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May 16-22, 2012



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of Haslett**
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HORIZEN HYDROPONICS *Grow Fast Go Fast*
Car Show

Sunday May 20th
Noon-5PM

Garden Workshops

- Supercharge Your Soil
- Container Gardening
- Organic Tye-Dye \$5
- Hydroponics 101
- Organic Pest Control

Car Show
5 Prizes Awarded for:

- Most Unique
- Crowd Favorite
- Best Paint Job
- Best Interior
- Best Accessories

\$10 Registration
(\$5 donated to local food bank)
Starting at 11:00AM

Organic Veggie Plants for Sale

5425 W. Saginaw Highway (across from the LANSING Mall)
www.Hhydro.com **517-323-ROOT**

Why not take the train?

to the **Alma Highland Festival**

Passengers will depart from Owosso for Alma at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 26th and will return at 5:00 p.m. in Owosso around 7:00 p.m. leaving from the Steam Railroading Institute at 405 S. Washington St.

Prices are \$40 for adults and \$20 for children 11 and under.
Tickets can purchased at (989) 399-7589 or at Michigansteamtrain.com.
Price includes entry into the festival.

STEAM RAILROADING INSTITUTE



City Pulse Newsmakers

Hosted by **Berl Schwartz**

City PULSE NEWSMAKERS

Pat Lindemann
Ingham County Drain Commissioner

Sunday, May 19

Comcast Channel 30 Meridian Township
11:30 a.m. & 11:30 p.m.

Comcast Channel 16 Lansing
11 & 11:30 a.m.

A weekly look at the issues and the people behind the issues in Greater Lansing

Watch past episodes at vimeo.com/channels/citypulse



i love old town

CHALK of the TOWN

Come down to Chalk of the Town in Old Town Lansing from 10am-2pm on June 2, the most colorful and interactive place to be in Greater Lansing during *Be a Tourist in Your Own Town*. It is a FREE family friendly event that makes live art accessible to the general public – either as participants or as visitors who come down to enjoy the event.

For those with a creative flair and a knack with chalk, you can easily get involved. Simply visit www.iloveoldtown.org/calendar and register for free. Artists will begin creating their colorful masterpieces at 10a.m. and complete them by 2 p.m., at which point judging will commence.

Old Town Attractions for *Be A Tourist in Your Own Town*

Chalk of the Town
Turner-Dodge House
MICA Gallery
By The Riverside Gallery
Great Lakes Artworks
Arts Council of Greater Lansing
Preuss Pets
Absolute Gallery
Elderly Instruments
Durant Park
Historical Society of Greater Lansing

For everyone else who just wants to bask in the talent you can purchase a *Be a Tourist* passport for \$1 at any of nine locations, including the Arts Council of Greater Lansing at 1208 Turner St., Old Town Lansing. All visitors are encouraged to vote for the People's Choice winner throughout the day.

For more information you can visit www.iloveoldtown.org or call the Old Town Commercial Association office at 517-485-4283. For more information on where you can buy a passport visit www.lansing.org.

MAY EVENTS

17 Festival of the Sun and Festival of the Moon Meeting
at 5:30pm at OTCA office

ROOT Group Meeting
at 7pm at OTCA office

19 Old Town Community Clean-Up
from 10am-3pm in Turner Mini Park

Old Town Block Party
from 1pm-5pm in Burchard Park

28 Organization Committee Meeting May 28
at 5pm at OTCA office

Pickin' In the Park... Every Tuesday night
at Sir Pizza

For a complete list of events visit iloveoldtown.org



Feedback

Elect a candidate committed to community

As an elected official I know firsthand that one of the most important qualities in an elected leader is their genuine passion for the community they serve.

Andy Schor, a candidate for the State House seat for Lansing City and Township, has demonstrated his passion for improving the greater Lansing community for over ten years. The time

he has invested in community organizations is impressive and speaks for itself. Andy was a founding board member of the Ingham County Land Bank Fast Track Authority, a board member of the Tri-County Office on Aging, a former board member of the South Lansing Community Development Association, and a member and participant in several neighborhood groups. In addition his ten years of service as an Ingham County Commissioner, Andy also continues to serve on the Smart Zone board, which oversees a number of incubators and entrepreneurial activities in our area.

Personally, I want a leader representing us in the State Capitol who is truly invested in our community's future. Someone who takes real action to enact his ideas for our area. Someone who has a proven record of advocacy on behalf of the Lansing region. Someone whose passion for our area is demonstrated through actions, not just through rhetoric.

I urge others to join me in supporting Andy Schor in his bid to become our next State Representative. His sincere belief in the exciting potential of our area will serve our community well in the State Capitol.

—Eric Schertzing
Ingham Co. Treasurer

Have something to say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages? Now you have two ways to sound off:

- 1.) Write a letter to the editor.**
• E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
• Snail mail: City Pulse, 2001 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
• Fax: (517) 371-5800
- 2.) Write a guest column:**
Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 371-5600 ext. 10

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

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
INGHAM COUNTY
CIRCUIT COURT
FAMILY DIVISION

NOTICE OF HEARING

FILE NO.
12-1097-DE

In the matter of Alta Louise Hansens

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on 05/24/2012 at 11:00 AM, at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933 before Judge Richard J. Garcia for the following purpose(s):

Hearing on Petition for Probate and/or Appointment of Personal Representative

If you require special accommodations to use the court because of a disability, or if you require a foreign language interpreter to help you fully participate in court proceedings, please contact the court immediately to make arrangements.

Date: 05/09/2012
Attorney: Thomas Rasmusson
712 Abbot Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
Petitioner: Sandra Dally
1514 Marquette St.
Lansing, MI 48906
(517)-324-1117

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, June 4, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI for the purpose of considering an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to add Chapter 1285 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances to require and encourage provision of bicycle parking. For more information please call 483-4177.

Interested Persons are invited to attend this Public Hearing

CHRIS SWOPE, LANSING CITY CLERK

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Zoning Board of Appeals on **Wednesday, June 6, 2012**, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in the 54 B District Court, Courtroom 1, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

A public hearing will be held on the appeal of A. Ross Heath requesting a variation for the property located at 613 Gunson Street, in the R-2, Medium Density Single-Family Residential District, from the following requirements of Chapter 50 - Zoning of the Code of the City of East Lansing:

Section 50-301. To allow the garage to be setback one (1) foot from the side yard where three (3) feet is required.

The applicant is proposing to increase the existing garage width by two (2) feet.

Call (517) 319-6930, the Department of Planning and Community Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, for additional information. All persons interested in these appeals will be given an opportunity to be heard.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services should write or call the Planning Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823. Phone: (517) 319-6930. TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777.

Marie E. McKenna
City Clerk

CityPULSE

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Editor & Publisher
Berl Schwartz



7 p.m. Wednesdays
This week
Pat Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner

Valerie Marvin, president of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing

Pastors David Maxwell and Melvin T. Jones



COVER ART



DECADENT DENTAL by JESSICA CHECKEROSKI

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

INVASION OF THE AUSTERIONS

THEY ARRIVE FROM A DISTANT GALAXY, BEARING A MESSAGE OF ECONOMIC SALVATION. PEOPLE OF EARTH--WE ARE THE AUSTERIONS!

REDUCE YOUR DEFICITS TO SPUR INVESTOR CONFIDENCE!

THE AUSTERIONS HAVE SPOKEN.

THE ALIEN DOCTRINE FINDS A RECEPTIVE AUDIENCE ON EARTH! THE AUSTERIONS SAY THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD MUST UNITE IN BALANCING THEIR BUDGETS ON THE BACKS OF THE POOR, MR. NORQUIST!

WHO ARE WE TO ARGUE WITH THEIR ADVANCED ECONOMIC KNOWLEDGE, MR. RYAN?

OF COURSE THERE ARE SOME POCKETS OF RESISTANCE. FRENCH AND GREEK VOTERS UNDERSTAND--THIS IS MADNESS! YOU CAN'T SLASH SPENDING IN THE MIDDLE OF A RECESSION WITHOUT EXACERBATING THE UNDERLYING--

URRK! FOOLISH HUMAN.

BZRAAP!

EVENTUALLY... HELP US, AUSTERIONS! THE GLOBAL ECONOMY HAS FLATLINED! OUR CITIES ARE IN CHAOS!

EXCELLENT! YOUR JOB CREATORS SHOULD BE FEELING "CONFIDENT" ANY DAY NOW!

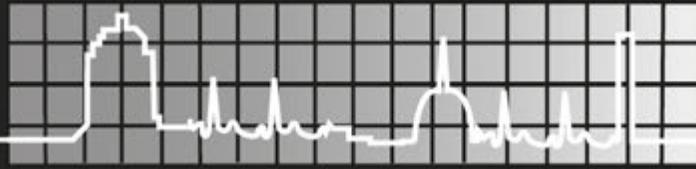
SO SAYETH THE AUSTERIONS!

BUT THEN-- HEH! EARTH WILL SOON BE OURS FOR THE TAKING!

REMEMBER WHEN WE NEEDED A FLEET OF BATTLE CRUISERS TO CONQUER A PLANET LIKE THIS?

IT'S SO MUCH EASIER TO SIT BACK--AND WATCH THEM DESTROY THEMSELVES!

PULSE



news & opinion

Theological conflict

Two prominent black ministers say same-sex marriage is a “civil right” but one that doesn’t square with the Bible

Two of Lansing’s leading African-American pastors agree that President Obama deserves praise for taking a stand on same-sex marriage.

And one of them even said he’d vote to overturn Michigan’s constitutional ban on it.

But neither of them thinks same-sex marriage is right in the eyes of God.

“I think the president is to be commended. He did not allow his own Christian philosophy or theology to dominate his presidential responsibility,” said Bishop David Maxwell, head of Mayor Virg Bernero’s Office of Faith-Based Initiatives.

“Many of my comrades in the faith community have a struggle and cannot separate the theology with the civics of the president executing fairness and equity for all persons,” Maxwell said. “It’s a civil right. The sad thing about it is: You would have thought that the African-American pastoral or theological community would have sensitivity when they themselves have struggled civil rights-wise.”

Maxwell, pastor of Eliezer Temple Church on West Jolly Road, and his position underscore the uneasiness among the African-American community toward sexual orientation and same-sex marriage.

“Historically, the African-American community has been very accommodating to people who do not look like them,” Maxwell said. “But homosexuality has been a divisive element in the black community, especially from the theological community. A lot of it I think is homophobic as well as insensitive theological ranting from pulpits regarding the abhorrent nature of homosexuality. They personify and degrade the person.”

Maxwell added that the challenge is creating understanding across religious, historical, physiological and cultural lines.

The Rev. Melvin T. Jones, leader of the Clergy Forum of Greater Lansing, offered a similar view.

“I tend to think that there has to be a division between the political, civic and legal and the religious and moral” side of issues, said Jones, pastor of Union Missionary Baptist Church on South Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. “I can’t really color everybody in the public square with my beliefs. The government has a responsibility to ensure equality and freedom for all people. Therefore, I side with the president as president, not as a pastor.”

Both Maxwell and Jones oppose same-sex marriage based on their interpretations of the scriptures. Jones said it conflicts with his religious beliefs from a “dogmatic point of view,” but added that he



Bishop David Maxwell (left) and the Rev. Melvin T. Jones praised President Obama’s endorsement last week of same-sex marriage — even though it goes against their own religious beliefs.

is “researching” whether there is a “theological” point of view that supports the president.

Jones said that “it’s an issue, period,” not just for the African-American community. “I think African-Americans, in terms of their faith, remain rather conservative. Of course, it’s very centered around certain doctrinal issues related to the Bible.”

Both pastors are addressing the issues at the pulpit. Maxwell took it up on Sunday, he said, using the example that while he may not agree with atheism, agnosticism or paganism, to degrade those who do “would compromise my Christianity. ... Who am I to deny a person their rights?”

Jones is preparing a series of lectures to give to his congregation. Jones, in a sort of preview, said the African-American faith community needs to move away from a “don’t

ask, don’t tell” position on sexual orientation. “For me what has happened is that it is forcing the church and religious community to deal with this issue,” Jones said. “I need to prepare my congregation to engage the issues and engage it intelligently so that they can see all angles of it.”

Jones and Maxwell do have one important difference between them. Jones said he would vote to overturn Michigan’s constitutional ban on same-sex marriage. He said he does not recall how he voted on the ban when it was enacted by referendum in 2004.

Maxwell, on the other hand, said he voted for the amendment because it defined marriage as being between a man and a woman and that he would do so again.

Maxwell and Jones believe that Obama’s position will not hurt him politically. “There are other important issues than what people do in their bedroom,” Jones said.

But how the issue plays out politically remains to be seen. Some commentators suggest Obama’s endorsement will galvanize support from young people, liberals and LGBT rights backers. Others say it galvanize religious voters against him. Still others say it’s not enough of an issue to overshadow something like the economy.

Lansing City Councilwoman A’Lynne Robinson, a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the 68th state House seat and one of two African-Americans on the Council, declined to comment.

At-Large Councilman Derrick Quinney, the other black member of Council, was quick to join the president in support.

“It’s not a contentious issue for me. I don’t think I should judge folks. At the end of the day, we’re all going to have to answer to a higher power, and I am fully supportive of the president’s position on that. I commend him,” Quinney said. “The faith-based community has spoken out in a lot of ways. That’s their belief, and it’s based on a biblical interpretation. It’s the interpretation of one group.

“And to believe that there aren’t gay individuals in the religious community,” Quinney added, “is pretty far-fetched also.”

— Andy Balaskovitz

Eyesore of the week



- Property: 922 N. Walnut St., Lansing
- Owner: RRL Properties, LLC
- Assessed value: \$53,800
- Owner says: It’s old and difficult to maintain

Time and the elements have slowly but surely chipped away this 125-year-old home on North Walnut. The flaking paint job is like wrinkles on an aging person — it could use a face-lift, or at the very least, a dollop of skin cream. The stairs on the west side of the home and the various doors to the interior indicate that it may have been used as two, maybe three, suites at one time. However, the only residents of this house are the small trees and sprouting shrubs that seem to have found comfort in slowly overtaking the front porch.

Indeed, old age and tenants are what’s keeping this old house from performing its best, said Vic Loomis. You may know Loomis as an East Lansing City Councilman and former mayor. He put the property in an LLC, of which he is the resident agent, after it was inherited as part of his uncle’s estate. “That’s a very old property and it’s been difficult to keep tenants in. Tenants have been difficult to the interior of the property,” he said. “Those properties are difficult to maintain. The plan is to get it to a rentable status and then get out of it.”

— Sam Inglot and Andy Balaskovitz

Architecture critic Amanda Harrell-Seyburn says: This gable house may be simple in form, but it is anything but that when it comes to its details. Highly decorative gable designs are visible features of any house and perfect for unique detailing. Contrasting trim color is often used to draw attention to this intricate work. Gable designs are all too often lost, removed or hidden beneath vinyl siding. The result? The loss of a folk art tradition.

“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 999-5064.

Housing the new kids on the block

Touring the Lansing School District's reconfiguration plan

New floor plans have been established at Lansing Eastern and Sexton high schools to accommodate the seventh and eighth graders that will be moving in next year as part of the district's new reconfiguration plans.

The blueprints were presented at a Lansing Board of Education informational study session Thursday.

The reconfiguration plans change the entire layout of the district, with 12 schools being converted to pre-kindergarten through third grade; five schools becoming fourth through sixth grade; and two of the high schools, Eastern and Sexton, becoming seventh through 12th grade. Everett High School will be converted in 2014 to add seventh and eighth graders.

At Eastern, seventh and eighth graders will be housed in their own wing on the third floor of the building. The wing is a hallway of 18 classrooms and lab space specifically laid out for those grades only.

Students in the wing will have two science labs, an art room, a computer lab and a band room.

The wing will have a locked security door, blocking off the wing to other students, and a public safety officer will monitor the stairwells, said Brian Ralph, chief operations officer for the district.

"A lot of input from staff and listening to parents" was the starting point when developing the plans, Ralph said. "After that we looked at the building and tried to find space that was desirable and amenable to those desires and objectives."

Parents have expressed concern at neighborhood meetings about their kids' safety and making sure students have fair access to school facilities. District officials have reiterated that the move to seventh through 12th grade in one building would be like creating a "school within a school." Younger students will not be sharing class space, the gym, the lunchroom or even the hallways at the same time as older students.

Along with saving the district money by closing buildings, administrators say the new configuration is designed to reduce dropout rates and improve student performance.

A study posted on the district's website, "The Interaction Effect of Transition Grade to High School with Gender and Grade Level upon Dropout Rates," concluded that the dropout rates for both boys and girls were lowest in high schools when the transition happened in seventh grade. The study also says that dropout rates increase when there are more school-to-school tran-

sitions. The study found that the "school within a school" concept helps improve student performance by essentially reducing school size — creating a more focused learning environment.

Lansing school board member Peter Spadafore is confident that the plans will put parents at ease. He said in an email that the plans "serve as evidence that the administration is working tirelessly to ensure that all steps are being taken to ensure student safety and address the concerns of parents."

Color-coded identification badges are still in the planning process, Sandra Noecker, former principal at Otto Middle School and the leader of the Transition Advisory Group, said at Thursday's meeting.

The Transition Advisory Group is made up of staff members from Eastern, Sexton, Otto and Pattengill Middle School who are responsible for creating a transition plan for the seventh and eighth graders. Families have been involved with discussions about the district conversions.

Middle school students going to Sexton will have classes in the "Annex" — a separate building next to the high school. Ralph said the Annex was formerly used for ninth graders and is "underutilized," which made it an easy decision.

Seventh and eighth graders at Sexton will have the same amenities as their peers at Eastern, but some of their lab space will be located in the main building of the high school. The labs are not deep within the bowels of the school — they've been placed at the closest points between the Annex and the rest of the school. Staff will escort students to those labs as well as the cafeteria across the school.

"They're creating their own little cul-

ture, they're calling it their 'house,'" said Superintendent Yvonne Caamal Canul. "You know, there's a certain amount of trepidation right now, but it's because it's an unsure thing. But the kids are going to love it and the teachers are going to love

"...the kids are going to love it and the teachers are going to love having them and that's what we want — happy kids."

**Yvonne Caamal Canul
Superintendent**

having them and that's what we want — happy kids."

