."

Martin said the group regularly performs to sold-out venues, which she said consists of about 70 percent grown-ups. She has also used the troupe to find homes for over 100 kittens in the last four years. Martin said she's touring with three foster kittens, which may be up for adoption when the tour makes its stop in East Lansing.

"It's about being able to do something that I love to do and be able to be around the animals that I love," she said. "Even if I won the lottery tomorrow, I would probably still do exactly what I'm doing. I anticipate doing it until I die."

CAPITAL AREA DISTRICT LIBRARIES

Live Chat with Wild Author Cheryl Strayed

Thursday, May 16
6:30 p.m.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

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

Wednesday, May 8

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Babytime. Beginning storytime for babies under 2. 10:30-11 a.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Vinyasa Yoga. Taught by Cathy Fitch. Drop ins welcome. 5:30-6:45 p.m. \$12 per class, \$60 six weeks. ACC Natural Healing and Wellness, 617 Ionia St., Lansing. (517) 708-8510.

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

Women's Rights. Mothers Day discussion. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. PilgrimUCC.com.

LWVLA Annual Meeting. Speaker George Erickcek. Executive Conference Room. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing.

Beginning Genealogy Series. Presenter Jeff Antaya. Registration required. 6-7 p.m. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840. cadl.org.

Old Everett Public Safety Meeting. 7-9 p.m. McLaren-Greater Lansing Education Building, 401 W. Greenlawn Ave., Lansing. oldeverett.org.

Moore's Park Neighborhood Meeting. 6:30-8 p.m. Shabazz Academy, 1028 W. Barnes Ave., Lansing. mooreparkneighborhood.org.

LinkedIn Basics. Registration required. 6:15-8:15 p.m. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6346. cadl.org.

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

EVENTS

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

Pam Posthumus Signature Auction Event. Proceeds go to the Children's Trust Fund. 5-9 p.m. \$150. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. michigan.gov/ctfsignature.

See Out on the Town, Page 22

MAY 10-11 & 17-18 >> 'THE FOX ON THE FAIRWAY'

"The Fox on the Fairway," by Ken Ludwig, is a tribute to the exaggerated and comedic English farces of the '30s and '40s, taking place at a private, stuffy country club. The show follows a golf tournament with ill-advised wagers, lovers' quarrels and more. Dinner, 6:30 p.m. Show, 7:30 p.m. \$33, \$28 seniors & students, \$20 12 and under. Show only, \$15, \$10 12 and under. Waverly East Cafetorium, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 243-6040. StarlightDinnerTheatre.com.



MAY 10-12 & 17-19 >> 'THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENANE'

While "The Fox on the Fairway" is a farce, "The Beauty Queen of Leenane" is a much darker comedy. The Martin McDonagh play is set in County Galway, Ireland, in 1989. Spinster Maureen is living with her passive aggressive mother when two brothers, Peto and Ray, find their way into the women's lives. Will Maureen find her one true love? Or will her mother derail it all? Only time will tell. Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m. Sundays, 2 p.m. \$12, \$10 seniors & students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.



Photo by Luke Anthony Photography

SAT. MAY 11 >> LATE NIGHT FILM PICNIC

As part of the constantly expanding list of programs at the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, the Late Night Film Picnic series takes place this Saturday. The rockumentary, "Lemmy," will be shown in the education wing. The film, produced by Greg Olliver and directed by Wes Orshoski, tells the story of Motorhead frontman Lemmy Kilmister, who has had a huge impact on music during his four decades in the business. "Lemmy" includes interviews with music giants Alice Cooper and Ozzy Osbourne, as well as actor Billy Bob Thornton. Advanced tickets can be purchased on the Broad website. 9 p.m. \$3-\$6, FREE student members. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-3900. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

MON. MAY 13 >> MICHIGAN WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME GOLF OUTING & PICNIC DINNER



The third annual Michigan Women's Hall of Fame golf outing and picnic dinner takes place at the Country Club of Lansing on Monday. Beginning at 10 a.m., when registration and the driving range open, the day will include a boxed lunch and shotgun start at noon — and that's only the beginning. A reception at 4:30 p.m. will have a silent auction and raffle. At dinner, which starts at 5:30 p.m., the Michigan Women's Studies Association will celebrate its 40th anniversary, honoring Dr. Gladys Beckwith and the association's founders. Special awards will be presented to Sheri Jones, 2013 Extraordinary Woman, and Betty Gardner, Outstanding Volunteer. 10 a.m. \$150 golf & dinner, \$40 dinner. Country Club of Lansing, 2200 Moores River Drive, Lansing. (517) 484-1880 ext. 203. michiganwomenshalloffame.org.

TUES. MAY 14 >> LAHR TOWN HALL MEETING

This month the Boy Scouts of America will be voting on whether to lift its ban on openly gay scouts. On Tuesday, the Lansing Association for Human Rights will host a forum to discuss the Boy Scouts of America's discriminatory membership policy. A panel will talk about the policy from the perspective of scouts and leaders in Boy Scouts, religious leaders and the psychological impact of this discrimination. 7 p.m. Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. lahronline.org.

WED. MAY 15 >> GREATER LANSING RIDE OF SILENCE

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Greater Lansing Ride of Silence. Next Wednesday the event will be hosted by MSU Bikes, joining more than 300 events annually worldwide that honor fallen cyclists. The eight-and-a-half mile bike ride will go from MSU's Wells Hall to the Lansing Capitol, and back, all done in silence. Black armbands will be worn for those who know someone who was hit and killed and red armbands for those who have been hit and injured themselves or someone they know. Bike patrol officers will accompany the group throughout the route to maintain safety. Registration, 5:15 p.m. Ride, 6:30 p.m. FREE. Wells Hall Courtyard, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 575-0765.



Photo by Tim Potter

TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

MAY 10-11



MIGHTY UKE DAY IN OLD TOWN

Old Town Lansing, all ages, mightyukeday.com

Mighty Uke Day is Michigan's largest ukulele festival. Held at various spots around Old Town, this will be the third iteration of the quirky two-day event, which consists workshops, performances — including a show by the Lansing Area Ukulele Group — children's activities and more. Danielle Ate the Sandwich opens the weekend on Friday, and globetrotting songwriter James Hill headlines Saturday. Hill is well known around the globe for his technical ability and his engaging stage presence. Local performers include Ryan Rodriquez, Susan Picking, The Springtails and Strangers in the Night.

