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CityPULSE

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October 19-25, 2011

PIECING TOGETHER A CONSPIRACY

RIVERWALK THEATRE WORLD PREMIERE
EXAMINES **THE FINAL SOLUTION**

SEE PAGE 10

**SAVE!
Lansing**



Save! Lansing's
DEAL OF THE WEEK
Save 50% on Halloween costumes
at the **Lansing Civic Players**
Costume Shop see page 2

Inside Joel Ferguson
see page 5

When is a park not a
park? Ask Carol Wood
see page 6

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José Porcel, Artistic Director

Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at 7:30PM

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 MICHIGAN RADIO

A “brilliant, zany film-noir musical biography” raves *The New York Times* about Nellie McKay's new cabaret show, “*I Want to Live!*,” inspired by the 1958 movie of the same name that won Susan Hayward an Oscar playing the convicted murderess Barbara Graham.

NELLIE MCKAY
 “I WANT TO LIVE!”

Saturday, November 19 at 8PM

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Feedback

A night to remember

Allan I. Ross, you hit the critique of the 'Jersey Boys' right on the head!! It was so magnificent! So unbelievably awesome, words cannot describe! Yes, the voice of Joseph Leo Bwarie was indescribable and so enticing, it gave you the chills. I didn't even know what I was getting into when I went to this musical. Had no idea it was about Frankie Valli! And then the music, and the incredible performance, brought me in, filling me with an unbelievable realization that I was experiencing history, my history, at its best. Truly, a performance to go out of your way to see! Thank you again Allan, for agreeing with the magic I experienced! It was a night I will never forget!

—Diane Harper
Leslie

Repeal item pricing on merchandise

I fully agree with FEEDBACK's letter by Mike Hood on Michigan legislation repealing item pricing on store merchandise. This is one more of the malevolent practices of leading Republican government bodies. I'm glad some people feel

compelled to speak out on food pricing, manufacturing, etc.

Greatly hiking grocery pricing shows no trend toward a turnaround, considering growing conditions, etc, but the hikes don't reflect greater hiring or better wages or benefits for employees.

My frequent market complaint is that "shelf pricing," if signage is there at all, is not under the correct barcoded product, influencing rushed shoppers to select and pay for a higher priced item, even a close by different brand. My vision is worsening, and so is my ability to lean low to check the small print. Remember the once helpful, but now missing "price per unit" shelf signs that once prompted better choices? Instead we get a calorie count.

And fruits spoil before ripening at our homes and potatoes are bagged that have hidden (virus) black spots.

If stores want less overhead, stop crowding their shelves with inefficient packaging.

—L. Buckingham
Okemos

Thanking community heroes

Everyone has "Hero's" in their neighborhoods. We have a lot in So. Washington, So. of Miller Rd. Marty Rich, Doug and Lisa Mizner bought a window and put it in the back of my house. They put up evestrough too. Kids Kaylen and Luke helped.

Jim Campana brings my newspaper every morning.

Eric Larson and Laura Gusey and Shyanne mow my lawn every two weeks.

In the winter, Leroy Anderson plows my driveway. They are Hero's to me. God Bless them all. Thanks is never enough.

—Josephine Larson
Lansing

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

Now you have two ways to sound off:

- 1.) Write a letter to the editor.
• E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
• Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
• Fax: (517) 371-5800

- 2.) Write a guest column:
Contact Berl Schwartz for more information:
publisher@lansingcitypulse.com
or (517) 999-5061

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

**CITY OF LANSING PLANNING BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 9, 2011
South Side Community Center
Community Room, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing, MI**

DESIGN LANSING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Lansing Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, November 9, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. in the South Side Community Center Community Room, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing, MI, to consider the adoption of the proposed **Design Lansing Comprehensive Plan**. Copies of the proposed Plan are available on the web at http://www.lansingmi.gov/pnd/planning/design_lansing.jsp.

This public hearing is being conducted in accordance with Section 43(1) of the Michigan Planning Enabling Act (P.A. 33 of 2008), as amended.

For more information regarding the proposed Plan, please contact Bill Rieske at the Lansing Planning Office, at 483-4066, on Monday through Thursday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

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 by the Planning Office before 5 p.m. on Monday, November 7, 2011, at the Lansing Planning Office, Department of Planning and Neighborhood Development, 316 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing, MI 48933-1236, or if submitted by e-mail to brieske@lansingmi.gov by that date and time.

Bill Rieske, AICP
Asst. Planning Manager

CityPULSE

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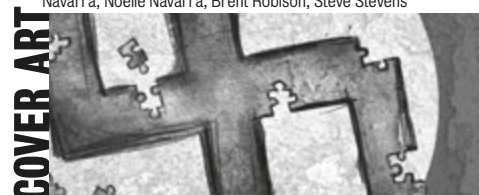


7 p.m. Wednesdays

This Week

City Council 1st Ward candidates Lynne Martinez and Jody Washington

City Council 3rd Ward candidate A'Lynne Robinson

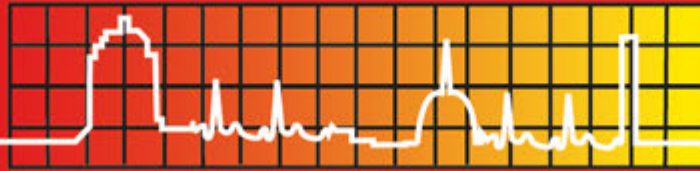


CONSPIRACY by RACHEL HARPER

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

PULSE



news & opinion

Ferguson, LCC and Oliver Towers

A one-sided look behind the curtain

In the world of rumor and innuendo, a lot of fingers have been pointing at developer and political powerhouse Joel Ferguson as the culprit in the sinking of the Oliver Towers-Davenport University deal.

Gossip has it that Ferguson pulled the strings that culminated in the City Council vote last week that delivered the fatal blow to the proposed swap championed by the Bernero administration. The Council rejected giving the plan a public hearing, and Davenport pulled out not only of the plan but probably out of Lansing altogether.

Now comes Ferguson to respond. His version may or may not be the truth, but it has the advantage of being on the record, which none of his detractors have been willing to be, from City Hall to Mason.

Ferguson and I spoke for an hour by phone on Friday. He answered every question I asked him, he chuckled at times as I brought up one theory after another about his alleged role, and he provided new information — some of it surprising.

Let's start with his views on the property deal that would have had Davenport trading its two buildings and 7-acre Lansing campus for Oliver Towers and the city parking lot next to it.

One rumor was that Ferguson influenced Carol Wood, Brian Jeffries, Eric Hewitt and Derrick Quinney to cast the prevailing votes against advancing the deal to a public hearing — a decision that sent Davenport packing after its president declared the process too political.

Ferguson said they opposed it not because he was against it but because "it was a bad deal."

"Davenport is in a flood plain," Ferguson said, adding "The Housing Commission will only use 20 percent of the space." The commission's offices are on the first floor of Oliver Towers, a one-time senior citizens apartment building that has been otherwise closed since a 2000 fire.

Ferguson thinks the deal might have gone through had Council had more time to discuss it — and had the mayor worked with the entire Council.

"Here's the real problem in Lansing. Virg has a lot of good ideas for how to

move the city forward," Ferguson said, citing the Accident Fund development and, more important to him, the clean-up of Grand Avenue it spawned. But Bernero "doesn't like certain Council members" and only talks to those he likes. Ferguson is confident that if the mayor had talked to all Council members, "they could have worked something out" and the Davenport deal wouldn't have gone south.

The Wood, Jeffries and Hewitt votes against the Bernero plan were predictable. The Quinney vote was not. Conspiracy peddlers say it happened



because Quinney listens to Ferguson, or perhaps more.

Sure he listens to me, says Ferguson, citing a friendship going back to the days when Quinney played little league football on the city playground Ferguson oversaw. Ferguson says Quinney does listen to him. And, as Ferguson says unabashedly, "I have a lot of political influence." So do most big-time developers — Ferguson says his city of Lansing property tax bill last year was \$1.5 million. Moreover, he is an important political figure around the state, which translated into a seat on the Democratic National Committee (until out of loyalty he supported Hillary Clinton). And

not just behind the scenes: He was the first black person elected to the City Council and is an MSU trustee, a state-wide elected position.

The personal and political reasons add up to this, says Ferguson: "All I have going with Derrick is the right to make a speech to him. He's not going to do what I want if he doesn't agree with me."

Could it be that some conspirators lump them together because they are both black?

"Everybody thinks I'm friends with every black person," Ferguson says, leaving me to ponder the obvious racism motivating such thinking.

Which leads to his relationship with Lisa Webb Sharpe, a black woman who indeed has a connection to Ferguson — but he says not in the way people think.

Before Webb Sharpe was vice president at LCC and the spokeswoman for the school's effort to buy Oliver Towers, she was the director of the state Department of Management and Budget under Gov. Jennifer Granholm when the Michigan State Police building deal went through. Despite howls of protest, the administration agreed to lease a state police headquarters from Ferguson in downtown Lansing. The conspiracy believers had Webb Sharpe delivering that deal and now somehow carrying water for Ferguson in the Oliver Towers deal.

The problem with that theory, says Ferguson, is Webb Sharpe fought him hard on the State Police deal. "There are plenty of witnesses to the shouting matches we had," he says. It wasn't until she left the state for her LCC job that Ferguson got his way, he adds.

So, did Ferguson get her out of the way by helping her get her job at LCC?

Nope, he says, it was a former state employee of hers, Ed Woods. Ferguson helped him onto the ticket for the LCC board with Larry Meyer and Deb Canja, who all won. A year later, Woods successfully championed her for the LCC job, Ferguson adds.

Another rumor: Ferguson is acquiring property from the Catholic Diocese around Oliver Towers and it would ben-

Eyesore of the week



- Property: 918 N. Larch Street, Lansing
- Owner: Domingo Trevino Sr., and Eusebia Cortez
- Taxpayer: Domingo Trevino Sr., and Eusebia Cortez
- Assessed: \$22,900
- Owner says: Unable to be reached for comment
- Architecture critic Amanda Harrell-Seyburn says: At first glance the second-story windows on 918 N. Larch Street appear to be mistakenly askew — windows should be symmetrical, right!?
- Quirks like this are typical in this type of vernacular architecture with the second-story windows placed asymmetrical to accommodate the interior stair while ensuring that each bedroom has a source of natural light. Keep an eye out for this and other architectural whimsy.

Let's be honest, this house needs some work. The paint is flaking off, the steps are starting to sag and the inevitable boarding up of windows and doors has begun both on the front of the house and on the side. The glimpse of curtains in the side of the second-story windows may be charming, but the rest of the house plainly shows that no occupants have been here in quite some time. The plants on the side of the house are uncut and starting to die, the leaves from the surrounding trees are slowly covering any trace of a driveway or path to the door. Soon nature, rather than the homeowner, will reclaim this place for its own.

— Nyssa Rabinowitz

"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 Nyssa Rabinowitz at 999-5064.

Ferguson

from page 5

efit him in some development scheme if LCC won Oliver Towers.

Ferguson says he owns one building he bought 12 years ago from the Catholic Conference, which is a block north and separated from Oliver Towers by two LCC parking lots and LCC's University Center. That's it.

Not that he didn't want to own another one: Oliver Towers. He said he and Chuck Clark, CEO of Clark Construction Co., think it could make good housing for students who cannot afford Ferguson's downtown complex Capital Commons. Moreover, he's not convinced Oliver Towers needs to be torn down just because of a fire in one unit.

But he declines to get into a bidding

war with LCC, which has offered \$2.5 million. Besides not thinking he'd win, Ferguson — an LCC alumnus as well as MSU — doesn't want to because he thinks LCC has more important plans for the site.

Nor, he says, would the city "want to get into a bidding contest with me like the ramp," referring to another important piece of the conspiracy, the North Capitol Parking Ramp, across the street from Oliver Towers. After City Council voted down a Bernero plan to sell it to LCC because it wasn't enough money, Ferguson and LCC entered into a bidding war for it. But the Council, in a 4-2 vote, refused to consider LCC's offer unless it could consider Ferguson's as well. (The four? Quinney, Wood, Jeffries and Hewitt.)

What's the connection to Oliver Towers? Supposedly, the deal was that Ferguson wouldn't stand in the way of the Davenport deal if he got the parking

ramp. Then, supposedly a week before the Council vote, the city asked for more money than the \$2.9 million Ferguson was offering. Ferguson balked and withheld his support for the Davenport deal.

Ferguson says the ramp deal is on hold for a reason having nothing to do with Oliver Towers: City Attorney Brig Smith told him the city won't sell him the ramp because Ferguson is suing the city over what it charged him for building permits for the State Police headquarters. That suit is scheduled for court in April, Ferguson says.

As I said, Ferguson told me all that on Friday, and I figured I'd exhausted all the rumors. Not so: On Monday an elected official told me Ferguson wants LCC to get Oliver Towers so he can develop the property for the school and make 20 percent on that.

And the beat goes on ...

— Berl Schwartz

Dedication to 'dedicated'

Does Carol Wood's opposition to selling a portion of Red Cedar Golf Course contradict her support for selling green space near downtown in 2000?

At the northwest corner of Butler Boulevard and Genesee Street near downtown, a pair of two-story houses are in good shape. Eleven years ago, passersby might have noticed playground equipment on the .39-acre lot. Maybe even a sign that read "Genesee Park."

However, contrary to its appearance back then, the park was not on the city's inventory of "dedicated" parkland. Without such a designation — and to some neighbors' frustration at the time — voter approval was not necessary for the city to sell off the land.

And so in 2003, the city did exactly that for \$30,000 to the Greater Lansing Housing Coalition. Three years prior, a battle took place in the City Council chambers over whether the city could sell the property without voter permission. The City Charter requires voter approval to allow the city to sell off dedicated parkland.

But what looked like a park and acted like a park didn't turn out to be a park. Even though the city bought the property in 1969, installed playground equipment, "placed it under the jurisdiction of its Parks and Recreation Department" and listed it in the "inventory of parks property," the state Court of Appeals confirmed a trial court's decision that the property was not "required" or listed in the city's Master Plan. The Appeals Court ruled such in August 2002, nearly two years after the Lansing City Council voted to approve the sale. In those two years, the group Citizens for a Better Lansing and residents Gregory and Lois Klink filed suit against the city, alleging the sale of the park needed voter approval. All along, the city's plan was to sell the land to the Greater Lansing Housing Coalition so it could build two houses on the property in an effort to clean up what some residents deemed was a drug-and-crime-infested park.

A proponent of the sale all along was City Councilwoman Carol Wood. Seemingly, this position contradicts Wood's view on a Nov. 8 ballot proposal to sell off nearly 13 acres of parkland on the city's eastside — especially when she says her "philosophy is about the preservation of green spaces."

