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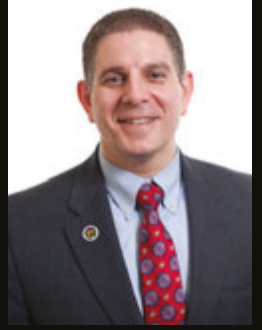
May 14-20, 2014

FREE

MENTAL HEALTH COURT JUDGE

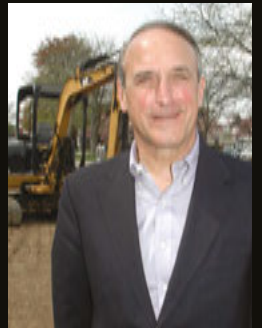
KEEPING THE MENTALLY ILL OUT OF JAIL

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The bands, the food and the artists | p. 13



THE PULSE

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Coming: Made in Lansing

Local history junkies will love an exhibit at City Hall all summer. Put together by the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, the "Made in Lansing" exhibit will feature more than 100 examples, some quite surprising: Pocket protectors, canned oysters (yes, in land-locked Lansing,) sheet music, lawn mowers ... well, the list goes on. And we are honored to say the first volume of City Pulse from 2001 will be on display.

Our role will be bigger, though. On May 28, City Pulse will publish a special issue called "Made in Lansing," in cooperation with the Historical Society. It will feature an offbeat history of manufacturing and scores of photos and descriptions from the exhibit.

And we hope scores of ads as well. We've already signed up a number of first-time advertisers: GM, Douglas Steel, BioEmergent, the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce among them.

We'll publish our usual 20,000 copies on May 28, and another 5,000 for visitors to the exhibit. Our ad rates will be the same, which means 20 percent more "reach" at no more cost. It's a great issue for your ad, manufacturer or not.

To find out more about advertising, please call me at (517) 999-5061 or email at publisher@lansingcitypulse.com. Space reservation deadline is May 21.

— Berl Schwartz

Feedback

Storm debris program praised

My wife and I are writing to commend the City of Lansing for the special program that has been created to deal with blow-down from the ice storm of last December. In our yard, huge limbs from our old white pine and maple trees were felled by the storm and lay strewn across our yard. Our dear neighbor, Kenetha Gibson, let us know about a new city program that disposes of storm debris on private property. As a result, a crew from Wright Tree Company showed up late one Friday afternoon with large trucks and mulchers and took care of the huge mess in our yard. For this, we wish to commend the following people for a job well done: Mayor Bernero, the Lansing City Council, Bob Johnson, Director of Planning and Neighborhood Development, Dorothy

Boone, Development Manager and Denise Paquette, Storm Damage Program Director who dealt with us on a personal basis and, of course, the workers of Wright Tree Company. Thank you so much.

— David Weight and Victoria Hefler Lansing

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

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

(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.)

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Hirtten: Bernero explains why Lark should stay



PAGE 18

Josh Malerman finds success with debut novel, rock music



PAGE 26

He Ate, She Ate: Review of Persis Indian Grill in Okemos



COVER ART

STOP! GAVEL TIME by JONATHAN GRIFFITH

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES: (517) 999-6705
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or email citypulse@lansingcitypulse.com

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

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER • Mickey Hirtten
mickey@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5067

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

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR • Allan I. Ross
allan@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5068

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

CALENDAR EDITOR • Jonathan Griffith
jonathan@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5069

STAFF WRITER • Lawrence Cosentino
lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5063

MARKETING/PROMOTIONS COORDINATOR • Rich Tupica
rich@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6710

ADVERTISING • Jeralyn Garvey
jeralyn@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6704

ADVERTISING • Shelly Olson
shelly@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6705

Contributors: Justin Bilicki, Daniel E. Bollman, Capital News Service, Bill Castanier, Mary C. Cusack, Tom Helma, Gabrielle Johnson, Terry Link, Andy McGlashen, Kyle Melinn, Mark Nixon, Shawn Parker, Stefanie Pohl, Dennis Preston, Ute Von Der Heyden, Paul Wozniak

Delivery drivers: Richard Bridenbaker, Dave Fisher, Ron Lupu, Brent Robison, Robert Wiche
Interns: Simone Carter, Eric Finkler, Alexandra Harakas, Alexa McCarty



THIS WEEK

- Timothy Muffitt, conductor of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra
- Michael C.H. McDaniel, chairman of the BWL review committee
- Ben Hall, music coordinator for the East Lansing Art Festival



Editor & Publisher
Berl Schwartz

7 p.m. Wednesdays



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THIS WEEK: Legislative Roundup

CityPULSE NEWSMAKERS

Hosted by **Berl Schwartz**

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D-EAST LANSING

STATE SEN. RICK JONES
R-GRAND LEDGE

OVER THE AIR	MILLENNIUM
Lansing/East Lansing.....Ch. 18	Bath, Charlotte/Williamston/others.....Ch. 6
COMCAST	Vermontville.....Ch. 12
Lansing/East Lansing/Holt.....Ch. 8	Grass Lake.....Ch. 11
Jackson.....Ch. 18	CABLE PROPERTIES
Summit/Leoni Township.....Ch. 8	Rives Junction.....Ch. 18
	Springport.....Ch. 18

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

IT'S THE LATEST REPUBLICAN FOLK HERO--A CARTOON HILLBILLY WHO HATES THE GOVERNMENT! GIT OFF MAH LAND, YOU DAD-GUM REVENOOGERS!

RIGHT-WING MEDIA EMBRACE HIM UNCRITICALLY! WHY CAN'T THE GUB'MINT LEAVE A MAN ALONE TO BREW HISSELF SOME MOONSHINE IN PEACE?

CONSERVATIVES RALLY TO HIS CAUSE! I THINK THE CARTOON HILLBILLY IS THE NEW FACE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY!

BUT THEN-- DO YOU HAVE ANY MORE FOLKSY, HOMESPUN WISDOM TO SHARE WITH US, CARTOON HILLBILLY?

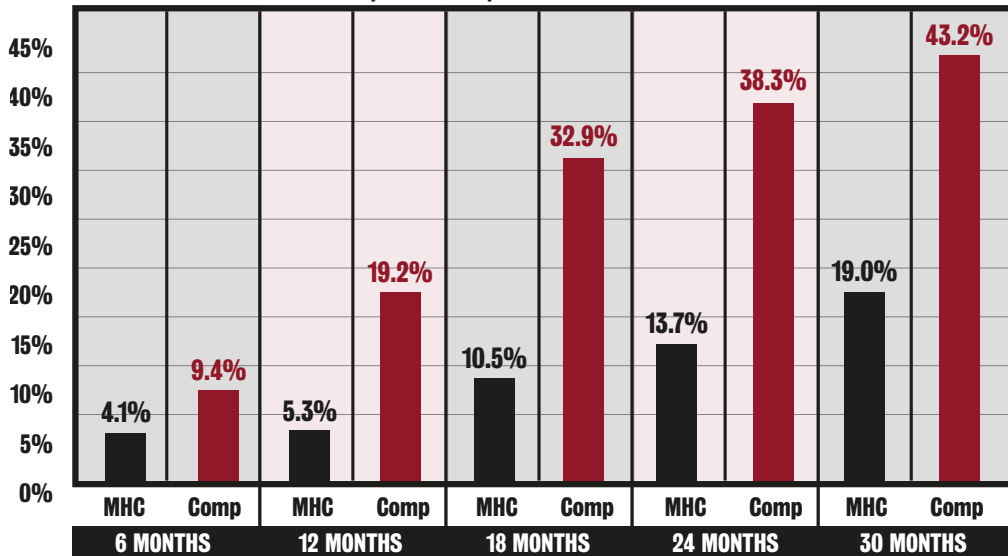
AND IT'S TIME TO QUICKLY CHANGE THE SUBJECT ONCE AGAIN. IN OTHER NEWS--BENGHAZI, BENGHAZI, BENGHAZI!

NEXT: REPUBLICANS FIND A NEW CHAMPION--A CARTOON CAVEMAN WHO HATES EVERYONE! OOG WANT TO SMASH ENEMIES WITH CLUB! TAKE THEIR FOOD! AND WOMEN!

TM TOMORROW © 2014

Recidivism Rates

Mental Health Court Participants Compared to Standard Probationers



A 2012 study by Michigan's State Court Administrative Office checked in on 95 participants from 11 mental health courts (labeled "MHC") around the state at regular intervals from 6 to 30 months after they were admitted to the program. At every stage, significantly fewer had been re-convicted of a crime, when compared to a group (labeled "comp") of 146 standard probationers. The study also found that mental health court participants "improved their education, employment status, mental health and quality of life."

Source: Michigan Supreme Court State Court Administrative Office

Rent-free LPD

Lansing Police Department landlord offers to let police stay rent free; Bernero rejects the bid

Landlord Harry Hepler offered Tuesday to allow the Lansing Police Department's North Precinct to stay in his building rent free, which was promptly rejected as "11th hour bullshit tactics" by an angry Mayor Virg Bernero.

Hepler said that he is prepared to donate the current May Street space to the city, which he valued at \$390,000 a year. The city, which pays about \$300,000 a year rent, plans to relocate its police operations to the Hill Center in Lansing's southwest corner by the end of August.

Hepler said he expects to send a formal proposal to the city this week. He said he hopes the city would at least keep a significant presence in the current building.

The plan developed when Hepler was approached by Mike Ware, a rental property owner in Old Town. Ware has been collecting signatures for a petition supporting the Hill Center move while also asking for the city to maintain the North Precinct facility on a year-to-year basis until a permanent facility is found. He plans to deliver to City Council on Monday, the same day Council will vote on the LPD budget amendment.

Ware said he and Hepler figured it was a "hare-brained" idea but they were desperate for the LPD to stay put. He would not say how many signatures he had, and he plans to proceed with the petition, despite Bernero's rejection.

Bernero said he won't consider any plan that Hepler proposes. He accused Hepler of toying with the city by refusing repeatedly to provide a clear-cut proposal until it was "too little, too late."

"This is not a chess game or a poker game," he said. "This is not how the city does business."

Bernero praised the Lansing School Board for its cooperation on the move to the district-owned Hill Center. He said he is "not about to pull the plug" on that.

"I ain't buying what he's selling," he said several times. "It's too little too late."

As for the upcoming vote, Bernero appears to have at least four of the five votes he needs: Jessica Yorke, Derrick Quinney, Kathie Dunbar and Tina Houghton. At-Large member Carol Wood appears to be leaning against it and Jody Washington, whose 1st Ward is where the North Precinct is, is opposed. Council President A'Lynne Boles was unavailable and At-Large member Judy Browne Clarke said she was undecided.

— Becky McKendry

CRIME AND TREATMENT

Ingham County's Mental Health Court aims to keep sick offenders out of jail

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Thomas Boyd has seen a lot of defendants, but the chief judge of 55th District Court in Ingham County can still picture one young man he sentenced a few years ago.



Boyd

"He was only 17, hadn't even grown into his full adult male body, and he was already a big, gangly kid," Boyd said.

The man heard voices others didn't hear. He had already been in and out of mental hospitals, including Kalamazoo Psychiatric.

When Meridian Township police arrested him on a misdemeanor charge and put him in the back of the police car, the voices told him the cops were going to kill him. He lay on his back, legs up, kicked out the window of the car and ran away, his hands still cuffed behind his back.

"He wasn't going to get far, but the voices told him to get out of there," Boyd said.

Boyd had already seen too many defendants with mental illness end up in jail instead of getting the medication, therapy and community support that might help them avoid the criminal justice system.

"I knew full well he didn't need to be in jail, but I had no other place for him," Boyd said. "My probation officers were trying every day to get the mental health system to give us the information we needed. That young man spent two and a half weeks in jail he didn't need to, had he been stabilized at the hospital."

No wonder Boyd is so enthusiastic about heading up Ingham County's first Mental Health Court program.

"I've been frustrated for years," Boyd said. "I have felt the

need to do something different with people that have mental illness since the moment I got here, which is eight and a half years."

Since Dec. 13, about 20 defendants with serious mental illness, all of whom would probably have ended up in jail, have gotten a different kind of attention at Ingham's Mental Health Court: judicially supervised treatment.

"The traditional approaches to behavior modification don't work well with people that have mental illness," Boyd said, meaning jail and probation.

"And that's what we do. We're in the behavioral modification business."

Funded by a \$261,000 grant from the State Court Administrative Office, Ingham's Mental Health Court is a partnership between the district court and the Community Mental Health Authority for Clinton, Ingham and Eaton counties. The project's partners stretch all over the community, from MSU's Psychiatry Department to CATA to the Lion's Club to whoever sold Sgt. Amy Ottke of the Sheriff's Department the cupcakes she served at this month's first Mental Health Court hearing.

Ottke brings cupcakes to mark the birthdays that pop up each month among the court's participants — the court's preferred term to "defendants" or "offenders."

"That's not what people normally expect from the sheriff at the jail," Boyd said. "It's definitely a different approach to avoiding recidivism."

Alan Platt leads the court's four-person contingent from Community Mental Health, where Platt is supervisor of adult mental health services. (Platt co-wrote the grant for the Mental Health Court with the district court.)

"It's a labor-intensive program," Platt said. "We spend a lot

SORE OF THE WEEK has moved to page 10

PUBLIC NOTICES**CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, June 2, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI for the purpose of considering:

An ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to repeal Section 884.11 of Chapter 884 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances, which established a payment in lieu of taxes for elderly persons of low or moderate income at The Abigail.

For more information, please call 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, June 2, 2014, at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk

CP#14_124

**CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, June 2, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI for the purpose of considering:

1. Approval of Act-12-2013 and the proposed Comprehensive Development Agreement placed on file with the City Clerk on May 2, 2014, and all attachments, agreements, and rights necessary to effectuate the CDA, including disposition and sale of interests in certain property referenced therein, and
2. Approval of the proposed Stadium License, Lease, and Service Agreement placed on file with the City Clerk on May 2, 2014.

For more information, please call 517-483-4177. These documents are available for review at the office of the City Clerk or at <http://www.lansingmi.gov/clerk> under the heading of Documents Placed on File. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, June 2, 2014, at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk

CP#14_120

**CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, June 2, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI for the purpose of considering:

An ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing by amending Chapter 888 and adding a new Section 888.32 for the purposes of providing for a service charge in lieu of taxes for forty-four (44) low or moderate income multi-family dwelling units in a project known as the Abigail, pursuant to the provisions of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, as amended

For more information, please call 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, June 2, 2014, at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk

CP#14_123

CITY OF EAST LANSING**ORDINANCE NO. 1331**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 26 - OFFENSES - OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING BY ADDING SECTION 26-67 TO PROHIBIT THE HARASSMENT OF ANOTHER PERSON WITHIN THE CITY OF EAST LANSING.