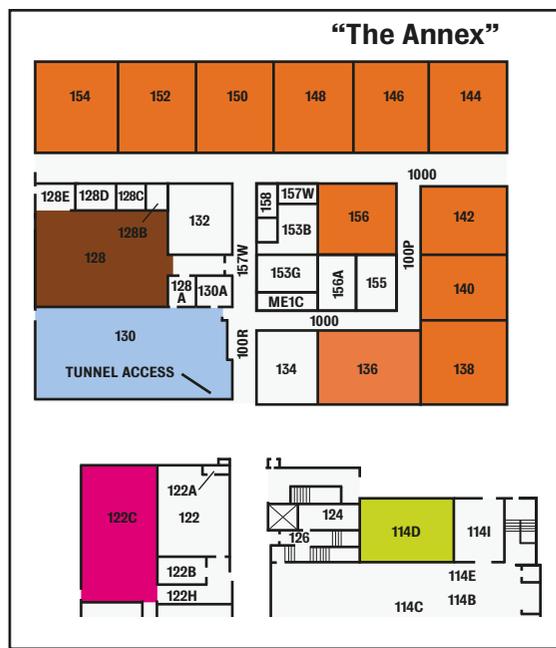
Logistics still need to be settled before the new grades are able to move into the building next year. Bus routes, bell times, cafeteria and gym scheduling all need to be worked out, but Ralph said those will be determined in the coming weeks.

Both the wing in Eastern and the Annex at Sexton are expected to have their own administrator, public safety officer, counselor and behavior specialist, Noecker, of the transition group, said.

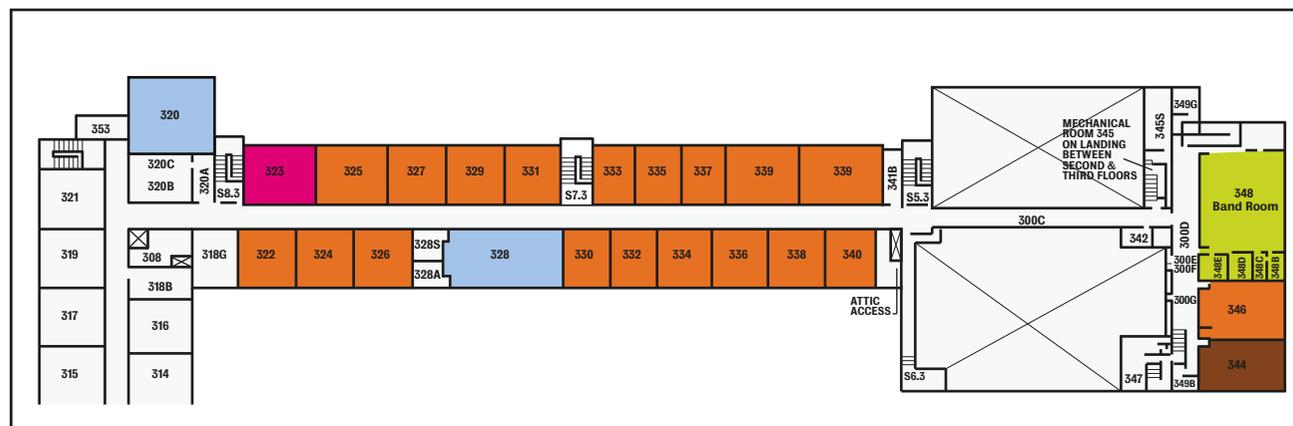
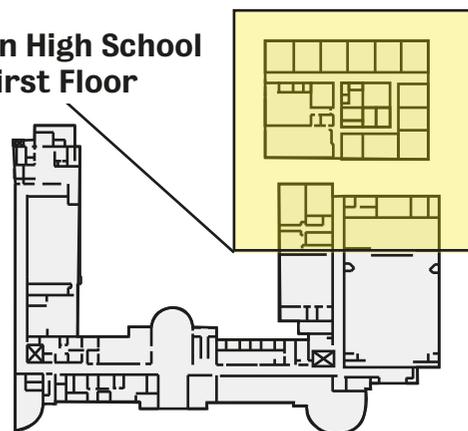
The idea of the seventh and eighth grade areas is to give students the "shared family experience," she said.

As of right now, the plans for the high schools are what parents can expect for their students next year, Spadafore said, adding that while there might be some slight tweaks, overall, the plans should remain unchanged.

— Sam Ingot



**Sexton High School
First Floor**



**Eastern High School
Third Floor**

Key

- 7/8th Grade Classrooms
- 7/8th Grade Science Labs
- 7/8th Grade Band Room
- 7/8th Grade Art Room
- 7/8th Grade Computer Lab

Leeman, O'Dell join 68th sweepstakes

Let's make it a seven-person primary!

State Rep. Joan Bauer is term-limited and now seven Democrats want to replace her, with former City Council President Harold Leeman and Lansing Jobs Coalition Chairman Ted O'Dell surprisingly entering the race.

Lansing Community College adjunct professor Anne Clayton filed recently, too, in the 68th House district, joining Lansing City Councilwoman A'Lynne Robinson, Griffin Rivers and Ingham County Commissioners Andy Schor and Dale Copedge.

A pair of

Republicans — Timothy Moede and Michael Wing — filed, but with a 73 percent Democratic base, something seismic would need to happen to give the race to the GOP.

The biggest surprise is Leeman, who last year unsuccessfully tried to regain the 1st Ward City Council seat he lost by 15 votes in 2007. His filing instantly earned him a call from Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero and his lieutenant, Joe McDonald, who want him to drop out, Leeman said.

Without Leeman — and presumably O'Dell — Schor had a clear path to the Democratic nomination with Robinson and Copedge chopping up that 3rd Ward and African-American support. With both cutting into Schor's support in eastern Lansing and the westside neighborhood, the race becomes more muddled.

Leeman said he knows that "some people are mad at me" but he's going to do what it takes to win the seat.

"I'm not a spoiler. I'm running, and I want people to look at all of our qualifications and decide who they want to represent them. It's sad that people take it too personal if you're running against them," he said.

"People need to back off. Everybody has a right to run. I've been tested. I've been through a lot on Council. I'm 54. I have a lot to offer."

O'Dell said he had been looking at Lansing City Council in 2013. But he'd received so many telephone calls from union members and those who assisted in Lansing casino petition drive, he decided that "I have as much to offer as anybody else in the race so I jumped in."

He's lived either downtown or on the west side for 18 years. O'Dell said he feels pretty good with his name ID since his jobs coalition was so active circulating petitions to bring a casino to downtown Lansing.

Clayton, 52, has taught biology at LCC since 2007. She has also owned her own message therapy business.

In the 67th, the only new name in the race to replace term-limited Rep. Barb

Byrum was 23-year-old Ashley Kring, a Republican challenger to Jeff Oesterle. Kring just graduated from Grand Valley State University with an economics degree. She's running her first campaign, but she's worked with other county commission campaigns in the past. The Democratic field of Walt Sorg, Jerry Ketchum and Tom Cochran has been set for some time.

The Eaton County-based 70th could be interesting with three Democrats seeking to unseat state Rep. Deb Shaughnessy in a competitive 50/50 seat. The 2008 candidate, Theresa Abed, is running again. Former legislative staffer Andrea Cascarilla has access to money, and former state official Douglas Drake has probably forgotten more about state government than most people will ever learn.

In the East Lansing/Meridian Township-based 69th House District, the long-awaited Democratic primary showdown between former East Lansing Mayor Sam Singh and former East Lansing School Board member Susan Schmidt is official.

Interestingly, both have strong connections to the term-limited Rep. Mark Meadows. Schmidt worked for Meadows in the legislature for several years, while Meadows, Singh and Doug Jester ran initially as a slate in 1994 for East Lansing City Council. Meadows is backing Schmidt, but insists he has nothing against Singh.

Meridian Township Supervisor Susan McGillicuddy is filing once again to run in the 69th District as opposed to seeking re-election. She has a very winnable three-way primary, but the General Election will still be a steep climb. The Democratic base is 62 percent and is trending Democratic.

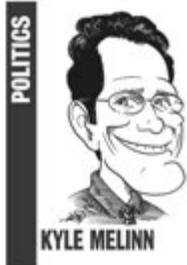
To replace McGillicuddy, Meridian Township Trustee Elizabeth LeGoff is filing as a Democrat against former Republican Trustee Andy Such, the president of EnviroPolicy Consultants and the former executive director of the Michigan Chemistry Council.

Ingham County Commissioner Steve Dougan is not running for re-election in the redrawn 6th District, setting up a Republican primary between Renee Sumerix and Randy Maiville. The Democrat is Jim Dravenstatt-Moceri.

With Copedge running for the House, former Bauer staffer Sarah Anthony and Joe McDonald, a staffer for Mayor Bernero, are running in the Democratic primary in the 3rd district.

Outside of the well-publicized primary challenge Commissioner Mark Grebner is giving Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann, none of the Democratic countywides will face primary opposition. Even Byrum, who will be running for the clerk's spot for the first time, will get a free shot in the primary.

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



POLITICS

KYLE MELINN

Community Music School
CELEBRATING Community

Now enrolling for summer camps!

- Eric 'RicStar' Winter Music Therapy Camp • Jazz Camp • Rock Camp
- Middle School Band Camp • Musical Theatre Camp • Beginning Strings Camp

For more information: (517) 355-7661 or www.cms.msu.edu

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

CMS is the outreach arm of the MSU College of Music

841-B Timberlane Street
East Lansing, MI 48823

Capital Area District Library

Beginning Canning

Thursday, May 17 • 6:30 pm

Canning is a great way to preserve nutritious produce, but it's important to do it safely. MSU Extension educator Joyce McGarry will demonstrate several methods, including freezing, water bath and pressure canning.

CADL LESLIE

201 Pennsylvania St., Leslie • (517) 589-9400

Homesteading

Thursday, May 17 • 7 pm

How did our ancestors manage to keep wholesome, homegrown food on the table? Staff from the Greater Lansing Food Bank will talk about seed saving and preservation techniques, using rain barrels and more.

CADL STOCKBRIDGE

200 Wood Street, Stockbridge • (517) 851-7810

Raising Backyard Chickens

Saturday, May 19 • 1 pm

In 2009, Ingham County passed an ordinance allowing households to keep chickens. Lansing resident and chicken owner Corie Jason took up the challenge! She'll explain how to get started raising chickens in your own backyard.

CADL HASLETT

1590 Franklin Street • (517) 339-2324



cadl.org/farm

PUBLIC NOTICES

Advertisement for Request for Proposal #1

The County of Ingham (County) solicits qualified and experienced providers of electronic monitoring services to submit proposals for the purpose of entering into a 3-year contract to provide for an Electronic Monitoring program for delinquent juveniles who are petitioned to the Ingham County Family Division of the Circuit Court. To receive a copy of the RFP, please contact Mr. James C. Hudgins, Jr. at jhudgins@ingham.org. Proposals will be received no later than 11:00 A.M., local time prevailing, on June 11, 2012.

Advertisement for Request for Proposal #2

Ingham County seeks written sealed bids from experienced and qualified mold remediation firms for the purpose of remediating mold at the Ingham County Courthouse. To receive a copy of the RFP, please contact Mr. James C. Hudgins, Jr. at jhudgins@ingham.org. Proposals will be received no later than 11:00 A.M., local time prevailing, on June 5, 2012.

Advertisement for Request for Proposal #3

Ingham County seeks written bids from experienced and qualified firms for the purpose of installing a new asphalt driveway at the Ingham County Courthouse in accordance with the specifications and scope of work herein prepared by the County's Consultant. To receive a copy of the RFP, please contact Mr. James C. Hudgins, Jr. at jhudgins@ingham.org. Proposals will be received no later than 11:00 A.M., local time prevailing, on June 6, 2012.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Public Notice

The Ingham County Land Bank is accepting proposals for **Comprehensive Residential Energy Audit Services** at various properties owned by Ingham County Land Bank. The Bid Packet is available after May 14, 2012, at the Ingham County Land Bank, 422 Adams, Lansing, Michigan 48906, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday or at www.inghamlandbank.org. Proposals will be due at the Land Bank offices on May 22, 2012, at 1:00 pm. The Bid Opening will be May 22, 2012 at 1:00 pm. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply.

Public Notice

The Ingham County Land Bank is accepting responses to a Request for Qualifications for **Real Estate Professional Services** to the Ingham County Land Bank. The Bid Packet is available after May 14, 2012 at the Ingham County Land Bank, 422 Adams, Lansing, Michigan 48906, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday or at www.inghamlandbank.org. Responses will be due at the Land Bank offices on May 25, 2012 at 1:00 pm. Responses will be opened May 25, 2012 at 1:00 pm. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply.

B/12/098 SWITCHGEAR PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing.

The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the FINANCE DEPARTMENT, PURCHASING OFFICE, 8TH FLOOR CITY HALL, 124 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933 until 3:00 PM local time in effect on **JUNE 7, 2012**, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.

Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson at (517) 483-4128, email: srobinso@lansingmi.gov or go to www.mitn.info

The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

B/12/093 CONSOLIDATED FLEET FACILITY as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing.

The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the FINANCE DEPARTMENT, PURCHASING OFFICE, 8TH FLOOR CITY HALL, 124 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933 until 3:00 PM local time in effect on **JUNE 12, 2012**, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.

Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson at (517) 483-4128, email: srobinso@lansingmi.gov or go to www.mitn.info

The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO RELEASE EASEMENT

The Ingham County Drain Commissioner determines that a portion of a drain easement owned by the Gillette Drain Drainage District, a tributary of the Cook and Thorburn Drain Drainage District is no longer necessary for drainage purposes and proposes to convey that portion of the easement no longer necessary for drainage purposes to the fee owner pursuant to Act No. 40 of the Public Acts of 1956, as amended. The easement more particularly designated and described is over and across the following lands situated in Delhi Township, County of Ingham, State of Michigan, described as follows:

A parcel of land in the Northwest ¼ of Section 25, T3N, R2W, Delhi Township, Ingham County, Michigan; the surveyed boundary of said parcel being described as beginning at the West ¼ Corner Section 25, T3N, R2W, Michigan Meridian; thence N00°01'44"E, along the West line of the Northwest ¼ of said Section, 783.75 feet; thence N89°56'00"E, 916.89 feet; thence S23°05'27"E along the Westerly line of Cedar Street, 694.80 feet; thence S66°54'33"W, 56.00 feet; thence S09°12'20"E along the centerline of the Hancock Drain, 128.31 feet; thence N89°51'17"W along the East-West ¼ line, 1158.80 feet to the point of beginning. Said parcel contains 19.33 acres.

Parcel No. 33-25-05-25-151-002

The easement was recorded at Liber 66, Page 41 at the Ingham County Register of Deeds Office on or about May 3, 1919.

The excess easement to be released and conveyed to the fee owner is described as:

A strip of land in the Northwest ¼ of Section 25, T3N, R2W, Delhi Township, Ingham County Michigan, described as follows; To fix the point of beginning, commence at the West ¼ Corner of said Section 25; thence N00°01'44"E, on the West line of said Section 25, 288.82 feet; thence N89°14'11"E, 70.48 feet to the point of beginning; thence N00°47'19"W, 100.00 feet; thence N89°14'11"E, 953.03 feet to the Westerly Right of Way line of the Hancock Drain; thence S11°08'17"E, on said Westerly Right of Way line 101.66 feet; thence S89°14'11"W, 971.34 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 2.21 acres of land, more or less.

In accordance with Section 6, Act 40, PA of 1956 as amended, at the office of Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, in the County of Ingham, Mason, Michigan, on June 15, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. will be the location and date and time when the Drain Commissioner will meet upon the request for release of the drain easement, and any taxpayer may appear to protest said vacating. After said date, the Drain Commissioner may release said easement as not necessary for drainage purposes.

Dated: May 10, 2012

Patrick E. Lindemann
Ingham County Drain Commissioner
707 Buhl Avenue, P.O. Box 220
Mason, MI 48854-0220

A rising tide

It's simple math: restaurant + patio = bigger crowds. In the past 10 years, well over a dozen bars throughout the Lansing area have either opened with al fresco seating areas or punched holes in their walls to expand into the outdoors.



ALLAN I. ROSS

Now two adjacent Haslett bars are making sweeping changes to their layouts, angling for more customers.

Bret Story, owner of the **Mayfair Bar** at 1585 Lake Lansing Road, is a few weeks away

from launching his new rooftop patio. Story is the fifth owner of "Ingham County's oldest neighborhood bar," which opened in 1934, but the patio is the first major upgrade in the 17 years he's been in charge. He'll add 45 seats to the roof — enough room to accommodate about 200 people, he says — a full bar and a dumbwaiter for easy food delivery from below. All of this will be perched on top of cement planks that were installed by crane. The expansion inspired Story to broaden his menu as well, with veggie wraps, hummus and other lighter fare to entice new diners. The Mayfair Bar patio is expected to have a soft opening around June 1.

Next door at the **Blue Gill Grill**, 1591 Lake Lansing, owner Tom Warner recently unveiled his new garage door-style walls in the bar, which can be rolled up on nice days.

"You gotta keep it fresh or you're going backwards," says Warner — and he knows from experience. The bar, formerly known as Plum Crazy, burned down in 2003. He and his wife, Diane, rebuilt it in 2004, and have been tweaking the floor plan ever since. They've added a new front entrance, a reconfigured bar separated from the restaurant and a kids game room. The last major change was the 2010 addition of the Thirsty Perch, Blue Gill's own rooftop patio that is immediately adjacent to the Mayfair patio — albeit about 4 feet shorter. Thirsty Perch patrons still look like they'll have a mostly clear view of Lake Lansing. So between the Mayfair, the Blue Gill Grill, and the 2-year-old patio just west at the **Watershed Tavern & Grill** (5965 Marsh Road), Lake Lansing is on the verge of becoming a bona fide destination bar scene, giving East Lansing and Lansing watering holes a run for their money.

Korner Krust klosed

Last week, the following handwritten note was taped to the front window of downtown Lansing's Korner Krust Bread, 123 S. Washington Square (oth-

ers may remember it as a former **Great Harvest Bread Co.**):

"If or can anyone help me with this judgement (sic) against me. I would appreciate serious inquiries. Thank you, Drew." The note is followed by owner/operator Drew Klovens' personal cell phone number.

Above the note was a notice from the U.S. District Court in Grand Rapids naming Klovens as the defendant against Great Harvest Franchising Co. It turns out Klovens owes \$71,526.78 for a judgment against him for copyright infringement, according to the more than 100-page complaint on file at the County Clerk's Office.

Requests for comment placed with Klovens and Great Harvest Bread Co.'s corporate information center in Montana were not returned.

Two up, one down

Last week, two local businesses had ribbon cuttings honoring their recent expansions. But Michigan State University students have one fewer resource for picking up textbooks this fall.

