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May 23-29, 2012

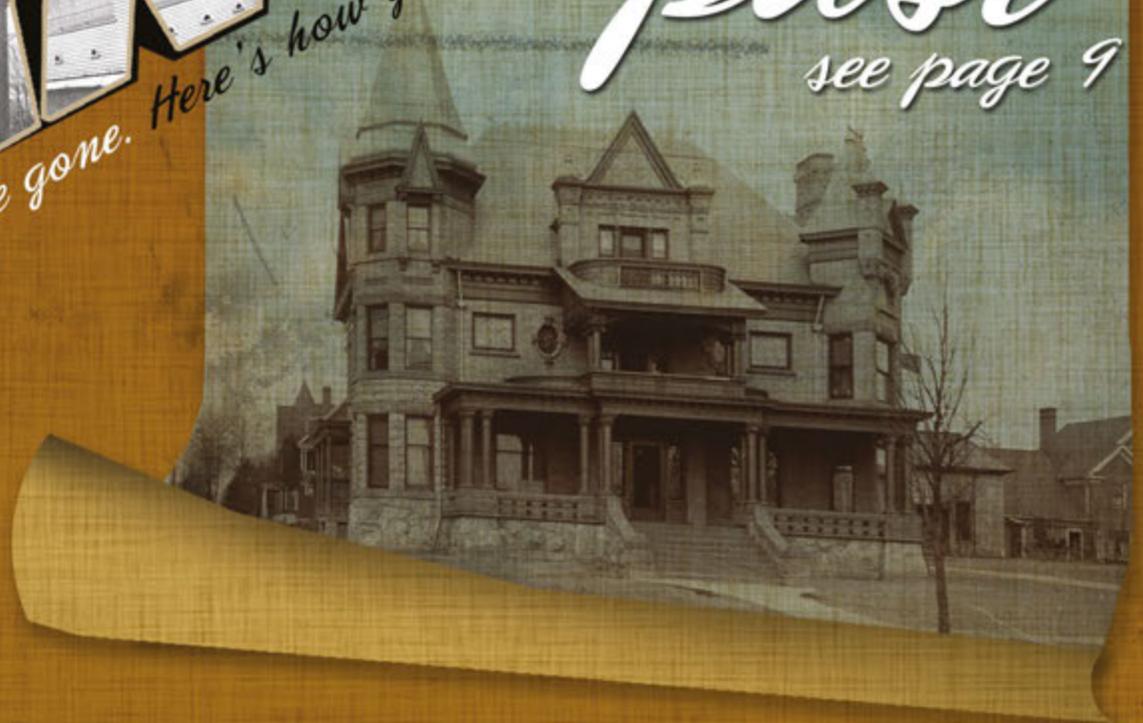
## Preserving

# WINSTONS

*All of these houses are gone. Here's how you can help save what's left.*

## past

*see page 9*



Valu Land, see page 21



ONLINE THIS WEEK ONLY!

Save 50% at Chick'n & Fix'ns SEE PAGE 3

PRODUCED BY THE CITY OF EAST LANSING, WHARTON CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS & MSU COLLEGE OF MUSIC



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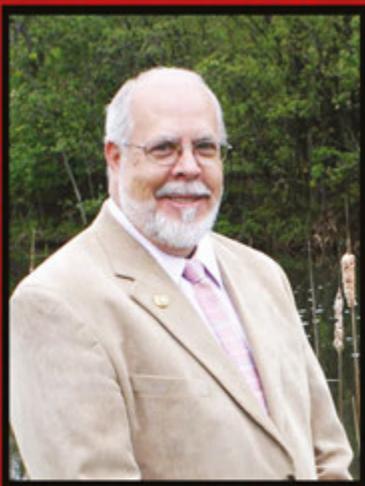
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## City Pulse Newsmakers



Hosted by  
Berl Schwartz



This week's guest:  
**Pat Lindemann**  
Ingham County Drain Commissioner

**Sunday, May 27**

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

Comcast Channel 16  
**Lansing**  
11 & 11:30 a.m.  
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A weekly look at the issues  
and the people behind the issues  
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**Saturday, June 2nd**

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**Lansing's Adado Riverfront Park**

**4pm-9pm**

**Tickets at lbwl.com**

# Wish List

How can we improve our community? One block at a time. One new idea at a time. One wish at a time. What's your wish for Greater Lansing? No idea is too small ... or too big. We'll consider up to 700 words for publication. You need to sign your name, which will be published, and provide contact information, which won't. **Send it to [Wishlist@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:Wishlist@lansingcitypulse.com). Please put Wish in the subject line. Sending it twice in a row helps!**

I'd like to suggest a "Wish-list" column for the City Pulse. I envision a quick feedback from citizens of the Lansing area about what they would really like to see happen in this city.



Short of this existing currently, here are some comments along those lines that you may see fit to print in your feedback.

I am pretty disgusted that the sidewalk on the north side of Michigan Ave between Clippert and Homer is in such poor condition. There are many badly broken slabs and a raised manhole cover within that. What is especially frustrating is that recently sidewalk ramps were installed on both sides of this block. What will it take to actually finish the job?!

This is a key thoroughfare to anyone wanting to access the wonderful River Trail from west of this area. In fact it is the ONLY way to access the trail from the safety of being off the roadway. And as a parent of young children I don't want my kids riding along Michigan Ave.

Howard Ave. lacks a sidewalk completely so that option is out. Lee and Vine both lack handicap ramps on the east side (that must be very disappointing to anyone wheelchair bound). So Michigan Ave is really the only path to the River Trail.

Two quick suggestions for the city: Promote the city baseball park at Kalamazoo and Clippert. How about a food vendor truck (The Purple Carrot?) in the parking lot during game days? It would be so much fun to ride together as a family on the River Trail, get some good food and see a free ball game. There is a playground there as well.

The last suggestion is I think the city should install outdoor cement Ping Pong tables in several park locations. Table tennis is a great way to stay active for any age. It's not only fun to play it is fun to watch! As a ping pong coach at a local school I can tell you that the game offers many rewards for the health and social well being of our children.

Thanks for your consideration!  
— John Hay  
Lansing

## CORRECTIONS

Due to reporting errors in last week's cover story on Delta Dental:

- It was said that the state Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation has regulatory oversight over nonprofit dental insurance companies. OFIR has oversight over commercial dental insurance companies and HMOs, but not nonprofits.

- After layoffs in 2009, hiring for 2010 and 2011 included 170 positions that were filled by replacing positions from attrition and creating new positions. Some of the 60 positions after the layoffs may have been filled, but not all. The story said the 60 employees laid off were called back for work.

- Contributions to congressional candidates in 2011 were made by Delta Dental Plans Association PAC, an Illinois-based trade organization, not "Delta Dental's political action committee."

## CLARIFICATIONS

- The chart in last week's story on Delta Dental listed the nonprofit, commercial and Health Management Organizations based in Michigan that offer dental insurance. As background, it was noted that Delta Dental, per requirements by the IRS, compares it executive salaries with similarly sized organizations. The chart was meant to express the size of Delta Dental's operation, not suggest that those companies are of comparable size.

- Delta Dental of Michigan's donation to the "Kasich Taylor New Day Committee" in 2010 was to help underwrite the costs for Gov. John Kasich's inauguration events. The story says it's a "committee supporting the re-election and inauguration" of Gov. Kasich. That committee has reportedly used funds for activities beyond the event.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**B/12/097 CITY OF LANSING ELEVATOR 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 14, 2012** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.

Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Darleen Burnham, CPPB at (517) 483-4129, email: [dburnham@lansingmi.gov](mailto:dburnham@lansingmi.gov) or go to [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info)

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

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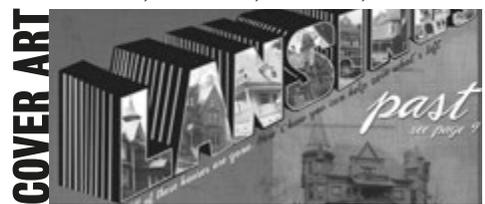
Editor & Publisher  
Berl Schwartz



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

Architect Dan Bollman of Preservation Lansing

Sports writer Jack Ebling



PROPERTIES OF THE PAST by RACHEL HARPER

## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

**INVISIBLE-HAND-OF-THE-FREE-MARKET-MAN**  
IF YOU'RE IN-VISIBLE, HOW COME I CAN SEE YOU?  
NOT NOW KID-- I'M BUSY! I THOUGHT I SAW A QUARTER UNDER THIS OLD CAR!

**JAMIE DIMON FACES THE MENACE OF...THE REGULATOR!**  
ER, MR. DIMON, SIR--I WAS WONDERING IF, UM, YOU MIGHT BE WILLING TO RECONSIDER YOUR OPPOSITION TO REGULATORY OVER-SIGHT? WHAT WITH YOUR MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR LOSS AND ALL?  
WHAT? WHO THE HELL LET YOU IN HERE?

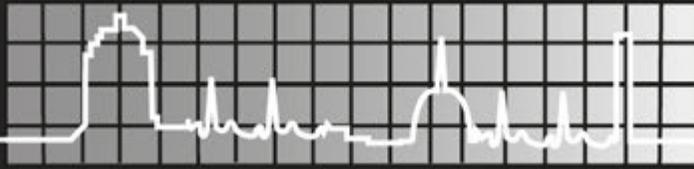
**BUT SUDDENLY--**  
STAND YOUR GROUND, MR. DIMON! DON'T CONCEDE AN INCH TO THIS WEALTH-SAPPING PARASITE! IF HE SUCCEEDS IN IMPOSING SOME MINOR, TOOTHLESS REFORM NOW--

--THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW, HE'LL BE TRYING TO REINSTATE GLASS-STEAGALL--SEPARATING INVESTMENT AND COMMERCIAL BANKING! WHOSE TAXPAYER-INSURED MONEY WOULD BANKS GAMBLE WITH THEN?  
YOU MAY WIN THE BATTLE, HAND-- BUT YOU'LL NEVER WIN THE WAR!  
DON'T BE ABSURD! I ALREADY HAVE!

NOT A SINGLE EXECUTIVE WAS PROSECUTED AFTER THE 2008 MELTDOWN! NOT A SINGLE BANK WAS NATIONALIZED! WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD, NOT BACKWARD!  
NOW GO BACK TO YOUR DRAB LITTLE CUBICLE AND FILE A REPORT OR SOMETHING.  
SIGH...I'LL GET YOU SOMEDAY...WHEN I HAVE THE BUDGET...  
HA HA! OF COURSE YOU WILL!

NEXT TIME: I.H.O.T.F.M.--MAN RESCUES A FACEBOOK CO-FOUNDER FROM THE TYRANNY OF BURDEN-SOME TAXATION!  
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YOU'LL BE A LIBERTARIAN FOLK HERO IN NO TIME!

# PULSE



## news & opinion

### Losing to schools of choice

**Legislation from the mid-'90s has led to the steady exodus of students from the Lansing School District**

The number of students leaving the Lansing School District annually for other systems under the state's schools of choice program has more than tripled since 2000.

Those departing students have contributed significantly to a 26 percent decline in the district's enrollment in the same 11 years.

The large number of students leaving has hurt the district two-fold, said Myra Ford, president of the Lansing School Board. She said the district is missing out on the per-pupil funding for those students and the loss of students reflects poorly on the district's reputation.

"Schools of choice has absolutely affected the population," she said. "If we're dealing with reality, people are choosing to send their kids to other districts."

In 1996, schools of choice legislation allowed parents around the state to easily send their kids to schools outside of their district.

The trend has endured. From fall of 2000 to fall of 2011 the district lost 1,978 students to schools of choice. In 2000 the number was at 899 and for the 2011-12 school year that number was at 2,877 — which means a growth of 220 percent, a tripling of students.

The growth has been a large contributor to the district's overall population decline.

The total student population fell from 17,610 at the start of the 2000 school year to 13,066 by the start of the 2011-12 school year. The loss of those 4,544 students is a 26 percent decline in enrollment.

Of the declined enrollment since 2000, nearly half of those students left the district through schools of choice.

A good portion of the population decline was also due to an overall population decline in Lansing, but the city's loss was just 4 percent. The 2000 population was 119,128, while in 2010 it was 114,297.

Even with such a consistent chunk of parents pulling their children from Lansing schools year-to-year, leaders of the district like Ford say many of their reasons are based on assumptions and rumors. Ford also says a disproportionate amount of negative media coverage has warped the view of the district for parents.

Bob Killips, the district registrar, said the reasons parents pull their kids out of a district range far and wide — including personal experiences and perception — and it's difficult to provide a primary cause.

But Ford said the district's new superintendent and new reconfiguration plan give her hope.

In an interview, newly appointed superintendent Yvonne Caamal Canul took a glance at the enrollment data. With 38 years of experience in public education, she knows what the numbers indicate. And she knows Lansing needs to make some serious changes.

The "instability" of the district over the years is a key factor in student-flight, Caamal Canul said, citing the turnover rate of three superintendents in the past 10 years.

The reconfiguration plan that Caamal Canul spearheaded calls for a holistic shift in the layout of the district, moving seventh and eighth graders in with high schoolers and emphasizing early childhood education.

Caamal Canul glows like a proud parent when she talks about the direction of

the district and what the plan will mean for Lansing students.

"This will stem that exodus," she said. "I believe it will. When people understand what we're talking about is a coherent, pedagogical, research-based education for their children. We're not just cobbling things together. It's not patchwork — there's no patchwork about this."

The reconfiguration plan received a thumbs-up from Mike Flanagan, the superintendent of public instruction for the Michigan Education Department.

Jan Ellis, Education Department spokeswoman, said Flanagan is very supportive of the research-based plan and the new superintendent. She said Caamal Canul was a "dynamic leader" when she worked with the department from 2001 to 2007.

The part of the plan that has Caamal Canul most excited is the early childhood, prekindergarten through third (Pk-3) aspect. She believes the shift will convince parents to bring their kids to Lansing.

"To transform an entire district with this as the foundation is really, really avant-garde," she said. "It's responding to the research that has been out there for years about the importance of a Pk-3 education. Very few people have responded in a district-wide initiative to go that route."

The reconfiguration, which is well underway, converts 12 schools in the district to Pk-3 and closes four of them to save money.

"I may be crazy but I think that once people understand that what Lansing is doing is so incredible in terms of educational vision that they'll come," she said. "I told board officers that they should expect in the next three to five years to probably go out for a bond to build a new campus somewhere."

— Sam Ingot



Property: Ingham County Courthouse, Courthouse Square, Mason

Civic institutions located in easily accessible places have the ability to drive economic development. These buildings and their public spaces can be thriving places of commerce. Adjacent businesses benefit from the steady stream of residents to and from the public building, encouraging local economies and these spaces to thrive.

All too often, such buildings are now at the fringes of the community to support larger facilities at lower costs. They are relegated to a civic complex with an atmosphere reminiscent of an industrial park. And for what? A short-term solution with long-term consequences. Case in point: the village of Charlotte.

Fortunately, many communities in mid-Michigan have been slow to follow this model. Although there are examples — particularly schools — that have fallen victim to this practice, it is the civic institutions and their public spaces like the Ingham County Courthouse in Mason that are models of best practice.