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

Section 26-67 of Chapter 26 of the Code of the City of East Lansing is hereby added to read as follows:

Sec. 26-67. Harassment.

No person, with the intent to harass another person, shall engage in a course of conduct or repeatedly commit acts that alarm or seriously annoy another person, which acts or conduct serve no legitimate purpose.

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#14_126

Mental Health

from page 5

of time with each individual, coordinating services for them."

Those services aren't limited to diagnoses, medication and therapy. When an older Mental Health Court participant got seriously behind on his utility bills, the court arranged a payment plan with the Board of Water and Light.

To get a young participant on track toward employment, Boyd's team set him up with practice GEDs. "We sat him in the court and took four practice tests on a laptop right here," Boyd said. "He passed all four and now we know he's ready to take the GED."

When another participant needed eyeglasses, probation officer Al Spencer hooked him up with a pair, courtesy of a Lion's Club volunteer who met them in the court parking lot.

Another young man needed a blood test after taking his medications. Boyd and the team made sure he knew how long to fast before the test, and made arrangements to get him to the test if his mother couldn't take him.

Another man had money saved to move from a group home to independent living. Support service specialists from Community Mental Health have been going to apartment interviews with him, helping him apply for housing. Participants who need counseling on budget planning are referred to experts from Capital Area Community Service.

Mental health therapist Jill Platte, Platt's colleague from Community Mental Health (and no relation), is a key member of the Mental Health Court team. She assesses participants to make sure they are clinically eligible and handles some of the treatment once they are in the program.

The grant establishing the Ingham County Mental Health Court requires that participants have a "serious" condition such as schizophrenia or any other psychotic disorder; bipolar disorder, long-term depression, or disabling, long-term post traumatic stress syndrome.

Christian McDaniel, director of adult mental health services for Community Mental Health, said "serious" is neither a clinical nor legal term, but a "descriptor." At the Ingham Mental Health Court, it's Platte's call whether the participant's condition is serious.

Anyone can recommend that an offender participate in the Mental Health Court, from the police officer making the arrest to a family member to a caseworker or an attorney. Participation is voluntary.

Some health court participants transferred from regular probation. "They were doing very poorly, risking failure and going to jail, and we transferred them to our much more supportive, treatment oriented program," Platte said.

Robert Sheehan, director of the Community Mental Health Authority, said the

Mental Health Court grant permits Platte, or another staffer, to focus on a caseload of 20 clients, compared to 40 to 80 otherwise.

"It's a fantastic package," Sheehan said. "They can dedicate themselves to the program and not be distracted by other things."

Platte still has her hands full. All of the participants at Ingham's Mental Health Court have two or more co-occurring diagnoses, either a serious mental illness or substance abuse disorder. Most participants are repeat offenders.

"We've got people who have pretty long rap sheets for little crimes, in and out of jail," Platte said. "They might commit a crime when they're completely psychotic and not really able to make good decisions. Our mental health system has had difficulty stabilizing them so they've fallen through the cracks. They've had commitment hearings. They haven't been able to succeed on a probationary schedule."

"These are very high functioning people, very capable," Boyd said. "They just have a serious mental illness that has pushed them into criminality."

Ingham's Mental Health Court participants were convicted of a wide range of offenses, including assault, retail fraud, stalking, disorderly charges, auto theft, domestic violence and larceny.

It doesn't take a new offense to land a mentally ill person back in serious trouble. Probation bristles with hurdles for the mentally ill. "They might have trouble getting to the required appointments, especially regular drug testing," Platte said. The mental health court might furnish transportation to testing site, make phone calls for them if they don't have a phone, or even pay for the tests.

"When they come out of jail, they don't want to go back, but they find themselves violating probation and getting into more trouble, because their mental illness has gotten in the way of their follow-through," Platt said.

Sometimes, Boyd said, probation is the worst thing for a troubled defendant. "There isn't a more anti-social environment in the world than our lobby," Boyd said.

No participants have "graduated" from the 5-month-old Ingham County program yet, but Platte reported "good progress." Some participants, she said, have been free of substance abuse or stuck with their medications for the first time in their lives. "They have improved relationships in their lives, engaged in therapy, and just become more positive," Platte said. One participant has found and kept a part-time job with the health court team's help.

Boyd had his own way of measuring success. He said that without the Mental Health Court, "each of these people would have spent more time in jail than would have been appropriate."

Boyd is convinced that if the mental health court had existed when he sentenced the gangly young man who heard voices and fled the police, the outcome would have been different.

Mental Health

from page 6

"We would have talked about his medications and steps we could take to increase the likelihood that he would continue taking them" Boyd said. "We would research possible housing options. We would start the process of stabilizing him in the community, using all the resources available to each team member."

To Boyd, the program's success depends on close and frequent huddles between his court, representatives of Ingham County Sheriff Gene Wriggelsworth's staff and community-based mental health professionals. Each week, the Mental Health Court team assembles to discuss the week's caseload for an hour and holds about two and a half hours of hearings. The contingent from the Community Mental Health Authority consists of Platt, Platte, services specialist Mary Liska and peer support specialist Marietta Shelton. From the 55th District Court, there's Judge Boyd, who runs the program, along with chief probation officer Denise Wells, probation officer Al Spencer, and Sgt. Otke. A defense attorney is also present.

The team is about to grow bigger. Beginning this week, hearings will be held on Wednesdays to accommodate the schedule of new members from the MSU Psychiatry Department, where a new forensic rotation for senior-level psychiatry residents is starting up. MSU residents will do a two-month stint at the Mental Health Court, where they will attend meetings, participate in decisions and help with hands-on treatment, including therapy and medications.

MSU Professor José Herrera will spend four hours a week supervising and helping with treatment.

With the Mental Health Court team in place, the stage is set for growth. At last week's hearings, Boyd saw 15 participants. There are about 20 in all. The grant establishing the court was written with the expectation of serving about 50 to 60 people a year.

This fall, Platt's team at the Community Mental Health Authority will help the 55th District Court apply for a grant renewal that will take effect Oct. 1. "We will ask for more resources to expand the program," he said.

Platt estimated that about 15 percent to 20 percent of people that come in and out of Ingham County Jail have a serious mental illness.

"You'll see studies that go up to 80 percent, but it depends on which diagnoses you're including," he said.

A 2012 study by the Michigan Supreme Court's State Court Administrative Office found that mental health courts don't stop the revolving door of incarceration and mental illness, but they put a stick in the works.

The study compared recidivism rates of participants in mental health courts with a comparison group of offenders who went through regular probation.

Checking in at 12, 18, 24 and 30 months after admission into the program, researchers found a "significant difference" between the groups every step of the way. At 12 months, about 5 percent of mental health court participants had been reconvicted, compared to over 19 percent of the comparison group. By the 30-month mark, more than 40 percent of the comparison group had been convicted of a new offense, compared to under 20 percent of those who went through mental health court.

The study also found that 97 percent of mental health court participants improved their mental health, as assessed by professionals, and about a quarter of the participants gained improvements in education and employment.

(By 2012, more than 300 offenders have "graduated" from a mental health court and hundreds more have successfully completed such programs since then.)

Findings like these have made mental health courts popular on both sides of the state's legislative aisle. Ingham's Mental Health Court came into being quickly after Public Act 274 was passed by the state Legislature and signed into law last December. Lt. Gov. Brian Calley chairs the Mental Health Diversion Council, part of the state's Department of Community Health charged with helping mentally ill offenders get treatment instead of doing jail time.

The law expanded the mental health court system by authorizing the state's circuit and district courts to set up mental health courts and set guidelines for eligibility. Depending on how many courts decide to write grant proposals, the law promises to add significantly to the 16 that were already in place around the state last fall.

Boyd is encouraged that the Mental Health Court bill passed the state's contentious Legislature easily.

He cited two compelling reasons for the overwhelming bipartisan support.

"Some people were motivated by the fact that they didn't believe what we were doing was effective," he said. "Other people were motivated by the fact that it was way too costly. So there's hardly anybody left to think we should keep doing what we're doing."

As the program grows, Boyd is spreading the word about the new court to law enforcement and mental health communities. He held two forums with public health and law enforcement agencies this year and plans to hold several more, including a June 6 forum at Lansing's Alane & Chartier law firm (see info box.)

With the new law on the books, mental health courts are likely to proliferate. According to Platt, the 30th Circuit Court in

downtown Lansing is working on a grant from the State Court Administrative Office to develop a mental health court for people who have been convicted of felonies.

Nobody is pretending that 20, or even 200, mental health courts will compensate for the drastic plunge in adequate mental health care and systematic closing of public mental health facilities in Michigan and across the nation since the 1980s.

son's mental illness and incarceration struck a familiar note. "He was fascinating," Boyd said. "Mental illness is being re-institutionalized, only now it's through the criminal justice system."

However, in "Crazy," Earley declared the trend toward mental health courts and jail diversion programs "encouraging," but cautioned that they are only reactive steps.

"The mentally ill should not be arrested and go to jail to get mental health services and treatment," he wrote.

Boyd is hoping the Mental Health Court will be part of a solution for those who do run afoul of the law.

"So many times, parents that have been working with their kids' mental illness, something bad happens or they give up and dial 911 asking for help," Boyd said. "They find out it's the last thing they get. They just get victimized again."

"One of our goals is to make sure that when families reach out to dial 911, they actually get help."

"Some people were motivated by the fact that they didn't believe what we were doing was effective. Other people were motivated by the fact that it was way too costly. So there's hardly anybody left to think we should keep doing what we're doing."

JUDGE THOMAS BOYD, CHIEF JUDGE OF THE 55TH DISTRICT COURT IN INGHAM COUNTY

Boyd and others attended an eye-opening presentation at a National Alliance for the Mentally Ill conference at East Lansing's Hannah Center last fall. The keynote sparker was Pete Earley, former Washington Post reporter and author of "Crazy: A Father's Search Through America's Mental Health Madness."

Earley's account of grappling with his

PUBLIC NOTICES

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

2014
RE-LIGHTING PROJECT FOR
GROVE STREET, DIVISION STREET & CITY CENTER
PARKING STRUCTURES
REBID

CITY OF EAST LANSING
410 ABBOT ROAD
EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN 48823

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of East Lansing at the Office of the Director of Public Works, up to 11:00 A. M., Tuesday, June 17, 2014, at which time and place proposals will be publicly opened and read for the furnishing of materials, labor and equipment for installation of new lighting in the Grove Street, Division Street & City Center Parking Structures in the City of East Lansing. Proposals may either be mailed to the Director of Public Works at 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823 or hand delivered to the Office of the Director of Public Works located at 1800 E. State Road, East Lansing, Michigan.

The Contract Documents, including Specifications, Plans and Bidding Forms may be obtained at the Director of Public Works' Office, located at 1800 E. State Road, East Lansing, Michigan, by paying a Twenty Five Dollar (\$25.00) non-refundable preparation fee.

Proposals must be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond payable to the City of East Lansing, in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid amount, which shall be forfeited to the City of East Lansing if the bidder to whom the Contract is awarded fails to enter into a Contract within ten (10) days after the Contract is awarded. The unsuccessful bidders' checks or bid bonds will be returned upon final award of Contract, approved and executed.

Prevailing wages are not required for this project.

A Prebid meeting will be held on Thursday May 29, 2014 at 1:00 PM at the northeast corner of the Division Street Parking Structure (corner of Albert Street and Division Street).

The City will apply its Local Purchasing Preference Policy, Policy Resolution 2009-3, in making the award of this contract.

The City of East Lansing reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive defects in proposals, and to make the award in its own best interest.

CITY OF EAST LANSING

By: Marie Wicks
City Clerk

CP#14_129

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF EAST LANSING

ORDINANCE NO. 1333

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 8-63 OF CHAPTER 8 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING TO AMEND THE FEES FOR LATE RENEWALS.

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

Section 8-63 of Chapter 8 of the Code of the City of East Lansing is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 8-63. Late renewal.

All fees for the renewal of any license which are not paid within 15 days of the time said fees shall be due shall be paid as "late fees" with an additional 50 percent of the license fee required for licenses under the provisions of division 3 of this article.

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#14_128

CITY OF EAST LANSING

ORDINANCE NO. 1329

AN ORDINANCE TO ADD SECTION 38-43 TO ARTICLE II - STREETS - OF CHAPTER 38 - STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES - OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING TO ALLOW FOR THE CLOSING OF STREETS DURING EMERGENCIES.

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

Section 38-43 is hereby added to Chapter 38 of the Code of the City of East Lansing to read as follows:

Sec. 38-43. - Authority to close streets or alleys during emergencies.

If, in the interest of public safety because of fire, flood, storm, snow, natural or man-made disaster, of other emergency, the City Manager, with consent of the Mayor, determines that one or more of the City's streets or alleys should be closed for purposes of vehicular travel or parking, the City Manager may declare one or more or all of the City's streets and/or alleys under its jurisdiction closed for that purpose. No person, except authorized personnel, shall operate a vehicle on any street or alley that has been closed for vehicular travel. Any person operating a vehicle on a street or alley closed for purposes of vehicular travel, where a sign or barricade has not been placed advising the person of the closure and who has not otherwise received notice of the street closure, shall be personally advised of the closure and directed to remove the vehicle from the street. No person shall fail to remove his or her vehicle, in the manner so directed, from a closed street or alley when directed to do so by a public official. No person shall park or shall fail to remove his or her parked vehicle from a street or alley closed for purposes of parking. Any vehicle left parked on a street or alley closed for purposes of parking may be removed to a place of safe keeping, at the expense of the owner, pursuant to MCL 257.252d.

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#14_125

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
EAST LANSING ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Zoning Board of Appeals on **Wednesday, June 4, 2014**, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in the 54 B District Court, Courtroom 1, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider an appeal of the Planning and Zoning Administrators interpretation; from Lingg Brewer as it relates to the property located at 500 Albert Avenue, in the B-3, City Center Business District, of the following sections of Chapter 50 - Zoning Code of the City of East Lansing:
 - a. Section 50-94(b)(4)(a)
 - b. Section 50-592
2. A public hearing will be held to consider an appeal of the Planning and Zoning Administrators interpretation; from DTN Management, of the following section of Chapter 50 - Zoning Code of the City of East Lansing:
 - a. Section 50-795

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

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

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#14_119

Bernero: BWL is 'on me'

Mayor explains why he is standing by Lark as general manager. It's not just loyalty.

The long knives are out for the Lansing Board of Water and Light's general manager, J. Peter Lark.

Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero's Community Review Team called for

**MICKEY HIRTEN**

a culture change at the utility and doubted that Lark could manage it. The Lansing State Journal said in a long Sunday editorial that BWL needs new leadership and that Lark should resign. Four area legislators in an open letter

called for changes in leadership and board oversight. It's all bundled under the mantle of restoring public trust in BWL based, of course, on the supposition that "public trust" has been lost.

