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CityPULSE

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July 4-10, 2012

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page 9



ANNUAL CLEARANCE SALE! SAVE UP TO 75% see page 3



SUNRISE ON MICHIGAN AVENUE, page 21

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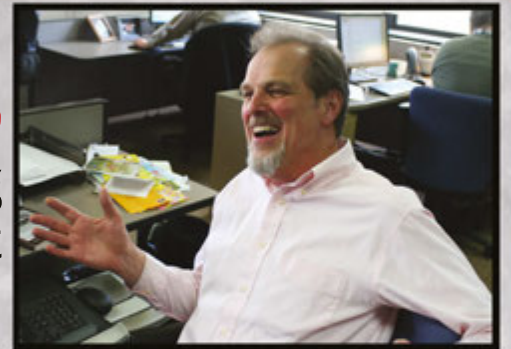
City Pulse Newsmakers



Hosted by Berl Schwartz

This week's show:

John Schneider
Former Lansing State Journal Columnist



Sunday, July 8

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

Sunday, July 15

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

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Virg Bernero, Mayor

Feedback

LCC's spending habits

Andy Balaskovitz's article about President Brent Knight's vision for Lansing Community College highlights only one of the ways in which the college has chosen to spend scarce financial resources. At a time when the college is facing a \$4.4 million deficit and declining state funding and student enrollment, the board and the president have made some oddly irresponsible choices:

- As your article mentioned, the \$400,000 for the 3 properties is only part of the cost of removal (whether through demolition or moving) and construction of a park and entrance. Let me point out that LCC already has 2 very large brick and limestone entrances, and is bordered on two sides by parks (Durant Park to the north, and Adado Riverfront Park to the east).

- The college has purchased the Oliver Towers parking lot for \$1.2 million, and was negotiating the purchase of the Towers building for another \$1.3 million. Again, as the building is unlivable due to a fire and has been sitting vacant for a decade, the college would incur the additional costs of demolition.

- The board of trustees has "directed" President Knight to move into what has been the Herrmann Conference Center, an unorthodox decision for a community college; no other community college in Michigan of similar size has on site housing for its president. The cost for plumbing and electrical work alone has been budgeted at \$50,000. This does not include remodeling costs for a kitchen and bathrooms, which could be anywhere from \$25,000 to \$100,000. By saving the president the cost of housing, and brining the building up to living standards for a family, this is, in effect, a huge salary increase.

- The college and President Knight seem fixated on landscaping, which is admittedly quite lovely. But it's hard to determine the cost of what has been done so far by looking at the college's budget. All of the recent landscaping has been done by private contractors in spite of the fact that the college still has courses in landscape architecture in the course schedule book. As I write this, a large granite inlay of LCC's logo is being installed in front of the Gannon Building.

- The renovation of Arts and Sciences has been budgeted at \$20 million, with half of that coming from a state grant. \$10 million of the college's discretionary fund will be used for the rest. Although the stated goal is to create a state of the art teaching facility, much of the emphasis that we have seen is on appearance, with more real estate being given to open student lounges than to the quiet or private spaces that faculty — and student/faculty interaction — require.

If there is a pattern here it is this: at a time when the college is facing reduced funding from the state, is relying more and more on adjunct faculty (lower pay and no benefits), is raising tuition, and continues to cut support staff necessary to academic departments, the people in charge of allocating money at LCC are more concerned about appearance than they are about their primary responsibility: providing a quality education at a reasonable cost.

— Catherine Allen
East Lansing

LCC lacks educational focus

As a retiree of Lansing Community College, I found it quite interesting that the sole focus of the Brent Knight article was the 'real estate activity of the college,' with 'not one whiff' of 'an educational issue.'

I find this 'a most telling reminder' of the 'priorities' and 'mission' of those who have been 'in charge' of this college for many years.

— Eugene Hayhoe
East Lansing

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Is Tom Cochran serious in the 67th?



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EDITOR AND PUBLISHER Berl Schwartz
publisher@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5061
ASSISTANT TO THE PUBLISHER Casey Tetens
casey@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6710

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR James Sanford
james@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5068
ON THE TOWN EDITOR Jessica Checkeroski
jessica@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5069

NEWS EDITOR Andy Balaskovitz
andy@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5064

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

STAFF WRITERS
Lawrence Cosentino
lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com
Sam Ingot
sam@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6715

SOCIAL MEDIA CONSULTANT Julie Powers
julie@lansingcitypulse.com • @JPowers155

ADVERTISING
Shelly Olson
shelly@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6705
Holly Ekwejunor-Etchie
holly@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6707
Karen Wilson
karen@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6706

Contributors: Brian Bienkowski, Justin Biilicki, Bill Castanier, Mary C. Cusack, Jeff Hammer, Tom Helma, Christopher Horb, Terry Link, Kyle Melinn, Adam Molner, Dennis Preston, Allan I. Ross, Joe Torok, Rich Tupica, Susan Woods, Paul Wozniak, Amanda Harrell-Seyburn, Ute Von Der Heyden, Judy Winter

Interns: Holly Johnson
Delivery drivers: Abdulmahdi Al-Rabiah, Dave Fisher, Karen Navarra, Noelle Navarra, Brent Robison, Steve Stevens

CITY PULSE ON THE AIR

THIS WEEK HIGHLIGHT SHOW
Dan Bollman and Gretchen Cochran of Preservation Lansing
Author Jack Ebling
The Rev. Melvin T. Jones and Bishop David Maxwell
Actor/comedian Judah Friedlander



Editor & Publisher
Berl Schwartz

7 p.m. Wednesdays



THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

HEALTH CARE REFORM GLOSSARY UPDATED

1) HERITAGE FOUNDATION: CONSERVATIVE THINK TANK WHICH PROPOSED MARKET-BASED HEALTH CARE REFORM IN 1989.
WE CALL IT THE "INDIVIDUAL MANDATE!"

2) ROMNEYCARE: VERSION OF HERITAGE PLAN INSTITUTED IN MASSACHUSETTS BY MITT ROMNEY, WHO NOW SEEMS TO HAVE NO MEMORY OF THE EVENT.
I DID WHAT? SURELY YOU ARE MISTAKEN!

3) OBAMACARE: VERSION OF ROMNEYCARE EMBRACED BY BARACK OBAMA IN 2009.
A MARKET-BASED PLAN WHICH PRESERVES THE PRIMACY OF PRIVATE INSURERS? HOW COULD ANY REPUBLICAN POSSIBLY OBJECT?

4) IMAGINARY OBAMACARE: SOURCE OF MASS HYSTERIA AMONG CONSERVATIVES FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS.
HE WANTS TO KILL US ALL WITH HIS BIG-GOV-ERNMENT DEATH PANELS!

5) CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: SURPRISE SWING VOTE UPHOLDING HEALTH CARE REFORM, TO DISMAY OF MANY.
THAT TURNCOAT MAKES ME SICK TO MY STOMACH!

6) HELLISH DYSTOPIA: RIGHT-WING PERCEPTION OF COUNTRY IN WHICH PEOPLE HAVE INCREASED ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE.
WHEN PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS ARE OUTLAWED--

7) THE INNER FRAGILITY OF HUMAN EXISTENCE: CONCEPT WITH WHICH OPPONENTS OF HEALTH CARE REFORM ARE SEEMINGLY UNFAMILIAR.
I DON'T HAVE ANY HEALTH PROBLEMS, AT THIS PRECISE MOMENT!

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

Now you have two ways to sound off:

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

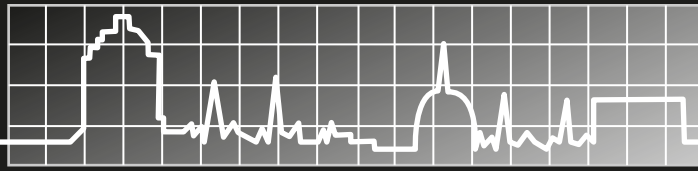
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The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the FINANCE DEPARTMENT, PURCHASING OFFICE, 8TH FLOOR CITY HALL, 124 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933 until 3:00 PM local time in effect on **JULY 17, 2012** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.

Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson, CPPB at (517) 483-4128, email: srobinso@lansingmi.gov or for content and purpose of this bid contact: Bill Brunner at (517) 483-4018, email: bbrunner@lansingmi.gov, or go to www.mitn.info

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

PULSE



news & opinion

'Monstrosity'

Niowave expansion woos public officials, ticks off neighbors

"What a surprise to wake up one morning and realize I'll never see the sun again," sighed Mark Hahn.

Hahn said the addition of a three-story, 14,000-square-foot pole barn to the Niowave, Inc., facilities on the northwest corner of Seymour Avenue and West Kilborn Street has completely blocked out sunshine to his adjacent home to the north of 17 years. A fence, a few trees and about 10 feet of space separate his property from the new expansion.

Niowave decided on the \$10 million addition to its Walnut Street headquarters this year when they realized they would need more room for research and development, said Jerry Hollister, Niowave's chief operating officer.

The company formed in 2006 and specializes in manufacturing and testing particle accelerators, devices that move electrons nearly at the speed of light that can be used in lasers and X-ray technology for the military and medical fields.

On Tuesday afternoon, Hahn wandered into the facility dedication ceremony looking to speak with the bigwigs in attendance, including Democratic Senators Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin. After speaking with Stabenow and former Lansing Mayor David Hollister, Hahn said he came to a stark realization.

"One part of me says I wish them success and progress," he said. "And on the other hand, when I spoke with them, I realized this wouldn't happen outside their kitchen window."

The vastness of the structure and the speed at which it was built caught Hahn and others in the neighborhood by surprise. They say they had no input on the decision.

Mary Elaine Kiener lives in a 100-year-old home three houses away from the new building. Kiener learned last April from Niowave's finance manager that the addition would be "basically a shed."

"I watched it go up in horror and then I realized, 'Oh my God. This is ugly,'" Kiener said. "That's no simple shed. It's more like an airplane hangar. It's taller than my three-story house!"

Still more neighbors are ticked off.

"It's a monstrosity right in the midst of

our neighborhood," said Dale Schrader, who lives less than a block away from the addition. "I'm shocked that (the city) would allow that in the neighborhood. It belongs out at an airport industrial park or a dairy farm, not in the middle of century-old homes right across from a church. It's completely out of place."

Schrader spearheaded the recent renovation of an old filling station on West Grand River Avenue just west of Old Town.

Jerry Hollister said he has not received any complaints about the structure and that they worked closely with the city Planning Office during the process.

Bob Johnson, director of planning and neighborhood development, said he worked with Niowave to assure aspects



Sam Ingot/City Pulse

U.S. Sen. Carl Levin speaking with U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Matthew Klunder inside the new 14,000-square-foot Niowave facility before the dedication ceremony Tuesday afternoon. Both spoke at the event and applauded the new facility.

like height, building usage and distance from the street were up to code. Other than that, aesthetics are out of the city's hands. The property is zoned professional office district, but Niowave received a special land use permit in 2006 because the nature of the company's work fits within "experimental research."

Jerry Hollister said Niowave has a vested interest in the neighborhood. That's why they bought and rehabbed a dozen houses as rentals. He said Monday night that the company "absolutely wants to continue a dialog" with neighbors about the building, once it hears all of the concerns. And until now, the company has been fairly inconspicuous because it retained the architecture of the former Walnut Street school that serves as its headquarters.

"If they have a vested interest in the neighborhood looking good, why did they put an industrial building in the middle of a family neighborhood?" asked

Rina Risper, president of the Walnut Neighborhood Association.

At the Tuesday dedication ceremony, the words "innovation" and "partnership" were thrown around as Niowave and government officials touted the success and expansion of the company. The words came with a sense of irony.

Risper was in attendance and said that there was nothing innovative about how the cavernous structure looks and there were no partnerships forged to get input from the surrounding residents.

"I feel betrayed," Kiener said while sitting on her porch. "This was not a neighborly decision."

As part of the expansion, Niowave is promising 15 to 25 jobs and is asking for a personal property tax exemption from the city that would waive more than \$230,000 in taxes over the next six years. A public hearing is scheduled for July 23. A similar tax abatement was given in 2006 that is set to expire this year, along with an incentive that freezes property taxes when it was bought and expires in six years.

"I will never see the sun again and they get a tax abatement for it," Hahn said. "The neighbors should also get an abatement to make up the loss of property value."

As for the City Council, there isn't much that can be done. City Attorney Brig Smith said certain conditions for a tax incentive — such as appearance or landscaping — can't be set by the city.

At-Large Councilwoman Carol Wood said the Council doesn't have "any leverage other than asking," but agreed: "I think that it looks hideous. It is what it is: It looks like a pole barn that belongs in some industrial park."

Councilwoman Jessica Yorke, who represents the 4th Ward where Niowave is headquartered, suggested such development appears to be a trend. She compared it to Lansing Community College's announcement — with little community input — to demolish three 100-year-old houses on Saginaw Street to build a park.

"First LCC, now Niowave. When you live in an urban setting, people want to know big things like tearing down houses. It's just a neighborly thing to do," she said. "It has to be done out of goodwill. It's just a value that is lacking with some of our larger locations."

— Sam Ingot

Eyesore of the week



Property: 1012 N. Walnut St., Lansing (the pole barn)

Owner: Niowave, Inc.