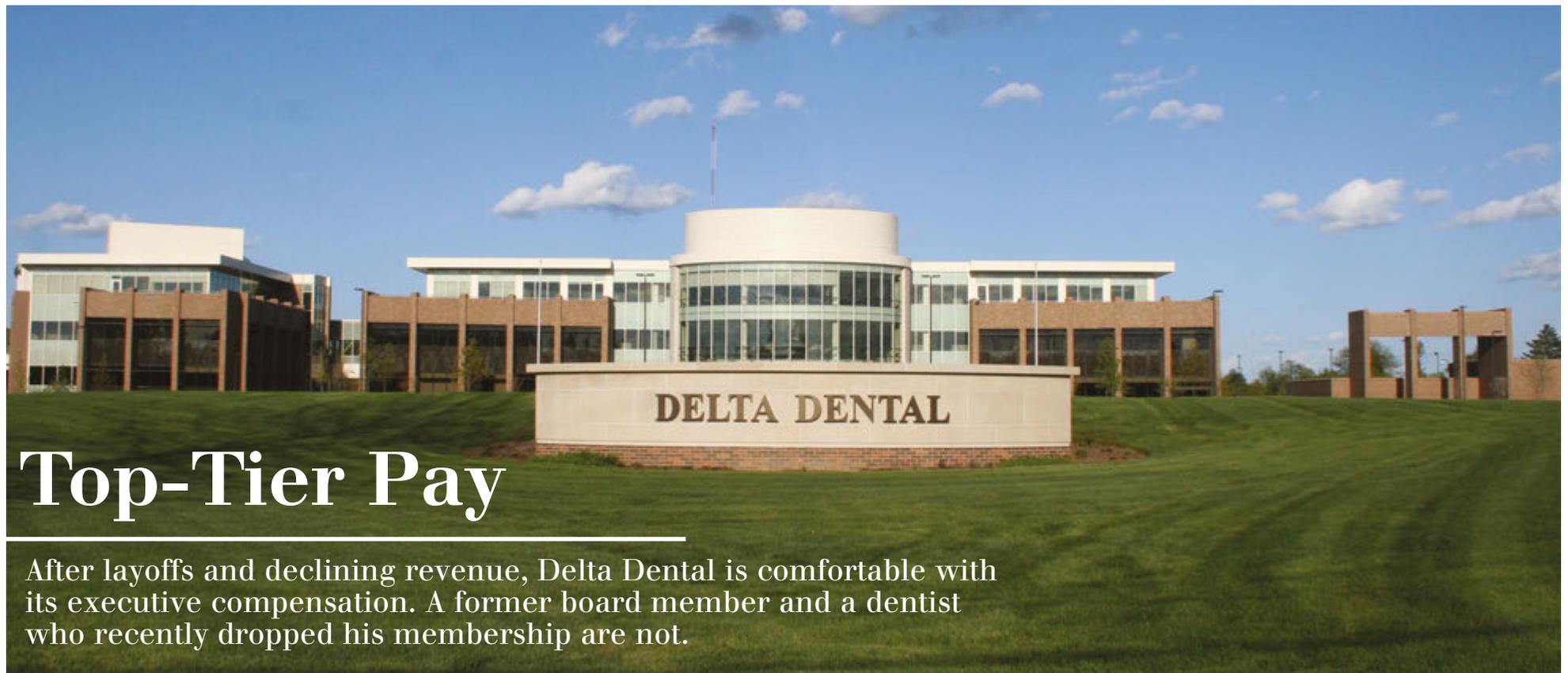
Agricultural supply store **D&G Equipment Inc.** in Williamston recently repurposed a 52,000-square-foot former dental supply building into their outdoor power equipment superstore, nearly tripling the size of their previous footprint. The new store, at 2 Industrial Park Drive, is the business's seventh location. D&G opened in 1993 with two dealerships in Mason and Williamston, expanding throughout mid-Michigan between 2000 and 2004. Today they employ 130 people.

Coterie Purlieu, 408 S. Washington Square, is a new 2,500-square-foot day spa attached to **The Barberrettes**, a downtown hair salon opened last summer by Felix Compos. The name roughly translates as "the clique that meets on the outskirts," and shares the block with the **Downtown Smoking Club**, **MBC Lansing** and **Thai Village**. Coterie Purlieu offers massage, waxing, mani/pedis, and tanning services.

Meanwhile, **The College Store** in Hannah Plaza has closed. The massive textbook depot was a subsidiary of the Nebraska Book Co., a Lincoln-based company operating over 280 bookstores across the U.S.

Brett Katz, manager of R&D Hannah Plaza, LLC — the owners of the space — said that the 23,100-square-foot location closed on March 31. According to the company's website, there are two suites available in Hannah Plaza, with rent starting at \$14 per square foot, though the site available for lease will probably go for less than that, Katz said.

(Allan I. Ross is a contributing writer for City Pulse. His column will appear occasionally. He's at allan@lansingcitypulse.com.)



Top-Tier Pay

After layoffs and declining revenue, Delta Dental is comfortable with its executive compensation. A former board member and a dentist who recently dropped his membership are not.

Jessica Checkeroski/City Pulse

By ANDY BALASKOVITZ

Three years ago, as Delta Dental of Michigan was laying off dozens of employees and losing big contracts with auto industry retirees, it was uncertain whether the nonprofit dental insurance company's top officials would respond with pay cuts.

Delta Dental's reply to City Pulse questions at the time about its top officials' pay — which in four cases was more than \$1 million — was: "Everything is under review." The Okemos-based company also said it would evaluate first-class travel for officials, bonuses, health and social club memberships and consider scaling back expanding its headquarters on Okemos Road.

But based on tax filings with the Internal Revenue Service since then, it appears Delta has maintained the status quo when it comes to compensation. Former CEO Thomas Fleszar, who retired in April, made \$1.5 million in 2010, the most recent filings show. It paid about \$10.3 million to 18 of its top employees and \$358,000 to 16 board members that same year. The final price tag for the office building was \$91 million, \$6 million more than what was initially projected, according to previous Delta Dental statements. The company spent nearly \$2.4 million in 2010 for travel, including on first class and chartered plane rides. Some Delta Dental board members were paid more than \$20,000 in 2010 for what IRS filings show averages to be five hours of work a week.

"I just found it pretty amazing, to tell you the truth," said Peter Chiaravalli, a Lansing-based dentist who served two three-year terms on Delta Dental's Board of Directors. Particularly, he said, this

comes as business declined in the past few years. Delta Dental's revenues dropped by nearly \$90 million between 2008 and 2010, the company's latest filings with the IRS show.

And today, Delta Dental has changed its tune. It's not about evaluating and possibly scaling back such expenses, but that those expenses are on par for similarly sized nonprofit and for-profit insurance companies. Everything is as it should be is how the compensation story goes these days. And after the layoffs in 2009, a spokeswoman says Delta Dental is hiring back the 60 employees who were laid off and 110 new employees.

But reviewing Delta Dental's tax filings begs several questions: How much should CEOs of nonprofits make, particularly as revenues have declined? Should it be comparing itself to for-profit companies? And what separates Delta Dental from for-profit insurance companies?

'We are not a 501(c)3'

"There's a misconception out there as to what type of company we are," said Sarina Gleason, senior public relations officer with Delta Dental. She pointed out five times in an interview last week that Delta Dental is not a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, but rather a 501(c)4. Most significantly, Delta Dental's operating budget does not rely on donations from the community, like United Way or Goodwill, she said.

"We are considered social welfare, and our focus is oral health," Gleason said. "I do think that a lot of people think that as a nonprofit we're automatically lumped in with 501(c)3s. The way we operate is very different — we are a business and we pro-



Laura Czelada

vide insurance."

Gleason referred repeatedly to Delta Dental as a business. But as a 501(c)4 — which allows an entity to be exempt from federal and state income taxes — Delta Dental is not supposed to be a business. Ac-

ording to the IRS, it is supposed to operate exclusively for the promotion of social welfare.

Gleason said Delta Dental executive compensations are reviewed annually and with the help of Towers Watson, a Manhattan-based consulting firm with offices in Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids. Salaries are compared not only with the nonprofit sector, but also the for-profit sector. "Our industry is so competitive, we have to really look at attracting and retaining leadership that is going to lead a successful business."

As for board members, Gleason said, the IRS filings may not account for "anomalies," and that there is more to it than a simple five-hour workweek. Yearly pay for board members ranged from \$700 to \$38,866 for the chairman, Terence Comar in 2010. Immediate past chairman James Hallan made \$57,213.

IRS filings say each board member works an average of five hours per week, though Gleason said, "It may not be an accurate reflection of truly what is all involved in that." But it's "kind of the same



Mark Johnston

philosophy we have with executive compensation: We need to attract and keep really good board members."

Delta Dental also pays for first-class or chartered travel and memberships at "social" and "health" clubs for executives. Gleason said it's "company policy" to fly at coach rates, though, and that "I don't think first-class travel is the norm." She added that the memberships are partly for "business use," but she wouldn't say specifically where those memberships are.

Also as a 501(c)4, Gleason said Delta Dental is "obligated to allocate money to the community," as mandated by the federal government. In 2010, this included nearly \$600,000 to the Delta Dental Fund for dental education and research programs.

Delta Dental of Michigan is a sister to Delta Dentals of Ohio and Indiana and has affiliates in Kentucky, New Mexico, North Carolina and Tennessee. Together, it's one of the largest dental insurers in the country. The operation, called "the enterprise," paid out \$2.2 billion for dental treatment for 8.6 million enrollees, according to its website. The entities operate under the nonprofit holding company Renaissance Health Service Corp. Former CEO Thom-

Delta Dental

from page 9

as Fleszar retired earlier this year, and former chief operating officer Laura Czelada is now leading the company.

Delta Dental's revenues steadily declined from 2008 to 2010, which is the latest year data is available, down \$110 million. In 2009, the company lost \$21.5 million, as expenses outpaced revenues. In 2010, the company made \$35 million. Ninety-six percent of Delta Dental's \$1.35 billion in revenue comes from insurance payments from customers. Of the \$1.31 billion in expenses, compensation for Delta Dental's top officials and board members exceeded \$10 million. "I would say executive compensation, it represents a relatively small amount of expenditures out there today."

How much should nonprofit executives make?

Delta Dental is huge, as far as dental insurance providers go. Gleason said 93 percent of working dentists in Michigan are members. It's also the insurance provider for the state of Michigan, Michigan State University, the Michigan Public School Employee Retirement System and the University of Michigan.

"There's a misconception out there as to what type of company we are. ... We are a business and we provide insurance."

Sarina Gleason, Delta Dental spokeswoman

"They are the 900-pound gorilla," said Chiaravalli, the former board member.

Michigan nonprofit dental companies are governed by Public Act 125 of 1963. Jason Moon, spokesman for the state Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation, said in an email that the state has "some regulatory oversight over the executive compensation" and can determine if it's reasonable. Nonprofits are required to compare its salaries to other similarly sized organizations and are subject to board approval.

From afar, the head of the National Council of Nonprofits sees a trend of picking out salaries from some of the largest nonprofits in the country.

"There's been a fair amount of scrutiny in the media and politicians of nonprofits' salaries," said Tim Delany, president and CEO of the Washington-based National Council of Nonprofits. "What seems to have been lost is the similar review of what's happening in the private sector. I

think the Occupy movement was illustrative of how the American public is concerned about the private sector and the business community — salaries are way out of whack."

Delaney, who declined to speak specifically about Delta Dental, added: "There should be attention, but not just singling out nonprofits."

Delaney said federal legislation allowing for nonprofits includes "the understanding that there needs to be reasonable compensation. The entire debate is, 'What is reasonable?'"

In legalese, this is called "rebuttable presumption." In at least Delta Dental's case, comparing itself with for-profit companies is commonplace.

"There are a variety of factors that get poured into the equation beyond just what someone else is getting paid," Delaney said, such as how many customers the company has and how large of a region it serves.

With more than 1 million nonprofits in the United States, excessive compensation "probably doesn't happen that frequently but enough that a story everyday wouldn't surprise me," Delaney said. The "outliers," he added, are "normally with large institutions with the resources — they're the ones that then generate the stories. It's a frustration felt by many nonprofits, these large institutional nonprofits are capturing a lot of ink in press coverage and making it look as though all nonprofit CEOs are overpaid when in fact that's a very narrow set of circumstances. ... It's making it appear as everyone is fat and happy in the nonprofit sector when in reality most of us are running around with bloodshot eyes with no sleep and no resources."

Pickets and politics

Meanwhile, a contingent of Delta Dental employees are upset over stalled contract negotiations. WLNS-TV reported last week that dozens of unionized Delta Dental employees picketed outside of the company's new \$91 million headquarters on Okemos Road on a recent Saturday. WLNS also reported that nearly 200 UAW union members are working without a contract at Delta Dental.

Repeated attempts for comment from UAW officials were unsuccessful. WLNS quoted UAW Local 889 unit chairwoman Barbara Smith as saying: "We feel that we're part of the company being successful, and we just want our fair share of what we think we deserve."

Negotiations have been ongoing since January. Delta Dental is reportedly asking for concessions the union is not willing to make. Smith also called the company a "dictatorship."

Gleason would not discuss specifics about the informational picket and emphasized it was not a strike. "At this point, we're just trying to work out an agreement," she said.

On a national scale, a Republican congressman from Arizona introduced legis-

CEO compensation at nonprofit dental insurance companies and Health Maintenance Organizations based in Michigan that exclusively write dental insurance or have it as a major part of their business. It includes salary, bonuses and benefits. Executive compensation at Delta Dental is compared with similarly sized companies in both the nonprofit and for-profit sector.

This information is filed every three years with the state Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation. However, in form 990 filings with the IRS, compensation for former Delta Dental CEO Thomas Fleszar show he made \$1.9 million in 2009 and \$1.5 million in 2010. When asked about the discrepancy, Jason Moon, spokesman for OFIR, did not comment beyond: "The 990 is not filed with us."

	2009	2010	2011
Thomas J. Fleszar, CEO Delta Dental Plan of Michigan, Inc.	\$1,042,575*	\$966,168**	\$1,266,423
William Nicholson CEO, President, COO Michigan Dental Plan, Inc.	\$153,182	\$154,747	\$162,939
John Morgan Jr., President Midwestern Dental Plans, Inc.	\$10,800	\$10,400	\$10,400
David Lynn Holmberg CEO, Chairman of the Board United Concordia Dental Plans of the Midwest, Inc.	Unavailable	Unavailable	\$1,416,045
Stacia Nalani Almquist, President United Dental Care of Michigan, Inc.	\$206,594	\$229,971	\$276,073
Sam Lentine, CEO/Secretary Golden Dental Plans, Inc.	\$134,000	\$130,000	\$130,000
Joseph Lentine, CEO (as of Jan. 1, 2010) Dencap Dental Plans, Inc.	\$50,700 (Senior CEO)	\$156,500	\$126,000
Richard Goren, CEO Commonwealth Limited Health Services Corp.	\$283,239	\$252,507	\$301,848

*Filings with the IRS show Fleszar made \$1,951,984 in 2009.

**Filings with the IRS show Fleszar made \$1,571,019 in 2010.

Source: Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation

lation this year meant to eliminate certain insurance practices that prohibit a secondary plan from paying any of the costs of care. (For example, if two people in a household each pay dental insurance premiums, some policies prohibit the second plan from covering costs.) The bill would also allow patients to assign benefits to dentists who may not participate in an insurance company's network, rather than patients paying for services in full and waiting to be reimbursed by the insurance company.

The Dental Insurance Fairness Act of 2012 is now in a House committee. The American Dental Association supports the legislation, saying in a statement it would make dental insurance more "affordable and accessible," but Delta Dental does not.

"Delta Dental has always opposed assignment of benefits because it really

compromises the value and the savings that are associated with those dentists in our network," Gleason said. "As part of our negotiated fees with our dentists within our network, it really ignores this aspect. ... Our concern is that this legislation will permit dentists in general to charge patients more because they may have to have more than one policy."

Because of its 501(c)4 nonprofit status, Delta Dental is allowed to participate as an organization in the political process, though Gleason said in a follow-up email that Delta Dental is "a strictly non-partisan organization."

Filings from 2010 show Delta Dental made a \$5,000 donation to Attorney General Bill Schuette's administrative account, "On Duty for Michigan," also known as a 527 account. It also gave \$10,000 to the

Delta Dental

from page 10

Kasich Taylor New Day Committee, a committee supporting the re-election and inauguration of Ohio Republican Gov. John Kasich. The company also gave \$5,000 to Freedom Vote; \$10,000 to Celebrating the Power of Michigan, Inc.; and \$15,000 to the Michigan Economic Development Foundation. These contributions appear as “grants and other assistance to governments and organizations” on its tax filings.

Delta Dental's Code of Ethics says the organization makes no contributions to candidates for federal office. But Delta Dental's political action committee does. In 2011, it contributed to both Democratic and Republican congressional candidates, including David Camp, Hansen Clarke, John Dingell, Sander Levin, Debbie Stabenow and Mike Rogers. All of those contributions were between \$1,000 and \$2,500 each, according to CampaignMoney.com.

Dentists speak out

For a couple of local dentists — one of whom served two three-year terms on Delta Dental's Board of Directors — the culture of compensation at Delta Dental is alarming.

“I was quite surprised,” Peter Chiaravalli said when he looked at the latest corporate filings with the IRS. It's “kind of an interesting thing,” Chiaravalli said, that board members are paid more than \$20,000 a year yet review and vote on annual salaries of top executives. “It's kind of patting each other's back.”

Chiaravalli said he earned about \$14,000 over the eight years he served on Delta Dental's board, or less than \$2,000 a year (he filled out an incomplete term for another board member). Nine board members made over \$20,000 each in 2010, while two others made less than \$2,000. Lu Battaglieri, the former president of the Michigan Education Association, served several years on the Delta Dental board. That job paid \$24,400 in 2010. In April, Battaglieri and his wife, Teri, were hired to full-time positions at Delta Dental. Lu Battaglieri now serves as senior vice president and chief relationship officer, while Teri Battaglieri works in Delta Dental's “research and data institute,” Gleason said. Gleason added that she doesn't think that's “unusual,” and that it does not violate the company's conflict of interest policy. If one of the Battaglieri's reported directly to the other, Gleason said, “that would be unusual.”

Chiaravalli is also a member of Delta Dental's network, meaning he is paid through insurance premiums for the dental services he provides.

“I would say that's what got me most interested: Looking at the large salaries which I thought were inappropriate for a nonprofit organization,” he said. “If I were a purchaser, a school district struggling with budgets, I'd be a little concerned if

the cost of Delta insurance is more than some other corporation. I'd be a little concerned about someone pulling down a multimillion dollar salary.”

Mark Johnston, another Lansing-based dentist, dropped his contract with Delta Dental recently, due to a combination of what seem like lavish salaries and Delta Dental coverage policies.

“It really has morphed over the last 30, 35 years into something that is now a lot different than where it started out,” said Johnston, who has offices on West Mt. Hope Avenue near the Country Club of Lansing. “Part of my frustration is that the providers — my friends, classmates, colleagues — keep getting less and less reimbursement and yet their costs keep going up and up and they really want to provide good quality care to their patients.”

Johnston also said a common form sent to patients from Delta Dental states that their dentist provided them too costly a service than what was needed and insurance won't cover it.

“It makes the dentist look like a money-

“It really has morphed over the last 30, 35 years into something that is now a lot different than where it started out.”