"My gut tells me that the public still trusts BWL and it's my business to know what the public feels," Bernero said of the Sturm und Drang surrounding publicly owned power company. "I'd like to know what this is based on. I don't have any calls, no emails, no social media on this. Reliable, affordable service, that where it begins and ends."

He is confident that problems at BWL — and Bernero acknowledges the problems with ice storm performance and the water treatment plant disaster — are being addressed and that in his six years as general manager, Lark has been good for ratepayers and good for Lansing. Of course, some of this is about Bernero, who as a fighter values loyalty and backing the players on his team. Lark plays on his team.

"I don't throw away people," Bernero said during an interview this week. "I believe in second chances. He (Lark) is an ideal candidate for this. He feels the pressure to get it right."

Bernero said that the Community Review Team provided a road map for reforms at BWL, an outside look at what must be done to affect change. "This report will not die. But look at what they've already done: more boots on the street, tree trimming, changes in the OMS (outage management system)." He said that replacing Lark would require a national search, slowing down efforts to address problems and kill morale at the utility.

Said Bernero: "This is on me."

Running a city like Lansing may seem the province of the mayor and City Council, but it is far more nu-

anced, and in Lansing the Board of Water and Light is an important ally advancing Bernero's agenda. Lark helped Bernero realize two of the city's most important development projects: the Accident Fund headquarters at the abandoned downtown Ottawa Power Station and the new BWL natural gas co-generation facility in REO Town.

Neither would have happened without a strong partner at BWL, and Bernero is grateful for the help. BWL agreed to relocate chillers in the old power plant even though they were fine where they were. Without this, Bernero said, the headquarters would not have been built. The new natural gas-fired generation facility didn't have to be built in REO Town, he said. Now it's the linchpin for the neighborhood's revitalization.

"BWL's been an economic development tool. The only way to help is with public money."

From Bernero's perspective, BWL is tightly woven into the fabric of Lansing, which is very different from how a large commercial utility like Consumers Energy relates to Okemos or Charlotte. BWL isn't a standalone business supplying power and water. "It's hometown power, hometown people," Bernero said. He notes that its decision to replace aging coal-fired generators with green energy — natural gas — is why a municipal utility is different. It really listens, he said. "They got public input for the project. It was the citizen panel that pushed for the change from coal to natural gas."

Bernero credits this to Lark's stewardship, which he said has strong support from the business community, adding that BWL is an award-winning utility, traditionally one of the largest and best in its class. He believes that willingness to listen will propel Lark to make the changes needed at BWL.

"He feel the pressure to get it right," Bernero said. "If his record had been lackluster, this could be a chance to get him out. There is a pattern of excellent performance. Performance during the storm is an anomaly."

Ultimately, decisions about Lark's fate rests with the BWL board, which should adopt a more assertive role in overseeing the utility but still looks to Bernero for direction. (Bernero appoints board members, subject to Council approval.) But real change will happen slowly. Bernero will probably agree to broaden membership on BWL's board, adding members from communities outside the city. But he is reluctant to expand the size of the board. New members will be added as current terms expire. It's a good political compromise and will improve the organization.

But for now, this is his board and Lansing's, and with Bernero, loyalty cuts two ways. Lucky for Lark.

Knight vision

LCC is working on futuristic upgrades and preservation — in some cases through demolition

“It’s not your father’s LCC.”

That’s how Lansing Community College President Brent Knight sums up the projects popping up around his campus. LCC just completed a \$31 million overhaul of the Arts and Sciences Building that introduced futuristic upgrades in labs, classrooms and more. Right behind it is the \$18 million renovation of the Gannon Building, which will include the installation of a food court, an artistic new exterior and more. Twenty new sculptures will be installed on the campus by summer’s end, among other projects.

The projects are courtesy of the Build Forward program, a \$67 million initiative approved by the LCC Board in 2012, which aims to improve the student experience and enrollment by drastically re-vamping college facilities and grounds.

Knight, who resides in the college-owned historical Herrmann House on Capitol Avenue (renovated in 2012 for \$900,000 under the initiative), also soon expects to wake up to an entirely different view in the morning. By Labor Day, LCC aims to overhaul

the stretch of Capitol between Genesee and Saginaw streets just beyond his front door.

Utility lines will be moved this summer into an alley immediately to the west, making room for a lush row of trees and 1920s-style streetlights that match most of downtown Lansing. A masonry sign similar to the one welcoming students on the corner of Shiawassee Street and Grand Avenue will be installed amid soon-to-be-planted greenery.

The main goal of the Capitol Avenue projects, Knight said, is to restore the historical nature of the area — old-timey streetlights, no pesky power or phone lines and lush, beautiful trees.

“We want to be good stewards and neighbors, and we wish to return this area to its rightful state,” he said. “It’s a very historically rich part of Lansing.”

Knight’s desire for historical authenticity might seem a bit odd against the backdrop of the rest of the college’s upgrades. This is, after all, the same man whose vision for the Arts and Sciences Building led to space-age lime green furniture in commons areas, video monitors that rapidly cycle through inspirational quotes and paintings adorned with QR smartphone codes.

But the college’s professed commitment to preservation might seem even odder. LCC recently tore down three older homes that stood at the corner of Capitol and Sagi-



Becky McKendry/City Pulse

Lansing Community College President Brent Knight stands at the site of the future Capitol Avenue projects.

naw to make space for the park and sign.

Lansing City Councilwoman Jessica Yorko fought against the demolition of the homes since the college purchased them in 2012. She said that while she appreciates LCC’s recent improvements, the college hasn’t paid attention to the voices of preservationists.

“I admire the beautification and landscaping they’ve done around campus,” she

said. “They’ve done a nice job. But they have this beautification plan with no resident involvement.”

Yorko also said she fully welcomes improvements to what is now a vacant lot but that the college shouldn’t be touting the improvements under a theme of historical preservation.

“You can’t go back in time, but the demolition of those homes is not consistent with the goals of preservation,” she said.

Gretchen Cochran, president of Preservation Lansing, echoed Yorko’s statement that LCC made an insufficient effort to include local preservationists in their decision. This led to salvageable and historically valuable materials going to waste, she said, adding that labeling the current projects historical in any way was “almost laughable.”

Cochran did, however, say that while their efforts can be “misguided,” she appreciates the college’s beautification.

“[Knight] gets criticized a lot for taking school money and beautifying the campus, but I live three blocks from LCC and I love what they’ve done,” she said. “Aside from tearing down those houses.”

Bob Trezise, president and CEO of the Lansing Economic Area Partnership, said he has served in a “moral support” role for Knight as he embarks on the college’s over-

See Knight, Page 10

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF EAST LANSING
ORDINANCE NO. 1332

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 22-34 OF CHAPTER 22 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING TO EXCEPT SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING FROM THE ANTI-DISCRIMINATION PROVISIONS OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS PROVISIONS OF THE CITY CODE.

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

Section 22-34 of Chapter 22 of the Code of the City of East Lansing is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 22-34. Housing.

(a) As used in this section:

Housing accommodation includes improved or unimproved real property, or a part thereof, which is used or occupied, or is intended, arranged, or designed to be used or occupied, as the home or residence of one or more persons.

Real estate broker or salesperson means a person, whether licensed or not, who, for or with the expectation of receiving a consideration, lists, sells, purchases, exchanges, rents, or leases real property; negotiates or attempts to negotiate any of those activities; who holds himself/herself out as engaged in those activities; who negotiates or attempts to negotiate a loan secured or to be secured by a mortgage or other encumbrance upon real property; who is engaged in the business of listing real property in a publication; or a person employed by or acting on behalf of a real estate broker or salesperson.

Real estate transaction means the sale, exchange, rental, or lease of real property, or an interest therein.

Real property includes a building, structure, mobile home, real estate, land, mobile home park, trailer park, tenement, leasehold, or an interest in a real estate cooperative or condominium.

(b) The opportunity to purchase, lease, sell, hold, use, and convey dwelling houses or dwelling units or engage in any other type of real estate transaction as protected in this section or under state and federal law is hereby recognized and declared to be a civil right. This includes, but is not limited to seeking, inspecting, advertising, offering, or listing of real property without discrimination because of religion, race, color, national origin, age, height, weight, disability, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, student status, use of adaptive devices or aids, or legal source of income, except with respect to age or income only, where necessary to meet the requirements of federal, state, or local programs.

(c) It shall not be a violation of this section for the owner of an owner-occupied, one-family dwelling to restrict occupancy in the rental unit, or to the rental of a housing accommodation for not more than 12 months by the owner or lessor where it was

occupied by him/her for at least three months immediately preceding occupancy by the tenant and is temporarily vacated while maintaining legal residence.

(d) A person to whom application is made for financial assistance or financing in connection with a real estate transaction or in connection with the construction, rehabilitation, repair, maintenance, or improvement of real property, or a representative of that person, shall not:

(1) Discriminate against the applicant because of the religion, race, color, national origin, age, height, weight, disability, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, student status, legal source of income, or the use by an individual of adaptive devices or aids of the applicant or a person residing with the applicant.

(2) Use a form of application for financial assistance or financing or make or keep a record of inquiry in connection with an application for financial assistance or financing which indicates, directly or indirectly, a preference, limitation, specification, or discrimination as to the religion, race, color, national origin, age, height, weight, disability, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, student status, source of legal income, or the use by an individual of adaptive devices or aids of the applicant or a person residing with the applicant, except that information relative to the age, marital status, or source of income may be obtained when necessary for the preparation of a deed or other recordable instrument or to meet the requirements of a federal, state, or local housing program.

(3) Subsection (d)(2) of this section shall not apply to a form of application for financial assistance prescribed for the use of a lender regulated as a mortgagee under the National Housing Act, as amended, being 12 USC 1701 to 1750g (Supp. 1973) or by a regulatory board or officer acting under the statutory authority of this state or the United States.

(e) A person shall not represent, for the purpose of inducing a real estate transaction from which the person may benefit financially, that a change has occurred or will or may occur in the composition with respect to religion, race, color, national origin, age, height, weight, disability, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, student status, use by an individual of adaptive devices or aids, or legal source of income of the owners or occupants in the block, neighborhood, or area in which the real property is located, or represent that this change will or may result in the lowering of property values, an increase in criminal or antisocial behavior, or a decline in the quality of schools in the block, neighborhood, or area in which the real property is located.

(f) Subparagraph (b) of this section and Section 22-31 of this Code do not apply, with respect to the age provisions only, to the sale, rental, or lease of housing accommodations meeting the requirements of federal, state, or local housing programs for senior citizens, or housing accommodations otherwise intended, advertised, designed, or operated, bona fide, for the purpose of providing housing accommodations for persons 55 years of age or older.

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

SLU-7-2013, Special Land Use Permit – Parking Lot

505 E. Michigan Avenue & 312 N. Cedar Street
Z-8-2013, Rezoning from "H" Light Industrial District to "G-1" Business District

The Lansing City Council will hold public hearings on Monday, June 2, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI, to consider Z-8-2013 & SLU-7-2013. These are requests by the City of Lansing to rezone the property at 505 E. Michigan Avenue and part of the property to its north at 312 N. Cedar Street, legally described as:

Commencing at the Southeast Corner of Block 244, Original Plat, Thence North 419.04 Feet, East 9.87 Feet, North 260 Feet, West 9.23 Feet, North 153.85 Feet, West 428.69 Feet, South 111.54 Feet, West 13.32 Feet, South 302 Feet, East 12.64 Feet, South 417.94 Feet, East 428.47 Feet to the point of beginning.

from "H" Light Industrial District to "G-1" Business District. The City is also seeking approval of a Special Land Use Permit to construct a surface parking lot on the north 1.43 acres of the property at 312 N. Cedar Street. Parking lots are permitted in the "G-1" Business District, after review and approval of a Special Land Use permit by the Lansing City Council.

For more information about these cases, phone City Council Offices on City business days, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearings or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, June 2, 2014, at the City Clerk Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 1696.

CP#14_121

City of Lansing
Notice of Public Hearing

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on June 2, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, Lansing, MI, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of Brownfield Plan #55a - Amendment #1 – Ballpark North Brownfield Redevelopment Plan, pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, Public Act 381 of 1996, as amended, for property commonly referred to as Cooley Law School Stadium located in the City of Lansing, but more particularly described as:

33-01-01-16-276-002, N 90.75 FT LOTS 8 & 9 SUB OF LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 OF BLOCK 244 ORIG PLAT,

33-01-01-16-276-021, S 1/2 OF N 1/2 OF S 3/5 LOTS 8 & 9 SUB OF LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 OF BLOCK 244 ORIG PLAT,

33-01-01-16-276-031, N 41.25 FT LOT 7, S 49.5 FT LOTS 8 & 9, LOT 10 & W 46.75 FT LOT 11 SUB OF LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 OF BLOCK 244 ORIG PLAT,

33-01-01-16-276-041, S 1/2 LOT 7 SUB OF LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 OF BLOCK 244 ORIG PLAT,

33-01-01-16-276-191, COM 19.25 FT W OF NW COR LOT 12, TH S 165 FT, E 2.75 FT, N 4 R, E 57.25 FT, N 6 R, W 60 FT TO BEG; SUB OF LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 OF BLOCK 244 ORIG PLAT,

33-01-01-16-276-151, LOT 14 SUB OF LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 OF BLOCK 244 ORIG PLAT,

33-01-01-16-276-161, S 2/5 OF E 1 R LOT 11 & S 2/5 LOTS 12 & 13 SUB OF LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 OF BLOCK 244 ORIG PLAT,

33-01-01-16-276-182, N 99 FT LOT 13 & E 25.25 FT OF N 99 FT LOT 12 SUB OF LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 OF BLOCK 244 ORIG PLAT,

33-01-01-16-276-050, THAT PART OF: COM SE COR BLK 244, TH N 419.04 FT, E 9.87 FT, N 260 FT, W 9.23 FT, N 300.09 FT, W 428.69 FT, S 256.94 FT, W 13.32 FT, S 302 FT, E 12.64 FT, S 417.94 FT, E 428.47 FT TO BEG, WHICH LIES OUTSIDE THE EXTERIOR WALLS OF THE OLDSMOBILE PARK BASEBALL STADIUM, INCLUDING SO-CALLED LOBBY AREA; BLOCK 244 ORIG PLAT,

33-01-01-16-276-072, THAT PART OF: COM SE COR BLK 244, TH N 419.04 FT, E 9.87 FT, N 260 FT, W 9.23 FT, N 300.09 FT, W 428.69 FT, S 256.94 FT, W 13.32 FT, S 302 FT, E 12.64 FT, S 417.94 FT, E 428.47 FT TO BEG; WHICH LIES INSIDE THE EXTERIOR WALLS OF THE OLDSMOBILE PARK BASEBALL STADIUM; BLOCK 244 ORIG PLAT.