THE HOOPTIES AT GREEN DOOR



THU. MAY 9TH

Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 21 and over, 9:30 p.m.

American-roots band The HoopTies plays Thursday at the Green Door. The group plays some original material while also paying homage to the members' favorite musical heroes with a few choice covers. The Lansing-based band dabbles in blues, country, zydeco, reggae and soul. Its debut release, "It Ain't Never Been Easy," hit stores in September 2011. The outfit is composed of local blues veterans: vocalist Twyla Birdsong, Jason Strotheide (bass), Aaron Holland (guitar), multi-instrumentalist Andy Callis, Eric Payne (drums) and James "Mocha" Waller on saxophone and harmonica.

ESCAPE THE FATE AT THE LOFT



THU. MAY 9TH

The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., \$19, \$16.50 advance, 7:30 p.m.

Since 2004, Escape the Fate has been a large part of the post-hardcore, scream scene. The Las Vegas five-piece, known for its powerful live shows, is taking a night off from the Papa Roach tour to make its Lansing debut at The Loft, along with openers DeverauX and Glamour of the Kill. Escape the Fate has released a few EPs and three full-length albums since 2006; a fourth LP, "Ungrateful," hits stores May 14. The band's big break came in 2005, when it won a local radio contest and landed them an opening slot at a My Chemical Romance and Alkaline Trio show. That gig led to a deal with Epitaph Records. The band has sold over 1 million records worldwide.

SPITZER SPACE TELESCOPE AT (SCENE)



FRI. MAY 10TH

(SCENE) MetroSpace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing, all ages, \$5, 8 p.m.

Folk songwriter Dan McDonald, who performs as Spitzer Space Telescope, is a Lansing area native, but over the past five years he's moved around. He graduated from Boston University's College of Fine Arts for painting and then moved to Chicago. Friday he plays (SCENE) MetroSpace. McDonald started gigging back in 2005 and quickly became notorious for his powerful folk shows. Since moving to Chicago, McDonald started a music collective called Old Lazarus' Harp — it's a collaboration with Can I Get an Amen, a Chi-town band who's opening the show at (SCENE). The collective throws hootenannies, concerts and square dances around town.

ELUSIVE PARALLELOGRAMS AT MAC'S



SAT. MAY 11TH

Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all ages, \$5, 9 p.m.

A mixed bag of loud and experimental bands play Saturday at Mac's Bar. Headlining the night is Elusive Parallelograms, an indie-psych band from Milwaukee. The band debuted in 2008 with "And Everything Changes"; since then they've played a blend of power pop, shoegaze, psych-prog rock — sometimes all on the same song. Elusive Parallelograms also has a knack for writing huge, catchy hooks, which can be heard on "Fragments," the band's latest release. Sharing the bill are Ozenza (Grand Rapids-based rock) and two Lansing bands: Jackpine Snag and Hordes. Jackpine Snag released its debut 7-inch "The Omega Stump" earlier this year on Silver Maple Kill Records.

UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT RICH TUPICA AT rich@lansingcitypulse.com >>> TO BE LISTED IN LIVE & LOCAL E-MAIL liveandlocal@lansingcitypulse.com

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	"What Is That?" Improv Night, 9 p.m.	Peter Nelson Jazz Quartet, 9 p.m.	DJ Clarinet Combo, 6 p.m.	Linda Abar & Elden Kelly, 7:30 p.m.
Bar 30, 2324 Showtime Drive	D.J. Skitzo, 10 p.m.	D.J. John Beltran, 10 p.m.	D.J. John Beltran, 10 p.m.	D.J. Skitzo, 10 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		Open Mic Night, 9 p.m.		
Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 N. East St.		Ricky Reyes, 8 p.m.	Ricky Reyes, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.	Ricky Reyes, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	The Whiskey Pickers, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 10 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.		Wine Night, 8:30 p.m.		
The Firm, 229 S. Washington Square		DnW Sound DJs, 9 p.m.	Various DJs, 9 p.m.	
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.		Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karaoke with Joanie Daniels, 7 p.m.	Capital City Grove, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	D.J. Sammy, 9:30 p.m.	The HoopTies, 9:30 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9:30 p.m.	Root Doctor, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Escape the Fate, 7:30 p.m.	D.J. John Beatz, 10 p.m.	
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	Captured by Robots, 7 p.m.	The Pro Letarians, 7 p.m.		Ulan Bator, 9 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.			The Lash, 9:30 p.m.	The Lash, 9:30 p.m.
Rookies, 16460 S. US 27	Sea Cruisers, 7-10 p.m.	Water Pong DJ, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Dance Party, 9 p.m.	Live Bands, 7:30 p.m.
Rum Runners, 601 East Michigan Ave.	Open Mic Night, 9 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 9 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 7 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 7 p.m.
Uli's Haus of Rock, 4519 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.				Various artists, 9 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.	Burnsides, 8 p.m.	Burnsides, 8 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Drive	Suzi & The Love Brothers, 6 p.m.	Rhythm on the River, 6 p.m.	Friday Orchard, 6 p.m.	
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert	D.J., 9 p.m.	D.J., 9 p.m.	D.J., 9 p.m.	D.J., 9 p.m.

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

Out on the town

from page 20

Michigan's Famous & Forgotten Authors.

Author Jack Dempsey. 6:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtld.org.

Grande Paraders Square Dance Club. Round dancing, 7 p.m. Modern-style square dancing, 7:30 p.m. \$4 members, \$5 guests. Holt 9th Grade Campus, 5780 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 694-0087.

Samantha Martin & The Acro-Cats. 7 p.m. \$18, \$15 kids 12 & under. Hannah Community Center,

819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. circuscats.com.
MSU Theatre Department Fundraiser.
 Silent auction, food & preview of Summer Circle productions. 6-9 p.m. \$45. MSU DOT Scene Shop, 714 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-6691.

MUSIC

Sam Winternheimer Quartet. 7-10 p.m. Midtown Beer Company, 402 Washington Square, Lansing.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Meet Theresa Kilpatrick & Alexis Hilliar-Hine. Authors of "So You've Survived Cancer. Now What?" 7 p.m. Schuler Books & Music Okemos, 1982

Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-8840.

Thursday, May 9

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Writers Roundtable. Get feedback on your work. 6-7:45 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.

Ingham County Genealogical Society

Meeting. Speaker Roni Sionakides. Meeting follows. 7 p.m. Vevay Township Hall, 780 Eden Road, Mason. (517) 676-7140.