Owner says: We're open to discuss with neighbors

The mainstream media is heralding Niowave's multimillion-dollar expansion as an economic savior of the high tech, progressive sort. True enough, but what about the company's neighbors who have sat by — uninformed and excluded — and watched their Walnut neighborhood become a mini industrial park?

Niowave's expansion calls for this 14,000-square-foot pole barn for testing particle accelerators. Yet one neighbor says this white and blue behemoth will completely shut out any direct sunlight from hitting his house. City Council members are hearing complaints from several other neighbors.

Niowave should be rightly commended for rehabbing several residential rental properties around its headquarters here, and for repurposing the old Walnut school, six years ago. One wonders why the company didn't take the same neighborly approach with its new build-out. They're certainly not required to do so by city regulations (we're told the operation fits within a special land use permit), but what is the lesson here? That any economic development — especially the advanced, high tech kind — plays a bigger role than maintaining aesthetics? Or that Lansing is a city that will roll out the red carpet for any company willing to move or expand here, neighborhood or historical integrity be damned?

— Andy Balaskovitz

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

City of Lansing Notice of Public Hearing

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, July 23, 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 to appear and be heard on the approval of a New Personal Property Exemption (PPE-6-06) requested by the applicant indicated below:

Applicant: Niowave, Inc.
Location: 1012 N. Walnut Street
Location of subject property:
LOTS 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12 BLOCK 39 ORIG PLAT.

Approval of a New Personal Property Exemption (PPE-01-12) requested by Niowave, Inc. will result in the abatement of new personal property taxes located within the subject property. Further information regarding this application for property tax abatement may be obtained from Mr. Karl R. Dorshimer, Economic Development Corporation of the City of Lansing, 401 S. Washington Sq., Suite 1, Lansing, Michigan, 48933, (517) 483-4140.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk

CITY OF EAST LANSING NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about July 12, 2012 the City of East Lansing will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93-383), as amended, to undertake the following projects:

Housing Rehabilitation and Improvement Program, \$47,089 for the purpose of assisting low-moderate income home owners residing in the City of East Lansing with code violation corrections, weatherization and lead-based paint interim controls or abatement. The total program cost will be \$57,089 with repairs of up to \$24,999 per household. An estimated two households will be assisted in program year 2012, in the form of a partially-forgivable deferred loan.

Hometown Housing Partnership, Inc., \$3,000 for the purpose of repairs to correct code violations to homes purchased through the downpayment assistance program or purchased for resale to an income-qualified household. Common repairs include plumbing and electrical code corrections. The target area for this activity is the Central, Red Cedar, Bailey and Southeast Marble neighborhoods. HHP, Inc. also provides downpayment assistance to income-qualified households, but this activity is categorically excluded from NEPA review and does not require a request for release of funds.

Bailey Neighborhood Sidewalk Improvement, \$78,000 for the purpose of reconstructing portions of existing sidewalk deemed hazardous and the installation of ADA ramps at critical intersections (along school walks, major street intersections) within the Bailey Neighborhood.

Prime Time Senior Cultural Art Studio, \$3,610 for the purpose of the enhancement of an existing classroom located within the public facility, Hannah Community Center. The classroom will be provided the installation of ADA accessible electrical sockets as well as the purchase and installation of an ADA accessible community sink. These resources will be used for community classes and outreach activities.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the City of East Lansing Planning and Community Development Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823. All comments received by July 12, 2012 will be considered by the City of East Lansing prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of East Lansing certifies to HUD that George Lahanas in his capacity as City Manager consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the City of East Lansing to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the City of East Lansing's certification received by July 27, 2012 or a period of fifteen days from its receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer or other officer of the City of East Lansing approved by HUD; (b) the City of East Lansing has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development Detroit Area Office, Region V, 477 Michigan Avenue Detroit, Michigan 48226.

Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

George Lahanas, City Manager
City of East Lansing
410 Abbot Road
East Lansing, MI 48823

Date: July 5, 2012

Lansing Housing Commission is accepting **ELECTRONIC** preliminary applications for Public Housing properties between

July 1 2012, 12:01 a.m. thru July 14, 2012 at 11:59 p.m. as follows:

Hildebrandt Park & Scattered Sites

July 1-3, 2012

Mt. Vernon Park & Scattered Sites

July 5-7, 2012

LaRoy Froh Townhomes & Scattered Sites

July 8-10, 2012

South Washington Park Apartments & Scattered Sites

July 11-14, 2012

You may apply at: www.lanshc.org by clicking the link that says "Apply here" or by going to <https://www.waitlistcheck.com/MI058> during the time frames reflected above. LHC will randomly sort applications and accept a number which we reasonably expect to house within 2 years.

NOTE: Only Electronic Preliminary Applications may be submitted. **ABSOLUTELY NO** applications can be submitted at any Lansing Housing Commission office. This is not a centralized waiting list. You **MUST APPLY** on the **dates noted** above for the **properties where you wish to reside**.

The Lansing Housing Commission is a federally funded Public housing Agency which provides housing opportunities for low-income families. Families admitted to LHC's Low Income Public Housing Program live at one of LHC'S public housing communities which are located in Lansing Michigan. Prior to admission, the LHC verifies the family's income and other household circumstances, including criminal, landlord and fiscal history for all adults in the household. Families deemed both eligible and suitable for admission will be offered an opportunity lease a unit with LHC. Families who lease LHC public housing units have the option of paying either an income based rent (based on a family's ability to pay (usually 30% of a family's monthly adjusted income), regardless of the size of the leased unit) or a flat rent (based on the number of bedrooms of the leased unit). At South Washington Park Apartments, gas, electricity, and water and sewer are included in the rent.

Priority for admission will be given to applicants who qualify for one or more of LHC's local Preference (pending verification by LHC):

- Person(s) displace by federally declared disaster occurring after July 1,2005
- Working Families
- Victims of Domestic Violence
- Elderly or Disable

NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION FOR THE TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2012 ELECTION

To the qualified electors of the City of Lansing

Please take notice that the City of Lansing will hold an election on August 7, 2012.

Monday, July 9, 2012 is the last day to register in order to be eligible to vote at the August 7, 2012 Election. Any qualified elector who is not already registered to vote may register for the August 7, 2012 Election. Persons registering after Monday, July 9, 2012, are not eligible to vote at this election.

The following will be submitted to the electors at the August 7, 2012 Election:

Republican candidates vying for nomination to the offices of: United States Senator, Representative in Congress, Representative in State Legislature, County Offices – (Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, Clerk, Treasurer, Register of Deeds, Drain Commissioner), County Commissioner, Precinct Delegate.

Democratic candidates vying for nomination to the offices of: United States Senator, Representative in Congress, Representative in State Legislature, County Offices – (Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, Clerk, Treasurer, Register of Deeds, Drain Commissioner), County Commissioner, Precinct Delegate.

Candidates vying to be nominated to the office of: Judge of Circuit Court.

The following proposals will be submitted to Ingham County electors:

Juvenile Millage Renewal Question
Emergency Telephone Service (911 Service) Millage Renewal Question
Public Transportation System For Elderly and Disabled Millage Question

The following proposals will be submitted to Eaton County electors:

Juvenile Millage Authorization Question
9-1-1 and Central Dispatch Millage Renewal Question

The following Proposals will be submitted to City of Lansing electors:

Proposed Amendment to Article 3, Chapter 2, Section 201, Subsection 1(3-201.1) of the Lansing City Charter
Authorized Sale of Waverly Golf Course and Michigan Avenue Park
Authorized Sale of a portion of Oak Park

To see if you are registered or to find your polling location, check the Lansing City Clerk's web site at www.lansingmi.gov/clerk.

To register, visit any Secretary of State branch office, your county clerk's office, or the **Lansing City Clerk's Office, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933, (517) 483-4133** during regular business hours.

**Chris Swope
Lansing City Clerk**

Is Cochran serious about winning the 67th?

POLITICS



KYLE MELINN

At the taping of "City Pulse Newsmakers," Democratic 67th House District candidate Tom Cochran was a no show.

The show aired Sunday (and is available at www.lansingcitypulse.com) with the former Lansing fire chief's two Democratic opponents: retired radio show host Walt Sorg and Delhi Township Trustee Jerry Ketchum.

Asked to read into Cochran's nonappearance, Sorg launched into a critique of a Cochran lit piece that makes the unrealistic campaign promise of lower taxes and higher spending for education and other government services.

Cochran was offered pretty much carte blanche on when to tape the show, which his handler, Todd Cook, declined with a vague reference to a busy schedule. (Because of technical problems, the show had to be taped again; this time Cochran said he had other commitments.)

His nonappearance raised the question: "Is Cochran — backed by the UAW, the Michigan Nurses Association, the Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union and the Michigan Association of Police Organizations — serious about the race?"

"I'm very serious," Cochran told me by phone. "I wouldn't take up people's time if I wasn't. I have a lot of respect for the process, and I wouldn't be doing this if I wasn't serious."

So why wasn't he there?

Among the Lansing types, Cochran is viewed as the frontrunner. The 67th House District is one of only two or three competitive open seats in the state this year, meaning Democrats must retain the district held by term-limited Rep. Barb Byrum to keep alive any slim hopes they have of regaining a majority.

The Republicans are running former Vevay Township Supervisor Jeff Oesterle, who lost by 6 percent to Byrum two years ago. In redistricting last year, Republicans monkeyed around with the south Lansing/Holt/Mason/rural Ingham County district to presumably give Oesterle an edge.

In 2011, Cochran was asked by Dems to run for the 67th. He said no and told Sorg as much when the two talked.

Last October, Cochran's father passed away and around that same time his mother had a stroke. His mother needed 24-hour care and he was working with his sister in providing that. Then things changed. In January, his mother suffered a second stroke and the family moved her into a facility better suited to helping her with rehabilitation.

Meanwhile, Cochran still received calls about running. The line was Sorg was too

liberal. His campaign finance account was practically empty despite being in the race for about a year. And his bad knees were limiting his ability to knock doors.

Democrats were concerned they were going to lose the seat.

On the second ask, Cochran said yes.

"I did feel bad because I had talked to (Sorg) and told him I wasn't running. So he was the first person I called when I made the decision to get in," Cochran said. "My personal circumstances changed and I was upfront and honest about that."

Why didn't the D's rally around Ketchum, who filed in February?

He's a three-time Delhi Township trustee and retired 25-year MDOT employee, who has the SEIU's support.

It's because some view him as a Republican in Democratic clothing.

Due to his Baptist beliefs, Ketchum is pro-life and anti-gay marriage. He's pro gun and worked against the doomed \$5.5 million sludge drier proposal in Holt.

Both Cochran and Sorg are pro-choice and pro-gay marriage.

Sorg drives around in a Chevy Volt. If elected, he would make legislation expanding the accessibility of electric sockets for plug-in cars a top priority.

He said the knocks on him are unfounded. He brushed off the "liberal" claim as people looking for an excuse not to support him. As for his knees, both were replaced in January. He claims to have

knocked on about 2,000 doors since.

Sorg is very likeable. He has the support of most of the six countywide elected officials, three former House speakers and three MSU trustees.

The issue does come down to dollars and cents. Sorg ended 2011 with \$217.51 in his account, a paltry sum considering he'd been in the race for most of the year.

Oesterle and the Republicans are going to spend money in this district after Labor Day. TV commercials, radio commercials, mailings all cost money. Democrats would rather have a candidate who can raise a little of his own as opposed to relying on the Democratic Party's limited resources to bail him out.

What is Cochran doing instead of doing TV appearances with Sorg and

Ketchum? He's going door to door.

He's making phone calls to potential contributors. He had a fundraiser last Thursday. He said he's doing the things he feels he needs to do put himself in a position to beat Oesterle in the fall.

After the primary, he said he would publicly debate Oesterle on "City Pulse Newsmakers" or some other program.

So to answer the original question — is Tom Cochran serious about this race?

Yes, he's just more serious about winning in November.

