

FREE

CityPULSE

a newspaper for the rest of us

www.lansingcitypulse.com

May 9-15, 2012



**New
in town**

Lansing Fit Body Boot Camp, see page 23

**SAVE
Lansing**

**ONLINE
THIS WEEK ONLY!**

**Save 55% on
Mother's Day Gifts, see page 6**




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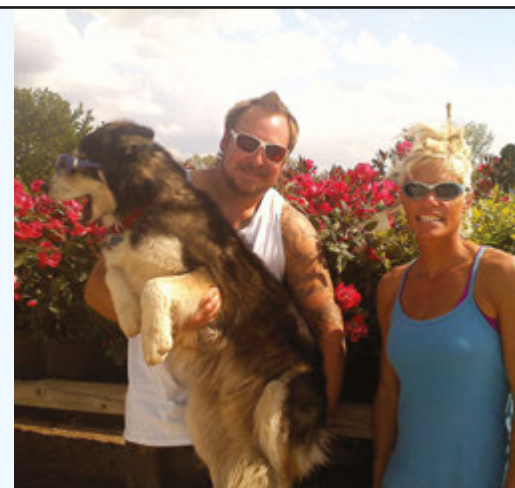
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Ingham County Animal Shelter

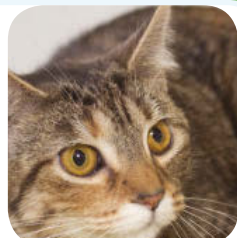
To adopt one of these pets from the Ingham County Animal Shelter, call (517) 676-8370.

600 Curtis St., Mason, MI 48854.

www.ingham.org/ac/home.htm

Gumi

Gumi was part of a litter of kittens that came to ICAC. Now she has grown up and is ready for her forever home.



In Memory of Whitey

Captain

He's blind so he'll need a special family who can help him as he adjusts. Don't let his blindness keep you from considering this big, sweet guy!



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Riley

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Franny

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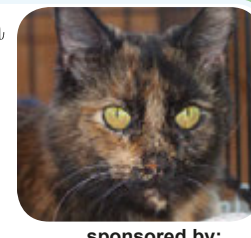


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Cats are free!
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Has raised four kittens of her own, who have already found homes. She is a little shy at first, but gradually warms up to you.



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Lansing
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517.882.1611
5206 W. Saginaw Hwy.
517.323.6920

Charlotte
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Bentley

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Now!! Adopt a pet on this page and Soldan's will thank you with a \$10 gift certificate. Contact (517) 999-5061 after you adopt.

City Pulse Newsmakers



Hosted by
Berl Schwartz

**City
PULSE**
NEWSMAKERS



This week's guest:
Mark Grebner
Ingham County Drain
Commissioner candidate

Comcast Channel 16 | Lansing

11 & 11:30 a.m.
Sunday, May 12
(Part II)

Comcast Channel 30 | Meridian

11:30 a.m. & 11:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 12
(Part II)

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

Watch past episodes at
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4
TEAMS

3
GAMES

2
DIVISION CHAMPIONS

1
GRAND CHAMPION



QUIZBUSTERS Championship Series!

Wednesday, May 9

Green Division Final
Lansing Everett/Okemos
8 p.m.



White Division Final
Kent City/Jackson Christian
8:30 p.m.

Grand Championship
Green/White Division Winners
9 p.m.



*Production of QuizBusters is underwritten
in part by Consumers Energy and the
Michigan Education Association.*

*Special thanks to Michigan State University
and Student Book Store for providing prizes
to Division and Grand Championship winners.*



Find "QuizBusters" on Facebook!

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | College of Communication
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WKAR.org

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

1.) Write a letter to the editor:

• E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
 • Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave.,
 Lansing, MI 48912
 • Fax: (517) 371-5800

2.) Write a guest column:

Contact Berl Schwartz for more
 information:
publisher@lansingcitypulse.com
 or (517) 999-5061

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, June 4, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI for the purpose of considering an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to Amend Section 1020.06 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances by extending its effectiveness beyond July 30, 2012 and requiring compliance within 16 hours of receipt of notice. For more information please call 483-4177.

Interested Persons are invited to attend this Public Hearing

CHRIS SWOPE, LANSING CITY CLERK

RFQP/12/092 – WAVERLY ROAD NETWORK PROJECT 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 **May 31, 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: Mitch Whisler at (517) 483-4249 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. 1270

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE VI, DIVISION 6 AT SECTIONS 50-794 – 50-795 OF CHAPTER 50 – ZONING – OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING TO AMEND THE PERMITTED LAND USES

Please take notice that Ordinance No. 1270 was adopted by the East Lansing City Council at a regular meeting of the Council held on May 1, 2012, and will become effective 7 days after the publication of the following summary of ordinance.

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 1270

A zoning ordinance which modifies the permitted uses in the East Village District, has been adopted by the legislative body of the City of East Lansing.

A true copy of Ordinance No. 1270 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

City of Lansing Notice of Public Hearing

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on May 14, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, Lansing, MI, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of Brownfield Plan #56 – Emergent BioSolutions pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, Public Act 381 of 1996, as amended, for property commonly referred to as 3500 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. located in the City of Lansing, but more particularly described as:

COM 124.94 FT W & 33 FT S OF NE COR SEC 5, TH S 33DEG 12MIN 59SCD W 315.33 FT, N 53DEG 08MIN 14SCD W 101.37 FT, W 47.55 FT, S 63.21 FT, W 73.91 FT, S 106.92 FT, SWLY 132.16 FT ALONG 223.46 FT RAD CURVE TO RT CHORD BEARING S22DEG 22MIN 16SCD W 130.25 FT, S 59DEG 26MIN 51SCD W 14.65 FT, S 77DEG 08MIN 54SCD W 92.93 FT, S 88DEG 34MIN 58SCD W 131.49 FT, S 01DEG 57MIN 43SCD E 41.46 FT, S 88DEG 02MIN 17SCD W 153.47 FT, S 01DEG 57MIN 43SCD E 132 FT, S 88DEG 02MIN 17SCD W 351.61 FT TO E R/W LINE M-174, N 716.63 FT, E 1155.21 FT TO BEG; SEC 5 T4N R2W.

Approval of this Brownfield Plan will enable the Lansing Brownfield Redevelopment Authority to capture incremental tax increases which result from the redevelopment of the property to pay for costs associated therewith. Further information regarding this issue, including maps, plats, and a description of the brownfield plan will be available for public inspection and may be obtained from Karl Dorshimer – President and CEO, Economic Development Corporation of the City of Lansing, 401 N. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing, MI 48933, (517) 483-4140.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk

CityPULSE

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Editor & Publisher

Berl Schwartz



7 p.m. Wednesdays

This week

Mark Grebner, candidate for Ingham County
 Drain Commissioner, part II

Bob Baldori of "Boogie Stomp"



Advertising inquiries: (517) 999-5061
Classified ad inquiries: (517) 999-5066
or email citypulse@lansingcitypulse.com

Editor and Publisher

Berl Schwartz
publisher@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5061

Arts & Culture Editor

James Sanford
james@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5068

On the Town Editor

Jessica Checkeroski
jessica@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5069

Staff Writers

Lawrence Cosentino
lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com

Andy Balaskovitz
andy@lansingcitypulse.com

Production Manager

Rachel Harper
adcopy@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5066

Social Media Consultant

Julie Powers
julie@lansingcitypulse.com • Twitter: @JPowers155

Advertising

Shelly Olson
shelly@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 643-1703

Holly Ekwejunor-Etchie
holly@lansingcitypulse.com • (309) 714-0383

Contributors: Brian Bienkowski, Justin Bilicki, Bill Castanier,

Mary C. Cusack, Jeff Hammer, Tom Helma, Christopher Horb, Sam
 Inglot Terry Link, Kyle Melinn, Adam Molner, Dennis Preston, Allan I.

Ross, Joe Torok, Rich Túpica, Susan Woods, Paul Wozniak, Amanda
 Harrell-Seyburn, Ute Von Der Heyden, Judy Winter

Interns: Tony Alan, Allison M. Berryman, Alyssa Firth, Adam

Ilenich, Genna Musial

Delivery drivers: Abdulmahdi Al-Rabiah, Dave Fisher, Karen

Navarra, Noelle Navarra, Brent Robison, Steve Stevens

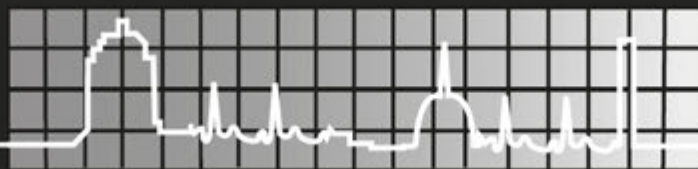
COVER ART



PROJECT PULSAR by RACHEL HARPER



PULSE



news & opinion

Romney tries latest reinvention in Lansing

Last time we saw Mitt Romney, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee was hightailing out of Novi, having narrowly escaped what would have been an embarrassing primary election beating at the hands of Rick (who?) Santorum.

Romney was smarting from the clubbing Santorum and President Barack Obama gave him over his "Let Detroit Go Bankrupt" opinion from The New York Times. A NBC News/Marist poll had him down 18 percentage points to Obama.

But as is the case in politics and just about everything, time heals everything. Romney was down only four points in Michigan as of last

month. He's bound and determined not to have his bail-out blunder bite him in the butt six months from now.

And if there's anybody in politics who has no shame in massaging his views, it's Romney.

On Tuesday, he returned to test out a new theme. Instead of being Mitt Romney The Guy Who Didn't Want The Government To Bail Out General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, he pitched himself as Mitt Romney The Guy Who Wants To Save Manufacturing/Middle Class Through Oft-Tried Republican Tax Cut/Less Regulation Philosophy.

Making Romney's case was Gov. Rick Snyder, the guy who knows a thing or two about cutting business taxes, government spending and government regulations. The economy is improving in Michigan, finally, isn't it? (Michigan's turnaround started as Jennifer Granholm was leaving office, but surely that \$1.8 billion business tax cut and the dumping of dozens of state regulations couldn't have hurt, right? . . .)

Romney's trial balloon comes at the right time in the right place. We're in early May. Romney sewed up the nomination a month ago. The General Election fun and festivities will start in earnest this summer.

Why not see if a narrative change works in Michigan? If the media and the public don't buy it, he can try something else later.

Is there a better place to do it than

Lansing, a manufacturing town forced to bury its Oldsmobile brand due in part to a poor economy?

Probably not. Lansing is in the middle of the state, an easy travel day for Detroit and Grand Rapids media. Also, Lansing is small enough that if he doesn't have a chance to make it back, nobody will really notice.

Romney can talk about his East Lansing roots (which he did) while being big enough to admit that he doesn't remember much about his time here (since he was so young).

If neither he nor his campaign can change the narrative here in Michigan, oh well. It's not exactly lethal.

The truth is Romney can defeat Obama without Michigan. Real Clear Politics has Romney significantly ahead or at least marginally ahead in 21 states with a combined 170 electoral votes. Obama is at a projected 253 (with Michigan included) with 270 needed to win the presidency.

Romney needs to win Florida. He probably needs to win Ohio, Colorado, Missouri, Virginia and Arizona. He'd like to win his home state. Winning Michigan's 16 electoral votes gives him more options to the White House.

But home state or no, Romney has an uphill battle here. Michigan hasn't gone for a Republican since George H.W. Bush in 1988.

It's making some Republican faithful a bit nervous. Romney's campaign let go of its Michigan-based staff, including his Michigan campaign director, shortly after the Feb. 28 primary. Its campaign office in Southeast Michigan was shut down, the campaign's resources moved to other states during the dizzying primary season.

While the Michigan Republican Party and the Romney campaign insist that a new Romney presence is coming, nobody will say when. The party has six volunteer "victory centers" up and running with 20 more to be rolled



Sam Inglot/City Pulse

Presumptive Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney speaks to a crowd of about 500 at Lansing Community College's Dart Auditorium Tuesday.

out in the next couple of months.

The Romney campaign will re-open a Michigan office at some point, but who will staff it? Folks from Michigan? Or will the national campaign parachute in its own people under the reasoning that the Michigan team damn near blew it for Romney in February and can't be trusted in the General?

And at what point will Romney's presence be seen? As of last month, Obama had nine offices open and about 30 paid staff in Michigan alone. Obviously, offices don't vote, but their staffers are out rounding up bunches of people who will.

These offices can't be underestimated from a morale standpoint, either. Remember in 2008 when John McCain packed up and left in October? The roof caved in on Republican candidates from coast to coast.

Congressional seats, county commission seats and everything else in between seemed to be going blue back then. Republicans won everything in 2010 and can't afford 2008 all over again.

Will Michigan give Romney a second chance? Either way, Lansing had the first chance to answer that question.

(Kyle Melinn is the editor of the MIRS Newsletter. He can be reached at melinn@lansingcitypulse.com.)



Property: Gunn School House, 2009 S. Washington Road, Delhi Township
Owner: Holt Public Schools
Assessed value: \$0

Ever followed Washington Avenue south — way south, past Holmes and Jolly roads, past the point where it transitions to a road south of I-96? You should.

At the terminus of Washington at Holt Road stands this fine example of an early Ingham County one-room schoolhouse. Its character-defining features include the arched double-hung windows, gable roof, center entry and cupola. Decorated with an Ingham County Historical Marker, this red brick and wood shingle structure was built in 1886. It replaced a structure of more humble construction: a log school.

Take a trip to Delhi Township, step back in time at the one-room schoolhouse and then visit Holt High School just down the road. Marvel at how far and fast educational facilities have transitioned in less than 60 years.

— 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.

HORIZEN HYDROPONICS

Grow Fast Go Fast Car Show

Sunday May 20th
Noon-5pm

Garden Workshops

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

Organic Veggie Plants for Sale

Car Show

5 Prizes Awarded for:

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

\$10 Registration
7:30 donated to local food bank
Starting at 11:00AM

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

TIM BARRON

EVERY WEEKDAY MORNING
6 AM-9 AM

ON AIR

WLMI 92.9

City Pulse's James Sanford
talks entertainment news
every Friday around 7:50 am

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

Saturday, June 2nd

The BAMA

GHILLI

Cook-Off

Rockin' to the 80's

Lansing's Adado Riverfront Park

4pm-9pm

Tickets at lbwl.com

DEAL OF THE WEEK

USE BONUS CODE: **MTHR13**

SAVE 50%

► **ON MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS**
on savelansing.com

Renewed Spirit
Conveniently located in the heart of downtown Okemos, Renewed Spirit is dedicated to helping clients look and feel their best. The trendy and stylish salon has calming atmosphere that allows clients to escape from their daily responsibilities.

My Sista's Boutique
Find upscale accessories & classy elegant clothing with specialized sizes, all at at below department store prices. Most items from suits, dresses, separates, wraps, hats, handbags, undergarments are made locally or in the U.S.A.

Holt Hair & Nails Salon
Give the total salon experience. Make your mom feel pampered with a manicure or a pedicure. At Holt Hair & Nails Salon she'll be treated to expert stylists, who can customize a flattering cut to fit her lifestyle.

Kellie's Consignments
For the mom who loves to shop. Kellie's Consignments is loaded with only the best, top-quality merchandise from consignors as far away as Texas. Mixing top-quality consignments with merchandise from store liquidations, & jewelry & fashion suppliers.