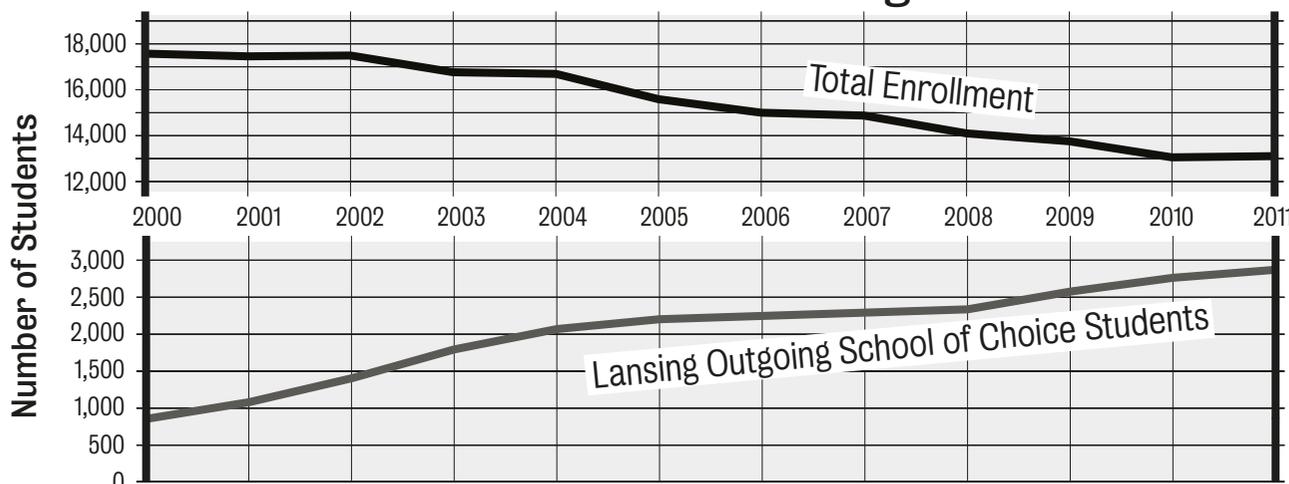
Designed by the architect Edwyn A. Bowd, it stands at Courthouse Square in the center of Mason. This Beaux Arts-style, 20th century building succeeded an earlier courthouse located in the same square — a lesson emphasizing the importance of place.

— Amanda Harrell-Seyburn

(Architecture critic Amanda Harrell-Seyburn has a master's degree in architecture. She is a local designer and urbanist.)

"Eye candy of the Week" is our weekly look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates each with Eyesore of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call 999-5064.

### Lansing Schools Exodus



Source: Michigan Department of Education and Lansing School District Illustration by: Rachel Harper

# Subduing a hulk

## Old Town's Walker Building goes from green to serene

The recent life of Old Town's historic Walker Building has been a lot like the Hulk's, only in reverse. When it was big and green, nobody noticed it. Now that it's settled down and dressed in earth tones, it's turning heads.

The two-year, \$771,000 project to convert the 8,000-square-foot, uh, hulk, into a classic Old Town layer cake — commercial space on the bottom, apartments on top — is finished.

Built in 1909, the Walker Building served most of its life as Beeman's Grocery, but is known to most locals as the Dollar Deal, boldly painted the color of money. The tiled, grimy hall upstairs was home to sweaty dance lessons and union meetings. For years, the building seemed to squat at the corner of Grand River and Washington avenues and bellow: Old Town stop here! Puny boutiques go away!

Developer Gene Townsend, who lives a couple of blocks away, eyeballed the property for years. He made his move when the Dollar Deal went defunct in 2009. Since

1990, the building has been owned by Sam Saboury, who runs a copy shop in East Lansing's Trowbridge Plaza.

With Old Town's historic center nearly full of new and old businesses, Brittney Hoszkiw, former director of the Old Town Commercial Association, saw a chance to jump across North Washington to the west and revive a neglected cluster of older buildings across from a longtime anchor business, Elderly Instruments.

At an open house showing off the newly rehabbed Walker Building, Saboury admitted he was reluctant to take a plunge as recently as two years ago.

"Old Town has been changing a lot in the past 10 years," Saboury said. "Britney was a big encouragement for me to do something. She introduced me to Gene."

Townsend wrote up a one-page budget, with income projections a bank would pay attention to.

The city of Lansing agreed to furnish \$142,000 for lead and asbestos cleanup. The Michigan State Housing Development Authority, or MSHDA, agreed to match that with another \$142,000. The city and state contributions both came from 2010 federal stimulus money. A nonprofit partner, the Greater Lansing Housing Coalition, joined the team to qualify the project for the state money, which would go toward converting the second floor into low-income housing.

"This fits our mission," Coalition director Katherine Draper said. "We'd like to do more of this kind of thing." The five apartments, at \$590 a month including utilities, are already taken.

To develop the commercial space below, Saboury put up \$54,000 of his own money, but it wasn't nearly enough. With the other pieces in place, Townsend connected Saboury with John Morris, a vice president of Dart Bank.

Dart agreed to lend Saboury

\$330,000, "just enough to cobble together a construction budget," Townsend said. The first floor is now home to Redhead Design Studio.

Then the fun began. Townsend pinched the pennies hard, according to architect Liz Harrow, who designed the apartments.

"He held it to budget," Harrow said. "I had a lot of stuff on paper, and when I look back I don't even recognize it."

Townsend hammered at the basics. Heavy exterior wall insulation and an Energy Star furnace and water heater will keep Saboury's utilities low, while exposed interior brick and original wood floors give the apartments an Old Town feel.

Harrow had fun fitting five apartments into a funky L-shaped space. Each of the apartments has a different layout and overall feel, but they all have great views and few frills. Instead of granite countertops, the team used durable Corian. To fit a code-required window onto one bedroom, Harrow used an old tenement trick: a light well sunk into the roof.

Despite the penny pinching, an unforeseen problem threatened to bust the budget. The roof was only 5 years old, but it was leaking.

"After every rain, we'd spray paint the leaks on the floor, then go up and find them," Townsend said.

An unforeseen solution came along when the city's asbestos and lead cleanup bill on the project rose from \$140,000 to \$190,000. Townsend leveraged this setback by asking MSHDA to match the higher figure, not the original \$140,000. The extra 50 grand paid for a heavy-duty roof, literally capping the whole project, with money left over for floor patching, sump pumps in the basement and "knobs on the cabinets," according to Townsend.

Saboury was so delighted with the Walker



Andy Balaskovitz (top) and Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Exterior views of the historic Walker Building in Old Town in 2011 (top) and present day after extensive renovation.

Building project he bought the building two doors down, Demilio's Dance Studio, and plans to convert it to apartments.

At the open house, Harrow shoved aside a plate of hummus (catered by Saboury's friend, Chuck Raad, owner of Woody's Oasis) and started scribbling out some floor plans.

"The next time I do an apartment in Old Town, I'll have more transoms, so the hall gets natural light," she enthused. "I'm ready."

Townsend quietly stood by, maintaining the poker face that stared down the Hulk. "I was pretty certain that once this corner was fixed up, those properties going down Washington would get used," he said.

— Lawrence Cosentino



A view from inside a second-floor apartment.

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**RSVP to:**  
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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

**Notice is hereby given** of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on Thursday, June 14, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

1. A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from Matt and Courtney Trunk to construct an addition on the rear of the house located at 309 University.
2. A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from Matt Hagan, LLC to remove the wood siding from the house at 544 Abbot and replace it with cement board siding.

**Call (517) 319-6930**, the Department of Planning and Community Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, for additional information. All interested persons 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

# With veto pen, bridges burn behind him

**Distrust, accusations of thwarting the legislative and collective bargaining process sum up budget cycle 2012. Oh, and the city's finances are still grim.**

As Mayor Virg Bernero delivered verbal blow after verbal blow to the City Council's budget amendments Monday night, 1st Ward Councilwoman Jody Washington looked on in disbelief. And disappointment. With a little confusion on the side — as if to say: *“Really?”*

The freshman Council member's emotions stood out. Her colleagues looked on rather expressionlessly as Bernero spoke — as if they had seen it before.

But based on Washington's rebuttal, the mayor's speech had a galvanizing effect on her (the three-minute clip is on YouTube). She said the process was “nothing but adversarial.”

“We didn't get information until the last minute thrown at us. I found out information from reporters I should have found out from other places. I frankly am disgusted with the entire process,” she said.

The Council went on to approve its amended budget by a 5-3 vote, with Council members Kathie Dunbar, Tina Houghton and Jessica Yorko opposing. Bernero was critical of it primarily because it relies heavily on \$1.5 million in extra annual payments from the Board of Water & Light in lieu of taxes (which he says is “all but a certainty” to result in higher utility rates for customers). Brian Jeffries, Carol Wood, Derrick Quinney, A'Lynne Robinson and Washington reasoned that the increased payment from BWL is still below the national average for similarly sized utilities, and that the move frees up millage money for more police officers and firefighters and reduces the number of proposed furlough days from 26 to six.

Yes, the mayor has veto power that will likely stand against an override, which requires six votes. But he hasn't done himself any favors in securing a simple majority for the future. Particularly, depending on support from Washington seems out of the question, and now Robinson and Quinney's backing also appears further out of reach. Quinney said Monday he's “sick and tired” of the “bully tactics” and working with the administration through the media. Robinson said Tuesday night, “I take definite offense at being lumped together as all liars.”

And then there are the unions representing most of the more than 800 city employees. Over the past week, the Council heard from heads of the UAW, Teamsters, the Fraternal Order of Police and the Firefighters union who all carried a similar message: We've given up plenty since Bernero took office in 2006, yet the mayor wants more — and is doing so in a way we believe is antithetic to the collective bargaining process.

“When you talk about transparency, this budget was never talked about with the unions — it was presented,” said Kitty Lipsky, a city employee and Teamsters representative. “It's basically at the point now where we take it or we walk. That's not negotiating in good faith.”

“We have been trying to meet with the administration to talk about some of the stuff we're reading about in the newspaper on furlough days,” added David Vincent, a city code compliance officer and a Teamsters steward.

Chief of Staff Randy Hannan noted at the end of Monday night's meeting that conversations about pension and health care reform have been “ongoing for quite some time” and that “actual negotiations of budgeted changes don't happen until after a budget is adopted.”

Bernero responded in an interview Tuesday: “I have a job to do. I have to balance the budget. I'll worry about the relationships later.”

But for all of the accusatory speeches that made Monday's Council meeting a rather interesting one, will it mean much if Bernero keeps his veto word and Dunbar, Yorko and Houghton stay loyal? That leaves the actual subject of the city's finances. Here are a few highlights:

- The administration is projecting a deficit at the end of the current fiscal year, which may be more than \$1.2 million. Selling the city-owned parking Lot 2 to Lansing Community College, a deal announced Monday, for \$1.21 million, will help patch that deficit. But dipping into reserves isn't off the table, either, Bernero said. Because layoffs, employee concessions and furlough days isn't practical given that the current fiscal year's budget must be balanced by June 30, the crosshairs move to the reserves, which have dwindled from about \$13 million to about \$7 million over the past three years. Last year around this time, the deficit was \$1 million.

- Recent studies have suggested the city contribute \$3 million more a year to its retiree health care and pension systems, up from \$4 million it does now, underscoring the “corrosive” effect pension and health care costs are having on the budget, Bernero said.

- The city's Tax Increment Financing fund is “bankrupt,” Jeffries said Monday night. While the TIF Authority, which oversees a district covering downtown meant to capture increased tax revenue from new development, has committed to paying off \$1.6 million for the upcoming fiscal year with its reserves, it can't do it after 2013. That potentially leaves the city on the hook for \$1.6 million annually starting in fiscal year 2014.

— **Andy Balaskovitz**



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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### CITY OF EAST LANSING

#### ORDINANCE NO. 1276

Please take notice that Ordinance No. 1276 was adopted by the East Lansing City Council at a regular meeting of the Council held on May 15, 2012, and will become effective 7 days after the publication of the following summary of ordinance.

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE V, DIVISION 6 AT SECTIONS 50-463 – OF CHAPTER 50 – ZONING – OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING TO AMEND ALLOWED BUILDING HEIGHTS.**

#### SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO 1276

An ordinance to reduce the height of buildings allowed by right to four-stories or 50 feet and only allow buildings up to eight-stories or 90 feet on major streets and with an approved Special Use Permit.

A true copy of Ordinance No. 1276 can be inspected or obtained at the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan during normal business hours.

Marie E. McKenna  
City Clerk

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

**Notice is hereby given** of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, June 13, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1279, a request from the owners of 903-935 East Grand River Avenue to rezone the properties from B-1, General Office Business District, to B-2, Retail Sales Business District. The properties combined are 1.16 acres.

Call (517) 319-6930, the Department of Planning and Community Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, for additional information. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. These matters will be on the agenda for the next Planning Commission meeting after the public hearing is held, at which time the Commission may vote on them. The Planning Commission's recommendations are then placed on the agenda of the next City Council meeting. The City Council will make the final decision on these applications.

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

Ingham County Health Department seeks to enter into a contractual relationship with entities that can enhance community organizing knowledge, skills and campaigns among community-based organizations and volunteer leaders in Ingham County.

Successful applicants to this Request for Proposals will be responsible for providing one or more series of trainings, each series consisting of 4 – 6 sessions, each session between 4 – 8 hours in length. A cadre of 20 – 30 participants are to be enrolled in each series. Most of the sessions will take place in September, October and November 2012. Based on the time frame and available funding, applicants may propose providing one series to a single cohort of participants, or multiple series, each with a different cohort.

Proposals will be received no later than 11:00 A.M., local time prevailing, on June 12, 2012 at which time they will be opened in public and read aloud in the:

Ingham County Purchasing Department  
Attention: James C. Hudgins, Jr., Director of Purchasing  
PO Box 319  
121 E. Maple St., Room 203  
Mason, Michigan 48854

Proposals must be submitted in a sealed, opaque envelope or package and clearly marked on the outside “29-12 Social Justice – Community Organizing”.

Any explanation desired by a proposer regarding the meaning or interpretation of this RFP and attachments, if any, must be requested to the Ingham County Purchasing Department, attention James C. Hudgins, Jr. at [jhudgins@ingham.org](mailto:jhudgins@ingham.org).

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**RFQ/12/099 –REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS - CONSULTANT ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL AND MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing.

The City of Lansing will accept sealed proposals 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 14, 2012**.

**Complete specifications and forms required to submit proposals are available by calling Stephanie Robinson CPPB at (517) 483-4128, or for content and purpose of this proposal contact: Ann Parry at (517) 483-4454 or go to www.mitn.info**

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

### CITY OF EAST LANSING

#### ORDINANCE NO. 1278

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 8-251 OF DIVISION 2 - ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE - AND SECTIONS 8-281, 8-301 AND 8-303 OF DIVISION 3 - DANCES AND DANCEHALLS - AND TO AMEND THE TITLE OF DIVISION 3 AND SECTION 8-331 OF DIVISION 4 - AMUSEMENTS AND VIDEO ARCADES - OF ARTICLE IV - AMUSEMENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT OF CHAPTER 8 - BUSINESSES - OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING

#### THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

Section 8-251 of Division 2, Sections 8-281, 8-301 and 8-303 of Division 3, the title of Division 3, and Section 8-331 of Division 4, of Article IV of Chapter 8 - Businesses - of the Code of the City of East Lansing are hereby amended to read as follows:

##### Sec. 8-251. - Required; fee.

No person owning or operating a restaurant or amusement center shall conduct or allow entertainment or amusement which shall include dancing by employees, monologues, dialogues, motion pictures, slide show, closed circuit television, large screen video or pay TV, contests, orchestra playing, piano playing, the playing of other types of musical instruments, singing, or other performances for public viewing on the premises without first having obtained an entertainment license from the city clerk and paying the license fee and bond as required by section 8-104 of this Code. No such license shall be granted except by resolution of the city council and upon certification by the chief of police, the fire chief, the building official, and the health officer. A ten percent credit of the entertainment license fees shall be available to those licensees who submit and maintain a security plan which is approved by the chief of police. The standards for such a security plan shall be promulgated by the chief of police and approved by the city council.

#### DIVISION 3. PUBLIC DANCES

##### Sec. 8-281. - "Public dance" defined.

The term "public dance" shall include any rave, dance party, or dance at which there is a disc jockey, band, orchestra, live music, or amplified music and to which the general public is invited, expressly or impliedly.

##### Sec. 8-301. - Required.

No person shall operate or maintain any place in or on which public dances are held, except as otherwise provided in this article, without first obtaining a public dance license, and no person shall conduct a public dance, except in or on premises licensed therefore. No license shall be granted except by resolution of the council, and upon certification of the chief of police, the fire chief, and the health officer.