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

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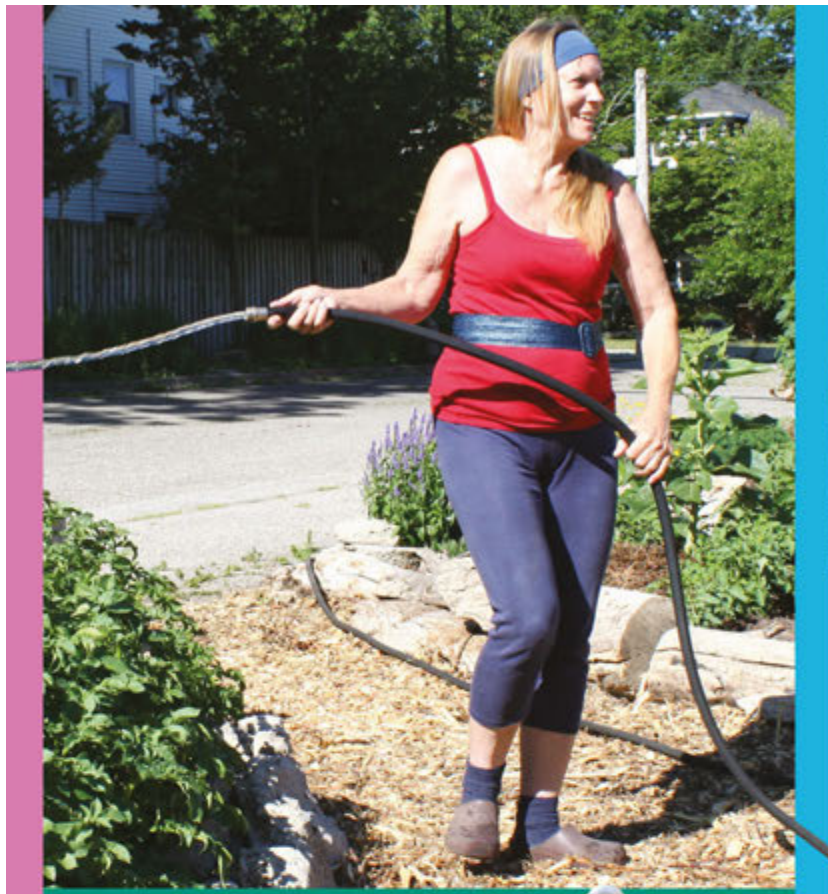
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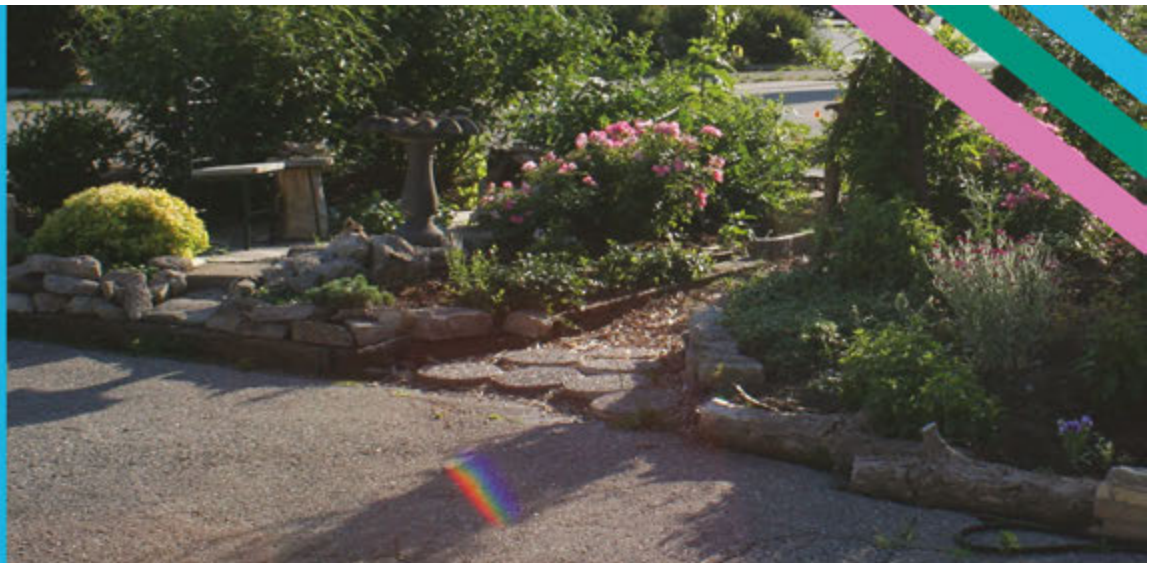


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Above: Lynn Orta, creator of the parking lot garden next to the Marathon station at 601 W. Saginaw Street, turns to greet a passerby. She started work in 2003 and filled the rest of the space left by a demolished car wash this summer. **Below:** The splendid pallet seat at the east end of the garden is guarded by an eagle, one of the beasts that guard the throne of God in the book of Revelations.



URBAN REVELATION

LYNN ORT CREATES A GARDEN UNIVERSE IN A WEST SIDE PARKING LOT

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Saginaw Street is a greased pole running sideways through Lansing's west side, with four fresh black lanes and signals timed to get you somewhere else fast. You have to be alert to spot the cool green rectangle next to the Marathon gas station at 601 W. Saginaw.

At 45 miles per hour, it's an Impressionist canvas — a soft blur of color in an epic frame of asphalt and concrete. Slow down and you begin to see a complicated geography of tables, chairs and carefully arranged nooks.

Slow down more and you receive a revelation.

I biked to the spot last Wednesday, looking for a gardener.

Eric Jones stops at the Marathon every morning on his way to work to play the mid-day lottery number, grab some coffee and pick up a pack of Newport Kings.

Jones was in a hurry, but he paused at the door to talk about the garden and its sole builder and architect, known to the neighborhood as Lynn, the wheelbarrow lady.

"I watch that lady every day, and she works hard. I saw her carry a wheelbarrow full of boulders, for real. Shit, she's a workhorse."

For seven years, Jones has watched the garden creep slowly across the asphalt.

"It's a world outside of a world, especially in this neighborhood," he mused.

There was no sign of the wheelbarrow lady, so I walked to the nearest house and found Rosie Griffith, sitting on her porch, next door to the garden.

Every morning, Griffith reads her Bible and watches Lynn from her window. "We thought it was a job she had, but we found out it was just something she likes to do. Everybody around here, they know it's Lynn's garden."

I decided to wait in the garden. Good decision. It took about 10 seconds for the city around me to melt away like cheap wax. Revelation was at hand.

A low cinderblock barrier wall from a long-demolished car wash runs like a sheltering headboard at the garden's west edge.

As I sat by the wall, the green rectangle resolved into a universe of paths, borders, flowerbeds, vegetable patches, chairs, tables, distinct worlds, rooms without walls.

A guiding will spoke like water from every stone, stump, and seedling. I started to smell sun on wood chips and noticed robins hopping under the tomato plants.

My wall seat felt as solid as a papal throne, but like everything else here, it was made of scrounged stuff — wooden pallets and cement blocks, with a curved piece of driftwood for lumbar support. Urns of humble geraniums flanked the throne in royal red. Curlicues of spray-painted graffiti undulated on the wall.

Did I say papal? Why think small?

Behind me, the broken end of an industrial wooden spool evoked the Throne of God, witnessed by John in the book of Revelations: "And there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald."

The rest of the spool, turned on end, sat nearby as a charming tea table.

How did I know about the God part? Presiding over the wall and the garden beyond was a plaster eagle, nested in a garland of dry vines, one of the four beasts that guard the throne of the Almighty in the book of Revelations.

"The eagle stands for Jehovah's wisdom," came a soft voice.

Lynn Orta was standing in front of me, dressed in a red tank top and black bandana.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Left: Many of the plants in the garden, like the towering walnut tree, grew naturally from seeds in compost or carried by animals. Others were donated by neighbors.

Right: The birdbath is made of stones, a broken fountain bowl, and cement blocks. A dead tree, for perching, is held in place by the upside down base of a second broken fountain. Almost everything in the garden was found in the neighborhood and brought in by wheelbarrow.

Garden

from page 9

"A year or two ago, vandalism was a constant problem, but not from everybody," she said. Her speech was deliberate.

She was on trash detail. She picked a crushed plastic bottle from the asphalt, near a bed of peppermint and artichokes, and tugged a sodden black T-shirt away

from the fluffy, moist soil.

"They bring things," she said, reaching into the birdbath.

"I come out here one day and there's a little glass fish in there."

While she's working, she sometimes thinks about "Big Yellow Taxi," the Joni Mitchell song famous for the words "they paved paradise and put up a parking lot." That makes her smile. She smiles rarely, but for real.

Most often, while working, she thinks about Adam and Eve. "They were put in a garden," she said. "We've got a natural propensity for it."

She picked up a dirty paper cup. Her eyes patrolled the asphalt perimeter.

"Or In Isaiah, it talks about how every

man will sit under his own fig tree. It's a happy state of things to be in a fertile, productive piece of Earth."

This summer, for the first time, Orta has gardened the entire car wash rectangle to its edges. She started the job in 2003.

The garden really began in Orta's backyard, a winding glade of shade plants with stone and log borders similar to the paths next to the gas station.

Orta, 62, has lived across from the garden, on Sycamore Street, since 1987.

The only tools in her garage are a wheelbarrow, a shovel and a rake. No roto-tiller, no power mower.

Getting started was the hardest part. The car wash bed was caked with crushed gravel. She chiseled away until the bottom of her shovel was concave and the handle broke. A neighbor gave her a new shovel and kept the old one as a relic.

She started to gather dirt and leaves from around the neighborhood into a compost heap at the fringe of the parking lot. Gradually, she massaged the fertile mix into the loosened gravel.

"The neighbors were a little skeptical, but they put up with it," she said.

The next spring, Orta bought a dump truck load of black dirt and expanded the garden. For paths and borders, she used hunks of crushed concrete from construction sites, logs from storm-felled trees, paving stones and other urban detritus.

"She walks all over the neighborhood," neighbor Rosie Griffith marveled. "She'll ride her bike. She'll find bricks, she'll find bushes, she'll find vines. And then she goes

out with that wheelbarrow. I've seen her carry logs bigger than her."

In 2005, Orta learned that Marathon was trying to sell the property. "They said they had prospective buyers and I'd have to move everything out," she said.

Orta put the word out in the neighborhood and people came and took plants and dirt. When it became clear the sale wasn't going to happen, she started the garden all over again. She saved up to buy an outdoor water meter and ran a hose to the garden from her house. She laid out paths and beds as materials came her way, with no master plan in mind.

"I've looked at a lot of magazines and people's yards," she said.

To her pleasure, she found that the criss-crossing paths formed an "F.V." in honor of her fiancé, Fernando Valenzuela, who helps her cope with the heaviest objects.

Some of the garden's most conspicuous and beautiful plants, like the Jerusalem artichokes, Virginia creeper and trumpet vine, sprang out of the leaves and dirt on their own. The black walnut tree that towers over the garden is only 5 years old. It probably sprung from a nut dropped by a squirrel.

Neighbors and well-wishers donate a lot of plants. In June, Joe Drosty of Giving Tree Farms gave Orta 70 tomato plants. She easily fit 50 in the garden and gave the rest to a neighbor.

The family picnic table where Orta sat as a child centers one of the garden's many rest spots. Orta grew up on the rural west fringe of Lansing, on Canal Street, and went

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Arts & Culture

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Art by the River rebounds from vandalism \$2,000 reward offered for information about destruction of 'Meditation Tower'

By TRACY KEY

Art by the River, an outdoor gallery of 10 sculptures on display along the River Trail in downtown Lansing, opened in mid May. It was created with the intention of bringing easily accessible art to the public.

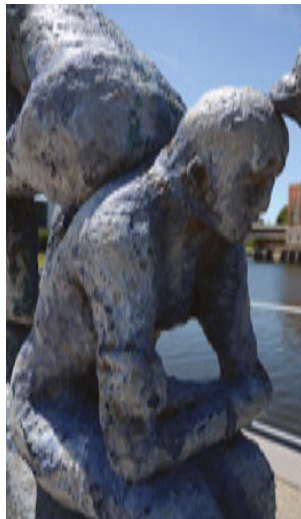
But on June 25, one of the sculptures, "Meditation Tower," was found shattered.

"It's very evident that this was vandalism," said Catherine Babcock, executive director of the Lansing Art Gallery and curator of Art by the River. The statue was valued at \$28,000.

"The wind didn't blow it over; the piece weighed around 1,000 pounds," Babcock added. "I'm not sure how it was done, but there were a lot of pieces and there is no chance for repair — it was too damaged."

The artist, Mark Chatterley of Williamston, has requested not to be contacted about the incident, but Babcock said he was very upset about it when he was informed. He cleaned up the debris shortly afterward.

"We, of course, feel badly for the artist," said Rick Kibbey, chairman of the City of Lansing park board and Second Ward representative. "Unfortunately, this is not



Tracy Key/City Pulse

A close-up of artist Mark Chatterley's "Meditation Tower," which was destroyed by vandals June 25. At right, the full sculpture as it appeared in the Art by the River exhibit.

uncommon. It's not only in Lansing, but anywhere else in the world. There seems to be something in a certain kind of mind that takes satisfaction from destroying stuff. It's something we have to work around, but it should not cause us to give up."

Although the actual statue is gone, a large photograph of the piece has been placed in its location on the River Trail so that visitors can still see a representation of the sculpture, along with the nameplate, website information, QR code and phone number to call to listen to Chatterley talk about his inspiration.

"It's unfortunate it can't be original, but I still think it is important to include in the exhibit," Babcock explained. "We don't want people to

miss out, even though the physical statue is gone."

Another statue was also knocked over last week, but it sustained no damage.

The police investigation continues, and footage from security cameras in the area is under review. But Babcock says that it's very unlikely that any of the cameras were in positions that would have caught the person or persons responsible. There are currently no leads on suspects, but the reward

for information leading to a conviction has been raised to \$2,000; anyone who knows anything about the incident is urged to come forward.

Babcock also said that the Lansing police have implied that they will be increasing their watch on the gallery, which is open until Aug. 30.

This was not the first act of vandalism against one of Babcock's outdoor art galleries. Last summer, several of the pieces featured in Art by the River's predecessor, City Streets, which included printed canvas replicas of paintings and other works of art, were the target of graffiti.