Approval of this Brownfield Plan will enable the Lansing Brownfield Redevelopment Authority to capture incremental tax increases which result from the redevelopment of the property to pay for costs associated therewith. Further information regarding this issue, including maps, plats, and a description of the brownfield plan will be available for public inspection and may be obtained from Karl Dorshimer – Director of Economic Development, Lansing Economic Area Partnership, 1000 South Washington Avenue, Suite 201, Lansing, MI 48910, (517) 702-3390.

Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, June 2, 2014, at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk

CP#14_122

Knight

from page 9

haul. Trezise said that those who doubt Knight and his college's commitment to historical preservation need to look at the greater vision.

"Dr. Knight and LCC and myself are all historic preservationists," he said. "But you don't have to be an absolute purist about it. There needs to be a compromise there."

Trezise maintains that the summer projects are a necessary evolution for LCC on its journey to attracting more students. He also said that the decision to tear down the homes didn't come easily.

"LCC tried everything genuinely possible to avoid tearing down those homes," he said. "But it's a tradeoff. It's critical to have a setting that makes students feel good about their school."

Both Trezise and Knight say LCC needs to increase its branding on that side of campus.

"It's going to be a quiet monument that is tasteful and blends in," Knight said. "A college needs to be inviting for students. The area will be very park-like."

Knight said of the controversy that there simply wasn't enough money to restore the homes.

"The community is outraged if you tear (houses) down, but unfortunately nobody wants to pay for it," he said, adding that maintenance costs for the homes are seen as a very low funding priority.

The other two historical homes LCC owns on that stretch of Capitol, the Rogers-Carrier House and Louis Beck House, need both standard repairs and renovations. For example, the window sills of the Rogers-Carrier House are damaged, especially from the harsh winter, and bricks on the house's front wall are crumbling.

LCC has no plans to demolish or move the homes to make room for new buildings, Knight added.

The Herrmann House is a good example of the unexpected cost of restoration. The work was supposed to run around \$300,000. But it ended up at \$900,000.

"Herrmann House would have caved in," he said. "It was rotted out."

As for how much of the \$67 million the Capitol Avenue projects will use, Knight estimated \$125,000 for utility relocation, \$70,000 for purchasing and installing streetlights, \$15,000 for tree planting and \$40,000 for concrete and bricks. He added that costs are being "constantly refined."

Knight focuses more on the big picture, anyway.

"I've had a vision for Lansing Community College I've been working on since I've been here," said Knight, 67, who arrived six years ago. "This encompasses everything. We're good stewards of the property, and we wish to be a good neighbor. We have been and will be."

— Becky McKendry



Property: 5340 S. Washington Ave., Lansing

Owner: Patricia and Racine Villarreal

Assessed value: \$33,900

Owner says: Can't afford taxes, plans to let it go to auction next year

As is too often true of old buildings, this home has been covered with synthetic siding. Such work is ostensibly performed as a maintenance reduction or energy-saving effort. However, when undertaken, the exterior is frequently stripped of any details that project from its elevations. Once all facades are flat and featureless, it is easier to apply the replacement siding. Unfortunately, this treatment usually leaves the building devoid of any character-defining detail. Even the casing trim around the windows has been obscured.

Several of the boarded windows are curiously adorned with a single shutter, though the telltale ghosts of their former mates still read on the faded siding. A Chinoiserie panel that once served as a railing now lies in a heap with the collapsed front-porch roof. Untended plants surround the site and cling to the building.

Even the church located immediately to the south cannot help feeling the deleterious image this abandoned structure projects to the surrounding neighborhood. After stabilizing the building, restoration efforts should begin with the removal of the invasive plants, and then focus on elements that significantly affect the building's curb appeal. Perhaps some lost detail might be discovered under the tired cement siding.

— Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

"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 Becky McKendry at 999-5064.

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC • THEATER



Courtesy Photo

Star soloists will do big things with the Lansing Symphony Orchestra next season. Left to right, pianist Melissa Marse will join the LSO for the world premiere of a new work by Grammy-winning composer Robert Aldridge (May 15); Russian-American violinist Yevgeny Kutik, a rising star recently profiled in *The New York Times*, will play a romantic Bruch concerto at the season opener (Sept. 12); LSO principal flutist Richard Sherman will play an ambitious concerto by MSU Community Music School composer Marjan Helms (March 7).

Fresh taste, stealthy wallop

New music, symphonic sleepers fill 2014-'15 LSO season

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

"Fresh, but not raw" should be the label for the 2014-'15 Lansing Symphony season.

Maestro Timothy Muffitt will disperse a generous portion of 21st century music along with classics from long deceased souls such as Beethoven, Chopin, Tchaikovsky, Mozart and Elgar. But the new stuff is all on the gentle side.

The two big highlights are the world premiere of a folksy piano concerto by Grammy-winning composer Robert Aldridge, with the composer on hand to midwife the birth (May 15, 2015) and a meditative epic by MSU-based composer Marjan Helms featuring charismatic LSO principal flutist Richard Sherman (March 7). The sparkling "Musica Celestis" by Aaron Jay Kernis (Oct. 11) and a snippet of Michael Gandolfi's epic "Garden of Cosmic Speculation" (Sept. 12), both of who are still breathing air, are also on the slate.

The newer stuff flows strictly from the well of lyricism and melody, with no fire-water like last year's wild Donald Erb trombone concerto.

Muffitt wants to roll with the energy of this year's season closer, when the melodic intensity and major-key wham of "Rainbow Body," written in 2000 by Christopher Theofanidis, provoked a spontaneous mid-concert standing ovation.

"It was so great to create that kind of a powerful bond with an audience with music from a living American composer," Muffitt said.

Muffitt admits (if you pin him down) that he is most excited about bringing Lansing the world premiere of a new piano concerto by Aldridge, one of America's most celebrated composers. Aldridge's opera "Elmer Gantry" won the 2012 Grammy for best contemporary classical composition and was dubbed "an operatic miracle" by *The New York Times*. Young pianist Melissa Marse, a specialist in Aldridge's strong and sweet Americana, will be the soloist for the concerto, provisionally dubbed "Variations on a Folk Tune for Piano and Orchestra." The leonine, larger-than-life Aldridge will be on hand for the whole process.

"Giving birth to a very significant piece of music of the 21st century American canon is a big event for Lansing," Muffitt said.

The other big new-music event at the LSO next season springs from the cranium of Marjan Helms, composer and piano instructor at MSU's Community Music School. Helms is working closely with Sherman on "Seven Ascents for Flute and Orchestra," a probing and lyrical work that runs some 45 minutes, written especially to suit Sherman's soulful, mercurial style. Sherman played the work with some

rough-around-the-edges support from the Jackson Symphony last week, but composer and flutist are eager to bring their collaboration home to Lansing audience next season.

The 2014-'15 season's strong slate of soloists, all on the younger side, also fits the "fresh, not raw" theme. The biggest catch is arguably young Russian-American violinist Yevgeny Kutik, glowingly profiled in *The New York Times* in March and headed for big things. He'll get plenty of room to strut his stuff with Max Bruch's über-Romantic violin concerto at the season opener Sept. 12.

Muffitt was deeply impressed with Melissa Marse, soloist for the May 15 Aldridge premiere, when they worked together last year on a thorny Bartok piano concerto.

"Wow," Muffitt said. "You could have taken that performance anywhere."

When Muffitt teamed with 19-year-old pianist Colton Peltier for a Baton Rouge Symphony concert two years ago, the audience went nuts over his "unassuming confidence" (in Muffitt's description) and the maestro brought him back for another night. Peltier will debut in Lansing with the Chopin concerto Oct. 11. Texas-based Bion Tsang, a Rhodes Scholar and one of the nation's top cellists, will play Tchaikovsky's Rocooco Variations Jan. 10. (Tsang was born in Lansing, but he moved to Poughkeepsie,

N.Y., when he was 6 weeks old.)

The other big theme of the LSO's 2014-'15 season is "stealth power." The year's big pieces, with one or two exceptions, conceal their wallop.

"This season, to me, has a slightly different feel than other seasons," Muffitt said. "When we say we're doing a Mahler symphony, everybody knows what kind of blow-out that's going to be. This time we're taking a look at the power that lies within pieces that don't come across as overtly powerful."

Muffitt puts Felix Mendelssohn's Fourth Symphony and the Chopin piano concerto (Oct. 11) in that box, along with Beethoven's Sixth (Jan. 10) and Bruch's violin concerto (Sept. 12). The British-empire majesty of Edward Elgar's "Enigma Variations" (March 7) doesn't really fit the profile, but you can argue the point over a bottle of stout.

That leaves the Russians, who can't seem to play well with others. Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony (Sept. 12) and Stravinsky's "Firebird" (May 15) are wild runaway troikas (or is it nukes?) and don't fit the stealth profile, either.

"We still have the big and flashy in there, too," Muffitt admitted.

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²*The Washington Post*, Washington Bestsellers Paperback Nonfiction General, April 20, 2014.

Fabric of the festival

East Lansing Art Festival gives local artist first poke at success

By ALLAN I. ROSS

Among the artists loading in on Friday at the 51st East Lansing Art Festival will be first-time exhibitor Carol Van Drie. As one of seven people chosen as part of the annual festival's emerging artists showcase, she's the very definition of "emerging": She did her first art piece one year ago this month.

"No one was more surprised that I was accepted (into the festival) than me," she said. "I've never even taken an art class."

Van Drie will join 182 other budding, award-winning and internationally touring artists at the event, Saturday and Sunday in downtown East Lansing. Also making her debut will be festival direc-

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tor Michelle Carlson. She and her crew of volunteers have built this year's fest on the success of previous incarnations and added a few new flourishes, including the Selfie Scavenger Hunt for Teens, which is ... a scavenger hunt. For teens. That requires them to take selfies.

"It's part of our effort to reach out to a (segment of the population) who may feel left out by the festival's other ac-

tivities," Carlson said. "It's just another way to make the festival fun." Carlson said over 60,000 people showed up last year, and she expects that

number to be about the same this year, if the weather holds up.

Returning staples include the food



Courtesy Photo

Felt artist Carol Van Drie's piece "Moonlit Mute Swans" will be one of the pieces on display at the 51st Annual East Lansing Art Festival this weekend. This will be Van Drie's first public exhibition.

court on Albert Avenue — with fare from Trailer Park'd, Woody's Oasis and Swa-

See Art Festival, Page 15

East Lansing Art Festival Schedule

Downtown East Lansing — elartfest.com — 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, May 17; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, May 18



Main Stage

(near City Hall, 410 Abbot Road)

SATURDAY:

- 11-11:30 a.m.: East Lansing High School Jazz Band
- Noon-1 p.m.: The Further Adventures of FatBoy and JiveTurkey (*gypsy blues*)
- 1:30-2:30 p.m.: The Ragbirds (*Americana pop*)
- 3-4:15 p.m.: The People's Temple (*psychedelic rock*)

4:45-6 p.m.: The Appleseed Collective (*bluegrass*)

SUNDAY:

- 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Wisaal (*Mediterranean fusion*)
- 1-2 p.m.: The Whiskey Pickers (*classic bluegrass*)
- 2:30-3:30 p.m.: Jump Up Devil (*acoustic blues*)
- 4-5 p.m.: Rachael and Joshua Davis (*old-timey folk, roots*)

Acoustic Park Stage

(Albert and Abbot)

SATURDAY:

- Noon: Ryan Shadbolt (*acoustic blues*)
- 1-2 p.m.: The Ukulele Kings (*featuring Ben Hassenger*)
- 2-3 p.m.: Deacon Earl (*blues, roots, reggae*)
- 3-4 p.m.: Buzz and Buster (*acoustic blues*)
- 4-5 p.m.: The Fascinators (*alt country, roots*)

SUNDAY:

- Noon-1 p.m.: Catbird Seat (*harmonies*)

1-2 p.m.: The Bard Owls (*folk, pop covers*)

2-3 p.m.: Duo Akusick (*dueling guitar improv*)

4-5 p.m.: Bargain Store (*strings*)

Children's Stage

(Parking lot)

Saturday (11 a.m.-6 p.m.) and Sunday (noon-5 p.m.): Suzuki, Amazing Clark, Tim the Music Man, Catbird Seat, MSU Science Theater, The Shakies

Free bike valet parking by the Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council. The CATA Art Festival Bus Route runs every 10-15 minutes between MSU's free Parking Lot #91 (Service and Hagadorn roads) and the MSU Union. Bus fare is 50 cents; route runs 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Sunday.

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Art Festival

from page 14

gath Indian Cuisine — and three stages of musical entertainment, with genres ranging from psychedelic rock to old-timey folk. Ben Hall scheduled the lineup, which highlights local and nationally touring musicians. Hall's band, The Further Adventures of FatBoy and JiveTurkey, is a "sophisticated Gypsy blues" outfit that plays the Main Stage at noon Saturday. He said he's in a good place to be able to determine the schedule.

"(As) a musician, I hear a lot of word-of-mouth on who's cool and who to pay attention to," Hall said. "I did some research and created what I think is a nice, eclectic mix of different styles of music."

The lineup includes the People's Temple, a local group just coming off a national tour with British band LOOP, and Rachael and Josh Davis (formerly of Steppin' In It), a duo specializing in roots and retro '30s and '40s music. The festival will also feature the return of the busking area, a tradition that started two years ago. Hall said the only thing the slate is missing this year is jazz.

"I'm a little disappointed in that, but (in previous years) it was really heavy on jazz and world music, so it all balances out," Hall said. "I think it's important for the music to reflect the festival and have a little bit of everything."

Carlson said the list of artists include those who work in ceramics, glass, metal, jewelry and traditional painting. Van Drie, 56, specializes in fabrics. She was a freelance writer for most of her career, but when she was ordered to stay off her feet for three months following a surgical procedure last May, she started looking for other things to do to keep her busy. She was hunting for a new hobby online when she came across

a photo of a felt art project she had an "instant connection" with.

"I saw this 3-D needle-felted Yorkshire terrier, and I knew right away this was something I wanted to do" Van Drie said. "I love Yorkshire terriers. That one piece is really what inspired me to get started."

Van Drie started making 3-D felt art (think: stuffed animal) but transitioned to 2-D, or canvas, felt art after seeing the medium's possibilities. Her work consists mostly of images of Michigan nature, including swans swimming in the moonlight and one of a robin's nest.

"It's been like a second life for me," she said. "As a writer, I don't think you can edit too much, but when you're doing art, you can ruin a piece by going over it again. I'm a perfectionist, and doing art has forced me to have patience and just let certain things go. It's really helped me."

She said she applied to the East Lan-

sing Art Festival on a whim, not expecting to make the cut.