##### Sec. 8-303. - Ventilation, sanitation and exit requirements.

No license shall be issued to any place where public dances are held, unless there are proper provisions for ventilation, either natural or mechanical, and sufficient toilet conveniences so that there will be at least one women's toilet in good sanitary condition per 2,000 square feet of floorspace or fraction thereof, at least one men's toilet and one urinal in good sanitary condition per 4,000 square feet of floorspace or fraction thereof and provision made for privacy therein, at least one wash stand in each toilet room, provided with soap and sanitary towels, at least one sanitary drinking fountain either on the dance floor or reasonably accessible thereto, for each 4,000 square feet of floorspace or fraction thereof, and sufficient fire exits, free from all rubbish and flammable material, as required by the regulations of the state fire marshal, and a free and unobstructed means of exit.

##### Sec. 8-331. - Definitions.

For purposes of this division, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning as hereinafter set forth:

Amusement center and/or video arcade means any establishment open to the public where more than ten amusement machines or devices are made available for use by the public or where the principal customer attraction is the operation of amusement machines or devices. Restaurants licensed to serve alcohol are excluded from this definition.

Amusement machine or device means any mechanically or electronically operated device or video device which may be operated by the public as a game, entertainment or amusement and shall include such devices as pinball machines, skillball, mechanical grab machines, video games, karaoke machines, shuffleboards, dart boards, pool tables, billiard tables, and all games, operations or devices similar thereto.

Marie E. McKenna  
City Clerk

# Mulch ado about nothing?



POLITICS  
KYLE MELINN

Heavy windstorms three or four years ago knocked over trees into the county's drains, and Ingham County Drain Commissioner Patrick Lindemann had the fallen timber chopped up into a very rough

mulch.

Most of it ended up back in Mason at the drain commissioner's office, where it was bagged and made available free through word of mouth to anyone who wanted it, Lindemann said. That's how such waste has been handled for 40 years, he added.

But one truckload ended up at Lindemann's house in Lansing Township on the west side. The county truck was driven by a county employee and manned by state prisoners on a work detail, Lindemann said. The prisoners unloaded the waste, he said.

Now, Ingham County Sheriff Gene Wriggelsworth and the state Attorney General's Office are looking into the matter, Lindemann confirmed.

Lindemann said Wriggelsworth told him he didn't make a good decision in having the inmates stop by his house.

And Lindemann said he apologized to Wriggelsworth.

"This was an innocent thing," Lindemann said, "but this could be construed as a benefit to me."

Lindemann said he used the coarsely chopped wood to fill shallow spots on his property. They've since been covered with mulch that he purchased.

He said his intention was to save the county money by not having to drive the truck across the county, since his house was nearby. He said county drivers will literally stop at places with "fill-wanted" signs on the way back to Mason to see if they will take such waste, since it saves money.

"I'll do whatever the rules are," Lindemann said. "A lot of people took the mulch. Honestly, I thought I was doing a good thing, but if I abused a privilege here, I apologize."

Wriggelsworth declined to comment.

Lindemann said his understanding was that nothing was going to come of it, but in the meantime, he's fingering his Democratic primary opponent, Mark Grebner, for stirring the pot.

"This sounds like a complaint driven by politics," he said. "Who else would care, three years later, if some inmates spent 15 minutes dropping off some mulch at my house? It's political baloney."

Asked for comment, Grebner said by email:

"I don't get any credit. I actually don't know the people who filed the complaint. I don't know whoever investigated it. I don't know who at the AG con-

sidered it. I've just listened to rumors as they float around, and I don't think I'm the first to hear them."

"The rumors I've heard are that there were a number of complaints, of varying importance, and which may have varying dispositions. And which may become public at different times. (For example, the charges that were not pursued ought to be available now.)"

"I hope this allows you to check the little box next to '...doesn't always distinguish between what belongs to him and what belongs to the public,'" he wrote, referring to an accusation he has made against Lindemann in a campaign piece.

In the same campaign flier, Grebner brought to light that Lindemann pleaded guilty in the 1980s to a federal misdemeanor stemming from his operation of a postal substation in his business. Lindemann said he unintentionally was charged with comingling personal funds with post office funds in a frame shop he owned on Michigan Avenue. He added it was cheaper to plead guilty than to fight the charge.

Meanwhile, in other news from this race, former state Rep. Lynne Martinez has reported Grebner to the secretary of state for failing to put a disclaimer on a mailer. While the flier does have Grebner's address, it doesn't include the critical words "paid for."

In the May 4 letter, Melissa Malerman of the Secretary of State's Office said the matter is closed and there will be no action taken against him, but she warned him that not including "paid for" language on any future mailers could be a \$1,000, 93-day misdemeanor.

Grebner disputes he had done anything wrong. In an email, he said:

"In regard to my flyer, there isn't any genuine issue. As I replied to the SoS, the law doesn't apply to a single photocopy circulated for proofreading. Those costs WEREN'T paid by my candidate committee — I just used paper already in the laser printer, and I have no intention of reimbursing anybody for the penny per sheet. I think the copy Lynne supplied wasn't one I copied, and probably wasn't even a second-generation copy; I think it was actually produced at Pat's expense, so maybe it should have HIS committee's name on it. I've still only made about 30 copies — all with different text — but their content seems to be in wide circulation."

"My box of finished printing is finally waiting, paid for, at the printer. It has the necessary disclaimer, of course. Nobody, including myself, has yet seen the offset printed version."

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

# Keeping what's left

Preservation Lansing awards shine a light on great old buildings and the people who love them



**Arbaugh Building**, 401 S. Washington Ave.



**Prudden/Motor Wheel Factory**, 707 Prudden St.



**Ranney Building**, 208 N. Washington Ave.



**Marshall St. Armory**, 330 Marshall St.



**Darius Moon House**, 216 Huron St.



**Mutual Building**, 208 N. Capitol Ave.



**Ottawa Street Power Station**, 217 E. Ottawa St.



**Knapp's Building**, 300 S. Washington Ave.

Top Row Holly Johnson/City Pulse, Bottom Row Courtesy Photos

Just eight buildings (pictured above) and two districts have been designated as historic by Lansing. The **Ottawa-Walnut Historic District** consists of two double houses at 320-328 W. Ottawa Street, among the few remaining 19th-century town houses and apartments once common in Lansing. The **Cherry Hill Historic District**, stretches from Kalamazoo Street south to St. Joseph Ave., from Washington Ave. east to the Grand River. There are about 90 properties in the district, with about 30 homes over 100 years old. Another **19 sites and two districts** (North Lansing and downtown) are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Last Friday, Dave Muylle was working alone at his latest rehab project on Lansing's east side. There were no doors on the house yet. Bird song and sunshine drifted inside.

Suddenly, something went PABOOM.

"That's the front door," Muylle said. Not someone at the front door, but the front door itself, falling over while waiting in the attic for a coat of stain.

For over 20 years, Muylle has been restoring modest old houses like this 1915 two-story bungalow at 141 Leslie St. He has gutted and restored a dozen houses in this pocket neighborhood, including his own, a crack house turned craftsman's showcase. Last year, he finished rehabbing the house next door to the Leslie Street house, its virtual twin. A blatant idyll was already in progress there Friday afternoon: A renter sat on a porch swing, reading from the latest issue of *The New Yorker* aloud to a friend.

Today, a group of local historic preservation experts and enthusiasts were

set to announce a program of awards aimed largely at neighborhood-building projects like Muylle's.

Unlike the oft-maligned historic district commissions, sworn enemies of vinyl siding in cities across the nation, a new group of enthusiasts, experts, educators and professionals called Preservation Lansing intends to dispense carrots rather than brandish sticks.

"At this point, that's all we can do," Preservation Lansing member Nathalie Winans said. "There are very few historic properties [in Lansing] that are covered with a local historic district zoning designation."

That doesn't trouble Muylle. He's ambivalent about historic districts, tax breaks and other official inducements. "There's a little part of humanity that says, 'Bullshit on that,'" he said. "This is just worth doing. I look on it as public art."

To be sure, some Lansing Preservation Awards — a nominating form is on Page 11

— will go to the big, headline-grabbing, tax-break-y projects the city has seen recently. But the group also wants to reward unsung hammer slingers in obscure corners of the city.

"The flagship projects are great, but we don't see enough about the small-scale projects — homeowners who restore a historic front porch," Winans said. "Step by step, these small-scale projects enhance the neighborhood that they're in."

The litany of Lansing's lost gems, from theaters to shops to hundreds of fine old houses, is long and sobering.

"It would be a different town if half of those buildings were still here," Winans said.

Few people in Lansing have spent more time in the architectural graveyard than Lansing librarian and local history specialist David Votta. To dramatize a handful of the city's irretrievable losses, Votta picked this week's cover images from among hundreds of heart-breaking images from the library archives.

"These are beautiful, well built structures," he said. "We've lost significant portions of neighborhoods and architecture. It's not just Lansing. It's a national issue. In the past 60 years or so, so much has been torn down in the name of progress."

Freeways, road expansion, renewal projects and sheer neglect have wiped out or defaced hundreds of landmarks and historic homes in Lansing, from baroque Barnes Castle and the Ransom E. Olds house, doomed by the crosstown juggernaut Interstate 496, to humble kit homes of the early 1900s, full of old-growth wood and working-class history.

Lansing architect Dan Bollman, a consultant for Preservation Lansing, specializes in renovation and preservation.

"Looking back, we wonder what we were thinking, but back then, there was a different set of values," Bollman said. "Now we're seeing what we've lost and moving forward to preserve what remains."

# Preservation

from page 9

Last year, while supervising interior work on a house on the west side, Bollman started coming to the site early, coffee in hand, to walk the neighborhood.

He centered his attention on Kalamazoo Street and the 400 block of Everett Street, but wandered several blocks in every direction and found gems all over.

"There's a great collection of old Tudor Revival homes from the 1920s and 1910s, houses that are preserved because of the people who live in the area," Bollman said.

But the carnage in Lansing is not over. Votta was being charitable when he described the recent renovation of the 1905 Carnegie Library by Lansing Community College, with odd features such as a bank of shrubs cutting off the main entrance, a "committee vision" without clear focus.

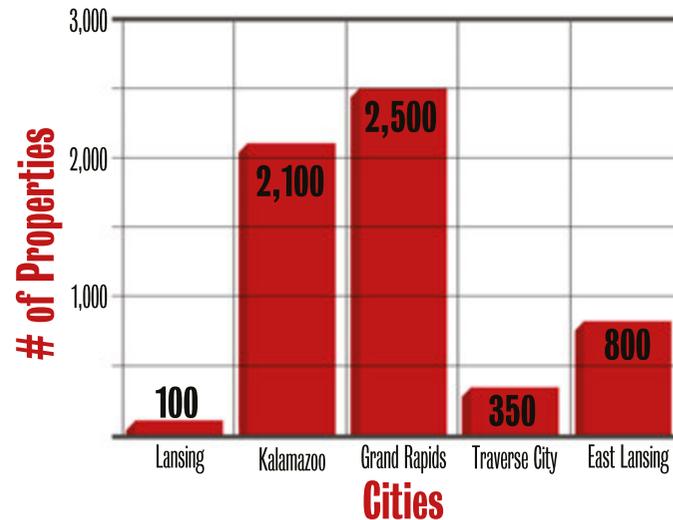
But at least Carnegie's shell was saved. In summer 2009, the 1861 City Club of Lansing downtown was razed to make way for a skyscraper that never materialized. More recently, many people were stunned when the Catholic archdiocese tore down the Holy Cross school at 1514 W. Saginaw St. last December.

Among the outraged was westside resident Gretchen Cochran, a founding member of Preservation Lansing and neighborhood activist who lives in a 133-year-old Italianate Revival house just west of downtown.

"All of a sudden you're driving down Saginaw and there's a pile of bricks," Cochran said. "Next thing you know, it's a parking lot. That school was built in 1930. It was part of the community, and it was just plain shocking."

Last fall, Cochran met with two other women who have a passion for old buildings and heavy cred in the preservation community, Winans and Brenna Moloney. The trio became the nucleus of Preservation

## Local Historic Districts in Five Michigan Cities



Sources: City of Lansing, City of Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids Development Center, Traverse City Department of Planning and Zoning, East Lansing Planning & Development Department. Illustration by Rachel Harper

Lansing. Fittingly, they met at Clara's in downtown Lansing, a 1903 railroad station turned restaurant.

Cochran envisioned a grass-roots group, but she knew that Winans would be an asset. As chairwoman of Lansing's Historic District Commission, Winans and her colleagues wield decision-making power over exterior changes to homes and buildings in Lansing's modest swath of locally designated historic districts. Winans is also a member of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, keeper of the many stories that happened inside all those old buildings.

A high-profile preservation award program was on the agenda from the start. The Lansing Historic District Commission discontinued its local historic preservation award in 2003, when the planning department budget was reduced.

Winans shares Cochran's concern over the fickle economic and political winds that buffet historic buildings.

"[Gretchen] lives in a historic house, in a historic neighborhood, but any house in that neighborhood could be demolished tomorrow without any review," Winans said.

Compared with other Michigan cities like Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, and even small cities like Marshall and Albion, Lansing has a modest list of local historic districts. The city has eight buildings and two districts locally designated as historic. One district, Ottawa-Walnut, consists of two houses; the other, Cherry Hill, has about 90 properties. By comparison, Kalamazoo has five historic districts with 2,075 properties;

Grand Rapids has six districts with about 2,500 properties, and East Lansing has six districts covering about 800 properties. Traverse City, about one-eighth Lansing's size, has three districts covering about 350 properties.

Lansing also has 19 sites and two districts (Old Town and much of downtown) listed on the National Register of Historic Places, but the national nod is mostly just that—a nod. Only local historic district commissions can

approve or deny demolitions and exterior changes to buildings in a district.

Knowing that historic districts are a tough sell in Lansing, Winans and Cochran liked the idea of a preservation group that bypassed political battles. So did the third conspirator at Clara's. Brenna Moloney works on preservation projects in Saginaw for the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, Michigan's statewide historic preservation organization, and its parent group, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the country's largest private, nonprofit preservation organization.

In September 2011, Moloney got two grants (from the Americana Foundation and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority) and added Lansing to her territory. She quickly found that the architectural riches of Lansing go much deeper than the state Capitol.

"Lansing has a lot of wonderful residential architecture," Moloney said.

After talking with neighborhood organizations and community leaders around town, Moloney agreed that a "city-wide advocacy group" would help "raise the temperature" for historical preservation.

"There are unsung heroes in Lansing who are fixing up their buildings and their neighborhoods, who really care about the character and the sense of place," Moloney said. "They're stewards of the city and their buildings."

Moloney was inspired in part by some recent grass-roots preservation successes in Saginaw. In 2011, a group called Friends

of the Hill House bought a crumbling 1886 lumber baron mansion in Saginaw's Cathedral District for \$1 and got a \$10,000 grant to renovate it. The house was featured on TV's "This Old House." In the wake of the Hill House success came another grass-roots effort to save a 19th-century mansion known as "The Cat Lady's House." (The vacant house's last owner, who moved out several years ago at age 90, used to walk her pet leopard through the neighborhood.)

All three women agreed that education would be a top priority. Moloney was still bristling over a story in The Saginaw News that described the battle over Hill House as a "face off" between "pragmatic and romantic notions."

Moloney said the clash of "tender-hearted dreamers vs. level-headed penny-pinchers" makes good press but insists that preservation is "one of the most pragmatic financial moves a municipality can make."

She cited Charleston, S.C., with its dozens of heritage tourism sites, as a preservation success story.

"Charleston has its problems, but it has been able to make itself into a place where people want to go for vacation and to live," Moloney said.

"A key component of the reinvigoration of midtown Detroit has been historic preservation, mixed with new development," she said. "In midtown Detroit and Corktown you had a group of really committed preservationists at the forefront."

Moloney sees a similar potential, on large and small scale, all over Lansing.

"Lansing has its own character," she said. "I hope this is a way for Lansing to take a look at itself. We want to see people stepping up as caretakers of the city."

Today, the same day Preservation Lansing launches its first round of awards, the Grand Rapids Historic Preservation Commission is set to present its 18th annual preservation awards. The awards go to projects both inside and outside the city's extensive historic districts. Rhonda Baker, historic preservation specialist for Grand Rapids, said the awards have done a lot to boost preservation efforts citywide.