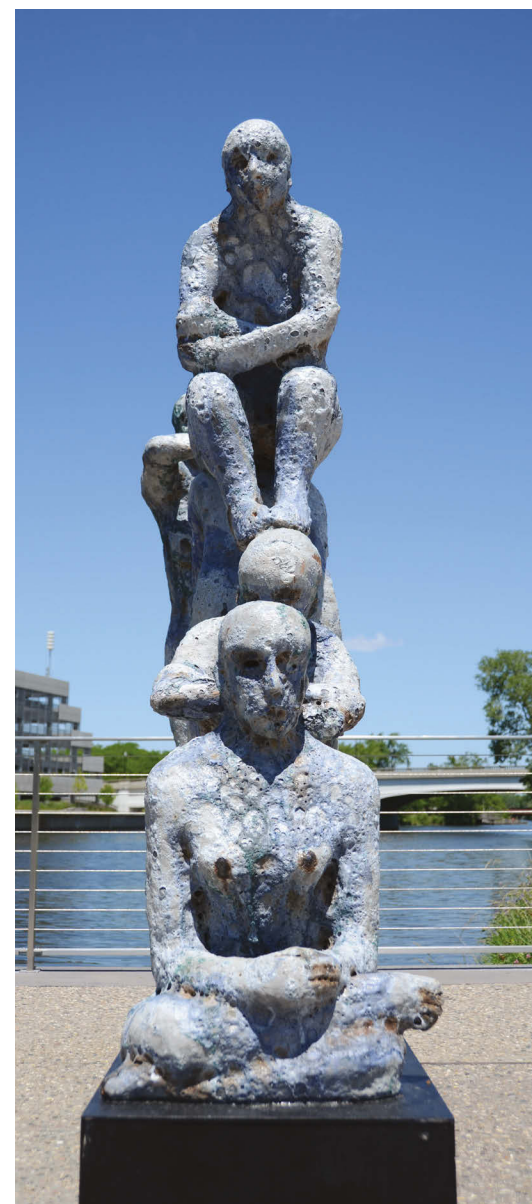
Despite this incident, Babcock remains positive about future public art exhibits.

"I like to think that it won't affect artists wanting to continue showing their work and people continue seeing the work," she said.

She also explained that a recent survey she took showed that 44 percent of the people visiting Art by the River came to Lansing specifically for that reason, which provides a huge boost to the economy and reputation of the city.

"I wouldn't want that small fraction of the community that caused this to prevent us from doing projects like this in the future. I'd like to encourage people to go, it's a fantastic show and there's still lots to see," Babcock said.

"However, I may put more cameras out next time."



By TRACY KEY

Drive-in movie theaters are an endangered species — unless you spend your Friday nights in Old Town this month. For three nights in July, Cesar Chavez Plaza (a.k.a. City Lot 56 at Grand River Avenue and Turner Street) will be transformed into the Turner Street Outdoor Theater.

"Classic throwback family-friendly movies are what we were looking for," said Louise Gradwohl, executive director of the Old Town Commercial Association, as she described the lineup.

Two of the films, "Raising Arizona" and "Pee-wee's Big Adventure," were picked by the O.T.C.A., while the third, "Back to the Future," was a peoples choice selection.

Viewers are invited to bring seating to set up outside — like picnic blankets or lawn chairs — or, keeping in line with drive-in tradition, to watch the

movie from the comfort of their vehicles.

"Raising Arizona," screening Friday, follows the antics that ensue when an ex-cop (Holly Hunter) and an ex-con (Nicolas Cage) kidnap a baby to raise as their own and the situation spirals hilariously out of control. The 1987 farce was directed by the Coen Brothers.

Tim Burton directed the 1985 comedy "Pee-wee's Big Adventure," which shows July 20. Everything is peachy in the life of the eccentric Pee-wee (Paul Reubens) until his beloved bike is stolen and he must embark on a cross-country journey to recover it.

Michael J. Fox and Christopher Lloyd star in the science fiction classic "Back to the Future," which hits the screen July 27.

This is the second year the O.T.C.A. is hosting the Turner Street Outdoor Theater. Last year, around 500 viewers attended each movie.

A sharable snack pack will be available, consisting of a bag of theater-style popcorn from Cravings Gourmet Popcorn, a large package of 3-way snack mix, caramel candy, four sodas and a vintage-style poster.

Each showing will begin at dusk, or around 10 p.m., and is free of charge. Viewers can tune in to the audio via handheld radios or car stereos.

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'Wicked' retains its magic at the Wharton Center

By PAUL WOZNIAK

Before "Glee" and Gaga, another "freak" named Elphaba embraced her inner monster in "Wicked." It should be no surprise then that the 2003 Broadway smash still feels contemporary.

Elphaba, an intelligent young woman (one day to be villified as the Wicked Witch of the West), is ostracized for her green skin in a world that values the vacuous blond beauty embodied by her peer, Galinda (a.k.a. Glinda the Good Witch). Throughout, Elphaba defies immense pressure to conform to homogenized unity; ultimately, she endures political demonization. More important, the touring cast embraces the musical like the "Glee" students themselves, with polished flair.

'Wicked'

Wharton Center

7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 5; 8 p.m. Friday, July 6; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, July 7; 1 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday, July 8

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At its core, "Wicked" tells of the unlikely friendship between Elphaba (Christine Dwyer) and Galinda (Jeanna De Waal), its evolutionary transformation and its dramatic consequences for the land of Oz.

Sure, "Wicked" is also a veiled thesis on free speech, white privilege and the politics of prejudice, but these elements typically work to provide a

more textured backdrop instead of upstaging the characters.

Both Dwyer and De Waal are invigorating in their respective roles. De Waal finds comic nuance in her broad blond stereotype, particularly when delivering lines of sincere condescension, such as when she offers Elphaba "an assist from me, to be who you'll be, instead of dreary who you were" in her strongest number, "Popular." Glinda, as portrayed in "Wicked," is a spoiled brat whose cunning manipulation reveals the hidden intelligence behind her glittering frocks.

With dry wit, Dwyer delivers insider zingers like, "We can't all come and go by bubble." Elphaba's self-deprecating charm makes her instantly relatable, and her affirmation — "I don't cause commotion — I am one" — enshrines her as a troublemaking role model. Even with the heavy expectations for the definitive Act I closer, "Defying Gravity," Dwyer individualizes the song by making it a culmination of Elphaba's emotional journey up to that point.

While both actresses at times struggle to give their upper-register notes a fuller sound, their voices never detract from the emotional intensity of the songs.

Other strong performances come from Billy Harrigan Tighe as Fiyero, the dashing male crush; Marilyn Caskey as the sniping sorcery professor Madame Morrible; and Paul Kreppel as the Wonderful Wizard of Oz himself. Kreppel shines in his featured number, "Wonderful," in which he reveals that well-intentioned yet incompetent leadership can be just as dangerous as mali-



Courtesy Photo

Fiyero (Billy Harrigan Tighe) and the fugitive Elphaba (Christine Dwyer) sing "As Long As You're Mine" during a brief moment together in "Wicked."

icious intent.

In addition to these obvious swipes at the George W. Bush administration, Winnie Holzman's book draws from a lush literary pool, including Gregory Maguire's novel "Wicked," L. Frank Baum's original Oz tales and the classic Judy Garland film. Those varied influences also shape Stephen Schwartz's pop-toned music and lyrics, Eugene Lee's stunning set and Susan Hilferty's luminescent costumes.

Lee's steampunk-styled backdrops made of interlocking gears and clock cogs exponentially enhance Hilferty's dazzling dress-

es, which resemble a blend of Lady Gaga's runway apparel and the Capitol fashions from "The Hunger Games." Beautifully hued by Kenneth Posner's lighting design, the set and costumes take the dark, Disneyesque spectacle to the highest level.

On one hand, the "truth" espoused in "Wicked" makes the "The Wizard of Oz" look like a superficial propaganda film: That's part of the joke. But the real message is friendship and tolerance, and you need not know anything about "The Wizard of Oz" — or "The Wiz" — to appreciate and enjoy this incredible production.

Oz meets reality

BullyBust uses 'Wicked' to address bullying

By JAMES SANFORD

"Wicked" is set in the land of Oz, where animals teach college classes and the devious Madame Morrible manipulates the weather with a wave of her hand. Of course, it's a fantasy — and yet, as Darlene Faster points out, there are some genuine real-world concerns behind the magic.

Faster is the chief operating officer of the National School Climate Center, which organized the BullyBust program three years ago in response to the problem of bullying in schools. In 2010, BullyBust began a partnership with "Wicked" to promote its efforts.

"Wicked" was such a natural fit," Faster said, in a phone interview from her office in New York. "The story of 'Wicked' encompasses so many universal themes. In it, we see what true friendship looks like, as well as what it feels like to be isolated or viewed as being different than other people."

At Shiz University, the green-skinned

Elphaba is shunned by her classmates and tormented by her outgoing, stylish roommate, Galinda (soon to be rechristened Glinda). Instead of reacting with violence, Elphaba chooses to continue being the person she is. Eventually, Galinda is shocked to realize that Elphaba is actually a good person to have on your side.

"When you talk about (bullying) in terms of these characters, you see students' minds open up," Faster said. "They see how they can react to bullying in a more positive way."

The BullyBust program — which Faster said goes beyond the usual "one-off assemblies or one-day campaigns" — has been used in more than 1,100 schools nationwide and Faster said over 500,000 students have participated in it. The "Wicked"-oriented materials are available for free at www.schoolclimate.org/bullybust.

Getting adults involved in the campaign is crucial, according to Faster. "About four or five years ago, we started to see a dispar-



Courtesy Photo

The BullyBust program uses the story of "Wicked" as part of its anti-bullying strategy.

ity popping up between students' perception of bullying and adult perception of bullying," she said. "We would talk to students and they'd say, 'It's happening.' We'd talk to adults and they'd say, 'Oh, we've got it under control.'"

The issue has received an increased amount of media attention in the past decade after a spate of bullying-related suicides and school shootings. The arts world has paid attention:

Locally, Kevin and Tammy Epling, whose 14-year-old son killed himself in 2002, launched "The Bullycide Project," and Mid Michigan Family Theatre artistic director Bill Gordon wrote "Bully-Be-Gone: Tactics and Strategies for Reducing Bullying in Schools," which has been produced in schools and other venues.

Much of what is happening these days goes far beyond name-calling or stealing someone's lunch. "It's a whole different ball game now," Faster said, especially with "cyberbullying," in which young people can

be tormented via Facebook and other social media sites. "A student who would never bully anyone face to face will do it online, where they think they're anonymous."

In response, BullyBust has promoted an "Upstander Alliance," to raise awareness of bullying outside of schools. The mission, Faster said, is to "directly engage the adults in the community — not just parents and teachers but faith-based leaders, business leaders and anyone else who could help. Upstanders recognize when bullying occurs and take steps to make it right."

Often, communication, not condemnation, is the most powerful tool in bringing down bullies.

"I think a lot of the time the reaction in schools is to punish," Faster said. "We need to remember and recognize that students who bully are not bad people; they're just doing bad things. Who knows? Maybe they're witnessing bullying in their homes and maybe they're not able to process their own emotions."

Faster points to an essay submitted for a BullyBust contest. "This kid wrote that he was a bully for years. He was getting bullied at home. He said, 'I thought if I can get this pain out of me and put it on someone else, I'll feel better. But I actually wound up feeling worse.'"



Courtesy Photo

Clockwise from left, the Over the Ledge production of "Escanaba in da Moonlight" stars Justin Brewer, Adam Carlson, Michael Erwine and Joseph Dickson.

Return to 'Escanaba'

Over the Ledge tackles Jeff Daniels' venerable farce

By HOLLY JOHNSON

It may be July, but it's deer season at the Over the Ledge theater company in Grand Ledge.

The Soady family is back in Jeff Daniels' ever-popular "Escanaba in Da Moonlight," in which Reuben (Adam Carlson) tries to shake off the curse that's made him the only Soady who has

yet to bag a buck. Michael Erwine plays Reuben's father, Albert. The cast includes Justin Brewer as Remnar, George Berghorn

as Ranger Tom, Over the Ledge founder Joseph Dickson as Jimmer and Ann Carlson as Wolf Moon Dance.

'Escanaba in da Moonlight'

July 5-15
Over the Ledge Theatre Co.
Ledges Playhouse
137 Fitzgerald Park Dr., Grand Ledge
8 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays
\$10 adults; \$8 seniors; \$6 students
(517) 318-0579
overtheledge.org

It's the company's second Daniels script ("Apartment 3A" opened the season) and it only makes sense for "Escanaba" to take place at the Ledges Playhouse because, as director Michael Hays puts it, "it's extremely rustic."

"It's about as original as we can make it," Hays added. "I'd be surprised if you didn't do a little bit of laughing."

Web sight: Read the review of 'The Amazing Spider-Man' online at www.lansingcitypulse.com

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His 'Golden' summer

BoarsHead Theater veteran John Peakes makes his Purple Rose debut in a role he played 20 years ago

By JAMES SANFORD

Please don't ask John Peakes about Henry Fonda and the fondly remembered 1981 film of "On Golden Pond." Ernest Thompson's play is an entirely different animal, he insists.

"We don't have their set, and this is not Jane Fonda and Katharine Hepburn that I'm playing against," said the actor and co-founder of Lansing's now-defunct BoarsHead Theater who is making his Purple Rose debut. "We're not trying to recreate the movie. For half of the movie, they're out in the boat, fishing and getting trapped in the water — that's not even in the play. Any time a book or a play is made into a movie, you lose about half of it. This is a new creation."