"It's truly an honor just being accepted," she said. "I don't care what happens afterward, if I — I don't even want to sell some of these pieces. I spent over 150 hours on the robin's nest (piece). I can't bring myself to part with it."

She said she's still developing her technique, and her acceptance into the

art festival has given her the chance to come along with other artists and learn the festival circuit.

"When you hear from your family that they like (your art), that's one thing, but to be accepted by a prestigious art show is such an honor," she said. "It's given me the confidence to keep going. I want to keep doing this as long as I can and see where my art takes me."

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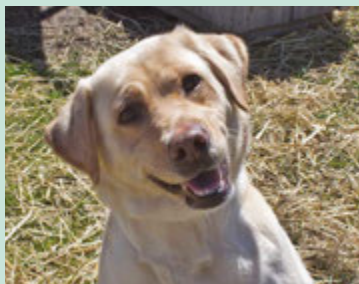
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CURTAIN CALL

Sisters act Starlight's 'Nunsense' musical gets surreal

By TOM HELMA

The sisters in Starlight Dinner Theatre's "Nunsense: The Mega Musical" are a far cry from the stiff-upper-lipped guardians of one's soul in traditional depictions. This enthusiastic ensemble has reasonably good singing voices — and in the case of Sister Robert Ann, played by Amanda Dill, serious comedic acting chops as well.

Review What paltry plot there is borders on bizarre: 48 of a convent's 52 nuns die suddenly of accidental food poisoning, and four of their bodies have been frozen in the food locker until time might provide a proper burial. "Nunsense" takes the idea of strange plots for a musical to a new level of surrealism.

The play moves along briskly, through an array of musical numbers in which various sisters get to shine, singing in solos and duets. Beth Webb as Reverend Mother Mary Regina belts out a semi-drunken show-stopping number ending Act I. Jane Zussman's loopy Sister Julia Child-of-God shtick, in which she channels the original Julia Child, got much audience applause. A quartet consisting of three brothers and a priest add a finely tuned barbershop harmony to the mix. Kudos to Marty Underhill, Charlie Martin, Dan Templin and Mike Barger for these melodic contributions.

"Nunsense: The Mega Musical"

Starlight Dinner Theatre
7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 16-17 (6:30 p.m. dinner)
Waverly East Cafetorium, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing.
Show and dinner: \$33/\$28 seniors and students/\$20 children 12 and under.
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(Dinner reservations required 48 hours in advance.)
(517) 243-6040, starlightdinnertheatre.com

There is audience participation here as well, with nuns interacting in character as they wandered through the spectators before the play and at intermission. This works well. Corny Catholic jokes cracked up the crowd. There are several sets of stand-up vaudevillian jokes, straight lines that invite pathetically pun-like punch lines that invite begrudging groans and the amused shaking of heads. Saturday night there was a sell-out crowd of close to 300 people, many of whom gave the performers a standing ovation.

"Nunsense" is a gentle play. It appeals to our sense of naivety and yet also reminds us that underneath the habits, nuns are real people, women who care, who give their entire lives to the service of others. It's a non-sensical nod to nostalgia, designed not to offend but merely to amuse.



Photos courtesy of Steve Scarborough

The sisters in "Nunsense: The Mega Musical" don't let a little botulism get in the way of a good show.

Secrets and 'Lives'

The women in Riverwalk comedic drama play with the truth

By MARY CUSACK

The title of Riverwalk Theatre's latest black box production, "Telling Lives," may be a play on "telling lies," or it may be that the circumstances in which each character finds herself is telling of the life she has led.

Review

As uninteresting as their lives end up being, it is a relief that they can be told in just over 90 minutes.

The lives belong to three generations of women in one fractured family. Matriarch Ruth (Eve Davidson) got married young to a dentist and became a woman of class and society. Daughter Geri (Amy Rickett) is a workaholic whose drive to succeed resulted in a divorce and a resentful child, Rachel (Michelle Lerma). Rachel pours her angst into a stage play that is a pointed criticism of her mother. While Geri and Rachel are barely speaking, both turn to Ruth for solace.

Ruth has written her memoir, and presents it to Geri for feedback. As the plot unfolds, it turns out that a key external motivator influenced Ruth to do so, and she is forced to reveal a deep secret that she has harbored for over 40 years. Relationships between all three women are tested, although these tests are akin to pop quizzes lacking in serious consequences.

Playwright Faye Sholiton is earnest in her desire to create complex, three-dimensional characters; the execution, however, is flawed. Important revelations that hint at a character's motivation are often buried in a single line of dialogue, and when the actors turn away from the audience, many of these critical clues are lost to the backdrop.

Rickett, who is capable of much more depth in her acting, plays Geri at the same level of emotional intensity throughout the play: Either mildly frustrated, mildly annoyed, or mildly nostalgic. Lerma is fine as a surly 24-year-old who thinks the world owes her an explanation. Unfortunately,

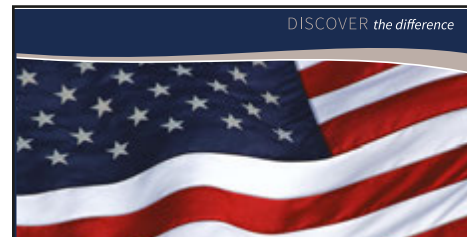
there is little in the script to make her the least bit sympathetic.

Eve Davidson is the saving grace for the production. She grasps who Ruth is: A woman who valued motherhood so much that she endured an ugly marriage to provide happiness and a bright future for her daughters. Davidson imbues her character with the dignity and self-satisfaction that comes with age and wisdom. She also nails the scary moments when Ruth is struck with debilitating disorientation.

Sholiton is so keen on creating a happy ending that an issue such as Ruth's fear of developing mental illness is swept aside almost literally with the wave of a hand. And the big secret that Ruth has been protecting ends up being disappointingly innocuous. In these three lives, there really isn't that much to tell.

"Telling Lives"

Riverwalk Theatre
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Rock-y, horror

Former MSU student finds success with debut novel, rock group

By BILL CASTANIER

In his new novel, the apocalyptic horror thriller, "Bird Box," Josh Malerman hits all the right notes. It makes sense, since Malerman is also a musician who has shared his writing skills as the front man for the indie band the High Strung since 2004.

The band originated in Brooklyn's Williamsburg neighborhood, but Malerman's roots in Bloomfield Hills give the band a decidedly Detroit feel. It's one of those hardworking, Motor City-style bands that goes full tilt producing albums and doing rock until you drop road trips.

In a phone interview last week from Portland, Ore., where he was attending

the World Horror Convention, Malerman, 39, said he had tried his hand at writing earlier, but failed to finish five novels. He said being on the road with the band gave him time to write 18 (as yet unpublished) books, including "Bird Box."

"The floodgates just opened," Malerman said. "It was my writing that first got me into a band. I was writing for what seemed forever and a group said 'we want you to write music.'"

Malerman's book has gotten excellent pre-publication buzz for a debut novel and was featured by USA Today last weekend in its "New & Noteworthy" book selection list. It was also named as an Indie Next pick by the nation's independent booksellers. Couple that with pre-pub buzz on Huffington Post and a movie deal with Universal Studios featuring director Adres Muschietti ("Mama") and the book should move quickly into the hands of dedicated horror readers who are always looking for the next big monster or psychological thriller.

The book is set in Michigan. Malorie, a young mother of twins, is trapped in a home with other survivors in a last stand against ... something ... that's out to get them. All you have to do is look at "it" and you will go crazy, killing others and then yourself. Nothing can save you. As supplies begin to dwindle, the survivors make more frequent and dangerous forays outside for food, always wearing blindfolds. Ultimately Malorie must escape with her children to a place where the only way there is to float 20 miles down a river — blindfolded. It's one scary boat ride that Malerman said was his inspiration.

"(I had) a vision of a woman blindfolded floating down the river," he said. "It was a big abstract entity."

That the children are simply named "boy" and "girl" illustrates how Malerman has intentionally stripped this



Courtesy Photo

Author/musician Josh Malerman will appear at Schuler's Eastwood location to discuss his new book "Bird Box" before playing with his band, the High Strung, at Mac's Bar.

horror novel to its essence. Flipping between the past and the present keeps the reader in suspense and, of course, fear. Malerman said he was introduced to the adrenaline rush of horror movies by his uncle when he was 12. He never lost that rush, and said he was influenced by "Twilight Zone: The Movie." He said readers who come to his book signings should "expect surprises," alluding to the blindfolded river run.

While on the road with his band, he wrote 17 books in preparation for the success of his 18th which after a non-traditional path to publishing went to auction; analogous to being nominated for a Grammy Award in the music business. You could say that Malerman has "The Luck You Got," the title of High Strung's 2005 hit song, which was played in the Showtime series, "Shameless."

The High Strung got started in East Lansing when MSU students Malerman and Derek Berk (a drummer) spun off a new group from the band, the Masons. In 2005, the High Strung was featured in



a segment of the NPR radio show "This American Life" called "The Dewey Decibel System," which discussed the band's unusual literary tour of 34 Michigan libraries to promote literacy. That odd tour scored them even an odder gig at the library at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The souvenir T-shirts sport the phrase "Rocking in Fidel's Backyard."

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--The Marchbank Press

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The Exchange is our new online marketplace connecting Mid-Michigan farmers with local businesses, institutions, individuals and buying clubs. Register online at www.AllenMarketPlace.org, and purchase products 24/7.
 For more information, call 517-999-3923



The Kitchen is a fully licensed food processing facility that is available to local food entrepreneurs for rental, as well as being host to the new What's Cookin'? culinary skills workshop series.
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Allen Market Place is a project of Allen Neighborhood Center.
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www.elartfest.com

OUT ON THE TOWN

Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com. Deadline is 5 p.m. Thursdays for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Jonathan at (517) 999-5069.

Wednesday, May 14

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 367-6363.

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

Living Wage Ethical Concerns. Discussion. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. pilgrimucc.com.

Superhero Training Camp. Games, crafts and more. 2-5 p.m. \$25. Play, 4972 Northwind Drive, East Lansing. (517) 708-8746. playeastlansing.com.

Computer Club: Consumer Info. Reviews, info and price comparisons. 1-2:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

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

EVENTS

Farmers Market at Allen Market Place.

Featuring locally grown prepared foods. Live music. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911.

Strategy Game Night. Learn and share favorite games. 5-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtdl.org.

Capital Area Crisis Men's Rugby Practice. Weather permitting. All experience levels welcome. 6:30 p.m. FREE. St. Joseph Park, 2151 W. Hillsdale, Lansing. crisisrfc.com.

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

"Sesame Street Live." With Elmo, Abby Cadabby, Big Bird and more. 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Tickets from \$18. Wharton Center, MSU campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

Hotel Kerns Fire. Author Barbara Saxena discusses her book. 6:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtdl.org.

Senior Discovery Group. Coffee and

See Out on the Town, Page 22

GET YOUR FACE ON THE COVER OF CITY PULSE! Well, sort of. Stop by the City Pulse booth at the East Lansing Art Festival anytime Sunday to get your photo taken. We'll superimpose your mug under our newspaper banner and post it to our Facebook page.

THURSDAY MAY 15-17 >> 'THE FOUR DISGRACERS' AT IXION THEATRE ENSEMBLE



Ixion is bringing in the old with the new in a debut original piece, "The Four Disgracers." Inspired by a set of prints from Dutch artist Hendrick Goltzius entitled "The Disgracers," the play features a collection of four locally written one-act plays, creating a new take on four mythological figures — Icarus, Phaeton, Tantalus and Ixion (that name ring a bell?) — who tangled with the higher-ups on Mt. Olympus and paid the price. 8 p.m. \$15. AA Creative Corridor, 1133 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-8789, ixiontheatre.com. (Continues Thursday and Saturday, May 22 and 24.)



THURSDAY MAY 15-18 >> 'CLYBOURNE PARK' AT PEPPERMINT CREEK THEATRE CO.



Peppermint Creek closes its 2013-'14 season with the Pulitzer and Tony award-winning play "Clybourne Park." The drama tells the story of the inhabitants of a single house — Act 1 features one family, Act 2 features another family 50 years later — and the issues they must face with race and community respective to their eras. The play has ties to the Lorraine Hansberry play, "A Raisin in the Sun," and is loosely based on actual events that took place in Chicago. 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 1 p.m. Sunday. \$15/\$10 students and seniors. Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. (517) 927-3016, peppermintcreek.org. (Continues Friday-Saturday, May 22-24.)



THURSDAY MAY 15-18 >> 'OLD LOVE' AT WILLIAMSTON THEATRE

A star-crossed couple is at the center of Williamston Theatre's production of "Old Love." When a widow sees an old acquaintance at her husband's funeral, it reawakens old feelings in both of them. Over the next three decades, the couple's path is filled with "will-they-or-won't-they" twists and turns. "Old Love" explores themes of romance, courtship and what it's like to be an adult and fall in love. \$25-\$10. 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.com. (Continues through June 15.)



FRIDAY MAY 16-18 >> LANSING HIP-HOP FEST 2014

Hip-hop often gets a bad rap (pun slightly intended), but it doesn't always have to be about avarice and vulgarity. This weekend, Fahrenheit Ultra Lounge will host Lansing Hip-Hop Fest 2014, promoting positive experience. Attendees can enjoy family-friendly events such as a graffiti art gallery, poetry, a fashion show and more. Naturally, several hip-hop artists will be perform, including L'SOUL, Ralph "De La Ghetto" and Cypher, who will use footage from this performance in his upcoming music video. 7-10 p.m. Friday; 1-10 p.m. Saturday; 2-6 p.m. Sunday. Prices vary. Fahrenheit Ultra Lounge and Grille, 6810 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 694-0700, lansinghiphop.org.

FRIDAY MAY 16 >> MEN OF ORPHEUS CHORUS SPRING CONCERT

The Men of Orpheus welcome spring, a time of new beginnings, by bidding farewell to its chorus director, Gayle Pohl. Pohl, who has been involved in music for 30 years, and who has been the group's director for 18 years. To celebrate her career, the Men of Orpheus will perform "Why We Sing," a collection of the most popular songs they have performed over the last decade. 7 p.m. \$10. Kinawa Middle School, 1900 Kinawa Drive, Okemos. (517) 420-6304.

MONDAY MAY 19 >> PHILOSOPHY TOWN HALL

How many real friends do you have? This is the question the next Philosophy Town Hall event entreats you to ponder at the East Lansing Public Library. Plato and Aristotle had various views on friendship and this installment of the series aims to explore them. Two philosophy professors from Michigan State University will introduce the issues posed by these ancient great minds and lead the discussion with the audience. 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.



TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA



FRI. MAY 23RD

FUEL AT THE LOFT

The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. \$18/\$13 adv., all ages, 7 p.m., Friday, May 23.