"I deal a lot with enforcement," Baker said. "A lot of people, when they think of historic districts, think automatically of regulations. This is fun end of it."

The awards are a point of pride for the winners, and usually good for a solid page touting historical preservation in The Grand Rapids Press.

"It's not just small homeowners," Baker said. "I have the president of Grand Rapids Community College coming out, the bishop from St. Adelbert Basilica." (Both places will get awards Wednesday.) "They're not sending secretaries."

The members of Preservation Lansing

See Preservation, Page 11

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# Preservation

from page 10

want the group to go beyond whipping up buzz over yearly awards. Educational workshops and resources for rehabbers are in the works. Eventually, Winans would love to see Lansing's growing enthusiasm for preservation coalesce into support for more historic districts, but she said the process must be bottom-up, not top-down.

"As a historic district commissioner, I would be the last person to recommend that a particular district be designated by the city," Winans said. "I would want to see it

come from the neighborhood organizations, from the neighbors themselves."

Whether that happens, Preservation Lansing may at least encourage a few more Dave Muylles who do preservation work because it's "just worth doing."

As the sun sank lower Friday, Muylle was surrounded by oak beams, window frames, stacked moldings and other bits of building, as if a reverse tornado were slowly spinning the bungalow on Leslie back together.

"There's something spiritual about this," he said, looking at a window seat rippling with dark grain. "This is 100 years old."

"Maybe it's good that Lansing hasn't discovered preservation," he mused. "There's so much left to do."

## Join the preservation movement

You can help call attention to the need for greater preservation of Lansing's historic buildings by nominating a preservation job well done in the last two years.



**Lansing Preservation Award  
Nomination Application**



**Presented by Preservation Lansing and the Downtown Neighborhood Association**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Properties must be located within the Lansing city limits. Nominated buildings must be 50 years of age or older with possible exceptions made for outstanding Mid-Century Modern buildings. Projects should have been completed in the previous 2 years and work should adhere as closely as possible to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/hal\\_mhc\\_shpo\\_LHDManual\\_14AppendixD\\_SOIStandards\\_161872\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/hal_mhc_shpo_LHDManual_14AppendixD_SOIStandards_161872_7.pdf).

Property owners may nominate their own properties.

Nominated Property address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of construction (if known): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work began: \_\_\_\_\_ Work completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check type of building being nominated:

Residential  
 Non-residential project costs \$1 million or less  
 Non-residential project costs exceed \$1 million

Person nominating property (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominator's signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Property owner name (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Property owner's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this document I agree that if I receive an award, it will be affixed to and remain in plain view on the exterior of the building recognized with the award.

On an attached sheet, please write a brief narrative addressing the following points. Responses should be limited to 2-3 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font.

- Describe the building's historic and current use. Describe the work completed and explain why this project is deserving of an award, i.e. the quality of the work, its impact to the surrounding area, neighborhood or city as a whole, etc
- You may include up to three (3) additional supporting documents including historic photos, letters of support, National Register nomination forms, newspaper articles, etc.
- Please provide up to three (3) before photos of the project, if available, and between three and five (3-5) photos of the completed work. All photos should be color. In addition, a CD of the photos should be included. By submitting photos, you agree to their use in any way related to the award by the committee and Preservation Lansing.
- Please include three (3) copies of your completed application and mail to the following address:  
 Preservation Lansing  
 403 N. Sycamore St.  
 Lansing, MI 48933
- For more information, please email [preservationlansing@gmail.com](mailto:preservationlansing@gmail.com) or visit [www.facebook.com/preservationlansing](http://www.facebook.com/preservationlansing).







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# Arts & Culture

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## Behind the scenes at Cirque

Attention to detail is essential for the 'Quidam' touring crew

By TRACY KEY

The magical world of a child's imagination can capture the hearts of an audience faster than an acrobat can do a backflip. But when Cirque du Soleil combines that youthful fantasy with \$1 million in hand-crafted costumes, over 150 pairs of customized shoes, performers from 23 different countries and a live musical performance, daydreams come alive.

"Quidam," opening tonight at the Jack Breslin Arena, is the whimsical story of a lonely young girl named Zoé, who takes the audience with her on an adventure of self-discovery in the imaginary land of Quidam.

"If you really want a great memorable experience, normally you have to go to Las Vegas to see shows like this, but we're coming to you," said Georgia Stephenson, an assistant artistic director for "Quidam." "If you haven't seen a Cirque show before, 'Quidam' is a great one to be your first."

The backflips, balancing acts and larger-than-life costumes worn by the Cirque cast may appear fluid and seamless, but behind the scenes it's another story.

"It's not easy to manage an international group," Stephenson said, as she explained her various duties. "You have to find out the best way to interact and get the most out of each individual, and it takes a different approach with everybody."

Stephenson explained that consistency is one of the



Courtesy Photo

'Quidam' is the story of a young girl who retreats into a vivid fantasy world when her parents ignore her.

is completely handmade, from head to toe, based on precise measurements taken and recorded when each performer is recruited.

"They make a mold of (the performer's) head and they take about 300 measurements of their whole bodies so we have a virtual replica of each performer at the headquarters," Leboeuf said.

This makes it easier and more efficient to create new costumes that are "virtually perfect," even when the individual for whom the costume is being made is hundreds of miles away.

In addition to setting the scene and reflecting the personalities of the characters, the costumes serve practical physical purposes. Due to the complexity of many of the acts, special clothing needs to be created to keep the performers safe and make their jobs easier. For the Spanish web act, which includes intense vertical rope climbing, the costumes are made of thick leather, which protects the performers from rope burn. "It's beautiful but it's also functional," Leboeuf explained.

Even the shoes — all 300 of them — are completely customized, whether they are crafted from scratch or are stylishly modified versions of existing shoes, such as the bright orange hand-painted Doc Martens Zoé wears. Some special shoes even facilitate high-flying action, like the hooked shoes used for climbing, dangling and spinning from hoops suspended high above the stage.

At the heart of the show, beneath all the

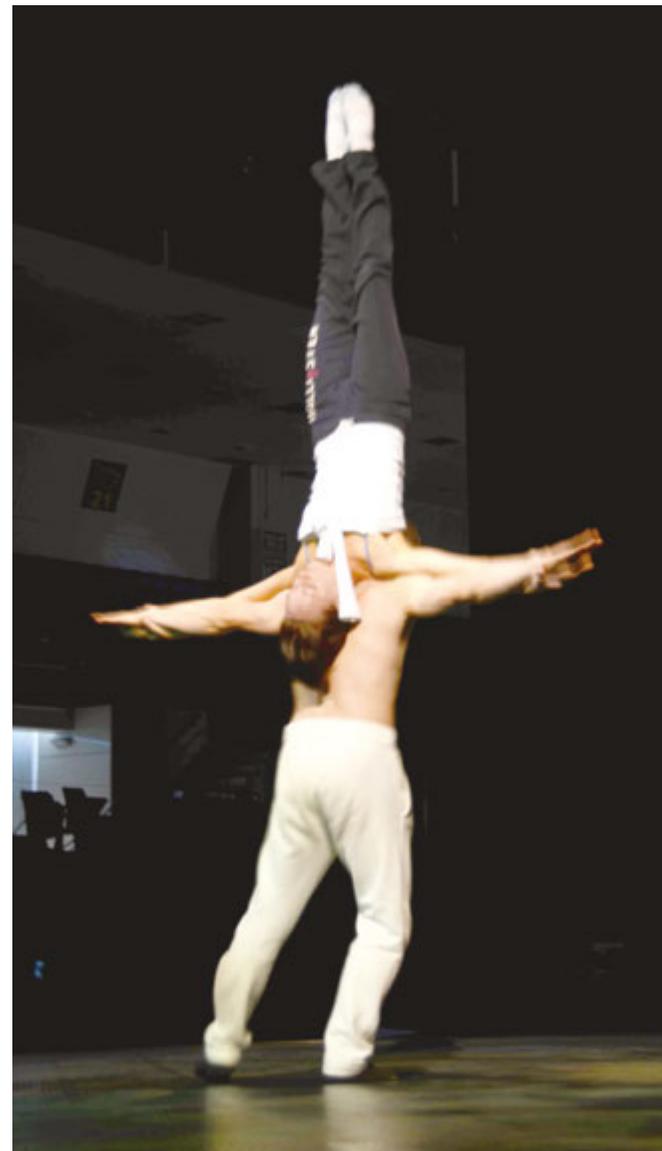
most important elements required to maintain the quality of each performance as the show travels. That includes everything from ensuring the practice area is put together in the same way each day to carefully planning the technical aspects of the show, such as lighting and the way the safety ropes are set up.

Even the diet of the performers requires special supervision. Jessica Leboeuf, a publicist for the show, said that meals are a carefully planned balance of healthy food as well as comfort foods and many special ethnic dishes native to the home countries of the performers. Professional chefs travel along with the show to prepare meals for the diverse cast and crew.

The careful attention to detail is just as important for the elaborate costumes as well, which include over 2,500 individual pieces for each performance.

"Each single piece of costume is created and fitted specifically for each performer," Leboeuf said.

She explained that each costume



Courtesy Photo

Cirque du Soleil acrobats rehearse a balancing act prior to a 'Quidam' show in Saginaw. The Michigan tour wraps up at Grand Rapids' Van Andel Arena May 30 through June 3.

extravagant costumes and colorful make-up, exists some diverse and serious talent.

Twenty-four-year-old Roman Urazbakiyev has been a part of the Cirque family for about a year and a half, but he has been an acrobat since he was 8 years old. In his hometown in Ukraine, his parents initially introduced him to the sport. "They brought me to the gym and I was really excited to do this," he remembers.

He is still passionate about performing. "My favorite part is to see the inspired eyes of spectators," Urazbakiyev said. "It's very amazing when you are giving happiness for the people, and when you are bringing something amazing to their hearts and you can see it in their eyes."

### Cirque du Soleil: 'Quidam'

Jack Breslin Arena, Michigan State University  
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 23, Thursday, May 24 and Friday, May 25;  
3:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 26; 1 and 5 p.m. Sunday, May 27

\$27.50-\$100

(517) 432-5000

www.breslincenter.com

www.cirquedusoleil.com



Tracy Key/City Pulse

A 'Quidam' wardrobe supervisor looks over the hats used in the show. Over 2,500 costume pieces are featured in the performance.

# The drama behind the drama

Williamston Theatre's 'Understudy' finds comedy amid chaos

By JAMES SANFORD

Rob Roznowski knows what it's like to be an understudy and, to put it mildly, it's not a line of work he recommends.

"It's the most upsetting job in the world," he said in a phone interview last week. He recalled understudying Evan Pappas, the lead in a 1993 production of the Burt Bacharach/Hal David/Neil Simon musical "Promises, Promises" at Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, Conn. As Tom Petty once sang, the waiting is the hardest part, a sentiment Roznowski can stand behind: He had to be prepared to take over at any time if Pappas was sick and, in keeping with the show's title, there were plenty of promises Roznowski would get his shot.

They usually turned out to be false alarms. "It was always, 'He's not feeling well today,'" Roznowski said. "Then, just when you think you're going on, it was 'Oh, he's feeling fine!'"

"Promises" ran for almost two months, but Roznowski didn't play the lead until the show's final days. "It wasn't until literally the last week of performances," he said. "And then I went on three shows in a row."

At least he had his chance to shine, something that isn't likely to happen for Harry, the understudy in Theresa Rebeck's comedy "The Understudy," opening Thursday at Williamston Theatre. Harry (Tony Caselli) has been hired to back up Jake (Drew Parker of "Dead Man's Shoes"), an up-and-coming actor who's taking time out from filming disaster movies to do a

## 'The Understudy'

Through June 17  
Williamston Theatre  
122 S. Putnam St.,  
Williamston  
Preview 8 p.m. Thursday,  
May 24; all seats \$15  
Friday, May 25 through  
June 17: 8 p.m. Thursdays,  
Fridays and Saturdays; 2  
p.m. Sundays; 3 p.m. June  
2, 9 and 16  
\$20 Thursdays; \$25 Fridays  
and Saturday evenings;  
\$22 Saturday matinees  
and Sundays; \$10 students  
with ID; \$2 off any show for  
seniors 65 and over  
(517) 655-7469  
www.williamstontheatre.com

Broadway production of "Kafka's undiscovered masterpiece." We never meet Jake's co-star, Bruce, although he seems to be a mega-star along the lines of George Clooney or Brad Pitt: He commands \$22 million per film, while Jake admits he only gets \$2.3 million. As for Harry, stage manager Roxanne (Michelle Held) sums up his place in the theater world in no uncertain terms: "Bruce is Richard III, Jake is Henry V and you are Spear Carrier No. 7," she snaps. Roxanne

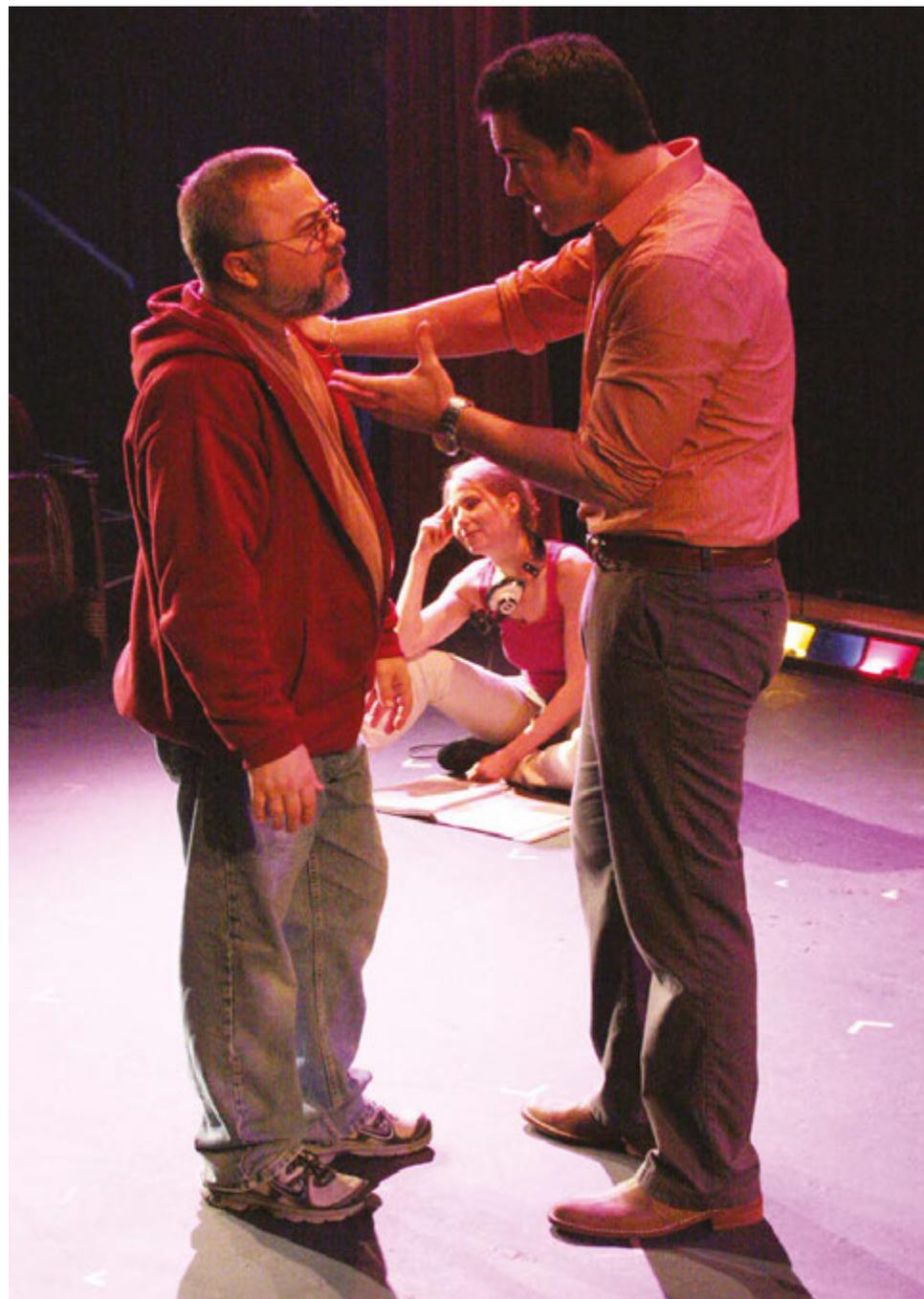


Photo by Chris Purchis of Williamston Theatre

Harry (Tony Caselli) listens to the concerns of Jake (Drew Parker) while stage manager Roxanne (Michelle Held) sorts out the situation in Williamston Theatre's "The Understudy."

has a bumpy track record with Harry and a career path that's littered with missed opportunities and broken dreams, all of which come back to haunt her as she tries to hold together a chaotic rehearsal full of technical glitches and interpersonal tensions.