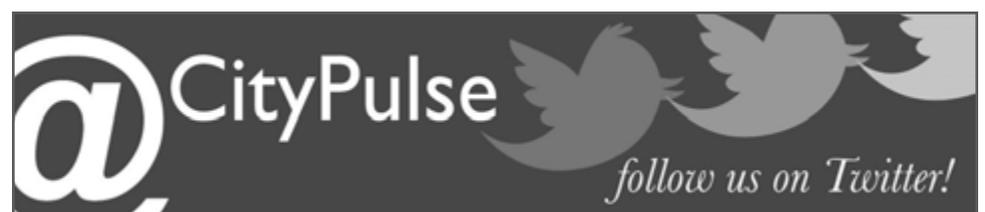
Mark Johnson, dentist

grabbing, greedy bastard,” Johnston said.

Johnston canceled his contract with Delta Dental recently, meaning he is a “non-participatory dentist.” If Delta Dental covers a patient, he submits a claim for the patient; the patient is paid for the insurance claim; and the patient then pays Johnston. He said “part of my frustration in canceling” had to do with the way his contract with Delta Dental was structured and the lack of flexibility he had with charging patients for services. Sometimes, he was unable to give long-time customers or those facing financial hardship a reduced rate if they didn't carry insurance. “Now I can give them a break where I see fit,” Johnston said.

“A lot of people fear that if I drop my contract with Delta, my patients are going to go to another dentist who has that contract,” Johnston said, referring to the dilemma faced by dentists who may consider what he did. “I understand their fear, but at some point you've got to stand up and decide what's best as a business decision.”

For Johnston, the “large compensation for executive staff there” and the “very elaborate” new building that are paid by customers buying insurance only add to his frustration. “You have to have a building, but maybe not the Taj Mahal. ... When you see those compensations, it's like, ‘Wow.’ I'm not opposed to businesses making profits, it just seems a little excessive.”



PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF EAST LANSING PROPOSED PY 2012/2013 HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN (PY 2012/2013 CDBG PROGRAM & BUDGET)

The 2012 Action Plan represents the first year of the City's current Consolidated Plan. The proposed projects and activities would be funded with federal government Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program funds awarded to the City through the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). The City's anticipated PY 2012/2013 CDBG Entitlement Grant is \$454,769. The proposed budget will be considered by the City Council as part of the City's Fiscal Year 2012/2013 Budget and Program of Services. This is to provide notice that the formal 30 calendar day comment period on the proposed Action Plan commences on May 16, 2012 and will conclude on June 15, 2012. During this period, copies of the Action Plan may be reviewed at the City of East Lansing, Department of Planning and Community Development, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823, and the East Lansing Public Library.

Proposed PY 2012/2013 CDBG Program and Budget

1. Section 108 Loan, Virginia Avenue Project, repayment of principal and interest	\$133,901
2. Housing Rehabilitation program, location: City Wide	\$57,089
3. Hometown Housing Partnership, Homeowner Opportunity Assistance Program I & II	\$23,000
4. East Lansing Department of Public Works, Bailey Neighborhood Sidewalk Improvements	\$78,000
5. East Lansing Prime Time Seniors Program, Cultural Art Studio	\$3,610
6. Public Services Activities	
a. Legal Services	
Legal Services of South Central Michigan	\$1,500
b. Domestic Violence, Shelter, and Support Services	
EVE Inc.	\$7,500
c. Respite Childcare and Parent Education	
Child and Family Charities	\$8,000
d. Homeless Shelter for Families	
Haven House	\$30,715
e. High School Equivalency Program and College Assistance Migrant Program	
Michigan State University, MSU HEP CAMP	\$12,500
f. Shelter & Support, Domestic Violence and Stalking	
MSU Safe Place	\$8,000
7. Program Planning and Administration	\$90,954
	TOTAL \$454,769

Anticipated Program Income During PY 2012/2013: Program income from sale of real property purchased with Section 108 Loan proceeds is estimated at \$200,000. Other sources of program income funds are estimated at \$20,000.

Proposed Use of Program Income: Program income typically returns to the program which generated the income; i.e., recapture of second mortgage proceeds, through the Homeownership Opportunity Assistance Program (HOAP), will be budgeted for additional homebuyer subsidy. All program income generated from sale of lots in the Virginia Avenue Project will be put back into the project to cover further eligible acquisition and related costs. The specific use of other program income will be determined at a later date.

Beneficiaries: Activities under Project 1 meet the objective of low-moderate income housing benefit. Projects 2, 3, and 6 are limited clientele benefit, meaning that households and individuals assisted with these activities must meet the low-moderate income guidelines established by HUD or be considered by HUD to be members of a clientele generally presumed to be low-moderate income. Projects 4 and 5 are public facilities and improvement activities, which meets the low-moderate income area benefit. These activities are undertaken in areas in which at least 51% of the households have low-moderate income, as defined by HUD. Project 7 is planning and/or administrative activities.

Displacement: As required by HUD regulations, the City will follow the Federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Properties Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended and all applicable regulations of HUD in providing assistance to persons displaced by the project. Displacement will be minimized to the greatest extent possible.

Range of Activities Eligible for CDBG Funding: Activities which may be undertaken with CDBG funds include but are not limited to: acquisition, disposition, public facilities and improvements, clearance, public (human) services, homeownership assistance, housing rehabilitation and preservation, renovation of closed buildings, lead-based paint hazard evaluation and reduction, special economic development activities, micro-enterprise development, technical assistance, and planning and administration. For additional information on eligible activities, refer to 24 CFR 570, Subpart C.

Further Information and Comments: If you wish to obtain further information regarding anything contained in this public notice, please contact the East Lansing Planning and Community Development Office at 319-6930 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Comments may be submitted to the East Lansing Planning and Community Development Department at City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823.

Dated: May 16, 2012
Marie McKenna
City Clerk

Arts & Culture

art • books • film • music • theater

One house, 100 stories

Potter House tour meanders through the halls of history

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

James McClurken doesn't carry himself like a lord of the manor. He slips from room to room in the gigantic Potter House in the Country Club of Lansing neighborhood with the air of a caretaker who knows where all the bodies are buried. He doesn't stride into a room; he materializes.

Potter House Tour

Fundraiser for the Greater Lansing Historical Association
6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, May 18
1348 Cambridge Road, Lansing
\$50
lansinghistory.org

"There are some Catholics who won't come inside because exorcisms were performed in the house," he said with a grin. Potter House, one of the city's biggest and most idiosyncratic homes, served a stint in the 1960s and 1970s as a lavish crib for three successive heads of

Lansing's Roman Catholic diocese.

The next owners, R.D. and Marlee Musser, whose family owns the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, turned the chapel into a lounge and converted the altar into a rolling bar. They left blood-red walls, blue ceilings, and a bedroom with a portrait of George H.W. Bush over one bed and George W. over the other.

"We thought we might need another exorcism," McClurken deadpanned.

McClurken lives and works in Potter House with his life partner, pianist and recording engineer Sergei Kvitko. But he considers himself more of a steward.

"We own it, but it really belongs to the community," McClurken said.

McClurken met last week with Lansing Community College architecture Professor Jim Perkins and Valerie Marvin, president of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, to plan Friday's public tour of the house, with commentary by Perkins. The benefit will help the society establish a historical museum.

On the morning of the meeting, a house-cleaning told McClurken that music suddenly started playing upstairs without anyone touching the stereo. "The spirits are back," she told him.

It's a big house: 15,000 square feet, plus a 2,000-square-foot ballroom, perhaps the largest single residential room in Lansing. But it's frightfully cozy for a massive Tudor pile. The library is snug with heaped books



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Above, the former ballroom of the Potter House is used as a recording studio. Right, colorful tiles reveal James McClurken's astrological sign: Cancer the crab. Far right, the concrete image of the beloved cat of former owner Sarah Potter faithfully guards the front door.

and dark wood trim, the dining room is scaled to a small family, and even the ballroom (now Kvitko's recording studio) is a darkly glittering stucco tunnel unlike any space in the city.

Each room and hallway is enriched by innumerable details, from painted animal murals to Scottish thistles, Moravian star light fixtures and odd Zodiac tiles from Flint Faience.

Much of the detail work, including the murals and the delicate, seven-colored acanthus leaf moldings, had to be restored after brutal makeovers from previous owners.

"I want to make sure you get a picture of this," McClurken said, teleporting silently to the front porch. (How does he do that?) "This is our little piece of Sarah."

Sarah Potter, the guiding spirit of Potter House, gave her favorite cat a 10th life by enshrining her likeness in concrete on the front door lintel.

Ray and Sarah Potter commissioned the house in 1926 from Lansing architect Harold Childs. Ray Potter was a timber scout, businessman, banker, benefactor of Sparrow Hospital and founder of the Greater Lansing Foundation, predecessor of the Capital Region Community Foundation. His father, James Potter, donated Potter Park to the city of Lansing; his grandfather, Linus, settled Pottersville. Sarah Potter was a mainstay of the Lansing Womans Club and an indefatigable host-

a room and wade into the house's ongoing restoration. In 1961, Bishop Joseph Albers redecorated the house in a modern style, stripping the hardware off the walls and painting the whole house institutional green, including the copper fireplace hood. Fortunately, the bishop stored the fixtures in the attic.

Subsequent owners, the Mussers, introduced a paint scheme so radical McClurken thinks it scared off prospective buyers. McClurken retained tiny traces of Musser's extreme décor, including a crimson light switch.

The house's demands don't leave McClurken much money for philanthropy — he sets aside about \$1,000 a month for repairs — but he is glad to share the house itself. A consultant specializing in

Native American issues, he seems to take a tribal view of home ownership. A slew of organizations, including Woldumar and Fenner nature centers, have held fundraisers at Potter House.

McClurken figures that thousands of people have been through the place since he and Kvitko moved in.

He's proud that only last week, the Potter Park Zoo held its first fundraiser at its namesake house. He relished the prospect of a carnivorous binturong (Asian bearcat) roaming his backyard.

"You were greeted at the door by an eagle owl," he said, lighting up like a 9-year-old kid. "They brought a blue-tongued skink. That's the only animal in the world with a blue tongue." He plans to host another zoo fundraiser this fall.

So far, McClurken's favorite event was the first fundraiser for Chad Badgero's Peppermint Creek Theater Co., stage managed so that the guests burst into song every 15 minutes.

"I love having the community here," he said. "Otherwise, there's really no sense in being here."

Far from lording it over the manor, he just stands by and digs the way other people dig his house. This spring, he finished restoring 12 original steel-lined garden beds in the front and back yards. When he's outside pattering, passersby sometimes ask him what he charges for his services as gardener. Some are surprised by an impromptu tour of the house, courtesy of the dirt-spattered owner.

"Sergei hates it when I do that," he said.



ess. When Ransom E. Olds hosted Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ford in his home, Olds asked Sarah Potter to be the hostess.

The Potters had no kids, but they used their rambling digs to entertain almost continuously, a tradition McClurken and Kvitko have brought back since they came to Potter House in 2007. Hundreds of people drift through for the couple's New Year's Eve bash.

Potter House can handle a shindig. It was built to industrial, not residential, standards, with bones of steel and concrete.

"There's no settling here, no warping or twisting of wood," McClurken said. The doors are built of two-inch walnut on three-inch knife hinges. "There's nothing that doesn't work after 84 years."

Even so, McClurken compares keeping the house to a second job. When he and Kvitko moved in, they had to deal with three disastrous leaks, caused by rampant ivy, and consequent wall and ceiling damage. Truckloads of tangled brush, including 20 long-dead elm trees, had to be hauled away.

Every year, McClurken and Kvitko pick

Cirque circuit

'Quiddam' bus tour visits area locations

By TRACY KEY

The circus will be coming to town early this week, but there won't be a trumpeting elephant or dancing bear to be found. In fact, there won't even be a tent to accompany this traveling attraction. Instead, a vividly painted tour bus will bring the clowns to town (metaphorically speaking, since there won't be any clowns either).

On Thursday, Cirque du Soleil comes to Lansing to begin a six-day mobile tour. "It's a very exciting opportunity for our promoters to travel ahead of our show and spread the word about the upcoming Cirque du Soleil performance," explained Zach

Daigneault, one of the project managers for the road trip.

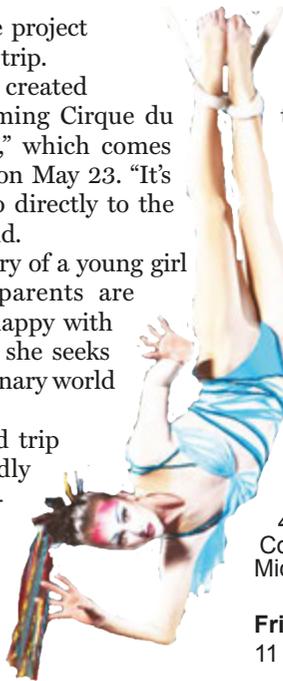
The spectacle was created to promote the upcoming Cirque du Soleil show "Quidam," which comes to the Breslin Center on May 23. "It's a very good way to go directly to the people," Daigneault said.

"Quidam" is the story of a young girl named Zoé, whose parents are cold and distant. Unhappy with her life in this world, she seeks adventure in the imaginary world of Quidam.

The "Quidam" road trip features family-friendly Quidam-related activi-

Courtesy Photo

A "cloud dancer" is part of the cast of Cirque du Soleil's "Quidam."



ties, including an onsite green screen, which will be used to create "video postcards" by photographing or videotaping people, and then digitally adding characters and scenery from "Quidam" to bring the family into the magical world of the show. The creations can then be immediately shared through email or Facebook and Twitter.

There will also be raffle drawings to win a free pair of tickets to see "Quidam" at each of the stops along the road trip.

Thursday, May 17

Noon – 2 p.m. Eastwood Towne Center, 3003 Preyde Blvd., Lansing
4–7 p.m. Lansing Lugnuts Baseball, Cooley Law School Stadium, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

Friday, May 18

11 a.m.–2 p.m. Michigan State University

Federal Credit Union, 3777 West Road, East Lansing
4–6 p.m. Michigan State University Federal Credit Union Farm Lane Branch, 4825 E. Mt. Hope Road, East Lansing

Saturday, May 19

9–11 a.m. Meridian Township Farmers Market, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos

Sunday, May 20

Noon–2 p.m. Meridian Mall, 1982 W Grand River Ave., Okemos
4:30–7 p.m. Eastwood Towne Center

Monday, May 21

Noon–2 p.m. Eastwood Towne Center

Tuesday, May 22

11 a.m.–2 p.m. City Hall Plaza, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing
4–6 p.m. Municipal Park, 147 S Clippert St., Lansing

More information can be found at www.quidamroadtrip.com.

Dream of owning a home?

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) is offering up to \$7,500 in down payment help. To learn more, go to OwnMiHome.org or call 517.373.6840.

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Investing in Places.

MSHDA
MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Equal Housing Employer/Lender

THE SCREENING ROOM

by JAMES SANFORD

'Chico & Rita' is a stylish, jazzy animated romance

It's not just love at first sight when musician Chico catches a glimpse of sultry songbird Rita in "Chico & Rita": It's love at first sound, too. In a dingy bar in late-1940s Havana, Rita saunters onto the stage, wearing a form-fitting, butterscotch-yellow dress and a Mona Lisa smile. Seconds after she launches into a scintillating rendition of "Besame Mucho," Chico's heart goes into orbit.

This is a romance in which music brings the couple together and, tragically, keeps them apart. Chico wins over the initially evasive Rita when he fills in for an ailing pianist and serves up a respectable version of an Igor Stravinsky concerto. Before long, Chico and Rita are collaborating on sheet music and collaborating between

the sheets as well. But achieving your dreams often means leaving other things behind, as the ambitious Rita learns when she follows a smooth-talking manager to New York.

Hand-drawn in a style that suggests classic New Yorker magazine covers springing to life, "Chico" (which was Oscar-nominated this year in the best animated

film category) is geared toward sophisticated adults. Post-World War II Havana, with its casual hook-ups, catfights and racial tensions was apparently not Disneyland.

In addition to its seductive look — and a swinging Latin jazz soundtrack from Bebo Valdes that will make you crave a pitcher of mojitos — the movie is smart and snappy. "I'd kiss the ground you walk on," Chico tells Rita, "if you lived in a cleaner neighborhood." Pretending to be offended, Rita takes off, telling him, "Don't even think about following me"; the come-hither sway in her hips, however, sends an entirely different message.

The film has all the earmarks of a painstakingly crafted labor of love, as directors Fernando Trueba, Javier Mariscal and Tono Errando follow Chico and Rita from Cuba to Manhattan (which triggers a lovely, lively abstract dream sequence, in which Rita turns into Josephine Baker, Ingrid Bergman and that dream of a dance partner, Cyd Charisse) and then on to the bitter glitter of Las Vegas. Along the way, there are cameos from real-life legends such as Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie and Tito Puente, as well as a few thought-provoking asides about discrimination and assimilation. Like many of the jazz melodies it celebrates, "Chico & Rita" doesn't always go in the direction you expect.

"Chico & Rita" is not rated, but it contains profanity, violence and nudity.



Courtesy photo

A sultry singer and a gifted musician find sweet harmony in late-1940s Havana in the Oscar-nominated "Chico and Rita."



James Sanford/City Pulse

Matt Schrauben, Mitchell Feldpausch, Taylor Feldpausch and Scott Martin of Silent Lapse and, at far left, "Backstage Pass" executive producer Timothy Zeko check out the stage of the Albert White Performing Arts Theater, where the new season of "Backstage Pass" will be shot. Silent Lapse tapes its show on June 27.

Next stage for 'Backstage'

WKAR music series has a new performance space and a different look: It will now be in high-definition

By JAMES SANFORD

If you've ever faced the disappointment of finding out your favorite band's "Backstage Pass" taping was already filled up, that may not be a problem in the future.

At a Wednesday press conference, WKAR executive producer Timothy Zeko laid out a few major changes for the music series' fourth season.

Zeko announced the series will be taping its first four episodes June 26 and 27 at the Albert White Performing Arts Theater in the Hannah Community Center instead of WKAR-TV's Studio A of the Michigan State University's Communication Arts and Sciences building.

"We're thrilled to be able to increase our seating four-fold," Zeko said. "(In Studio A), we are limited to about 100; here, we can seat over 400."

The lineup for the inaugural "Pass" shows in the new location features Home Again (a duo made up of Andy Holtgreive and Billy Kenny of Domestic Problems), Domestic Problems (the Grand Rapids-based band that's celebrating its 20th anniversary), the blues-funk of Howling Diablos and Silent Lapse, a four-man group from Westphalia that Zeko noted will be "our

first metal band" on "Backstage Pass."

Zeko said the fourth season will also be shot in high-definition, something he said he's been pushing for for years.

"Now, the best news," Zeko said. "All the shows are free. That's an important resource to have because we like to have our audiences as large as we can."

Next month, Zeko should get his wish.

'Backstage Pass' taping schedule

Shows tape at the Albert White Performing Arts Theater inside the Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, in East Lansing. Admission is free, but tickets must be requested in advance at www.wkar.org. Each performance is ticketed separately.