Post-grunge band Fuel hit the Billboard charts in 1998 with its major label debut, "Sunburn." The album spawned hit songs "Shimmer" and "Bittersweet." By 2000 "Sunburn" sold 1 million copies and was certified platinum. The band, which headlines May 23 at The Loft, released its sophomore disc, "Something Like Human," in 2000, featuring the melodic rock hit "Hemorrhage (In My Hands)." The band's original lead singer Brett Scallions still mans the mic; founding member/songwriter Carl Bell left the band in 2010. The band's 2014 LP, "Puppet Strings," features an all-new rhythm section. It reached No. 1 on the Billboard rock chart. Opening at The Loft are The Cavalry, Halfway to New York, The Skylit Letter and Gigantaur.

CAPITAL CITY INVASION FEATURING JIMI KANKLEZ AT MAC'S BAR

Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 18+, \$10/\$7 adv., 9 p.m., Friday, May 16.

The Capital City Invasion showcase includes a roster of local musicians, including DJ Enyce, J-Money, Lavish, Bobby Knuckle, Myke Aikens and Mike G and host Ichiban Cy. Also sharing the stage is local rapper Jimi Kanklez, a Roach Records artist. Kanklez is a Final Five contestant for Best Solo Artist in the 2014 City Pulse Top of the Town contest. He started rapping in high school and debuted on a Smokehouse Junkiez track in 2007. A year later he released his debut recording, "Eat Phresh"; since then, Kanklez has released four CDs, the latest being "The Mutt" LP. Next up: The "Alien Muzik" mix tape and shooting a music video for his track, "Fast Food Junkie." All of his videos are streamed at: youtube.com/jimikanklez420.



FRI. MAY 16TH

O'DEATH AT THE AVENUE

The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 18+. \$10, 9 p.m., Friday, May 16.

O'Death is a Brooklyn-based alt-country band that combines folk, bluegrass and indie into a distinctive style of Americana music. The band headlines the Avenue Café, along with the Bard Owls, a Lansing-based folk group known for its blend of bluegrass, Celtic, classical, jazz and pop. O'Death, which includes a banjo, fiddle, and ukulele player, took its name from an ancient Appalachian dirge. With a wealth of musical influences, O'Death channels the likes of Bill Monroe, Neil Young, the Misfits and even Prince. Pitchfork Media said the band ranges from "menacing and frantic" to "odd and quiet"; Pitchfork also rated the band's latest album, "Outside," with a favorable 7.9 (out of 10) rating.



FRI. MAY 16TH

Photo by Bryan Bruchman

UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT RICH TUPICA AT RICH@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM >>> TO BE LISTED IN LIVE & LOCAL E-MAIL LIVEANDLOCAL@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 6 p.m.		O'Death, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.	Updraft, 9 p.m.		DJ Jimmy, 9 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Blvd.		DJ, 9 p.m.	Flyte, 9 p.m.	Flyte 9 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Nicholas Plural, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Blue Wednesday, 8 p.m.	Skoryoke Live Band Karaoke, 8 p.m.	Showdown, 9 p.m.	Showdown, 9 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.		Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karaoke, 7 p.m.	DJ Fudgie, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Johnny D Jam, 8 p.m.	Big Willy, 8:30 p.m.	Soulstice, 9 p.m.	Still Rain, 9 p.m.
Gus's Bar, 2321 W. Michigan Ave.		Open Mic w/Hot Mess, 9 p.m.	Karaoke	
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.			Damn Van Cannibals, 8 p.m.	Escape the Fate, 7 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		The High Strung, 9 p.m.	Capital City Invasion, 9 p.m.	Aaron Gase, 5 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Game Night, 7 p.m.	DJ Trivia, 7 p.m.	Zydecronch, 9:30 p.m.	Lincoln County Process, 9:30 p.m.
R-Club, 6409 Centurion Dr.			Late Edition, 8:30 p.m.	Late Edition, 8:30 p.m.
Tin Can West, 644 Migaldi Ln.	Waterpong, 11 p.m.	Dave Floyd, 8 p.m.		
Tin Can DeWitt, 13175 Schavey Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.	Karlee Rewerts, 8 p.m.		
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 9 p.m.	Plan B, 9 p.m.	Plan B, 9 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Drive		Jason Demmons Band, 7 p.m.	Joe Wright, 6 p.m.	Big Sur, 7 p.m.
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.	Josh Gracin, 9 p.m.	Ty Bates, 9 p.m.

PLAY IN A BAND? BOOK SHOWS? LIVE & LOCAL LISTS UPCOMING GIGS!

To get listed just email us at liveandlocal@lansingcitypulse.com or call (517) 999-6710

WHAT TODO: Submit information by the Friday before publication (City Pulse comes out every Wednesday.) Be sure to tell us the name of the performer and the day, date and time of the performance. Only submit information for the following week's paper.

Out on the town

from page 20

conversations. 10 a.m.-noon, FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. **Michigan Notable Author Visit.** "Detroit" by Joe Darden and Richard Thomas. 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

MUSIC

Deacon Earl. Live blues, reggae and more. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911. allenmarketplace.org.

Thursday, May 15

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Capoeira. Afro-Brazilian martial arts classes. 6-8 p.m. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. \$10 per class/\$40 per

month. Contact Forca at (517) 290-5652. **Family Storytime.** Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363. cadl.org. **Meditation.** For beginners and experienced. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Quan Am Temple, 1840 N. College Ave., Mason. (517) 853-1675. quanamtemple.org. **Tarot Study Group.** With Dawne Botke. 7 p.m. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 883-3619. triplegoddessbookstore.net. **Ojibwe/Anishinaabemowin Class.** Learn the language of the first people from this region. 7-9 p.m. Donation. Nokomis Learning Center, 5153 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 349-5777. nokomis.org. **Craft Night Social.** Work on a project, create a quill box, make a dance shawl or do a peyote stitch. 5-7 p.m. FREE. Nokomis Learning Center, 5153 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 349-5777. nokomis.org. **Free Skin Cancer Screening.** For new patients. 5-7 p.m. FREE. Doctor's Approach Dermatology, 2685 Jolly Road, Okemos. (517) 993-5900. doctorsapproach.com. **Sign Language Classes.** For ages 12 and up. Meridian Christian Church, 2600 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517)

492-6149. **Domestic Violence Advocacy.** Volunteer Training for domestic violence advocacy. 6:30 p.m. FREE. 2500 S. Washinton Ave. 2nd floor, Lansing. (517) 272-7436. lansingmi.gov/care. **Interview Skills.** Workshop. 10 a.m.-noon, St. Johns Service Center, 101 W. Cass St. Suite A, St. Johns. camw.org. **Chipmunk Story Time.** Preschoolers enjoy stories, crafts, games and more. 10-11 a.m. \$3. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866. meridian.mi.us. **Skills Testing.** Obtain your provider/renewal card. 4-6 p.m. \$30. Lansing Community College East Campus, 2827 Eyde Parkway, East Lansing. (517) 483-9307. **Fairy School.** Makeover, crafts, games and more. 9 a.m.-noon, \$25. Play, 4972 Northwind Drive, East Lansing. (517) 708-8746. playeastlansing.com. **H.E.R.O.: Bug Control 101.** Home improvement class. 6 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980. bruce@ghc.org. **Memory Matters Seminar.** Preserving and improving your memory. 6:15 p.m. Rassel-Daigneault Family Chiropractic, 537 N. Clippert St., Lansing. (517) 336-8880. **Take Off Pounds Sensibly.** Contact Jan. 5:15 p.m. \$5. New Hope Church, 1340 Haslett Road, Haslett. (517) 349-9183. newhopehaslett.com. **Take Off Pounds Sensibly.** Weigh in 6 p.m., meeting 6:30 p.m. FREE to visit. St. David's Episcopal

Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 882-9080. stdavidslansing.org.

EVENTS

Spanish Conversation Group. Both English and Spanish spoken. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. **Euchre.** No partner needed. 6-9 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600. **Karaoke.** With Atomic D. 9 p.m. LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 482-0184. **Student Organic Farm Farmstand.** Featuring local organic food. 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Auditorium, MSU campus, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 230-7987. msuorganicfarm.com. **Family Education Days.** Nutrition education. 11 a.m. & 4 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7400. lansingcitymarket.com. **Sam Thomas: Women of Vatican II.** CTA hosts discussion of Council Mothers/Vatican II. 7 p.m. FREE. Coffee Jam, 6427 Centurion Drive, Lansing. **SoupGrant Lansing.** Supporting community projects. 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$5. Grace Lutheran Church, 528 N. Martin L. King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. soupgrantlansing@gmail.com. ow.ly/wFglz. **International Book Club.** Discussing "I Am Malala" by Malala Yousafzi. 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org. **Lansing Area Codependent Anonymous.** Held in room 214G. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Community Mental Health Building, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 515-5559. coda.org.

MUSIC

Rally In The Alley Open Mic. 6:30 p.m. FREE.

See Out on the Town, Page 23

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Get Back"--return to what you know.
Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Woodshop tools
- 5 Dish (out)
- 9 Florida fullback, for short
- 12 Fluish, perhaps
- 13 "Space Invaders" company
- 15 Mascara's target
- 16 Campus letters
- 17 Convincing
- 18 "... butterfly, sting like ____"
- 19 "___ for Alibi" (Grafton novel)
- 20 Places for missing persons reports
- 22 "And I've got one, two, three, four, five ___ working overtime" (XTC lyric)
- 24 Nixes a bill
- 25 1980 running medalist Steve
- 26 Unobtrusive, as a ringtone setting
- 29 It's heard in Houston
- 31 Affected
- 32 It may hold up an Arp
- 33 Sapporo sashes
- 37 One end of a fencing sword
- 39 1968 Winter Olympics site
- 43 ___ apso
- 44 Lock up tight
- 45 Convent-ional title?
- 46 Item exhumed years



- after burial
- 50 Hem's partner
- 51 Part of NCAA
- 52 Like mad callers
- 53 "Born Free" lioness
- 54 Queens diamond, once
- 55 Take on more issues?
- 56 Othello, for example
- 57 Allergy source
- 58 QB play
- 59 Roadside rest stops
- Down**
- 1 Home of The Ringling Circus Museum
- 2 Go-getter
- 3 Waiting room query
- 4 DOS component?
- 5 Fictional typing tutor
- ___ Beacon
- 6 Latin list ender
- 7 Sound off
- 8 Lindros formerly of the NHL
- 9 Mandrill kin
- 10 Newsgroup system since 1980
- 11 Game with 32 pieces
- 14 Encyclopedia
- Brown's hometown
- 15 Italian word for "milk"
- 20 2000 Subway Series losers
- 21 Hinduism, for example: abbr.
- 23 Hang out
- 26 Bristly brand
- 27 Like some congestion
- 28 Greta Garbo, for one
- 30 Suave
- 33 Reactions to fireworks
- 34 Shooting/skiing event
- 35 Available, as fruit
- 36 Series with an upcoming Episode VII
- 38 Ballerina's bend
- 39 Teahouse hostess
- 40 Former Attorney General ___ Clark
- 41 First name on the Supreme Court
- 42 Robertson of CNN
- 44 Hidden loot
- 45 A great many
- 47 Get ready
- 48 Yemen's largest city
- 49 Pac-12 team since 2011
- 53 Longtime Pet Shop Boys record label

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

INTERMEDIATE

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 25

Out on the town

from page 22

American Legion Post 48, 731 N. Clinton St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-1232.

{REVOLUTION} at Tavern. Electronic music, 21-up. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. FREE. Tavern On the Square, 206 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 374-5555.

Open Mic Night with Hot Mess. All acts and musicians are welcome. 9 p.m.-midnight, FREE. Gus's Bar, 2321 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-4714, facebook.com/gusbuster11.

Marshall Music Drum Circle. All ages welcome. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700. marshallmusic.com.

THEATER

"Clybourne Park." Two racially charged acts set 50 years apart. 8 p.m. \$15/\$10 seniors and students. Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. (517) 927-3016, peppermintcreek.org.

"The Four Disgracers." Four original, one-act plays about unlucky figures from Greek mythology. 8 p.m. \$15. AA Creative Corridor, 1133 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-8789. ixiontheatre.com.

"Old Love." A story of star-crossed love spanning three decades. 8 p.m. Pay what you can. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

Friday, May 16

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Used Book Sale. Fiction and nonfiction books for all ages. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-9588, grandledge.lib.mi.us.

H.E.R.O.: Raised Garden Beds. Home improvement class. 10 a.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980, bruce@glhc.org.

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

EVENTS

Lansing Bike Party. Bike ride with TGIF stop. See Facebook for details. 5:45 p.m. FREE. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU campus, East Lansing

VIP Plant Sale. Early bird admission, 10 percent off plants. 5-7 p.m. \$35. MSU Horticulture Gardens, MSU campus, East Lansing. hrt.msu.edu/plant-sale.

Undie Campaign. Discount for donating new underwear. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Donations. Curvaceous Lingerie, 5100 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 881-8466,

curvaceouslingerie.com.

Howl at the Moon Guided Walk. Enjoy a guided night walk in the moonlit woods. 9-10 p.m. \$3. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866, meridian.mi.us.

Quilt Exhibit Reception. Artist's interpretations of environmental themes. 4-6 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum, MSU campus, East Lansing. (517) 355-2370. museum.msu.edu.

MUSIC

Matt LoRusso Trio. Jazz. 9 p.m.-midnight, FREE. Troppo, 111 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 371-4000.

Karaoke Night. Food, drink specials and amazing vocalists. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Gus's Bar, 2321 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-4714. facebook.com/gusbuster11.

Lansing Symphony Young People's Concert. Educational concert. Pre-reg required. 10 a.m. \$2. Wharton Center, MSU campus, East Lansing. (517) 487-5001. lansingsymphony.org.

Bass Times Ten With Z.X. Featuring EDM Producers Z.X. and Byte5ize. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. \$10. Secrets Night Club, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 281-9502. secretsnightclub.net.

THEATER

"Clybourne Park." (See details Thursday, May 15.) 8 p.m. \$15/\$10 seniors and students. Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. (517) 927-3016, peppermintcreek.org.

"The Four Disgracers." (See details Thursday, May 15.) 8 p.m. \$15. AA Creative Corridor, 1133 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-8789. ixiontheatre.com.

"Nonsense The Mega Musical." Dinner 6:30 p.m., Show 7:30 p.m. \$36-\$31/\$18 show-only. Starlight Dinner Theatre, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 243-6040. starlightdinnertheatre.com.