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

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

Water media. All levels welcome, with Donna Randall. Pre-registration required. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212.

Family Education Day. Activities & food to celebrate mom. 5 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460. lansingcitymarket.com.

May SmArts Workshop. Registration suggested. 10 a.m.-Noon. \$10 non-members, \$5 basic SmArts members, FREE Level 2 SmArts members. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. lansingarts.org.
Codependents Anonymous. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Community Mental Health Building, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 672-4072.

EVENTS

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

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

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

American Shakespeare Collective Friend Raiser. 7-10 p.m. \$65, \$60 each 2 or more. The English Inn, 677 S. Michigan Road, Eaton Rapids. americanshakespearecollective.com.

Samantha Martin & The Acro-Cats. 7 p.m. \$18, \$15 kids 12 & under. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. circuscats.com.

MUSIC

Lansing Symphony Orchestra: Season Finale with Rachmaninoff. 8 p.m. \$15-\$50. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 487-5001. lansingsymphony.org.

Don Middlebrook. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Walnut Hills Country Club, 2874 Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. (616) 558-5863. donmiddlebrook.net.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Book Talk & Signing. With author Jocelynn Drake. 7 p.m. Schuler Books & Music Okemos, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-8840.

Friday, May 10

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Oil Painting. For all levels, with Patricia Singer. Pre-registration required. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212.

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

EVENTS

Spring Dinner & Dance. Fundraiser Open Door Ministry of Downtown Lansing. 6 p.m. \$20 advance, \$25 door, \$15 dance. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-9477.

HarperCollins' Summer 2013 Dark Days

Group Tour. Young adult author tour. 6 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music Lansing, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495. schulerbooks.com.

Petals & Vines. Michigan beer & wine tasting. Dinner & music. 6-11 p.m. \$30. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 322-0030. woldumar.org.

Singles TGIF. Hors d'oeuvres, door prizes & music. 8 p.m.-Midnight. \$12. Hawk Hollow Golf Course, 15101 Chandler Road, Bath. (517) 281-6272.

TGIF Dance Til Ya Drop. Beginner/intermediate 2-step, 7 p.m. Dancing, 7:45 p.m. \$12 non-MAC members, \$10 members. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 712-6674.

Mighty Uke Day III. Performances, Sir Pizza, noon. Concert, Creole Gallery, 7:30 p.m. Old Town, Grand River Avenue and Turner Street, Lansing. (517) 485-4283. mightyukeday.com.

Documentary Screening. "MISS Representation." Refreshments. 7 p.m. \$5 advance, \$7 door. Sparrow Hospital Auditorium, 1215 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 321-1700.

Gatsby Ride. Dress up optional. Ride to see "The Great Gatsby." 5:30 p.m. FREE. Beaumont Tower, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 347-1689.

MUSIC

Grand River Radio Diner. Featuring the Mighty Ukes. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 483-1710.

See Out on the Town, Page 23

Advice Goddess & Savage Love

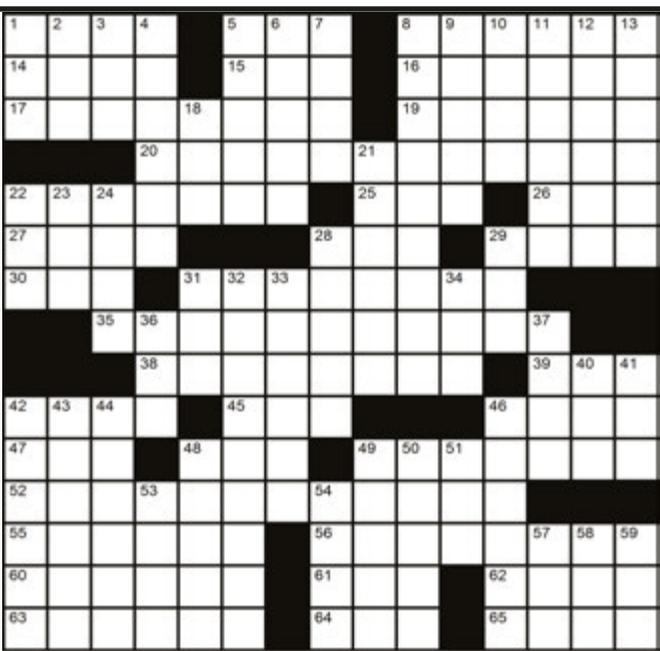
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Jonesin' Crossword By Matt Jones

"New Wave"--catch it!
 Matt Jones

- Across**
 1 Held on to
 5 Letter sequence in the air
 8 Panhandling person
 14 Cat, in Cancun
 15 "V for Vendetta" actor
 16 Player at Camden Yards
 17 *Gossiping sort
 19 Put in storage, like coal
 20 *Infamous Hollywood institution
 22 He went through a Blue Period
 25 Chapter of history
 26 Boxing ref's call
 27 Epps or Khayyam
 28 Saturn SUV
 29 Abbr. in many job titles



- 30 Dwight and Stanley's coworker
 31 It shows shows
 35 *Retailing buzzword
 38 Involved
 39 Company that created Watson and Deep Blue
 42 Prepare potatoes, perhaps
 45 "Heidi" peak
 46 Poet Angelou
 47 Rattler relative
 48 551
 49 Wall-to-wall alternative
 52 *Company follower?
 55 Asian capital
 56 *Mr. Hyde, for Dr. Jekyll
 60 Beating by a little bit

- 61 Prefix for classical or conservative
 62 "I ___ the opinion..."
 63 Try the bar code again
 64 Kazakhstan, once: abbr.
 65 It follows the last word of each starred entry
- Down**
 1 CIA foe, once
 2 Seine stuff
 3 Arcade game amts.
 4 Matchbox product
 5 Rap duo Kris ___ (R.I.P. Chris Kelly)
 6 Followed logically
 7 Question of permission
 8 Oprah's longtime personal trainer
- 9 "Fear of Flying" author Jong
 10 "I Just Wanna Stop" singer ___ Vannelli
 11 Flip out
 12 Smart ___
 13 Very popular
 18 ___-relief
 21 Of a certain bodily system
 22 Bubble wrap sound
 23 "Thank God ___ Country Boy"
 24 Hunter's clothing, for short
 28 Content blocker
 29 Suffix after meth-
 31 Its middle letter stands for a city in Tennessee
 32 Pulse rate or temperature
 33 Colleague of Roberts and Breyer
 34 Finish
- 36 "Whatever" grunt
 37 Half a Jim Carrey movie
 40 Provo sch.
 41 Newsrack choice, for short
 42 Mean something
 43 Slightly
 44 Parsley units
 46 Fabric named for a city in India
 48 Cortese of "Jersey Shore"
 49 Van Gogh painted there
 50 Helicopter part
 51 Who's out in the pasture?
 53 12-part miniseries, say
 54 Gives the axe
 57 Bird on a ranch
 58 "Gosh," in Britain (hidden in RIGOROUS)
 59 Outta here

SUDOKU

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

INTERMEDIATE

TO PLAY

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

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

Answers on page 25

Out on the town

from page 22

DJClarinet Combo Salutes Night of the Legendary Clarinets. Music & food. 6 p.m. \$5. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. djclarinetonline.vpweb.com.