"It (Genesee Park) was never a dedicat-

Wood

from page 6

ed piece of parkland," Wood said Monday. "There's a big difference between dedicated and not." She said it was "out of the goodness of the heart" of a former parks director that a sign was ever erected calling the parcel "Genesee Park." "We're talking about something that wasn't park property."

Wood also said that a previous City Council decided in the "late 1970s, early 1980s" this parcel's future "was something the neighborhood could decide." However, Council minutes from Sept. 14, 2000, show "174 residents in the Genesee Neighborhood" signed a petition opposing the sale of the land. Lois Klink, who with her husband filed the suit against the city in 2002, said she was "disappointed" by the court ruling.

"We figured it was a park when we moved in," Klink said Monday. She and her late husband, Gregory, lived at 905 W. Genesee St., across the street from the park. Lois Klink, who has since moved to Haslett, said, "When we heard it was not going to be a park, we decided we would fight it. We were living in town, we felt the children needed space

for picnics, parties, baseball — things like that."

Klink would not comment on whether Wood's position on Genesee Park — Wood said at the time it was a haven for drug users — and that of Red Cedar is a contradiction. "I don't know any of the details on that."

Rick Kibbey, president of the Lansing Parks Board, agrees with Wood that since the property wasn't dedicated parkland, the city had every right to sell it. Kibbey served on the Housing Coalition's board at the time, he said. "One of the things that came out of that battle



Wood

is that although it may look like a park and act like a park, it hasn't been dedicated a park and is not a park for city purposes," he said.

However, when asked if Wood contradicts herself with a statement that preserving green space is her philosophy, Kibbey said, "Certainly she did."

It's Kibbey's view that you have to look at each proposal regarding parkland separately. He supports selling a portion of Red Cedar Golf Course for redevelop-

ment, with the "big caveat" that any potential revenue from the sale go directly into the park.

"I appreciate the fact that she's reluctant to sell parkland. Frankly, I'm reluctant too. But as we enter the 21st century and the city undergoes bone-wrenching changes to its demographics and economics, we can certainly expect a change to our public facilities to accommodate those changes. We need to look for new opportunities in a new reality.

"I think she (Wood) needs to take a longer look, a broader view. Any time someone brings up a big park proposal, the answer's been pretty much 'No' or 'I have more questions that can't be answered.' I think that's unfortunate."

Wood offers a flat "no" when asked about the perceived contradiction. She said Genesee and Red Cedar are "apples and oranges, not the same thing." "There's a difference between dedicated or deed-restricted land versus two vacant lots that are barely large enough for two houses. We're not talking about 12 acres of property," she added, referring to the Red Cedar proposal.

"I have said that I voted to put it (Red Cedar) up to voters to sell. I was asked about my personal opinion. I don't support it. I believe I have a right to my opinion. I could have easily said it's my prerogative not to tell you."

— Andy Balaskovitz

Fall Family Fun @ CADL

Our libraries are brimming over with fun! All ages are welcome, with seating on a first-come basis.

Halloween Magic Show

Award-winning magician Jason Hudy brings incredible magic and first-class family entertainment to the library.

**Thursday, Oct. 20 • 6:30 pm
CADL Haslett**

1590 Franklin St. • (517) 339-2324

**Tuesday, Oct. 25 • 6 pm
CADL Williamston**

201 School St. • (517) 655-1191

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**Thursday, Oct. 20 • 4 pm
CADL Dansville**

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The past comes to life with this fascinating museum program, featuring a replica of a life-sized mummy!

**Saturday, Oct. 22 • 2-3 pm
CADL Downtown Lansing**

401 S. Capitol Ave. • (517) 367-6363

Spooky Magic Show

Baffling Bill's show promises amazing tricks, loads of laughs and a frightfully fun time!

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CADL Webberville**

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Plugging the 'school-to-prison pipeline'

Forum will address state's racial disparity in suspensions, expulsions

Detroit attorney Rodd Monts stood before a group of about 70 students from the Black Student Union at East Lansing High School in September and asked for a show of hands: How many of you have been suspended?

"I was shocked at the number of hands that went up," he said. "Most of the kids had been suspended, many of them more than once."

Monts, the field director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Michigan chapter, was peeking down the hatch of a big piece of infrastructure nobody wanted to build, but that has managed to snake across Michigan anyway. A school-to-prison pipeline is sucking a disproportionate number of minority students out of school, via suspension or expulsion, and dropping them in the state's juvenile justice system, courtrooms and jails.

Students, activists and parents will get together and strategize ways to plug the pipe at the Foster Community Center Tuesday. Monts is one of the speakers at

the forum, sponsored by the ACLU and the East Lansing Black Parents Union.

Attorney Stacy Hickox got a good look at the other end of the pipeline during her four years with Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, where she represented younger people in the juvenile justice system or in prison. Hickox chairs the ACLU's branch committee working on the issue. "I'd say 99 percent of them had been expelled or suspended from school, and that got them started along the path," Hickox said.

Monts said no less than a child's right to education is at stake.

"It's one of the most important civil rights issues of our time," he declared. "Once you suspend a student, the likelihood of being suspended again increases. Multiple suspensions increase the likelihood of dropping out."

"Push-out" might be a more accurate term than "drop-out," according to the ACLU's 73-page 2009 report documenting "the disproportionate suspensions of public students of African descent throughout Michigan."

Monts said there is no comprehensive statewide data for Michigan, but he pointed to national data compiled by the ACLU from state agencies and school districts. Of about 3.25 million kids suspended every year and over a hundred thousand expelled, black students are three times more likely to be suspended and three and a half times more likely to be expelled than white students; Latino students are 50 percent more likely to be suspended and twice as likely to be expelled.

Cultural misunderstandings — harmless gestures interpreted as threats — and flat-out fear of young black males are among the causes for the disproportion cited in the ACLU report.

"These populations of students are frequently suspended for things white students aren't suspended for," Monts said.

The situation is made worse by rigid application of "zero-tolerance" rules that dole out suspensions for vague infractions like verbal assault or insolence.

The disparity is not just between black

and white. Nationally, special education students are twice as likely to be expelled and suspended, Monts said. LGBT students and pregnant and parenting teens are also suspended disproportionately, the latter because of overly harsh tardiness rules.

The ACLU looked at 40 Michigan districts in 2009 and found the state to be roughly in line with national trends.

The most glaring disparities were found in the Ann Arbor School District in 2006-2007, where black students comprised 18 percent of the secondary school population but got 58 percent of 817 suspensions. Jackson and Kalamazoo also fared poorly in the study.

Monts singled out Lansing as a district that has reduced suspensions and "associated administrative costs" by finding alternative ways to resolve disciplinary flare-ups.

Lansing schools began a pilot program in 2005 that introduced or stepped up disciplinary tools designed to avoid suspension, including positive behavior support, peer mediation, teen courts, and "restorative practices" where students, parents and teachers get in a circle to hash out what happened and how amends can be made.

When the pilot school, Pattengill Middle School, reported a 15 percent drop in suspensions, with two avoided expulsions, the program was expanded to four more Lansing schools in 2006-2007.

Diana Rouse, director of elementary education and school services in Lansing, said the district is compiling current records on suspension and expulsion rates and the effects of restorative justice programs.

Monts said Lansing has kept the program staffed with the help of "really creative" funding, mixing federal Title 1 funds with outside grants.

"These are things other districts could do, provided they are motivated," he said. An administrator from Lansing Eastern High School is scheduled to speak on the district's restorative justice program at Tuesday's forum.

— Lawrence Cosentino

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy Test for the November 8, 2011 City General Election for registered voters in the City of East Lansing, Ingham and Clinton Counties, has been scheduled for Monday, October 24, 2011, at 9:00 a.m., in the City Clerk's Office located at East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the program being used to tabulate the results of the election, counts the votes in the manner that meets the requirements of the law.

All interested persons are welcome to attend.

Marie E. McKenna
East Lansing City Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANSING RELATING TO A PROJECT PLAN FOR THE LANSING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

InPore Technologies, Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Lansing will hold a public hearing at 1:30 p.m., in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, Lansing, Michigan, on November 3, 2011, on a Project Plan prepared by the Lansing Economic Development Corporation for the InPore Technologies, Inc. Main Street Loan Project (the "Project"). The Project is to be initially undertaken by December 31, 2011. The proposed new development will encompass 3900 Collins Road in the City of Lansing, Michigan.

The Project will be used as to finance equipment purchases for the commercialization of molecular bio-technology.

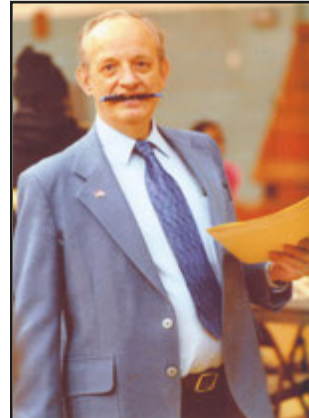
A description of the proposed Project Plan is available for public inspection at the office of the Lansing Economic Development Corporation, 401 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing, Michigan. All aspects of the proposed Project Plan will be open for discussion at the public hearing, including the proposed loan of a maximum principal amount of \$50,500 by the Lansing Economic Development Corporation to assist in the financing of the Project. The Project Plan contains further information about the loan.

The City Council will consider the approval of the Project Plan only after the public hearing has been completed.

The City Council shall provide an opportunity for all interested persons to be heard and shall receive and consider communications in writing with reference to the hearing. The public hearing shall provide the fullest opportunity for expression of opinion, for argument on the merits, and for introduction of documentary evidence pertinent to the proposed Project Plan.

For additional information regarding this project please contact Ken Szymusiak of the Lansing Economic Development Corporation at 517.485.5412.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk



Best move on the Board:

VOTE FOR: **Lansing School Board**

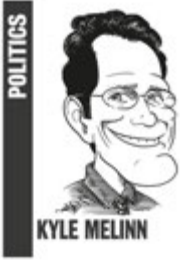
B. MICHAEL WILLIAMS
aka 'Willy Williams', aka 'the Chess Guy'

I Want: Smarter Kids, Problem Solvers,
Better Administrators, Chess Thinkers,
Way More Transparency

I Want: To Be Elected to the Board, by YOU

Paid for by Elect B. Michael Williams Committee P.O. Box 11042 Lansing, MI 48901

Save yourself money, vote yes on millage



On Friday, I coughed up \$81 check to Ayles Tree Service for grinding down that stump in my front yard ... or in the city's right of way, to be more exact.

Up until May, the city would have taken flattened out the remains of that 80-year-old maple like they've done in years prior for my neighbors. Then they would have planted a brand new tree right next to it.

Not anymore.

The millage failed. The city's forestry division got nuked and now I'm looking at another few hundred bucks to get a decent-sized tree, if I want.

Lansing is known as "The City in the Forest," having been designated a Tree City 23 times. But now the city's forestry chief tells me his depleted ranks can hardly keep up with the demands of chopping down dead ones, let alone replacing them one-for-one as they did in the past.

Failed millages have consequences, and this is one of them. The shuttered fire station around the corner on Jenison is another one. An e-mail I received a few months ago from a neighbor about the creaky police response time to a theft down the street is Exhibit C.

Yes, had the 4-mill increase passed in May, I'd have had \$211 more taken out of my escrow, but the hypothetical \$1,026 is just about what I paid in 2008, and less than what I paid in 2006. Look at the cost ... and I'm not talking about the price of stump grinding, either.

Like nearly 40 percent of Michigan homeowners with an outstanding home loan, I'm underwater on my mortgage. I couldn't sell my house for even close to what I bought it for.

I'd love to refinance for a cheaper interest rate, which would save me money, too. The banks don't share in my excitement, though. If I bail on the loan, they're holding a house that isn't worth the note. I understand. It doesn't make good sense to do business with me.

Like just about every other city in Michigan, we're stuck in this death spiral, and canning local operating millages only speeds up the spin. It's a simple, unfortunate equation.

We won't pass a higher millage rate = Services get cut.

Services get cut = Fewer reasons people want to move to Lansing (bad

schools, crime, blah, blah, blah). Housing market gets worse.

Housing market gets worse = Home values keep tanking.

Home values keep tanking = The deeper the bath we take on our home investment

The deeper the bath we take on our home investment = The more broke we are.

The more broke we are = We want a tax cut, meaning we won't pass a higher millage rate (see above).

Around and around the drain we go until one day we'll wake up and Lansing will look like Saginaw or Flint.

On Nov. 8, Lansing voters have another shot at stopping our dizzying journey into a city slum blackhole. This isn't about "giving Virg more money" or throwing more money at police and fire unions (who have given up considerably in the last five years).

Be completely selfish about this decision. Vote yes because you need to protect the biggest investment you probably have — your home. Some day you're going to sell that building you sleep under today. When that happens, you'd probably like you or your heirs to make money on it.

A home in a treeless city with spotty police and fire service is about as attractive as a leaky roof or a collapsed porch. A decently staffed police and fire department is money in your wallet, not money out of your wallet.

Now is not the time to give up on your home or your neighborhood. The state is going to clobber cities like Lansing with more budget cuts, which means pitching in the same amount you paid in 2008 can stop an even thinner Police Department or snow plow staff.

Citizens in cities across the state saw the wisdom in protecting their investments in May, passing their millages while ours failed by 4 percent. Voters do realize that slower police response times, unmowed parks, unplowed streets, shuttered fire stations, don't entice people to buy property.

The City Council gave us another chance to approve this 4 mills. Don't vote yes to make their jobs easier. Vote yes to make your job easier when it's home sale time.

A "yes" vote won't mean a city-paid tree in front of my house or a reopened Fire Station No. 6. But if my 2017 property tax statement has my assessed home value back to where it was in 2006, I'll declare victory.

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF CITYWIDE PUBLIC HEARING COMMUNITY NEEDS HEARING

TO: Citizens of the City of Lansing

FROM: Virg Bernero, Mayor

PURPOSE: To encourage citizen participation at public hearings and to allow citizens an opportunity to provide input and indicate needs, views and proposals for:

1. Housing and nonhousing community development needs within the City of Lansing relevant to preparation of the City's Annual Consolidated Strategy and Plan Submission, FY 2013 (7/1/12 – 6/30/13) to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) formula programs.
2. The use of CDBG, HOME and ESG Program funds for fiscal year 2013 commencing July 1, 2012.

RESULTS: Recommendations affecting the City's Consolidated Plan and the proposed use of CDBG, HOME and ESG program funds to be submitted to the Mayor and City Council.

This is an opportunity for concerned citizens and neighborhood organizations to participate in the planning process and influence future programming and use of Federal program funds in Lansing.