Yet it's not entirely unfamiliar territory for the 79-year-old Peakes, who tackled the role of Norman Thayer Jr., a former professor who still casts an analytical eye on everyone around him, including his devoted wife, Ethel (Jan Radcliffe), and his somewhat estranged daughter, Chelsea (Rhianon Ragland).

"I did this role 20 years ago," Peakes said, with a chuckle. "I was way too young; we used a lot of makeup. Now, I'm perfectly humbled and my mind is going, so I'm just right for this old-farty character."

Detroit Examiner critic Patty Nolan agreed: "Peakes' subtle, intelligent performance lets us understand that Norman, in his day, was a force to be reckoned with, and is still a man whose cutting wit is as sharp as ever."

When asked about what accounts for the enduring appeal of "On Golden Pond," Peakes didn't need any time to come up with an answer.

"It is a sentimental play," he said. "But actually it's about what everyone in this world will go through at one time or another.

You have people who are not too far from dying and the effort they make to face up to it. They make jokes about it, but (the play) is also about endurance and love, qualities that are universal. For those who don't have those things, they come longing for it; for those who do, they see their story being told. Deep down, we all have a bit of sentimentality in us."

Peakes also admires the play's depiction of the love between Norman and Ethel, who are spending what they realize might be their last summer at their beloved cabin.

"They are saying goodbye to the lake, to the summer, to other people, but they're still hanging on. She calls him a tough old buzzard, and that's what they are: They're buzzards, hanging on, keeping the spirit and keeping the blood flowing."

Due to "late summer commitments" in his homebase of Philadelphia, Peakes will perform through Aug. 5; Richard Henzel (who was seen last year in Stormfield Theatre's "Heroes") takes over for the remainder of the run.

Peakes said he's delighted by his Purple Rose experience. "It's a wonderful theater that treats its guests wonderfully," he said. "It's because they care about the people. They care about interns that make the damn theater possible. It's a nice group of people, and I'm delighted to be here."

Peakes couldn't resist following up that thought with a classic George Burns one-liner: "Of course, at my age I'm delighted to be anywhere."

'On Golden Pond'

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Thursdays and Fridays; 2
p.m. Sundays
\$25 Wednesdays and
Thursdays; \$35 Fridays
and Saturday and Sunday
matinees; \$40 Saturday
evenings
(734) 433-7673
www.purplerosetheatre.org



Photo by Sean Carter Photography

Jan Radcliffe and John Peakes play Ethel and Norman Thayer, the septuagenarian couple at the center of Ernest Thompson's comedy-drama "On Golden Pond." The Purple Rose Theatre production opened last week.

Another day for McKnight

Author Steve Hamilton brings back ex-Detroit cop Alex McKnight in 'Die a Stranger'

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Last weekend, Steve Hamilton was in the Upper Peninsula, enjoying the cool breezes off the big lake and a whitefish fry at the local Lions Club. He was staying in Brimley, not far from Paradise, the literary home of Alex McKnight, the protagonist of his award-winning mystery series.

In Hamilton's new McKnight book, "Die a Stranger," Alex's best friend, Vinnie LeBlanc, has gone missing — and that's after the bodies have started stacking up. McKnight has every reason to believe that Vinnie and his cousin Buck, who's also missing, are somehow caught up in a drug scheme that uses small-town airports as drop-off points.

Hamilton will discuss and sign "Die a Stranger" Saturday at Schuler Books & Music.

Although "Stranger" is not as dark as his last McKnight mystery "Misery Bay," Hamilton keeps pushing the noir envelope in his series. Any day now you expect the Coen Brothers to pull into Paradise to do a film treatment of this beloved series.

Hamilton — who grew up in Detroit and graduated from the University of Michigan before moving to upstate New York for a job at IBM — said he started "Stranger" just like his other eight books in the series, with "something interesting McKnight can get mixed up in."

"I saw this news item about planes that fly in from Canada late at night to drop off



Courtesy photo

Steve Hamilton was born in Detroit, which is where his next Alex McKnight book will be set.

drugs," Hamilton said. "That's how I started. Once I got on this track I found this other character, a mysterious stranger."

The stranger plays a dramatic role in the mystery, and Hamilton said "oddly enough even though the book was to be about Vinnie, he disappears."

Hamilton said when writing about Vinnie, an Ojibwa tribe member who deals blackjack at the Bay Mills Casino, he has a couple of tribe members read over his finished manuscript. "You have to get it right and not overstep your boundaries," he said.

He said it's important to the credibility of the series that McKnight's relationship with the Bay Mills Tribe is accurate.

"He may be close friends with Vinnie, but at the end of the day McKnight's an outsider."

Hamilton said many readers will find

the ending of "Die a Stranger" unsettling since it is not tied up neatly, but he said that's the direction crime fiction is moving: "It's like real life."

Dedicated readers know that McKnight, who frowns on domestic chores, is often found at a local bar for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The owner, Jackie, was originally from Scotland, and he has turned his bar, The Glasgow, into a Scottish pub that stocks McKnight's favorite beer.

"My friends tell me I should build a place like that in Paradise," Hamilton said. In the book, the bar is used as a tidy place for McKnight to discuss what's going on in a particular case or to get blunt advice from Jackie.

A few years ago Hamilton decided to take some time off from writing his McKnight series, which was unsettling for his fans.

"I needed to take that break. I didn't want for it to get too easy (to write). I never want to get close to that where you just go through the motions. But I always knew McKnight would come back."

The time Hamilton spent away from his Alex McKnight series was well-spent, considering that "The Lock Artist," which he wrote during that respite, won an Edgar Award for best mystery in 2010. The story, about a 17-year-old mute with uncanny lock picking skills that the mob wants to utilize, was recently optioned for a movie.

Hamilton's first book in the McKnight

series, "A Cold Day in Paradise," also won an Edgar for best first book in 1998.

Hamilton said his fans will find McKnight in the new book "a little older and a little wiser." They also will love the idea for Hamilton's next excursion for the mysterious McKnight, which takes him back to Detroit, where he was a cop before being shot and moving to the Upper Peninsula.

"He'll go back into his past and consider what the city is now and what it has become. It will have more back story and flashbacks and what it feels like to see parts of the city lost."

Hamilton said that the book will also be about the love Detroiters have for their city, despite its challenges.

The author said he's not far into his next book. So, in the meantime, enjoy McKnight's infamous road trips, as he pursues some very nasty drug dealers who pile up bodies like cord wood and won't take no for an answer.

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AMY ALKON
adviceamy@aol.com

Mourning breath & deflower arrangement

I was in a new relationship with a wonderful man I met online. I'm certainly still grieving, sometimes horribly, but my new man understands, and he's patient. He appreciates me and insists on my total commitment to him (meaning that I can't date anyone else). The problem is, he lives in another state, and in our year together, his work schedule has kept him from visiting me. He can make me quiver when we talk on the phone, but the distance leaves me lonely at night. Can a long-distance relationship ever work?

—Cradling The Phone

A: So, in an entire year, your Mr. Wonderful couldn't line up a single weekend to come see you because of his work schedule? Well, that sounds perfectly reasonable — if, for him, getting out of work early means digging a tunnel with a sharpened spoon so as to avoid the electrified razor wire and the armed guards.

As a rule, Internet dating should be composed of very little Internet and a whole lot of dating. (Phone dates don't count.) Until you spend considerable time in a man's presence, your view of him will be part him and a good part you filling in the blanks with who you'd like him to be. And sorry, quivery romantic moments are just the sparkly topping on a relationship. The actual relationship is mostly the day-to-day stuff — how you are together at the grocery store and whether he's mean to you when you forget to pick up the dry cleaning. And while your heart might be singing for him across the miles, you could hate the way he kisses and find that your nostrils make a strong argument for lashing him to an old mattress and putting him out with the trash.

Where you go right is in not appearing to buy into cookie-cutter ideas about

how you "should" be mourning, like the widely held myth that there are specific, neatly ordered "stages of grief" everyone must move through and Freud's notion that grieving people need to slog through all their thoughts, memories and emotions about the deceased. (Never mind that he had no evidence for this or that actual evidence suggests that ruminating can cause depression; he had some serious eyeglasses and that groovy Persian rug-draped armless couch.)

When life as you knew it for a quarter-century suddenly developed a big husband-shaped hole, it's understandable that you started rummaging around the Internet for a scoop of human grout. But, being desperate for filler meant that any critical assessments about this guy were drowned out by "Cripes! I'll be alone!" At the same time, maybe you weren't quite ready to be with anybody, so it worked to have a boyfriend who demanded your "total commitment" — creepy! — while not actually bothering to show up. You can strongly suggest that he hop a plane in the immediate future, but chances are whatever's prevented him from giving you a peek at the real him will continue to prevent it. Maybe now would be a good time to try to get comfortable being alone. Only when you are will you be able to choose a man for the right reasons — and not simply because he talks a really good game, giving him something of an edge over the guy in the urn.

Q: I'm almost 30 and still a virgin, but not because of religious beliefs. I have strong sexual urges, but I was a really late bloomer (mid-20s), traveled constantly for work and never had a relationship take off. (I'm not into casual sex.) How do I reveal my virginity to guys I date? Won't they think I'm a freak?

—Undone

A: Some guys will be weirded out that you're still a virgin, but for many, it's preferable to starting to have sex with a girl and having balloons and confetti fly around and a loudspeaker crackle:

"Congratulations, son! There's been quite a bit of traffic in and out of this particular garage, but you're lucky number 100!" Don't announce your virginity on the first date, like it's the most relevant thing about you. Wait till a guy's a little attached, and when the making out gets heavy, explain, "Oh, by the way... late bloomer, blah, blah, blah. Also, I've been saving myself for a virgin sacrifice on the edge of an active volcano." Coolly offering an explanation and even poking fun at yourself suggests that your virginity is just a fluke, not a sign that you have psychological problems or low sexual desire — or that your pa came out with his shotgun and offed all the other guys before they could, uh, pull into your garage.

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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"British Invasion"

— are you ready?

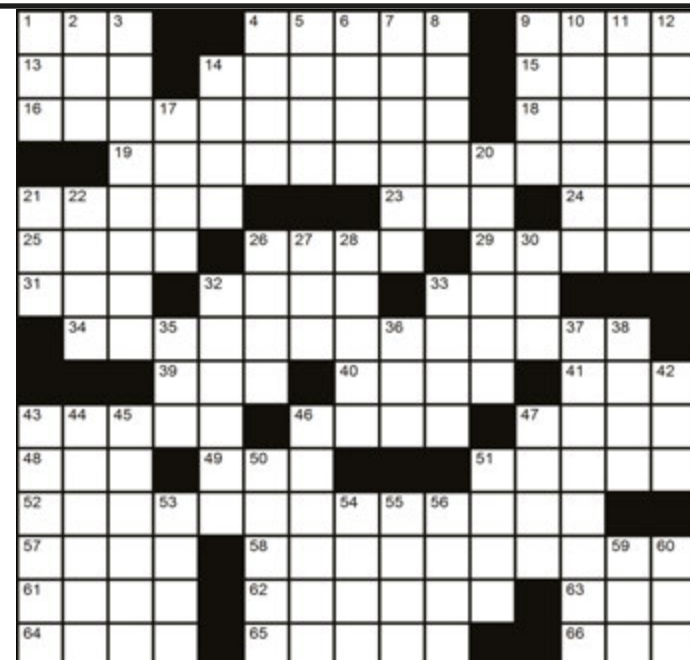
Matt Jones

Across

- 1 "Unbelievable" band of 1991
4 Wallflowers lead singer Dylan
9 Like much medicine
13 DiCaprio, to fans
14 Puget Sound city
15 Stupor
16 Writing assignment that, through complete luck, got an A?
18 Vowels that look like an H
19 Did away with Homer's neighbor for good?
21 He was joined on stage by a Tupac hologram in 2012

- 23 ___ out a living
24 Item rolled by gaming geeks
25 Axton of "Gremlins"
26 Exhale like a dog
29 "Bionic ___" (2007 NBC remake)
31 ___-tzu (Chinese philosopher)
32 Song played on a sitar
33 Detergent brand
34 Band of John Wayne-loving computer programmers?