Concert. Feature Spitzer Space Telescope, The Bard Owls and Can I Get An Amen. 8 p.m. \$5. (SCENE) Metrospace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6832. scenemetrospace.com.

The Square Pegz. 10:30 p.m. Harper's, 131 Albert Ave., East Lansing. (517) 333-4040.

Sistrum Spring Concert. "It Takes A Village." Auction, 7 p.m. Concert, 8 p.m. \$12-\$20 advance, \$15-\$25 door. First Presbyterian Church Lansing, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. sistrum.org.

THEATER

8: A Documentary Play. Chronicles Federal District Court trial Perry vs. Brown. 8 p.m. \$15, \$10 students & seniors. Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. (517) 927-3016.

"Love isn't Blind, It's Complicated." Three one-acts about blind dates & break-ups. 8 p.m. FREE. LCC Black Box Theatre, Room 168 Gannon Building, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488.

Saturday, May 11

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Organic Pest & Disease Control Workshop. 12:30-2 p.m. \$5 suggested donation. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.

Animal Encounters. Stories, animals & more. Limited seating. 11 a.m. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840. cadl.org.

Family Finance Day Event. Seminar, noon. Activities. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Tithe Missionary Baptist Church, 1415 W. Holmes Road, Lansing.

EVENTS

Woodland Fairy Party. Fairy games & more. 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. \$3. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

50th Anniversary Celebration. Activities. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 322-0030. woldumar.org.

Second Saturday Family Program: Extreme Gardening. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. \$6 adults, \$4 seniors, \$2 kids 6-17, FREE under 5. Michigan Historical Museum,

702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 373-3559.

Family Dance. For all ages. 10-11:15 a.m. \$3-\$5 per person, \$15 per family. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

Second Saturday Supper. Takeout available. 5-6:15 p.m. \$8. Mayflower Congregational Church, 2901 W Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-3139. mayflowerchurch.com.

St. David's Movie Night. "Birdman of Alcatraz," screening. Discussion. RSVP. 5:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2273. stdavidsonline.org.

Native Michigan Plant Sale. Proceeds go to The Wild Ones Red Cedar Chapter. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 887-0596. wildoneslansing.org.

Wrong Way 5K Run/Walk. Proceeds go to The Eliminate Project. 9 a.m. \$25 April 28-May 9, \$30 race day. Valhalla Park, Keller and Pine Tree Roads, Holt. southlansingkiwanis.org.

Mighty Uke Day III. Activities & music. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Old Town, Grand River Avenue and Turner Street, Lansing. (517) 485-4283. mightyukeday.com.

MUSIC

Elvis to the Max. Featuring Max Pellicano. 8 p.m. \$50. Comstock Inn, 300 E. Main St., Okemos. (989) 723-8354. shiawasseearts.org.

Lange Choral Ensemble. 7 p.m. \$10, \$8 seniors & students. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 218 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. (517) 482-9454. stpaulslansing.org.

Live Music at the Barn. With Patrick Woods. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460.

Sistrum Spring Concert. 7 p.m. \$12-\$20 advance, \$15-\$25 door. First Presbyterian Church Lansing, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. (Please see details May 10.)

THEATER

"Love isn't Blind, It's Complicated." 8 p.m. FREE. LCC Black Box Theatre, Room 168 Gannon Building, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. (Please see details May 10.)

Ten Minute Play Festival. Work of spring semester directing students. 7:30 p.m. FREE. LCC Black Box Theatre, Room 168 Gannon Building, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Books & Bagels Book Group. "Liar & Spy," Rebecca Stead. Grades 4-6. 2-3 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

Book Signing. With author Sarah Arthur. 1-3 p.m. Schuler Books & Music Okemos, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-8840. schulerbooks.com.

Sunday, May 12

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Spiritual Talk, Pure Meditation & Silent Prayer. One of Mata Yoganandaji's "Inspiring Talks." 7 p.m. FREE. Self Realization Meditation Healing Centre, 7187 Drumheller Road, Bath. (517) 641-6201.

Overeaters Anonymous. 2-3:15 p.m. FREE. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Conference room F, 2nd floor, Lansing. (517) 332-0755.

Alcoholics Anonymous. With ASL interpretation. 9 a.m. FREE. Alano Club East, 220 S. Howard St., Lansing. (517) 482-8957.

Codependents Anonymous. Meets on the third floor. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 672-4072.

EVENTS

A Tribute to Mothers: From Italy With Love. Featuring Gino Federici. RSVP. 7 p.m. \$15, \$25 per couple. Turner-Dodge House & Heritage Center, 100 E. North St., Lansing. (517) 483-4220.

Capital Area Singles Dance. With door prizes. 6-10 p.m. \$8. Fraternal Order of Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 819-0405.

Samantha Martin & The Acro-Cats. 7 p.m. \$18, \$15 kids 12 & under. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. circuscats.com.

THEATER

Ten Minute Play Festival. 7:30 p.m. FREE. LCC Black Box Theatre, Room 168 Gannon Building, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. (Please see details May 11.)

Monday, May 13

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Leadership, Management & Personal Enrichment Training. 7-8:30 p.m. CADL Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 879-1886. inspirationalministriesonline.com/leadership.html.

Recipe Club. Make a recipe from a favorite celebrity chef. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtld.org.

American Sewing Guild Lansing Clippers' Meeting. Demos, shopping & door prizes. 6:30-

8:30 p.m. UAW Local 652, 426 Clare St., Lansing.

(517) 699-8062. lansingclippers.com.

Learn to Meditate. Taught by Bob Teachout.