PLACE: Lansing Planning Board Meeting
Neighborhood Empowerment Center
600 W. Maple
Lansing, Michigan 48915

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

DATE: Tuesday, November 15, 2011

If you cannot attend the hearing and wish to submit comments, or if you have questions about the public hearing, please contact Doris Witherspoon, Senior Planner of the City of Lansing Planning/Development Office, 316 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI, dwithers@lansingmi.gov, (517) 483-4063.

CONSOLIDATED STRATEGY AND PLAN SUBMISSION, SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ACTION PLAN, 2013 (7/1/2012- 6/30/2013)

		<u>2011</u>
1.	Community Meetings	September-November
2.	Publish Notice of Public Hearing on housing needs, priority nonhousing CD needs, use of Federal formula program funds, Community meetings	Week of October 17
3.	Public Hearing on housing needs, priority nonhousing CD needs, use of Federal formula program funds.	November 15
4.	Publish notice of public hearing on Proposed Statement of Community Development Objectives and Projected Use of Funds for Federal formula Programs for FY 2013.	Week of December 19
		<u>2012</u>
5.	Public Hearing on Proposed Statement of Community Development Objectives and Projected Use of Funds for Federal formula programs at Planning Board.	January 3
6.	Recommendation by Planning Board on the proposed program objectives and projected use of Federal formula program funds.	End of January
7.	Publish summary of proposed Consolidated Strategy and Plan Submission (CSPS) for FY 2013 and invite written public comments.	End of February
8.	Transmit proposed CSPS to Mayor.	End of March
9.	Mayor Transmits proposed CSPS to City Council.	Beginning of April
10.	Public Hearing on proposed CSPS at City Council	April 16
11.	Approval of CSPS by City Council	No Later Than May 7
12.	Deadline for submission of CSPS to HUD	May 14

NOTE: The above schedule is tentative and is meant to serve as a general guide. Appropriate notifications will be made to establish exact dates, times and locations of public hearings to obtain citizen input.

FROM FASCINATION TO COLLABORATION

Writer-director James Houska works with 'Conspiracy' author Loring Mandel to turn an award-winning HBO movie into Riverwalk's world premiere stage drama

By PAUL WOZNAK

James Houska never expected to direct the first staged adaptation of an acclaimed HBO film about the Holocaust: He just thought it might be a good script for someone else.

"I had intended on (directing) something eventually in Lansing, but I didn't want to be the one that single-handedly destroyed Riverwalk Theatre," Houska says, with a self-deprecating smile.

What began as Houska's personal quest to find an elusive script eventually became a year-long collaboration with distinguished New York writer Loring Mandel, culminating in Thursday's world premiere of "Conspiracy" at Riverwalk Theatre.

Based on a lone surviving document, "Conspiracy" dramatically reconstructs the 1942 Wannsee Conference, a meeting of 15 high-ranking Nazis who discussed the practical implementation of the Final Solution. By the meeting's end, the Wannsee Protocol transformed previously nuanced goals of Jewish eradication into a deliberately systematic policy of genocide.

The film version — starring Kenneth Branagh as Schutzstaffel-General Reinhard Heydrich, Stanley Tucci as Adolf Eichmann and Colin Firth as Dr. Wilhelm Stuckart — peers behind the protocol's suspiciously euphemistic wording and its sadistic intentions to the social dynamics within the meeting itself. Participants manipulate others into compliance through careful coercion and blunt threats, creating a powerfully relevant parable about groupthink.

The film went on to garner several awards, including Emmys for Mandel's screenplay and Branagh's lead performance, a British Academy of Film and Television Arts Award, a Golden Globe for Tucci as best supporting actor and a Peabody Award.

Although Riverwalk has produced several world premieres over the years, "Conspiracy" is the most high-profile yet, according to Riverwalk President Tom Ferris. Mandel, who has written extensively for radio, stage, television and film since the early 1950s, will attend Thursday's performance and conduct a talkback after the show. During his six-day stay in the Lansing area, Mandel will also speak to theater and history classes at Michigan State University and conduct a lecture at Cooley Law School. "Conspiracy"

is Riverwalk's 2011 Stages of the Law play, a series of local productions with legal themes that are underwritten by Cooley.

Despite numerous accolades and positive critical reception, an official screenplay of "Conspiracy" was never published. After almost a decade of failed Internet searches, Houska made a final effort two years ago to find a copy. Hearing nothing from HBO directly, Houska searched for the most accessible member of the crew: the screenwriter himself. Mandel's Web bio conveniently contained a link to contact him through Facebook, which Houska did.

Houska says he complimented Mandel on the script and asked if he had still had the rights, but never anticipated to hear back. But the tech-savvy Mandel responded via e-mail that his representative would be calling Houska shortly. What happened next went beyond Houska's wildest fantasies.

'YOU HAD TO START OUT WITH THE PRESUMPTION THAT NOBODY LOOKS IN THE MIRROR IN THE MORNING AND SAYS, 'I'M A BAD PERSON,' MANDEL SAID.

FROM PHONE TO SCRIPT

Houska acquired a copy of the script from Mandel's New York representative. After seeking guidance and approval from Riverwalk founder Bill Helder and later Ferris, Houska made contact with Mandel directly to discuss the script's adaptation to the Riverwalk stage.

According to Mandel, the idea of adapting "Conspiracy" to the stage did not come to him until filming began. The film's director, Frank Pierson, told Mandel about the Wannsee Protocol and asked him to write the script. Mandel agreed, but says he initially viewed the story as an unlikely prospect for television.

"Fifteen people sitting around a table does not automatically tell you this is a surefire television show," Mandel said in a



Photo by Luke Pline of lukeanthony Photography

From left, Greg Pratt, Eric Grill, Michael Hays, Jeff Boerger and Mike Sobocinski star in Riverwalk Theatre's production of the World War II drama "Conspiracy."

phone interview. By the time he finished writing, he felt it was an important story to tell and natural for the stage.

In addition to providing names, faces and more complex motivations behind Nazi, Mandel calls "Conspiracy" perhaps the only Holocaust story that "evoked anger" instead of pity or sorrow. Mandel's extensive research into the lives of the participants allowed him to write dialogue through their characters.

Although lines like "We have a storage problem" are shockingly cold, Mandel says the real challenge in writing was imagining real justifications. "You had to start out with the presumption that nobody looks in the mirror in the morning and says, 'I'm a bad person,'" Mandel said. "And yet what they did was kind of horrendous, but they didn't all do it for the same reason."

At one point before Houska approached him, Mandel says film and stage director Sam Mendes ("American Beauty," "Revolutionary Road") purchased an option on the material to produce as a play. But before the partially adapted script could advance into production, Mendes accepted a lucrative directing contract overseas, putting Mandel's hopes on hold.

"I didn't want the play just to languish there," said Mandel, who asked Mendes to release the rights back to him.

FROM SCRIPT TO STAGE

When Houska auditioned the cast, Mandel was present, too — via Skype. Throughout the rehearsal process, Mandel and the entire cast communicated continuously through a Facebook forum.

It is not unusual for premiere rehearsals to involve the playwrights, but given the value of Mandel's time and his physical distance from Michigan, his accessibility from the production's inception made a particular impact on both Houska and his cast.

Actor Michael Hays, who plays Heydrich, seems especially touched.

"He's just so gracious," Hays said. "When you ask him a question on Facebook, he gets back to you immediately."

Considering the subject of the play, the cast members had to perform their own independent research on their characters — research that Houska says took each of them on a dark journey of discovery.

For Hays, this meant appreciating the strategic genius of a sociopath. "I've never done research on anybody that was so power-hungry: This guy was so driven," says Hays, who remarked that previously playing Vice President Dick Cheney in Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.'s "Stuff Happens" helped prepare him for this role.

Through the process of structurally adapting the script to stage, Houska consciously worried that Mandel might refuse to allow changes to his script that were necessary for Riverwalk. Adding an intermission to preserve cast and audience stamina meant potentially disrupting the play's momentum. Also, space limitations meant squeezing the action in a two-room house down to one room. To Houska's relief, Mandel approved the adjustments deferring to Houska and Ferris's knowledge of the Riverwalk's stage and audience.

Mandel compares the screen to stage

'Conspiracy'

from page 16

adaptation process to arranging music: "It's like the difference between writing a symphony and writing chamber music. You've got much more severe restrictions placed upon you, but on the other hand, if you succeed within those restrictions, it's a better piece of art."

Although Cooley underwrites the cost of the production itself, additional costs — including travel and lodging for Mandel and renting historically accurate costumes from England — totaled \$5,000. According to Ferris, generous contributions from individual donors and local organizations helped Riverwalk to meet their funding goals.

Although Ferris is proud of the Riverwalk's premiere, he dismisses the notion that "Conspiracy" might be a thematic stretch for the community theater.

"We try here at Riverwalk to really cover the wide breath of things," he said. "The fact that I'm producing 'Conspiracy' and at the same time just started directing 'The Surprising Story of the Three Little Pigs,' I think that's just a showcase of what we do here at Riverwalk. We've committed to bringing theater to the community and engaging the community in theater, and this is just another way of doing that."

For his part, Houska says once the project germinated and began to grow, he felt a deep responsibility to see it through as a director. "I had researched it so much and had all these ideas about what I'd like to see," he said. "To hand it over to somebody else, if they were to go off in another direction with it, it started to bother me. It just feels like handing over a child after a certain point. Even though I'm not a good parent, I'm trying my best."



MEET LORING MANDEL

By PAUL WOZNIAK

Chicago native Loring Mandel never imagined his profession might be writing for television. Mandel, 83, wrote his first closed-circuit radio productions for fun when he was 6 years old; when he needed money for graduate courses in music at Northwestern University, Mandel discovered he could make a living from fun. Since the early 1950s, Mandel made a career writing for radio, TV and stage, earning numerous accolades along the way.

According to his interview with the Archive of American Television, Mandel says he cut his teeth early on in Chicago by writing radio programs before transitioning into television. Educated in writing and drama at the University of Wisconsin, Mandel soon moved to New York, where he wrote for the CBS anthologies "Studio One in Hollywood," "The Seven Lively Arts" and "Playhouse 90," which presented dramatic or comedic works live for a broadcast audience. He worked with actors like Paul Newman and Lee Marvin and directors such as Sidney Lumet.

While many writers sought their fortunes by relocating to California, Mandel stayed in New York. "I never wanted to move (to California) because it's a company town," he said in a phone interview.

He describes the culture there as cliquish, with writers only mingling with other writers. It was not representative of the ordinary people he wanted to write about. "I felt I probably would have a much better fix on them by living among them (in

New York) than by living in Los Angeles and getting my idea of what people were like from other movies," he said.

As studios expanded operations beyond the Hollywood soundstages and came back to cities like New York, Mandel says the shrunken talent pool on the East Coast worked to his advantage. "A lot of the writers moved to California, but didn't make it. Those of us who stayed in New York worked all the time," he said.

Although Mandel's television work consisted mostly of prime-time dramas, he was also the head writer of the daytime soap opera "Love of Life" in the early 1970s. Mandel's best known and most acclaimed work to date, however, is "Conspiracy," the 2001 HBO film that inspired the Riverwalk Theatre premiere.

He says that although the film's success was an incredible high, it also made him a sought-after commodity. "One of the things that happens in this business is when you have a very successful show on a particular subject, you suddenly get deluged with offers to do things on the same subject. I was really not interested in doing more shows (like "Conspiracy" or on the Holocaust) on that subject. I did what I had to say on it. And I wanted to strike out on something new."

Over the years, his writing earned him five Emmy nominations and two wins, the Sylvania Award, two Peabody awards and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts award for his original dramas. In 2004, Mandel received the Paddy Chayefsky Lifetime Achievement Award at the 56th Writers Guild of America Awards.

On his approach to writing, Mandel says his only motivations are whether a subject or character involves and interests him. "I've been doing it all my life and it was always what I did for fun. If I can continue to live, I want to keep doing what I like. Why do something else?"

COOLEY LAW SCHOOL PRESENTS SIXTH SEASON OF STAGES OF THE LAW

By CRISTINA TOSCANO

Stages of the Law, a theater series sponsored by Cooley Law School, has announced four shows for its sixth season.

Shows will be staged every month from the end of October until the end of January, and some performances will include talkback sessions, in which a Cooley professor explains areas of law that were featured in the play.

This season's Stages of the Law performances include Riverwalk Theatre's "Conspiracy" (Oct. 20-30; talkback after the Oct. 22 performance); Lansing Community College's "The Shrike" (Nov. 4-12; talkback after the Nov. 5 performance); Mid Michigan Family Theatre "The Goblins & the Gravedigger" (Dec. 2-11; talkback after the Dec. 10 performance); and performances of "The Exonerated," directed by Stormfield Theatre artistic director Kristine Thatcher, at the Wharton Center (Jan. 27-28; talkback after the Jan. 28 performance).

Cooley communications director Terry Carella says talkbacks have always been part of the program, and that each professor has expertise in the area of law addressed in the play.

In recent years, the organizers of Stages of Law made the

decision to have professors do talkbacks after the show instead of before.

"This allows patrons the advantage of seeing the play first, then to ask questions and to give feedback on the play, the performers and the talkback professor," Carella said.

Many of the patrons stay afterward to learn, talk and debate about the legal implications of the Stages performances.

The Stages of Law series started with three theaters downtown, but Cooley has added more venues in recent years. Wharton Center is being included for the first time this season. "The Exonerated," based on the true stories of six people sent to Death Row for crimes they didn't commit, won the 2003 Drama Desk Award for unique theatrical experience.

The "Exonerated" talkback professors are from Cooley's Innocence Project, a clinic that helps secure the release of wrongfully imprisoned persons.

"They will be able to discuss first-hand the work that goes behind how wrongfully convicted incarcerated persons may be able to establish innocence through DNA testing," Carella said.



CADL Celebrates "The Great Michigan Read"

This year's Michigan Humanities Council selection for their state-wide reading project is *Arc of Justice* by Detroit native Kevin Boyle. It's the electrifying story of a real-life murder trial from 1925, when a black family tried to buy a home in a white Detroit neighborhood.

Join us for these book-themed events, hosted by the Capital Area District Library.

The Cartography of Race Thursday, Oct. 20 • 7 pm

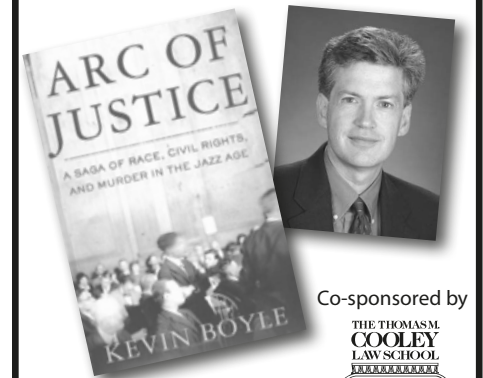
A presentation about how local maps were drawn to help perpetuate segregation

CADL DOWNTOWN LANSING AUDITORIUM
401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing
(corner of W. Kalamazoo St.)