SAVE! Lansing

You must sign up & purchase our stupendous deals online only at:
SaveLansing.com

Rallying for (and against) Romney

The most exciting part of Mitt Romney's speech Tuesday at Lansing Community College was the end

Outside of Lansing Community College's Dart Auditorium Tuesday, about 15 Mitt Romney supporters were cheering and waving signs as southbound vehicles passed them on North Capitol Avenue.

Enthusiastically awaiting his arrival hours before the event, in the shadow of a Romney campaign bus, the small group brandished American flags and signs bearing the GOP presidential candidate's name. When a car honked its horn in support, the group responded back with hoots and hollers.

"Who doesn't enjoy getting a horn honked at them?" asked Mike Wilson with a laugh. Wilson traveled about 60 miles from Grand Blanc to see Romney speak.

He believes the big issue in this year's election is going to be the economy and, in his opinion, Romney has the qualifications to improve it. Wilson joined the street side group to "drum up support" and encourage "enthusiasm."

"For the last three years, Obama has had no ideas on how to fix the economy, and I think it's gone beyond his depth," he said. "I don't think Obama has any malicious or secret intentions, but hope and change are not good government strategies."

Wilson's views on President Obama were quite reserved compared to some of the other statements and claims made before and after the event. One group of women talked about how they should be able to claim undocumented immigrants and welfare recipients as dependents on their taxes because they "pay for them."

There were mentions of how Obama has been "bought" and is "controlled" by "union bosses."

Inside the auditorium, an older gentleman before the speech made a point to mention off-the-cuff that Barack Obama started his 2012 campaign right around the day that Vladimir Lenin, the Marxist revolutionary, was born.

The apparel was more glaring. One t-shirt for sale featured a picture of Obama wearing a turban and being crossed out by a red line with the words, "VOTE LIKE YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT." Another, with a dumb-founded looking donkey inside a red circle with a line through it, proclaims: "DUMP THE DONKEY! VOTE LIKE YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT."

It's only at political gatherings like this that you can see such energetic vibes of patriotism — like the old woman dancing, waving American flags like a high school cheerleader — and also experience divisive rhetoric.

Close to the noon hour, when Romney was scheduled to speak, hundreds of supporters lined up before the metal detectors, waiting for their turn to get inside.

The speech itself, kicked off by Gov. Rick



Jessica Checkerski/City Pulse

A Mitt Romney supporter outside of the Dart Auditorium on Lansing Community College's downtown campus Tuesday. Romney spoke to about 500 people.

Snyder, was what you would have expected. In attendance were state representatives and senators along with Romney's family and friends. The auditorium was packed, standing room only, with all 480 seats filled.

Romney spoke to the problems presented by "Obamacare," "union bosses," "big government" and outlined his solutions — which usually involved "more freedom."

After the speech ended and the rhetoric had run dry, the sea of Romney supporters were greeted with a large black banner that read, "Mitt Romney said: 'Let Detroit go bankrupt.'"

Holding the sign across the street from the auditorium were members of UAW Local 602, community activists, teachers and retirees.

The sign and their presence was to remind people of what Romney stands for and to highlight the success of the recovering auto industry by Obama, said Mike Huerta, benefit representative for UAW Local 602.

The sign and its bearers across the street drew harsh criticism from their counterparts across the aisle. A few people actually cheered that they wanted to see Detroit go bankrupt, laughing while they did it.

"You guys are where all my taxes go!" yelled one man leaving the event, calling the banner holders bullies and parasites.

A young woman holding the banner replied: "This is fact! Not opinion!"

— Sam Inglot

Penny pinching

City Councilwoman Jody Washington promises to continue her no-votes on spending office-holder account funds, citing tough economic times.

Using City Council expense accounts for sponsorships, events and advertising is a fairly regular business item on Council agendas. It's also fairly regular that the resolutions pass unanimously.

But 1st Ward Councilwoman Jody Washington is changing that. Washington vows to "always vote no" whenever Council funding for local events, advertisements and the like come up — even in cases where the funding would cost less than \$13 per member to sponsor.

"We don't have a lot of money right now," she said, referring to city operations. "I know it's only a drop in the bucket. It's perception as much as anything else. I'm supportive of all of those organizations, but we really need to tighten our belts. We're in a budget shortfall."

This fiscal year, the Council took a \$14,000 cut in such spending. Third Ward Councilwoman A'Lynne Robinson, who was Council president last budget cycle, has cited "budget constraints" as the reason for doing so.

Washington said she'd "just as soon turn it into the General Fund at the end of the year." Technically, that's the only time a Council member could do it, Lansing Internal Auditor Arnie Yerxa said. While Council members can't move their expense account funds to, say, help other areas of the budget, any of the unused money reverts to the General Fund at the end of the year. He said Council members could use the money for other purposes, too, such as helping run their Council office operations or hosting meetings.

Washington said she hasn't "seen any

reason yet" for using the money. "I think it's fine if the rest of them use it," she said of her Council colleagues.

At the end of the Council's April 23 meeting, Washington requested to amend a resolution approved earlier in the night for a \$100 advertisement in an event booklet for the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club. All members would have paid \$12.50 each from the expenditure accounts, but the amended resolution (after Washington withdrew her support) had the seven members besides Washington pay a little more than \$14 each. The week before, a similar situation happened when Washington was against placing a \$100 ad in the 30th Anniversary Souvenir Journal of Jack & Jill of America, Inc.

The latest instance happened Monday night, when a resolution to support the Rhama Word House's May 4 "A Night of Love — Giving from the Heart" event died in Committee of the Whole. The resolution needed five votes to make it before the full Council. It failed 4-1, with Washington voting against. Council members Carol Wood, Brian Jeffries, Tina Houghton and Jessica Yorko supported it. Robinson said she was out in the hall on the phone with a constituent during the vote.

The Rhama Word House is a transitional home for women coming out of prison, jail or treatment facilities and helps integrate them back into society.

"I think we are fulfilling our purpose," Robinson said, when Council gives to local events and groups and couldn't think of a time in her four-plus years on Council when she opposed a particular cause.

"Unfortunately the one that was just killed, I felt horrible about. That is a program a woman has sunk her life into," Robinson said.

But the Rhama Word House's event may still get Council support to offset the costs of putting it on, even after it happened. It'll be reconsidered at its next meeting, Robinson said: "I am going to personally bring that back."

— Andy Balaskovitz

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on Tuesday, June 5, 2012, at 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, to consider the following:

A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Chuck Raad for Special Use Permit approval for the property at 1050 Trowbridge Road. The proposed application would allow for alcohol sales under a Class C liquor license at the existing Woody's Oasis restaurant. The property is zoned B-2, Retail Sales Business District.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable accommodations, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at this meeting, upon notice to the City of East Lansing, prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations or services should write or call the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 319-6920, TDD 1-800-649-3777.

Marie E. McKenna
City Clerk

Key demographic

Early results: LSJ is keeping senior citizen subscribers

Ever since he got out of the Army in 1946, Dillard Garrison has read a daily newspaper from cover to cover. Sometimes it was the Lansing State Journal, sometimes it was the Detroit Free Press, it didn't matter — it was just part of his everyday routine. Five years ago, the 89-year-old moved to Friendship Manor, a retirement community next to Frandor, where the routine continues, albeit in a somewhat altered format. "We have a ritual," says Garrison. "I bring the paper down and we all check the obituaries to see if we're in there."

Garrison gathers with his friends and fellow residents every morning at 8 a.m. to share the LSJ, which he subscribes to, drink coffee, and talk about "important stuff." Over the years he's seen the paper steadily shrink and his delivery person go from being a 12-year-old on a bike every afternoon to someone behind the wheel of a car flinging his paper at his door at 4 a.m.

But the latest changes are going to affect him more than just nostalgically.

"My rate just went up," says Garrison. "It's still less than \$1 a day, which I don't really mind because I enjoy the paper, but I don't think I'll pay much more than that. It's hard to imagine my day without a newspaper in front of me. It's getting expensive, though."

Garrison is part of an important demographic for newspapers: readers over 55, who make up 31 percent of Michigan

newspaper readers, according to a five-year-old study by American Opinion Research. The older they are, the more likely they are to be on fixed incomes, like Garrison — and the more likely they are to cancel the Lansing State Journal after its recent price increases.

LSJ home delivery rates for Wednesday through Sunday increased over 30 percent on May 1 for those who pay automatically, from about \$13 to \$17 a month. Seven-day home delivery rates are now \$23 a month, a 40 percent increase. For \$12 a month, however, you can skip the physical paper altogether and have full access to the digital stories. These rate hikes include full access to the paper's website, which now has a paywall that will keep non-subscribers from reading online content for free.

(Subscribers who refuse to pay the increase are likely to get a three-month extension of current rates while they try out digital versions.)

The Journal is justifying the rate increase by giving subscribers the "privilege" of access to the website at no additional cost, as publisher Brian Priester put it in a letter last month to home-delivery customers.

How are seniors taking the news?

Not too badly, judging from reaction at Friendship Manor and at Independence Village in East Lansing. Of 10 residents, none plan to cancel — although five share a subscription, so the impact is less.

Still, they say they doubt they'll use the digital version that the extra cost is supposedly paying for.

"I don't consider sitting at my computer and reading something online the same thing at all," says Grace French, 80, a retired schoolteacher and resident at

Independence Village in East Lansing. "There's no room for my coffee cup. I will never read the news off a computer screen." Like Garrison, French also subscribes to the LSJ and reads it nearly front-to-back every day. She has a desktop computer, but says if she had to get her news from something other than a paper she'd just listen to the radio. However, she notably keeps clippings of her friends' obituaries close at hand, and

picks one up from an adjacent table when the subject comes up. "I like to keep them for awhile and re-read them from time to time," she says, unconsciously stroking it as she talks. "It makes me feel good to have them close by."

The LSJ, a subsidiary of national media chain Gannett, isn't the only newspaper to try to get its readers to pay for online content. Since the first paywall was implemented by The Wall Street Journal at the dawn of the Internet boom in the late 90s, hundreds of daily newspapers have erected paywalls. Recent media industry research predicts that by the end of 2012, a quarter of all printed publications will have either "hard" or "soft" paywalls in effect. The rationale is that readers should pay for content regardless of how they get it. But Garrison is apparently willing to pay for online content that he will never access — a testament to the newspaper habit. That



Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

Grace French reads the Lansing State Journal front-to-back every day. She doesn't plan to cancel her subscription after the LSJ recently announced rate increases. Here, she's reading an obituary: "I will never read the news off a computer screen," she said.

argument only works, however, for the majority who actually use the Internet. As for the rest?

"When my wife died, I gave our computer away," says Garrison. "I don't have a computer and I don't want one. To me, it's just another thing."

Some of the others in Garrison's coffee club admit to using computers, but mostly for emailing purposes, not to read the news. Asked if she'd ever consider reading her news on the computer, 80-year-old Friendship Manor resident Joyce Lintemuth blurted out, "Heck no! I'll just watch what's on TV and forget it."

Garrison's daily copy of the LSJ brought them together, but it's hardly their binding force.

"The newspaper has nothing to do with this," quips Garrison. "It's the free coffee."

— Allan I. Ross

Housing progress

New MSU housing options taking effect in the fall means more equality for LGBT students

After years of student advocacy, Michigan State University joins the ranks of other campuses around the state and country that offer gender-neutral housing options.

With the implementation of "flexible" housing options starting in the fall, students can live with anyone in certain dorms on campus regardless of gender. West McDonel Hall on the east side of campus and North Wonders Hall on the west side will offer one floor each of flexible housing, equating to 40 possible spots.

The move is "certainly nothing new at other universities," said Kathy Collins, director of Campus Living Services and Residence Life at MSU. She said pro-

spective sophomores could apply for the spots for the upcoming fall semester.

The choice of halls was based on the suite-style rooms with private bathrooms, she said. There will be a follow-up study to gauge student satisfaction and need level.

The change is a sign of progress for lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual students, advocates say, because it allows students — regardless of how they identify their gender — to live together.

"It's not a political statement," said Deanna Hurlbert, assistant director of the MSU Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Resource Center. "It's a sign of the changing times."

The move by the university is a sign of "progress," Hurlbert said. For years men and women have been living together in off campus houses, co-ops and apartments — it just took time for "campus to catch up."

Hurlbert said the change is a welcome one because when it comes down to it, "It's about people living with the people they're most comfortable with."

GVSU beat MSU to the punch — and hit harder.

This past fall the university made gender-neutral housing available throughout their 11 suite-style dormitories, said Collette Seguin Beighley, director of the GVSU LGBT Resource Center.

"Initially we thought that only a few students would take advantage, but there has been a great response and the numbers keep going up," she said. "It was not on the (administration's) radar, but students made the need evident."

Student activism was the key factor in getting the MSU administration on board as well.

Even though he graduated from MSU in 2011, Nick Pfof feels "beyond excited" about the policy adoption.

Pfof was a student leader with the Alliance of Queer & Ally Students and said he wasn't expecting a victory like this so soon.

"In the wake of the decision I'm feeling so proud to be part of this community," Pfof said. "Other schools have had difficulty in implementing these kinds of policies. The way we set things up, we were mentally prepared for a long battle."

The "low rumblings" of conversation about gender-neutral housing began in

2009, Pfof said. Then in the summer of 2010, the "visible push" began. Student LGBT, government and housing groups worked together over the years to create informational sessions for students and administrators as well as researching policies at other colleges to see what worked.

Pfof said overall the MSU administration was "supportive" from the beginning.

LGBT students will now have housing options that will provide them with more comfortable living environments, but Pfof, Hurlbert and Beighley all agreed the positive impacts go beyond the LGBT community and will make life easier for any student who is interested — be it best friends or brothers and sisters.

In fact, Collins said the first inquiry into gender-neutral housing was a mother wondering if her son and daughter could live together — and there have been numerous applications since.

— Sam Inglot





From left, Quenton Pannell, Martin Kasprzak, Zurich Dawson, Lucas Holliday and Daniel Shafer strutted their stuff in Riverwalk Theatre's production of "Smokey Joe's Café," which is nominated in the best musical, musical ensemble, choreography and musical direction categories in this year's Pulsar Awards.

KEY

LCC

Lansing Community College

MSU

Michigan State University

PC

Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

RW

Riverwalk Theatre

SDT

Starlight Dinner Theatre

ST

Stormfield Theatre

WT

Williamston Theatre

And the **nominees** are...

They've done it again. The City Pulse's tireless sextet of Pulsar Awards judges — Erin Buitendorp, Mary Cusack, Tom and Kathy Helma, Paul Wozniak and Ute Von Der Heyden — have turned in their final ballots, the results have been tabulated and we have a list of nominees, plus a brief explanation of the Pulsar nomination process.