"Old Love." (See details Thursday, May 15.) 8 p.m. \$25/\$23 seniors and military/\$10 students. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

"Telling Lives." An aging woman pens her memoir, questions unfold. 8 p.m. \$12/\$10 seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

Saturday, May 17

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Organic Pest & Disease Control. 12:30-

CRIMINAL DEFENSE

Drunk Driving
Embezzlement
Drugs
Homicide
All Federal
and State Crimes

37 YEARS -
AGGRESSIVE
LITIGATION
EFFECTIVE
MEDIATION

LAW OFFICES OF
**STUART R.
SHAHER, P.C.**
Former Assistant Prosecutor

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Serving Greater Lansing's LGBT Community

**Lansing Association
for Human Rights**

LAHR LGBT News • Coming Out Group • Frisbee Awards
Breakfast Club • Downtown Lunch • Cafe Night

An advocate by and for
lesbian, gay, bisexual and
transgender people and
their allies in the greater
Lansing community since 1979.

www.LAHRonline.org

2 p.m. \$10 Donation. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

Domestic Violence Support Group. Noon-1:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163. womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org.

Tai Chi in the Park. For beginning and experienced tai chi practitioners. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community Garden House, 1400 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

Military Homeowner Workshop. For veterans and veterans' family members. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Center for Financial Health, 3815 W. St. Joseph, Suite B200, Lansing. (517) 708-2550.

DIY Home Maintenance Workshop. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. 3024 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 708-2550. centerforfinancialhealth.org.

EVENTS

Art Reception. Meet local artists and enjoy their work. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014, dtld.org.

East Lansing Art Festival. Arts, crafts, activities and food. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. FREE. Downtown East Lansing, Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 319-6804, elartfest.com.

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

Public Plant Sale. Perennials, grasses, herbs and more. Free parking. 7 a.m.-2 p.m. MSU Horticulture Gardens, MSU campus, East Lansing. hrt.msu.edu/plant-sale.

Run for the Ages 5K. Walk, run or roll. 9 a.m. \$15-\$25. Hawk Island County Park, E. Cavanaugh Road, Lansing. (517) 887-1440. runsignup.com.

Day Trip on the Train. To Amish Quilt Auction and Flea Market. 8 a.m. \$45. Steam Rail Roding Institute, 405 S. Washington St., Owosso. (989) 725-9464,

michigansteamtrain.com.

8th Miles For Smiles 5K Walk. To benefit Head Start families. 9 a.m. Registration 10 a.m. \$20/\$15 advance. Granger Meadows Park, E. State Road & Wood Road, DeWitt. (517) 482-1504. ow.ly/wFnpH.

Stewardship Morning. Volunteers help restore habitat; care for the park. 9-11 a.m. FREE. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866. meridian.mi.us.

Woofers Walk. To benefit the animal cruelty fund. 9 a.m. \$30 registration. MSU campus, East Lansing. (517) 676-8370. signmeup.com.

Heads Up for Safety. Free bike helmets for kids, drawings and live music. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. FREE. Marshall Park, Corner of E. Saginaw and Marshall St. Lansing. (517) 394-7500, michiganjustice.org.

Shinsky Orphanage Golf Classic. Proceeds provide support for the Shinsky Orphanage. 7:30 a.m. \$85. Hawk Hollow Golf Course, 15101 Chandler Road, Bath. (517) 894-5361, shinskyorphanage.org.

Youth Sports Summit. Children's health awareness event. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$2/FREE for kids. Summit Sport, 2650 E. Grand River Ave. East Lansing. (517) 706-0111. ow.ly/wFo6x.

MSU Spring Arts & Crafts show. 330 Arts and Crafts vendors. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. FREE. MSU Union, MSU campus, East Lansing. (517) 355-3354. uabevents.com.

Work Day. Help plant shrubs, plants and benches. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Armory Park, Marshall St., Lansing. (989) 415-2822.

MUSIC

Matt LoRusso Trio. Jazz. 9 p.m.-midnight, FREE. Troppo, 111 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 371-4000.

Live music with Taylor Taylor. A family friendly

See Out on the Town, Page 24

Coming in City Pulse May 28: Made in Lansing: A Special Issue

Join us in saluting Lansing-made products, such as:

H. Smith Pocket Protector • Mary Olds Sheet Music
Sailor Boy Oysters • REO Lawn Mower • Bement Bobsleigh
and many, many more

This issue – tied to a new exhibit at City Hall organized by the Historical Society of Greater Lansing – will be well read.

Advertising Space Reservation deadline: May 21

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

Out on the town

from page 23

event. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460. lansingcitymarket.com.
33rd Edition: A Festival of Early Music. Choral sacred and secular music in English, followed by reception. 7:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing.

THEATER

"Clybourne Park." (See details Thursday, May 15.) 8 p.m. \$15/\$10 seniors and students. Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. (517) 927-3016, peppermintcreek.org.

"The Four Disgracers." (See details Thursday, May 15.) 8 p.m. \$15. AA Creative Corridor, 1133 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-8789. ixiontheatre.com.

"Nonsense The Mega Musical." Dinner 6:30 p.m., Show 7:30 p.m. \$36-\$31/\$18 show-only. Starlight Dinner Theatre, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 243-6040. starlightdinnertheatre.com.

"Old Love." (See details Thursday, May 15.) 3 p.m. & 8 p.m. \$25/\$22 matinee/\$23 seniors and military/\$10 students. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469.

"Telling Lives." (See details Friday, May 16.) 8 p.m. \$12/\$10 seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

Sunday, May 18

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Juggling. Learn how to juggle. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pump House, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. (517) 485-9190. ruetenik@gmail.com.

Spiritual Talk, Pure Meditation and Silent Prayer. 10 a.m. FREE. Self Realization Meditation Healing Centre, 7187 Drumheller Road, Bath. (517) 641-6201, selfrealizationcentremichigan.org.

LPC Poetry Reading. Featuring Gary Stephens, Larry Ackerman and more. 2 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing.

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. Third floor meeting room. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5559. coda.org.

EVENTS

East Lansing Art Festival. Arts, crafts, activities and food. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. FREE. Downtown East Lansing, Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 319-6804. elartfest.com.

Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance. Lessons 6-6:45 p.m. Dance 6:45-10 p.m. \$8 dance/\$10 dance and lesson. The Lansing Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-7838.

Undie Campaign. Discount for bringing in new underwear to donate. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Donations. Curvaceous Lingerie, 5100 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 881-8466. curvaceouslingerie.com.

Scandinavian Society of Greater Lansing. A Scandinavian video, followed by potluck dinner. 2-5 p.m. \$2. Faith United Methodist Church, 4301 S. Waverly Road, Lansing. 482-8357 or 321-2674.

MUSIC

New Horizons Band Concert. Final showcase spring concert. 2 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661, cms.msu.edu.

Steiner Chorale Spring Concert. Featuring opera great George Shirley and more. 2 p.m. \$10. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. steinerchorale.org.

MSU Russian Chorus. Live performance. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Emanuel Lutheran Church, 1001 N. Capitol Ave.,

Lansing. music.msu.edu.

THEATER

"Clybourne Park." (See details Thursday, May 15.) 2 p.m. \$15/\$10 seniors and students. Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. (517) 927-3016, peppermintcreek.org.

"Old Love." (See details Thursday, May 15.) 2 p.m. \$22/\$20 seniors and military/\$10 students. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

The Ovation Awards. A celebration of outstanding achievement. 2 p.m. FREE. Wharton Center, MSU campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-3166, whartoncenter.com.

"Telling Lives." (See details Friday, May 16.) 2 p.m. \$12/\$10 seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

Monday, May 19

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Adult Rape Survivor Support Group. Pre-registration preferred. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

Job Seekers Support Group. Find the right job or career. 10 a.m.-noon, FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163. womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org.

Support Group. For the divorced, separated and widowed. Room 9. 7:30 p.m. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272., stdavidslansing.org.

History Club. "Roaring 20's in New York, Chicago & The Mafia." 11 a.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

EVENTS

Ancestry Club. Learn & share genealogy tips. Call to register. 10 a.m.-noon, FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtldl.org.

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

Mac's Monday Comedy Night. Hosted by Mark Roebuck and Dan Currie. 9:30 p.m. FREE. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795. macsbar.com.

Club Shakespeare. 6-8:45 p.m. Donations. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 348-5728. cadl.org.

E.L. Philosophy Town Hall Meeting. Plato and Aristotle on friendship. 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Saints, Sinners & Cynics. Discuss a variety of topics in a relaxed setting. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Coral Gables, 2838 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 882-9733, saintmichaellansing.org.

Coffee and Tea with Andy. Discuss important issues with State Rep. Andy Schor. 9:30-10:30 a.m. FREE. Alfreda Schmidt Community Center, 5825 Wise Rd., Lansing. (517) 373-0826. schor.housedems.com.

MUSIC

Elden Kelly and the Next Step. American roots, world music and beyond. 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. \$4. (517) 482-6376. greendoorlive.com.

Open-Mic Blues Mondays. Solo, duo, band and spoken-word acts welcome. 6:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. Suits Tavern, 210 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 702-9150.

MICHAEL O'S FOOD TRUCK

Alexandra Harakas/City Pulse

Michael O's is the second mobile food cart to open in the parking lot on the corner of Oakland Avenue and Cedar Street.



By ALLAN I. ROSS

I recently told you about the north Lansing food court proposed by entrepreneur Frank Tignanelli, who opened his pizza cart **Detroit**

Frankie's Wood Fired Brick Oven on the corner of Oakland Avenue and Cedar Street.

Tignanelli envisioned an assembly of up to a dozen vendors that would create a destination for lunch diners on the go looking for an alternative to fast food.

Last week that idea came one step closer with the opening of **Michael O's Food Truck**, a mobile food cart focusing on smoked meats and sandwiches. Owner/operator Donald O'Polksi named the cart after his father.

"My dad passed away in 2007, but he's the one who gave me a passion for cooking," O'Polksi said. "He always wanted to open a restaurant. This is one step in that direction."

Unlike Tignanelli, who's perfectly happy remaining mobile, O'Polksi has dreams of one day opening a brick-and-mortar restaurant. (Recent local success stories in that vein include **Red Haven**, which grew out of the **Purple Carrot** food truck, and **Fork in the Road**, which started out

as **Trailer Park'd.**)

"The goal is open a fully operational restaurant as soon as it's financially feasible," O'Polksi said. "Right now I'm just spending my time perfecting my style."

O'Polksi describes the menu as "classic comfort food, with big portions and big flavors." All sandwiches are \$5.50 and all sides are \$2.50. He hickory smokes the pork in the pulled pork sandwich for 10 hours. It's served with his scratch-made whiskey BBQ sauce. The breast meat on the smoked turkey sandwich is sliced thick and served cold on Texas toast.

"It's not your typical turkey sandwich," O'Polksi said. "It tastes like Thanksgiving."

He said the other out-of-the-gate favorite is the bacon mac and cheese, made with a blend of cheeses (including Parmesan, sharp cheddar, Monterey Jack, and bleu cheese) béchamel, and Applewood smoked bacon. The Michael O's house salad can be served regular or with decidedly non-vegetarian toppings.

"They're just fine as they are, but they're a lot better topped with smoked meat," he said.

O'Polksi was born and raised in East Lansing but moved to Arizona five years ago. He came back in November because he "missed

the seasons."

"Not the best winter to come home to," he deadpanned. "But I wanted to be closer to my family. It's also nice to see grass again."

His mother had been operating the trailer at fairs and festivals, so it didn't take much to convert it into a full-time food operation. O'Polksi said he uses local ingredients as often as he can, and creates all his dressings and sauces from scratch.

If drive up dining still isn't fast enough for you, you can call or text your order in ahead of time. Micheal O's also caters and delivers to businesses in downtown Lansing. And like Tignanelli, O'Polksi welcomes other food carts to join the two businesses in the parking lot.

"The plan is to have as many as we can fit and still leave people enough room to drive in," O'Polksi said. "It's a very promising location."

And business, he said, has been booming.

"We've only been open a week, but our business has been doubling every day," O'Polksi said. "We've seen a lot of repeat customers, too. It's a good sign of things to come."

Michael O's Food Truck

11 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday 500 E. Oakland Ave., Lansing (517) 930-6333, facebook.com/mobqfoodtruck

Tuesday, May 20

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Capoeira. Afro-Brazilian martial arts classes. 6-8 p.m. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. \$10 per class/\$40 per month. Contact Forca at (517) 290-5652.

Pure Michigan Talent Connect. 9:15-10:30 a.m. St. Johns Service Center, 101 W. Cass St. Suite A, St. Johns. camw.org.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Have a support system, lose weight. 7 p.m. FREE to visit. Eaton Rapids Medical Center, 1500 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. (517) 543-0786.

Not So Happy Endings Support Group. For women ending relationships. 5:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 896-3311.

Hopeful Hearts Grief Group. Learn, grow and heal

together. 10-11 a.m. FREE. The Marquette Activity Room, 5968 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. (517) 381-4866.

Capital City Toastmasters Meeting. Learn public speaking and leadership skills. 7 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300. cadl.org.

Speakeasies Toastmasters. Improve listening, analysis, leadership and presentation skills. 12:05-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (616) 841-5176.

CAMW Program Orientation. Reinvent your job search. 10-11:30 a.m. St. Johns Service Center, 101 W. Cass St. Suite A, St. Johns. camw.org.

Hearing Screening. Drop-in hearing tests. No appointment necessary. 11 a.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

Out on the town

from page 24

H.E.R.O.: Women in Power (Tools). Home improvement class. 6 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980, bruce@glhc.org.
Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. 5:45-6:45 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5559. coda.org.

EVENTS

Bible and Beer. Discussion of scripture in everyday settings. 6 p.m. Midtown Brewing Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 482-0600. bibleandbeer@ccclansing.org.
Kid's Night Pizza Party. Animal education and pizza party. 6-7 p.m. Ingham County Animal Control Outreach Center, 826 W. Saginaw, Lansing. (517) 367-0676. ac.ingham.org.
CBI Spring Training Tech Expo. Featuring the latest in business technologies. 3-5 p.m. FREE. Cooley Law School Stadium, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (800) 968-6482. cbipartner.com/events.
Resurrection Monthly Luncheon. For Resurrection High School alumni. Noon. Robin Hill Catering, 16441 US 27 Hwy., Lansing. (517) 372-0217. robinhillcatering.com/contactus.html.

Wednesday, May 21

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 367-6363.
Meditation. For beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, 3015 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 351-5866.
Job Search Techniques. Seminar. 9:15-10:30 a.m. FREE. St. Johns Service Center, 101 W. Cass St. Suite A, St. Johns. camw.org.
Wild Ones May Meeting. Native garden design. 7 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 887-0596. wildoneslansing.org.
Discussion. The creation of the Nation of Islam in Detroit. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. pilgrimucc.com.
MiCafe Counseling. Seminar on food and medical assistance. 9 a.m.-noon, FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.
Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. First Congregational United Church of Christ, 210 W. Saginaw Highway, Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954. fcgl.org.