June 26

7 p.m. — Home Again (acoustic folk from Billy Kenny and Andy Holtgreive of Domestic Problems; hear songs from the "Forgotten Years" CD at www.reverbnation.com/homeagainmusic)

8:30 p.m. — Domestic Problems (rock)

June 27

7 p.m. — Howling Diablos (funk/blues/rock)

8:30 p.m. — Silent Lapse (four-piece metal band from Westphalia)

Get crafty at MSU

Arts and Crafts Show hosts more than 325 vendors

By HOLLY JOHNSON

This weekend, streets surrounding Michigan State University's Union will host hundreds of art vendors for the annual MSU Spring Arts and Crafts Show. Sponsored by MSU's University Activities Board, the show includes more than 325 exhibitors selling handmade items, such as candles, furniture, jewelry, home and yard décor, aromatherapy supplies, clothing, children's toys, paintings, photography, pottery, and sculpture.

One may sense a rivalry between the MSU Spring Arts and Crafts Show and the East Lansing Arts Festival happening the same weekend, directly across the street,

but UAB assistant manager Stephanie Bierlein says the events collaborate more than they compete.

"It's an advantage for both shows because it's double publicity," said Bierlein. "People come in and see one show, they're going to go to the other show, too. It's really just an extended outreach to bring people into this area."

Michigan State University Arts and Crafts Show

At the corner of Grand River Ave. and Abbot Road in East Lansing
9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, May 19;
10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, May 20

Free
(517) 355-3354
uabevents.com/artsandcrafts

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Courtesy photo

Arts, crafts, music and food are all part of the annual East Lansing Art Festival.

Two days, 200 artists

East Lansing Art Festival celebrates its 49th year

By TINA BERISHA

More than 200 artists from across North America — including 14 from the Lansing area — will display and sell their work at the 49th Annual East Lansing Art Festival. The two-day event showcases paintings, photographs, sculptures, fused glass, jewelry, musical performances and many other forms of art.

Anne O'Connor, a glass fuser from Okemos, is returning for her second appearance in the festival. Originally from Sault Ste. Marie, O'Connor pulls much of her inspiration from her childhood home.

"I really love watercolor, but I fell in love with the glass. I feel like I paint my scenes on the glass. I want you to be able to walk through the woods, I want you to be able to smell the flowers," she said. "That would be like a view from our cabin," she added, pointing to a scene of birch trees and a river.

East Lansing Art Festival

Downtown East Lansing
10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday,
May 19; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, May 20

Free
(517) 319-6804
www.elartfest.com

O'Connor owns the Art Unlimited studio in Okemos, where she teaches classes on glass fusion, pottery painting, and mosaicking. The busy mother of two high school-aged girls, O'Connor has nine shows scheduled this summer. But she says that getting able to be one of the local artists makes the East Lansing Art Festival one of her favorites.

"We like art here," said O'Connor, looking around at her studio and talking about

her daughter's and niece's award-winning works.

Also at the Festival will be Susan Luks of East Lansing, who makes wearable fiber collages and dyed silk. Luks is no stranger to the festival: Growing up in Okemos, she would visit the show with her mother. Even when she lived out of state she came back for the event, eventually bringing her three sons with her.

This will be Luks' sixth year showcasing and selling her designs. "I didn't start out dying fabrics, but I would work really hard to find a really great lining," Luks said. "I really think that what's next to you should be as good as what's on the outside, so I started dying the linings."

Luks describes her designs as a big science project. In her basement-turned-studio, Luks dyes, cuts, sews and embellishes her capes, vests, scarves and purses.

A self-proclaimed geek and computer programmer by day, Luks finds escape in her work.

"This is very unintentional; programming is very intentional," she said. "Being a mom is very intentional: running schedules and being where you have to be. Then I come to the studio and start with a box of fabric, and I'm aiming for something. You have a pile of things that are tactile and are beautiful to me, so I think I can weave them all together into something else. I don't think about it too much. Here's a place where I don't have to think and make sure everything comes together: It just will. That's art, right?"

Music at East Lansing Art Festival

The festival stage is located in the north parking lot of East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road.

Saturday, May 19

11 a.m. — East Lansing High School Jazz Band
Noon — Wisaal (world music)
1:30 p.m. — An Dro (Celtic-influenced world beat)
3 p.m. — Musique Noir (world fusion)
4:45 p.m. — Mary Flower (country blues)

Sunday, May 20

11:30 a.m. — Elden Kelly (jazz)
1 p.m. — Lac La Belle (acoustic)
2:30 p.m. — Eight to the Bar (big-band swing)
4 p.m. — The Brothers Groove (funk), with painter Robert W. Shelburg

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Riverfront
Park**

4pm-9pm

**Tickets at
lbwl.com**

When Charlie met Igor

Pianist steals Lansing Symphony season finale

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Say you are airlifted to Alaska, dropped in the tundra with a case of biscuits and a stack of touchy scientific instruments, and left in the snow to track the majestic caribou for several weeks. It's a rare opportunity, right? So why do you feel guilty for not appreciating it more?

Review

Big symphonies by titans like Mahler and Sibelius evoke a similar shiver in some listeners, no matter how good the orchestra — or the biscuits — are. To take Lansing's symphony lovers for one last spin, Thursday's

season finale offered a dread-free symphonic trip: two ripping cruises, with civilization always in view, no storms over two minutes long and a party in every port.

It didn't make the job any easier. The two kaleidoscopic works on Thursday's slate, Sergei Rachmaninoff's "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini" and Igor Stravinsky's "Petrouchka," shift moods and melodies drastically and thrillingly every couple of minutes or so.

With shoals at every turn, the engines purred, the wake curled from the stern and the foam bubbled at the bow as the symphony nimbly maneuvered through both masterpieces without a scrape.

Was there a favorite? The audience seemed to think so. The first mate on the Rachmaninoff cruise, 23-year-old Gilmore pianist Charlie Albright, broke every heart on board. The theme-and-variations setup was perfect for Albright. He played every variation like a consummate actor whose

pianistic skill was a mere bonus.

That was an illusion, of course. Albright's engine room was stoked to the max with tireless dexterity, split-second timing and booming power in the low register, but his polish and poise disguised the hard work in a cloak of drama.

When the music called for thunder, his hands coursed down like white-hot bolts onto the keys. While playing a stuffy, Victorian variation of the melody, he leaned back like a dignified matron and took everyone to finishing school. He even dared to be boring while playing a variation that evokes an endless trudge across the Russian steppe.

What can't the man do? When one tricky variation scrambled each note of the melody into a series of indistinct ripples, he turned his hands into two purple octopi and jetted through it as if it were the most natural thing in the world.

Buoyed by the Albright effect, Maestro Timothy Muffitt and the orchestra meshed superbly with the soloist to milk every drop of Rachmaninoff's show-bizzy transitions, estrogen surges, abrupt silences, sudden accelerations and what have you. The crowd wouldn't let Albright go, giving him two standing ovations. For an encore, he played an improvised riff on Mozart's "Rondo alla

turca" with extra rumblings, polyrhythms and jostlings that sounded like Mozart being played inside a whale's stomach.

A quick-change series of variations is one thing, but the orchestra faced trickier work when it came back after half-time. There are several brain-fold moments in Stravinsky's "Petrouchka" when two or three contrasting harlequinades, each with its own tone color and dance rhythm, happen at once. The payoff is a heady, rich stimulus lasagna no other art form, even movies, can prepare. The drawback is that if it's not done right, the audience won't be able to tell which musical collisions are intentional and which are not.

It's a measure of how far the Lansing Symphony has come that the problem never even came up. The orchestra sounded slightly tentative in the early going, as if looking down to check the foot marks on the floor before a dance, but the brisk sweep and deep throb of Stravinsky's masterpiece got into their bones pretty quickly. Muffitt managed the cinematic fade-outs, fade-ins and overlaps as masterfully as Robert Altman circa "MASH," and hyper-exposed trumpeter Rich Illman fluttered over it all like a yellow and red banner. It was a thumping three-ring circus, a fitting topper to a season with plenty of highlights.

DEAL OF THE WEEK

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Eisenhower Dance Company puts 'Motown in Motion'

By HOLLY JOHNSON

Even if its Motown days are long over, Detroit is forever characterized by the joyous melodies of artists such as the Jackson 5, the Temptations and the Supremes.

On Sunday, the Eisenhower Dance Ensemble reminisces and honors the razzle-dazzle of Motown music with its "Motown in Motion" concert at the Wharton Center. Clad in polyester, bell-bottoms and spandex, the group presents choreographed routines to 15 of Motown's best-known tunes.

Founded in 1991 by Laurie Eisenhower, the ensemble celebrates its 22nd season of

dancing this year.

How does the sound of Motown fit in with a contemporary dance company?

"The Motown music is made for dancing," Eisenhower explained to Detroit's Examiner website. "I believe the Motown rhythm is what made the music so popular. My intention wasn't to duplicate the original dances that were performed to the music, but to elevate the dancing to a new level."

First staged in 2000, "Motown in Motion" also includes music from Diana Ross, Marvin Gaye, Martha Reeves, Smokey Robinson and Gladys Knight and the Pips.

'Motown in Motion'

1:30 p.m. Sunday,
May 20

Wharton Center

\$8 general admission
(800) WHARTON

www.whartoncenter.com

Courtesy Photo

Clockwise from left, Winifred Olds, Michael Hays, Jan Ross, Colleen Patten and Marni Darr Holmes go to battle in "The Red Velvet Cake War" at Starlight Dinner Theatre.



Starlight takes the 'Cake'

Zany 'Red Velvet' is a country-fried crowd pleaser

By UTE VON DER HEYDEN

"I'll tell you exactly how, Miss Sour Britches! Oh, I'm hosting this reunion all right, and it's gonna be the best one in Verdeen family history. And it'll be a really good time for a change, unlike the constipated snooze-fests you throw every year. And you know what? I'll bake Uncle Aubrey the most incredible red velvet cake he's ever laid tongue to! And you'll just have to shut your yap and accept it."

Review If you're planning a family reunion and want to tell off your own real-life version of the insufferable Aunt LaMerle Verdeen Minshew addressed above, go see Starlight Dinner Theatre's production of "The Red Velvet Cake War" and get a lesson or two from Gaynelle Verdeen Bodeen.

Gaynelle (Marni Darr Holmes) and her cousins Peaches (Colleen Patten) and Jimmie (Jan Ross) are at the center of the action in Sweetgum, Texas, as they make plans to throw a family reunion.

Their timing couldn't be worse. Bully matriarch Aunt LaMerle (Lee Helder) is against it, and the women's past antics have made them the talk of the gossipy town. Gaynelle has just "accidentally" crashed her minivan through the bedroom wall of her husband's girlfriend's doublewide, and she is being psychiatrically evaluated; Peaches, the sexy mortuarial cosmetologist, wants to have her long-absent trucker husband declared dead so that her "luscious lips" can once again be kissed; and rough-edged Jimmie Wyvette, manager of Whatley's Western Wear, is turning herself inside out to win the affections of Sweetgum's newest widower. To top it off, it's the hottest day in July — and the middle of tornado season.

This may not be the most engaging storyline or the wittiest script Starlight has ever tackled, but under the direction of Lisa Sodman Elzinga it's nevertheless a

sure-fire crowdpleaser. Making this happen, in addition to Darr Holmes, Patten, Ross and Helder, is the high-energy, high-spirited cast of Harlow Claggett, Susan Chmurynsky, Susan DeRosa, Jay Hansor, Michael Hays, Mary Herrbach, Bob Murrell and Winifred Olds, ably portraying various madcap Sweetgum inhabitants.

Legendary community theater veteran Olds, armed with a glorious golden wig and her effortless comic timing, is a treat as always as the wry-humored hostess of a local TV show.

"As age creeps up," Olds has written in her program bio, "theater is a place to 'live.'"

The script for "Cake War" comes from playwrights Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten, whose television writing credits include "Golden Girls," "Designing Women," "Night Court" and "Murphy Brown." Often described as three of the most widely produced comedy playwrights in America, they are also the authors of "The Hallelujah Girls," produced by Starlight earlier this season.

Linda M. Granger, Starlight founder and artistic director, reports that in 2013 Starlight will stage the world premiere of a new Jones/Hope/Wooten play. Jones called recently and offered it to Granger, requesting only that three seats be saved for them opening night. What a coup for Granger, who has worked tirelessly since 2005 to make Starlight the success that it is.

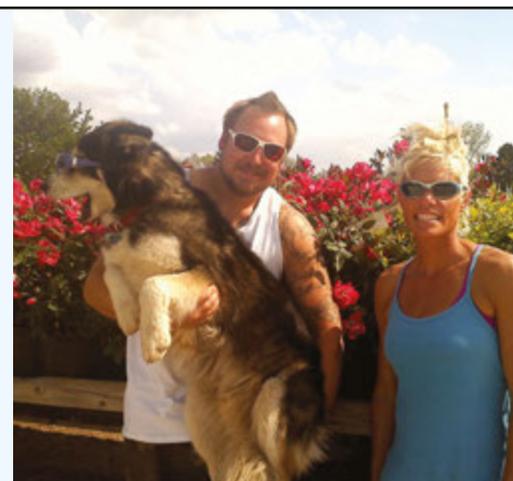
'The Red Velvet Cake War'

Starlight Dinner Theatre
Friday, May 18 and Saturday, May 19
Waverly East Cafetorium, 3131 W. Michigan Ave.,
Lansing.
Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. with the show beginning
at 7:30. Dinner reservations are required 48 hours in
advance.
Show and dinner: \$33 adults; \$28 seniors and
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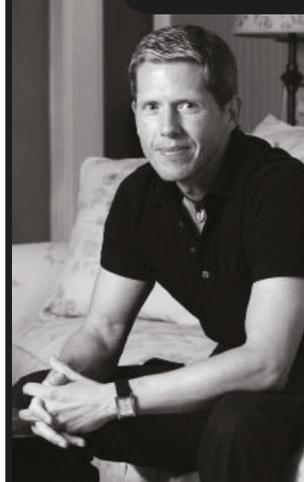
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Capital Area District Library



2012 SPRING AUTHOR SERIES

Humorist Wade Rouse



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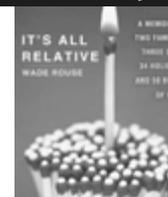
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Piano power

'Boogie Stomp!' rocks Stormfield Theatre

By TOM HELMA

It's not a musical, but it's almost entirely musical — not even close to being an actual play, but clearly quite a dramatic performance. The B and S Railroad of boogie-woogie blues rocked and rolled its way into the station house of Stormfield Theatre, creating a spontaneous romp through the history of African-American music, from Muddy Waters to Chuck Berry, with a little Berry Gordy thrown in along the way. "Boogie Stomp!" is pure music and all heart, a perfect ending to the Stormfield Theatre season.

Mixing historic commentary with solos and duets that demonstrate a flexibility of flying fingers, Bob Baldori and Bob Seeley

demonstrate a rapid-fire virtuoso versatility, moving effortlessly from one form of boogie-woogie to another. The "St Louis Blues," played by Seeley, progresses through various incarnations, then Baldori adds a cover of an early Chuck Berry tune.

As the music heats up, Baldori and Seeley compete wildly to see which of them can play the fastest. Audience foot-tapping becomes aggressive foot-stomping. Slower sad-sounding songs follow, evoking images and feelings of bars we've never been to, beers we've never drunk, blues we've never really felt. Eyes close, people begin to sway. Couples find themselves touching shoulders. It becomes an intimate evening. Women's hearts melt as Baldori caresses his way through a sexy gospel blues rendition of "The Tennessee Waltz."

The duo turns comic, first with semi-lame jokes, then hamming it up, impressively with "Four-play," in which both play the same piano simultaneously. Seeley shows off impressive complexities with a driving "Bumble Boogie" version of Rimsky-Korsakov's "Flight of the Bumblebee." The

evening wraps us with — what else? — an audience sing-along.

It is a coup that Stormfield was able to land this act. Some would say, paraphrasing the Holy Scriptures, that a musician is without honor in his own country. Not true in this instance.

Baldori, and Seeley are a dynamic elder-duo that has toured Europe and played on stage with Elton John, Chuck Berry, Stevie Wonder and other legends.

They merit a standing ovation.

(Pianist Arthur Migliazza will join Baldori for this week's "Boogie Stomp!" performances.)



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Frightening and funny

Louise Krug's dreams of a glamorous career were curtailed by a crisis

By BILL CASTANIER

Louise Krug had just started her dream life with a college degree, a new job, glam clothes, a wonderful and handsome boyfriend and a magazine assignment chasing Britney Spears. She was looking forward to the beautiful life California had to offer.

Until, that is, a brain bleed left her with double vision, facial paralysis, numbness on her left side and other maladies that would steal both her classic good looks and the future she envisioned.

Krug has written a fast-paced, introspective memoir that is alternately harrowing and hilariously funny, addressing her physical and psychological recovery from the trauma that would leave her forever changed.

"Louise: Amended" is like something Chelsea Handler would write if she had a brain bleed.

It can be very dark, such as when Krug describes painful medical procedures and even more wrenching when she chronicles the growing and inevitable separation from her boyfriend, Claude. Or it can be laugh-out-loud funny, as when she goes off to a bar with someone identified

as "Hat Guy."

In a phone interview, Krug said writing the book was "a good way for me to reex-

amine what happened." The Holland native said an early version of the memoir was completed for her masters of fine arts thesis at the University of Kansas.

While Krug was recovering from surgery to repair the brain damage, her mother read Ann Patchett's "Truth and Beauty" to her. Patchett's book details a close friendship with a severely disfigured roommate, and it inspired Krug to write her own memoir.

"Patchett is telling the story of a friendship," Krug said, "and I liked what she was saying about the meaning of beauty and friendship."

Krug also details how her divorced parents and siblings rallied to see her through her most critical moments of recovery.

"I was really proud of them — no, I was really impressed by them," she said.

The author, who is completing her Ph.D., said the hardest part of writing the book was "getting over my ego and admitting things that made me look bad. Finally, I got the hang of it and just let it go."

She said she first tried writing the book in first-person but that it was "kind of boring." She then used rotating points of view, which allowed her

to provide insights into what her family was going through. For Claude, she used a fictional approach about what she suspected he might do, say and think.

Most who have read books similar to Krug's — and there are many of them — about overcoming trials and tribulations will find her voice refreshing and disarming. She's young (only 28), married with a young daughter and knows a little about how to find happiness

In her epilogue, Krug shows the journey isn't over, as she confronts lingering questions about her life and looks. But she's coming closer. She writes, "I've realized that perfection is not what pleases the eye. What pleases the eye is what pleases the heart."



Courtesy Photo

A brain bleed derailed Louise Krug's plans to be a reporter.