Play

"At Home at the Zoo" (RW)

"Blackbird" (PC)

"Dead Man's Shoes" (WT)

"The Lady With All the Answers" (ST)

"A Streetcar Named Desire" (MSU)

Musical

"The Boy in the Bathroom" (PC)

"The Fantasticks" (MSU Summer Circle)

"Legally Blonde" (MSU)

"Smokey Joe's Café" (RW)

"The Usual" (WT)

Director/Play

Addiann Hinds, "At Home at the Zoo" (RW)

Lela Ivey, "Blackbird" (PC)

Rob Roznowski, "A Streetcar Named Desire" (MSU)

Kristine Thatcher, "The Lady With All the Answers" (ST)

David Wolber, "Dead Man's Shoes" (WT)

Director/Musical

Chad Badgero, "The Boy in the Bathroom" (PC)

Tony Caselli, "The Usual" (WT)

Jeff Croff, "Annie" (RW)

Hope Rollins and Diane Spicer, "Smokey Joe's Café" (RW)

Rob Roznowski, "Legally Blonde" (MSU)

Lead Actor/Play

Doak Bloss, "Blackbird" (PC)

Eric Dawe, "At Home at the Zoo" (RW)

Aral Gribble, "Dead Man's Shoes" (WT)

Curran Jacobs, "A Streetcar Named Desire" (MSU)

Allan I. Ross, "The Pride" (PC)

Lead Actor/Musical

Ben Cassidy, "The Boy in the Bathroom" (PC)

Wes Haskell, "Legally Blonde" (MSU)

Christopher Robinson, "Legally Blonde" (MSU)

See Nominations, page 10

How do you qualify?

The shows that qualified for this year's Pulsars opened between May 1 of last year and April 30 of this year. Productions that opened after May 1 of this year are eligible for next year's Pulsars. In order to qualify for a Pulsar, a show must be seen and scored by at least three of the six judges. Approximately 50 productions — from Stormfield Theatre, Starlight Dinner Theatre, Lansing Civic Players Guild, Peppermint Creek Theatre Co., Riverwalk Theatre, Williamston Theatre, Over the Ledge Theatre, Holt-Dimondale Community Players and the theater departments of Lansing Community College and Michigan State University — were considered for this year's race. The first show of the 2011-2012 Pulsars season was Starlight Dinner Theatre's "The Hallelujah Girls"; the last to qualify was Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.'s "Ruined."



Courtesy Photo

Wes Haskell and Erika Moul starred in Michigan State University's "Legally Blonde." Haskell is nominated as lead actor in a musical; Moul is nominated as lead actress in a musical. The show earned 14 Pulsar nominations overall.

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Nominations

from page 9

Lead Actress/Play

Marianne Chan, "The Gingerbread House" (LCC)
Leslie Hull, "Mother Courage" (MSU)
Gini Larson, "Becky's New Car" (RW)
Chelsea Lucas, "Ruined" (PC)
Christina Traister, "A Streetcar Named Desire" (MSU)

Lead Actress/Musical

Emily McKay, "The Boy in the Bathroom" (PC)
Erika Moul, "Legally Blonde" (MSU)
Brianna Rucinski, "Annie" (RW)

Supporting Actor/Play

Mark Gmazel, "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead" (RW)
Wes Haskell, "Mother Courage" (MSU)
Paul Hopper, "Dead Man's Shoes" (WT)
Edward O'Ryan, "The Gingerbread House" (LCC)
Joe Quick, "Terra Nova" (RW)

Supporting Actor/Musical

Landon Duyka, "Legally Blonde" (MSU)
Joe Quick, "Annie" (RW)

Supporting Actress/Play

Angela Dill, "Let's Murder Marsha" (SDT)
Lela Ivey, "Next Fall" (PC)
Caitlyn Knisely, "The Cripple of Inishmaan" (MSU)
Maggie Meyer, "Dead Man's Shoes" (WT)
Amy Rickett, "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" (LCC)

Supporting Actress/Musical

Angela Dill, "Annie" (RW)
Trish Amanda Hubbard, "Legally Blonde" (MSU)

Featured Actor/Play

Ken Beachler, "The Shrike" (LCC)
Jeremiah Hawkins, "Ruined" (PC)
Melvin Lane, "Ruined" (PC)

Featured Actor/Musical

Andrew Bailiff, "Keep On the Sunny Side" (LCC Summer Stage Under the Stars)
Scott Long, "Legally Blonde" (MSU)

Featured Actress/Play

Molly Epstein, "The Gingerbread House" (LCC)
Leslie Hull, "A Streetcar Named Desire" (MSU)
Jane Zussman, "Becky's New Car" (RW)

Featured Actress/Musical

Claudia Dibbs, "Legally Blonde" (MSU)
Veronica Diebold, "Annie" (RW)

Ensemble/Play

"Eleemosynary" (WT)
"Gemini" (MSU Summer Circle)
"God of Carnage" (PC)
"Heroes" (ST)
"Two 9/11 Plays" (MSU)

Ensemble/Musical

"The Fantasticks" (MSU Summer Circle)
"Smokey Joe's Café" (RW)
"The Usual" (WT)

Costumes

Eric Franzen, "The Beaux Stratagem" (MSU)
Mary K. Hodges-Nees and Patti Campbell, "Conspiracy" (RW)
Holly Iler, "The Lady With All the Answers" (ST)
April Townsend, "Legally Blonde" (MSU)
Priya Rane, "A Streetcar Named Desire" (MSU)

Lighting

Tim Fox, "Heroes" (ST)
Tim Fox, "The Lady With All the Answers" (ST)
Matt Reynolds, "Legally Blonde" (MSU)
G. Max Maxin IV, "A Streetcar Named Desire" (MSU)
Katie Sprow, "Two 9/11 Plays" (MSU)

Makeup

Cheryl Smith and Heidi Greyerbiechl, "Metamorphoses" (LCC Summer Stage Under the Stars)
Zachara Wollenberg, "A Streetcar Named Desire" (MSU)
Susie Perazza, "Terra Nova" (RW)

Nominations

from page 10



Properties

Patricia A. York, "The Lady With All the Answers" (ST)
Bruce Bennett, "Romantic Fools" (ST)
Rob Roznowski and Kira Tait, "A Streetcar Named Desire" (MSU)
Roger Nowland, "Terra Nova" (RW)
Lynn Lammers, "The Usual" (WT)



Set Design

Kirk Domer, "Dead Man's Shoes" (WT)
Michelle Raymond, "The Lady With All the Answers" (ST)
G. Max Maxin IV, "Legally Blonde" (MSU)
Fred Engलगau, "The Shrike" (LCC)
Rob Roznowski, "A Streetcar Named Desire" (MSU)



Sound

Will Myers, "And the Creek Don't Rise" (WT)
Will Myers, "Dead Man's Shoes" (WT)
Sergei Kvitko, "The Lady With All the Answers" (ST)
Matt Ottinger, "Terra Nova" (RW)
THR 216 Students, "Two 9/11 Plays" (MSU)



Musical Direction

Jen Sygit, "Keep on the Sunny Side" (LCC Summer Stage Under the Stars)
R. MacKenzie Lewis, "Legally Blonde" (MSU)
John Dale Smith and Algie Watkins, "Smokey Joe's Café" (RW)
Jeff English, "The Usual" (WT)



Choreographer

Brittane Rowe, "The Fantasticks" (MSU)
Dionte Brown, Travis Staton-Marrero and April Townsend, "Legally Blonde" (MSU)
Tonya Hardy, Monique Harvey, Janice Rogers and Bonita Smith, "Smokey Joe's Café" (RW)
Dana Brazil, "The Usual" (WT)



Original Script

Joseph Zettelmaier, "And the Creek Don't Rise" (WT)
Joseph Zettelmaier, "Dead Man's Shoes" (WT)
Alan Gordon and Mark Sutton-Smith, "The Usual" (WT)



Courtesy Photo

Lead actor in a play nominee Aral Gribble, left, starred with Drew Parker in Williamston Theatre's Western comedy-drama "Dead Man's Shoes." It was written by Joseph Zettelmaier, who is nominated for his original script.

Who is eligible?

The Pulsar judges attend community theater, professional theater and college theater productions in the Lansing area. They do not evaluate children's theater, high school theater, staged readings, gala presentations, student showcases or workshop shows. Special awards are sometimes given to outstanding plays that would not otherwise qualify for the Pulsars, such as pieces performed at the Renegade Theatre Festival.

Why are there more nominees in some categories than in others?

In most categories, there are five nominees. In some, there are fewer, which may be due to a lack of qualified candidates. For example, most of the musicals produced this season were judged as ensemble pieces, which means they were not evaluated for individual performances. Only a handful of shows had original scripts — world-premiere works that were not based on previously produced or published material — so that field was also limited.

When will the winners be announced?

The Pulsars will be presented beginning at 6 p.m. on June 11 at Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive in Lansing.

The event is free.

For details, visit tinyurl.com/PulsarAwards2012.



Breakdown of nominations

by theater company

Lansing Community College — 9 nominations
Michigan State University — 34 nominations
Peppermint Creek Theatre Co. — 13 nominations
Riverwalk Theatre — 21 nominations
Starlight Dinner Theatre — 1 nomination
Stormfield Theatre — 10 nominations
Williamston Theatre — 18 nominations

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Arts & Culture

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Symphony meets storybook

Charlie Albright performs 'Fantasies & Fairy Tales'

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

At 23, pianist Charlie Albright is getting rave reviews, piling up awards and playing all over the map, but he's not losing his head over it. While studying music at Harvard, the soloist for the Lansing Symphony's season closer Thursday piled on two more degrees, in economics and pre-med.

"If I don't have something to fall back on, I could end up living under a bridge," he said. "My family doesn't have any kind of a trust fund. I have to be practical."

With any luck, the 2010 Gilmore Young Artist won't have to pack a stethoscope anytime soon. With his career still in its rosy dawn, Albright has combined dexterity, depth and dramatic insight to forge a strong, original style.

When Albright made his New York Debut at Merkin Concert Hall a year ago, Vivien Schweitzer of The New York Times enthused over his "jaw-dropping technique" and "soulful introspection." Critics in other cit-

ies have also rhapsodized similarly.

Albright will team up with maestro Timothy Muffitt and the LSO Thursday for the arch-romantic Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini of Sergei Rachmaninoff.

The Rhapsody's famous theme and heart-tugging variations will be the perfect showcase for the many moods of Charlie.

"Instead of three movements, this one has 20-something, so you can change every few minutes," he said. "It's one of those pieces where you can really let loose, because the notes aren't really that important. Everyone knows what the theme is, so the notes become

Courtesy Photo

Pianist Charlie Albright, 23, was selected as a Gilmore Young Artist in 2010.



See
Fantasies,
Page 13

'American Life' comes alive

You'll get to see what you've been missing when Ira Glass' popular radio series makes its way to theaters Thursday

By TRACY KEY

On Thursday night, over 500 movie theaters in the United States and Canada will be showing more than just current Hollywood hits. "This American Life," the most popular podcast in the country, will perform an episode of its show live on stage in New York City, bursting onto the big screen via satellite to give viewers what host and executive producer Ira Glass describes as a "multimedia adventure."

"It's either going to be the most amazing thing we have ever put on as a program, or it's going to be a complete train wreck, and there is no middle ground," Glass explained, with a laugh during a telephone conference.

"This American Life Live — You Can't Do That on Radio" will be jam-packed with acts, videos and other material that would be impossible to present in a podcast, including a new short film by Mike Birbiglia, original

works by Disney animators, stories by David Sedaris, David Rakoff and Glass, a live and interactive performance by the popular band OK Go and a dance performance by Monica Bill Barnes & Company that captured Glass' imagination back in June 2011, and ultimately provided the inspiration for creating the live show.

"There was something about the way that they did their performance that reminded me of our radio show," he recalled. "The pieces seemed to be about moments of awkwardness and anxiety, and the

'This American Life Live — You Can't Do That On Radio'

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www.thisamericanlife.
org/cinema

See Life, Page 13



Courtesy Photo

"I don't know how to wave my arms around enough to say we're pulling out all the stops here, including stops we didn't even know existed," says "This American Life" host Ira Glass of the live-on-stage episode.

Fantasies

from page 12

less important than the feeling of each of the parts."

Albright isn't out to steamroller the listener, although his playing does leave some collateral dazzle. One of his favorite pieces to play is an obscure, deceptively simple sonata by Czech composer Leos Janacek, "From the Street." On his first CD, Albright plumbs this somber music, a memorial to a murdered college student, with the world-weariness of a man four times his age.

"It's emotionally draining," Albright said of the Janacek sonata. "It'll grow as I get older. I'm sure it'll be a lifelong piece."

Lansing Symphony Orchestra
Charlie Albright, piano

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Albright remains a down-to-Earth fan of "Family Guy," the Sims and Korean pop music, even as he plays in higher and higher circles. In 2008, Albright played with cellist Yo-Yo Ma at a Harvard Honorary Degree ceremony honoring Sen. Ted Kennedy.

Among the guests were Kennedy, Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer and then-Vice-President-Elect Joe Biden.

A few months ago, Albright gave a concert at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory on Long Island. At a dinner afterwards, he found himself sitting next to geneticist James Watson, co-discoverer of DNA. Watson has been getting into some hot water lately for comments on genetics, race, intelligence, libido and other hot-button topics. What did they discuss? Add "diplomat" to Albright's many talents. "Oh, we talked about anything and everything, just random stuff," he said.

It's heady company, but Albright is used

to it from his years at Harvard, where he was the first classical pianist to graduate from a joint program with the New England Conservatory of Music.

"Everyone there seems really passionate and amazing at something, whether it's math or biology or something else," he said. "They're all dedicated to their slice of life. You got to meet phenomenal people in every field, and that was humbling."

No wonder Albright took the pains to get the extra degrees. In his world, everybody is a hot shot.

"I've been very fortunate up to now, but once you reach a certain level, there are amazing people all over the place, spectacular pianists and musicians. The sad thing is, a lot of them don't even get to perform."

Albright appears in Lansing courtesy of the LSO's ties with Kalamazoo's inventive Gilmore Keyboard Festival, which draws to a close Saturday. This is the second year a Gilmore artist has soloed with the Lansing Symphony. It's a win-win-win: Lansing audiences get to hear a top young artist, the Gilmore Foundation pays the artist's fee, Gilmore artists get more gigs and the festival gets a promotional boost. The neatness of it all moved Muffitt to quote Robert Browning. "The stars really lined up for our relationship with the Gilmore," he said. "The hillside dew-pearled, all's right with the world."

This week, Muffitt has further reason to be pleased, if not smug. The maestro built an almost mathematical inevitability into Thursday's program. Take the refined French colors of Maurice Ravel, throw in the stormy Russian angst of Rachmaninoff, let intermission stand for the equal sign, and you get "Petrouchka," the evening (and season) closer.

In Muffitt's view, the splashy ballet suite by cosmopolitan Russian composer Igor Stravinsky is an amalgam of the French and Russian traditions: "It's full of Russian sounding folklore, Russian character and atmosphere, but it's the brilliance of his French background that really makes the music come to life."

time we did a live show it was completely for business reasons," he said. "We had a budget shortfall, and we thought, 'We have to make a little money, what's the way to do it?'"

"This time we don't need the money and no one was asking us to do it. We're doing it for the purest of reasons: It seemed like it would be really fun."

Although he did not want to spoil all of the surprises that are lined up, Glass did elaborate about the element of interactivity that will be involved with OK Go's performance. A custom downloadable application was created for the iPhone and Android that will allow audience members to play along during certain parts of the song — something that wasn't available for "Life's" previous live shows.

"We basically tried to invent things that you could never do on the radio," Glass said.

Life

from page 12

thought flashed into my head: 'This American Life's' audience would really be into this, they would really like this — it is just like our radio show.'

But since dance is a completely visual medium, there was no way it could work on radio. So Glass got the idea to put together another show live on stage.