- 39 Come up short
40 It's good to hear after a spill
41 Freddy's street
43 Big bone
46 ___-rock
47 Popeye's kid ___ 'Pea
48 That, in Spanish
49 "Call Me Maybe" singer Carly ___ Jepsen
51 Stair part



- 52 Completely fooled one of the Beverly Hillbillies?
57 Color of un zafiro
58 Bumper sticker slogan for Stooges fans?
61 ___ and void
62 Fixed sock holes
63 56, in old Rome
64 "___ does that star-spangled banner..."
65 ___-Hawley Tariff
66 Have some havarti

Down

- 1 "The Santaland Diaries" occupation
2 "Spaceballs" director Brooks
3 Seeker's cry to the hider
4 Mock
5 Mil. school
6 Head of Germany?
7 Folded breakfast dish
8 Former Israeli prime minister
9 Took way too much
10 Warning on video games with lots of gore
11 Hank who voices Chief Wiggum
12 Take down a notch
14 Precocious kid
17 MTV mainstay Loder
20 City where Whitney Houston's funeral was held
21 Rival of UPS and FedEx
22 Word before hog or rage
26 Rate
27 In the past
28 Lowest point
30 ___-Wan Kenobi
32 Wanted poster word
33 Leaping creature
35 Pond fish
36 Punk offshoot
37 Song from "Licensed to Ill," with "The"

- 38 Show whose fans are named by adding "ks" to the title
42 Debussy's "La ___"
43 Selena's music genre
44 Rodeos and Troopers, e.g.
45 Actor Scott of "Quantum Leap"
46 Train in a 1974 movie title, or its 2009 remake
47 ___ Spin (classic toy)
50 Heartburn causes, maybe
51 No longer working: abbr.
53 Pocoyo's pachyderm friend
54 Prefix before space
55 Fighting word that means "hand," not "person"
56 ___-t-porter
59 Jefferson founded it
60 Model maker's need

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Answers Page 20

OUT on the TOWN

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

JULY 8

Peepshow pops into town

Those looking to quench a thirst for nostalgia and excitement should stop by The Loft this Sunday. The Pretty Things Peepshow will offer a mix of burlesque, vaudeville and sideshow oddities to create a lively and bizarre traveling variety show. "It's a new genre the kids are calling 'Broadville,'" said Go-Go Amy, the New York pin-up model and burlesque dancer who founded the Peepshow. "It's like vaudeville, but all done by hot broads. It's a very lady-centric show. It's like a proper old-timey vaudeville show, so with every performer who walks on stage, you'll have no idea what will happen next." Audience members will see sword swallowing, a human blockhead, fire eating, juggling, glass walking, a straitjacket escape, a Chinese execution blade box, whip cracking, animal traps, knife throwing, comedy and music. 7 p.m. \$10 in advance, \$12 at door. Ages 18 & up. The Loft, 414 East Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 913-0103. www.theloftlansing.com.



Photo by Steve Prue at Team Rockatar Images

Wednesday, July 4

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.

Weed Warrior. Learn how to control common invasive plants around Fenner and in your own yard. 5-6 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. fofnc.org.

EVENTS

Allen Street Farmers Market. Not open this week. Regular market hours resume on July 11. (517) 485-4279. www.allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

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.

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

Colonial Village Walking Group. Meet neighbors and get some exercise at the same time. 10 a.m. FREE. Grace United Methodist, 1900 Boston Blvd.,

JULY 11

Teens get out on the dance floor

On July 11, Spiral Dance Bar begins Teen Nights; the series continues July 25, Aug. 8 and 22 and Sept. 5. Beginning at 7 p.m., the events will be hosted by DJ Alabama from NOW-FM (97.5) and will be fully chaperoned, alcohol-free and smoke-free. People age 14 and 18 are welcome to attend, as are parents who wish to be additional chaperones. Spiral Dance Bar hopes to provide a safe and fun environment for teens to enjoy dancing, free of prejudice and judgment. Any teenagers interested in promoting the event, either by passing out fliers or inviting friends on Facebook, should contact Daniel Young at clubspiral@aol.com. 7 p.m.-midnight. \$10. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., Lansing. (517) 371-3221.

JULY 11

Get chatty with the candidates

The First Ward Progressives of Lansing hosts a public discussion with candidates running in the Aug. 7 primary election. Candidates taking part in the forum include those running for the 68th District Michigan House of Representatives, Ingham County drain commissioner and county commissioners in districts four and 10. City Clerk Chris Swope will introduce new maps and polling places in the area. First Ward Progressives' goal is to link the community directly with public and private decision makers in the Lansing area. Submit questions for the candidates to Alex Bryan at frago42@gmail.com. 6-9 p.m. FREE. Foster Community Center, Room 213, 200 N. Foster, Lansing. (517) 485-2950. www.facebook.com/events/435998236441174/

JULY 11

A sweet treat

The 38th annual Bailey Neighborhood Ice Cream Social takes place on July 11 at the Orchard Street Pump House. The event is a tradition for families to get together and enjoy ice cream made the old-fashioned way. Guests are asked to bring treats to complement the ice cream. All children attending can get balloon animals made by Shenanigans the Clown, have their faces painted, climb a East Lansing fire truck and play badminton. The evening will also feature a performance by Donny & the Diesels at 6:15 p.m. The ice cream social is open to everybody. 5-8 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pump House, 368 Orchard Street, East Lansing. susanwoods@elff.com. (517) 980-5802.



Courtesy Photo

See Out on the Town, Page 19

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TURNIT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

GOIN' BACK IN TIME WITH STARFARM

For those who still dig big hair and poppy synthesizers, Friday night at Lou and Harry's may be the spot to be, for a free show by Starfarm. The flashy area cover band plays a "totally awesome collection of '80s songs." Starfarm hits the stage in old-school Adidas tracksuits, legwarmers, headbands and British Knights shoes: a retro "physical" atmosphere. The East Lansing-based band has been performing weekly since it formed in late 2001. Starfarm is co-lead by vocalists Whitney Spotts and Dan Malnar, allowing the band to play a broader spectrum of tubular-tunes, including cuts from Madonna, Prince, Loverboy, Duran Duran, A-ha and more.

Friday, July 6 @ Lou & Harry's, 16800 Chandler Road., East Lansing. 21 and over, free, 10 p.m. to close.

COMMUNITY BANDS TOGETHER

The East Lansing Kiwanis Community Band has been playing in the area since the late 1950s. On Thursday the tradition continues when it plays a free show inside the Hannah Community Center auditorium. Following the concert, guests are invited to an audience appreciation reception in the Green Room. The concert band performs marches, Broadway showtunes and traditional wind band compositions. The band members are from all walks of life, encompassing a wide variety of ages and musical abilities.

Thursday, July 5 @ Hannah Community Center, East Lansing, free, show at 7 p.m.



Courtesy Photo

Versus the Ocean at The Loft

ULI'S HOSTS DEVERAUX

While the band only formed last year, DeverauX already has a debut EP titled "The Last of Us" on the way and has won the 2011 Q-106 Homegrown Throwdown. On Friday, the band plays Uli's Haus of Rock. Opening the show is a cast of hard rockers, including Losing Scarlet, From Blue to Gray, Another Lost Year and As Empires Decay. DeverauX describes its sound as "driving rhythms, thrashing riffs, melodic hooks and a powerful message of self-perseverance." The band includes Phil LaMay (vocals), Chas Millican (guitar/vocals), Dave Floyd (drums/vocals) and JD Younk (bass).

Friday, July 6 @ Uli's Haus of Rock, 4519 S. Martin Luther King Blvd., Lansing, 18 and over, \$5, 8 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

VERSUS THE OCEAN SAYS FAREWELL

Local post-hardcore band Versus the Ocean will call it quits Saturday after the group plays its farewell show at The Loft. Opening the all-ages show are Of Virtue, Know Lyfe, Forever A Hero and Wolves & Machines. The band debuted with the scream-heavy 2009 album "If Only You Knew" and dropped the more finely produced "Evolve" LP last year.

Versus the Ocean includes vocalist Jeremy Monroe, guitarists Michael Joseph Hale and Alex Minarik and Jordan Emede on drums. "Sometimes you just have to move in a differ-

ent direction," Monroe said. "For me personally, I want to move in a more mature direction. The 'heavy music' scene is too full of immature kids, insecure people with unjustifiably large egos and mosh pits that look like a bunch of baboons are trying to clobber each other.

"Also, I can't scream anymore. I'm not good at it, it's ruining my voice and I've learned to not be pissed off so much anymore. I think of things in a much more positive way, and the next music project I am involved with will reflect that. I am really hoping Mike, Alex, Jordan, and I can continue working together. ... I feel like we're all on the same page as far as what direction we'd like to take musically."

Saturday, July 7 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all ages, \$8 advance, \$10 at door, Doors 7 p.m.

MAC'S GETS HARDCORE

Dead End Path plays a heated throwback style of hardcore that ranges from slow, heavy tunes to obnoxiously fast riffing. The Pennsylvania-based band, which released the "Blind Faith" LP in 2011 via Triple B Records, plays an all-ages show Monday at Mac's Bar. Opening the show is Daylight, In Between (a Baltimore-based melodic hardcore outfit), Homelife (Lansing punks with an LP on Bermuda Mohawk Productions), Call It Quits and Dead & Gone. Call It Quits is a local melodic hardcore band that takes influences from hardcore, punk, post black metal,



Courtesy Photo

James Durbin

even some space rock. Call It Quits was formed last summer by Cody Hobbins (bass/vocals), Cameron Clifford Lee (guitar) and Alex Rosendall (guitar/vocals).

Monday, July 9 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all ages, \$8 advance, \$10 door, 7 p.m.

AMERICAN IDOL FINALIST AT THE LOFT

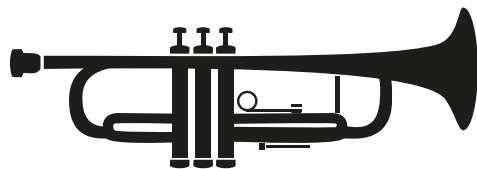
James Durbin is known for bringing heavy metal to the "American Idol" stage last season by performing Queen and Muse songs and collaborating with Judas Priest during the final episodes. The season 10 "Idol" contestant managed to score fourth place with his powerhouse voice. Durbin's summer tour stops at The Loft July 12, along with openers Fair Enough, FloodGate, Givensix and The Heist. Durbin, 22, is on the road promoting "Memories of a Beautiful Disaster," his new pop album on Wind-Up Records that mixes in touches of post-grunge, rock and nu-metal. Durbin, who suffers from both Asperger syndrome and Tourette syndrome, co-wrote five of the 11 songs on the LP, which also includes a guest spot from Mötley Crüe's Mick Mars on the tune "Outcast."

Thursday, July 12 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all ages, \$8 advance, \$10 at door, Doors 8 p.m.

UPCOMING SHOW?

POST IT AT

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TURNITDOWN



LIVE & LOCAL

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

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

621 The Spot, 621 E. Michigan Ave.		Ray Potter/DJ Craig, 8:30 p.m.	DJ Blu, 9 p.m.	DJ Leeky, 10 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		DJ, 9 p.m.	Homespun, 9 p.m.	Homespun, 9 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Cloud Magic, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.		Tryst Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.	Avon Bomb, Midnight	Avon Bomb, Midnight
The Firm, 227 S. Washington Square		DnW Sound DJs, 9 p.m.	Various DJs, 9 p.m.	DJ Donnie D, 9 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.	Driver & Rider Show, 7 p.m.	Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karaoke with Joanie Daniels, 9 p.m.	Gold Rush, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.		Second Nature, 9:30 p.m.	The Hooties, 9:30 p.m.	Those Delta Rhythm Kings, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.				Versus the Ocean, 7 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		The Auvenshine Benefit, 9 p.m.		
Rick's American Cafe, 224 Abbott Road		ICE DJ's, 10:30 p.m.	ICE DJ's, 10:30 p.m.	ICE DJ's, 10:30 p.m.
Rookies, 16460 S. US 27	Sammy Gold, 7-10 p.m.	Water Pong DJ, 9 p.m.	Karaoke dance party with DJ Klimaxx, 9 p.m.	Live Bands with DJs & DJ Klimaxx, 9 p.m.
Rum Runners, 601 East Michigan Ave.	Open Mic Night, 9 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 9 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 7 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 7 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 9 p.m.	Frog & the Beeftones, 9 p.m.	Frog & the Beeftones, 9 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Drive		Mike Evia Quartet, 7 p.m.	Joe Wright, 7 p.m.	Stan Budzinski & 3rd Degree, 7 p.m.
Uli's Haus of Rock, 419 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.			DeverauX, 8 p.m.	
Zepplin's, 2010 E. Michigan Ave.			Mr. Fox & The Goodfella's, 9 p.m.	Industrial Night, 9 p.m.
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.	Kari Lynch, 9 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

from page 17

Lansing. (517) 580-8560.

Stories on the Move. An innovative play-based movement and dance class for young children. 10:30 a.m. \$8. Play, 4972 Northwind Dr., East Lansing. (517) 708-8746. www.playeastlansing.com.

MUSIC

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

Concert in the Park. Summer music series, with exciting new performers, lawn seating. 7 p.m. FREE. St. Johns City Park, located off Morton and Park Streets, St. Johns. (989) 224-8944.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

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

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

Thursday, July 5

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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 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.

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

Lansing Walkability Audit. Need volunteers. 5:30-8 p.m. FREE. Gier Community Center, 2400 Hall St. Lansing. (517) 292-3078. cityoflansingmi.com.

South Lansing Farmers Market. Locally produced food, youth activities and educational opportunities. 3-7 p.m. FREE. Grace United Methodist, 1900 Boston Blvd. Lansing. (517) 482-5750.

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

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

Teen Wii Gaming. For teens 6th-12th grade. 1 p.m. FREE. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156. www.dewittlibrary.org.

Colonial Village Walking Group. Walks are 30-45 minutes. 7 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details July 4)

MUSIC

East Lansing Kiwanis Community Band. There will also be an Audience Appreciation Reception following the concert. 7 p.m. FREE. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 930-2381.

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

Sound & Sights. Various performances take place outdoors at multiple spots throughout downtown Chelsea. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Downtown Chelsea, Chelsea Manchester Road & Middle St., Chelsea.

Concerts at the Shell. Featuring a different music act each week, 7-9 p.m. FREE. McCormick Park, located at N. Putnam and High Streets, Williamston. (517) 655-4973.