Meet Author Kevin Boyle Tuesday, Oct. 25 • 6 pm

A special book discussion and signing

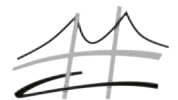
THOMAS M. COOLEY LAW SCHOOL
300 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing
(corner of W. Washtenaw St.)



Co-sponsored by



- 2004 National Book Award-winner
- 2004 Pulitzer Prize finalist



Michigan Humanities Council
Michigan People, Michigan Places
Our Stories, Our Lives



Creating Opportunity
cadl.org/events

The Great Michigan Read is presented by the Michigan Humanities Council with support from Meijer and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Find more details at cadl.org.

Arts & Culture

art • books • film • music • theater



Courtesy Photo

Maureen Hirten has been with the Capital Area District Library for nine years. She's taking over as director at a time when the budget is shrinking. "We are trimming everywhere we can and building a rainy-day fund," she says.

Booked up

Maureen Hirten was the Capital Area District Library interim director; now, she's got the job long term

By **BILL CASTANIER**

The new Capital Area District Library director, Maureen Hirten, is as comfortable talking about books as she is about budgets. Both are great characteristics in this era of shrinking budgets and e-book platforms.

For Okemos resident Hirten the literary cliché "it was the best of times, it was the worst of times" is especially fitting.

The best of times is her recent appointment to director. Hirten, 60, has been with CADL for nine years, starting as a public service librarian in Okemos. Most recently, she served as the associate director of public services and then as assistant director, overseeing the operations of the library's 13 branches which serve more than 20 local municipalities. For the past six months, she was the interim director.

Now, for the worst of times. Hirten said the biggest challenge to the library system is budgeting in an era of dropping taxable value of property. (Libraries are primarily funded by a tax or millage on property value. The millage is on a four-year cycle and is up for renewal by voters in 2014.)

"We are trimming everywhere we can and building a rainy-day fund," she said.

"Our revenue has dropped and we are being very creative in the way we look at services."

The new director said she is committed to finding ways to save money that patrons won't notice.

She said that due to the lag time in figuring property tax assessments that she

expects the next couple years to be "even worse." Although next year's budget is only preliminary, it is expected to hover at \$11 million — down from this year's \$12.4 million. The library system employs 240 workers.

Hirten said she has three priorities for the coming year: defining core services, building the number of card holders and focusing on establishing more community partnerships. "We need to define the core services of the library and put our energy in them," she said.

She added that the library is looking at instituting fines on late books: "We have come to that conclusion."

The library assesses fines for late videos and for book replacement or damage, but has not collected fees on overdue books.

Hirten said she loves her job. "It was one of those things I wanted to be as a child. I really thought it would be a great job."

She received her library sciences degree from the University of Maryland. She moved to Lansing with her husband, Mickey Hirten, executive editor of the Lansing State Journal.

Hirten said people's perception of "the dusty old library, with old stuff" is a thing of the past. Library cardholders are just as likely to visit the library to use computers; they can also download e-books.

Hirten said she recently downloaded the latest "Maise Dobbs" mystery, a moody World War I whodunit, to her Nook. But she also has a stack of traditional books on her bedside table.



Passage to India

Concert showcases two classical Indian dance styles

By NICOLE LaCHANCE

As we've seen in Bollywood movies, India is dedicated to dancing. Local audiences will get a chance to experience this bit of Indian culture Saturday at "Nritya Chitra: Envisioned Gestures."

The event combines two styles of Indian dance as a celebration of the spirituality and culture they represent, said Shreelina Ghosh, one of the featured dancers. The styles were originally performed in temples as part of religious rituals, she added.

Dancers will perform Odissi and Bharatanatyam-style dances, both of which are more than 1,000 years old. Odissi is a form

of dance from east India and is the oldest surviving dance of the country. Bharatanatyam originated in southern India and is one the most popular dance performances.

"Odissi is soft and lyrical, and Bharatanatyam is bold and rigorous," said Ghosh, who specializes in Odissi. "The juxtaposition of the two styles in the event will help the audience understand the uniqueness of the styles."

Performers include Michigan Odissi Dance Academy founder Manasi Mishra, Michigan State University graduate students Shalini Vijayarajan and Sudha Sankar and students of Mishra's academy.



"Nritya Chitra: Envisioned Gestures"

Kinawa Middle School auditorium
1900 Kinawa Dr., Okemos
6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22
\$8
(517) 347-7872
www.nrityachitra.blogspot.com

Pure passion

MSU's 'Streetcar' takes you on a thrilling ride through a masterpiece

By UTE VON DER HEYDEN

"A Streetcar Named Desire?" Yeah, saw the movie. Marlon Brando and Vivian Leigh were great.

Think I saw the play, too — maybe in high school. That's where Stanley does that "Stella" thing and there's the bit about that crazy Blanche and the "kindness of strangers," right?

Right. What do you do with a 64-year-old play that almost everyone knows something about? A play that's been described as the best play of the 20th century, that's won every award imaginable and that's had countless adaptations in film, opera, television and ballet?

Not to mention that when it first opened on Broadway on Dec. 3, 1947, the audience sat in stunned silence before breaking into a full 30 minutes of applause.

Yes, what do you do?

Well, if you're the Michigan State University Department of Theatre and if you're the brilliant director Rob Roznowski, you make it more physical — spectacularly more physical.

You also turn up the volume on the raw emotion, sex and violence and you use the very youth of your talented student actors to breathe new life into this story of death, desire and insanity while never compromising the power and beauty of Tennessee

Williams' words.

You also throw in a spectacular set authentically featuring that famous New Orleans apartment, the bathtub, the neighbors' apartment, the street and houses below and a catwalk where appear the ghosts of Blanche's past — all this visible to the audience at all times.

You also add gorgeous, attention-to-detail costumes, lighting and sound that enhance the story line, and a stunning New Orleans "jazz funeral" procession that adds splendor and drama to a production already rich in both of those elements.



Photo by G. "Max" Maxin

Under Rob Roznowski's direction, Christina Traister and Curran Jacobs ignite a highly physical version of "A Streetcar Named Desire."

first MSU faculty member to be cast in a student production. This could easily have failed, but here teacher and students work seamlessly together.

This is particularly true of Traister's scenes with Curran Jacobs as Stanley.

See Streetcar, Page 14

'A Streetcar Named Desire'

Michigan State University
Pasant Theatre
Through Oct. 23
8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
\$15 adults; \$10 students
(800) WHARTON
theatre.msu.edu

Christina Traister, an MSU assistant professor of acting and voice, plays Blanche with more strength and anger than one might expect in such a fragile and delusional character. Blanche is desperate and destitute, hiding a sordid past and living in a fantasy world, but Traister gives her a seemingly inexhaustible will to survive.

In the end, however, she makes it clear that Blanche has lost her grip on reality.

In a new theater department experiment, Traister is the

Pure poison

'Arsenic and Old Lace' proves comedy doesn't always improve with age

By TOM HELMA

There is a world of difference between a phoenix rising out of the ashes and a squawky old buzzard of a script from 1939 being dug up and delivered dead on arrival.

Review

"Arsenic and Old Lace", written 72 years ago, received a New York Times review at the time that said, "It was so funny that none of us will ever forget it."

That was then: this is now.

This week's resurrected rendition of the American chestnut, performed by the Lansing Civic Players, is so unfunny you'll want to forget it immediately.

Playwright Joseph Kesselring put theater critic Mortimer Brewster at the heart of "Arsenic," an island of rationality in an ocean of insanity. Adam Bright plays him with a consistently effective calmness, while most of the other characters are exaggerated nutcases.

Eight senior citizens seated in the second row snickered, snorted and sometimes snored as several actors stumbled, stuttered and sputtered their way through lines not yet perfectly learned.

The rest of us struggled to stay awake.

Carol Ray as the younger spinster sister, Abby Brewster, perfects the art of talking in a monotone throughout her performance, leaving it up entirely to Jane Zussman, as her creepy and creaky counterpart, Martha, to be hammier than thou, shamelessly prancing her way across the stage with

mincing little movements reminiscent of an aged Bette Midler. Tee hee.

The notion that these two sisters are just innocently insane, poisoning other elderly guests in their home to help them attain their heavenly rewards is a stretch.

When one adds into the mix that the sisters have an equally insane nephew who imagines he is Teddy Roosevelt, the plot becomes perilously thin.

Tom Dewitt is Teddy, and his multiple deliveries of the single line — "Charge!" — to signify the advance up an imaginary San Juan Hill, must have been specifically

designed to wake up a flagging audience: funny once, not five times.

Add a subplot about yet another serial-killer nephew who, thanks to plastic surgery, looks like Boris Karloff, and one begins to think that maybe this play is meant to be a metaphor, i.e. the theater critic nephew's worst performance nightmare being projected out to the audience.

Director Brittney Benjamin has her hands full (and tied

behind her back) with this production. Kenneth Branagh couldn't have brought it back from the dead.

Few of us are nostalgic for endlessly revisiting the outdated theater forms of our grandparents' generation.

The world has moved on.

If Lansing Civic Players wants to reincarnate, maybe it might consider something a bit newer — say, from this century.

'Arsenic and Old Lace'

Lansing Civic Players
Through Oct. 23
Hannah Community Center,
819 Abbot Road,
East Lansing
8 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays
and Saturdays, and 2 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 23
\$14 adults; \$8 students and
seniors
(888) 419-5458
www.lansingcivicplayers.org



Photo by Zac Tomczyk of ZRyan Photography

Jane Zussman, left, and Carol Ray star as sinister senior citizens in the Lansing Civic Players' "Arsenic and Old Lace."

Pure puffball

Lively actors can't hide the fact that 'Odd Couple' is quaint and antiquated

By MARY C. CUSACK

Starlight Dinner Theatre's production of Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple" has good production values and some fine performances, yet the overall quality of the production is uneven.

Review

The major shortcomings can be attributed to the script. Simon had a flair for creating memorable characters who were contemporary for

their time, and he skillfully skewered social mores, shining a light on changing gender and familial roles.

Unfortunately, what was cutting-edge social commentary in the 1960s is now simply quaint and antiquated.

Furthermore, the nostalgia value is lessened by the pacing of the script, which gets bogged down in redundant conversations and arguments.

There are still a few chuckles left in Simon's script, but considering that one of the biggest ones involves a misunderstand-

'The Odd Couple'

Through Oct. 22
Starlight Dinner Theatre
Waverly East Middle School,
3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m.,
with the show starting at 7:30
p.m. Friday and Saturday, \$33 for
dinner and show; \$28 for seniors
and students with valid ID
\$15 for show only
(517) 243-6040
www.starlightdinnertheatre.com

ing over the letters "F.U.," the dialogue is too simple for modern audiences raised on the works of Quentin Tarantino, David Mamet and Aaron Sorkin.

It is a daunting task to take on such iconic roles as Oscar and Felix, whether one prefers the cinematic pairing of Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon or the television couple of Jack Klugman and

Tony Randall.

The easier task goes to the slob Oscar, who has the benefit of playing for the broad laughs. Jack Dowd is a natural pick for the

role and delivers a solid performance.

It is interesting that Dowd warms up to the role after doffing the iconic baseball cap, and really hits his stride as Oscar prepares for a double-date with neighbors Gwendolyn and Cecily Pigeon (Charlotte Ruppert and Angela Dill, respectively). As Dowd prances around, slapping on Old Spice and crooning classic love songs, he owns the stage.

Oscar is definitely the better half of this couple, which makes the role of Felix (Chris Klaver) the more difficult one. The Felix of the play is not the Felix most people remember from the television series.

See Odd Couple, Page 14

Odd Couple

from page 13

This Felix is much more of an intolerable, needy, fussy budget hypochondriac.

The challenge is to make him the least bit relatable so that the audience can feel some amount of empathy for him. Yet Klaver's performance, while stylized, is so gratefully cloying and pathetic that all empathy goes to Oscar. Klaver does, however, deliver the best pratfall of the local theater season.

The most brilliant performances belong to Ruppert and Dill, the Pigeon sisters. They command the stage with their bright

costumes, charming Cockney accents and sunny personalities.

Ruppert and Dill have the luxury of having the best dialogue, rife with double-entendres, which they play to the hilt.

Director Linda Granger continues the Starlight tradition of maximizing the facilities of the theater's home in the cafeteria of the Waverly East Intermediate School.

Bill Woodland's set, Jim Lorenz's lighting, and the technical staff's props are spot-on for creating the ambience of a 1965 Manhattan apartment. The attention to detail is thorough, from the Pabst Blue Ribbon cans and Playboy magazines to the bachelor record collection selected for maximum seduction value.



Courtesy Photo

Felix Unger (Chris Klaver) and Oscar Madison (Jack Dowd) are "The Odd Couple" in Starlight Dinner Theatre's production of Neil Simon's venerable comedy.

Streetcar

from page 13

Their conflict is at the center of this play and their interactions are nerve-shattering to watch. Jacobs looks the part. He is handsome, he is muscular, he has animal magnetism. Rosnowski has his Stanley almost constantly in motion, and Jacobs leaps about like a gold medal gymnast.

His characterization of Stanley is believably sex-driven, brutish and violent. In the end, the totality of his "deliberate cruelty" to others is not forgivable. And Jacobs can be assured that his agonized version of the famous "S-t-e-l-l-a" scene is no imitation of Brando or anybody else. It's all his own, and memorably so.

Traister and Jacobs are also the fight directors for this production. Choreographed with the precision of professional mod-

ern dance, the fight scenes are both frightening and beautiful to watch.

Graduate student Emily Young, an accomplished actor, gives a consistently natural performance as Stella, Blanche's younger sister. Despite her compassion for Blanche, Stella's lust and love for Stanley ultimately prevent her from helping her sister and escaping her own hard life.

Nicholas Dressel is appealing as the awkward Mitch, Stanley's poker buddy and Blanche's would-be suitor. His theatrical affect of holding his arms stiffly close to the body tells the story: He is as lost and lonely as Blanche.

In smaller roles, the always fabulous Leslie Hull is once again excellent as the neighbor Eunice, careful not to steal scenes from actor partner Mieko the cat.

And when she's on stage, you can't take your eyes off Carmen Zavala, menacing as the Mexican Woman delivering her message of death ("flores para los muertos") in the guise of flowers.

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Courtesy Photo

Since leaving Michigan State University last spring, Sunny Wilkinson has continued teaching private lessons and she's been keeping busy with singing gigs across the country. "I've been taking advantage of having more time and freedom to sing and travel," she says.

Sunny's not blue

Wilkinson returns to MSU Friday for a new gig: singing with the LSO

By CARLEE SCHEPELER

Sunny Wilkinson was out of a job this spring when Michigan State University dropped its vocal jazz program, of which she was the founder and professor.