"I don't know how to wave my arms around enough to say we're pulling out all the stops here, including stops we didn't even know existed," Glass said.

"This American Life" has produced two other live versions of their popular podcast (in 2008 and in 2009) but Glass insists that this performance is different, both in its inspiration and content. "Last



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Courtesy Photo

DJ Ruckus, a.k.a. Steve Swart, is one of the finalists in the Capital City DJ Olympics.

Scratching their way to the top

Tables keep turning at Capital City DJ Olympics

By RICH TUPICA

With the massive success of "American Idol" and "Dancing with the Stars," it's clear millions of Americans enjoy watching contestants fight it out for the top spot.

So Patrick Duke co-founded the Capital City DJ Olympics in June 2010, along with Marcus McKissic of BoxCar Managment. The champion DJ takes home a trophy, \$1,000 in gear provided by the Lansing Office of Community Media, a gig at Common Ground and other prizes.

"People want to see competition — it's billed as a competition, but it's actually an awareness movement. We're trying to res-

urrect the DJ," said Duke, who is getting set to host the Capital City DJ Olympics finals on Saturday at 621 The Spot in Lansing. Finalists include DJ Ruckus, Captain Eman, DJ Cha Chi and DJ Sizl.

Duke, who performs under the DJ Duke moniker, said DJs from across the state show up to compete. Each competitor is judged on four criteria: creativity, mixology, crowd control and "turntablism." The events are spread across months, with many preliminary events leading up to the finale.

"The bulk of our DJs are nightclub DJs. A lot of their stuff is electronic bass, Top 40 bass, house music bass, techno, hip-hop, drum and bass — it's a lot of high-energy stuff," Duke said. "But we're getting a lot of diverse DJs coming in, we have guys like DJ Ruckus, he's a great example."

"When Ruckus shows up to the DJ Olympics this guy is breaking out some obscure stuff," he added. "He probably does that because he knows the DJs will see he's doing off-the-beaten-path stuff. It's like art: You have more appreciation for artists who do things off the beaten path."

Steve "DJ Ruckus" Swart, a veteran Lansing-based DJ, said the competitions have encouraged DJs to hone their skills and branch out of their comfort zones.

"To some degree it raises the level of skill amongst DJs in this area," Swart said. "There isn't always a lot of incentive to keep learning and develop new skills, especially when most club-goers don't really appreciate it. This has created a strong incentive for DJs to take their craft seriously. It has also helped create a lot of camaraderie among local DJs."

So why did Duke decide to spotlight local nightclub DJs of all genres?

"Part of the problem with people not knowing or respecting the DJs right now is because the focus is not on them. Nobody knows who they are," he explained. "What we've been talking about for the past few years is putting the DJ's face back with the music."

Capital City DJ Olympics

8 p.m. Saturday,
May 12
621 The Spot
621 E. Michigan
Ave., Lansing
\$10; 21 and over
www.facebook.com/CCDJJO

Stormfield Theatre comes down with 'Boogie' fever

By PAUL WOZNIAK

If rock and roll is, as John Sinclair said, "just R&B with a marketing twist," then boogie woogie may be R&B with no marketing at all ... except for Bob Baldori.

Since the late 1960s, Baldori, a.k.a. "Boogie Bob," has played piano and harmonica with iconic artists such as Chuck Berry, Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker and others. But without young pop-culture disciples like Jack White or The Black Keys bringing hip attention to boogie woogie,

'Boogie Stomp!'

May 10-20
Stormfield Theatre
201 Morgan Lane, Lansing
7 p.m. Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays;
2 p.m. Sundays
\$25
(517) 351-6555
www.boogiestomp.com
www.stormfieldtheatre.org

or jukebox musicals like "Million Dollar Quartet" revamping boogie woogie into a

Broadway smash, Baldori would be virtually alone in promoting the style.

He's faced that challenge when he's tried to book his semi-autobiographical show, "Boogie Stomp!"

"I have this fight all the time with theater owners or producers who come up to me and see what I'm doing here and say, 'There's no story, there's no book,'" said Baldori of his theatrical production, which he has successfully produced five times. "Meanwhile, I've got season ticket holders walking out saying, 'That was the best evening in the theater I've had in 10 years.' And they don't even know who I am when they come and see it."

Opening Thursday at Stormfield Theatre, "Boogie Stomp!" is a musical and anecdotal odyssey through the personal histories of Baldori, fellow piano legend Bob Seeley and the evolution of jazz, boogie woogie and rock.

The show is structured around the story of Seeley and Baldori. Seeley will perform with Baldori for the first weekend's perfor-

mances; in the second week, Baldori will be joined by pianist Arthur Migliazza.

Baldori conducted scholarly amounts of historical research for "Boogie Stomp!," which he can casually recall like chord progressions.

"The word 'jazz' is probably Irish. It's first in print in 1912 in a Los Angeles newspaper used by an Irish sportswriter," said Baldori citing one specific factoid. "It comes from (the ancient) Gaelic 'teas,' which means 'heat, excitement, fire.'"

Part history lesson, part platonic love story and part piano-driven concert, "Boogie Stomp!" is built around what Baldori describes as the "money moments."

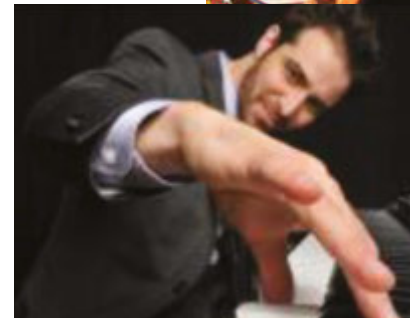
"You have these moments that move people for a minute, just change their whole life: That's why they paid to get in," said Baldori, likening the "money moment" to an electric connection between the artist and the audience that virtually sends viewers shooting to their feet.

"You're lucky in any (live performance) if it happens at all, let alone two or three times. But we do it a dozen times within the course of two hours. And we do it from the first number."



Courtesy Photos

From top, Bob Seeley, Bob Baldori and Arthur Migliazza perform in Stormfield Theatre's "Boogie Stomp!"



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THE SCREENING ROOM

by JAMES SANFORD

'Damsels in Distress' is a sparkling college comedy

If you think you've waited a long time for "The Avengers" to hit the screen, imagine how fans of writer-director Whit Stillman must feel about "Damsels in Distress": Stillman, who became an art-house darling with "Metropolitan," "Barcelona" and "The Last Days of Disco" in the 1990s, has taken almost 14 years off from filmmaking. Even so, the long hiatus has not tarnished his talent for concocting deliciously witty, eccentric comedies, and "Damsels" shows Stillman returning to the game in high style.

Stillman's reputation was built on stories about privileged young people trying to maintain their lofty ideals while making their way through the dreaded Real World (a far cry from MTV's "Real World," a series a typical Stillman character would probably never be caught dead watching). "Metropolitan," "Barcelona" and "Disco" are like Woody Allen films for the Gen X set; "Damsels" continues the theme.

"Damsels" introduces us to Violet Wister (Greta Gerwig), a student who runs the "Suicide Center" — it's supposed to be the "Suicide Prevention Center," but the middle panel of the sign is missing — at the fictitious Seven Oaks College.

'Damsels in Distress'

Now playing at Celebration Cinema Lansing
www.celebrationcinema.com

Although she operates within a cocoon of supposedly hard-earned wisdom, Violet's ambitions seem awfully day-dreamy. She's a firm believer in the healing power of tap-dancing, and her ultimate fantasy is to take her choreographic creation, the Sambola ("The Devil's Dance!" she dubs it), nationwide.

Before she can do that, however, the cheerfully domineering Violet has to shoulder the burden of leading her classmates through the minefield of life at a liberal-arts school, where heartbreaks and shattered illusions show up as regularly as pop quizzes. "You can love someone whose mental capacity is not large," Violet counsels a friend. "I know! I have!"



Courtesy photo

Greta Gerwig tries to save her fellow college students in "Damsels in Distress."

Gerwig makes Violet's high-mindedness utterly endearing and hilarious; with her sweetly clueless nature, she seems to have just stepped out of a 1930s Carole Lombard comedy. Rare is the actress who could take a line like "When you have problems yourself, it's great to hear about someone else's truly idiotic ones" and make it completely disarming, but Gerwig does it effortlessly.

Analeigh Tipton also shines as Lily, the campus newcomer who is immediately taken under Violet's wing, even though she doesn't completely fall under Violet's spell like the blissfully bubble-brained Heather (Carrie MacLemore) or the amusingly affected Rose (Megaly Echikunwoke). If, as their names indicate, the women are all flowers, the men are mostly thorns, some of them sharp, such as Adam Brody's pretentious fop who is writing a thesis on "the decline of decadence," and some of them amusingly blunted, such as the hard-working but dim-witted Thor (Billy Magnussen).

Welcome back, Mr. Stillman — and please don't make us wait another 14 years for your next film.

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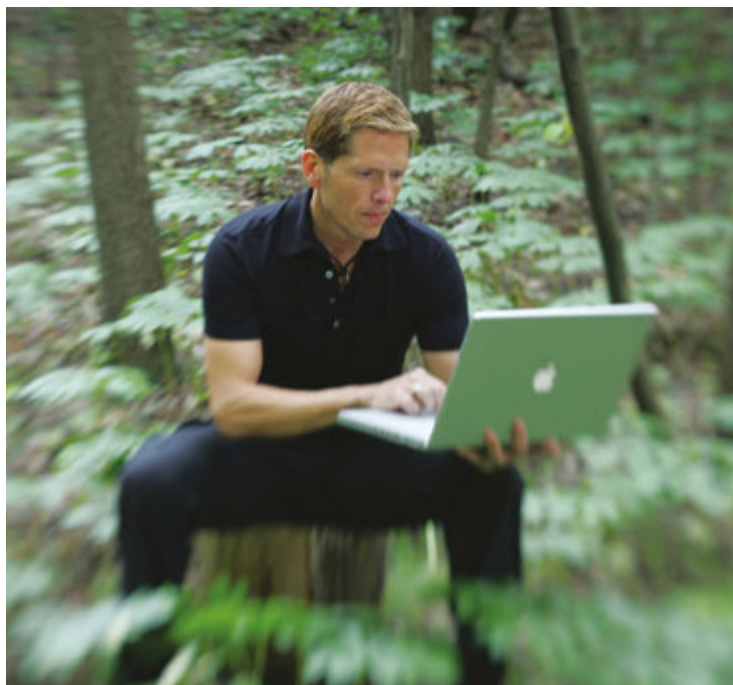
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Courtesy Photo

A native of the Ozarks, author Wade Rouse makes his home outside of Saugatuck. He chronicled his move to Michigan in "At Least in the City Someone Would Hear Me Scream."



Learn while you laugh

Wade Rouse talks about the 'fine line between humor and heartbreak'

By JAMES SANFORD

A couple of years ago, a journalist told actress Carey Mulligan ("Shame") how much he admired her ability to express sadness so eloquently. "The emotional stuff is easier, actually," Mulligan said. "I think it's easier to get yourself in a state where you're crying than a state where you're laughing for half an hour."

Writer Wade Rouse couldn't agree more. The author of "It's All Relative," "Confessions of a Prep School Mommy Handler" and "At Least in the City Someone Would Hear Me Scream" frequently seeks out what he calls the "real fine line between humor and heartbreak."

"The beauty in great humor is that there can be tragedy just underneath the surface," said Rouse in a phone interview from his home outside of Saugatuck. "My M.O.

in writing is to make readers learn something while they're laughing."

Wade Rouse

Part of the Capital Area District Library Spring Author Series

6 p.m. Monday, May 14
Williamston Theatre
122 S. Putnam St.,
Williamston

6 p.m. Tuesday, May 22
Art Alley
1133 S. Washington
Ave., Lansing
Free

cadl.org/news/Authors
For information on
Rouse's writing retreat
in Saugatuck May
17-20, visit
www.wadeswriters.com

Rouse — who edited the dog-related essay collection "I'm Not the Biggest Bitch in This Relationship" last year — makes two appearances as part of the Capital Area District Library's Spring Author Series. He'll be at Williamston Theatre on Monday, and at

Art Alley in REO Town May 22.

"I'm going to talk about humor as art, and why isn't comedy considered a higher art form," Rouse said. "And then I'm going to read from my works and probably disapprove my entire theory."

Steve Martin once said comedy is not pretty. Rouse insists it's not simple, either.

"People think comedy is easier than drama, but I think it's much more difficult. I always say try telling a roomful of people a joke. Humor is so subjective. You'll be lucky to get half people to laugh. But if you tell a sad story, most people will have empathy, or they'll be able to relate it to something in their own lives."

But there's often a hint of hurt in comedic material, too.

That was definitely the case with Rouse's debut memoir, "America's Boy," which Magnus Books has just reissued.

"That's my baby — I'm so glad it's got a new life," Rouse said. The book chronicles Rouse's childhood and adolescence in the Ozarks, where he struggled with the death of his older brother, low self-esteem, chronic weight problems and the realization that he was gay.

"Boy" was issued by Dutton in 2006. "Unfortunately, my editor left Dutton before the book was published, which was the worst thing that could happen," Rouse said. "I was the last author she brought on board, and I felt kind of rudderless. So I went over to Random House; I'm still with them."

"You have to have an in-house cheerleader, that person who brought you in and sold you to the team. If that's taken away, you just don't have much hope."

So it was with "Boy." Its strong reviews did not translate into substantial sales, and "as soon as the contract (with Dutton) was done, it kind of fell away, as many books do," Rouse said.

He's delighted the book is getting a second chance because "the themes in it are so relevant still, especially trying to fit in and dealing with bullying. That's still topical today. I think it still has a place."

In addition to his Williamston and Lansing appearances, Rouse hosts his annual three-day "writers retreat" in Saugatuck May 17 through 20. The weekend includes writing workshops as well as advice on navigating the world of publishing.

"It's a great intensive for emerging writers," he said. "It's about facing your fear and finding your voice. It's part inspirational and part professional."



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Thursday, May 10 • 7 pm

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Explosive drama

Riverwalk's 'Copenhagen' presents a compelling meeting of the minds

By TOM HELMA

In the spare spaces of the Riverwalk Theatre black box theater, Richard Frayn's "Copenhagen" takes us back in time to the beginning of the nuclear age, to the scientists whose abstract theoretical formulations constituted the beginnings of quantum physics. The play focuses on the challenging and conflicted relationship between two of the most brilliant of physicists who first postulated the notion of splitting the atom.

Director Mary Job's rendition is black-box-friendly. A spiral galaxy of multi-colored, paint-spot stars that glow in the dark splatter the stage floor, while stage action circles endlessly. Time plays tricks. We shuttle back and forth in time, listening as all three characters take turns explaining a convoluted academic history that wanders between a pre-World War II innocence

and a war-focused polarity that transforms former friends and colleagues into mortal enemies.

In Nazi-occupied Denmark, Danish elder theoretician, Nels Bohr (Rick Dethlefsen) encounters Dr. Werner Heisenberg (Jeff Magnuson), once Bohr's intern and now maintaining neutrality while simultaneously heading up a group of Nazi-sympathizer physicists trying to apply the concepts of nuclear fission to create an atomic bomb.

In the midst of the dazzlingly articulate, intellectually brilliant musings and observations of these geniuses is the equally sharp-witted referee, Margrethe Bohr (Leann Dethlefsen).