"It's not so much a play about theater," Roznowski said. "It's more about what it means to be anybody's second-in-command."

Rebeck, whose other plays include "Bad Dates," "Mauritius" and the Pulitzer Prize-nominated "Omnium," wrote "The Understudy" almost four years before she became the head writer of NBC's "Smash," a different kind of backstage story about the development of a musical based on the life of Marilyn Monroe.

Perhaps fittingly, Roznowski came to Williamston immediately after finishing work on Michigan State University's "Legally Blonde," which included a sizable cast, splashy sets and an automated scen-

ery system. He said making the adjustment to an intimate comedy with minimal props has been a snap.

"No moving scenery? Heaven!" Roznowski said, with a laugh. "There's just three people? Great!"

The casting of Caselli, better known as Williamston Theatre's artistic director, "kind of came up unexpectedly," Roznowski said. "When I read the play, I was thinking Harry is sort of like the Richard Dreyfuss character in 'The Goodbye Girl,' in terms of the way he handles the business of being in theater. So I talked to Tony and said, 'You'd be awesome for this part.' The opening monologue that Harry has, that's the way Tony talks."

Next on Roznowski's schedule is a trip around the world — sort of. He'll direct playwright Mark Brown's five-actor version of Jules Verne's "Around the World in 80 Days" for MSU's Summer Circle Theatre; it opens June 20.

# Prophecy to reality

Purple Rose's 'Buffalo' mixes domestic discord with the spirit world

By TOM HELMA

The Purple Rose theater lights go dark. There is a moment of silence, followed by the sharp crack of a thunderbolt. Seconds later, strobe-lightning reveals movement: a writhing, convoluted Native-American ghost dance. It is the prophesied white buffalo, struggling to be born, an event that promises the beginning of an extended era of prosperity and peace.

## Review

As day breaks, we are on the Wisconsin farm of Carol Gelling (Michelle Mountain), a tenacious single mother trapped in an ongoing battle with Abby (Staci Hadgikosti), her troubled, suffering teenage daughter. They have experienced multiple losses, but now seem to have been blessed with the phenomena of a one-in-10-million birth — a purely white buffalo calf.

## 'White Buffalo'

Purple Rose Theatre  
137 Park St., Chelsea  
Through June 2  
3 and 8 p.m. Wednesdays  
and Saturdays; 8 p.m.  
Thursdays and Fridays; 2  
p.m. Sundays  
\$25 Wednesdays and  
Thursdays; \$35 Fridays  
and Saturday and Sunday  
matinees; \$40 Saturday  
evenings  
(734) 433-7673  
www.purplerosetheatre.org

Is it a blessing or a curse? Will they keep the animal or sell her for millions of dollars, which could wipe away their day-to-day financial struggles and allow Abby to attend the college of her choice?

Daughter and mother are at the heart of this story, as youthful idealism fights with the pragmatic wisdom of life experience. Hadgikosti and Mountain are well-matched; ferocious intensity and unrelenting determination light up the stage.

Alex Leydenfrost is the prodigal father, Mike, returning after an eight-year absence, in recovery from drug abuse and wanting to reconcile with Carol. Leydenfrost and Mountain create a raging and tender word-dance of painful reconciliation.

Sioux ghost dancers hover, appear and disappear in a continuous mist. Their energy is magical. The constant juxtaposition of painful everyday realities combined with a form of mystic realism smartly contrasts the bi-cultural spiritual elements of this play. When do we embrace a mythic belief and when do we dismiss it? What might transform and heal us as we recover from tragic losses?

"White Buffalo" is a weighty play, stirring up sobering questions of faith and belief. Writer Don Zolidis and Purple Rose artistic director Guy Sanville have collaborated effectively, merging and marrying competing forms of theater to create something unique.

## Free Will Astrology By Rob Brezsny

May 23-29

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): "My soul is a fire that suffers if it doesn't burn," said Jean Prevost, a writer and hero of the French Resistance during World War II. "I need three or four cubic feet of new ideas every day, as a steamboat needs coal." Your soul may not be quite as blazing as his, Aries, and you may normally be able to get along fine with just a few cubic inches of new ideas per day. But I expect that in the next three to four weeks, you will both need and yearn to generate Prevost-type levels of heat and light. Please make sure you're getting a steady supply of the necessary fuel.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Here's a great question to pose on a regular basis during the next three weeks: "What's the best use of my time right now?" Whenever you ask, be sure to answer with an open mind. Don't assume that the correct response is always, "working with white-hot intensity on churning out the masterpiece that will fulfill my dreams and cement my legacy." On some occasions, the best use of your time may be doing the laundry or sitting quietly and doing nothing more than watching the world go by. Here's a reminder from philosopher Jonathan Zap: "Meaning and purpose are not merely to be found in the glamorous, dramatic moments of life."

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): "Sometimes I think and other times I am," said French poet Paul Valery. Most of us could say the same thing. From what I can tell, Gemini, you are now entering an intensely "I am" phase of your long-term cycle — a time when it will be more important for you to exclaim "woohoo!" than to mutter "hmmm;" a time to tune in extra strong to the nonverbal wisdom of your body and to the sudden flashes of your intuition; a time when you'll generate more good fortune by getting gleefully lost in the curious mystery of the moment than by sitting back and trying to figure out what it all means.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Don't pretend you can't see the darkness. Admit to its presence. Accept its reality. And then, dear Cancerian, walk nonchalantly away from it, refusing to fight it or be afraid of it. In other words, face up to the difficulty without becoming all tangled up in it. Gaze into the abyss so as to educate yourself about its nature, but don't get stuck there or become entranced by its supposedly hypnotic power. I think you'll be amazed at how much safety and security you can generate for yourself simply by being an objective, poised observer free of melodramatic reactions.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): It's OK with me if you want to keep the lion as your symbolic animal, Leo. But I'd like to tell you why I'm proposing that you switch over to the tiger, at least for now. People who work with big cats say that lions tend to be obnoxious and grouchy, whereas tigers are more affable and easy to get along with. And I think that in the coming weeks it'll be important for you to be like the tiger. During this time, you will have an enhanced power to cultivate friendships and influence people. Networking opportunities will be excellent. Your web of connections should expand. By the way, even though lions are called kings of the jungle, tigers are generally bigger, more muscular, and better fighters.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In 1977, the first Apple computers were built in a garage that Steve Jobs' father provided for his son and Steve Wozniak to work in. (You can see a photo of the holy shrine here: [tinyurl.com/AppleGarage](http://tinyurl.com/AppleGarage).) I suggest you think about setting up your own version of that magic place sometime soon: a basement, kitchen, garage, warehouse, or corner of your bedroom that will be the spot where you fine-tune your master plan for the coming years — and maybe even where you begin working in earnest on a labor of love that will change everything for the better.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): I have a head's up for you, Libra. Do your best to avoid getting enmeshed in any sort of "he said/she said" controversy. (Of course

it could be a "he said/he said" or "she said/she said" or "trans said/intersex said" brouhaha, too — you get the idea.) Gossip is not your friend in the week ahead. Trying to serve as a mediator is not your strong suit. Becoming embroiled in personal disputes is not your destiny. In my opinion, you should soar free of all the chatter and clatter. It's time for you to seek out big pictures and vast perspectives. Where you belong is meditating on a mountaintop, flying in your dreams, and charging up your psychic batteries in a sanctuary that's both soothing and thrilling.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In some Australian aborigine cultures, a newborn infant gets two names from the tribal elders. The first is the name everybody knows. The second is sacred, and is kept secret. Even the child isn't told. Only when he or she comes of age and is initiated into adulthood is it revealed. I wish we had a tradition similar to this. It might be quite meaningful for you, because you're currently navigating your way through a rite of passage that would make you eligible to receive your sacred, secret name. I suggest we begin a new custom: When you've completed your transformation, pick a new name for yourself, and use it only when you're conversing with your ancestors, your teachers, or yourself.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Please raise your hand if you have ever sought out a romantic connection with someone mostly because of the way he or she looked. You shouldn't feel bad if you have; it's pretty common. But I hope you won't indulge in this behavior any time soon. In the coming weeks, it's crucial for you to base your decisions on deeper understandings — not just in regards to potential partners and lovers, but for everything. As you evaluate your options, don't allow physical appearance and superficial attractiveness to be the dominant factors.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The 21st flight of the 4.5-billion-pound Space Shuttle Discovery was supposed to happen on June 8, 1995. But about a week before its scheduled departure, workers discovered an unforeseen problem. Northern Flicker Woodpeckers had made a mess of the insulation on the outer fuel tank; they'd pecked a couple of hundred holes, some quite deep. To allow for necessary repairs, launch was postponed for over a month. I'm choosing this scenario to serve as a useful metaphor for you, Capricorn. Regard it as your notice not to ignore a seemingly tiny adversary or trivial obstacle. Take that almost-insignificant pest seriously.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It's official: Dancing increases your intelligence. So says a report in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Unfortunately, research found that swimming, bicycling, and playing golf are not at all effective in rewiring the brain's neural pathways. Doing crossword puzzles is somewhat helpful, though, and so is reading books. But one of the single best things you can do to enhance your cognitive functioning is to move your body around in creative and coordinated rhythm with music. Lucky you: This is a phase of your astrological cycle when you're likely to have more impulses and opportunities to dance. Take advantage! Get smarter. (More info: [tinyurl.com/DanceSmart](http://tinyurl.com/DanceSmart).)

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Your animal totem for the next phase of your astrological cycle is a creature called a hero shrew. Of all the mammals in the world, it has the strongest and heaviest spine proportionate to its size. This exceptional attribute makes the tiny animal so robust that a person could stand on it without causing serious harm. You will need to have a backbone like that in the coming weeks, Pisces. Luckily, the universe will be conspiring to help you. I expect to see you stand up to the full weight of the pressures coming to bear on you — and do it with exceptional charisma.



Courtesy photo

Cristo Rey's annual fiesta features music, dancing, an arts and crafts market and more. "We emphasize Hispanic culture," said fiesta chairman Jose Manuel Estrada.

## Music, menudo and more

### Annual Cristo Rey Fiesta celebrates Hispanic culture

By CITY PULSE STAFF

In the summer of 1979, people were reading "The Complete Scarsdale Medical Diet" and Peter Benchley's "The Island," watching Sigourney Weaver in "Alien" and Barbra Streisand and Ryan O'Neal in "The Main Event" and roller skating to Chic's "Good Times" and the Bee Gees' "Love You Inside Out." Meanwhile, Cristo Rey Church was launching its first fiesta.

The annual event continues this weekend, featuring Tejano and salsa music, Hispanic and Latin American dishes, a raffle, a cake walk and more.

"We emphasize Hispanic culture," said fiesta chairman Jose Manuel Estrada. "We have a marketplace where vendors come in to sell their wares, mainly arts and crafts and jewelry produced by Hispanic labor."

A variety of food and drink will be available, including tacos, enchiladas and menudo, plus a beer tent for the adults

and a cotton candy stand for the kids, Estrada said.

The fiesta is open to everyone, but Estrada said parents should be aware of a policy that's being put into place this year: "No one under the age of 18 will be allowed in without a parent or adult relative," he said. It's an attempt to discourage parents from dropping off children for lengthy stays.

"We want everyone to be able to enjoy a good meal and some good music," Estrada said.

### Cristo Rey Fiesta

Cristo Rey Church  
201 West Miller Road,  
Lansing

4-11 p.m. Friday, May 25;  
11 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday,  
May 26; outdoor Mass from  
11 a.m. to noon Sunday, May  
27, with the festival beginning  
immediately afterward and  
continuing until 7 p.m.

\$5; 12 and under free  
(517) 394-4639

[www.cristoreylansing.catholicweb.com/](http://www.cristoreylansing.catholicweb.com/)

### SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

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### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 17

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NADAL	LORI	ITOR							
SMELL	KARAT	POLE							
WEL	AIL	LESPAUL							
ESA	I	MOM	BOASTS						
RHINE	MORAL	TEE							
SODAS	COCOA								
WEBBOUGHT	KAZOO								
ABNER	CUPPA								
ATE	ELLIS	TREED							
LUGOSI	EIN	ERNS							
PROVOKE	NOS	ASP							
ANYA	ENDIN	KATIE							
COAT	LYES	IGOTA							
ANNE	YALE	DEREK							

# Shades of summer

## You can take a vacation through reading this season

By BILL CASTANIER

This summer's reading can take you to 1960s Greece, the Canadian prairie, Martha's Vineyard, 1930s Paris, Michigan's "up north" — or even to a cozy S&M torture chamber.

Thanks to a potential Eurozone meltdown, Greece is in the news nearly every day. But in the 1960s Greece was in the throes of a terrifying military dictatorship, and Natalie Bakopoulos' "The Green Shore" reflects on an era of oppression, love, fear and day-to-day life in a Greece we've mostly forgotten about.

Bakopoulos looks at those years through the eyes and soul of one family: two sisters, a widowed mother and a poet uncle going about their lives in a world that is slowly closing in around them. The writing is lush, tinged with sexual longing and fear and with dreams that are interrupted.

"In April, fecund and green Athens erupts with life," Bakopoulos writes. "The trees rustle in the wind and hyacinths and lupine bloom in the parks." Then comes the reality of revolution: "Soldiers with rifles surged through the front garden, around the side of the house."

A literary journey with Pulitzer Prize-winning author and Michigan State University graduate Richard Ford will be a departure from the usual locales found in his Frank Bascombe trilogy ("The Sportswriter," "Independence Day" and "The Lay of the Land") to our neighbor to the north.

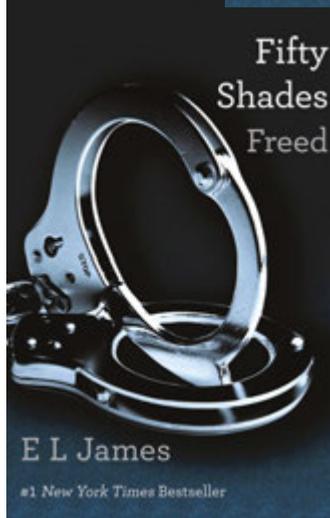
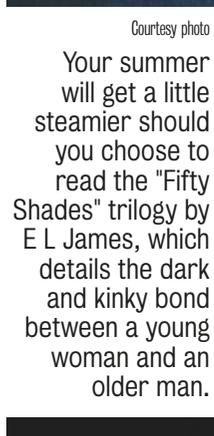
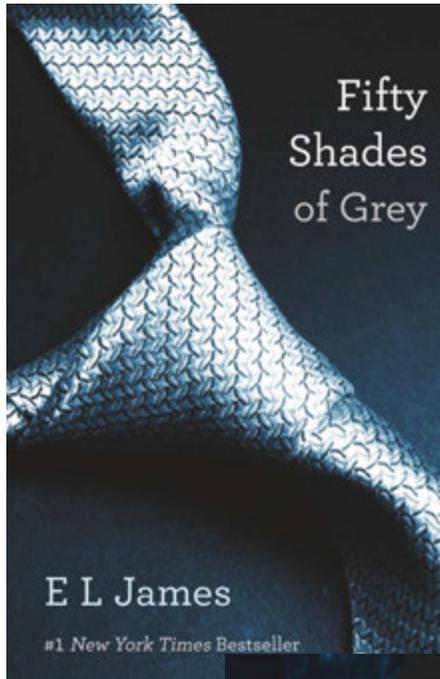
Ford's "Canada" is a flawless piece of work (OK, some won't like his detailed descriptions) and one you should expect from a writer of his stature. In "Canada" he

follows an American family to their dissolution. We are able to watch in almost slow-motion a coming-of-age story in which the American dream becomes a Bonnie and Clyde nightmare for 15-year-old twins Dell and Berner after their parents inexplicably stick up a bank.