The School of Music program was in its seventh year; Wilkinson had taught at MSU for 17 years.

But on Friday she will return to campus with her first love — performing — when she sings with the Lansing Symphony Orchestra as part of the LSO pops series.

"There are five new premier arrangements," she said. "The LSO is going to eat them up. It's a potpourri of tunes from

American composers."

Wilkinson will be joined by her jazz trio: Ron Newman, pianist (and Wilkinson's husband); Ed Fedewa, bass; Larry Ochiltree, drums.

"We've been playing together for about 10 years," she said. "We have a really nice vibe together. And my husband is a wonderful jazz player."

Being on stage is a dream Wilkinson's explored her entire life. "I remember being 5 years old, making up songs at the jungle gym and singing them at the top of my lungs," she recalled. "I knew that's what I wanted to do."

From then on, "I was always performing, no matter what medium," she said. "I sang in operas, musical theater, rock 'n' roll bands — I was a natural performer."

It wasn't until she went to Arizona State University, however, that she discovered jazz.

"I was a poor college student," she said, "so I would go around to garage sales and buy worn-out records for a quarter. I would

try to steal licks from Ella Fitzgerald. I just wanted to be good enough that musicians would want to play with me.

"Once you realize you want to spend your life in it, you develop big goals and small goals. I just wanted to record, travel and play bigger venues to get my music out to more people."

She now has four records under her belt, most recently, "A Gentle Time: When Sunny Meets Tom," a collaboration with her longtime friend, pianist Tom Garvin.

Wilkinson has been teaching voice since she was 21. Today, students come to her studio in Okemos from across the country.

"I've had students come from California, Chicago, Massachusetts: I have something they want," she said. "I'm really good at balancing out voices and getting the voice smooth from top to bottom. I know how to bring out the best in their voice."

Since she was laid off, Wilkinson has taught more private lessons. She also hired

a new manager.

"My manager, Sharen Lange, is as sharp and fantastic as could be," she said. "We're making a wonderful team. I've been taking advantage of having more time and freedom to sing and travel."

Next, she'll travel to Boston, New Orleans and Capital University in Columbus, Ohio.

However, hitting it big hasn't really altered the dream she's had since her jungle gym days.

"I just want to keep making beautiful music that touches people and writing new inspiring music," Wilkinson said. "I want to get it out to as many people as possible."

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'A well-designed life'

Playwright Sandra Seaton talks with Lansing retail queen Betty Price

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Any chance to bask in the effervescence of 97-year-old Lansing retailing legend Betty Price is beyond compare. Playwright Sandra Seaton has known this for decades.

"She has a great ability to use energy well, mentally and emotionally," Seaton said. "I've always enjoyed her love for design and for the arts. She has a great perspective on things."

As a customer, as a friend and now as a historian, Seaton has tracked Price's remarkable life for 40 years. On Tuesday, the two will sit down at Schuler Books in the Meridian Mall to talk about Price's 50-year run as owner and guiding spirit of Liebermann's, downtown Lansing's premier gift shop, where the real Mad Men of the 1950s bought tony gifts for their wives, kids — and mistresses.

The latest issue of Modernism Magazine features a lively and handsome spread, written by Seaton, about Price's reign at Liebermann's and her experiences with George Nelson and other modernist designers. Tuesday's talk celebrates the story's publication.

Price would probably laugh at the idea, but Seaton sees a connection between her most famous subject — Thomas Jefferson — and Lansing's legendary retail queen. Price was a passionate advocate of mid-20th-century-modern design. She hired

Nelson, one of the world's foremost modernists, to dress the Liebermann's store at 117 S. Washington Square in a classy, glassy grid of suspended steps and hanging shelves — the only retail store Nelson ever designed.

The merchandise inside Liebermann's was held to a similarly high standard, even though many gifts were 10 bucks and under.

"It was more than just a store where she sold things," Seaton said. "She brought beauty to the home. She thought of herself as an educator, as far as the customers were concerned."

Seaton's works include a play, "Sally," and a libretto, "From the Diary of Sally Hemings," chronicling the lives of Jefferson and his mistress, Sally Hemings. Seaton was drawn to Jefferson as a historical subject, in part, because of his interest in

design. Seaton planned to study architecture at the University of Michigan before life, including four kids, got in the way.

"Jefferson was some version of a mid-century-modern kind of guy," Seaton said. "He was an architect, a draftsman. Envisioning that world was fascinating to me. I could definitely see (writing) a play about Betty and her world. She's right out of that Thomas Jefferson playbook."

The interviews for Seaton's story were conducted at Price's home in East Lansing, designed by top local modernist Kenneth Black.

Sandra Seaton and Betty Price

7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 25
Schuler Books, Meridian Mall
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See Betty Price, Page 18



Courtesy Photo

Sandra Seaton

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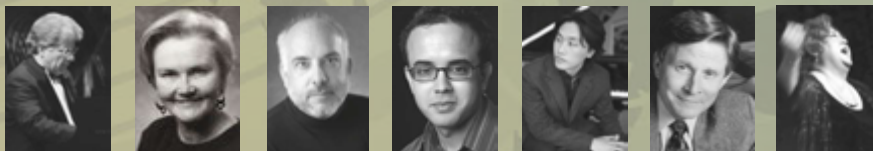
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Betty Price

from page 17

Seaton's fascination with Price goes back to their first encounter in 1971, when Seaton moved to Lansing.

To this day, African-American shoppers get a hairy eyeball from some white storekeepers, especially in high-end emporiums. In 1971, Seaton was new in town and braced for the worst every time she walked through an unfamiliar door.

"I'd had different experiences in places about that same time," Seaton said. "People size you up."

But Seaton and her husband needed a "special" wedding gift for a friend, and Lansing residents said Liebermann's was the place to go.

"We walk in the door and there's this woman who was so gracious. She didn't know us, but it was as if we were walking into her home as her guest."

Seaton was pleased that Price didn't patronize her or steer her to less expensive stuff. She ended up with an Orrefors decanter, "wrapped so beautifully you didn't want to open it."

"The way she treated us that day — I was a customer for as long as there was a Liebermann's."

Since Liebermann's closed in 1991, Price has traveled the world, looking

for jewelry to sell at her trunk shows benefiting the Wharton Center for the Performing Arts; her 23rd annual sale takes place from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday in the Wharton Center's Christman Lounge.

She moved to Milwaukee last fall to be closer to family, but plans to return to Lansing often.

In the meantime, Price has become a celebrity in modernist circles, a condition this month's Modernism Magazine story will surely help along.

Last December, Seaton took Price to visit the Herman Miller furniture company in Zeeland.

"That was a great day," Seaton said. "She would stop everybody and say, 'You know, I knew George Nelson.' She was a celebrity. The plant managers and administrators all ran out to say hi."

True to her alarmingly robust health, Price refused to use the elevator as they toured the plant. "I thought she'd be good for a couple of hours and we were there for four or five hours," Seaton said.

Price's keen sense of design, her gregarious charm and her mighty, retail-fortified legs have all impressed Seaton. So has Price's quiet way of getting on with whatever comes next in her life.

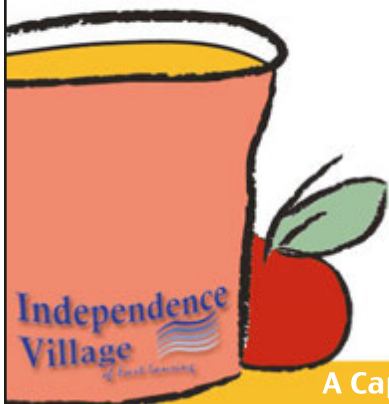
"You don't see Betty fretting over things," Seaton said. "She's methodical person, but not obsessive. I guess you could say she lives a well-designed life."

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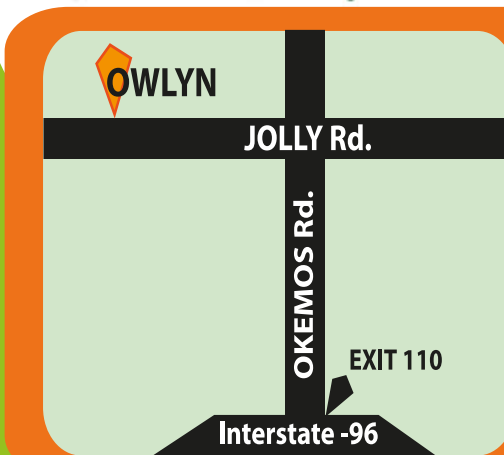
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THE SCREENING ROOM by JAMES SANFORD

Here's one 'Trespass' you shouldn't forgive

"Would you shut up?" one of the villains barks in "Trespass." "You're taking all the air out of the room — air that other people could do good things with!"

If you think that's a clumsy and mind-bogglingly lame line, wait until you hear the rest of the dialogue in Karl Gajdusek's screenplay, which often sounds as if it was written in Swedish, translated into Japanese and then translated yet again into English — using one of those cheap hand-held translation devices.

You won't believe your ears. Frequently, you won't believe your eyes, either.

Despite the presence of two Oscar winners — Nicolas Cage and Nicole Kidman — and director Joel Schumacher ("Tigerland," "Flatliners"), it's no mystery why "Trespass" is being shuttled to pay-per-view after a truncated run in a few theaters.

If you've ever seen "The Desperate Hours," you'll already have an idea of what transpires in "Trespass." Kyle (Cage) and Sarah (Kidman) are an upscale couple, living with their petulant teenage daughter, Avery (Liana Liberato of "Trust"), in what looks like Architectural Digest's idea of a fortress. Sarah designed their posh prison; Kyle is a gem dealer peddling "diamonds for oil men's mistresses," we're told, that are "whiter than the snow on Mount Fuji."

While Sarah and Kyle spend another evening realizing that their marriage is quickly heading to the ICU, Avery sneaks away to attend a swinging party where the guests say things like, "It's all Kool-Aid, son!" So she misses out on the arrival of some unexpected callers, who rough up Sarah and Kyle while looking for some jewels stashed away in Kyle's safe.

No, wait: Perhaps what they really want is a kidney because the head thug's mom was an abused wife who finally went into

renal failure and now needs a transplant. Or maybe this has something to do with the day Sarah may or may not have enjoyed a little afternoon delight with Jonah (Cam Gigandet), the hunkiest hostage-taker in Hollywood history.

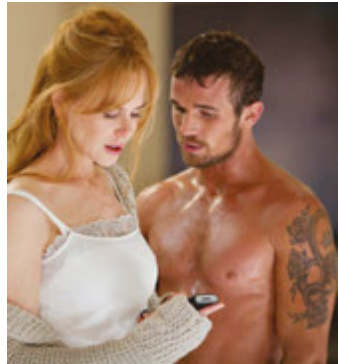
"Your filthy lust invited them in!" Kyle sputters to a shocked Sarah.

If Kyle and Sarah are slightly out of whack, however, their captors are truly nutty. For some reason, they've brought along Petal (Jordana Spiro), a stripper who is more interested in smoking crack and raiding Sarah's wardrobe. You can tell this is a Joel Schumacher film because when Petal finally picks out a suitable evening gown, it's exactly the same shade

of Oriental Health Spa Purple as Kyle's hideous necktie; Schumacher's movies may not always be good, but they are always carefully color-coordinated.

When it comes to picking up quick paychecks for making junk, Cage has become the Michael Caine of his generation, so it's not especially startling to see him maneuvering stiffly through another role while speaking in that spray-starched voice he uses whenever he feels a script is beneath him. It's anybody guess why Kidman signed on, however, unless she was actively looking for a part in which she could show off her scream and be slapped around at regular intervals.

Even with a running time of under 90 minutes, "Trespass" has to resort to padding out its plot, so Schumacher provides us with multiple takes of the scene in which Jonah emerges from a swimming pool — in slow-motion, naturally — to surprise Sarah. There's also an absurdly drawn-out finale that features a blizzard of bucks that look suspiciously like Monopoly money. Perhaps Kyle and Sarah's cash ain't nothing but trash — "Trespass" certainly is.



Nicole Kidman and Cam Gigandet star in "Trespass."

Courtesy Photo

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Blue-plate special

Full-time waitress Ellen Airgood cooks up romance with her debut novel, set in the U.P.

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Like every good waitress, Ellen Airgood can recite the daily specials at the West Bay Diner in Grand Marais with no hesitation. On the day I talked with her they were a cheese and veggie omelet, and fresh whitefish sandwich with an ear of corn.

Airgood, who has been working at this quintessential diner in Michigan's Upper Peninsula for more than 20 years, is also an accomplished writer who published her first novel this year. "South of Superior" is about a big-city girl who leaves it all behind to move to what the publicity hounds at her publisher call "a remote coastal village in Michigan's isolated U.P." (Yoopers would find that description a real knee-slapper.)

Ellen Airgood

Author of "South of Superior"
3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22
Schuler Books & Music
1982 Grand River Ave.,
Okemos
Free
(517) 349-8840
www.schulerbooks.com

The novel is filled with love, cold shoulders, the clumsiness of fitting in, fierce independent characters, an unusual mystery, a town that helps its own and, of course, a love story — several of them, in fact. In addition to the protagonist Madeline, there's a grumpy but fair old lady who is sometimes as cold as Lake Superior itself: often unforgiving, but always mysterious. In fact, the big lake is a major character in this novel.

In some ways "South of Superior" is not unlike Airgood's own story. Some 20 years ago she moved from Chicago, where she was working for an environmental agency, to Grand Marais, where within six months she married the local diner owner and became full-time baker and waitress, often working 80-hour weeks, but all the time listening and observing.

As we talked, Airgood was just coming off her shift at the West Bay Diner and wanted to make sure that I knew this was not her first book.

"I have been writing seriously for a good 18 years," she said. "This is the first book I published — not wrote."

The novelist said she had completed several manuscripts for young adult novels before "South of Superior" was published.

Now with the success of "Superior," she has a young adult novel due out next summer. The setting: New York City, but once again it features a protagonist who is way out of her comfort zone. This time it's a small-town girl who moves to the big city.

"People have been asking me about where's the sequel to 'Superior,'" she said. "I tell them it's not pressing."