Action and words are crisp and quick in this production, which requires rapt audience attention as the complexities of quantum physics roll effortlessly off the tongues of actors (all of whom deliver the terms without a single stumble).

Is it merely ironic that the Jews escaping Nazi Germany and exiled to the United States ended up creating the bomb that annihilated the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki? What if Heisenberg, in Germany, had figured out how to make fission work before Bohr, who, ending up in Los Alamos, N.M., developed the trigger of the atomic bomb?

None of the three actors in this play flinch from the challenge of representing bright-star academic minds struggling with the consequences of their insights. Magnuson portrays a manic mysticism. His character is clearly in love with himself, and

flies across the stage like a bird of paradise, captured in the thrall of his flight of mathematical ideas.

The Dethlefsens, husband and wife in real life, while both more restrained in their characterizations, are no less passionate, no less vehement in the presentation of their intelligent ideas.

Timing in this production is akin to punch and counter-punch, with no mercy given and none invited. Leann Dethlefsen, in particular, gives no quarter whatsoever to the more agitated Magnuson, while Rick Dethlefsen remains solidly grounded in his sober-minded character throughout the play.

In this post-nuclear world, where the horrors of widespread atomic devastation are mere history, it could be easy to ignore or to not even consider the significance of how these once-abstract ideas gave birth to the possibility of world annihilation. "Copenhagen" brings it all back.



Photos by Luke Anthony Photography

From left, Rick Dethlefsen, LeAnn Dethlefsen and Jeff Magnuson explore history in Riverwalk Theatre's "Copenhagen."

'Copenhagen'

May 4-13
Riverwalk Theatre
228 Museum Drive,
Lansing
8 p.m. Fridays and
Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays
\$12; \$10 for seniors,
students or military
(517) 482-5700
www.riverwalktheatre.com



Courtesy Photo

From left, Colleen Patten, Michael Hays, Marni Darr Holmes, Jan Ross and Winifred Olds star in "The Red Velvet Cake War," opening Friday at Starlight Dinner Theatre. The Southern comedy plays at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through May 19 in the Waverly East Cafetorium, 3131 W. Michigan Avenue in Lansing; dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. (reservations are requested 48 hours in advance). Tickets are \$33 for adults and \$28 for seniors and students, or \$15 for the show only (\$10 seniors and students for the show only). Visit www.StarlightDinnerTheatre.com, or call (517) 243-6040.

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A playwright's work is never done

Sandra Seaton wins the Study of Midwestern Literature's Mark Twain Award

By BILL CASTANIER

When East Lansing playwright Sandra Seaton receives the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature's Mark Twain Award for writing this week, she will join a distinguished group of previous winners, including Toni Morrison, Louise Erdrich, Virginia Hamilton, Ray Bradbury, Jane Hamilton and Jim Harrison.

Seaton, who has been writing plays since the 1960s, is being honored in a ceremony at Michigan State University Friday.

While sipping tea recently at East Lansing's Wanderer's Café, Seaton reflected on her career, which included teaching creative writing for 15 years at Central Michigan University.

She said that years ago she would get up at 3 a.m. and write until 6 a.m., when she

started to get her twins ready for school. Then she would drive to Mt. Pleasant to teach at CMU and return to East Lansing late at night to start the process all over again. Her husband, MSU writing Professor James Seaton, would take care of child rearing the rest of the day.

"Most successful women writers don't have four kids," Seaton said.

In addition to being the focus of two break-out sessions on her writing, Seaton is presenting a reading of her play, "Estate Sale," at 8 p.m. Friday in Parlor C of the MSU Union.

"Estate Sale" brings together a racially mixed and politically mixed couple as they make preparations with a strange collection of characters for an estate sale.

For Seaton, a planned memorial service at the ceremony for former MSU professor and author David Anderson (who died this last December) is just as important to her as winning the award.

Anderson wrote more than 40 books in his career, mostly on Midwestern writers and themes, and was a tireless cataloguer of Midwestern writing in addition to serving on the Nobel Prize Nomination Committee for a number of years. He was considered one of the foremost experts on the writing of Sherwood Anderson.

"David did more for Midwestern writing than anyone, and he wanted me to get this award," Seaton said.

Seaton's first play, "The Bridge Party," premiered in 1989. She is known for her plays and librettos on the African-American experience in America. Her collaboration with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer William Bolcom, "From the Diary of Sally Hemings," about the mistress of Thomas Jefferson, was presented at the John F.

Kennedy Center for Performing Arts and Carnegie Hall in 2001.

Seaton grew up in the South of the 1940s and 1950s, and it is important to her to preserve her childhood memories. "I don't want that world to be lost; that's why I write," she said.

Seaton writes about mostly the experience of the black middle class in America and what she calls "the tacit but adamant refusal of grown-ups to be defined by racism."

In her most recent play, "Music History," she follows black college students from the South and the west side of Chicago who are attending the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana in 1963. The characters in this coming-of-age drama explore social change and evaluate their personal and political goals as they become members of the Southern voter registration campaign and pledge fraternities and sororities.

Seaton is a product of what she calls a show business family. One relative, Flournoy Miller, co-wrote the book for the 1921 musical "Shuffle Along," which broke Broadway taboos with its story of African-Americans in love, 14 years before the Gershwins' "Porgy and Bess." (The show also gave us the well-known song, "I'm Just Wild About Harry.")

Seaton's grandmother played in a Southern minstrel troupe, and her mother wrote skits and plays for church.

"I remember memorizing and reciting (the work of African-American poet) Paul Lawrence Dunbar as a child," Seaton said.

Seaton's family joined "The Great Migration," moving from Tennessee to Chicago. As a result, she said, her playwrighting always went back and forth between themes of the South and the North.

She said she believes she has one more play in her repertoire, a play that dealing with the post-Civil War years. Playwriting for Seaton is an organic process.

"Every time, I've seen a play I've written, I've revised it," Seaton said. "It's not a play



Courtesy Photo

Playwright Sandra Seaton says she comes from a show business family.

until it is performed, and the play is part of the process, not the whole."

She said that the stage, the director's point of view and the actors' spoken words often change the interpretation and meaning of the original play: "When I watch a play I'll hear a line or see a scene that isn't working, and rewrite it."

A playwright's work is never done, according to Seaton. After the play is written, some of the real work begins, including making connections with a director who will shop the play around.

The Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature meets at MSU Thursday through Saturday, and the seminars are open to the public; the entry fee is \$25 (lunches and dinner are extra). Discussions cover everything from how Sinclair Lewis brought H.G. Wells to Main Street, to explorations of the writing of Theodore Roethke and John D. Voelker and analysis of the coverage of the Detroit riots of 1967.

More information on the conference is available at the society website at www.ssml.org. Seaton will be presented the award at a luncheon on Friday.

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Mused and abused & meek him halfway

Q: After my girlfriend and I split up, I wrote a creative nonfiction piece about our breakup (changing some identifying details). I published it on a popular blog and linked to it on Facebook. We're back together, and things are great; however, she saw the story and was humiliated. I explained that what I wrote was beautiful and vulnerable and true, and many people were moved by it. She really wasn't down with that and told me to consider her off-limits in my writing. This seems unfair. I write nonfiction. What will I write about if I can't write about my life?

—Expressive

A: As lame as some creative writing exercises sound — “Write a haiku about what you had for lunch!” — a thinly veiled portrait of your chicken salad will cause way less relationship stress than “Turn your fight with your girlfriend into a blog post!” (And no, you can't just change her name from Molly to Holly so nobody but your 546 Facebook friends will know it's her.)

Yes, I've heard — privacy is reportedly dead. It was pronounced dead in 2006 at an Internet security conference. This doesn't mean that it is actually dead or should be — just that lots of people are finding their dirty laundry uploaded to Instagram and their private conversations turned into content. Chances are, those nonchalantly ripping away others' privacy online would be spraining their tongues tsk-tsking if somebody did it the non-virtual way, like by hijacking the mic at an outdoor concert series: “My girlfriend, Molly... second row, that blonde in the red... FORGOT to tell me she was weapons-grade slutty in college. She'd have a tat of that McDonald's “x million served” sign, except that there's no room on her disturbingly small breasts.”

Like websites, relationships these days seem to require a privacy policy — one agreed upon in advance (before anybody becomes relationship-o-tainment) and maintained in the event of a

breakup. Clearly, your preferred policy would be “By sharing your life with me, you agree to share it with anyone with an Internet connection.” Sorry, but the more private person gets to set the standards, and sadly, this woman only wants to be your girlfriend, not your cure for writer's block. Yeah, I know, you'd think it'd be any woman's dream, sitting with you in some out-of-the-way Paris cafe as you chronicle her shortcomings on your netbook.

But, wait — if you and your girlfriend have a fight and nobody comments on it on Facebook, how do you know your lives are worth living? The answer is, decide which you want more, this girlfriend or an audience. This isn't to say you have to stop writing about her; you just don't get to hit “publish.” Try to see this as an opportunity to expand your writerly horizons. Go do things you can write about: Climb something. Fish for marlin. Drop in on the Spanish Civil War. And remember, everybody's got a story, and lots of people are just dying to have theirs told. Seek them out, look deep into their eyes, and say, “So, tell me the horrors you experienced as a prisoner of war, and would you mind not leaving any particples dangling?”

Q: I'm a writer, and I went to a book party where there were many interesting writers, including a very cute, witty man. Problem is, I'm afraid to go talk to new people, especially cute, witty men, so I hung back and eventually left. Now I'm ruing yet another missed opportunity.

—Regretsville

A: You apparently learned your social skills from a park ranger. Playing dead is a successful strategy when you're being chased by certain types of bears. When you're hoping to be chased by a man, you need to go over and say hello. But, you whimper, you're scared. Yeah, okay. But, why would that be reason to avoid doing it? By making yourself do something you're afraid of, you shrink your fears and probably feel better afterward, unless it's something like walking off the ledge of a tall building.

Don't worry if you aren't a genius conversationalist. Just ask questions: “Are you a friend of the author's?” “Is that soup on your shirt?” If somebody likes you, he'll talk to you. If not, it's a big world; go talk to somebody else. And don't see every interaction as some statement about your worth. Some people will like you; some won't. Unless you're running for office, who cares? The more people you talk to, the bigger your life will be, and the less each interaction will matter in the grand scheme of you. Until then, remember, 90 percent of success is just showing up — and then not running back out to your car, powerlocking your doors, and speeding home.

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To read more of Amy's advice and guidance, please visit our Web site at www.lansingcitypulse.com

Serving Greater Lansing's LGBT Community

Lansing Association for Human Rights

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Breakfast Club • Downtowns Lunch • Cafe Night

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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

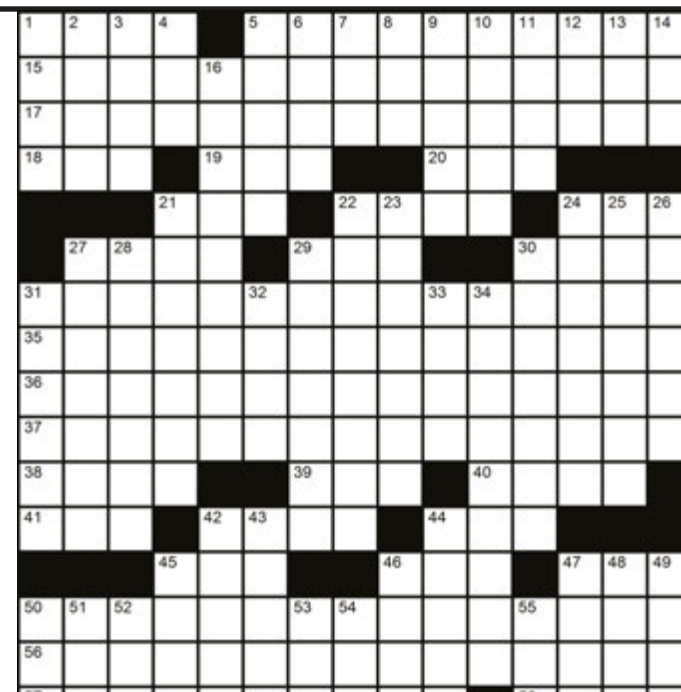
“Stretch Those

Quads!” — a hardcore freestyle workout.

By Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Second half of a ball game?
5 Used (to)
15 She uses a bird to sweep the house
17 Computer overhaul
18 Arian Foster stats
19 Little sip
20 Gold, to Guatemalans
21 “Who Wants to Marry a Multi-Millionaire?” network
22 Bodybuilder's units
24 Word before Earth or City, in computer games
27 Drab shade
29 She was Dorothy on “The Golden Girls”
30 Org. that listens for alien signals
31 It's obsolete
35 Jovial question from someone eager to help
36 It covers Miami, Montpelier and Montreal
37 SOPA subject
38 Opera follower?
39 New Year's, in Hanoi
40 Mandolin relative
41 Nancy Grace's network
42 Southwest sch. whose mascot is King Triton
44 Daily grind
45 Homey
46 “___ Ho” (Best Original Song Oscar winner of 2008)
47 The D in OED
50 Easy lunch to prepare
56 Insider's knowledge
57 Viktor Bout or Adnan Khashoggi



58 Dark form of quartz

Down

- 1 Off-kilter
2 Messed with the facts
3 World Series precursor, for short
4 “As I see it,” in chat-rooms
5 Tack on
6 Shorten nails
7 Smoke
8 Palindromic prime minister of the 1940s-60s
9 Leather sharpener
10 Old rulers
11 Chemist Hahn
12 Oneself, cutely
13 Roxy Music name
14 Room for board games, perhaps
16 Person with a booming voice, often
21 Donut shop option
22 Upgraded
23 Fail spectacularly, like a skateboarder
24 British structure of WWII
25 “No need to pay”
26 Bishops' wear
27 Grain alcohol
28 Put someone in their place
29 Some hats worn on The Oregon Trail
30 Lose your composure, in junior high-speak
31 “Anchors ___”
32 Senator Jake who flew on the Space Shuttle
33 The plate
34 Ophthalmologist's concerns
42 Implored
43 Richard who played Don Barzini in “The Godfather”
44 Vacation time, in slang
45 ___ the Younger (Arthurian knight)
46 Director Campion
47 Zoologist Fossey
48 Disgusting
49 Cereal with gluten-free varieties
50 Org. that bestows merit badges
51 “Love, Reign ___ Me” (The Who)
52 420, for 20 and 21: abbr.
53 “Just as I suspected!”
54 “On the Road” protagonist ___ Paradise
55 “Never heard of her”

City Pulse Classifieds

Interested in placing a classified ad in City Pulse?
Call (517) 999-5066 or email adcopy@lansingcitypulse.com

DELIVERY DRIVER NEEDED

City Pulse needs a driver with car to deliver the paper on Wednesdays starting by 9 a.m. Call (517) 999-5069.

City Pulse is seeking candidates

to join its sales team. Full time and part time positions available. Sales experience required, preferably in advertising/marketing. Opportunity to grow. EEO. Submit resume to monique@lansingcitypulse.com.

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Answers Page 25

OUT on the TOWN

Wednesday, May 9

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.

Farm to Table: Beginning Canning. Learn to can safely and several canning methods. 6 p.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840.

"The Writings of Paul." Interpolations that express more anti-feminist views than Paul actually held. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

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

Jim Anderson On Jobs. Speaking on the net rise or fall of manufacturing employment in the United States. 12:15-1:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Morrill Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. anders90@msu.edu.