EVENTS

DTDL Book Club. Discuss "Look Again" by Lisa Scottoline. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District

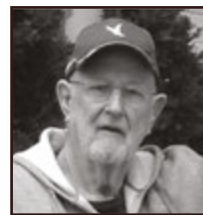
Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtld.org.
Farmers Market at Allen Market Place. Featuring locally grown/prepared foods. Live music. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911.
Capital Area Crisis Men's Rugby Practice. Weather permitting. All experience levels welcome. 6:30 p.m. FREE. St. Joseph Park, 2151 W. Hillsdale, Lansing. crisisrffc.com.
Practice Your English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.
Senior Discovery Group. Coffee and conversatations. 10 a.m.-noon, FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.
The Greater Lansing Ride of Silence. Silent procession to honor killed/injured cyclists. 5:15 p.m. FREE. Wells Hall, MSU campus, East Lansing. (517) 282-7515. tinyurl.com/MichRoS2014.
Medicare/Medicaid Assistance. Educate beneficiaries on Medicare. 6:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

MUSIC

Deacon Earl & The Congregation. Blues, reggae & more. Keven Felder also performs. 8 p.m.-midnight, FREE. Suits Tavern, 210 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 702-9150. suitstavern.com.

City Pulse Classifieds

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



Dave Fisher:

"I received fifteen calls from this classified in a week."

Lawn Mowing Service

30 years experience. Reasonable. (517) 528-7870. Ask for Dave.

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

S	A	W	S	M	E	T	E	B	U	C			
A	C	H	Y	A	T	A	R	I	L	A	S	H	
R	H	O	S	V	A	L	I	D	A	B	E	E	
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsny

May 14-20

ARIES (March 21-April 19): When the path ahead divides in two, Aries, I am hoping you can work some magic that will allow you to take both ways at once. If you do master this riddle, if you can creatively figure out how to split yourself without doing any harm, I have a strong suspicion that the two paths will once again come together no later than August 1, possibly before. But due to a curious quirk in the laws of life, the two forks will never again converge if you follow just one of them now.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): I see you as having more in common with a marathon runner than a speed racer. Your best qualities tend to emerge when you're committed to a process that takes a while to unfold. Learning to pace yourself is a crucial life lesson. That's how you get attuned to your body's signals and master the art of caring for your physical needs. That's also how you come to understand that it's important not to compare yourself constantly to the progress other people are making. Having said all that, Taurus, I want to recommend a temporary exception to the rule. Just for now, it may make sense for you to run fast for a short time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): If you fling handfuls of zucchini seeds on the ground of a vacant lot today, you shouldn't expect neat rows of ripe cucumbers to be growing in your backyard in a couple of weeks. Even if you fling zucchini seeds in your backyard today, you shouldn't expect straight rows of cucumbers to be growing there by June 1. Let's get even more precise here. If you carefully plant zucchini seeds in neat rows in your backyard today, you should not expect ripe cucumbers to sprout by August. But here's the kicker: If you carefully plant cucumber seeds in your backyard today, and weed them and water them as they grow, you can indeed expect ripe cucumbers by August.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "If we want the rewards of being loved," says cartoonist Tim Kreider, "we have to submit to the mortifying ordeal of being known." How are you doing with this trade-off, Cancerian? Being a Crab myself, I know we are sometimes inclined to hide who we really are. We have mixed feelings about becoming vulnerable and available enough to be fully known by others. We might even choose to live without the love we crave so as to prop up the illusion of strength that comes from being mysterious, from concealing our depths. The coming weeks will be a good time for you to revisit this conundrum.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): There's a piece of art on the moon: a ceramic disk inscribed with six drawings by noted American artists. It was carried on the landing module of the Apollo 12 mission, which delivered two astronauts to the lunar surface in November 1969. One of the artists, Leo maverick Andy Warhol, drew the image of a stylized penis, similar to what you might see on the wall of a public restroom. "He was being the terrible bad boy," the project's organizer said about Warhol's contribution. You know me, Leo. I usually love playful acts of rebellion. But in the coming weeks, I advise against taking Warhol's approach. If you're called on to add your self-expression to a big undertaking, tilt in the direction of sincerity and reverence and dignity.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The planet we live on is in constant transformation. Nothing ever stays the same. To succeed, let alone survive, we need to acclimate ourselves to the relentless forward motion. "He not busy being born is busy dying," was Bob Dylan's way of framing our challenge. How are you doing with this aspect of life, Virgo? Do you hate it but deal with it grudgingly? Tolerate it and aspire to be a master of it someday? Whatever your current attitude is, I'm here to tell you that in the coming months you could become much more comfortable with the ceaseless flow -- and even learn to enjoy it. Are you ready to begin?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "It isn't that I don't like

sweet disorder," said English author Vita Sackville-West, "but it has to be judiciously arranged." That's your theme for the week, Libra. Please respect how precise a formulation this is. Plain old ordinary disorder will not provide you with the epiphanies and breakthroughs you deserve and need. The disorder must be sweet. If it doesn't make you feel at least a little excited and more in love with life, avoid it. The disorder must also be judiciously arranged. What that means is that it can't be loud or vulgar or profane. Rather, it must have wit and style and a hint of crazy wisdom.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): I have three sets of questions for you, Scorpio. First, are you anyone's muse? Is there a person who draws inspiration from the way you live? Here's my second query: Are you strong medicine for anyone? Are you the source of riddles that confound and intrigue them, compelling them to outgrow their narrow perspectives? Here's my third inquiry: Are you anyone's teacher? Are you an influence that educates someone about the meaning of life? If you do play any of these roles, Scorpio, they are about to heat up and transform. If you don't currently serve at least one of these functions, there's a good chance you will start to soon.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): According to my reading of the astrological omens, you should draw inspiration from this Chinese proverb: "Never do anything standing that you can do sitting, or anything sitting that you can do lying down." In other words, Sagittarius, you need extra downtime. So please say NO to any influence that says, "Do it now! Be maniacally efficient! Multitask as if your life depended on it! The more active you are the more successful you will be!" Instead, give yourself ample opportunity to play and daydream and ruminate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In Raymond Chandler's pulp fiction novel *Farewell, My Lovely*, his main character is detective Philip Marlowe. At one point Marlowe says, "I needed a drink, I needed a lot of life insurance, I needed a vacation, I needed a home in the country. What I had was a coat, a hat and a gun." In accordance with your astrological omens, Capricorn, I'm asking you to figure out how you might be like Marlowe. Are there differences between what you think you need and what you actually have? If so, now is an excellent time to launch initiatives to fix the discrepancies.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): There's a slightly better chance than usual that you will have a whirlwind affair with a Bollywood movie star who's on vacation. The odds are also higher than normal that you will receive a tempting invitation from a secret admirer, or meet the soul twin you didn't even know you were searching for, or get an accidental text message from a stranger who turns out to be the reincarnation of your beloved from a previous lifetime. But the likelihood of all those scenarios pales in comparison to the possibility that you will learn big secrets about how to make yourself even more lovable than you already are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Author Eva Dane defines writer's block as what happens "when your imaginary friends stop talking to you." I suspect that something like this has been happening for you lately, Pisces -- even if you're not a writer. What I mean is that some of the most reliable and sympathetic voices in your head have grown quiet: ancestors, dear friends who are no longer in your life, ex-lovers you still have feelings for, former teachers who have remained a strong presence in your imagination, animals you once cared for who have departed, and maybe even some good, old-fashioned spirits and angels. Where did they go? What happened to them? I suspect they are merely taking a break. They may have thought it wise to let you fend for yourself for a while. But don't worry. They will be back soon.

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



HE ATE

Warm in the service department, hot with the spices

Spice world

By **MARK NIXON**

It was as if I had stumbled into the culinary equivalent of a “Seinfeld” episode. You know, the famous break-up episode, where the breaker-upper tells George, “It’s not you, it’s me.”

So that’s what it boils down to between Persis and me. I seem surrounded by family and friends who are head-over-heels about this Indian restaurant, parked in a high-end strip mall in high-end Okemos.

On separate occasions, the four people I dined with reveled in almost every morsel. The goat biryani, the spiced lamb, the yogurt-based sauce raita ... yada yada yada.

Me? Meh. Yet, based on this small and unscientific sampling, the polling is clear. It’s not Persis. It’s me.

My notion of spice is that it should be used to provide oomph — you should still be able to taste the main ingredients. Otherwise, why not just mix up flour, water and spices and call it spice slurry?

Where Persis and I part company — shall we call this conscious uncoupling? — is the restaurant’s compulsion to add zip, zing and heat to nearly everything on the menu. I like meals of contrasting tastes and textures. Persis ascribes to a simpler theory: All spice, all the time. (Not surprisingly, when my checking account registered the Persis bill to my debit card, the charge went to Persis’ corporate headquarters, All Spice LLC).

I can hear the catcalls from here: What do you expect, Nixon, it’s an Indian restaurant! So before I come off as completely churlish and picayune, let me dish out a few compliments.

No. 1: By all means, order the pappad (\$2.49). It’s the best thing on Persis’ menu — a baked concoction of lentil flour, cumin and salt. So thin and crisp, it alights on the table like a bird’s wing. It’s so addictive it should be classified as a controlled substance.

No. 2: High marks to the staff’s friendliness. They make you feel welcomed. Though the service was a bit uneven, their warmth was genuine.

No. 3: This place is quite affordable, especially at lunch. To get a passel of different tastes, there is the all-you-can eat weekend lunch buffet for \$10.99. In addition to an array of warm entrees and spiced rices, help yourself to one or more of the chutneys, which can be used for dipping bread. My favorite was the cilantro and mint chutney, crisp and cool to the palate.

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SHE ATE

Naan stop

By **GABRIELLE JOHNSON**

The first time I went to Persis, my dining companion and I stopped in to try the \$9.99 weekday lunch buffet. It was a bit later than the standard noon hour and the restaurant was virtually empty. We were seated and immediately grabbed plates and made our way down the line as I loaded my plate with tastes of almost everything.

I struggle with Indian food, but that’s mostly because I’m unfamiliar with what it actually is. The signs on the buffet displayed above the dishes didn’t do much to help — idli, sambar and gobi mutter didn’t give me any clarity. As it turns out, idli are steamed rice cakes and sambar is a vegetable stew made with tamarind, which is prevalent in Indian food. Gobi mutter, however, remains a mystery to me.

On that first visit I blindly ate my way through my plate, and while I know that I ate goat, lentils, and coconut rice, I’d be hard-pressed to name any of the dishes.

For my next visit I met a friend, again for the lunch buffet. I fared a tad better this time and had more than one helping of the aloo gobi, cauliflower and potatoes cooked in a blend of tomato and cumin-flavored curry sauce. It was also at this visit that I noticed a fellow diner approach the counter, pay his bill, then take a spoonful from a bowl sitting on the counter and toss whatever he’d put in his hand into his mouth. When my friend and I took our turn at the counter I figured out the strange sight. It was a bowl of fennel seeds. Fennel is a powerful digestive aid, and I was absolutely charmed as I took my own handful and headed back to work.

My boyfriend and I returned for dinner a few weeks later, having done some research. We ordered the classic idli (\$3.99) for an appetizer and were presented with a plate of three steamed rice cakes, which we dipped into the accompanying sauces and chutneys as we pored over the menu. Freshly back from England, where we enjoyed fresh naan bread from a neighborhood bakery with a homemade chicken curry, we quite fancied ourselves cosmopolitan, well-traveled eaters. He ordered the chicken tikka masala (\$10.99) after being assured that it would not be spicy, and I ordered the chicken biryani (\$10.99). Although I do like a bit of spice, I asked for my entrée to be mild. I know that my Michigan-bred taste buds are typically no match

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He Ate

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We now return to our regularly scheduled Spice World.

On our first visit, I noted that several items were marked as spicy. I told our server that I didn't like overly spiced food, so I pointed to an entree that had no spice icon. "Oh, that's fairly spicy," our server said.

OK ... So I went with tandoori chicken (\$10.99), which was not marked as spicy. Alas, it was. Not overly heated, but I still tasted the heat first, with the chicken clearly lagging in a supporting role.

My dining companion raved about the lamb curry (\$12.99). She ate the leftovers for lunch the next day. I had one bite. That was plenty.

A friend had the same dish the following week, and declared it "tasty and spiced just right for my tastebuds. His wife ordered chicken tikka masala (\$10.99). She loved it; I liked it. There were hints of cream and butter, which delivered a subtle

nutty flavor. At least I could taste the flavor before the inevitable after-burn set in.

Are you sensing a pattern here? The lentil-based chutney: One bite and I was reaching for my water glass. The butter chicken was rich with butter, and I appreciated that. Then came the after burn.

There are some smaller grievances. One buffet dish had chunks of meat covered in sauce, and the chunks had bones attached. But, there were no knives in our silverware placings. So, basically, you picked up the sopping chunks of meat, separated meat from bone with your teeth, and reached for the napkins.

Slightly annoying are parts of Persis' online menu. No prices are listed, the assumption being that since this is a corporate website, different Persis restaurants must charge different prices. At least one dish, a mulligatawny soup, was listed on the website's menu but was absent from the actual restaurant menu.

And so my torrid affair with Persis is over, and, with apologies to T.S. Elliot, it ended not with a bang but a whimpering plea: More water!

Through my mental calisthenics and eventual panic, the boyfriend happily made his way through his chicken tikka masala, cubes of roasted chicken in a creamy tomato sauce. He dragged our excellent garlic naan bread through the sauce and was happy as a clam while I plowed through a pitcher of water and lamented leaving my sweatband in my gym bag.

After three visits I still wasn't confident in my limited knowledge of Indian food and, when I happened upon an Indian lunch buffet while in Novi a while later I decided to go for comparison sake. While I can assure you that I remain a novice when it comes to Indian cuisine, the quality of food at Persis was remarkably better than the other place. Everything was fresh and hot (both temperature and fire breathing dragon-wise). When the waiter noticed my distress he was quick to make a correction and brought fresh plain yogurt that I could use to temper the spice.

If you're feeling adventurous, or you need to sweat off a few pounds before wedding season hits, Persis is your place.

She Ate

from page 26

for ethnic cuisine.

Any ideas I had about knowing our way around Indian food left me as the waiter brought my chicken biryani and set on the table a bowl heaped with chicken and rice that was positively the color of fire. Questions started to swirl through my mind as I took my first bites: Will I be able to handle this? Why is there a hard-boiled egg in this bowl? Can anyone see that I'm starting to sweat? Why did the waiter even ask me how spicy I wanted it if he knew he was going to torture me? Have I turned into a dragon yet?

After a few more moments of my wheels frantically churning, the waiter came back to the table and asked if it wasn't maybe a bit hot for me. I agreed with him, he took the dish away, and a few minutes later he returned with a new dish, one that looked much less fiery. Why he didn't bring me that one in the first place also remains a mystery.

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