As a young man runs from his family's past to the plains of Canada to start over, this becomes a story for those who liked "The Catcher in the Rye." The book is more about how chance bounces us from wave to wave, and how even though we may seek shelter in another state or country, tragedy can stalk the best of us. It's a safe bet "Canada" will be seen in the hands of many readers this summer. Ford's story will resonate with many readers who have tried to move beyond a horrible childhood — and, as in horror movies, you want to cry out to the characters in "Canada," "Don't open that door!"

Another book will be widely read, although you might not "see" it since it is mostly read on e-readers. It's "Fifty Shades of Grey," by E L James (along with its sequels, "Fifty Shades Darker" and "Fifty Shades Freed"). These books have created a publishing phenomenon that may not have been seen since Henry Miller's once-banned "Tropic of Cancer" was smuggled into this country in the 1930s.

Described as "mommy porn" (although huge numbers of unattached young women and men are reading the books, too) the "Fifty Shades" tales detail the sadomasochistic relationship between a virginal young woman (only for a short time) and a somewhat older man.



Courtesy photo

Your summer will get a little steamier should you choose to read the "Fifty Shades" trilogy by E L James, which details the dark and kinky bond between a young woman and an older man.

# THE SCREENING ROOM

by JAMES SANFORD

## The summer movie season is off to a startling start

The summer movie season is less than a month old, but we've already learned a few valuable (and, for certain studios, financially painful) lessons about what audiences are looking for.

Here's a hint: It's not necessarily Johnny Depp, Cameron Diaz or Jennifer Lopez — and it's certainly not Taylor Kitsch.

**More superheroes equal more money.** By the end of the week, "The Avengers" — which brings together Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), Thor (Chris Hemsworth), the Hulk (Mark Ruffalo), Captain America (Chris Evans), Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson) and Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner) — will have surpassed the total box office of the "Star Wars: A New Hope"; by the end of the month, it will have grossed over \$500 million. It's already No. 6 on the list of the biggest domestic blockbusters of all time.

The movie's success isn't entirely due to repeat business from Marvel Comics fans, either. Thanks to excellent word of mouth, "Avengers" has brought in moviegoers that might not ordinarily run out to the latest superhero extravaganza. Compare the "Avengers" take to last summer's Marvel epics: "Captain America: The First Avenger" amassed just under \$177 million in its entire run, while "Thor" sold \$181 million worth of tickets.

**Not every piece of pop-culture can be turned into a blockbuster.** Just ask Universal Pictures, which sunk more than \$200 million into a big-screen version of "Battleship," a would-be event picture inspired by the Hasbro/Milton Bradley game that's been around in one form or another for almost a century. If last weekend's opening was any indication, audiences are not terribly interested in antiques — or terrible films, for that matter.

Although industry tip sheets had initially pegged it to open with as much as \$60 million, "Battleship" brought in only \$25 million, torpedoed by a combination of scathing reviews and bad buzz. When it opened in international territories a month ago, "Battleship" managed to rack up more than \$200 million, but that was in the

days before "The Avengers" came to town; Universal will be lucky to get half that much business from the U.S. market, especially with "Men in Black III" and "Prometheus," director Ridley Scott's eagerly anticipated "Alien" prequel, set to steal away science-fiction fans.

It's the second black eye in the space of three months for former "Friday Night Lights" star Taylor Kitsch, who had the misfortune of also being the main attraction in Disney's "John Carter," another expensive box office bomb.

**Not every piece of pop-culture can be turned into a blockbuster, The Sequel.** The 22-year-long collaboration between Johnny Depp and director Tim Burton has yielded many hits, from "Edward Scissorhands" to "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" to "Alice in Wonderland." It's unlikely "Dark Shadows" will be remembered as one of their greatest achievements, though. The horror comedy adapted from the once-popular supernatural soap opera from the late-1960s/early-1970s is off to a sluggish start with audiences, ringing up approximately \$51 million in its first 10 days and dropping a worrisome 57 percent in its second weekend.

**Seniors rule.** That's not just a graduation day slogan. Last weekend, Cameron Diaz and Jennifer Lopez headlined a star-studded cast in "What to Expect When You're Expecting," a fluffy romantic comedy about prospective parents. But the veteran stars lost out to some genuine veterans: "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel," starring Maggie Smith, Judi Dench, Bill Nighy and Tom Wilkinson, has become this year's "Midnight in Paris," pulling in \$8.2 million while playing in less than 400 theaters nationwide. According to the Box Office Guru website ([www.boxofficeguru.com](http://www.boxofficeguru.com)), the per-screen average on "Expecting" (which indicates how much the movie made at each of its locations) was a very mild \$3,476, while "Marigold" more than two and a half times that amount, averaging \$9,181. "Marigold" expands to theaters nationwide, including Lansing, on Friday.

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# Summer Books

from page 15

The writing is campy, the type you might expect from a "Twilight" fan-fiction site. What makes this book successful is impossible to explain, except in pop culture terms. Yes, sex (or erotica) abounds on nearly every page, but why not take a quick romp with "The Story of O" or something light by Anais Nin instead?

Unsurprisingly, a movie is in the works, and perhaps the Eurythmics' "Sweet Dreams Are Made of This" could be the theme song. "Shades" may end up as this generation's equivalent of "A Summer Place," or Jacqueline Susann's "Valley of the Dolls"

Readers should also take a trip inside the mind of Reed City author Benjamin Busch, whose memoir "Dust to Dust" is unlike most memoirs you will ever read

(ignore that it is not chronological). Busch who, at various points in his life was a combat Marine in Iraq, an actor, a movie-maker and an artist, has written a memoir that focuses on how the natural life and its elements have shaped him. Busch, the son of novelist Frederick Busch, claims he is not a reader. If that is the case his writing must come naturally.

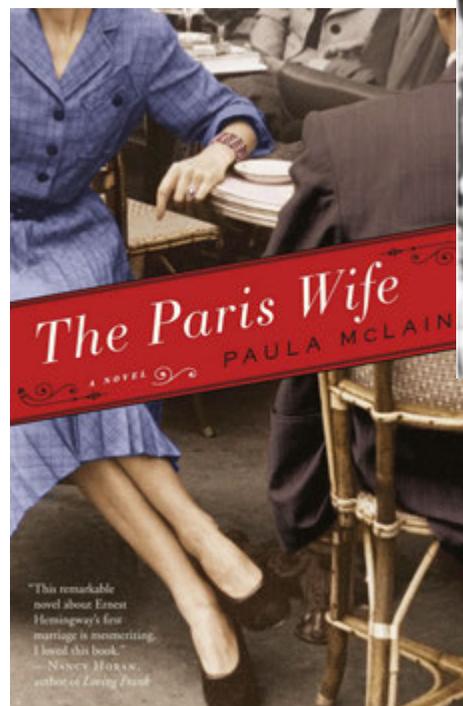
Yoooper and Michigan State University graduate Tom Bissell has a collection of his essays packaged under the title "Magic Hours," but the subtitle "Essays on Creators and Creation" better describes the 14 pieces that delve into and dissect everything from writing to filmmaking.

In many ways, this book serves as Bissell's own memoir about the creative process. Bissell, who resides on the West Coast, has found a home in essay writing. My favorite essay is "The Theory and Practice of I Don't Give a Shit," which is about fellow Michiganian Jim Harrison.

Other books that will help round out this summer's literary tour are "Die a Stranger" from Edgar Award-winning author Steve Hamilton ("The Lock Artist") about a Paradise, Mich. detective Alex McNight, Bloomberg News reporter Bryan Gruley's "The Skeleton Box," the latest in a continuing series about a small-town Michigan journalist and amateur detective and, as always, a visit to Detroit with private eye Amos Walker, who returns for the 22nd time in Loren Estleman's "Burning

Courtesy photo

Catch up with "The Paris Wife," Paula McLain's study of the ill-fated marriage between Ernest Hemingway and Hadley Richardson in the early 1920s.



Amazon Kindle e-book, "Au Naturel: A Summer on Martha's Vineyard" about his three-month sojourn on the island in 2009, which helped him to understand the culture of the Vineyard, to live more spontaneously — and to appreciate the wonder of lobster rolls.

Finally, Paris is just a time zone away in Paula McLain's debut novel, "The Paris Wife," which looks at the most famous member of the so-called Lost Generation, Ernest Hemingway, and his failed marriage to Hadley Richardson. This book turned out to be a surprise success story, hanging around on The New York Times Best Sellers List for nearly a year.

Paula McLain, a University of Michigan graduate, will visit Hemingway's Michigan haunts next month as one of the featured speakers at the meeting of the International Hemingway Society, which meets in Petoskey June 17 through 22. The conference marks the first time the group has met in Michigan, and speakers from across the globe will discuss popular and arcane Hemingway topics and tour sites that Hemingway popularized in his writing. For more information, visit [www.mhs2012.com](http://www.mhs2012.com).

Midnight."

One unusual book you might actually see in the hands of the art and business community this summer is "The Art of Being Unreasonable" by Eli Broad. The self-help business book details the amazing success of the Detroit native and MSU graduate, whose name (along with his wife, Edythe's) is attached to the MSU art museum expected to open this fall. Not only is the book about his business career, it's also about his commitment to public service.

What would summer be without a trip to Martha's Vineyard? Lansing City Pulse arts editor James Sanford has written an

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## Barn Theatre is back with 'Great Big Bar Show'

By CITY PULSE STAFF

The Barn Theatre in Augusta kicks off its 66th season Tuesday with the latest edition of "The Great Big Bar Show." The cabaret-style performance takes place in the Rehearsal Shed Lounge and features Eric Parker, Roy Brown, Emily Fleming (formerly Emily May Smith), Patrick Hunter and members of the 2012 Apprentice Company. The program includes a preview of music from the shows on the Barn's summer schedule, including "Pal Joey," "Spamalot," "The Wedding Singer" and "Monty Python's Spamalot."

The Barn Theatre is located at 13351 West M-96. Performances are at 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 29 through Friday, June 1, 8:30 p.m. Saturday, June 2 and 5 p.m. Sunday, June 3. All seats are \$20. For more information, call (269) 731-4121, or visit [www.barntheatre.com](http://www.barntheatre.com).

**ADVICE GODDESS**

# Attila the honey & it's reigning men



**AMY ALKON**  
advicemy@aol.com

**Q:** I asked my boyfriend for his email password so I could look at a message he'd mentioned. He grabbed my laptop and said he'd log in and forward it to me. He is a good guy and has never given me reason to distrust him, but if you aren't hiding anything, why would you care whether your girlfriend can read your email, Facebook messages, whatever? He says he feels that people should have a certain amount of privacy in a relationship and doesn't believe in sharing his passwords. Really? Not even with the woman he's been sleeping with for two years?

—Suspicious

**A:** Of course, there's no place for waterboarding or other enhanced interrogation techniques in a healthy relationship, but after two years of having sex with a guy, you'd think you'd at least be allowed to have a spy drone follow him to the office.

While some women trade sex for dinner, jewelry, and major appliances, all you expect is your boyfriend's privacy. Privacy — controlling what information about yourself gets shared with others — is a fundamental right. Yet, I'm amazed by the amount of email I get, mainly from women, who think having regular sex with someone entitles them to roll back that person's privacy to that of a convicted serial killer (save for the flashlight-assisted cavity searches).

Like these other ladies, you seem to be confusing dating with rent-to-own. This man is your romantic partner, not your new washing machine. He gets to choose which hopes, dreams, fears, and tasteless jokes he shares with you; you don't get to harvest his email, his organs, and his every thought. But, should you somehow bully his password out of him and start mowing through his messages, it's like putting people on speakerphone without their knowledge. He needs to disclose the possibility of this to everyone with his email address: "When you write me, it's as if you've written everyone I've slept with recently." (Subject line: "I'm whipped.")

Keep in mind that you aren't suspicious of him because you found a thong in his travel mug but because you feel entitled to loot his digital life and he refuses to let you. (Why don't you just put truth serum on his salad?) A desire for privacy isn't evidence of sneakiness. People show different sides of themselves to different people, and he's likely to feel curtailed in who he is and what he writes if Big Girlfriend is always watching: "Um, you spelled 'trough-licker' wrong in that misogynistic email to Jeff." (Suddenly, NSFW — Not Safe For Work — has an alternate meaning: No Sex For Weeks.)

You won't make a man trustworthy by turning your relationship into a police state. The time to figure out whether somebody's ethical is before you get into a committed relationship with him. If you can't trust your boyfriend, why are you with him? If you can, accept that his information is his property, and leave him be when he closes the bathroom door to his mind. Relationships are actually richer when those in them have private lives, when they're two people who come together to share a lot of things instead of two people who share absolutely everything — down to a single email address: JenniferNJason@WeAreNowOneBigBlob.com.

**Q:** I'm 23, and I realized that I don't know who I am. I just got out of a two-year relationship with a musician. I totally cleaved to his world — sold his CDs, promoted the band, started writing songs. But, it really wasn't me, and "we" were all about him. Before him, I dated a Rolfer, and my world became all about "body alignment" and Pilates and whatever else he was preaching. I feel like I lose myself in a man and then get nothing back.

—Disappearing

**A:** When you're between boyfriends, it's got to be hard to know whether to spend the day picketing Wall Street or occupying a dressing room at Abercrombie. What happened, you started your search for self but then your feet got tired? You actually have to

go out and answer the question "Who am I?"; you can't just cheat off whomever you're sleeping with. Consider doing as a guest on my radio show, therapist Dossie Easton, did. When she was in her 20s, she decided that she needed to find out who she was when she wasn't "trying to be somebody's old lady" and vowed to remain unpartnered (though not celibate) for five years. Maybe you don't have to stay unpartnered for five years, as Dossie actually did, but you should keep fishing around for what you're all about until you bring more to a relationship than a blank slate and a willingness to take notes.