LinkedIn Basics. Learn to use the social media site to network professionally and search for jobs. 6 p.m. FREE. Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 672-4072. www.cadl.org.

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

MAY 11

The (SCENE) invites a spectacle

This Friday, the locally based group The Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle performs at (SCENE) Metrospace. The LUVS is releasing a five-song EP through local label, The Great Lakes Collective. The high-energy folk band has risen from humble beginnings of playing street corners and Dagwood's open mic night, to playing events like Vacant Lansing and TEDx Lansing. With over 10 members and instruments ranging from ukulele to saw, the LUVS is not a typical musical act. Expect to see a New Orleans-inspired performance that treads the line between music, theater and a trip back in time. 7 p.m. \$5, all ages welcome. (SCENE) Metrospace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. www.facebook.com/thelansingunionizedvaudevillespectacle.



Courtesy Photo

MAY 11

Woldumar welcome breweries and wineries

Looking for love, or just a chance to mingle with other young professionals? The Country Club of Lansing could be the answer. The Grand River Connection — co-hosted by Gabrielle Johnson, Tom Ruis and Evan Pinsonnault — will dedicate an evening to those looking for a new relationship, either platonic or romantic. It also provides people who are new in town with a casual networking environment. The cost includes a glass of champagne and light hors d'oeuvres; there will also be a cash bar available. The GRC advises attendees to dress up for the event. 8 p.m. \$10. Country Club of Lansing, 2200 Moores River Dr., Lansing. To RSVP, call (517) 484-4567.



Courtesy Photo

MAY 12

Let's go fly a kite

Beginning at 11 a.m. Saturday, Uncle John's Cider Mill and the Citizens for a Spray Park Committee host the first Go Fly a Kite Day in mid-Michigan. The event encourages families to discover fun ways to exercise, as well as raising funds for the St. John's community Spray Park. Visitors will be able to fly and create their own kites; there will also be craft activities to make Mother's Day gifts. "This year, we anticipate that more than 500 visitors will come to Uncle John's Cider Mill for this event," said Bill Schafer, St. Johns recreation director. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. \$5 to fly a kite. Uncle John's Cider Mill, 8614 North U.S. Highway 127, St. Johns. To donate to the Spray Park Committee, visit www.cityofsaintjohnsmi.com.

See Out on the Town, Page 22

R. Knott

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MAY 16

Cycling with a loud message

MSU Bikes hosts the Greater Lansing Ride of Silence to honor and memorialize bicyclists killed or injured by motor vehicles on roadways. Over 300 similar events will take place worldwide to raise awareness that cyclists have the legal right to ride in public streets. Police escorts will accompany cyclists to ensure a safe trip to the the Capitol Building. Participants can meet at MSU Bikes by 6:30 p.m. to receive instructions and to tie on black or red armbands. The official ride begins at 7 p.m. from MSU's Beaumont Tower. Afterward, all are welcome to socialize at Dublin's Square. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. MSU Beaumont Tower, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-3400. bikes@msu.edu.



Courtesy Photo

TURNIT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

BMP DROPS NEW HOMELIFE LP AT ZEPPELIN'S

Bermuda Mohawk Productions, a Lansing-based indie label, is set to release “Translation,” a vinyl LP from Homelife, a Lansing-based post-hardcore punk band.

The 12-inch LP is limited to 500 copies and will be released Friday at an all-ages show at Zeppelin's Music Hall in Lansing. Also performing are Cavalcade, Terror Terror Oh My, and Narc Out the Reds. For those wanting to hear a preview of the album, Homelife's first single from the new disc (“Viewfinder”) is streaming exclusively on Alternative Press.

Homelife includes Jacob Weston (vocals/guitar), Chaz Villarreal (drums), Craig Rasmussen (guitar), and Mike Poshedly (bass/vocals). Since forming in 2009 Homelife has become known for its distinctive sound, while pays homage to such bands as '90s favorites Jawbreaker, Knapsack and The Promise Ring. Fans of Small Brown Bike, Hot Water Music, and Title Fight may dig the new 10-song record.

Friday, May 11 @ Zeppelin's Music Hall, 2010 East Michigan Avenue, Lansing, all ages. \$5, show at 8 p.m.

KIND OF LIKE SPITTING'S REUNION HITS LANSING

Fronted by prolific songwriter Ben Barnett, Kind of Like Spitting has been releasing albums and touring in a strictly DIY fashion since it formed in 1996 in Portland, Ore. Barnett, the only constant member of the band, has been compared to the likes of Elliott Smith, Billy Bragg and Robert Pollard. Barnett was also a part of The Thermals, a Kill Rock Stars band.



Courtesy Photo

Homelife

While Kind of Like Spitting (which now includes ex-members of Lemuria) is just coming off an extended hiatus, the band is back and performing Saturday at Mac's Bar. Also taking the stage are Jack and Ace (ex-Braid), Good Luck, The Fencemen, The Plurals and Little American Champ.

Saturday, May 12 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18 and over. \$8 advance, \$10 door, 9 p.m.

OCCUPY LANSING HOSTS FREE CONCERT, PICNIC, WORKSHOPS

“Occupy the Spring,” hosted by Occupy Lansing, takes place Saturday in Reutter Park in Lansing (near Kalamazoo Street and Capitol Avenue). Starting at 12:30 p.m. the event will include live music from local rockers MindGuard, QUESTion, Rick Eby and more. This event is in correlation with the May 12 “Global Day of Action” organized by the national Occupy movement.

A flier for the Lansing event reads: “Join the people around the world that are taking to the streets, to the squares and everywhere to fight corruption, censorship, environmental abuses, police brutality and other issues.” There will also be a non-perishable food and toiletries drive for the Haven House in East Lansing. Organizers



Courtesy Photo

Christina Perri

invite the public to “bring a lunch and enjoy the day.” More information at occupylansing.net.

Saturday, May 12 @ Reutter Park, 400 S. Capitol Ave, Lansing, all ages. FREE, 12:30 p.m.

PERRI BRINGS HER 'JAR OF HEARTS' TO LOFT

Christina Perri has been steadily burning up the charts over the past two years. On Friday, the rising pop star plays an all-ages concert at The Loft. Sleeping at Last opens the show. Perri scored a hit single with “Jar of Hearts” after it was featured on the Fox television show “So You Think You Can Dance.” It was later featured in the “Prom Queen” episode of “Glee.” Perri's “A Thousand Years” was also featured on the soundtrack of “The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn, Part I.” Perri's debut album, “Lovestrong,” which is stocked with an abundance of heartbreak ballads, reached No. 4 on the Billboard 200, and she is planning a tour with Jason Mraz, who is featured on Perri's latest single, “Distance.”

Friday, May 11 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all ages, \$16 advance, doors 7 p.m.

SHACK SHAKER GETS DIRTY AT MAC'S

For those who enjoy acoustic-driven rockabilly, mixed with some old-time country and blues, The Dirt Daubers, a Kentucky/Nashville-based outfit, may be worth a look. The band plays Mac's Bar May 17, along with Joshua Davis (of Steppin' In It) and Dave Samano. Colonel JD Wilkes (songwriter and front man for the Legendary Shack Shakers), his wife, Jessica, and fellow Shack Shaker Mark Robertson make up the Dirt Daubers, who have travelled the world, singing an unconventional mix of covers and originals — everything from Appalachian, ragtime, and hot jazz standards to honky-tonk cowboy songs to Harlem jazz.

Thursday, May 17 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18 and over. \$8 advance, \$10 door, 9 p.m.

UPCOMING SHOW?

POST IT AT
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TURNITDOWN

LIVE AND LOCAL

Connxtions Comedy Club	2900 N. East St.
Colonial Bar	3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.
Crunchy's	254 W. Grand River Ave.
The Exchange	314 E. Michigan Ave.
The Firm	227 S. Washington Square
Grand Café/Sir Pizza	201 E. Grand River Ave.
Green Door	2005 E. Michigan Ave.
The Loft	414 E. Michigan Ave.
Mac's Bar	2700 E. Michigan Ave.
Moriarty's Pub	802 E. Michigan Ave.
Rick's American Cafe	224 Abbott Road
Rookies	16460 S. US 27
Rum Runners	601 East Michigan Ave.
Unicorn Tavern	327 E. Grand River Ave.
Whiskey Barrel Saloon	410 S. Clippert St.
Uli's Haus of Rock	419 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.
Zeppelin's	2010 E. Michigan Ave.

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

WEDNESDAY

Comedy Open Mic	8 p.m.
Cloud Magic	10 p.m.
Driver & Rider Show	7 p.m.
Dewanyes	9:30 p.m.
The Trews	7 p.m.
The Features	7 p.m.
Rob Kladja Open Mic	9 p.m.
Sea Cruisers	7-10 p.m.
Open Mic Night	9 p.m.
DJ	9 p.m.

THURSDAY

Charlie Weiner	8 p.m.
Karaoke	9 p.m.
Tryst Thursdays	8:30 p.m.
DnW Sound DJs	9 p.m.
Kathy Ford Band	7:30 p.m.
Vegas Flu	9:30 p.m.
Broccoli Samurai	9 p.m.
The Hooties	9:30 p.m.
Water Pong DJ with Ryan	9 p.m.
Dueling Pianos & DJ	9 p.m.
Frog & the Beeftones	9 p.m.
DJ	9 p.m.
Jack Sin & Body Rot	8 p.m.

FRIDAY

Tim Wilson	8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.
Avon Bomb	9 p.m.
Karaoke	9 p.m.
Smoking Jackets	9 p.m.
Various DJs	9 p.m.
Karaoke with Joanie Daniels	7 p.m.
Smooth Daddy	9:30 p.m.
Christina Perri	7 p.m.
Perversion	9 p.m.
Zydecrunch Zydaco	10 p.m.
ICE DJs	10:30 p.m.
Karaoke with Bob	9 p.m.
Dueling Pianos & DJ	7 p.m.
No Reason	9 p.m.
Cyn Wolf	9 p.m.
Shallow Side	10 p.m.
Terror, Terror Oh My	8 p.m.

SATURDAY

Tim Wilson	8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.
Avon Bomb	9 p.m.
Karaoke	9 p.m.
DJ Donnie D	9 p.m.
The Alligators	8 p.m.
Soulstice	9:30 p.m.
Paper Wings & Eph. Eye	6:30 p.m.
Kind of Like Spitting	9 p.m.
Zydecrunch Zydaco	10 p.m.
ICE DJs	10:30 p.m.
Karaoke with Bob	9 p.m.
Dueling Pianos & DJ	7 p.m.
No Reason	9 p.m.
Cyn Wolf	9 p.m.
All Ends Black	8 p.m.
80 Tons of Mercury	8 p.m.

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

Out on the town

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EVENTS

Knee High Naturalist. Ages 2-5 for a playgroup featuring a different nature theme each week. 1-2 p.m. \$5. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224.

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

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

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

Summer Circle Theatre Benefit. Hors d'oeuvres, wine, silent auction, music and preview student performances. 6-9 p.m. \$40. Fairchild Theatre, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 355-6690.

Toddler Storytime. Ages 1-3. 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. FREE. Foster Library, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5185.

Preschool Storytime. Stories, songs, fingerplays, and crafts for ages 3-5. 10 a.m. FREE. Webberville Library, 115 South Main St., Webberville. (517) 521-3643.

Family Storytime. Ages up to 5 can join an interactive group featuring stories, songs and movement. 10:30 a.m. FREE. South Lansing Library, 3500 S Cedar St., # 108, Lansing. (517) 272-9840.

Preschool Storytime. Stories, songs, fingerplays, and crafts for ages 3-5. 1:30 p.m. FREE. Foster Library, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5185.

After School Movie. Ages 8 and up can watch a movie and enjoy popcorn. 3 p.m. FREE. Haslett Library, 5670 School St., Haslett. (517) 339-2324.

MUSIC

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

The Features. Rock, alternative, indie music. 7 p.m. \$10. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795. www.macsbar.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Found Poetry Open Mike. A scrap of song, a sign, a paragraph from a letter, read aloud to resonate strongly. 7:30 p.m. \$5, \$3 students. Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 267-0410.

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

Lansing Area Science Fiction Association

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

Pizza & Pages Book Discussion. Read books that fit the monthly theme: funny stories, and come for discussion, snacks and activities. Grades 3 and up. 4 p.m. FREE. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021.

Adult Book Discussion. "Irresistible Henry House," by Lisa Grunwald. 1 p.m. FREE. Leslie Library, 201 Pennsylvania St., Leslie. (517) 589-9400.

Thursday, May 10

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

DIY Home Maintenance. On tiling a back splash. 6 p.m. FREE. Lowe's, S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980.

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

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

Yoga for Beginners. With Gaby Kende, certified yoga teacher and certified yoga therapist. 9:30-11 a.m. FREE. Center for Yoga, 1780 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-6640.

Farm to Table: Cooking with Herbs. Learn to grow herbs and use them in nutritious recipes. 7 p.m. FREE. CADL Stockbridge Library, 200 Wood St., Stockbridge. (517) 851-7810.

Summer Crop Planning. On succession planning, seed starting dates, and more. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 374-5700.

EcoTrek Fitness. Outdoor group workouts for all fitness levels. Meet in parking lot by the Red Cedar River. 5:45-7 p.m. \$12. Lansing River Trail, Clippert St., Lansing. (517) 243-6538.

Water Festival. Fourth-sixth graders can learn about the responsibility of protecting and conserving water. 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. FREE. Wells Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 393-0342.

EVENTS

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

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

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

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

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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.

Poker Volunteers. Help poker event to benefit Michigan Women's Historical Center&Hall of Fame.n, 3:30 p.m.-2 a.m. FREE. Stacks Hold'em Bar, 4750 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 484-1880 X 203.

"This American Life," Live. WBEZ Chicago radio show with host Ira Glass bring radio to the big screen. 8 p.m. Prices Vary. Jackson 10, 1501 N. Wisner St, Jackson. www.fathomevents.com. & at Celebration Cinema, 200 E. Edgewood Blvd. Lansing. www.fathomevents.com.

Girls' Night Out. A reception and Skype event with The Bloggess, Jenny Lawson. 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music (Lansing), 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495. www.schulerbooks.com.

State Symposium on African-American Male Youth. Adult leaders and students can address issues and identify solutions. 7:30 a.m. FREE. Erickson Kiva, MSU campus, corner of Shaw Lane and Farm Lane, East Lansing. (517) 853-6787 .

Empty Plate Dinner. To benefit the Greater Lansing Food Bank. Food/drinks from top restaurants, live and silent auction. 5:30 p.m. \$125. MSU Spartan Club, MSU Stadium, MSU Campus, East Lansing. www.greaterlansingfoodbank.org

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.

Lansing Symphony MasterWorks VI. "Fantasies and Fairy Tales," a collaboration with the 2012 Gilmore International Keyboard Festival. With Timothy Muffitt, conductor; Charlie Albright, piano. 8 p.m. \$15-40. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 487-5001. www.lansingsymphony.org.

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

Master Works. For a program of fantasy, drama and passion. 8 p.m. \$15-45. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON.

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

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Michigan's Hidden Beauty. Take a photographic journey down select Michigan rivers with author Doc Fletcher. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. www.dtdl.org.

Joe Dwyer. Author of "Shelby's Grace: From Abused Pup to Angel of Mercy." 5:30-7 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-9900. everybodyreads@sbcglobal.net.