THEATER

"Wicked." Stephen Schwartz's musical relates how the friendship of the "wicked" witch Elphaba and "good" witch Glinda shaped the history of Oz before Dorothy came to town. 8 p.m. From \$38. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (800) WHARTON. www.whartoncenter.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Storytime With Ms. Deb. Ms. Deb will read three books on the topic of the week and do a craft. 10 a.m. FREE. Barnes and Noble, 5132 W Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. (517) 327-0437. www.bn.com.

Writers Roundtable. Get feedback about your writing and connect with other writers. 6-7:45 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3.

Friday, July 6

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.

Teen Summer Games. Ages 13-18. With water balloon toss, wacky relay, and more. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. www.dttl.org.

Colonial Village Walking Group. Walks are 30-45 minutes. 10 a.m. FREE. (Please See Details July 4)

Drop in Craft Project. Each week will feature a

different craft. This week's craft: Shooting Straw Rocket. 1-5 p.m. FREE. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156.

The Summer Concert Series. Featuring Greg Nagy. 7-9 p.m. FREE. East Plaza, Corner of Charles St. & Albery Ave., East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

Friday Noon Stroll. Bring friends, dogs, children or stories. Noon. FREE. Hunter Park, 400 S. Holmes St. Lansing. (517) 367-2468.

Brett Whitacre. A musician and visual artist: painting, sculpture, mosaic. 10 a.m. FREE. Lansing Art Gallery, 119 N. Washington Square Suite 101, Lansing. (517) 374-6400. lansingartgallery.org.

MUSIC

Kyle Hilton & the 455s. Live music. 9 p.m. FREE. Center Stage Night Club, 1785 W. State Road, Lansing. (517) 482-2280.

Avon Bomb. Live music. 9 p.m. FREE. The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 319-4500.

Grand River Radio Diner. Live concert featuring Joey Godfrey. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 483-1710. www.lcc.edu/radio.

Blue Pontiac. A Pontiac-based independent roots music band. 8 p.m. FREE. Jackson Coffee Co. 201 S. Mechanic St., Jackson. (517) 990-6770.

CD Release Preview for 496 West. In the Eastwood Towne Center. 8 p.m. FREE. Smokey Bones, 2401 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 316-9973. www.496West.com.

THEATER

"Wicked." 8 p.m. From \$38. (Please See Details July 5)

LITERATURE AND POETRY

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

Saturday, July 7

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

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

EVENTS

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

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

Beer & Wine Tasting. Free samples, this week Malbec. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Vine and Brew, 2311 Jolly Road, Okemos.

International Girl Scouting Day. Enjoy crafts, music and activities from around the globe. Noon-4 p.m. \$6, \$4 seniors, \$2 kids. Michigan Historical Museum, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 373-3559.

Taste of Downtown. Downtown Lansing Inc. hosts an afternoon of food sampling, wine tasting and live entertainment. 3-8 p.m. \$15, \$20. Downtown Lansing, Washington Square between Michigan and Washtenaw avenues, Lansing. (517) 487-3322. www.tasteofdowntown.org.

Urbandale Farm Stand. Purchase fresh, local produce, tour the farm, or volunteer. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. 700 block of S. Hayford Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3916.

MUSIC

Kyle Hilton & the 455s. Live music. 9 p.m. FREE. Center Stage Night Club, 1785 W. State Road, Lansing. (517) 482-2280.

DJClarinet Solo. Performing solo clarinet with recorded backgrounds. 10 a.m.-Noon, FREE. Meridian Farmer's Market, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. www.meridian.mi.us/index.

Avon Bomb. Live music. 9 p.m. FREE. The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 319-4500. www.lansingexchange.com.

The Summer Concert Series. Featuring The Sea Cruisers. 7-9 p.m. FREE. East Plaza, Corner of Charles St. & Albery Ave., East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

THEATER

"Wicked." 2 & 8 p.m. From \$38. (Please See Details July 5)

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Alexandra Hamlet. Author of "The Right Guard." 1-3 p.m. FREE. Barnes and Noble, 5132 W Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. (517) 327-0437. www.bn.com.

Talk and Signing with Steve Hamilton. Best-selling author of "Die a Stranger." 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-8840. www.schulerbooks.com.

See Out on the Town, Page 20

ERASER-FREE SUDOKU

EASY

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TO PLAY

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

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

Answers on page 20



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

Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsny

July 4-10

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Members of the Nevada Republican Party have concocted a bizarre version of family values. A large majority of them are opposed to gay marriage and yet are all in favor of legal brothels. Their wacky approach to morality is as weird as that of the family values crowd in Texas, which thinks it's wrong to teach adolescents about birth control even though this has led to a high rate of teen pregnancies. My question is, why do we let people with screwed-up priorities claim to be the prime caretakers of "family values"? In accordance with the astrological omens, I urge you to reject the conventional wisdom as you clarify what that term means to you. It's an excellent time to deepen and strengthen your moral foundation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): There's a term for people who have the ardor of a nymphomaniac in their efforts to gather useful information: *infomaniac*. That's exactly what I think you should be in the coming week. You need data and evidence, and you need them in abundance. What you don't know would definitely hurt you, so make sure you find out everything you need to know. Be as thorough as a spy, as relentless as a muck-raking journalist, and as curious as a child. P.S. See if you can set aside as many of your strong opinions and emotional biases as possible. Otherwise they might distort your quest for the raw truth. Your word of power is *empirical*.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Of all the signs of the zodiac, you're the best at discovering short cuts. No one is more talented than you at the art of avoiding boredom. And you could teach a master course in how to weasel out of strenuous work without looking like a weasel. None of those virtues will come in handy during the coming week, however. The way I see it, you should concentrate very hard on not skipping any steps. You should follow the rules, stick to the plan, and dedicate yourself to the basics. Finish what you start, please! (Sorry about this grind-it-out advice. I'm just reporting what the planetary omens are telling me.)

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The epic breadth of your imagination is legendary. Is there anyone else who can wander around the world without ever once leaving your home? Is there anyone else who can reincarnate twice in the span of few weeks without having to go through the hassle of actually dying? And yet now and then there do come times when your fantasies should be set aside so that you may soak up the teachings that flow your way when you physically venture outside of your comfort zone. Now is such a moment, my fellow Cancerian. Please don't take a merely virtual break in the action. Get yourself away from it all, even if it's only to the marvelous diversion or magic sanctuary on the other side of town.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): In Norse mythology, Fenrir was a big bad wolf that the gods were eager to keep tied up. In the beginning they tried to do it with metal chains, but the beast broke free. Then they commissioned the dwarves to weave a shackle out of six impossible things: a bear's sinews, a bird's spit, a fish's breath, a mountain's root, a woman's beard, and the sound a cat's paws made as it walked. This magic fetter was no thicker than a silk ribbon, but it worked very well. Fenrir couldn't escape from it. I invite you to take inspiration from this story, Leo. As you deal with your current dilemma, don't try to fight strength with strength. Instead, use art, craft, subtlety, and even trickery. I doubt you'll need to gather as many as six impossible things. Three will probably be enough. Two might even work fine.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): This is a time when your personal actions will have more power than usual to affect the world around you. The ripples you set in motion could ultimately touch people you don't even know and transform situations you're not part of. That's a lot of responsibility! I suggest, therefore, that you

be on your best behavior. Not necessarily your mildest, most polite behavior, mind you. Rather, be brave, impeccable, full of integrity, and a little wild.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Goldfish that are confined in small aquariums stay small. Those that spend their lives in ponds get much bigger. What can we conclude from these facts? The size and growth rate of goldfish are directly related to their environment. I'd like to suggest that a similar principle will apply to you Librans in the next ten months. If you want to take maximum advantage of your potential, you will be wise to put yourself in spacious situations that encourage you to expand. For an extra boost, surround yourself with broad-minded, uninhibited people who have worked hard to heal their wounds.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Over the years, you've explored some pretty exotic, even strange ideas about what characterizes a good time. In the coming days, I'm guessing you will add to your colorful tradition with some rather unprecedented variations on the definition of "pleasure" and "happiness." I don't mean to imply that this is a problem. Not at all. To paraphrase the Wiccan credo, as long as it harms no one (including yourself), anything goes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): There come times in your life when you have a sacred duty to be open to interesting tangents and creative diversions; times when it makes sense to wander around aimlessly with wonder in your eyes and be alert for unexpected clues that grab your attention. But this is not one of those times, in my opinion. Rather, you really do need to stay focused on what you promised yourself you would concentrate on. The temptation may be high to send out sprays of arrows at several different targets. But I hope that instead you stick to one target and take careful aim with your best shots.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): I've been meditating on a certain need that you have been neglecting, Capricorn — a need that has been chronically underestimated, belittled, or ignored, by both you and others. I am hoping that this achy longing will soon be receiving some of your smart attention and tender care. One good way to get the process started is simply to acknowledge its validity and importance. Doing so will reveal a secret that will help you attend to your special need with just the right touch.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Due to the pressure-packed influences currently coming to bear on your destiny, you have Official Cosmic Permission to fling three dishes against the wall. (But no more than three.) If you so choose, you also have clearance to hurl rocks in the direction of heaven, throw darts at photos of your nemeses, and cram a coconut cream pie into your own face. Please understand, however, that taking actions like these should be just the initial phase of your master plan for the week. In the next phase, you should capitalize on all the energy you've made available for yourself through purgative acts like the ones I mentioned. Capitalize how? For starters, you could dream and scheme about how you will liberate yourself from things that make you angry and frustrated.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Check to see if you're having any of the following symptoms: 1. sudden eruptions of gratitude; 2. a declining fascination with conflict; 3. seemingly irrational urges that lead you to interesting discoveries; 4. yearnings to peer more deeply into the eyes of people you care about; 5. a mounting inability to tolerate boring influences that resist transformation; 6. an increasing knack for recognizing and receiving the love that's available to you. If you're experiencing at least three of the six symptoms, you are certifiably in close alignment with the cosmic flow, and should keep doing what you've been doing. If none of these symptoms have been sweeping through you, get yourself adjusted.

Out on the town

from page 19

Sunday, July 8

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.

The Family Show. "Space Chase," for children. 2:30 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students & seniors, \$2 kids. Abrams Planetarium, 400 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 355-4672.

EVENTS

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

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

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

East Lansing Farmers Market. Fresh fruits and vegetables, crafts, activities and more. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Valley Court Park, 400 Hillside Ct., East Lansing.

Stewardship Work Days. Volunteer for a couple hours helping keep Fenner beautiful. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. fofnc.org.

MUSIC

Young Jesus. Indie rock. 6:30 p.m. \$8 advance, \$10 at door. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795. www.macsbars.com.

THEATER

"Wicked." 1 & 6:30 p.m. From \$38. (Please See Details July 4)

Monday, July 9

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Divorced, Separated, Widowed Conversation Group. For those who have gone through loss of a spouse due to death or divorce 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. www.stdavidslansing.org.

GriefShare Seminar. A DVD series, with small 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.

EVENTS

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

Social Bridge. No partner needed. 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.

Westside Farmers Market. Get fresh produce and more. 4-7 p.m. FREE. 743 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. www.nwlansing.org/wfm.html.

Colonial Village Walking Group. Walks are 30-45 minutes. 10 a.m. FREE. (Please See Details July 4)

JAMM Meeting. Jazz Alliance of Mid-Michigan, open to all. 7:30 p.m. FREE. 1267 Lakeside Drive, East Lansing.

MUSIC

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

Common Ground Music Festival. A week-long music festival in downtown Lansing. 5:30 p.m. \$13-\$299. Adado Riverfront Park, 531 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. www.commongroundfest.com.

Bluegrass Country Picking Jam. Bring your acoustic instrument and join others to make music. 7:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. VFW Club Post 6132, 3104 W. St. Joseph St., Lansing. (517) 337-1517.

Dead End Path. Hardcore. 7 p.m. \$8 advance, \$10 at door. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795. www.macsbars.com.

Tuesday, July 10

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Beginning Yoga Class. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. \$10. Center for Yoga, 1780 East Grand River Ave., East Lansing. Contact Carolyn Ojala for details (517) 388-2049.

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

Yoga 40. For those in their 40s, 50s, 60s and be-

See Out on the Town, Page 21

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 16

EMF	JAKOB	ORAL							
LEO	TACOMA	DAZE							
FLUKY	PAPER	ETAS							
	NUKED	FLANDERS							
DRDRE		EKE	DIE						
HOYT	PANT	WOMAN							
LAO	RAGA	FAB							
	DUKE	ECODERRING							
	OWE	IMOK	ELM						
TIBIA	PROG	SWEE							
ESA	RAE	RISER							
JUKED	CLAMPETT								
AZUL	IHEART	NYUK							
NULL	DARNED	LVI							
OSAY	SMOOT	EAT							

Out on the town

from page 20

yond. 7:15 p.m. Suggested \$7. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Summer Tutoring. For students, grades K-6. 10:30 a.m.-Noon, FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Health Initiative Workshop. Kristi Pier presents on NuVal Nutritional Scoring System-Nutrition made easy. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. FREE. North West Initiative, 1012 N. Walnut St., Lansing. (517) 999-2894.

Gadget Help. One-on-one help session. 3-5 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3.