Enter at rear of building. 8:15-9 p.m. Donations. C. Weaver Physical Therapy Exercise Studio, 1720 Abbey Road, East Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

Babytime. Beginning storytime for babies under 2. 10:30-11 a.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Metaphysical Mondays. Discussion. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 347-2112.

JAMM Meeting. Open mic follows. 7:30-9 p.m. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

Safety & Maintenance for Hand Tools & Small Engines. Instructor Brad Graham. RSVP. 6-7:30 p.m. Donations. Foster Park Resource Center, Marcus St. & Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 853-7814.

Potter-Walsh Neighborhood Meeting. 6:20-7 p.m. Faith Fellowship Baptist Church, 1001 Dakin St., Lansing.

Lansing Area Post-Polio Support Group. All affected by polio welcome. 1:30-3 p.m. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 339-1039.

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

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

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

EVENTS

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

Celebrity Lecture Series. Actress/singer Klea Blackhurst. 11 a.m. \$30 lecture, \$20 lunch. Best Western Plus Lansing Hotel, 6820 S. Cedar St., Lansing. lansingsymphony.org.

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

Mac's Monday Comedy Night. Hosted by Mark Roebuck & Dan Currie. 9:30 p.m. FREE. Mac's Bar,

See Out on the Town, Page 24

Serving Greater Lansing's LGBT Community

Lansing Association for Human Rights

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RiverwalkTheatre.com

NOBLE INK / PEPPINO'S PIZZA / FIRESIDE GRILL



Allan Ross/City Pulse

Noble Ink on Lansing's west side is the second Lansing tattoo shop for owner Bill Brown.



By ALLAN I. ROSS

Last month, Bill Brown opened **Noble Ink**, his second Lansing tattoo parlor. He said the first, **Southside Tattoo**, was doing better-than-expected business, leading him to think the market could support another one. But Noble has a different angle.

"Southside is more of a street shop, where we cater to mostly walk-ins," Brown said. "We use a lot of flash (pre-drawn work) there, but Noble is more custom work. We mostly focus on portrait work and cover-ups. You won't see any flash here."

He said the royal-sounding name comes from his brother's middle name, who passed away several years ago. But he said it also brings to mind ideas of his approach to customer service.

"Getting a tattoo isn't just about getting a good tattoo — it's about how you're treated, the healing process, touch ups," he said. "If you're not doing all that, then you're not doing the whole process. Some people spend thousands of dollars on something that's going to last the rest of their lives,

and we make sure they're treated properly and they leave happy."

Brown has seen a rise in tattoo business in recent years, which he attributes to cable television shows, such as "Miami Ink."

"Those shows have done a lot of good for this industry," he said. "Three years ago there were six shops in Lansing. Now there are 21 or 22."

Bringing dining back to East Lansing

Earlier this week, restaurateur Kris Elliott announced that a **Peppino's Pizza** location will slide into the ground floor of his St. Anne Lofts in downtown East Lansing this summer. Peppino's is an Italian restaurant mini-chain with five locations in West Michigan, the flagship location of which is near one of Elliott's Grand Rapids restaurants.

"We were looking for a family-oriented restaurant to bring to put into St. Anne, but I wanted a local operator," Elliott said. "I've known the Peppino's owners for a long time, and we've got a friendly rivalry. I'm glad I can introduce them to East Lansing."

Elliott is the owner of UrbanFeast, the management company behind **Troppo**, **Tavern on the Square**, **Edmund's Pastime** and **The Black Rose** in Lansing, **Leo's**

Spirits and Grub in Okemos, and **Tavern on the Square** and **Grand Woods Lounge** in Grand Rapids. He said it was important to him to have a family friendly place.

"It's as nice as **Spagnulo's** or **DeLuca's**," Elliott said. "It's got a great kids menu, lots of TVs, shuffleboard, you name it. East Lansing used to be a dining destination. Our goal was to bring dining back to East Lansing."

The 10,000-square-foot space will feature private rooms, a patio, and a second level that has its own patio. He said that he anticipates opening sometime in early July.

One bar closes, another coming soon

Last week, **Barley's American Grill** on Lansing's south side closed after 17 years of business. In a release, owner Ed Hall thanked his staff and his customers, and announced the opening of his new venture, **Fireside Grill**, which opens next month at 6951 Lansing Road in Dimondale. Hall said that among Fireside's amenities will be a patio, a larger menu and more parking.

Stay tuned for more details.

Noble Ink Tattoo
4324 W. Saginaw Highway, Ste. 109
Lansing
2 p.m.-10 p.m. daily
(517) 323-1040
facebook.com/nobleinktattoo

Out on the town

from page 23

2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795.

MUSIC

Open Mic Blues Mondays. Blues, rock & spoken word. 6:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. Midtown Beer Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 977-1349.

The DJClarinet Combo Lite. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460. lansingcitymarket.com.

THEATER

Theatre Film Night. Four films featuring LCC students. 9:30 p.m. FREE. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488.

Tuesday, May 14

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Tai Chi & Qigong. Taught by Bruce Ching. Drop-ins welcome. 5:45-7 p.m. \$12 per class, \$60 for six weeks. ACC Natural Healing and Wellness, 617 Ionia St., Lansing.

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. (517) 543-0786.

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

Speakeasies Toastmasters. Become a better speaker. 12:05-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Building. 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 887-1440.

Water media. All levels welcome, with Donna Randall. Pre-registration required. 6-8:30 p.m. \$50 for four weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212.

Budding Naturalists. Fantastic Flowers. 11 a.m.-Noon, \$5 first child, \$3 each additional child. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 322-0030. woldumar.org.

Grow Up! Vertical Gardening. Host Jackie Cosner. Register. 6-7:30 p.m. Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 374-5700.

Microsoft Word Basics. Registration required. 6-7 p.m. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6356. cadl.org.

Cavanaugh Park Neighborhood Meeting. 6:30-8 p.m. Cavanaugh Elementary, 300 W. Cavanaugh Road, Lansing. (517) 881-4962.

Neighborhood Pride Open House. RSVP by May 9. 6 p.m. Letts Community Center, 1220 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 393-9883.

Codependents Anonymous. 5:45-6:45 p.m. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-9900.

EVENTS

MSU Creative Writing Center Group. Anyone interested in creative writing welcome. 7:30-9 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

Drop-in Writer's Workshop. Peer discussion/critique. 6-9 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

Film Screening. "East Lansing: The City We Know," documentary. Followed by exhibition tour. FREE. 5 p.m. MSU Museum, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 355-2370. museum.msu.edu.