Friday, May 11

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Candlelight Yoga. With the acclaimed cellist Suren Petrosyan performing. 7-8:15 p.m. \$15. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 333-2580.

Restorative Yoga. Quiet your nervous system, reduce your fatigue/stress, through breathing techniques. 5:45-7:15 p.m. \$15. Center for Yoga, 1780 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 648-4056. mariesplendidyoga.com.

EVENTS

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

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

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

Poker Volunteers. 3:30 p.m.-2 a.m. FREE. (Please See Details May 10)

Lansing Christian School Spring Fling. A family event with food, games and fun. 3-6 p.m. , FREE. Lansing Christian School, 3405 Belle Chase Way, Lansing. (517) 882-5779. www.lansingchristianschool.org.

Petals & Vines. A variety of beers and wines from around our state. 6-11 pm. \$30 per ticket. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 322-0030.

Tim Wilson. Combines stand-up comedy and original songs. 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. \$15. Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 N. East St., Lansing. (517) 374-HAHA. www.connxtionscomedyclub.com.

Open House. At new expanded location. 5-8 p.m. FREE. Good Space Yoga, 2025 Abbot Road #300, East Lansing. (517) 485-5659. www.GoodSpaceYoga.com.

The Miracle Beagle Dwyer. Daniel, the beagle who survived a gas chamber, appears as part of an event to help to put an end to the use of gas chambers in shelters. 6 p.m. \$10. Kellogg Conference Center, 55 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. www.voiceless-mi.org/beagle.

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

Zumbathon. Two full hours of Zumba led by YMCA instructors. 7 p.m. \$15. Westside Community YMCA, 3700 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 827-9670.


MUSIC

Sally Rogers and Claudia Schmidt. Includes the

See Out on the Town, Page 23

Free

Free



Meditation

Quan Am Buddhist Temple
Every Thursday 7-8:30 p.m.
1840 N. College Rd., Mason, MI 48854
Everyone welcome - For information:
Call: (517) 347-1655 or (517) 853-1675
quanamtemple.org

ERASER-FREE SUDOKU

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EASY

TO PLAY

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

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

Answers on page 25

Out on the town

from page 22

release of their newest CD. 7:30 p.m. \$20, \$15 members, \$5 students. Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St., East Lansing. www.tenpoundfiddle.org.
Luidmila Bondar Studio Recital. Students from the studio of Liudmila Bondar will perform. 6:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 841-B Timberlane St., East Lansing. (517) 355-7661. cms.msu.edu.

THEATER

"Boogie Stomp." 8 p.m. \$25-\$50. (Please See Details May 10)

"Copenhagen." Drama by Michael Frayn about the last meeting of physicist Werner Heisenberg, and Niels Bohr. 8 p.m. \$12, \$10 seniors, military or students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. www.riverwalktheatre.com.

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

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Music & Movement Storytime. Dance and sing to music, and learn to play with instruments and more. 1 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3.

Saturday, May 12

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Relics of the Big Bang. 8 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 student-seniors, \$2 kids. (Please See Details May 11)

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.

Lansing ManPower. Men, young and old, can discover and fulfill the plan and purpose for their lives. 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Church of God International Outreach Ministries, 4125 W. St. Joseph Hwy., Lansing. (517) 323-8212. www.LansingManpower.org.

Fruits for Your Yard. Learn all about growing small fruits in your home garden. 12:30-2 p.m. \$5 donation. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400

block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.
Second Saturday Float. The Jug & Mug Ski Club is hosting a Second Saturday Float. Noon. \$5. Downtown Dimondale, Bridge St., Dimondale. (517) 663-1854. jugandmug.org.

EVENTS

Occupy Lansing Picnic. With bands and protest song workshops. It will end in one night occupation. 12:30 p.m. FREE. Reutter Park, Corner of Kalamazoo & Townsend St., Lansing. www.occupylansing.net.

Bake Sale & Perennial Exchange. Featuring plants and baked goods donated by folks from the community. 10 a.m. FREE. Stockbridge Library, 200 Wood St., Stockbridge. (517) 851-7810.

Lego Builders Club. Ages 6-14, can build something creative with the library's Lego collection. 2:30 p.m. FREE. South Lansing Library, 3500 S Cedar St., # 108, Lansing. (517) 272-9840.

Salsa Dancing. DJ Adrian "Ace" Lopez hosts 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.

Poker Volunteers. 3:30 p.m.-2 a.m. FREE. (Please See Details May 10)

Tim Wilson. 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. \$15. (Please See Details May 11)

Wildflower Weekend. Activities like GeoCache challenge, naturalist-guided hikes, native plant sales and more. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. www.woldumar.org.

Native Michigan Plant Sale. Locally grown perennials for both sunny and shady sites will be available. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Price varies. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive., Lansing. (517) 887-0596. www.wildoneslansing.org.

Farm Daze Tour. Ride through MSU farms, choose from 25-100-kilometer routes. Proceeds fund Mason Barker's recovery. 8-10 a.m. \$30, \$75 family. 4301 Farm Lane, MSU Campus, East Lansing. www.farm-daze.eventbrite.com.

Second Saturday Supper. Baked chicken with mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, salad, roll and dessert. 5-6:15 p.m. \$8, \$4 kids. Mayflower Congregational Church, 2901 W Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-3139. www.mayflowerchurch.com.

Fly a Kite Day. Fly a kite, bring or make your own, wagon rides, face painting and more. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. \$5. Uncle Johns Cider Mill, 8614 North US Highway 127, St., Johns. www.cityofsaintjohnsmi.com.

Spring Family Festival. Carnival style games, inflatable moon-walks, vendors information on health, fitness and education and more. Noon-4p.m. FREE. Letts Community Center, 1220 W. Kalamazoo St. Lansing. (517) 483-4311.

Garden Volunteer Day. Help build really raised beds that are more accessible to individuals with limited mobility. 2-6 p.m. FREE. North School,

See Out on the Town, Page 24

NEW IN TOWN » Lansing Fit Body Boot Camp



By Allan I. Ross

Fitness boot camps have been growing in popularity over the last decade, succeeding aerobics and spinning classes as the trendy workout du jour. Most of them are run like classes in traditional gyms, but the year-old Lansing Fit Body Boot Camp—which moved into an expanded 3,200-square-foot location in Frandor two weeks ago—is a stand-alone business dedicated solely to the regimen. So, why the sudden boot camp craze?

"We force good habits on you," says owner/operator Emeka Umeh. "Studies show that people stick to their routines more when they're working out with other people. That's all we do here—group training."

Umeh's location is the local site for the international Fit Body Boot Camp franchise, which has over 100 locations throughout the U.S. and boasts franchises as far away as Thailand. He also has plans to open a new location in Haslett soon. Training consists of a wide variety of activities, such as flipping monster truck tires, throwing weighted balls, jumping rope, doing push-ups, or going one round against a punching bag.

"This is high-intensity training designed for weight



Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

Owner/operator Emeka Umeh

loss, strength and endurance," says Umeh. "The idea is to keep your muscles guessing."

Umeh came to Lansing nine years ago from Nigeria with a degree in mortuary science. Apparently more interested in working with live bodies, he enrolled at LCC where he took weight training and nutrition classes. He became a certified physical trainer, but he found working individually with people at gyms to be unsatisfying.

"A one-on-one personal trainer can be expensive, and not everybody can afford that," he says. "I just decided that fitness is my passion, so I made the decision to open my own place. It allows me to work with many more people than I could before."

Memberships start at \$99 a month for an annual contract, but curiosity seekers can sample Umeh's drill sergeant

routine for a free two-week trial. All memberships come with a meal plan, a health assessment, and unlimited access to as many of the 42 weekly boot camps as your body can handle. And Umeh says his students have a distinct advantage over having a traditional gym membership.

"I'm not afraid to call you at home if you haven't been showing up," he says. "We provide very powerful motivation and [instill] a real sense of accountability. It allows you to see results in a short amount of time."

Lansing Fit Body Boot Camp

300 N. Clippert St., in Frandor, across from Sears (517) 993-6170
Lansingfitbodybootcamp.com



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Garden Beds

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- Weeding
- Edging
- Mulching
- Design Restoration
- New Plantings
- Fertilization

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- Color Beds
- Containers with Annuals & Tropicals
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- Color-To-Rent for Parties & Events





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Out on the town

from page 23

333 E. Miller Road, Lansing. (517) 374-5700.
Beer & Wine Tasting. Try free samples. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Vine and Brew, 2311 Jolly Road, Okemos. vineandbrew.com.
Italian Mothers and Grandmothers Tea. With Coraggio book teading by local author Lisa Gigliotti. 2-4 p.m. \$16, kids \$8. Wanderer's Teahouse, 547 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 580-4043.

MUSIC

Aspiring Musicians Program Recital. Flute, clarinet, oboe/bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, low brass, guitar, and percussion. 10 a.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 841 Timberlane St., East Lansing. (313) 578-9716. cms.msu.edu.
Kind Of Like Spitting. For fans of Jawbreaker, Braid, The Promise Ring. 9 p.m. \$8 advance, \$10 door. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. www.macsbar.com.
Sue Garber Studio Recital. Students from the studio of Sue Garber will perform. 3 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 841-B Timberlane St., East Lansing. (517) 355-7661. cms.msu.edu.
Community Singing. Sing American three & four part songs from The Sacred Harp, a 19th century hymnbook. 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Faith Lutheran Church, 4515 Dobie Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3297.

THEATER

"Boogie Stomp." 8 p.m. \$25-\$50. (Please See Details May 10)
"Copenhagen." 8 p.m. 12, \$10 seniors, military or students. (Please See Details May 11)
"The Red Velvet Cake War." 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. show, \$15 show only, \$28-33. (Please See Details May 11)

Sunday, May 13

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 11)
Gardener's Roundtable. Discuss various garden topics, swap ideas, tips, and occasionally seeds and

plants. 12:30-1:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.

EVENTS

Salsa Dancing. DJ Mojito spins salsa, merengue, & Bachata. 7 p.m.-Midnight. \$5 21, \$7 under 21. Fahrtheit 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.
Native Wildflowers. Walk with a naturalist to see native wildflowers. 3 p.m. \$3. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.
Mother's Day Wildflower Walk. A peaceful walk in the woods to enjoy native wildflowers. 3 p.m. \$3. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.
"On Equal Terms." Closing reception is set for a Mixed-Media Installation by Susan Eisenberg. 2-3:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-6897. www.museum.msu.edu.

MUSIC

"Piano Monster." Eight grand pianos played simultaneously by internationally renowned pianists. 3 p.m. \$20, \$18 seniors, \$10 students. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON. www.music.msu.edu.
All-School Recital. Come out and watch the All-School Recital. 3 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 841 Timberlane St., East Lansing. (517) 355-7661. cms.msu.edu.
Marjan Helms Studio Recital. Students from the studio of Marjan Helms perform. 4 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 841-B Timberlane St., East Lansing. (517) 355-7661. cms.msu.edu.

THEATER

"Boogie Stomp." 2 p.m. \$25-\$50. (Please See Details May 10)
"Copenhagen." 2 p.m. \$12, \$10 seniors, military or students. (Please See Details May 11)

Monday, May 14

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Divorced, Separated, Widowed Conversation Group. For those who have gone through loss

and are ready to move on with their lives. 7:30 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272.
GriefShare Seminar. DVD series, with support group discussion. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Grace United Methodist, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 490-3218.
Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (989) 587-4609. www.stdavidslansing.org.
Chronic Pain Support Group. For those experiencing any level of chronic physical pain. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.
HomeWork Help. Drop-in help for grades K-8 from the MSU Student Michigan Education Association. 5-7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. www.elpl.org.
Digital Portrait Basics. Discover the basic tools and techniques to produce portraits of family and friends. 6:30 p.m. \$25. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156
Health & Wellness. Women can learn to manage self-care promote a healthy way of life. Call to register. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.
Celebrity Lecture Series. Ceci Connolly, journalist and health policy adviser, will speak on the Affordable Care Act. 11 a.m. \$25 lecture, \$15 lunch. Causeway Bay Hotel, 6820 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 339-2246.

EVENTS

Euchre. Play euchre and meet new people. 6-9 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.
Social Bridge. Play bridge and socialize. 1-4 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.
Monday Morning Movie. Get your film fix at the library. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.
JAMM Meeting. Jazz Alliance of Mid-Michigan, open to all. 7:30 p.m. FREE. 1267 Lakeside Drive, East Lansing. www.jazzjamm.com.
Preschool - 12th Grade Information Night. Learn more about programs at Lansing Christian School. 7 p.m. FREE. Lansing Christian School, 3405 Belle Chase Way, Lansing. (517) 882-5779.
American Sewing Guild Lansing Clippers Monthly Meeting. Mary Scott from Bold Over Batiks of St. Paul, MN will do a presentation on Malaysian Batiks. 6:30 p.m. FREE. UAW Local 652, 426 Clare St., Lansing. (517) 699-8062.

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.
Pickin' Parlo. An acoustic jam featuring Bluegrass and Country pickers from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Parts Unknown. 7:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. VFW Club Post 6132, 3104 W. St. Joseph St., Lansing. (517) 372-2052.

Tuesday, May 15

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Schizophrenics Anonymous. A self-help support group for those affected by the disorder. 10 a.m. Room 215-F, Community Mental Health Building, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 485-3775.
Yoga 40. For those in their 40s, 50s, 60s and beyond. 7:15 p.m. Suggested \$7. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.
Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Anyone wanting to lose weight is welcome. 7 p.m. FREE to visit.. Eaton Rapids Medical Center, 1500 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. Judy @ (517) 543-0786.
Schizophrenics Anonymous Self-help Support Group. For persons with schizophrenia and related disorders. 5:30 p.m. FREE. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-3775.

Seeking Safety. Practice skills and learn about new resources. 1:30-3 p.m. FREE. Justice in Mental Health, 520 Cherry St., Lansing. (517) 887-4586.
Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 505-0068.
Intro to Computers. Professionals from Career Quest teach the basics. 2:30-4 p.m. FREE. Capital Area Michigan Works, 2110 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 492-5500.
On the Way To Wellness. Barb Geske provides nutrition and wellness coaching in a positive, informative format. 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. \$10. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 349-9536.
Computer Class. Learn Excel. 7 p.m. FREE. Community of Christ, 1514 W. Miller Road, Lansing. (517) 882-3122.

Library eBooks. Learn all about the collection of downloadable materials. 1-2:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. www.dtdl.org.
Farm to Table: Herb Gardening. For advanced herb growers, including unusual and tropical herbs. 6:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Foster Library, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5185.
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.
EcoTrek Fitness. Outdoor group workouts for all fitness levels. 5:45-7 p.m. \$12. Scott Woods Park, 2600 Clifton Ave. Lansing. (517) 243-6538.
Compassionate Friends. For grieving parents who have lost a child. 7:30-9:30 p.m. FREE. Salvation Army Community Center, 701 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 351-6480.

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. www.cadl.org.
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.