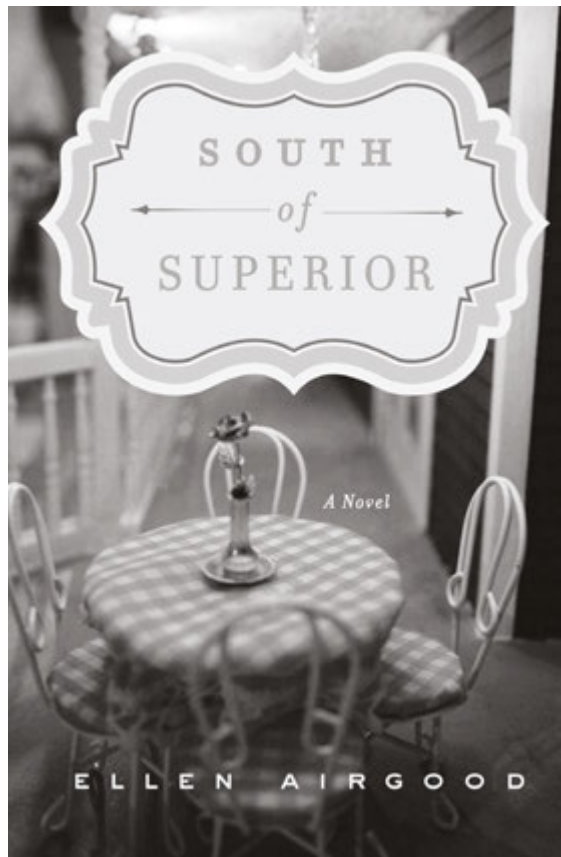
A lot of readers might find Airgood's characters in "Superior" quirky, but she's quick to point out that to her everybody's quirky. And she's not just referring to those she knows in the U.P. "We are all crazy."

She said that the residents of both Grand Marais and its fictional counterpart are not always warm and fuzzy. In fact, they might not like you at all, but they will help you.

Airgood makes that case in the book when the fictional community of McAllister

rallies behind a young mother and daughter who they could otherwise care less about after the mother is seriously injured in an automobile accident.

Airgood said when she set out to write "Superior" that she "wanted something my own community would enjoy."



Courtesy Photo

Despite sometimes working 80-hour weeks at the diner she operates with her husband, Ellen Airgood found time to write "South of Superior," her first published novel.

lush descriptive scenes of the area.

"It was easiest and the most fun. I always loved to be outdoors and the sense of place is very important to me."

She said she has been surprised by the positive reaction to the book: "Frankly, a lot doesn't happen. It's deceptively simple."

She gets asked all the time if the characters in the book are modeled after anyone.

"The characters to me are themselves," she said. "They aren't components, they

are just themselves."

She said out-of-town visitors to the diner want to know where some of the scenes in the book are set and want to visit the old hotel, a major feature in the book. They're out of luck.

"I have to tell them it's fictional. I just wanted something for Madeline to do."

As a first-time published author, she said she was most shocked about how an author is packaged for sale, a process she called "a strange feeling. The author photo — I never wear makeup."

Pre-publicity has compared Airgood's "Superior" setting to the quirky 1990s TV show "Northern Exposure." Sort of, but the author might just be on the cusp of becoming the Fannie Flagg of the Yoop-eh.

Fudgies (and yes, you can you buy fudge in Grand Marais) better get their Stormy Kromers on when they visit what one of my lifelong Yooper friends calls "The Upper Peculiar."

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Credit unions remember their heritage, celebrate customers

Oct. 20 is International Credit Union Day

Credit unions worldwide will celebrate their heritage this October during International Credit Union Month and International Credit Union Day on Thursday, Oct. 20.

What started as the “people’s bank” in Germany in 1852 to provide credit to city entrepreneurs has blossomed into a worldwide credit union network consisting of almost 53,000 branches and nearly 188 million members in 100 countries.

“Credit unions are member-owned and banks are stock-owned so we’re concerned about our members and banks are concerned about their stockholders,” said Gabriels Community Credit Union CEO Dan Dowsett. “I think in general that credit unions (are on) the side of the consumer. We’re not profit driven.”

According to the Credit Union National Association, 91 million U.S. consumers are members of one of the nation’s nearly 7,800 credit union branches. Credit unions are not-for-profit financial coop-

eratives, which allow them to offer lower interest rates, lower fees and higher dividends on savings accounts compared to national banks.

Credit unions are governed by member volunteers, which are elected by and from the credit union’s membership, the national association says. Board positions are unpaid.

This personal ownership is the number one difference between banks and credit unions, said Jeffrey Croff, vice president of marketing at Astera Credit Union.

“Your friend and neighbor is contributing to the money available to you to get a loan for a new car,” Croff said. “The members are all working cooperatively to help create better financial strength (for the community).”

Astera, like many other credit unions, was founded on the notion that neighbors

could pool money together and support each other to grow the financial stability of the area, rather than contributing to someone outside the community on Wall Street.

“If you become a member of a credit union, you are one of the shareholders,” Croff said. “You have that ownership. You are the owner when you walk into the door.”

Community ownership also makes credit unions more likely to participate in community charitable activities, according to the Credit Union National Association’s website: “Our goal is to serve all our members well, including those of modest means — every member counts.”

While some credit unions have begun to move away from their local roots, Astera and Gabriels pride themselves on serving local communities with more personalized

service than the big banks.

“I use the Gabriels C.U. for much of my banking needs because it is a direct way to support local business,” said Eastside resident and builder Dave Muylle. “The same money that local Lansing community members put into savings at Gabriels gets loaned out to local citizens and businesses. I think people may feel more responsible to pay the money back knowing they are borrowing from their neighbors. It’s like the credit union is just the middle man.”

Today, International Credit Union Day serves as a reminder to credit unions and their members of the philosophy that originally began credit unions more than 150 years ago — that people, not profits, are most important and that a united community can support itself financially, even through tough times.



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AMY ALKON
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Q: My husband and I are entrepreneurs, developing a new product. We're both working long hours. He's miserable because he has no time for his art (painting), and our sex life is in shambles. There isn't a lot of blame or anger. We simply go about our entire days with little or no flirting and fall into bed completely exhausted at night. Even if we crave sex, we're too tired. We kiss good-night and promise it'll be different tomorrow or on the weekend, but it never is, and I see no reason to believe things will change. We used to race home from work to have wild sex and then do silly things together in the evenings. People always called us "the sensual couple" because we couldn't keep our hands off each other. How can we get the zing back?

—Accidental Celibate

A: Eighty percent of sex is just showing up. (The other 20 percent is remaining conscious while you're having it.)

Of course, you'd need to leave work at a reasonable hour to make your role-play in bed more dirty doctor/naughty nurse than adjacent coma patients. I know, that's not what it says you're supposed to do on your printout of the Puritan Work Ethic. Former Harvard psychology professor Shawn Achor writes in "The Happiness Advantage" that we're taught that we have to sacrifice happiness for success and told that only when we're successful will we be happy. Achor counters that happiness isn't something that falls in your lap when you attain some level of accomplishment; it's "a work ethic." He cites a decade of research suggesting that happiness "raises nearly every business and educational outcome: raising sales by 37 percent, productivity by 31 percent, and accuracy on tasks by 19 percent, as well as (leading to myriad) health and quality of life improvements."

Remember, people called you "the sensual couple" because you couldn't keep your hands off each other, not because

you couldn't take your eyes off the clock. Ditching the clock for at least some of the day is essential. It's activities that make you lose track of time that make you happy — activities like sex (and painting) that also make you forget yourself and that package your husband neglected to bring to the post office. To put this in entrepreneurial terms, you need to relaunch your sex life and take it as seriously as you would a business launch. Look at sex as a mandatory meeting you need to have naked. And as unromantic as this sounds, you need to put "flirt with husband" on your daily schedule — until it becomes a habit again. Implied in that is "be fun!" Be silly like you used to. Make an effort to leave work well before the cows not only come home but start watching "Seinfeld" reruns. And replace any motivational posters decorating your office with ones that reflect your newfound knowledge of trickle-down happy-nomics, for example: "As you climb the ladder of success, be sure to stop every now and then to let your husband look up your dress" and "Behind every successful woman is a man with his pants down."

Q: I'm a recently divorced 40-something mom who's having trouble making female friends. I'm excluded from group activities, and my attempts at get-togethers fall flat. I attributed this to my being a bit quiet and reserved until a mom at school — previously a friend — casually remarked, "You're one of the moms we all love to hate!" What?! What am I doing that makes me hateable? Male friends say it's because I am "hot" and "have a killer body" and other women are jealous.

—Lone Mom

A: Middle-aged women who've gotten a little frumpy, schlumpy, and stretchmarky cling to how "what's on the inside is what really matters"...right until what's on the outside is a hot, shapely, newly available divorcee collecting their husbands' eyeballs like the Pied Piper commandeering the rodent population of Hamelin. Being "reserved" surely doesn't help. If you were

mousy, you'd probably be considered shy. Being a looker and reserved possibly marks you as a snob. To take this less personally, recognize that these women are probably driven by fear, envy, admiration, and/or intimidation. To get them to see you more as a person than a hot person, you need to extend yourself: Be assertively friendly; join a volunteer organization so people get to know you through your actions; and seek out women who seem happy and secure. All in all, you need to be realistic. Understand that the first thing in some women's minds will always be how much cuter they are when they aren't standing next to you — unless you're dressed in something that's figure-hugging in the manner of those bags they zip the dead bodies into at the morgue.

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Jonesin' Crossword

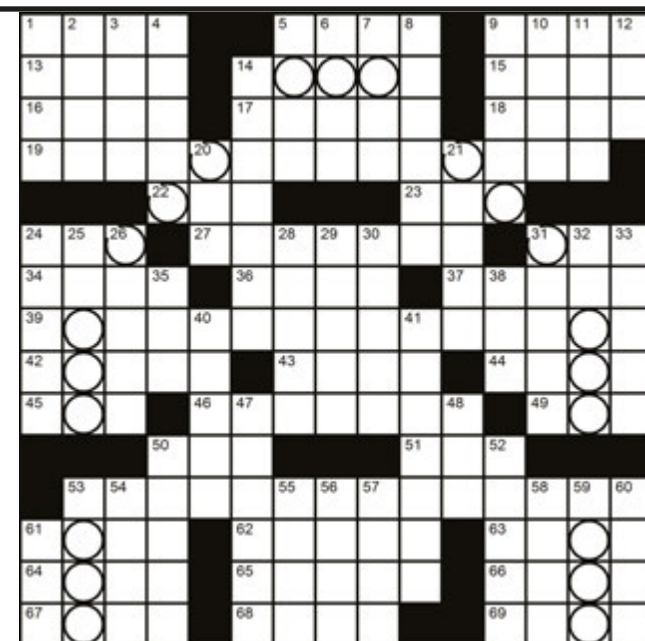
By Matt Jones

"180 Degrees" — time to pull a crossword uey.

by Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Hit the mall
5 Life stories
9 Rat out
13 Common soap opera plot device (as in, "When will they wake up?")
14 Spine-chilling
15 Cuatro y cuatro
16 In the thick of
17 Boring tool
18 Amanda who came back to the U.S. in 2011
19 They often require you to have a receipt
22 "What else?"
23 "Just as I suspected!"
24 California's home of the Trojans
27 City founded by the Pennsylvania Railroad
31 CD-____
34 Billiards table material
36 CNN host Burnett
37 Witherspoon of "Water for Elephants"
39 In order, perhaps
42 Ball
43 Composer Stravinsky
44 How the apathetic feel
45 Bandage brand
46 Response to a knock at the door
49 Medical scan, for short
50 Happy ____ clam
51 Crowd: peaceful :: ____: angry
53 1994 #1 hit for Ace of Base
61 Englishman
62 Porn star-turned-"legitimate" actress



Lords

- 63 Way back when
64 24 Hours of Le ____ (auto race)
65 Goad
66 Airport stats
67 Like people with cooties
68 DJ Rick of "Disco Duck" fame
69 Not the highest person on the social ladder

Down

- 1 Cat scratch reminder
2 Away's opposite
3 Bypass
4 "The Taming of the Shrew" setting
5 Bra size
6 "Aladdin" parrot
7 L.A. Dodgers great Hershiser
8 From Damascus, e.g.
9 Wireless company named after a Finnish town
10 Back spots
11 Sorority letters
12 "Friends" actress
14 He played Canteen Boy
20 Genetic messenger material
21 Spanish actress often seen on "The Love Boat"
24 Norwegian phrase heard in the Upper Midwest
25 Ice column on a glacier (RACES anagram)
26 Make a genetic copy
28 Three, to Trudeau
29 Start of a Danny Elfman band
30 Winning
31 Kingdom
32 Award Richard Burton never won
33 Actor Phifer
35 "Splatterday on

Saturdays" station

- 38 Type of tide
40 Canadian with the hit "1234"
41 "Johnny ____" (children's book set during the American Revolution)
47 Made lace
48 Postal creed word
50 Unable to sit still
52 Greeted the villain character, for short
53 Familiar Halloween character, for short
54 Sound from the pen
55 Need
56 "Blind" emotion
57 Some mil. members
58 Gay Talese's "____ the Sons"
59 Raleigh's st.
60 Classroom furniture
61 Fat measure, for short

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Listings deadline is 5 p.m. the THURSDAY BEFORE publication. Calendar listings submitted after the deadline will be published if space permits. Paid classes will be listed at the cost of one enrollment (maximum \$20). Submit your event online at www.lansingcitypulse.com or call (517) 999-5069. E-mail information to calendar@lansingcitypulse.com or fax to 371-5800. Info can also be mailed to 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912

OCT. 21

Fiddle around with Nervous But Excited

"We have been writing the songs for this record for about two years and spent the past six months fundraising for this record and recording it," Kate Petersen said of "You Are Here," the new CD from Nervous But Excited. With the project finally finished, Petersen and Sarah Cleaver — her partner in the band — are ready to start promoting it. The duo performs a selection of new material Friday at a Ten Pound Fiddle show. "The heart of all our songs those lies in the harmonies we create with both our voices together," said Petersen, who calls their sound "pleasantly aggressive folk music." 8 p.m. Oct. 21, Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner St., Lansing. \$15 general admission; \$12 members; \$5 students with ID. www.nervousbutexcited.com



Courtesy Photo

Wednesday, October 19

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Power of Email Marketing. Use email marketing to drive your business to success. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Dr., Lansing. (517) 321-4014, ext. 4. www.dtdl.org.

Grande Paraders Square Dance Club. Round dancing and alternating plus and mainstream modern-style square dancing. 7 p.m. \$4 members; \$5 guests. Holt 9th Grade Campus, 5780 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 694-0087.

Ellen Weissbrod at MSU. Presenting a "coming of middle-age story" with Artemisia Gentileschi, a 17th-century female artist. 7 p.m. FREE. South Kedzie Hall, corner of Farm Lane and Auditorium, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-3961.

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

Yoga. Flowing series of postures connected with breath to create heat. 9:30 a.m. \$11 student; \$14. Spartan Dance Center, 3498 Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. (517) 999-5415.

Medical Marijuana & Rental Housing. With speaker Thomas Yeadon. 6:30 p.m. FREE. MSU College of Law, 320 Law College Bldg., MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 336-8088 ext. 1011.