Tea & Talk. Salon Style discussions. 8 p.m. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 347-2112.

Kindergarten Visit Day. Call to reserve a day. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Lansing Christian School, 3405 Belle Chase Way, Lansing. (517) 882-5779 ext. 107.

Medicare Part D Presentation. With a Walgreens registered pharmacist. 2-3 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

MUSIC

Jazz Tuesdays. Hosted by the Jeff Shoup Quartet & will feature regular guest artists from the MSU Jazz Studies Department. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Books on Tap. "The Dog Stars," Peter Heller. 6:30-8 p.m. Jimmy's Pub, 16804 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

Wednesday, May 15

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Coupon Swap. Exchange coupons, discuss deals & strategies. 6-7:45 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtdl.org.

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

Babytime. Beginning storytime for babies under 2. 10:30-11 a.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Vinyasa Yoga. Taught by Cathy Fitch. Drop ins

See Out on the Town, Page 25

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CMS is the outreach arm of the MSU College of Music

Out on the town

from page 24

welcome. 5:30-6:45 p.m. \$12 per class, \$60 six weeks. ACC Natural Healing and Wellness, 617 Ionia St., Lansing. (517) 708-8510.

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

Beginning Genealogy Series. Presenter Jeff Antaya. Registration required. 6-7 p.m. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840. cadl.org.

Colonial Village Neighborhood Meeting. 7-8:30 p.m. Grace UMC, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 487-1713. cvnanews.com.

Forest View Citizens Association Meeting. 7-8 p.m. University Club MSU, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. (517) 882-9342.

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

EVENTS

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

Carol Burnett. Audience asks questions. 7:30 p.m. \$35-\$85. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000.

Preschool Visit Day. Call to reserve a day. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Lansing Christian School, 3405 Belle Chase Way, Lansing. (517) 882-5779 ext. 107.

Magic the Gathering Card Group. Meet by mall entrance near Younkers. 7-8 p.m. Schuler Books & Music Okemos, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos (517) 349-8840. schulerbooks.com.

Grande Paraders Square Dance Club. Round dancing, 7 p.m. Modern-style square dancing, 7:30 p.m. \$4 members, \$5 guests. Holt 9th Grade Campus, 5780 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 694-0087.

2013 Capitol Walk. Starts at west steps. Contact TSleva@michiganfitness.org for more information. 12:15 p.m. FREE. Lansing Capitol Building, 100 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. michiganfitness.org.

MUSIC

MSU Community Music School NHB German Band Performance. 1 p.m. FREE. Holt Senior Care Center, 5091 Willoughby Road, Holt. cms.msu.edu.

Sam Winternheimer Quartet. 7-10 p.m. Midtown Beer Company, 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing.

Heartland Klezmerim. 8 p.m. \$7. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Book Talk & Signing. With Michigan Para“Normal” author Exie Smith. 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music Lansing, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495. schulerbooks.com.

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LOST DOG!!! MUST FIND!! REWARDS!!! \$\$\$ cash reward for safe return of Angel. Last seen on March 5th in the MLK/Holmes area. She is sorely missed and has been gone March 2nd. Angel is a female American Pit Bull Terrier. She has a brown coat with white on her face, chest, belly, and paws. She is seven years old, weighs approximately 50 pounds, and was wearing a pink and beige collar with a Rabies tag. Angel is a friendly girl who will likely approach a stranger. She is the companion to a disabled man. Please help guide Angel back to her adoring family! Spread awareness and call 517.575.5599 with any information.



Rabies tag. Angel is a friendly girl who will likely approach a stranger. She is the companion to a disabled man. Please help guide Angel back to her adoring family! Spread awareness and call 517.575.5599 with any information.

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Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsny

May 8-14

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The Tarahumara Indians of northwestern Mexico are renowned for their ability to run long distances. The best runners can cover 200 miles in two days. The paths they travel are not paved or smooth, either, but rather the rough canyon trails that stretch between their settlements. Let's make them your inspirational role models in the coming week, Aries. I'm hoping that you will be as tough and tenacious as they are — that you will pace yourself for the long haul, calling on your instinctual strength to guide you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may have only a dim idea about how your smart phone and computer work, but that doesn't prevent you from using their many wonderful features. While you're swimming, you know almost nothing about the physiological processes that are active inside you, and yet you have no problem making all the necessary movements. In that spirit, I'm not worried about whether or not you will grasp the deep inner meaning of events that will be unfolding in the coming week. Complete understanding isn't absolutely necessary. All you need to do is trust your intuition to lead you in the direction of what's interesting and educational.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "I need not sell my soul to buy bliss," says a character in Charlotte Bronte's 19th-century novel *Jane Eyre*. "I have an inward treasure born with me, which can keep me alive if all extraneous delights should be withheld, or offered only at a price I cannot afford to give." This would be a great speech for you to memorize and periodically recite in the next two weeks. Do it in front of your mirror at least once a day to remind yourself of how amazingly resourceful you are. It will also help you resist the temptation to seek gifts from people who can't or won't give them to you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): What is the big adventure you've been postponing forever because it hasn't been convenient? How about an intriguing possibility you have always wanted to experiment with but have consistently denied yourself? Or what about that nagging mystery you've been wishing you had the time and energy to solve? Wouldn't your life change for the better if you finally dived in and explored it? In the next two weeks, Cancerian, I urge you to consider giving yourself permission to pursue something that fits one of those descriptions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Right now, Leo, you are a majestic and mysterious mess of raw power. You are a fresh, flaming fountain of pure charisma. Irresistible! That's you! Unstoppable! You! Impossible to fool and immune to the false charms of heartfelt mediocrity! You! You! You! In your current condition, no one can obstruct you from seeing the naked truth about the big picture. And that's why I am so sure that victory will soon be yours. You will overcome the fuzziness of your allies, the bad vibes of your adversaries, and your own inertia. Not all conquests are important and meaningful, but you will soon achieve the one that is.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A character in Herman Hesse's novel *Demian* says the following: "I live in my dreams. Other people live in dreams, but not in their own." Whose dreams do you live in, Virgo? What is the source of the fantasies that dominate your imagination? Are they the authentic outpourings of your own soul? Or did they originate with your parents and teachers and lovers? Did they sneak into you from the movies and songs and books you love? Are they the skewed result of the emotional wounds you endured or the limitations you've gotten used to? Now is an excellent time to take inventory. Find out how close you are to living in your own dreams.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Charles Ives was a renowned American composer who lived from 1874 to 1954. Because his music was experimental and idiosyncratic, it took a long time for him to get the appreciation he deserved. When he was 73 years old, he won the