See Out on the Town, Page 25

228 Museum Drive, across from Lansing Center
Riverwalk Theatre
 Rick & LeAnn Dethlefsen & Jeff Magnuson in the Tony-Award-Winning Drama by Michael Frayn
COPENHAGEN
 Directed by Mary Job
 An ingenious exploration into the mysteries of atomic physics and the human heart.
 "A brain-teasing pleasure," JOHN LAHR, THE NEW YORKER
 RESERVATIONS 482-5700
 May 4-6 & 11-13
 8 pm Fri/Sat • 2 pm Sun \$12 (\$10 sr/st)
RiverwalkTheatre.com

Intentional Listening Meetup Group
 hosted by Outside the Lines Communications, LLC
Mondays June 4, 11, 18, 25
5:30-6:30 p.m.
 Lexington Lansing, 925 S. Creyts Rd., Lansing
\$5 per person per session
 Interactive sessions on how to listen more intentionally in business, civic and personal life. We'll talk about your best & worst listening experiences. How do you listen? What distracts you from listening? Listening is one of the most important business skills you can have.
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www.stushafer.com

Out on the town

from page 24

(517) 321-4014.
Kids Time: Ages 5-11. Help eastside youth to grow food, develop leadership and life skills. 4:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.
Storytime. Stories, rhymes, songs and a craft for ages 2-5. 10:30-11:15 a.m. & 6:30-7:15 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.
Taste of Art & Life. Tour the home, with artist showcase and live demonstrations. 5-8 p.m. \$65, \$120 for two. 627 N. Harrison Road, East Lansing. (517) 372-4636 x 1.
"This American Life," Live. WBEZ Chicago radio show with host Ira Glass bring radio to the big screen. 7:30 p.m. Price varies. Jackson 10, 1501 N. Wisner St, Jackson. www.fathomevents.com. Also at Celebration Cinema, 200 E. Edgewood Blvd. Lansing. www.fathomevents.com .
Café Scientifique. A monthly science discussion group with LCC professors, month's topic: The future of Mankind. 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495.
DTDL Crafters. Conversation, knitting and other handcrafting projects. Bring own supplies. 2:30-4 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.
Skin Cancer Detection. Skin cancer screenings, call to schedule an appointment. 5-7 p.m. FREE. Sparrow Hospital , 1215 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 332-3300.

MUSIC
Jazz Tuesdays. With Jeff Shoup Quartet, artists from the MSU Jazz Studies Department and the mid-Michigan jazz community. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.
Adelitas Way. Active Rock, Nu-Metal. 7 p.m. \$13 advance. The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing . www.theloftlansing.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY
Library Book Club. Be prepared to discuss "Red Hook Road," by Ayelet Walman. 6:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156. www.dewittlibrary.org.

Wednesday, May 16
CLASSES AND SEMINARS
Meditation. For beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details May 9)
Community Yoga. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details May 9)
Grande Paraders Square Dance Club. 7:30 p.m. \$4 members; \$5. (Please See Details May 9)

SUDOKU SOLUTION								
From Pg. 22								
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Disabilities and Social Justice. ADAPT Michigan-discuss current issues and activism. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434.
Learn Bike Repair. Help maintain the MSU Bikes' rental fleet and earn time to work on your own bike. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and at 6:30-8:30. FREE. Demonstration Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. www.bespartangreen.msu.edu/happenings.html.

EVENTS
Knee High Naturalist. 1-2 p.m. \$5. (Please See Details May 9)
Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details May 9)
Practice Your English. 7-8 p.m. FREE.(Please See Details May 9)
Youth Service Corps. Ages 11-17. 3:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details May 9)
Colonial Village Neighborhood Meeting. The Association meets on the third Wednesday. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Grace United Methodist, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 482-5750.
Forest View Citizens Associatioin. Get updates from the Lansing Police Department. 7 p.m. \$5 per year. University Club MSU, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. (517) 882-9342.
Greater Lansing Ride of Silence. To honor and memorializes bicyclists hit and killed or injured by motor vehicles on roadways. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. MSU Bikes, Bessey Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-3400.
"Chico & Rita." The Academy-Award-nominated animated film about the Cuban jazz scene, directed by Fernando Trueba. 7:30 p.m. \$10, \$25 with reception. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. susanwoods@elff.com.
Ingham County Rural. Meeting of the Wild Ones Red Cedar Chapter and the Michigan Botanical Club. With Jim Hewitt. 7 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 887-0596.

MUSIC
Jazz Wednesdays. F. 7-10 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details May 10)
New Horizons. Band performance. 1 p.m. FREE. Holt Senior Care Center, 5091 Willoughby Road, Holt. (517) 355-7661. cms.msu.edu.

LITERATURE AND POETRY
Jack Dempsey. Author of "Michigan Civil War: A Great and Bloody Sacrifice." 5 p.m. FREE. Brennan Law Library, Cooley Law School, 330 S. Washington Square, Lansing. www.cooley.edu/events.
DTDL Book Club. Discuss Naomi Ragen's "The Ghost of Hannah Mendes." 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. www.dtdl.org.
Baby Time. 10:30 a.m. FREE. (Please See Details May 9)
Lansing Area Science Fiction Association. 7 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details May 9)

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Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsný

May 9-15

ARIES (March 21-April 19): In one of your past lives, I think you must have periodically done something like stick your tongue out or thumb your nose at preten-tious tyrants — and gotten away with it. At least that's one explanation for how confident you often are about speaking up when everyone else seems unwill-ing to point out that the emperor is in fact wearing no clothes. This quality should come in handy during the coming week. It may be totally up to you to reveal the truth about an obvious secret or collective delusion. Can you figure out a way to be relatively tactful as you say what supposedly can't or shouldn't be said?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Taurus actor Daniel Day Lewis will star as American president Abraham Lincoln in a film to be released later this year. Hollywood insid-ers report that Lewis basically became Lincoln months before the film was shot and throughout the entire pro-cess. Physically, he was a dead ringer for the man he was pretending to be. Even when the cameras weren't rolling, he spoke in the cadences and accent of his character rather than in his own natural voice. It might be fun for you to try a similar experiment in the coming weeks, Taurus. Fantasize in detail about the person you would ultimately like to become, and then imitate that future version of you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The idea of a house-warming party comes from an old British tradition. People who were moving would carry away embers from the fireplace of the home they were leaving and bring them to the fireplace of the new home. I recom-mend that you borrow this idea and apply it to the tran-sition you're making. As you migrate toward the future, bring along a symbolic spark of the vitality that has animated the situation you're transitioning out of.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): My friend Irene has a complicated system for handling her cats' food needs. The calico, Cleopatra, demands chicken for breakfast and beef stew at night, and all of it absolutely must be served in a pink bowl on the dining room table. Caligula insists on fish stew early and tuna later. He wants it on a black plate placed behind the love seat. Nefertiti refuses everything but gourmet turkey upon waking and beef liver for the evening repast. If it's not on the basement stairs, she won't touch it. I'm bringing your attention to this, Cancerian, because I think you could draw inspiration from it. It's in your interests, at least temporarily, to keep your loved ones and allies happy with a coordinated exactitude that rivals Irene's.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The moon's pale glow shim-mers on your face as you run your fingers through your hair. In your imagination, 90 violins play with sub-lime fury, rising toward a climax, while the bittersweet yearning in your heart sends warm chills down your spine. You part your lips and open your eyes wide, searching for the words that could change everything. And then suddenly you remember you have to contact the plumber tomorrow, and find the right little white lie to appease you-know-who, and run out to the store to get that gadget you saw advertised. Cut! Cut! Let's do this scene again. Take five. It's possible, my dear, that your tendency to overdramatize is causing you to lose focus. Let's trim the 90 violins down to ten and see if maybe that helps.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "We all need a little more courage now and then," said poet Marvin Bell. "That's what I need. If you have some to share, I want to know you." I advise you to adopt his approach in the coming days, Virgo. Proceed on the assumption that what you need most right now is to be braver and bolder. And consider the possibility that a good way to accomplish this goal is by hanging around people who are so intrepid and adventurous that their spirit will rub off on you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In the Byrds' 1968 song "Fifth Dimension," the singer makes a curious state-

ment. He says that during a particularly lucid state, when he was simply relaxed and paying attention, he saw the great blunder his teachers had made. I encourage you to follow that lead, Libra. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, now would be an excellent time for you to thoroughly question the lessons you've absorbed from your important teachers — even the ones who taught you the best and helped you the most. You will earn a healthy jolt as you decide what to keep and what to discard from the gifts that beloved authorities have given you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): What are the most beautiful and evocative songs you know? What are the songs that activate your dormant wisdom and unleash waves of insight about your purpose here on earth and awaken surges of gratitude for the labyrinthine path you have traveled to become the person you are today? Whatever those tunes are, I urge you to gather them all into one playlist, and listen to them with full attention while at rest in a comfortable place where you feel perfectly safe. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you need a concentrated dose of the deepest, richest, most healing emotions you can tap into.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Tourists rarely go to the South American nation of Guyana. That's mostly because much of it is virgin rain forest and there are few amenities for travelers. In part it's also due to the reputation-scarring event that occurred there in 1978, when cult-leader Reverend Jim Jones led a mass sui-cide of his devotees. Last year, after travel writer Jeff Greenwald announced his trip to Guyana, his friends responded with a predictable joke: "Don't drink the Kool-Aid!" — a reference to the beverage Jones spiked with cyanide before telling his followers to drink up. But Greenwald was glad he went. The lush, tangled magni-ficence of Guyana was tough to navigate but a blessing to the senses and a first-class adventure. Be like him, Sagittarius. Consider engaging with a situation that offers challenging gifts. Overcome your biases about a potentially rewarding experience.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "You have more freedom than you are using," says artist Dan Attoe. Allow that taunt to get under your skin and rile you up in the coming days, Capricorn. Let it motivate you to lay claim to all the potential spaciousness and independence and leeway that are just lying around going to waste. According to my understanding of the astrological omens, you have a sacred duty to cultivate more slack as if your dreams depended on it. (They do!)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If you've been tuning in to my horoscopes during the past months, you're aware that I have been encouraging you to refine and deepen the meaning of home. You know that I have been urging you to get really serious about identifying what kind of environment you need in order to thrive; I've been asking you to integrate yourself into a com-munity that brings out the best in you; I've been nudging you to create a foundation that will make you strong and sturdy for a long time. Now it's time to finish up your intensive work on these projects. You've got about four more weeks before a new phase of your life's work will begin.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Is your BS-detector in good condition? I hope so, because it's about to get a workout. Rumors will be swirling and gossip will be flourishing, and you will need to be on high alert in order to distinguish the laughable delusions that have no redeeming value from the entertaining stories that have more than a few grains of truth. If you pass those tests, Pisces, your reward will be handsome: You'll become a magnet for inside information, valu-able secrets, and unusual but useful clues that come from unexpected sources.

Does Stillwater run deep?

Okemos eatery is surf and turf from top to bottom

By JOE TOROK

The Stillwater Grill in Okemos feels a bit like a hotel ballroom on first blush, classy and inviting but not terribly intimate.

A small collection of cylindrical amber fixtures hang at one end of the dining room, bathing the space in an orange-hued light that highlights extensive woodwork, sage green accents and tables so clean they shine. Along the ceiling, long brass pipes fan out from the greeter station, echoing the sunburst logo found on Stillwater's signage and branded in its advertising.

Stillwater's dinner menu is surf and turf from top to bottom, offering everything from prime rib and chicken tenders to tilapia and coconut shrimp.

The lobster bisque, a generous serving accompanied by cellophane-wrapped soda crackers, came with our entrée. There seemed

to be a strong cheddar cheese influence in the soup, and that flavor took over, muting out the flavor of the lobster.

Served punctually along with the bisque was the panko-encrusted goat cheese (\$11). Fried perfectly, three crunchy, flaky, golden brown globes filled with creamy cheese were drizzled with a sweet sauce that had a bit of a kick: raspberry with a touch of cayenne, according to our server. It's a nice idea and not entirely without risk, which we appreciated, but none of the flavors seemed to pop like we imagined; my companion especially craved a stronger sweetness to contrast the tang of the cheese, and while the cayenne sounds interesting in theory, it held notes of wasabi, which, for us, confused the flavors.

For our entrée, we decided to share a combo platter that offered a selection of three meats (\$32) and a side. We ordered the roasted vegetables for an extra couple of dollars, and it was nice to have a medley of mushrooms, peppers, squashes and artichoke

Courtesy Photo
The Stillwater Grill menu features salmon and lobster beurre blanc, tilapia piccata, grilled ahi tuna salad, steak tip florentine and Cajun tenderloin tips.



Review



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heart, certainly better than the customary broccoli florets or baked potato offered by most restaurants. The subtle vinegar dressing on the vegetables, though, just didn't bring the veggies together like a nice, semi-sweet balsamic might have done.

Of the three proteins, the prime rib stood out. A thick cut of juicy meat prepared medium rare, the boneless beef was served with au jus. If you're looking for tasty cut of red meat, this is a dish that won't disappoint, although the au jus seemed heavy on the bouillon.

We were most disappointed with the wasabi lime tuna. Our sushi-grade tuna steak was pan seared well, but it might have been cooked a little too close to the prime rib because that's what it tasted like. We expected the meat to be flakier, with a more delicate, silky texture, but it came out feeling like a beef steak in that department, too. The wasabi lime sauce added a bright burst of color and touch of acidity, but it had less spice than the sauce on the goat cheese.

The Cajun tenderloin tips landed somewhere in between the other two selections, probably closer to the tuna. The menu proudly proclaims the skewer of tenderloin tips as a guest favorite; we weren't as excited as others, apparently. Like our other selections, the tips were cooked exactly as we requested, but, on reflection, the flavors just didn't inspire the use of an exclamation point. Oregano was there in the background, and there was plenty of sweetness in the sauce, but the heat we expected from peppers was missing or

masked — along with any other flavors — by the sauce.

The evening ended pleasantly with a slice of chocolate cake. Dense and layered with ganache, it had the texture of fudge and satisfied my companion's chocolate craving. Rich and semisweet, the generous slice is an indulgence and more than enough for two. It would have been even better with a real cup of coffee — I was finished with the coffee-flavored tea I was served after a couple of sips.

Overall, Stillwater seems to try hard to feel like a high-end neighborhood restaurant, yet it largely comes off as corporate, and that's not an entirely bad experience. My sense is that if I went to eat there next week or month or year, I'd likely have a near-identical experience, from the clean, bright atmosphere to the clockwork service to the mildly satisfying food. Customers like that. Many of us look for dining experiences we can rely on, nights out when we know we won't be sending food back to the kitchen and the water will always be topped off in a timely manner.

I'm just not sure, though, how often I'll crave such a middlebrow dining experience. If I do, there's stiff competition for that kind of dining dollar in this town.

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— Stores include Iorio's Italian Ice and Gelato, Caruso's Candy Kitchen, Aggie Mae's Bakery, Alice's Kitchen, Bob's Market, Sarge's Soups and Sandwiches, Seif Foods, Shoua's Kitchen, The Grain Market and the Waterfront Bar and Grille. The market sells fresh fruits, vegetables, gelato, wine and handmade items from around mid-Michigan. 325 City Market Dr., Lansing. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; select stores are open noon-4

p.m. Sunday; closed Mondays. (517) 483-7460. www.lansingcitymarket.com. TO, OM

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— This national chain specializes in ribs, steaks and burgers, but the menu is large enough, with salads, lots of sides and a kid's menu, for even finicky eaters to find a meal. Monday-Wednesday: two meals for \$14.99. 5800 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. (517) 327-4751. www.logansroadhouse.com WB, TO, FB, OM, \$\$

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