EVENTS

Photo Scavenger Hunt. Ages 13-18. Bring your friends, a camera. With prizes. 7:30-9 p.m. FREE.

See Out on the Town, Page 25

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OCT. 23



Photo by Llsa Twenter

Price's prize picks

Local legend Betty Price used to co-own and operate the Liebermann's gift shop in downtown Lansing; now, the 97-year-old fulfills her love for travel while searching for distinctive jewelry in Poland, Hong Kong and Mexico. The 23rd annual Betty Price jewelry sale benefits the Wharton Center, with half of the proceeds going to the Betty Price Retail Management Internship Endowment, which supports a Michigan State University intern at the Wharton Center gift shop. Sunday, Oct. 23, noon to 4 p.m. Christman Lounge at Wharton Center. Mention the Betty Price sale for free parking. Information and tickets at (517) 432-2000 or (800) WHARTON.

OCT. 23

Boogie night with Seeley and Baldori

Sunday night is going to be boogie night in Lansing. Boogie-woogie is a form of piano-based blues music that was trendy in the first half of the 20th century and has been kept alive by artists like Bob Baldori and Bob Seeley. The boogie-woogie piano duo is continuing their mission to celebrate what they call "America's forgotten music." Seeley has been playing the music since the 1950s; Baldori started playing piano and harmonica for Chuck Berry in 1966. In addition to fronting his own group he had spent years playing blues, boogie and backbeat rock and roll in Chicago and Detroit. The show feature their signature twin piano, boogie-woogie style. 7 p.m. \$12. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 East Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 351-6555. Tickets available at www.boogiebob.com.



Courtesy Photo

OCT. 25

Innovation & environmental sustainability

The Michigan Environmental Council and Capital Gains invites Lansing out for an evening focusing on the future of downtown Lansing. The night includes drinks and a discussion about the intersection of environmental ethics and innovative city design. "Downtown Pioneers: The New Environmentalists" is the first event in the Forward Drinking Discussion Series. Brad Garmon, MEC's director of conservation and emerging issues, will explain how rediscovering downtown life has become the heart of a new environmental movement. There will also be an informal panel discussion with local leaders about strategies and projects that are making downtown living, working, shopping and playing more sustainable and appealing here in Lansing. 5:30 p.m. FREE. Michigan Brewing Company, 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. RSVP at allie@environmentalcouncil.org.

TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

RUN-DMC LEGEND WALKS LANSING'S WAY



Courtesy Photo

Darryl McDaniels

Darryl McDaniels, or "DMC" as most of the world knows him, made up one third of the pioneering rap group Run-DMC, which formed in 1981 and disbanded in 2001. The iconic trio scored rap hits throughout the '80s with "It's Tricky," "Walk This Way," "King of Rock," "My Adidas" and "It's Like That." Run-DMC was the first act of its genre to be nominated for a Grammy Award, first to earn a gold album, first to go multi-platinum, first to appear on MTV, "American Bandstand" and "Saturday Night Live." Oh, and the first rappers to make the cover of Rolling Stone and Spin Magazine — not a bad list of musical achievements.

DMC, now 47, will perform Saturday at an Michigan State University Homecoming-themed show at Fahrenheit Ultra Lounge.

The event, which he will also host, is fittingly dubbed "My Adidas." Also performing is Detroit's DJ Fingers. Recently DMC wrote his first book, "King of Rock: Respect, Responsibility and My Life with Run-DMC." The book, written by DMC with Bruce Haring, tells of his rise in the music business while stressing the importance of respect and responsibility in today's society. DMC is also currently putting the finishing touches on his album "Checks, Thugs, Rock-N-Roll."

Saturday, Oct. 22 @ Fahrenheit Ultra Lounge, 6810 South Cedar St., Lansing, \$20, doors at 9 p.m. More information at www.myadidasmsu.com.

TOKYO ROCKERS MAKE NOISE IN LANSING

Melt-Banana is a Japanese punk band that is known for playing extraordinarily fast noise music mixed with experimental electronica and pop-based song structures. The Tokyo-based band has released nine albums and toured worldwide. Along the way, they've worked with the likes of John Zorn and Mike Patton. On Thursday, they make a stop in Lansing at Mac's Bar. Opening the show is a cast of local rockers, including Fisherking and The Plurals.

Thursday, Oct. 20 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18 and over. \$10 advance, \$13 at the door, show at 9 p.m.



Courtesy Photo

Melt-Banana

BROOKLYN'S BEAR HANDS AT MAC'S



Courtesy Photo

Bear Hands

Bear Hands is a post-punk/experimental/indie rock act hailing from Brooklyn. On Monday, the band plays an all-ages show at Mac's Bar. The band, which formed in 2006, recently released an EP and some 7-inch singles. Last November, the band dropped its first full-length LP titled "Burning Bush Supper Club," which received a positive review from Pitchfork Media. Opening the show are Pomegranates, Bananaconda and The Sunset Club.

Monday, Oct. 24 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all ages. \$10, doors at 7 p.m.

MOTOR CITY IS BURNIN' AT LEROY'S

The Detroit Blues Series at LeRoy's Classic Bar and Grill continues with Detroit guitar slinger Bobby Murray, who will be joined onstage by vocalist Wylie "Red" Redding. Murray was guitarist for Etta James for 22 years, appearing on several of James' Grammy-winning records — he's also played on a Grammy-winning CD with BB King.

Other legends he's performed or recorded with include John Lee Hooker, Johnny Guitar Watson, Taj Mahal, Otis Rush, Percy Mayfield, Charlie Musselwhite, Johnnie Taylor and Otis Clay. He's also had music featured on HBO's "The Sopranos" and performed on "The Late Show with David Letterman" and "Austin City Limits."

Saturday, Oct. 22 @ LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing, 21 and over, \$5, 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

JOURNEYING THROUGH SOUNDSCAPES AT LCC

Lansing Community College Performing Arts presents "Soundscapes 2011" Saturday at Dart Auditorium. The evening offers an assortment of music, including jazz, classical, funk and rock, vocal and instrumental, traditional and experimental.

This annual concert showcases samples of LCC's music program. Making appearances are the LCC Jazz Band (directed by Jon Gewirtz), the LCC Concert Choir (directed by Meredith Bowen), the Experimental Music Ensemble (directed by Ty Forquer and Cesar Potes), the LanSwingers Vocal Pop & Jazz Ensemble (directed by Bill Bastian) and the LCC Percussion Ensemble (directed by Beth Lewis). Also featured is a duet by faculty members Liudmila Bondar (piano) and Ed Fedewa (bass) performing "Elegy" by Giovanni Bottesini. An encore performance is set for 3 p.m. the following day.

Saturday, Oct. 22 (8 p.m.) & Sunday Oct. 23 (3 p.m.) @ Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing, all ages. \$5 suggested for Music Scholarship Fund.

MICHIGAN FOLKS MAKE THE (SCENE)

(SCENE) Metrospace will be stocked with pop and indie-folk bands Friday, when four Michigan acts take the stage. Performers include Birches (Kalamazoo-based rock), Songbirds of the Pacific Northwest (indie-folk from Traverse City), Adam Valente and the folk/country sounds of Jack Grendel. Grendel, an East Lansing performer, draws inspiration from a variety of old songwriters, but still manages to put his own edge on each tune.

Friday, Oct. 21 @ (SCENE) Metrospace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. \$5, all ages, 7 p.m.; music at 8 p.m.

UPCOMING SHOW?

POST IT AT
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TURNITDOWN

LIVE AND LOCAL

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

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
621, 621 E. Michigan Ave.	Phil Denny, 8 p.m.	Native Sons, 8 p.m.	DJ Radd 1, 9 p.m.	DJ Cutt Nice, 7 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		DJ With Travis, 9 p.m.	Smiling Villians, 9 p.m.	Smiling Villians, 9 p.m.
Brannigan Brothers, 210 S. Washington Square		Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m.	Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m.	Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Cloud Magic, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Dublin Square, 327 Abbot Road	Still Rain & DJ Beats, 10 p.m.	Cheap Dates & DJ Beats, 10 p.m.	Jedi Mind Trip & DJ Donny D, 10 p.m.	Showdown & DJ Beats, 10 p.m.
Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Burton's Garden, 9 p.m.	Suzi & The Love Brothers, 8:30 p.m.	Smotth Daddy, 9 p.m.	Smotth Daddy, 9 p.m.
The Firm, 227 S. Washington Square	John Beltran, 9 p.m.	DJ Skitzo, 9 p.m.	DJ Donnie D, 9 p.m.	DJ Skitzo, 9 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.	Driver & Rider Show, 7 p.m.	Driver Rider & Road Show, 7 p.m.	Karaoke, 7 p.m.	
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.		Hidden Agenda 9:30 p.m.	Big Willy, 9:30 p.m.	Root Doctor, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Pleasant Drive, 9 p.m.	DJ Beats & Rob Perry, 9 p.m.	Over the Edge, 9 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Melt Banana, 9 p.m.	Dryvell!, Noon	Young Dan Tucker, 8 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.			From Big Sur, 10 p.m.	From Big Sur, 10 p.m.
Rookies, 16460 S. US 27		Karaoke with Bob, 9 p.m.	Karaoke with DJ Roy, 9 p.m.	Karaoke with DJ Roy, 9 p.m.
Rick's American Cafe, 224 Abbott Road		ICE DJs, 10:30 p.m.	Fat Amy & Dorthy, 10:30 p.m.	ICE DJs, 10:30 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & The Beeftones, 9 p.m.	No Reason, 9 p.m.	No Reason, 9 p.m.

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

Out on the town

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Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. www.dtdl.org.

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

"Tony and Janina's American Wedding." An examintaion of the glitches in the U.S. immigration system. 7 p.m. FREE. MSU International Center, 169 International Ct., East Lansing. LafayJ@dewittschools.net.

MSU Energy Transition Plan Town Hall Meeting. Give feedback on strategies being considered. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.energytransition.msu.edu .

Redistricting: Not Just for Insiders. A forum to review the current processes. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Thomas M. Cooley Law School, 300 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 351-0417.

Allen Street Farmers Market. 2:30-6:30 p.m. Open to the public. Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 367-2468.

Book Sale. To benefit the church's library, a variety of books as cheap as 50 cents. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. FREE. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. (517) 482-0668. www.lansingfirstpres.org.

Drug Laws. Discussion on current drug laws and their effectiveness. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. www.PilgrimUCC.com.

MUSIC

Jazz Wednesdays. Live entertainment. 7-10 p.m. FREE. ENSO, 16800 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 333-1656. www.enjoyenso.com.

The Greater Lansing Community Concert. Includes soloists, acts and student ensembles. 7 p.m. FREE. Independence Village of East Lansing, 2530 Marfitt Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-9958.

Jazz Concert. The Kamora Quartet features Aaron Darrell on bass, Chris Weller on sax and more. 7 p.m. \$3 students; \$5 adults. (SCENE) Metrospace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6832.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

DTDL book club. Bring a book or two to share with the group. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. www.dtdl.org.

Tween Book Club. Ages 9-12. Read and discuss "13 Treasures," by Michelle Harrison. 4-5 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014, ext. 3. www.dtdl.org.

Lansing Area Science Fiction Association Weekly Meeting. Needed: knowledge of great literary science-fiction. 7 p.m. FREE. Sammy's Lounge, 301 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 402-4481.

Arc of Justice Discussion Group. "Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age." 7 p.m. FREE. Dewitt District Library, 13101

Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156.

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

Prison Poetry Project. Readings of poems written by incarcerated men and women. 7-9 p.m. \$10 suggested donation. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-2894.

Fall Reading Series. With Traci Brimhall, author of "Our Lady of the Ruins," 7 p.m. FREE. MSU Snyder Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-1932.

Thursday, October 20

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Protecting our Parents. With local elder law attorney Douglas Chalgian. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Burcham Hills Retirement Community, 2700 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. (517) 351-8377 Ext 438.

Slow Flow Yoga. Focuses on the breath as well as gentle stretching. 5:30-6:30 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. fofnc.org.

EcoTrek Fitness Outdoor Workout. Outdoor group workouts for all fitness levels. 5:45 p.m.-7 p.m. \$12 session. Scott Woods Park, 2600 Clifton Ave., Lansing. (517) 243-6538. www.ecotrekfitness.com.

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

Knee High Naturalists. Ages 2-5, can learn about different themes such as turtles, bugs, flowers, and birds. 10-11 a.m. \$5. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. fofnc.org.

EVENTS

Euchre. Come play euchre and meet new people. No partner needed. 6-9 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

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

Chipmunk Story Time. Featuring "Big Pumpkin," open to preschool and elementary children. 10 a.m. \$3 child. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

Dimondale Farmers' Market. Enjoy locally grown produce, purely Michigan food and food products. 3-7 p.m. FREE. Dimondale Farm Market, 136 N. Bridge St., Dimondale. (517) 646-0230.

Theology On Tap. On a different theological topic each month. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Tavern On the Square, 206 S. Washington Sqr., Lansing. (517) 374-5555.

Jolly Grove Kids Club. Weekly kids garden club, watering, weeding, and planting. 10 a.m. FREE. Jolly Grove Community Garden, Intersection of Jolly Road

and Pleasant Grove Road, Lansing. (517) 388-2325. **Downtown Fall Fest.** Starfarm will headline, featuring world beers and snack tastings. 5:30 p.m.-2 a.m. FREE until 9 p.m. \$5. Downtown Lansing, Washington Square, Lansing. www.lansinglive.org. **Morning Storytime.** All ages welcome for stories, songs, rhymes and fun. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014.

Beal Garden Tour. Peter Carrington will give a tour of MSU's historic garden, outside of library. 12:10 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, 100 Main Library, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-6449.

Art Nights. Lansing Artists will create pieces to be auctioned off to benefit the Mid-Michigan Food Bank. 5-8 p.m. FREE. Hotwater Works, 2116 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 364-8827.

Realtors Annual Charity Auction. Raises funds for their chapter and a Michigan charity. 5:30-9:30 p.m. FREE. Eagle Eye Banquet Center, 15500 S. Chandler Road, Bath. (517) 267-7297.

City Council Candidate Forum. An opportunity to meet the candidates running for Williamston City Council. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Williamston Community Center Gym, 201 School St., Williamston. info@williamston.org.

MUSIC

Jazz Thursdays at Mumbai Cuisine. The Rockelle Whitaker Project. Jazz vocalist and trio with swing and funk. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Mumbai Cuisine, 340 Albert St., East Lansing. (517) 336-4150.

Suzuki Recital. Performance by the MSU Community Music School's Suzuki Program. 5:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 841-B Timberlane St., East Lansing. (517) 355-7661. www.cms.msu.edu.

Charlie Dewey. Live Music. 6-10 p.m. FREE. Mark's Watershed, 5965 Marsh Road, Haslett. (517) 999-7433.