Louise Krug

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ADVICE GODDESS I get a kickball out of you & last tango in suburban living room



AMY ALKON
adviceamy@aol.com

Q: My boyfriend of three months is 22, and so am I. He tells me he loves me but is horrible about returning texts and calls and following through with dates. (He seems to ditch me if something better comes along.) He also doesn't treat me very well around others. Recently, he got really drunk at a party and was hitting on my friend all night, though she ignored him. I finally pulled him aside and said he was hurting my feelings, and he said I was too sensitive and I'm just jealous that people like him. He later disappeared from the party for over an hour, and when I asked him where he'd gone, he said, "What are you, my mom?" I know I don't deserve to be treated like this, but he can be so sweet and kind when we are on my couch watching a movie or in bed snuggling. Part of me wants to leave, and part thinks he just needs to get used to being in a relationship, because this is his first "serious" one.

—Loved and Unloved

A: If you're like a lot of women, you've dreamed about this since you were a little girl — that moment the man in your life puts his hands on your shoulders and says, "Would you mind ducking your head so I can see if that woman across the room is hot?"

Men, like golden retrievers, have their flaws. They shed on the furniture, leave hairs in the soap, and hump your leg at inappropriate times. But when it's clear that a particular man generally means well, these things are to be overlooked. Your boyfriend, on the other hand, claims to love you but ignores you, stands you up, belittles you, and publicly humiliates you, making it pretty clear that he's looking to leave hairs in other women's soap. And sure, he's sweet to you when you're snuggling in bed — probably because there are no other women under your comforter for him to hit on.

Like many people, you place too much importance on hearing "I love you." You want to believe that these words mean something — and they probably do: that he needs to throw you a romantic chew-toy from time to time so you'll stick around for all the casual cruelty. In an abusive relationship, which this is, you begin to crave the little moments of sweetness and intimacy that you use to justify staying through all the spirit-chomping parts. The big picture is, you

aren't so much this guy's girlfriend as you are his backup girlfriend (the spare tire of girlfriendhood) — the one he keeps around in case there's nothing or no one better to do.

Part of you wants to leave? Follow that part. And turn this into a meaningful relationship after the fact — one you use to represent what you won't put up with in the future. Sure, in the process of figuring out what you want in a man, you'll have to "kiss a few toads," but if you're honest about who a guy is, you'll see no reason to stick around for an extended makeout session.

Q: I'm staying at a friend's house while on a business trip. She and I talk frequently, but since I moved away, we have not had any quality time. We'd both looked forward to hanging out and catching up, but her boyfriend of six months has been here every night. I like him well enough, but the worst, the absolute worst, is the extreme PDA. They share long, passionate kisses and lie on top of each other and make out while we're all watching TV. I want to say something, but what?

—Grossed-Out Girl

A: How nice to have time to catch up with your friend — to learn how her job's going, what's happening with her family, the kind of faces she makes while being dry-humped. When you're a houseguest, the things you should be expected to bring are wine and maybe a box of fancy soaps, not earplugs and a blindfold. As welcome as they're making you feel, it

must be tempting to go passive-aggressive when they're getting it on: "Mind if I tweet this?" Or "Should I move over? I don't want to be sitting on third base." But, your best bet for shutting down the heavy petting zoo is evoking sympathy, not defensiveness. Do that by telling your friend that you feel bad — like you're interrupting something — and that it's no problem for you to stay at a motel. Sure, there may still be live sex acts there, but they'll be separated from you by a wall and some innocuous framed print. You'll hear everything, but in the morning, you'll leave with the image of an adequately painted lighthouse forever burned into your brain.

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Jonesin' Crossword

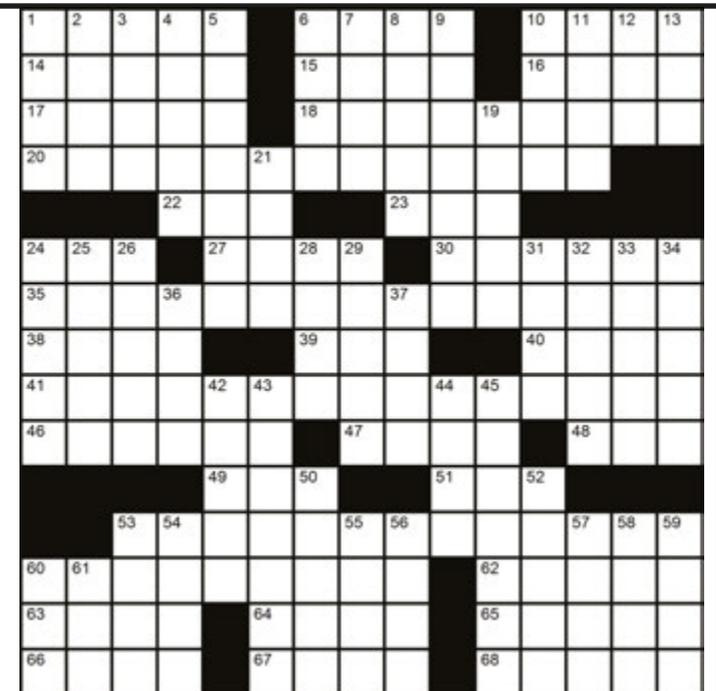
By Matt Jones

"Triple Billing"—what if these bands played together?

by Matt Jones

Across

- 10 One-named musician born in Kalamata
- 6 "In the Valley of ___" (2007 Tommy Lee Jones film)
- 10 Malignant clear drink of the 1990s
- 14 Actor Delon
- 15 What a link leads to
- 16 Brown or Rice: abbr.
- 17 It makes a Brit bright
- 18 Go with the joke
- 20 Hazy memory after a few rounds of drinks?
- 22 President pro ___
- 23 "The Jungle Book" snake
- 24 Cry convulsively
- 27 Former Cincinnati Bengal Collinsworth
- 30 More unlike a chicken
- 35 Painkiller-induced dreams, now for all to see?
- 38 Literary detective's outburst
- 39 ___-Magnon man
- 40 Cupid's counterpart
- 41 Did the candles for your cat's birthday party?
- 46 On a smaller scale
- 47 Timetable, for short
- 48 Allow
- 49 Eur. country
- 51 "Got it!"
- 53 Message that shows your car's warning system is joking with you?
- 60 1985 sci-fi film with Dennis Quaid and Louis



- Gossett, Jr.
- 62 Tropical vine
- 63 Baby ___ (tabloid term)
- 30 More unlike a chicken sighting)
- 64 ___-Seltzer
- 65 Pull-down directories
- 66 Tendancy
- 67 Loch ___ Monster
- 68 Guns N' Roses guitarist
- Walk on the Wild Side," in the lyrics
- 10 Yankee follower
- 11 "Are you ___ out?"
- 12 Like some keys: abbr.
- 13 Part of GPA
- 19 Dream interrupter
- 21 Katz of "Eerie, Indiana"
- 24 Need deodorant
- 25 Word appearing twice after "Boogie" in a 1978 #1 hit's title
- 26 Sausages at picnics
- 28 "Hedwig and the Angry ___"
- 29 Belgraders, e.g.
- 31 One of Geena's "Beetle-juice" co-stars
- 32 How some videos go
- 33 Bring out
- 34 Stopwatch button
- 36 Printable files
- 37 Knight's neighbor
- 42 Family surname in R&B
- 43 Sam & Dave hit covered by the Blues Brothers
- 44 Peachy
- 45 "The Hangover" actor
- 50 One of many explored by Mulder and Scully
- 52 She was "The Little Mermaid"
- 53 Disaster relief org.
- 54 Diamond heads?
- 55 Tattoo parlor supply
- 56 Meadows
- 57 ___ Lang ("Smallville" role)
- 58 Heavy burden
- 59 Laundry
- 60 Recede, like the tide
- 61 "Rapa ___" (1994 movie about Easter Island)

Down

- 1 Pensacola pronoun
- 2 Matty or Felipe of baseball
- 3 Grandmas, for some
- 4 One of seven in a week
- 5 "Office Space" company
- 6 "SportsCenter" network
- 7 "Mystic Pizza" actress Taylor
- 8 Sharp as ___
- 9 Words before "Take a

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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 Jessica at (517) 999-5069. E-mail information to calendar@lansingcitypulse.com.

MAY 19



Courtesy Photo

Pups on the prowl

To raise money for its Animal Cruelty Fund, the Ingham County Animal Control & Shelter will hold its 3rd annual Woofers Walk on Saturday. Registration begins at 9 a.m. on the campus of Michigan State University, and the walk is scheduled to start at 10 a.m. Woofers Walk is about 1.5 miles, and owners and pets are invited to stroll along the banks of the Red Cedar River. The event provides refreshments, as well as a dog agility show, a K-9 police dog demonstration and a Doggie Diva Fashion Show. Funds raised help defer the cost of housing, medication and veterinary care for shelter animals that have been neglected or abused. 9 a.m. \$25. The location is the Red Cedar River at Farm Lane, MSU Campus, East Lansing. www.ac.ingham.org.

Wednesday, May 16

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

Disabilities and Social Justice. ADAPT Michigan; discuss current issues and activism. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

Learn Bike Repair. Help maintain the MSU Bikes' rental fleet and earn time to work on your own bike. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and at 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Demonstration Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. www.bespartangreen.msu.edu/happenings.html.

Forest View Citizens Association. Get updates from the Lansing Police Department. 7 p.m. \$5 per year. University Club MSU, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. (517) 882-9342.

Ingham County Rural. Meeting of the Wild Ones Red Cedar Chapter and the Michigan Botanical Club. With Jim Hewitt. 7 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center,

See Out on the Town, Page 22

CORRECTION

Because of an editing error, the highlight in the May 11 issue about an event at Woldumar Nature Center on May 11 did not match the headline.

R. Knott

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MAY 19

Breathe in and get out to Williamston

Novices and experts alike can attend Our Space Yoga this Saturday for a day of free yoga classes. The Williamston Planning Commission recently approved a special-use permit for the yoga studio to open. To celebrate, owner and 17-year veteran yoga instructor Cherie Ferro is holding an open house featuring different yoga classes and a chance to sample instructors. The schedule for the day begins at 9 a.m. with Yoga Flow, or Vinyasa, a free-flowing sequence of yoga postures that connects breath and movement. The classes continue throughout the morning with Deep Stretch Floor Yoga, Yin Yoga at 10 a.m., Yoga for Neck & Shoulders at 11 a.m., Hip Openers Noon and Relax and Release at 1 p.m. 9 a.m.-1:45 p.m. FREE. Our Space Yoga, 2896 N. Williamston Road, Suite 320, Williamston. www.ouryogaspace.com.



Courtesy Photo

MAY 20

Communicating through comics

The Michigan State University Museum explores comic books in a workshop with artist Ryan Claytor. Plenty of comic book series reach beyond the Marvel and DC titans audience, and the program is for those interested in illustrating and producing their own series. It's produced in conjunction with the MSU Museum's exhibit, "Pow-Erful Design: Nature as Inspiration for Technology (Fiction and Real)." Claytor, director of the MSU Comics Forum and a MSU Comics Studio instructor, will compare the medium of comics to other types of storytelling. He will also share techniques used in illustrating and publishing. FREE. 1:30-3 p.m. MSU Museum Auditorium, MSU Campus, East Lansing. www.museum.msu.edu.

MAY 21

Prayer for healing

The Hannah Community Center welcomes Fujiko Signs, for an evening focusing on prayer. After becoming ill in her mid-30s, Signs sought out a variety of treatments that failed to give a lasting cure. She discovered Christian Science and found relief from the symptoms. Now a full-time practitioner and teacher of Christian Science healing, Signs says, "In this lecture I will share accounts of people who found healing when they prayed with the Lord's Prayer. Each line of the Lord's Prayer strengthens our ability to have more hope, faith, and practice in a Christianly scientific way of life." The ideas she plans to share are based on the teachings of Jesus, as recorded in the Bible. 7 p.m. FREE. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 332-2117. www.christiansciencemidMI.org.



Courtesy Photo

TURNIT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

'90S ALT-ROCKERS AT ULI'S

Caroline's Spine, who saw national success with Hollywood Records back in the mid-'90s, plays Thursday at Uli's Haus of Rock. Opening the show are modern-rockers Adalene and the acoustic-rock sounds of Surviving Justin. Caroline's Spine, led by lead singer/songwriter Jimmy Newquist, toured throughout the '90s, putting out singles like "The Light Inside" and "Sullivan" and sharing the bills with alt-bands like Catherine Wheel and Better Than Ezra, as well as legends like KISS and Aerosmith. Around that same time a couple of the band's tunes landed on the soundtracks of the 1997 chiller "An American Werewolf in Paris" and James Van Der Beek's 1999 hit "Varsity Blues." The alt-rock band's 1997 major-label debut, "Monsoon," was followed by "Attention Please" a couple of years later. Although the band left Hollywood Records in 2000, Caroline's Spine has been keeping busy: In 2007 the band dropped the "Captured" LP, then "Work It Out" followed in 2008. Caroline's Spine's latest disc, "Do U Remember When," was released last year on the 7th Kid label.

Thursday, May 17 @ Uli's Haus of Rock, 4519 S. Martin Luther King Blvd., Lansing, 18 and over, \$5, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

INDIE-ROCKY AT MAC'S

Rocky Votolato, a Seattle-based singer/songwriter, brings his stripped-down folk to Mac's Bar on Friday, along with openers Jeff Pianki and Kevin Long. Votolato grew up on a horse farm in a small Texas town where he listened to Willie Nelson and Steve Earle, who would later influence some of his country-tinged songs. As a teen, he moved to Seattle and



Courtesy Photo

Neon Trees

formed the indie band Waxwing in 1996. Starting around 1999, Votolato began hashing out his own tunes in a similar style to Elliot Smith. Since then he's released a handful of solo records and toured with the likes of Lucero. His latest album, "Television of Saints," was released in April and features 10 poppy alt-country songs. It can be heard at rockyvotolato.bandcamp.com, or you can buy a copy at the Mac's show.

Friday, May 18 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all ages, \$12 advance, \$14 door, 8 p.m.

NEON TREES LIGHT UP THE LOFT

The poppy dance-rock outfit Neon Trees has been making national waves since its single "Animal" hit No. 13 on the Billboard Hot 100, while the album "Habits" climbed to No. 1 on the Heatseekers chart in 2010. The band plays an all-ages show Tuesday at The Loft, where it'll be promoting "Picture Show," its latest album on Mercury Records. The Provo, Utah-based band started to gain steam back in 2008 after opening some shows for The Killers. Neon Trees features vocalist/keyboardist Tyler Glenn, guitarist Chris Allen, bassist Branden Campbell and drummer/vocalist Elaine Bradley, who met while attending



Courtesy Photo

Downplay

school in California; soon afterward, the band began developing its pop-rock/new-wave sound that sometimes heads into power-pop territory. Opening the Loft show, which is hosted by 94.1-FM The Edge, are Twin Atlantic (indie rock from the United Kingdom) and The Active Set (Los Angeles alt-rock).

Tuesday, May 22 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all ages, \$15 advance, \$18 doors, 7 p.m.

HE IS WE PLAYS THE LOFT

Playing a stripped-down brand of acoustic-driven pop, He is We has managed to gain national notoriety after signing with Universal Motown Records in early 2010 and releasing the "My Forever" LP. On May 23, the pop duo plays The Loft along with Deas Vail (Arkansas-based indie-pop), Windsor Drive (Wisconsin-based dream pop) and South Jordan (Nashville-based pop rock). He Is We is made up of Trevor Kelly (who writes the music) and Rachel Taylor (pens the lyrics), who met while working at Ted Brown Music Co. in Tacoma. **Wednesday, May 23 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all ages, \$15 advance, \$18 doors, 7 p.m.**

DOWNPLAY AT ULI'S

On May 24, Uli's is bringing another hard-rockin' band, Downplay. Some may remember Downplay as the opener for Theory of a Deadman at last year's Common Ground Festival. Warming up the stage are Concordia, Crashing Broadway and Siren for the Carrier. Downplay has toured with bands like Puddle of Mudd, Chevelle, 10 Years and Sevendust. Last year, the band recorded with producer Dave Fortman (who also worked with Evanescence, Slipknot, Mudvayne, Godsmack). Downplay released its fourth record, "Beyond the Machine," late last year, and recently finished another EP that's set to be released in June.

Thursday, May 24 @ Uli's Haus of Rock, 4519 S. Martin Luther King Blvd, Lansing, 18 and over, \$5, 8:30 p.m.

UPCOMING SHOW?

POST IT AT

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TURNITDOWN

LIVE AND LOCAL

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

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Connxtions Comedy Club 2900 N. East St.	Comedy Open Mic, 8 p.m.	Dave Walte, 8 p.m.	Dave Walte, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.	Dave Walte, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.			Haphazard, 9 p.m.	Haphazard, 9 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Mighty Medicine, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.		Tryst Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.	Showdown, Midnight	Showdown, Midnight
The Firm, 227 S. Washington Square		DnW Sound DJs, 9 p.m.	Various DJs, 9 p.m.	DJ Donnie D, 9 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.	Driver & Rider Show, 7 p.m.	Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karaoke with Joanie Daniels, 7 p.m.	Hooties, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Gadget, 9:30 p.m.	Big Willy 9:30 p.m.	Global Village, 9:30 p.m.	Squids, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		The Coop, 8 p.m.	Til All's Broken, 7 p.m.	Brandon Flood, Prince Ashitaka, 6:30 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	Wissal, 6 p.m.	The Dirt Daubers, 9 p.m.	Rocky Vololato, 8 p.m.	Elliot Street Lunatic, 9 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Rob Kladjia Open Mic, 9 p.m.		The Jen Sygit Band, 10 p.m.	The Jen Sygit Band, 10 p.m.
Rick's American Cafe, 224 Abbott Road			Jedi Mind Trip, 10:30 p.m.	Jedi Mind Trip, 10:30 p.m.
Rookies, 16460 S. US 27	Sea Cruisers, 7-10 p.m.	Water Pong DJ with Ryan, 9 p.m.	Karaoke with Bob, 9 p.m.	Karaoke with Bob, 9 p.m.
Rum Runners, 601 East Michigan Ave.	Open Mic Night, 9 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 9 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 7 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 9 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 9 p.m.	The Bear Band, 9 p.m.	The Bear Band, 9 p.m.
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.	Brian Lorente and the Usual Suspects, 9 p.m.	Brian Lorente and the Usual Suspects, 9 p.m.
Uli's Haus of Rock, 419 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		Carolina Spine, 9 p.m.	Jamboozle, 9 p.m.	
Zepplin's, 2010 E. Michigan Ave.		Industrial/Hip Hop Night, 8 p.m.	Bluffing the Ghosts, 8 p.m.	Standard Issues Citizen, 8 p.m.

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

Out on the town

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2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 887-0596.

EVENTS

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

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

Youth Service Corps. East side youth grow food, and develop leadership skills. Ages 11-17. 3:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community Garden House, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.

Colonial Village Neighborhood Meeting. The Association meets on the third Wednesday. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Grace United Methodist, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 482-5750.