prestigious Pulitzer Prize for a symphony he had written when he was 30. I expect that in the near future you might be the beneficiary of a similar kind of mojo, Libra. A good deed you did or a smart move you made in the past will finally get at least some of the recognition or response you've always wanted.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "There are no right answers to wrong questions," says science fiction writer Ursula K. Le Guin. And that's why you must be so conscientious about coming up with the very best questions. Right, Scorpio? All your efforts to hunt down solutions will be for naught unless you frame your problems elegantly and accurately. Now here's the very good news: Your skill at asking pertinent questions is at a peak. That's why I suggest you make this Focused Inquiry Week. Crisply define three questions that will be important for you to address in the next seven months.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Charlie Parker was a great jazz musician. As a saxophonist and composer, he was an influential innovator. Unfortunately, he also had an expensive heroin addiction. It interfered with his ability to achieve financial stability. There's a famous story about him showing a bystander two veins on his arm as he prepared to shoot up. "This one's my Cadillac," he confessed. "And this one's my house." I'm bringing this up, Sagittarius, in the hope that it will provide a healthy shock. Are you doing anything remotely like Charlie Parker? Are you pouring time and energy and money into an inferior form of pleasure or a trivial distraction that is undermining your ability to accomplish higher goals? If so, fix that glitch, please.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "I hate a song that makes you think that you are not any good," said iconic songwriter Woody Guthrie. "I hate a song that makes you think that you are just born to lose. Because you are too old or too young or too fat or too slim too ugly or too this or too that. Songs that run you down or poke fun at you. I am out to sing songs that will prove to you that this is your world." Amen, brother Woody! I have the same approach to writing horoscopes. And I'm happy to advise you, Capricorn, that you should have a similar attitude toward everything you put out and take in during the coming week. Just for now, reject all words, ideas, and actions that demoralize and destroy. Treat yourself to a phase of relentless positivity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "I know not what my past still has in store for me," testified the Indian spiritual poet Tukaram. I believe most of us can say the same thing, and here's why: The events that happened to us once upon a time keep transforming as we ripen. They come to have different meanings in light of the ever-new experiences we have. What seemed like a setback when it first occurred may eventually reveal itself to have been the seed of a blessing. A wish fulfilled at a certain point in our history might come back to haunt us later on. I bring up these ideas, Aquarius, because I think you're primed to reinterpret your own past.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): According to legend, Jennifer Lopez's butt is insured for \$300 million. Bruce Springsteen has supposedly insured his voice for \$31 million and wine expert Angela Mount is said to have insured her taste buds for \$16 million. In that spirit, Pisces, I encourage you to consider insuring your imagination. To be clear, I don't anticipate that you will have occasion to collect any settlement. Nothing bad will happen. But taking this step could be a fun ritual that might drive home to you just how important your imagination will be in the coming weeks. Your power to make pictures in your mind will either make you crazy with unfounded fantasies and fearful delusions, or else it will help you visualize in detail the precise nature of the situations you want to create for yourself in the future.

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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HE ATE

SHE ATE



World class food and drinks make Gracie's the place to be

Hard to say good night to Gracie's

By **MARK NIXON**

Ever read a glowing restaurant review and think, "The reviewer must be on the payroll — no place is that good."

Dear reader, if you are of the cynical persuasion, feel free to conclude I am bought and paid for by Gracie's Place, which happens to be among the very best — if not, the single best — restaurant in Greater Lansing. But just to be clear: The only things bought and paid for were three meals on my own dime (OK, many dimes). Gracie's had me at hello, and after each visit I regretted having to say goodbye.

There is so much creativity going on in this place that it almost seems like a culinary jam session, with each taste sensation trying to outdo the other. Let's start with the master of the kitchen, Chef Rob Shipman.

"This guy knows how to make sauces!" my dinner companion exclaimed after sampling the Sauce Robert, a delicate brown mustard sauce. Not to be outdone was a sublime dill-ramp sauce accompanying a melt-in-the-mouth filet of skate.

On my first visit, I had seared whitefish with artichoke mashed potatoes, co-starring a tart, buttery tequila lime bierre blanc sauce that almost stole the show.

The saucy showstopper was the butternut custard dessert. It arrived on a plate looking as though it had skidded to a stop, leaving a thin smudge of creme anglaise in its wake. They should serve this dessert inside a small pup tent, so you can stick your head inside and lick the platter clean without alarming other patrons.

Creativity comes in the glass as well. It seems a number of Gracie's staff have had a hand in various concoctions, none more so than manager Paul Martin. A native Londoner with a keen wit, he is also a mixologist of the first order. One of Martin's creations, the Fakhir, is made with curry. I know, it sounds awful, but it's amazing — as is the Outro, a rum-based drink made with allspice liquor and garnished with nutmeg.

Just reading the cocktail menu is pure entertainment. Fans of "The Big Lebowski" will surely appreciate the homage in the cocktail, "The Dude Abides."

See He Ate, Page 27

Gracie's Place

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Slammin' salmon

By **GABRIELLE JOHNSON**

My favorite cousin and I stopped in to Gracie's Place on a recent rainy Wednesday night. Our waitress dropped off a bread basket and told us about that evening's specials — which included a T-bone, a porterhouse and a sirloin steak — but she didn't tell us any prices.

We started with the guacamole appetizer, which was some of the best guac I've had. It was obviously made in-house and had big chunks of avocado. It was accompanied by crisp, salty tortilla chips and ramekins of chipotle- and garlic-infused dips, which I seriously considered sticking a straw into and drinking. I made short order of licking the plate clean.

I had to, because I was starving and no other food was forthcoming for the next 45 minutes. Please note — the place was virtually empty, and we were our server's only table. We didn't see her again until she finally brought out our entrees — the Spartan County Chicken for him and the Braised Beef for me.

The chicken came with a cassoulet of garlic scapes — the green part that grows out of a garlic bulb — and French flageolets, which are flat, white beans. It had a chasseur sauce, which is a brown sauce made with mushrooms, shallots and white wine. The chicken was juicy, the beans were tender and the scapes added brightness to the dish. My cousin loved it.

My dish was a little tough and could have used some heavy-handed seasoning. Cuz took a bite and said, "That's really good pot roast." It was really good, but the highlight of the dish for me was the pickled onion garnish. The meat was served atop halved new potatoes, but there were so many of them that I felt like the next heifer to be braised might well be me.