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To read more of Amy's advice and guidance, please visit our Web site at [www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com)

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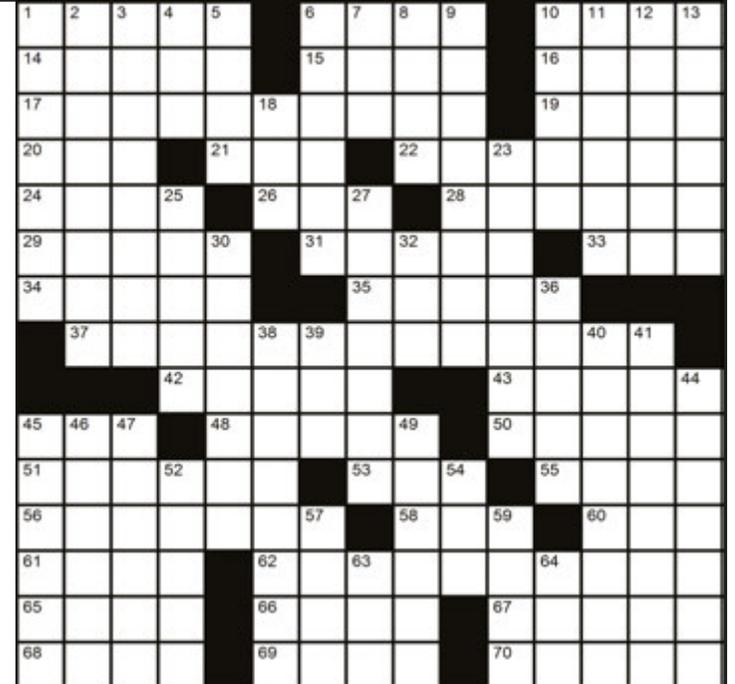
## Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Special K"—it's good for you.  
by Matt Jones

**Across**

- 1 \_\_\_ nectar
- 6 Give the cold shoulder
- 10 Old El \_\_\_ (salsa brand)
- 14 Tennis champ Rafael
- 15 Petty of "Tank Girl"
- 16 "Like \_\_\_ not!"
- 17 Get a gold nose ring?
- 19 Firehouse fixture
- 20 \_\_\_-Bilt (power tool brand)
- 21 Feel sick
- 22 Electric guitar pioneer
- 24 Morales of "NYPD Blue"
- 26 She tells you to wear clean underwear
- 28 Talks big
- 29 River that starts in the Swiss Alps
- 31 Fable ending
- 33 Peg for Bubba Watson
- 34 Vending machine drinks
- 35 \_\_\_ Puffs
- 37 Report from the musical instrument store?
- 42 Li'l comic strip character
- 43 Joe amount
- 45 Had hash browns
- 48 Immigration island
- 50 Cornered
- 51 Scary Bela
- 53 A, in Austria
- 55 Sea birds
- 56 Get someone mad
- 58 Negative answers
- 60 Cleopatra's killer
- 61 Historical novelist \_\_\_ Seton
- 62 Finish up with Tom's



- 70 Mr. Jeter
- 11 Words said while raising glasses
- 12 It's dissolved into a solvent
- 13 Ultimatum ending
- 18 Khloe's sister
- 23 It's just him or her on stage
- 25 "Dancing With the Stars" judge Carrie Ann \_\_\_
- 27 "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" regular Colin \_\_\_
- 30 Paul Anka hit subtitled "That Kiss!"
- 32 Go bad
- 36 Sky-blue
- 38 With really long odds
- 39 Toothpaste variety
- 40 Smooth player
- 41 Aptly-named precursor to Wikipedia
- 44 Jargon with lots of bold claims
- 45 Andean animal
- 46 Plus in the dating world
- 47 "The Sweet Hereafter" director Atom \_\_\_
- 49 Gary who played Lieutenant Dan
- 52 Egg-shaped
- 54 Quebec rejection
- 57 Singer formerly of the group Clannad
- 59 Make tire marks
- 63 Tierra \_\_\_ Fuego
- 64 What some golfers use as a scoring goal

### City Pulse Classifieds

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# OUT on the TOWN

**Wednesday, May 23**

## 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 & 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. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and at 6:30-8:30. FREE. Demonstration Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. [www.bespartangreen.msu.edu/happenings.html](http://www.bespartangreen.msu.edu/happenings.html).

**Coupon Swap.** 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. 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.

See Out on the Town, Page 20

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

## MAY 23



Courtesy Photo

## Farm fresh returns to Allen Street

The Allen Street Farmers Market kicks off its ninth season Wednesday. From 2:30-7 p.m. every Wednesday into October, the Allen Neighborhood Center parking lot will be transformed into an assortment of tents and tables stocked with fresh produce and plants. Visitors can expect to find salad greens, asparagus, scallions and lots of plant starts in the first few weeks. As the summer unfolds, market-goers can shop for a more diverse selection of goods, including strawberries, tomatoes, honey and crafts. The market takes debit, credit and Bridge cards. There will also be food-related activities, monitored by Del Rae, at the Kids Table. 2:30-7 p.m. FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center parking lot, 1619 E Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 367-2468. [www.allenneighborhoodcenter.com](http://www.allenneighborhoodcenter.com).

## MAY 24-26

## Comedian brings rants to Connxtions

For those looking for a laugh, Connxtions Comedy Club hosts Vince Carone this weekend. Performing standup since 2001, Carone has been described by comedian Pablo Rodriguez as "a ranting blue-collar rep for America's true voice." Carone has toured and shared the stage with comics such as Pablo Francisco, Dave Attell, Kathleen Madigan, Jim Gaffigan, Charlie Murphy and Jamie Kennedy. Carone recently released his second CD and DVD titled "Thanks For the Clap." He's also a contributor to the website SoYouHaveAGirlfriend.com, a "video relationship advice blog" where people submit questions like "Is it acceptable for a lady to still have — and sleep with — numerous stuffed animals, even though she is over 30?" and "How long into a relationship is it acceptable to ask your partner to pop your pimples?" The answers would be unlikely to win an endorsement from Dr. Drew. Thursday, May 24, 8 p.m. \$8. Friday, May 25, 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. \$12. Saturday, May 26, 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. \$15. Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 North East St., Lansing. (517) 374-4242. [www.connxtionscomedyclub.com](http://www.connxtionscomedyclub.com).

## MAY 26

## It's a Memorial Day dash

After more than 20 years, downtown Lansing reintroduces a Memorial Day weekend 5k run. Runners and supporters of Lansing can participate in the Capital Memorial Run 5K, which raises funds for the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids. "This race came from a desire to honor the sacrifice and dedication of our veterans, both local and nation," said race director Timo Vasquez. Athletes run along the Lansing River Trail from Lansing Community College's downtown campus and back. Those interested in running can register through [www.playmakers.com](http://www.playmakers.com), or [www.active.com](http://www.active.com). 9 a.m. \$18 advance, \$25 day of. Gannon Building, Lansing Community College, 422 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. (517) 749-5647. [www.runningfoundation.com/Capitol\\_Memorial\\_Run.html](http://www.runningfoundation.com/Capitol_Memorial_Run.html).

## MAY 26

## Howell hosts punk, metal, indie & folk

On Saturday, Michigan-based independent concert promoter Fusion Shows presents Big Love's Educational Festival, or BLED Fest, as it's more commonly known. Started in 2005, the festival was created by Hartland resident and then-junior in high school Ben Staub as a basement show that quickly grew into a Midwest music festival that has drawn thousands. This year's musical lineup features national acts The Early November, As Cities Burn, The Wonder Years and Comeback Kid. Local acts of all genres will also perform on six stages. The festival prides itself on having a do-it-yourself approach. 11:30 a.m. \$20 advance, \$25 at door. Hartland Performing Arts Center, 9525 E. Highland Road, Howell. For more information or for the full lineup, visit [www.bledfest.com](http://www.bledfest.com).



Photo by Mike Rice

# TURNIT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

## O'DEATH, PEOPLE'S TEMPLE, PLURALS AT MAC'S

O'Death is a Brooklyn-based alt-country band that combines folk, bluegrass, and indie music into a distinctive style of Americana music. On May 30, the band plays Mac's Bar, along with Wavvy Hands, The Plurals and People's Temple. O'Death, which includes a banjo, fiddle, and ukulele player, took its name from an ancient Appalachian dirge. With a wealth of musical influences, O'Death channels the likes of Bill Monroe, Neil Young, even Prince and The Misfits. Pitchfork Media said the band ranges from "menacing and frantic" to "odd and quiet"; Pitchfork also rated the album with a favorable 7.9 (out of 10) rating.

Opening the show is the ever-busy Plurals, who've been playing alt-punk since 2004, have toured the country multiple times and have released a stack of records on the GTG label. Lansing-based psych-shoegaze band People's Temple recently inked a deal to record a live set at Jack White's Third Man Records in Nashville this July. The band is releasing its second full-length LP on HoZac Records sometime this fall.

**Wednesday, May 30 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18 and over. \$5, 9 p.m.**

## MANIC METAL AT MAC'S

Dark Psychosis, which formed back in 1999, is a Lansing-based metal band that features Xaphan (known for his other bands Summon, Masochist and Wastelander) and drummer Justin "Bellitheist" Henry (also a member of Summu Nura). On Thursday, the "blackout-thrash metal" band plays Mac's Bar along with openers Isenblast and Genocya. Dark Psychosis



Courtesy Photo

## O'Death

started off as a primitive black-metal band that preferred the lo-fi sound of a four-track recorder. Over the years it has progressed into an old-school metal sound that also incorporates elements of psychedelic noise. The band has a diverse list of influences, from early Pink Floyd and 13th Floor Elevators to Darkthrone and Venom. Openers Genocya recently celebrated its 10th anniversary of playing shows. The Lansing-based band will have copies of its long-overdue debut album "Ever Descent" at the show, and local metal fans may want to pick up a copy.

**Thursday, May 24 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18 and over. \$5, 9 p.m.**

## SONGWRITERS TAKEOVER THE LOFT

Jory Stultz, known locally for his past work in the Sunset Club, plays a solo all-ages show Friday at The Loft. The evening is dubbed "Singer/Songwriter Night." Stultz released the "Aquarium" EP back in December, which features two synth-heavy, dreamy-pop songs. The event also features performances from Fernando Solis (from Flint), Gary Cimmerer (local alt-country), and Lansing-area singer/songwriters Kyle Brown and Bluffing the Ghosts (a.k.a. Travis Valentine).

**Friday, May 25 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, \$5 for 21 & over, \$7 for under 21, doors 8 p.m.**

## INDIE-FOLK VET RETURNS TO LANSING

Chris Bathgate, a Michigan-based indie folk singer-songwriter and musician, returns to Lansing May 31, along with openers Antrim Dells and Sacred Strays. Bathgate has been a prominent figure in the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti folk music scene since he started playing music back in 1999. In 2007, Bathgate signed to Quite Scientific Records, which released "A Cork Tale Wake" in 2007 and "Salt Year" in 2011. Fans of folk singer-songwriters like Sufjan Stevens and Iron & Wine might want to check out this show.

**Thursday, May 31 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all ages, \$10 door, \$8 advance, doors 8 p.m.**

## PUMPSTOCK ON HORIZON

The Pump House, located in East Lansing, has been bringing nationally recognized musical acts to the Bailey neighborhood since 2009. The Sunday concerts often feature acclaimed Americana and alt-country artists from across the map, including many Nashville fixtures. Acoustic music lovers may want to take note of the 3rd Annual Pumpstock, happening June 2. The one-day, outdoor fest runs all day and is family-friendly. It will be held at East Lansing Bailey Community Center Park. Organizers suggest attendees bring chairs and blankets. There is free parking in the Bailey sub-



Courtesy Photo

## Dark Psychosis

division and at the Community Center. If rain should dampen the day, the event will be moved to the Bailey Community Center Gym. Playing the show are the Tommy Womack Band (Kentucky-based Americana), Harpeth Rising (Nashville-based classical roots), Bill Bynum & Co (Detroit-based bluegrass/roots), Martine Locke Trio ("fierce" folk from Indianapolis) and Matt Bliton & The Kedzie Street Choir (from East Lansing). In addition to the headliners, this year's Pumpstock features a second stage with local entertainment from the Ukulele Kings, Susan Picking, and more. There's a \$10 suggested donation (kids get in free), and all proceeds will go to the artists.

**Saturday, June 2 @ Pumpstock - Bailey Community Center Park, 300 Bailey Street, East Lansing, all ages, \$10 suggested donation, doors 2 p.m., ends around 8 p.m.**

# UPCOMING SHOW?

POST IT AT

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TURNITDOWN](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TURNITDOWN)

## LIVE AND LOCAL

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

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
621 The Spot, 621 E. Michigan Ave.	Brandon Marceal, 8 p.m.	Ray Potter, 8:30 p.m.	DJ Radd1, 9 p.m.	DJ Leeky, 10 p.m.
Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 N. East St.	Comedy Open Mic, 8 p.m.	Vince Carone, 8 p.m.	Vince Carone, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.	Vince Carone, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		DJ, 9 p.m.	Velocity Shift, 9 p.m.	Velocity Shift, 9 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Cloud Magic, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.		Tryst Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, Midnight	Smooth Daddy, 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.	Powerlight, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Dewaynes, 9:30 p.m.	Hidden Agenda, 9:30 p.m.	Root Doctor, 9:30 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	He is We, 6 p.m.	The Brodberg Band, 8 p.m.	Jory Stultz, 8 p.m.	Through the Ashes, 9 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	Gingerfest, 9 p.m.	Dark Psychosis, 9 p.m.	Doug Mains & the City Folk, 5 p.m.	Blat Pack, 10 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Rob Kladjja Open Mic, 9 p.m.		Blastica, 10 p.m.	Blastica, 10 p.m.
Rick's American Cafe, 224 Abbott Road	DJ Dan, 10:30 p.m.		I.C.E. DJ's, 10:30 p.m.	I.C.E. DJ's, 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, 7 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 9 p.m.	Dr. Gun, 9 p.m.	Dr. Gun, 9 p.m.
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.	Bullwhip, 9 p.m.	Bullwhip, 9 p.m.
Ull's Haus of Rock, 419 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		Downplay & Crashing Broadway, 8:30 p.m.	Deveraux, 7 p.m.	Detroit Voodoo, 9:30 p.m.
Zepplin's, 2010 E. Michigan Ave.	Arison Cain & The Halfway Home Orchestra, 8 p.m.	Industrial/Hip Hop Night, 8 p.m.	Sense & Satire, 8 p.m.	Metal Show, 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., Ull'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

from page 18

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

**Food Swap.** Bring a homemade cooked dish. Visit website for more information. 6:30 p.m. FREE. www.meetup.com.

**Bob Dylan's Birthday Party.** Sing your favorite Dylan song. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 484-9197.

**Lansing Walkability Audit.** Need volunteers. 3-5 p.m. FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 292-3078.

**Allen Street Farmers Market.** Fresh fruits and vegetables. 2:30-7 p.m. FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 485-4279.

**Lucinda Means Bicycle Advocacy Day.** Bike rally leaves from MSU Bikes to State Capitol for an opportunity to help advance the interests of cyclists. 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. \$10. Capitol Building, 100 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. www.lmb.org.

## MUSIC

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

**He is We.** For fans of Never Shout Never, Mayday Parade, and Owl City. 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. 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 24

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Yoga 2XL.** 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.** For people recovering from eating disorders who talk about recovery. 7:45 p.m. FREE. CADL Mason Library, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. (517) 899-3515.

**Spring Lecture Series.** Patrick Lindemann, "A Brief History of Water Management." 7:30-9 p.m. FREE. Meridian Service Center, 2100 Gaylord Smith Ct., East Lansing. (517) 347-7300.

**Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act.** On what the small business owner needs to know.

11:30 a.m. \$10 members, \$15. Brookshire Inn, 205 W. Church St., Williamston. (517) 655-1549.

**Lowe's South Side Cruise-In.** Open to classic cars & trucks, hotrods and classic Motorcycles. 6-11 p.m. FREE. Lowe's, S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 699-2940.

## EVENTS

**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. www.cadl.org.

**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.

**Politics and the Environment.** A discussion on politics, the environment and the many election issues. 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 487-6467.

**Spring Thing Art Show.** Celebrate art and music created by REACH students. 4:30-6:30 p.m. FREE. Art Alley, 1133 S. Washington Ave. Lansing. (517) 999-3643. <http://www.reachstudioart.org/Events/SpringThing/tabid/1477/Default.aspx>.

## 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.

## THEATER

**"The Understudy."** Egos collide when a star meets his seemingly underqualified understudy in a comedy from "Smash" writer Theresa Rebeck. 8 p.m. \$15. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-SHOW. www.williamstontheatre.org.

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Jaye Beeler.** An Author of "Tasting and Touring Michigan's Homegrown Food." 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495. www.schulerbooks.com.

## Friday, May 25

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Yoga Classes.** Workplace Yoga, noon-1 p.m. and Partner Yoga, 6-7:30 p.m. \$10 per class. Center for Yoga, 1780 East Grand River Ave., East Lansing. Contact Carolyn Ojala for details (517) 388-2049.

**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

**Exhibit of Laura Alexander.** Solo photography exhibit, "Ashes:Dust." 6-9 p.m. FREE. Art Alley of Retown, 1133 South Washington Ave., Lansing. www.reoartalley.com

**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.

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

## MUSIC

**Avon Bomb.** Live music. 10 p.m. FREE. Dublin Square Irish Pub, 327 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2222. www.dublinsquare.net.

**Root Doctor.** Featuring Freddie Cunningham. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. \$5. Green Door Blues Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-6376. www.greendoorlive.com.

**Matt Moore.** Live concert. Noon. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 484-4825. www.mattmooremusic.com.

**The Aimcriers.** An acoustic show for the late dinner crowd and an electric show at 10:45 p.m. 9:30 p.m. FREE. The Roadhouse Grill & Bar, 4112 Lansing Ave., Jackson. (517) 782-7711.

**Grand River Radio Diner.** Featuring Gary Cimmerer, hosted by LCC Radio WLNZ 89.7 FM. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 483-1000.