Forest View Citizens Association. Get updates from the Lansing Police Department. 7 p.m. \$5 per year. University Club Michigan State University, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. (517) 882-9342.

Greater Lansing Ride of Silence. To honor and memorializes bicyclists hit and killed or injured by motor vehicles on roadways. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. MSU Bikes, Bessey Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-3400.

"Chico & Rita." The Academy-Award-nominated animated film about the Cuban jazz scene, directed by Fernando Trueba. 7:30 p.m. \$10, \$25 with reception. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. susanwoods@elff.com.

Lansing Hip Hop Week. Hip hop fashion. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Gone Wired Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 853-0550. www.lansinghiphop.org.

MUSIC

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

New Horizons. Band performance. 1 p.m. FREE. Holt Senior Care Center, 5091 Willoughby Road, Holt. (517) 355-7661. cms.msu.edu.

Sea Cruisers. Oldies music. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Rookies Restaurant, 1640 S. US 27, Lansing. (517) 487-8686.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Jack Dempsey. Author of "Michigan Civil War: A Great and Bloody Sacrifice." 5 p.m. FREE. Brennan Law Library, Cooley Law School, 330 S. Washington Square, Lansing. www.cooley.edu/events.

DTDL Book Club. Discuss Naomi Ragen's "The Ghost of Hannah Mendes." 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta

Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. www.dtdl.org.

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

Lansing Area Science Fiction Association Meeting. New location. Informal dinner and lively conversation every week. 7 p.m. FREE. Buddies Grill, 2040 Aurelius Road, #13, Holt. (517) 402-4481.

Thursday, May 17

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Teen Volunteer Orientation. Additional details to be announced. Please check back. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156. www.dewittlibrary.org.

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

Eating Disorders Anonymous Meeting. A group of people recovering from eating disorders who talk about recovery. 7-7:45 p.m. FREE. CADL Mason Library, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. (517) 899-3515.

Farm to Table: Beginning Canning. Learn to can safely and study several canning methods. 6:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Leslie Library, 201 Pennsylvania St., Leslie. (517) 589-9400.

Farm to Table. On time-tested seed saving and preservation techniques, using rain barrels and more. 7 p.m. FREE. CADL Stockbridge Library, 200 Wood St., Stockbridge. (517) 851-7810.

Writers Roundtable. Get feedback and connect with other writers. 6-7:45 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.

Patio Pavers. Workshop. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Lowe's, S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 699-2940.

EcoTrek Fitness. Outdoor group workouts for all fitness levels. Meet at last parking lot on the left. 5:45-7 p.m. \$12. William Burchfield Park, Holt. (517) 243-6538.

Beal Botanical Garden Tour. Tours led by Peter Carrington, assistant curator of the garden. 12:10 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, 100 Main Library, MSU Campus, East Lansing. hwww.lib.msu.edu/general/events.

EVENTS

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

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

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

Mid-day Movies. Watch recent releases on the big screen. 2 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363.

Kids Time: Ages 5-11. Help the Eastside youth to grow food, develop leadership and life skills. n, 4:30-

5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community Garden-House, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.

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

Bananagrams Night. Play the hot new timed word game. 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd. Lansing. (517) 316-7495.

Garden Tour. Tours begin near the pond, in the southeast corner of the Beal Garden. 12:10-12:50 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, 100 Main Library, MSU Campus, East Lansing. www.lib.msu.edu.

Chipmunk Story Time. Children can join Chicory Chipmunk for "Some Babies are Wild." 10 a.m. \$3. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

Taco Dinner. All you can eat tacos, beans, rice, nacho chips and more. 6-7:45 p.m. \$8, \$3 kids. Redeemer Church, 2727 W. Holmes Road, Lansing. (517) 882-8000.

Adalene. With Caroline's Spine. 7 p.m. Price varies. Ullis Haus of Rock, 4519 S. M.L.K. Blvd., Lansing. (517) 882-5900. www.ulishausofrock.com.

"The Fight for Water." A documentary about oil in Ecuador, by Joshua Spencer. 7:30 p.m. \$3. (SCENE) Metrospace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6886. www.scenemetrospace.com.

Strawberry Breakfast. "Books for the Beach" is the theme enjoy a buffet featuring strawberries and other appetizing treats. 9:30 a.m. \$12.50 members, \$15. CADL Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3297 or (517) 347-2021.

GRC at Potter Park Zoo. A casual after-hours bash with beer and wine in a complimentary souvenir glass and more. 6-9 p.m. \$30, \$25 members. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4221. www.grandriverconnection.com.

MUSIC

Jazz Thursdays. Various artists featured each week. 6:30-9:30 p.m. FREE. Mumbai Cuisine, 340 Albert St., East Lansing. (517) 336-4150.

The Dirt Daubers. Acoustic/bluegrass. 9 p.m. \$10. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795.

Down With Webster. For fans of 3OH3, Timeflies, Macklemore. 5:30 p.m. \$10. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795.

Marshall Music Drum Circle. Instruments provided. No previous experience necessary. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700. www.marshallmusic.com.

Lansing Hip Hop Week. DJ Showcase. 10 p.m. FREE. 621, 621 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. www.lansinghiphop.org.

THEATER

"Boogie Stomp!" Starring pianist Bob Baldori. 7 p.m. \$25-\$50. Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Lane, Lansing. (517) 351-6555.

Auditions. Kids 6-18 can try out for The All-of-us Express Children's Theatre's "Jolly Roger and the Pirate Queen." 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 333-2580.

"The Understudy." A behind-the-scenes story of theater professionals struggling to balance ego, art and commerce. 8 p.m. Pay what you can. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-SHOW.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Girls' Night Out. A talk and signing with Michigan native Louise Krug. 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd. Lansing. (517) 316-7495. www.schulerbooks.com.

Friday, May 18

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Relics of the Big Bang. Emphasizes research currently underway at CERN. 8 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students and seniors, \$2 kids. Abrams Planetarium, 400 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 355-4676.

EVENTS

Alcoholics Anonymous. Open meeting for family and friends with American Sign Language interpretation. 8 p.m. FREE. Alano Club East, 220 S. Howard St., Lansing. (517) 482-8957.

Storytime. Stories, rhymes and a craft for ages 2-5. 10:30-11:15 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

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

The Hidden Key Fashion Show. The Aitch Foundations presents for Hidden Cancers Fund and the MSU Health Team Mix and mingle with all of the fashion show models. 5:30-7 p.m. \$75, \$125 VIP. MSU Spartan Club, MSU Stadium, MSU Campus, East Lansing. www.aitchfoundation.com.

Doug Griffith Community Service Award Breakfast. To honor a local labor leader, proceeds help the Children's Miracle Network. 8 a.m. \$25 donation. Plumber's Local 333 Hall, 5405 S. MLK Blvd., Lansing. (517) 364-8263.

Bike Around Town. Join weekly rides open to everyone who enjoys bicycling. 5:30 p.m. FREE. Beaumont Tower, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

Lansing Hip Hop Week. Spoken word poetry. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Gone Wired Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 853-0550. www.lansinghiphop.org.

See Out on the Town, Page 23

MEDIUM

ERASER-FREE SUDOKU

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

TO PLAY

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

To avoid erasing, pencil in your possible answers in the scratchpad space beneath the short line in each vacant square. For solving tips, visit www.SundayCrosswords.com

Answers on page 25

The Book Burrow

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Out on the town

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MUSIC

Rocky Votolato. For fans of AA Bondy, Kevin Devine, Josh Ritter. 8 p.m. \$14. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795.

Scott Seth Live Concert. Live music. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 483-1000. www.lcc.edu/radio.

40 Stitches Later. Live music. 9 p.m. \$5. Zepelins Music Hall, 2010 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. www.40StitchesLater.com.

Fun Karaoke Night. Sing, eat and play games. WiFi. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. www.PilgrimUCC.com.

A Living Voice. Sistrum, Lansing Women's Chorus, presents its 26th annual spring concert and silent auction. 7 p.m. \$12-25. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. www.sistrum.org.

Spring Scholarship Concert. Lyndra Tingley will conduct the Mason Philharmonic Orchestra in Two South American Tangos. 7:30 p.m. \$10, seniors & students \$5, FREE children under 12. Charlotte Performing Arts Center, 378 State St., Charlotte. (517) 541-5690.

THEATER

"The Red Velvet Cake War." During a family reunion on the hottest day in July, a wager is made on who bakes the best red velvet cake. 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. show, \$15 show only, \$28-33. Waverly East Intermediate, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 243-6040.

Auditions. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details May 17)

"The Understudy." 8 p.m. \$15. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-SHOW.

A Day of Plays. Grades K-4 performs "Dragon Tale" and Grades 5-8 will present "The Brave Little Tailor, or Seven at One Swat." 9:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Donations. Memorial Lutheran School, 2070 E. Sherwood Road, Williamston. (517) 655-1402.

"Boogie Stomp!" Starring pianist Bob Baldori. 8 p.m. \$25-\$50. Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Lane, Lansing. (517) 351-6555.

Saturday, May 19

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Tai Chi in the Park. Meditation at 8:45 a.m. followed by Tai Chi. 9:30 a.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. Contact Bob Teachout (517) 272-9379.

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

Parenting Group. Lecture and group discussion each week. 10-11 a.m. Call to register. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

Relics of the Big Bang. 8 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students & seniors, \$2 kids. (Please See Details May 18)

Farm to Table. On raising backyard chickens. 1 p.m. FREE. CADL Haslett Library, 5670 School St., Haslett. (517) 339-2324. www.cadl.org/farm.

Art Reception. Celebrate this month's featured exhibit. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014.

Occupy Lansing. General assembly meetings. 1 p.m. FREE. Reutter Park, Corner of Kalamazoo & Townsend St. Lansing. www.occupylansing.net.

Latex Paint Recycling. Cost helps cover charge of processing and transportation. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. \$1. Ingham County Health Department, 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 887-4305.

Easy Winemaking. Learn how to make wine from kits. 2:30-4:30 p.m. \$25. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156.

Smart Cycling Class. On safe riding practices, signaling, lane changing, bike knowledge, maintenance and more. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, East Lansing. (517) 339-3933.

Homebuyer Education. Come learn the steps to becoming a homeowner. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Center for Financial Health, 230 N. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 708-2550.

Discover Eastgate Park. Explore the park with a naturalist guide from Harris Nature Center. 10 a.m. \$3. Eastgate Park, 4203 S. Meridian Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866.

Spring Migration Bird Walks. Fenner is an oasis in the city for birds that are returning from their winter homes. 8-9 a.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224.

Sample Yoga. Try Yoga Flow, Deep Stretch Floor Yoga and more. Visit website for times and classes. 9 a.m.-1:45 p.m. FREE. Our Space Yoga, 2896 N. Williamston Road, Suite 320, Williamston.

EVENTS

Beer & Wine Tasting. Try free samples. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Vine and Brew, 2311 Jolly Road, Okemos. www.vineandbrew.com.

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

First Annual Ovation Awards. The awards celebrate high school music theater. 8 p.m. FREE. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-3166. www.whartoncenter.com.

Les Danseurs Ballroom Dance Club. A Hawaiian-themed dance DJ music by Roy Overley and dance lesson by Tom Gumina. 7-11 p.m. \$30 per couple. Grand Ledge Country Club, 5811 E. St., Joseph Highway, Grand Ledge. (517) 484-3130.

Quilt Show. Live demonstrations, door prizes, silent auction, garage sale of fabric/supplies/quilt books. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. \$6. Causeway Bay Hotel, 6820 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 337-2749.

Breakfast with Bauer. Join State Rep. Joan Bauer for breakfast and to share thoughts and opinions. 9-10 a.m. Price varies. Gone Wired Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 373-0826.

Tri County Iris Society Iris Show. The public is welcome to enter iris specimen and arrangements for prize ribbons. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. MSU Plant & Soil Science Building, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 347-7555.

Community Used Book Sale. Prices range from 25 cents to \$1; call to donate books. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 755-4167. www.rif.org.

Mission: Play 5k. Proceeds will go to build a new playground for the City Rescue Mission. 8 a.m. Price varies. Valhalla Park, Keller and Pine Tree Roads, Holt. www.runningfoundation.com.

East Lansing Art Festival. Fine artists from Michigan and beyond will exhibit and sell original works with live music and children's activities. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. FREE. Downtown East Lansing, Grand River Ave., East Lansing. www.elartfest.com.

Love Through the Ages. The Great American Fierce Beard Organization holds a prom for adults. 7 p.m.-Midnight, \$20 in advance, \$25 at door. Gone Wired Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 853-0550.

Portland Block Party. Live music, children's activities, a huge car, bike and truck show, mechanical bull,

petting zoo and more. 11 a.m.-11 p.m. FREE. Portland Street, Portland. Damion (517) 908-6695. www.portlandmainstreet.org.

Baker Donora Meeting. Parents can learn about activities, programs, field trips that their child (or children) can participate in. 11:30 a.m. FREE. Baker Donora Center, 840 Baker St., Lansing. (517) 580-8099.

Forage for Frogs. Learn about different frog species and enjoy a campfire. 7 p.m. \$7 family. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

Woofers Walk. Raises money for the ICACS Animal Cruelty Fund. Meet by the Auditorium. Walk is about 1.5 miles. 9 a.m. \$10. MSU Auditorium, 150 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 676-8730. ac.ingham.org.

Car Wash. The Mitten Mavens Roller Derby League will clean your car, proceeds go to REACH Studio Art Center. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Donations. Goodyear Auto Service Center, 5107 West Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. www.mittenmavens.net.

Mobile Food Pantry. Those in need can get fresh, non-perishable food items. 9-11 a.m. FREE. South Church of the Nazarene, 401 W. Holmes Road, Lansing.

MUSIC

CMS Choir Auditions. Prospective singers looking to join a CMS choir should audition. 9 a.m.-Noon, FREE. MSU Community Music School, 841-B Timberlane St., East Lansing. (517) 355-7661.

A Living Voice. Sistrum, Lansing Women's Chorus, presents its 26th annual spring concert and silent auction. 7 p.m. \$12-25. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

Hidden Agenda. 9 p.m. FREE. Rookies Restaurant, 1640 S. US 27, Lansing. (517) 487-8686.

THEATER

"The Red Velvet Cake War." 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. show, \$15 show only, \$28-33. (Please See Details May 18)

Auditions. 10 a.m.-Noon. FREE. (Please See Details May 17)

"The Understudy." 3 & 8 p.m. \$15. (Please See Details May 18)

"Boogie Stomp!" 8 p.m. \$25-\$50. (Please See Details May 18)

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Monte Montgomery. Talk and signing with Monte Montgomery, author of "Kid Confidential." 2 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-8840.

Sunday, May 20

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. Meets on the third floor. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300. www.cadl.org.

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

Relics of the Big Bang. 4 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students and seniors, \$2 kids. (Please See Details May 18)

Bird Watching. With the help of an experienced birder. 6 p.m. FREE. Sander Farm Preserve, 4344 Dobie Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866.

Grow Fast Go Fast Car Show. Workshops on container gardening, supercharging your soil, organic pest control and more. Noon-5 p.m. FREE. Horizon Hydroponics, 5425 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. (517) 323-ROOT (7668).

See Out on the Town, Page 24



The Lord's Prayer and Healing

Explore the Connection

Monday, May 21, 7-8 pm

Hannah Community Ctr, 819 Abbot, East Lansing

Come to a talk by Fujiko Signs, CSB, of Tokyo, Japan, a practitioner and teacher of Christian Science. Learn how Jesus' age-old prayer brings help and healing today!

FREE Admission, parking and child care. 517/332-2117 christiansciencemidMI.org

May 17 - June 17, 2012



By Theresa Rebeck

Directed by Rob Roznowski

Featuring: Tony Caselli, Michelle Held and Drew Parker

Take a trip behind the scenes as a trio of theatre professionals struggle to balance ego, art and commerce in this biting, thoughtful comedy that highlights the ridiculous and fleeting nature of fame.

Pay-What-You-Can Preview

Thursday, May 17 @ 8PM

Performances:
Thurs., Fri. & Sat. @ 8PM
Sunday @ 2PM
With 3PM performances on Saturdays starting May 26

Williamston Theatre
122 S Putnam St., Williamston
517-655-7469
www.williamstontheatre.org



Out on the town

from page 23

EVENTS

Salsa Dancing. DJ Mojito spins salsa. 7 p.m.-Midnight. \$5, \$7 under 21. Fahrenheit Ultra Lounge, 6810 S. Cedar St., Lansing.

Alcoholics Anonymous. Closed meeting for those who desire to stop drinking, with American Sign Language interpretation. 9 a.m. FREE. Alano Club East, 220 S. Howard St., Lansing. (517) 482-8957.

Capital Area Singles Dance. Meet new friends with door prizes. 6-10 p.m. \$8. Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 819-0405.

The Scandinavian Society of Greater Lansing. Anna Werner speaks; potluck dinner follows. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Faith United Methodist Church, 4301 S. Waverly Road, Lansing. (517) 316-1394.

Quilt Show. Demonstrations, prizes, silent auction, garage sale of fabric/supplies/quilt books. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$6. Causeway Bay Hotel, 6820 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 337-2749.

Pride Golf Outting. 18 holes and a cart, lunch, dinner and more. 10 a.m. \$70. Wheatfield Valley Golf Course, Williamston. www.michiganpride.org.

East Lansing Art Festival. Fine artists from Michigan and beyond will exhibit and sell original works with live music and children's activities. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Downtown East Lansing, Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 319-6804.

The Lansing Capitals vs. St. Louis Trotters. Fast Paced Professional Men's IBA Basketball. 7 p.m. \$5, 5 and under FREE. Aim High Sports, 7977 Centerline Dr. Dimondale. (517) 455-3200.

Volunteers Needed Dance Recital. Help supervise kids during the recital, teens welcome. Noon-3 p.m. or 4-6:30 p.m. FREE. Jackson High School, 544

Wildwood Ave., Jackson. (517) 784-2389.

Lansing Hip Hop Week. Grand finale, featuring emcees Othello, Miz Korona, WardSkillz, Sincere, Big Perm and more. 10 p.m. Price varies. Xcel Nite Club, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. www.lansinghiphop.org.

MUSIC

New Horizons Band Concert. 3 p.m. FREE. Holt Senior High School, 5885 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 355-7661.

Hobert Studio Recital. CMS instructor Deb Hobert will perform. 2 & 3:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 841 Timberlane St., East Lansing. (517) 355-7661. cms.msu.edu.

Laurence Studio Recital. CMS instructor Pat Laurence will perform. 4 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 841 Timberlane St., East Lansing. (517) 355-7661. cms.msu.edu.

Steiner Chorale Spring Concert. Showcasing the music of John Rutter. 3 p.m. \$12, \$10 students. Christ United Methodist Church, 517 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 333-3638.

THEATER

"Boogie Stomp!" 2 p.m. \$25-\$50. (Please See Details May 18)

"Happy Birthday — You're Being Deported." The RWT Black Box Play reading will be directed by Addiann Hinds. 7 p.m. FREE. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700.