There was no salt and pepper on the table, which is my single biggest pet peeve. I requested some from the waitress and she brought over a mismatched set of shakers from behind the bar. She then disappeared for another 30 minutes while we enjoyed the live jazz.

I went back to Gracie's a few days later with a different companion. We had a different waitress this time, who came to the table with a basket filled with a completely different kind of bread. Still no salt and pepper on the table. My date started with a cup of minestrone and was surprised that there was no pasta in the soup.

See She Ate, Page 27

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He Ate

from page 26

That inside joke says something about Gracie's demeanor. I love a place that takes its craft seriously without being overweening. While it prides itself on holding to high standards — exacting preparation and presentation, devotion to using local and fresh ingredients — there is a laid-back, whimsical side to this restaurant.

I saw people in sport coats, dresses, flannel shirts and blue jeans. A mother with a toddler sat near a group of senior citizens, and close by were a young couple looking very much in love. It's not stuffy, and that may say something about Williamston, a boutique-ish town not far from its farming roots.

Back to the menu. One dinner companion exulted in the orzo that accompanied his braised lamb shank: "The best orzo I've ever had." Indeed, it had a warm but subtle butter flavor. An avid and experienced restaurant-goer, he raved about Gracie's being a top-tier restaurant where "the chef drives the menu rather than the other way around."

Another dining companion (I bet she hates being called my dining companion when the world knows her as Judy, my wife) raved about the grapefruit and salmon salad. Meanwhile, I wolfed down a steaming bowl of tomato-basil soup, with bits of a guarded secret cheese sprinkled in.

For a special night out, I recommend going on a Thursday for the chef's tasting. At \$45 a person, it's pricey, but we left full and happy, knowing we got our money's

worth. We feasted on beef tenderloins with spring garlic risotto, the aforementioned skate (a delicate white fish) and rabbit ragout with morel mushrooms. If you're a wine drinker, consider pairings with each of the four courses for an additional \$15. Gracie's has an extensive wine list, and knowledgeable folks who can guide you.

The one nitpick I had was an imaginative dessert, the house-popped caramel

corn with house-made caramel and chocolate ice cream. The taste was outstanding, but the caramel's heat melted the ice cream before it reached our table. Easy fix — set everything but the ice cream on the plate, then serve the ice cream from a cold container, right at the table.

In the grand scheme of what makes Gracie's Place great, melted ice cream is picayune. This restaurant is an inspiration. Gracie's abides.

She Ate

from page 26

The service was head-and-shoulders above my previous visit, and when we told our waitress that we intended to order two entrees and share them, she was quick to bring out extra sharing plates. The Scottish Salmon came out first, medium rare, and won me over as being the best salmon in town. It was simply prepared and perfectly cooked. It gently flaked apart and was beautifully bright pink inside. The cardamom cinnamon rice was a little crispy, which I liked. The rice wasn't powerfully flavorful, but with a piece of fish like that and the pastis (licorice-flavored liqueur) chervil (parsley-eque herb) cream sauce, you need a side dish that will play backup.

Our other entrée, a flank steak crusted with chilis, came out with the salmon, but

as our server put the plate on the table she noticed that it was cooked well past the medium rare that I ordered and immediately took it back to the kitchen. That kind of service deserves commendation.

When our replacement steak came out (complete with non-serrated steak knives), I was sorry that we hadn't just ordered more salmon. The meat was nothing to get excited about. The best part of the dish was the addition of sautéed spinach, which was wilted but still a little bit crunchy.

My date had a couple of Manhattans with his meal, which he said were "delightful." And dessert was an easy choice — they only had one: Blood orange panna cotta with honeydew coulis. It was light and refreshing and not too sweet.

If you're a salmon fanatic like I am, Gracie's is worth the drive to Williamston. But don't plan on making it to a movie or a show — you might be there for much longer than you intended.



TIM BARRON
EVERY WEEKDAY MORNING
6AM-9AM
WLMI 92.9

And hear Berl Schwartz of City Pulse call Tim an ignorant slut — or worse. Every Wednesday at 8:30 a.m.



elfco
East Lansing Food Co-op

is proud to have been awarded the

2013 Tri-County Environmental Leadership Award in the Business Category

4960 Northwind Dr. • East Lansing • Mon ~ Sat 9 ~ 9 • Sun 10 ~ 8 • elfco.coop



P SQUARED
A WINE BAR

Our lunch menu includes moderately priced selections to include Panini's, Sandwich's, Wraps, Soup's & Salad. Vegan selections are also available.

- Reservations •
- Group Seating •
- Take Out •
- Waiter Service •
- Outdoor Seating •

BUSINESS HOURS
Mon - Thu: 11 a.m. - 12 a.m.
Friday: 11 a.m. - 1 a.m.
Saturday: 12 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Find us on Facebook! 

www.p2winebar.com • 517.507.5074 • 107 S. Washington Square, Lansing

American Apparel is Sweatshop-Free.

We emphasize this because it actually makes a difference. While we always want you to choose American Apparel because you love the product, we also want you to feel good about where it's from.

Thousands of industrial workers making our clothing at our state-of-the-art factory in downtown Los Angeles earn an average of \$12/hour, plus medical and other comprehensive benefits for themselves and their families. Many highly skilled sewers earn upwards of \$30,000 per year, which is in sharp contrast to the 20¢/hour wages commonly found at factories in Bangladesh. Our manufacturing employees work alongside our designers, IT, retail, finance and administrative employees, all under one roof where they are able to collaborate together to sculpt a sustainable business model that doesn't rely on exploitation. It is critical for us to know the faces of our workers, many of whom have been with our company since we began manufacturing in Los Angeles over fifteen years ago.

Making clothing responsibly in America requires risk taking and long-term investment—we think it's well worth it. The apparel industry's relentless and blind pursuit of the lowest possible wages cannot be sustained over time, ethically or fiscally. As labor and transportation costs increase worldwide, exploitation will not only be morally offensive and dated, it will not even be financially viable. On behalf of the employees of American Apparel and myself, I would like to thank you for your support as we continue to demonstrate that ethical manufacturing is possible.



Dov Charney, CEO

American Apparel®

Made in Los Angeles.
Garment making.
That's what we do.
Sweatshop-Free.
That's American Apparel.

To learn more about our company,
to shop online, and to find all store
locations, visit our web site.
americanapparel.net