Financial Fitness part I. Get control of your financial life. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Center for Financial Health, 230 N. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 708-2550.

EVENTS

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

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

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

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

Kids Time: 4:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details July 5)

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.

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

Tuesdays at the Park. Join for stories, songs, and more. 1 p.m. FREE. Granger Meadows Park, E. State Road & Wood Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156.

Colonial Village Walking Group. Walks are 30-45 minutes. 7 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details July 4)

MUSIC

Common Ground Music Festival. 5:30 p.m. \$13-\$299. (Please See Details July 9)

Jazz Tuesdays. Hosted by Jeff Shoup Quartet. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

Eastwood Summer Music Series. Outdoor family-friendly concert. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Eastwood Towne Center, 3000 Preyde Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-9209.

THEATER

Play in the Park. Families can pack a picnic and enjoy free entertainment with the "Man with 1,000 Voices." 7 p.m. FREE. Valley Court Park, 400 Hillside Ct., East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

DeWitt Library Book Club. 6:30 p.m. FREE. DeWitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156. www.dewittlibrary.org.

Cheryl Reynolds. Author of "Dear Mosquitos, Please Eat the Burritos!" and "Popsicles on the Run." 7 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-9900.

Wednesday, July 11

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Meditation. 7-9 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details July 4)

Community Yoga. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details July 4)

LGBTQ Affirming Bible Study. On Bible passages taken out of context and used to discriminate based on sexual orientation. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

EVENTS

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details July 4)

Practice Your English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details July 4)

Youth Service Corps. Ages 11-17. 3:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details July 4)

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

Colonial Village Walking Group. 10 a.m. FREE. (Please See Details July 4)

Family Library Scavenger Hunt. 1-7 p.m. FREE. DeWitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156. www.dewittlibrary.org.

Knit-Wits. Bring a project of your own or join us in one of our community projects. 3:30 p.m. FREE. DeWitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156. www.dewittlibrary.org.

MUSIC

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

Common Ground Music Festival. 1:30-5:30 p.m. \$13-\$299. (Please See Details July 9)

Together, Let's Jam! Teenagers & adults of all levels can participate in various music activities. 7:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 841 Timberlane St., East Lansing. (517) 355-7661.

Concert in the Park. 7 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details July 4)

Marshall Music Open Jam. Join musicians of all ages and levels on stage. PA and instruments provided. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Baby Time. 10:30 a.m. FREE. (Please See Details July 4)

Lansing Area Science Fiction Association Meeting. 7 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details July 4)

NEW IN TOWN » SUNRISE MARKET/RUBIE'S PARADISE SALON



By ALLANI ROSS

Things are getting interesting on the 2300 block of East Michigan Avenue. On the south side of the street, tucked between **Lansing Art Glass** and the urgent care clinic, two new businesses are blooming in the summer heat.

The Sunrise Market (2312 E. Michigan Ave.) is a brand-new, 2,600-square-foot facility catering to an international audience. Owners Ali Ali and Mohamed Abdi have been slowly building their inventory since their soft opening last month, and this week the store should be packed: bulk food bins filled with rare spices, racks stocked with imported rice, tea and canned goods, and — the pièce de résistance — a full-service butcher shop, serving up fresh cuts of lamb, beef, chicken and goat.

"There are other stores in the area carrying international items, but none of them are this big or this nice," Abdi said. "Our goal is to have as many hard-to-find international items as possible, but still carry the kind of stuff you can find at Quality Dairy, like chips and pop."

By the end of summer, Abdi says the market will have even more refrigerators for specialty juices and sodas, as well as a rich selection of bulk candy.

Next door, at 2316 E. Michigan Ave., **Rubie's Paradise Salon** is settling into its new home. Owner Beth Sanford more than doubled the size of her beauty shop from its former 400-square-foot location



City Pulse Staff

The shelves are filling up at The Sunrise Market

on the same block as **Emil's Italian Restaurant** to its current 900-square-foot spread. The avant-garde color scheme and punk-rock décor makes for an eye-popping visit, whether you're getting your hair dyed the newest shade of electric pink or you're just flipping through a magazine while waiting on a friend.

"This is more than just a salon — it's a destination," Sanford said. "We're going to be featuring local artists in rotating shows, there will be lots of locally made swag for sale, and I hope to have a yoga studio and massage room set up soon. This is such a cool space."

Most important, Sanford says the new space has allowed her to add another work station to her lineup, and she's hiring pronto. Swing by for more info.

That's my bag, baby

Two weeks ago, **The Purse Rack** made the big move from Grand Ledge to 5025 West Saginaw Highway in Lansing, right next to **Turkeyman**. Owner Ken Kareckas said he and his wife, Lana, decided to transplant the 8-month-old handbag store/consignment shop to soak up a little bit of that higher-volume Lansing traffic.

"It's a much better

location for us, and I think it's a good fit for the area, too," Kareckas said. "There's really no place else like us."

The Purse Rack specializes in new and gently used purses and accessories, and Kareckas says there will be a grand opening coming soon. "Like" them on Facebook to find out when that will happen.

Knuckle up

Finally, my friend Kolmarge Harris, who retired as a professional boxer/mixed-martial artist last week, recently set up his new nonprofit, the **Lansing Spartan Youth Organization**, inside the **Capitol City Boxing and MMA** (2120 S. Cedar St. in Lansing). Harris is running a series of youth fitness camps this summer.

"The two goals I had in mind when I started this were to keep kids off the street and to fight childhood obesity," he said. "There's a lot of talk right now about the bullying problem and the obesity epidemic. I'm actively doing something to turn those things around and create something positive for the community."

For more information, call (517) 894-8429.



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A toast to the U.P.

If two recent events are any indication, expect wonderful wines from the north



By MICHAEL BRENTON

The Wineries of Old Mission Peninsula dinner at Traverse City's renowned Trattoria Stella on June 7, and the annual Leland Wine and Food Festival — held June 9 — provided perfect venues to sample the new releases from northern Michigan's expanding array of wineries. Summer wine country tourists surely won't be disappointed, nor will they be let down as the new releases begin popping up on store shelves.

After a challenging 2009 vintage (which nevertheless generated a nice array of sparkling wines and white wines), 2010 created a somewhat light crop of very good, ripe fruit, and 2011 had all the winemakers licking their chops for both the quality and the abundance of the fruit. Trattoria Stella, located in the Village at Grand Traverse Commons — a converted historic building that was originally part of the old Traverse City State Hospital — has been earning well-deserved raves for the creative cuisine of Chef Myles Anton and an impeccable wine list established by co-proprietor/sommelier Amanda Danielson. The pairing on June 7 was magic.

Two days later, a bright blue sky and warm sun welcomed the 2012 iteration of the Leland Wine and Food Festival. Thousands enjoyed wines from Leelanau Peninsula and Old Mission Peninsula.

Sparklers always serve as a festive starting point. The 2009 reserve sparkling wine created by winemaker Cornell Olivier of Two Lads on Old Mission Peninsula was clean, crisp and tongue-tingling, a good match with fried shrimp on a stick.

A pair of Gewürztraminers demonstrated the yin and yang of the grape variety, which can be subtle or in-your-face. Left Foot Charley's 2011 Manigold Vineyard Gewürztraminer is somewhat restrained on the palate at this stage of its evolution. Winemaker Bryan Ulbrich explained that these grapes are from newer plantings on the vineyard, which promise to be a reliable source of excellent Gewürztraminer for years to come. The 2011 Gewürztraminer created by Coenraad Stassen of Brys Estate was a sweeter, broader, more viscous and

mouth-filling style. Both were great companions to Chef Myles' rabbit sausage with pancetta crust and apricot sauce.

Northwest Michigan unwooded Chardonnays continue to impress. The 2011 tasting lineup:

Bowers Harbor Unwooded was extremely refreshing; Naked Chardonnay from Brys Estate Winery is drinking exceedingly well, as is Lee Lutes' Black Star Farms Arcturos Sur Lie Chardonnay. Verterra's Unwooded Chardonnay, fashioned by winemaker Shawn Walters, is crisp, clean and beautifully balanced. For those who prefer a bit of woodiness with their Chardonnay, consider the 2010 Chard from John and Jo Crampton's Willow Vineyards, which features a balance of French oak and fruit exuding tropical melodies with creamy mouth feel.

Winemaker/proprietor Charlie Edson's Bel Lago barrel-fermented Chardonnays are predictably top-notch. Barrel samples of his 2011 output suggest that these wines show great promise and will typify the traditional Bel Lago balance of fruit, acid and just the right amount of French oak. The 2010 Proprietor's Reserve Chardonnay from Chateau Chantal really amped up the creamy, ripe fruit with a good dollop of oak. It exemplified the stylistic differences winemakers Mark Johnson and Brian Hosmer bring to a single grape variety. Affirming that "two can be better than one," Bel Lago's 2010 blend of 75 percent Pinot Grigio and 25 percent Chardonnay showcased a magical marriage of varietals: fruity and effusive, rich and balanced.

Pinot Grigio, a.k.a. Pinot Gris, and Riesling are extremely reliable — and highly consumed — grapes in the region. The 2011 Pinot Grigio from Margaret and David Bell's Circa Estate Winery offered a very clean nose, crisp mouth feel and fine acids, leaving an expectantly satisfying finish. Willow Vineyards 2010 Reserve Pinot Gris presented with a softer mouth feel, just enough sweetness to balance the acids, and a nice, long lingering finish. 2011 Verterra Pinot Gris was lean and

See Uncorked, Page 23



Courtesy Photo
Wine lovers descended on Leland last month for the annual Wine and Food Festival, which featured wines from the Leelanau Peninsula and Old Mission Peninsula wineries.

Uncorked

from page 22

crisply fruity in the nose, with a balance of rich fruit and acid on the palate.

Cherry wines are always Michigan crowd-pleasers. Peninsula Cellars' Hot Rod cherry wine was all about tart cherry and cinnamon in the nose and cherry cough syrup (in a good way) on the palate. Bel Lago's cherry wine continues to be a benchmark year after year.

Regional Pinot Noir continues to impress. We were presented with two excellently divergent examples of Old Mission Pinot Noir. Black Star Farms' 2007 A Capella demonstrated the virtues of bottle aging in a well-made Pinot Noir: balanced, classic flavors and a nice mouth feel. As a counterpoint, a much younger 2010 Brys Estate presented with ripe, dark fruit flavors and a mild vanilla backdrop.

Willow Vineyards 2011 emphasized strawberry/cherry nose, well-integrated French oak and pleasing red berry flavors. A much younger 2011 Pinot Noir from

Black Star Farms showed bright ruby color, a pleasing red berry nose and very fruit-forward palate: sweet fruit in a dry red wine.

Of course, no tasting of Michigan wines is complete without sampling a dessert wine, and Michigan is making some of the best dessert wines in the world. Black Star Farms A Capella Riesling Ice Wine is a phenomenal example of this style, year in and year out. A huge, botrytis-tinged nose, unctuous mouth feel and a zing of acid combine for a delightful "dessert-in-a-glass" ending to a meal. This is not an everyday drinking wine, but a fabulous occasional treat.

Judging from the array of wines sampled at these recent events a rich smorgasbord of appealing wines should be on the shelf for the indefinite future. Although it is too early to predict an outcome, the 2012 vintage shows all the signs of being the third great vintage in a row.

Keeping fingers crossed.

In Vino Veritas

(Michael Brenton is president of the Greater Lansing Vintners Club. His column appears monthly.)

foodfinder

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

CAFES & DINERS

OLD TOWN DINER — Breakfast skillet are popular attractions at this Lansing staple, which has been around for more than 60 years. 516 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 6:30 a.m.-2:30

p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. (517) 482-4050. TO, \$


OLYMPIC BROIL — From hand-battered onion rings to burgers covered in homemade Coney sauce, this res-


taurant makes almost everything fresh daily. 1320 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday; closed Sunday. (517) 485-8584. www.olympicbroil.com, OM, TO, \$

PENN AVE. DINER — This diner is known for its breakfast items, served any time. 6031 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Saturday, Sunday 8 a.m.-2 p.m. (517) 272-0504. TO, \$-\$

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

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY For more information: (517) 355-7661 or www.cms.msu.edu 841-B Timberlane Street East Lansing, MI 48823

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July Special: Caribbean
Pork Griots - medallions marinade in citrus garlic and chili, charbroiled and served with meaty **Black Beans** slow simmered with ham and sherry, a side of **Garlic Rice**, a taste of some spicy **Cabbage and Cilantro**, and luscious **Sweet Potato Rum Cake** for dessert

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ALL SHOWS START AT 7:00 P.M.

July 5 - The Lash creates a unique mix of rock and traditional Celtic music and instruments; featured on PBS's nationally syndicated "Backstage Pass."

July 12 - Frank-o and the Americans melds soulful vocals, groovy percussion, and first-rate guitar-playing; easy to listen to but not easy listening.

July 19 - Hullabaloo is a high-energy, 11-member group, featuring a horn section and a fun, eclectic repertoire that will make you want to dance; Ann Arbor Summer Festival regulars.

July 26 - Delilah DeWylde and the Lost Boys play rockabilly, honkytonk blues, and surf tunes; retro but not cliché; also featured on "Backstage Pass."

The Holt Farmers' Market will be at Veterans Memorial Gardens on Thursdays in July from 4-7 p.m. before the concerts.



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