**Smooth Jazz & Classic R&B.** Featuring Dee Hibbert & Company. With buffet dinner and dance floor. 7-11 p.m. \$40. Radisson Hotel, 111 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-0188.

## THEATER

**"The Understudy."** 8 p.m. \$25. (517) 655-SHOW. (Please See Details May 24)

## Saturday, May 26

### 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 25)

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

**Spring Migration Bird Walk.** 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.

## 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.

**Native Michigan Plant Sale.** Locally grown perennials for both sunny and shady sites and more. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Meridian Township Farmers Market, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 887-0596.

**Mitten Mavens Bashaversary Roller Derby.** Both the Mavens and the Cap City Wild Childs, take to the track. 6-10 p.m. \$8 advance, \$10 at door. Aim High Sports, 7977 Centerline Dr. Dimondale. (517)

410-6023.

## MUSIC

**Blue Pontiac.** Live alternative country music. 11 a.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460. www.lansingcitymarket.com.

## THEATER

**"The Understudy."** 8 p.m. \$25. (517) 655-SHOW. (Please See Details May 24)

## Sunday, May 27

### 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 25)

## EVENTS

**Salsa Dancing.** DJ Mojito spins salsa, merengue, & Bachata. 7 p.m.-Midnight. \$5 21, \$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.

**Atheists and Humanists Dinner Meeting.** Dr. Michael Moore, lectures on "The Case Against Reality: Weirdness in the Quantum World." 5 p.m. \$10. Buffet dinner \$9.65. Great Wall Buffet Restaurant, 4832 W. Saginaw Hwy. Lansing. (517) 914-2278.

## THEATER

**"The Understudy."** 2 p.m. \$22, \$10 student. (517) 655-SHOW. (Please See Details May 24)

## Monday, May 28

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Divorced, Separated, Widowed Conversation Group.** For those who have gone through loss and are ready to move on. 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. Call to register. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

## 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.** Film at the library. 10:30

See Out on the Town, Page 21

Garden and Yard Complete Care

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# Out on the town

from page 20

a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext.4.  
**Westside Farmers Market.** Get fresh produce and more. 4-7 p.m. FREE. 743 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. www.southlansing.org.  
**Occupy Picnic.** Occupy invites veterans and all others to join to fight & defend our Constitution. Noon. FREE. www.occupylansing.net

## 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.

## Tuesday, May 29

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Beginning Yoga Class.** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. \$10. Center for Yoga, 1780 East Grand River Ave., East Lansing. Contact Carolyn Ojala for details (517) 388-2049.  
**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. Contact Judy at (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.** Learn Excel. 7 p.m. FREE. Community of Christ, 1514 W. Miller Road, Lansing. (517) 882-3122.  
**Speakeasies Toastmasters.** Become a better speaker. 12:05-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Bldg., 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. 1926.toastmastersclubs.org.  
**E-Reader User Group.** Learn how to download library books to your Kindle, Nook, iPad, etc. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669.3156. www.dewittlibrary.org.  
**EcoTrek Fitness.** Outdoor group workouts for all fitness levels. Meet in parking lot by the restrooms at Albert White Picnic Area. 5:45-7 p.m. \$12. Lake Lansing North Park, 6260 E. Lake Drive, Haslett. (517) 243-6538.  
**Extreme Couponing.** Learn how to combine coupons and save as much as 40 percent on the weekly grocery bill. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Center for Financial Health, 230 N. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 708-2550. www.centerforfinancialhealth.org.  
**Health Initiative Workshop.** Michigan Nutrition Network presents on food myths. 11:30 a.m.-1

p.m. FREE. North West Initiative, 1012 N. Walnut St., Lansing. (517) 999-2894. www.nwlansing.org.p2.hostingprod.com.

## 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 24)  
**Lansing Walkability Audit.** Need volunteers. 5:30-8 p.m. FREE. Grace United Methodist, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 292-3078.

## MUSIC

**Jazz Tuesdays.** With Jeff Shoup Quartet 10 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.  
**CMS Choir Auditions.** Prospective singers looking to join a CMS choir should audition. 4-7 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 841-B Timberlane St., East Lansing. (517) 355-7661.

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Tuesday Morning Book Club.** Discuss Lisa Genova's "Still Alice," 10:15-11:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. www.dtdl.org.

## Wednesday, May 30

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Meditation.** 7-9 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details May 23)  
**Community Yoga.** 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details May 23)  
**Grande Paraders Square Dance Club.** 7:30 p.m. \$4 members; \$5. (Please See Details May 23)  
**Learn Bike Repair.** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details May 23)  
**Capital Area Michigan Works.** A legislative breakfast; community members and business leaders will discuss the Capitol Caucus. 7:30-8:30 a.m. Price varies. Capital Area Michigan Works, 2110 S. Cedar St. Lansing. www.grandriverconnection.com.

## EVENTS

**Overeaters Anonymous.** 7 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details May 23)  
**Practice Your English.** 7-8 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details May 23)  
**Youth Service Corps.** Ages 11-17. 3:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details May 23)  
**Relay for Life Silent Auction.** Items include gift certificates, jewelry and more. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Jimmy's Pub, 16804 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 324-7100. relayforlife.org/eastlansingmi.  
**Lansing Walkability Audit.** Need volunteers. 3-5 p.m. FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 292-3078.  
**Allen Street Farmers Market.** 2:30-7 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details May 23)

## MUSIC

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

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Baby Time.** 10:30 a.m. FREE. (Please See Details May 23)  
**Lansing Area Science Fiction Association Meeting.** 7 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details May 23)

# NEW IN TOWN » Valu Land



Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

By Allan I. Ross

When the L&L Food Center on the corner of Saginaw and Waverly closed in late 2010, Lansing's West Side lost a vital neighborhood resource. Two weeks ago, Valu Land opened in that location, creating 35 new jobs and filling the area's need for a centralized grocery store that was big enough to be considered a one-stop-shop, yet small enough not to get lost inside.

"Our concept is to offer national name brand and Spartan brand products at the lowest possible costs," said Valu Land store manager Aurda LaDronka. "We want to give the community a wide variety of options when it comes to grocery shopping."

Valu Land is an arm of Spartan Stores, a Grand Rapids-based wholesale distributor to more than 375 independent grocery locations in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. They feature Spartan items, which, on average cost 20 percent less than their national counterparts, as well as a selection of deeper-discount food products from the ValuTime label. LaDronka says that Valu Land has two ongoing specials: the daily "10 for \$10" and the "Unmatchable Savings" sales. The former is self-explanatory, with

Store manager Aurda LaDronka

this week's featured items including cookies, cereal and candy bars. The latter is a little more fun.

"We send someone out to go look at prices at other stores, and if, say, someone has bananas cheaper than 43 cents (per pound), we lower our prices," LaDronka said. "Every day we have 14 items that we guarantee will have the lowest price around."

LaDronka flipped through Valu Land's most recent biweekly flier and pointed out some items such as chicken breasts and milk, which had been marked down since the flyer was printed because a nearby competitor had a lower price. LaDronka says that later this spring the store will have a promotion called Michigan's Best, featuring clearly identified Michigan goods at discount prices. Valu Land

has locations in Leslie, Marion and Clare, which are among the 96 retail supermarkets throughout Michigan that are owned and operated by Spartan Stores.

"This is the fourth store in the new format, and the first to be designed from the ground up," LaDronka said, "and so far, the response has been great. People keep stopping us to say how glad they are that we're here, how much they like the store, how exciting it is to see something on this corner. And it's a real joy to see that enthusiasm — you don't see that every day."

## Valu Land

3800 W. Saginaw St., Lansing  
 8 a.m.-9 p.m. daily  
 (517) 323-6879

## ERASER-FREE SUDOKU

## MEDIUM

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### 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 14



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Joe Torok/City Pulse

Olympic Broil has the kind of carport reminiscent of the heyday of the drive-in restaurant. It also features an outdoor eating area overlooking the Grand River.

## Greece is the word

**Olympic Broil serves fast food that fills you up**

By JOE TOROK

Pull out pen and paper (or sit down to a blank white screen) and list the names of fast-food restaurants. McDonalds is on there, right? Burger King, Wendy's, KFC and Taco Bell, too.

Sure, there are a few others, but what about local spots? There's quick Mexican and ready-to-eat pizza. But when it comes to local fast-food burger joints, your list might be brief.

There's one in north Lansing, though. Olympic Broil is the genuine article, right down to the conveyor-belt burger patties that fall onto a stainless steel holding area.

Outside Olympic Broil, there's a long carport that looks like it might have once been busy with teenagers on roller skates, balancing trays on car windows.

Inside, the blue and white color scheme continues from where the marquee left off, a wall of classic car photographs makes it authentically Michigan, and there are plenty of fixed-bench booths, the kind of seating oversized guys like me squeeze themselves into.

For \$15 at Olympic Broil, two adults and a grade schooler left feeling full. But, you might ask, what was the real price?

Let's start with the good, then proceed to the bad and ugly.

If you're a fan of deep-fried mushrooms, get your arteries over to Olympic Broil. A generous bag of the hot fungi will set you

back \$2.19, a bargain for what really could fill your stomach all by itself.

The batter was crunchy and clean (i.e., it doesn't taste like fish, shrimp or anything else that might have been tossed in the fryer), and the mushrooms held their meaty texture and earthy flavor. Since they weren't completely encased in batter, it seems excess moisture had a chance to escape. At other places, fried mushrooms turn into deceptive little balls that look delicious until you hit the interior, where you discover a wet core of mushy mushroom and undercooked batter.

Like the fried mushrooms, Olympic Broil did well with its onion rings (\$2.19). Ostensibly, we received fried onion pieces, and we didn't quite know what to think about it, except for the 6-year old who couldn't get enough of the golden brown shell.

Like the mushrooms, the onions were not completely surrounded by batter, so they had a chance to sweat off some of their moisture. I've had slimy onion rings before — not a fan. These were good rings, not too greasy and they remained crunchy even after a few minutes on the table.

I was curious about the gyro and wraps on the menu and probably should have trusted my instinct. Instead, we went with a pair of burgers: the quarter-pound bacon cheeseburger (\$4.79 combo) and the Humdinger (\$3.19), the latter based on name alone.

The bacon cheeseburger would have been tasty if we had been able to taste the

### Olympic Broil

1320 N. Grand River Ave.,  
Lansing  
10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday  
(517) 485-8584  
olympicbroil.com  
TO, OM, P, \$



### Review

# 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](mailto:food@lansingcitypulse.com).

## CAFES & DINERS

**BACKYARD BBQ** — Lawn chairs, potted sunflowers and wooden shutters give a backyard feel in a light-hearted atmosphere. Pork is smoked for 14 hours before being served in Backyard's signature barbecue pork sandwiches. 2329 Jolly Road, Okemos. 10:30 a.m.–7 p.m. Monday–Friday, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Saturday, closed Sunday. (517) 381–8290. Second location at 301 S. Washington Sq., Lansing. 10 a.m.–7 p.m. Monday–Friday (517) 853–2777. TO, P, \$

**BETTER HEALTH CAFE** — Located inside the Better Health Market in the Frandor Shopping Center, this cafe features a deli, juice bar and espresso bar with a focus on organic and natural foods, including fair trade and organic coffees, organic juices and smoothies, organic

salads and meats free of nitrates, antibiotics or preservatives. 305 N. Clippert Ave., Lansing. 9 a.m.–9 p.m. Monday–Saturday, 11 a.m.–7 p.m. Sunday. (517) 332–6892. [www.betterhealthstore.com](http://www.betterhealthstore.com). TO, \$

**BIG APPLE BAGELS** — Yes, there's a variety of flavored bagels and creamed cheeses available, but Big Apple also has more than a dozen different sandwiches, ranging from triple-deckers to California Clubs. 248 East Saginaw Road, East Lansing. 6 a.m.–6 p.m. Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. (517) 324–4400. TO, \$

**COFFEE AND FRIENDS CAFE** — Peanut butter and jelly isn't just for kids here: You can order cashew, almond or sunflower butter. Then you decide on jelly: strawberry, grape, blueberry, raspberry, honey or marmalade. In addition to sandwiches, quiches

and salads, you'll find an assortment of truffles, cookies, muffins and scones to satisfy your sweet tooth. 5100 Marsh Road, Suite 3, Okemos (517) 347–0962 7 a.m.–9 p.m. Monday–Thursday, 7 a.m.–9 p.m. Friday 7 a.m.–10 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m.–10 p.m.; Sunday 8 a.m.–6 p.m. TO, WiFi, \$

**COFFEE JAM** — Grab some classic comfort food and dessert here. The cookies are made fresh daily, but get there early because they sell out quickly. 6427 Centurion Drive, Lansing. 6:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Thursday, 6:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m.–2 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday. (517) 327–1111. TO, D, Wi-Fi, \$

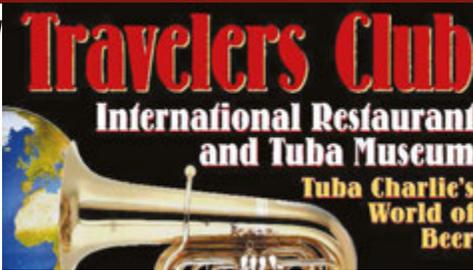
**D&L HEART AND SOUL CAFE** — A fusion of American-style breakfast and lunch menus with Asian cuisine as well. Highlights include homemade sausage patties and General

Tso's chicken. 4805 North Grand River Ave., Lansing. 6 a.m.–3 p.m. Monday–Wednesday; 6 a.m.–8 p.m. Thursday–Saturday; 7 a.m.–3 p.m. Sunday. (517) 321–6333. TO, WiFi, \$

**THE DAILY BAGEL** — Serving fresh bagels made daily and a full menu of sandwiches and salads in downtown Lansing. 309 S. Washington Square. 7 a.m.–3 p.m. Monday–Friday, closed Saturday & Sunday. (517) 487–8201. TO, OM, WiFi, \$

**DECKER'S COFFEE** — In addition to coffee and espresso drinks, this locally owned coffee shop and popular study spot offers a full menu of breakfast sandwiches, bagels, smoothies, ice cream and more. 220 S. Washington Square, Lansing. 7 a.m.–6:30 p.m. Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Sunday. (517) 913–1400. OM, P, WiFi, \$

**May Special: Asia** - start with a bowl of **Hot & Sour Soup** - our spicy vegetarian version, and a **Daikon Salad** with green papaya and carrots, garnished with orange wedges. Then fill up on the **Cashew Beef** - sauteed with mushrooms, baby corn and peppers with a side of **Fried Rice**



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

## Olympic

from page 22

bacon or cheese, let alone the burger. The paper-thin bacon might as well as not even been there, and the cheese — American, I believe — added nothing. Olympic Broil may be local and family-owned, but the over-processed burger patties are just like any other mega-conglomerate. Don't expect thick, hand-patted beef like I did.

To get to a quarter-pound, two patties are used, but just because there's twice the meat doesn't mean there's twice the flavor. In fact, all we could really taste was the standard ketchup-mustard-pickle combination common to the fast-food burger culture.

I'm not sure exactly what I was looking for in the Humdinger (it was the name that got me, after all), but it wasn't noticeably different from the other burger, even with the lettuce and tomato. Like the bacon cheeseburger, all we could really taste were

the overpowering condiments.

Perhaps the olive burger might have given us a different experience, or the Olympic burger with Coney sauce, although after my dining companion compared the Coney dog (\$1.39) to a school cafeteria hot dog with Sloppy Joe mix, I'm not sure we could have expected much more from any of the burgers.

Olympic Broil does have something no other area fast-food place has, or very few other local restaurants have for that matter: a nice outdoor eating space. A strip of green grass runs adjacent to the north side of the building where a half dozen picnic tables overlook the Grand River. Like the food, the space outside is a little rough and unrefined, but it's also a smart touch.

Olympic Broil must be popular, as evidenced by the steady stream of diners who bellied up to the order counter, awaiting their soon-to-be-see-through white paper bags. I don't fault the place for serving what people apparently want. I just wish I didn't feel the need to hibernate after eating there.

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





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