"Motown in Motion." Celebrate the music of Motown with dance and music by Michigan's Eisenhower Dance Ensemble. 1:30 p.m. \$8. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON. www.whartoncenter.com.

"The Understudy." 2 p.m. \$15. (Please See Details May 18)

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Lansing Poetry Club. Announcing winners of its annual poetry contests at its next meeting, room 165 Arts and Sciences. 2-4 p.m. FREE. LCC Arts & Sciences Building, 419 N. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 614-7820.

Monday, May 21

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

GriefShare Seminar. DVD series, with support group discussion. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Grace United Methodist, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 490-3218.

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

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.

Health & Wellness. Women can learn to manage self-care promote a healthy way of life. Call to register. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

Successful Gardening. On organic gardening, composting, how to significantly reduce your work load and more. 6:15 p.m. FREE. Holt Seventh Day Adventist Fellowship, 5682 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 699-8550.

EVENTS

Euchre. Play euchre and meet new people. 6-9 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

Social Bridge. Play bridge and socialize. 1-4 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

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

Breakfast with Brian Calley. Lieutenant Governor of the State of Michigan will tell his story and more. 7:30-9 a.m. Price varies. Henry Center for Executive Development, 3535 Forest Road, Lansing. RSVP: nburton@mwwadvocacy.com.

MUSIC

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

Mychildren Mybride. For fans of Haste The Day. 5 p.m. \$10, \$12 at the door. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Fanged Fiction Book Group Meeting. This month the group is looking at "The Inferior," by Peadar O'Guilin. 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd. Lansing. (517) 316-7495.

Tuesday, May 22

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Schizophrenics Anonymous. A self-help support group for those affected by the disorder. 10 a.m. Room 215-F, Community Mental Health Building, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 485-3775.

Yoga 40. For those in their 40s, 50s, 60s and beyond. 7:15 p.m. Suggested \$7. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

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

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

Seeking Safety. Practice skills and learn about new resources. 1:30-3 p.m. FREE. Justice in Mental Health, 520 Cherry St., Lansing. (517) 887-4586.

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

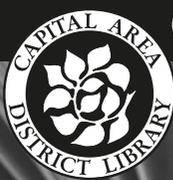
Intro to Computers. Professionals from Career Quest teach the basics. 2:30-4 p.m. FREE. Capital Area Michigan Works, 2110 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 492-5500.

On the Way To Wellness. Barb Geske provides nutrition and wellness coaching in a positive, informative format. 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. \$10. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 349-9536.

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

Speakeasies Toastmasters. Become a better

See Out on the Town, Page 25



Capital Area District Library

2012 SPRING AUTHOR SERIES



Humorist Wade Rouse

The Library Journal describes bestselling author Rouse's work as "David Sedaris meets Dave Barry." He is a regular contributor to Michigan Public radio, a humor columnist for LGBT-focused *Metrosource* magazine, and a popular presenter at writing seminars.

Monday, May 14 • 6 pm
Williamston Theater
122 S. Putnam Street, Williamston

Tuesday, May 22 • 6 pm
Art Alley
1133 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
Located in Historic REO Town

Books will be available for sale and signing; seating is on a first-come basis.



For more information, visit cadl.org/news/Authors

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RSVP to:
blacklabone15322@att.net

Out on the town

from page 24

speaker. 12:05-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Bldg., 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. 1926.toastmastersclubs.org.

EcoTrek Fitness. Outdoor group workouts for all fitness levels. 5:45-7 p.m. \$12. Sharp Park, 1401 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 243-6538.

Compassionate Friends. For grieving parents who lost a child. 7:30-9:30 p.m. FREE. Salvation Army Community Center, 701 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 351-6480.

Bicycle Commuting Seminar. Room W449, for beginner and experienced bikers, a lively and entertaining discussion. 12:10-12:50 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, 100 Main Library, MSU Campus, East Lansing. www.bespargangreen.msu.edu/happenings.html.

Financial Fitness part II. Get your financial future in shape with this four-hour workshop. 6 p.m. FREE. Center for Financial Health, 230 N. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 708-2550.

DivorceCare. Support group featuring biblical teachings designed for adults. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Charlotte Assembly of God, 1100 E. Clinton Trail, Charlotte. (517) 643-0649.

EVENTS

Mid-day Movies. Watch recent releases on the big screen. 2 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363.

Game On. Play a variety of board and video games. 3-5 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 x3.

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

Kids Time: Ages 5-11. 4:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details May 16)

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

GRC Networking Event. Featuring the East Lansing Rotary Club, a network of volunteers comprised of local business and professional leaders. 6-8 p.m. Price varies. University Club, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. (517) 353-5113. www.grandriverconnection.com.

MUSIC

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

Neon Trees. Pop-rock. 7 p.m. \$15 advance, \$18 door. The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. www.theloftlansing.com.

Wednesday, May 23

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Meditation. 7-9 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details May 16)

Community Yoga. Power yoga class. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details May 16)

Grande Paraders Square Dance Club. 7:30 p.m. \$4 members; \$5. (Please See Details May 16)

Disabilities and Social Justice. ADAPT Michigan; discuss current issues and activism. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

Learn Bike Repair. Help maintain the MSU Bikes' rental fleet and earn time to work on your own bike. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and at 6:30-8:30. FREE. Demonstration Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. www.bespargangreen.msu.edu/happenings.html.

Coupon Swap. Meet other coupon enthusiasts, exchange coupons, and discuss deals and strategies. 6-7:45 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.

EVENTS

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

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

Youth Service Corps. Ages 11-17. 3:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details May 16)

Prayer and Meditation Group. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

MUSIC

Jazz Wed. 7-10 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details May 16)

He is We. Pop music, for fans of Never Shout Never, & Mayday Parade. 6 p.m. \$14. The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. www.theloftlansing.com.

THEATER

"Cirque Du Soleil: Quidam." An international cast with 52 world-class acrobats, musicians, singers and characters. 7:30 p.m. \$28-70. Breslin Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (800) WHARTON.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

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

Lansing Area Science Fiction Association Meeting. New location. Informal dinner and lively conversation every week. 7 p.m. FREE. Buddies Grill, 2040 Aurelius Road, #13, Holt. (517) 402-4481.

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsny

May 16-22

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Is there a difference in sound quality between relatively inexpensive modern violins and the multi-million-dollar violins created by master craftsmen in the 1700s? In research done at the Eighth International Violin Competition, most violinists couldn't tell them apart. (Read more here: tinyurl.com/ViolinResearch.) In accordance with the astrological omens, Aries, I urge you to do comparable tests in your own sphere. There's no need to overpay for anything, either with your money, your emotions, your energy, or your time. Go with what works, not with what costs the most or has highest status.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): If we thought of your life as a book, the title of the next chapter could very well be "In Quest of the Primal." I encourage you to meditate on what that means to you, and then act accordingly. Here are a few possibilities: tapping into the mother lode; connecting to the source; communing with the core; returning to beginnings; seeking out the original; being in tune with the pulse of nature. Does any of that sound like fun? According to my reading of the astrological omens, you have a mandate to be as raw as the law allows — to be the smartest animal you can be.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A Russian woman named Marija Usova decided to go skydiving even though she was eight months pregnant. "I wanted my baby to have the beautiful feeling of flying through the air and free-falling before it was born," she said. Soon after she jumped out of the plane and opened her parachute, she went into labor. Luckily, her daughter waited until she landed to be born. What does this have to do with you? I don't recommend you do anything even remotely like what Usova did in the next few weeks. But do be alert for healthier, saner approaches to the basic theme, which is to be adventurous and wild and free as you birth a new possibility.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You spend nearly one-third of your life sleeping. For one-fifth of that time, you're dreaming. So pretty much every night, you watch and respond to as much as 90 minutes' worth of movies created by and starring you. Much of this footage is obscure and confusing and not exactly Oscar-worthy, which is one reason you may not recall many of the details when you wake up. But according to my astrological analysis, the immediate future could be different. Your dreams should be full of riveting entertainment that reveals important information about the mysteries of your destiny. Please consider keeping a pen and notebook near your bed, or a small recording device.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It's Oxymoron Season for you. That means you're likely to encounter more than your usual share of sweet and sour paradoxes. The logic-loving areas of your brain will almost certainly have to seek assistance from your non-rational wisdom. I'll give you a heads-up on some of the lucid riddles you should be ready to embrace: 1. a humbling triumph; 2. a tender rivalry; 3. a selfish blessing; 4. an opportunity to commune with risky comfort; 5. an invitation to explore a relaxing challenge; 6. a chance to get up-close and personal with a long-distance connection. For best results, Leo, memorize these lines from Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* and recite them periodically: "Do I contradict myself? / Very well then I contradict myself. / (I am large, I contain multitudes.)"

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): There's at least a 50 percent chance that the coming days will be over-the-top, out-of-the-blue, and off-the-record. I'm half-expecting florid, luscious, and kaleidoscopic events, possibly even rococo, swashbuckling, and splendid adventures. Are you ready for all this? Of course not. That's the point life will be trying to make: nudging you to learn more about the fine art of spontaneity as you improvise your way through unpredictable lessons that will lead you toward the resources you'll need to succeed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Obsessions. Enchantments. Crushes. Manias. Fetishes. Some astrologers think you Libras are mostly immune from these indelicate but sometimes delightful modes of human expression. They seem to believe that you love harmony and balance too much to fall under the spell of a bewitching passion that rivets your focus. I disagree with that view. It may be true that you're better able than the other signs to be objective about your fixations. But that doesn't necessarily dilute the intensity you feel when they rise up and captivate your imagination with the force of a thousand love songs. My advice? Have fun and stay amused.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "The chains that bind us most closely are the ones we have broken," said Scorpio poet Antonio Porchia. In other words, the oppression from which we have freed ourselves may continue to influence us long after we've escaped. The imprint it left on our sensitive psyches might keep distorting our decisions and twisting our emotions. But I'm here to tell you, Scorpio, that you're entering a time when you have an enhanced power to dissolve the lingering taint your broken chains still impose. You finally have the resources and wisdom to complete the liberation process.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In the coming weeks, you will have an excellent chance to develop more skill in the art of high gossip. High gossip has almost nothing in common with the mindless prattle that erodes reputations and fosters cynicism. It's not driven by envy, pettiness, or schadenfreude. When you engage in high gossip, you spread uplifting whispers and inspirational hearsay; you speculate about people's talents and call attention to their successes; you conspire to awaken generosity of spirit and practical idealism. High gossip is a righteous approach to chatting about the human zoo. It might not flow as easily as the cheap and shabby kind — at least at first — but it lasts a whole lot longer and creates connections that help keep your mental hygiene sparkling clean.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Sometimes I have a dream that seems cryptic or meaningless when I first wake up, but a few days later I realize it was a brilliant insight into what I most needed to transform about my life. If you don't recall many of your dreams, that might not be a familiar experience for you. But you've probably had waking-life experiences with a similar arc. I predict you will be given at least one of those in the coming week. It may confound you while you're in the midst of it, but will eventually reveal choice clues that have the power to change your life for the better.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may not have heard about the "forbidden colors." And you certainly haven't seen them, even though they exist. They're reddish green and yellowish blue, which the cells of your retina are not built to register. However, scientists have figured out a trick by which these hues can be made visible. A few lucky people have actually caught a glimpse of them. I bring this to your attention, Aquarius, because I suspect you are close to experiencing a metaphorical version of this breakthrough — seeing something that is supposedly impossible to see. (If you'd like to read more about the forbidden colors, go here: tinyurl.com/ForbiddenColors.)

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "There's no such thing as a wrong note," said jazz pianist Art Tatum. "It all depends on how you resolve it." Jazz trumpeter Miles Davis had a similar philosophy. "It's not the note you play that's the wrong note," he said. "It's the note you play afterwards that makes it right or wrong." I think that's an excellent understanding for you to keep in mind during the coming weeks, Pisces. Be wary of coming to premature conclusions about alleged mistakes. Wait to hear the entire song and see the bigger picture.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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

From Pg. 19

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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.

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Joe Torok/City Pulse

The name doesn't lie: Mert's Specialty Meats in Okemos boasts locally grown lamb and goat, as well as fresh beef, pork and frozen and fresh seafood.

More than mere meat

Mert's Specialty Meats has some gourmet surprises in store

By JOE TOROK

With a name like Mert's Specialty Meats, it's hard to go wrong.

The little meat shop in Okemos isn't getting by on name alone, though. Its high quality meats, seafood, produce and more makes Mert's a place well worth checking out.

Mert's began shortly after the demise of L&L Shop Rite. Co-owner Shirley Decker, who lost her job in the L&L corporate office in March last year, joined her husband, Merton Prescott, a meat cutter who had been laid off from L&L a few months prior, in the realm of the unemployed.

Despite a lack of employment, how to pay the household bills took back seat to a higher concern.

"We were eating dinner one night, and the question we had wasn't about our next paycheck," Decker said. "It was, 'Where are we going to buy out meat now that L&L is gone?'"

The couple soon decided a meat shop of their own was the way to go, and, along with their son, Brandon Decker, opened Mert's six months later.

While there is a long meat case with dozens of cuts, sausages and seafood selections, the vibe of Mert's is something closer to a gourmet food boutique. There's standard fare — produce like tomatoes and onions, fresh baked bread, locally sourced eggs, milk, pasta, rice, spices — but there's

much more.

Detroit-made McLure's gourmet pickles grace a shelf, and so do dill pickled beans and asparagus. White and black truffle oils are not easy to find, let alone avocado oil. Tea seed oil, a nice alternative to peanut oil with its high smoke temperature, is a happy find for those with allergies.

"Customers tell us what they want, and we find it," Shirley Decker said. "We have new items every week."

Stocking local producers is a point of concern for Mert's. El Azteco chips and salsa are as popular here as they are in the restaurant, but if you want a different tortilla chip experience, try the La Fiesta chips, made by a company on the west side of the state in Hart.

Other local start-ups have found a home in Mert's, like Okemos' Muffin Mom and East Lansing's Red Cedar Café.

The meat case, though, is the store's centerpiece. There's locally grown lamb and goat, fresh beef and pork; both frozen and fresh seafood, including delicious gulf-coast shrimp (if you're used to frozen shrimp, watch out — this stuff actually tastes like something); and fresh kabobs wait for hungry customers, as do ready-to-cook stuffed chickens and salmon and turkey patties.

Various sausages are made onsite, and that's the kind of thing that makes Mert's a unique place. But that's not the coolest thing about this little gem of a store.

Mert's Specialty Meats

1870 W. Grand River Ave.,
Okemos
9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Sunday
(517) 574-5014
www.mertsspecialtymeats.com

foodfinder

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

CASUAL DINING

PALACE OF JAMAICA

— This tiny restaurant serves authentic island tastes, including curry goat, oxtail, fried plantains and jerk chicken. 424 S. Washington Square, Lansing. 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 12:30 p.m.-11 p.m. Sunday (517) 977-1763. D, TO, SF, RES, OM, \$\$

PITA PIT — Chain restaurant offering a variety of fresh salads, soups and wrapped pita sandwiches, like the popular chicken crave. 219 E. Grand River Ave.,

East Lansing. 10:30 a.m.-12:00 a.m. Monday-Wednesday. 10:30 a.m.-2:30 a.m. Thursday-Saturday; 10:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday. (517) 332-7482.

STATE SIDE DELI & GRILL — The corned beef, hot pastrami Reuben and every other sandwich comes with a half pound of meat and a giant pickle. Bring a carnivorous appetite. 3552 Meridian Crossings, Okemos; 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday; 8 p.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. (517) 853-1100; 313 E. Grand River Ave.,

East Lansing; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-8 p.m. Sunday; hours may vary during the summer. (517) 853-3033; TO, D, OM, WiFi, P (Okemos only), \$\$

THE TIN CAN — The Tin Can's beverage list is split into Cheap Beer, Pretty Cheap Beer and Really Cheap Beer, or you can splurge on the \$6 Tin Can Happy Meal (a chili dog, a shot of Jack Daniels and can of Pabst Blue Ribbon). 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 3 p.m.-2 a.m. Monday-Friday; 4 p.m.-2 a.m. Saturday; 6 p.m.-2 a.m. Sunday. Second

location at 644 Migaldi, Lansing. 3 p.m.-2 a.m. Monday-Friday; 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Saturday; noon-2 a.m. Sunday. www.tincanbar.com. FB, P, OM, \$.

TRAVELERS CLUB — Intercontinental cuisine meets John Phillip Sousa in the eclectic atmosphere of the Travelers Club International Restaurant and Tuba Museum. 2138 Hamilton Road, Okemos. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 9 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. (517) 349-1701. www.travelerstuba.com, WB, TO, OM, P, \$

Average price per person, not including drinks:
\$ Less than \$8 | **\$\$** \$8 to \$14 | **\$\$\$** \$14 to \$20 | **\$\$\$\$** Over \$20

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

Mert's

from page 26

"We had a customer come in and ask us to make English bangers," Shirley Decker said. "She brought us the recipe and we made them. We've made Cumberland sausage according to a customer recipe, and we'll be making Portuguese sausage soon."

Mert's is a throwback without the throwaway nostalgia. If you want only great meat, Mert's has you covered. But with owners on hand every day of the week, it's more like a gathering place for some folks.

"We laugh and we cry with our customers," Shirley Decker said. "We cry with those who have had a death in the family, and we see newborns that we'll watch grow over the years."

One of those local vendors at Mert's, Gellocake, now has its own display case at the market.

"Things are going really, really well," said Gellocake owner Lilian Chavira. Starting up a gourmet gelatin, cake and sweets business without a commercial kitchen is not an easy task. But after a few initial obstacles, Chavira has seen fairly smooth sailing for close to four years now.

With a background in graphic design, Chavira brings more than tasty frosting and airy cupcakes.

"It's not just the treats, but the image behind it matters, too," Chavira said. She's catered corporate events — complete with

edible logos — team banquets and anniversaries and has been increasingly busy with dessert tables for weddings.

Chavira says high-quality ingredients are a focus in her kitchen, and gluten-free gelatin desserts help fill a void for those with celiac disease or wheat allergies.

Chavira considered her own retail storefront, but decided a more patient approach was called for. She soon found a home in Mert's.

"You can get cakes everywhere, but I want my cakes to be unique, fresh and high quality," Chavira said, explaining what makes Gellocake different. "Making something that is going to sit for a week goes against my mission."

Call (517) 381-5054 or (517) 402-1462, or visit www.gellocake.com.

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Wine Tasting - Saturday

May 19 : 6:30 PM-8:30 PM

Join us in tasting 12 wines from around the world along with a selection of light appetizers. Cost is \$20.00.

Arcadia Beer Dinner

May 22 : 6:30 PM-8:30 PM Cost is \$46.50.

Marques de Caceres Wine Dinner

May 30 : 6:30 PM-8:30 PM

Five-course Spanish wine dinner. Cost is \$60.76.



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