Bobby Standal. Live Music. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Ryan's Roadhouse, 902 E. State St., St. Johns. (989) 224-2550.

Cheap Dates. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Dublin Square Patio, 327 Abbott Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2222. www.dublinsquare.net.

Scott Frost. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. (517) 321-0616.

Ray Townsend. 8 p.m.-Midnight. FREE. Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-7366.

Chip Christy. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Potbelly's Sandwich Shop, 233 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 203-4278.

THEATER

"The Dead Guy." Black comedy in which a reality-TV subject gets \$1 million, but there are strings attached. 8 p.m. \$22-\$25. Williamston Theatre, 122

S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-SHOW . www.williamstontheatre.org. **"Conspiracy."** World premiere drama about the 1942 Wannsee Conference, in which Nazi and SS leaders gathered in a Berlin suburb to discuss the "Final Solution." 7 p.m. \$10; \$8 seniors/students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. (517) 482-5700.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Signing with Michael Lawrence. Author of "Radicals in Their Own Time." 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-9923 . www.schulerbooks.com.

Friday, October 21

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Lions and Mints. Lions mints at the Quality Dairy Store, Family Fare Grocery Store and Family Fare Gas Station. 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Donations. Downtown Eaton Rapids, Eaton Rapids. (517) 694-0754.

LGBT Media Night and Discussion. Watch LGBT movies and shows followed by discussion. Room 262. 4:30 p.m. FREE. LCC Gannon Building, 422 N. Washington Square, Lansing.

Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group. Provides helpful information on coping with the challenges of Alzheimer's disease. 1:30-2:30 p.m. FREE. Burcham Hills Retirement Community, 2700 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. (517) 827-1046.

EVENTS

Therapeutic Foster Care Parent Informational. Meeting to find individuals and couples interested in becoming licensed in a non-traditional foster care. 1:30 p.m. Ingham Counseling Center, 5303 S. Cedar St. Building #2, Lansing. (517) 346-8034.

Zombie Film Festival. All things zombie, with a Walking Dead Costume Contest, movies, trivia and more. 3-9:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. www.dtdl.org/index.php/zombie.

Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. Kids Morning at 9 a.m.-1 p.m. with educational display cases ranging from mineral specimens to geodes and more. 6-9

See Out on the Town, Page 26

-- LAWN CARE --

MOWING - Vacation Mowing
Eavestroughs Cleaned - Fall Cleanups
- Rolling - Garden Tilling Bushes
Trimmed - Sidewalks Edged Tree
& Brush Removal - Hauling Stump
Grinding - Bush Pulling Seeding, Snow
removal and salting

Commercial/Residential
Free estimates

R. Knott
LAWN • LANDSCAPE • SNOW
(517) 694-7502/ (517) 993-2052

Lansing Gardens

• Several items of fresh produce picked daily from our field. (Specific items and quantity may vary)

- **Pumpkins** (Large selection of sizes at a great price)
- **Hardy Mum Plants** 3 for \$9.95 — 9" pot (large to extra large plants)
- **Hard shell Squash** \$.25 per lb. (Acorn, hubbard, butternut & buttercup)
- **Michigan Apples** \$.99 per lb. (Several varieties available)
- **Green Peppers** (from our fields) 6 for \$9.99

1434 E. Jolly Road, Lansing
517.882.3115

ULI'S haus of rock

THURSDAY, OCT. 20
**VIDEO PREMIERE FOR
HOLLOW DRIVE**
wsg
KRASHKARMA

FRIDAY, OCT. 21
SHOWDOWN ROCK

SATURDAY, OCT. 22
10 GAUGE RAGE
SIX SECONDS TO
OBLIVION
RED LINE CHEMISTRY
CHAOS THEORY

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517 882 5900

Out on the town

from page 25

p.m. \$3; \$1 teens; FREE children. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. (517) 641-6125.

Brown Bag Series. "Brotherhood of the Lake: Commercial Fishing, Work and Livelihood in Leland's Fishtown" A Presentation by Laurie Sommers. 12:15-1:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum Auditorium, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-3982.

Corn Maze. Not-scary fundraiser for Make a Wish. 6-10 p.m. \$7. 3803 Noble Road, Williamston. (517) 521-2378.

MSU Homecoming Parade. The parade begins at the intersection of Abbot Rd. and Burcham Drive. 6 p.m. FREE. Downtown East Lansing, Grand River Ave., East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

Trail of Terror. 1/3 mile of an intense, scary walk. After dark-10:30 p.m. \$10. 3803 Noble Road, Williamston. bestmaze.com.

MUSIC

Lansing Symphony Pops: Sunny Swings the American Songbook. Sunny Wilkinson and her jazz trio put a twist on the American Songbook, including pieces by Sondheim and Gershwin. 8 p.m. \$15. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 487-5001.

Nervous But Excited. Kate Peterson and Sarah Cleaver's special CD release show. 8 p.m. \$15; \$12 members; \$5 students. Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 487-9549. www.tenpoundfiddle.org.

The Greater Lansing Community Concert. Includes soloists, acts and student ensembles. 7 p.m. FREE. Burcham Hills Retirement Community, 2700 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. (517) 353-9958.

Karaoke Night. All ages welcome. Sing, discuss current events and play games. 7-9 p.m. FREE.

Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

Pete Trappen. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Leo's Outpost, 600 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-7755.

Uptown. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. (517) 321-0616.

THEATER

"The Dead Guy." 8 p.m. \$22-\$25. (Please See Details Oct. 20)

"The Odd Couple." Neil Simon comedy about mismatched roommates. Option of dinner with turkey and mashed potatoes. 6:30 p.m. \$33-20; \$15-10 show only. Starlight Dinner Theatre, Waverly East Intermediate, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 243-6040.

"Conspiracy." 8 p.m. \$14; \$12 seniors/students. (Please See Details Oct. 20)

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Teen Book Club. Ages 13-18. Discuss "Lockdown: Escape from Furnace," by Alexander Gordon Smith. 4-5 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3.

Saturday, October 22

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Tai Chi in the Park. Taught by Bob Teachout. 9:30 a.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

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

Lions and Mints. 6 a.m.-6 p.m. (Please See Details Oct. 21)

Babysitting Class. Learn emergency procedures, discipline techniques and diapering, as well as age-appropriate activities. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$30. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517)

669-3156. www.dewittlibrary.org.

Breathing Workshop. Experiential process that involves profound inner healing work. 8:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Fellowship for Today Office, Suite 101, 2722 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 337-4070.

Relics of the Big Bang. 8 p.m. \$3 students; \$2.50 students, seniors; \$2 kids. (Please See Details Oct. 21)

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

Homeownership Workshop & Bus Tour. Speakers on credit basics, money management and more. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Center for Financial Health, 230 N. Washington Sqr., Lansing. (517) 708-2550.

EVENTS

Read to a Therapy Dog. Stop in and read to a certified therapy dog. 10 a.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840. www.cadl.org.

Autumn Tea. Guests will be treated to autumn delights and tea. 3-5 p.m. \$8. Turner-Dodge House & Heritage Center, 100 E. North St., Lansing. (517) 483-4220.

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

Urbandale Farm Stand. Fresh, local produce for sale. 9 a.m.-Noon, FREE. Urbandale Farm, 653 S. Hayford Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3916.

Corn Maze. 1-10 p.m. \$7. (Please See Details Oct. 21)

Fall Studio Sale. Pottery by Jon Whitney, and paintings and tiles by Barb Whitney. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Jon Whitney Pottery, 3642 West Kipp Road, Mason. (517) 676-0476.

Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. With educational display cases ranging - from mineral specimens to geodes and more. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. \$3; \$1 teens; FREE/children. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. (517) 641-6125.

History Beneath Your Feet. Lectures and activities to show what's happening in archaeology today. 1 p.m. \$6/adults; \$4/seniors, \$2/6-17; 5 and under/ FREE. Michigan Historical Museum, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 373-1359.

Trail of Terror. After dark-10:30 p.m. \$10. (Please See Details Oct. 21)

Rent-A-Rower fundraiser. The MSU Club Rowing Team will do any general labor to help fund spring racing season. 9 a.m. \$10 hour. Downtown East Lansing, Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (248) 953-7899. www.msucrowclub.com.

Halloween Dance. With Mambo lessons and open dance after. 7-8 p.m. \$30 couple. Grand Ledge Country Club, 5811 E. St., Joseph Highway, Grand Ledge. (517) 484-3130. www.lesdanseurs.com.

Dog Trick or Treat. Helps raise money For Better Independence Assistance Dogs. 2-5 p.m. FREE; Donations. Downtown Williamston, Grand River Ave., Williamston. (517) 589-0477. www.williamston.org.

MUSIC

Bobby Murray. Detroit Blues. 9:30 p.m. \$7. LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 371-5800.

David Meeder-Native American Flute. Releasing a solo album "Eye of the Storm.", 7-9 p.m. Suggested Donation \$5. Art Alley, 1133 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (612) 385-1044. www.reoartalley.com.

Arnie's Karaoke. 9 p.m. FREE. Rocky's Roadhouse, 2470 Cedar St., Holt. (517) 694-2698.

The Fabulous Heftones. Turn of the 1900s tunes, vocals and Retro/early jazz. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Altu's Ethiopian Cuisine, 1312 Michigan Ave., East Lansing. (517) 333-6295.

Soundscapes. A mix of jazz, classical, funk and rock, vocal and instrumental, traditional and experimental. 8 p.m. \$5. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488.

Rush Clement. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Leo's Outpost, 600 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-7755.

Nick May. 9:30 p.m.-Midnight. FREE. Courthouse Pub, 160 W. Maple St., Mason. (517) 676-6941.

Audrey Hazelbaker. Noon-2 p.m. FREE. Potbelly's Sandwich Shop, 233 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 203-4278.

THEATER

"The Dead Guy." 8 p.m. \$22-\$25. (Please See Details Oct. 20)

"The Odd Couple." 6:30 p.m. \$33-20; \$15-10/show only. (Please See Details Oct. 21)

"Conspiracy." 8 p.m. \$14;\$12/seniors/students. (Please See Details Oct. 20)

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Seasons of Life. The Grand Ledge writing group will present their new anthology Seasons of Life. 10 a.m.-Noon. FREE. H & W Farms, 13375 Belding Road, Belding. www.writingattheedges.com.

Signing with Deborah Niemann. Author of "Homegrown and Handmade." 1 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-9923. www.schulerbooks.com.

Signing with Ellen Airgood. Author of "South of Superior." 3 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-9923. www.schulerbooks.com.

RaeAnn Dunlop. Sharing "Why Not?" 2-4 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-9900. www.becauseeverybodyreads.com.

See Out on the Town, Page 27

SCHULER BOOKS & MUSIC presents
Advance Launch Pizza Party for ARI BERK
 Author of *DEATH WATCH*: Book One of *The Undertaken Trilogy*
3 p.m. Saturday, October 22

Meet New York Times Bestselling author
 presenting
KIM HARRISON *The Hollows Insider*
 Tickets available. Please call the store for details.
7 p.m. Tuesday, October 25

3rd ANNUAL ZOMBIE NIGHT 7 p.m. Thursday, October 27
 ☠ Kids' & Adults' Costume Contests ☠ Zombie Pin-ups Photos
 ☠ Feed the Hunger Food Drive ☠ Zombie Twister
 Ghost Stories w/ Elizabeth Kostova, Keith Taylor & Elizabeth Schmuhl
 Kids' Story-time with ZOMBIE IN LOVE author Kelly Dipucchio

Girls' Night Out presents
 Award-Winning Chef & Author
DONIA BIJAN
Maman's Homesick Pie
 7 p.m. Monday, November 1

World Record Attempt
 with **THE RECORDSETTERS**
 As seen on Jimmy Fallon!
The Recordsetter Book of World Records
 7 p.m. Tuesday, November 2

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MEDIUM

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TO PLAY

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

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

Answers on page 29

Out on the town

from page 26

Sunday, October 23

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 672-4072. www.cadl.org.

The Super Sky Show. Hosted by Seymour Sky, on the all puppet talk show, for kids. 2:30 p.m. \$3/adults; \$2.50/students, seniors; \$2/students. Abrams Planetarium, 400 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 355-4676. www.pa.msu.edu/abrams/.

Relics of the Big Bang. Emphasizes research currently underway at CERN. 4 p.m. \$3/students; \$2.50/students, seniors; \$2/kids. (Please See Details Oct. 21)

EVENTS

East Lansing Farmers Market. A growers-only market robust with a diverse selection of fresh, farm-grown Michigan produce and products. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Valley Court Park, 400 Hillside Ct., East Lansing. (517) 319-6823.

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

Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. With educational display cases ranging - from mineral specimens to geodes and more. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. \$3; \$1/teens; FREE/children. (Please See Details Oct. 21)

Corn Maze. 1-9 p.m. \$7. (Please See Details Oct. 21)

The Scandinavian Society of Greater Lansing. On Danish settlements in Iowa with potluck dinner. 2-4:30 p.m. FREE. Faith United Methodist Church, 4301 S. Waverly Road, Lansing. (517) 316-1394.

Rent-A-Rower fundraiser. 9 a.m. \$10/hour. (Please See Details Oct. 22)

Atheists and Humanists Dinner Meeting. Psychologist Dr. Collins will present "Back in Time: You Are 17 Years Old Again." 5 p.m. FREE. \$9.65/buffet. Great Wall Buffet Restaurant, 4832 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. (517) 914-2278.

United Nations Day. With dinner featuring Indonesian musicians and dancers. 5:30pm, 25/person; \$15/student. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 349-1845.

MUSIC

DJ Olympic Trials. Thirty-two DJs from all over Michigan will be competing. 8 p.m.-2 a.m. \$3. Rum Runners, 601 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 614-6439. www.capitalcitydjolympics.com.

Soundscapes. A mix of jazz, classical, funk and rock, vocal and instrumental, traditional and experimental. 3 p.m. \$5. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488.

THEATER

"Imagin Ocean." Tony Award nominee John Tartaglia, presents a live black-light puppet show, of an undersea adventure for kids. 1:30 p.m. \$12. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000.

"The Dead Guy." 2 p.m. \$22-\$25. (Please See Details Oct. 20)

"Conspiracy." 2 p.m. \$14; \$12/seniors/students. (Please See Details Oct. 20)

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Book Signing: Jim Proebstle. Author of "Fatal Incident" and "In the Absence of Honor." 11 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Barnes and Noble, 5132 W Saginaw Hwy.,

Lansing. (517) 327-0437.

Bruce Jenvey. Book signing event with author of controversial "Angela's Coven." 2 p.m. FREE. Barnes and Noble, 333 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (248) 760-0420. www.bn.com.

Monday, October 24

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

GriefShare Seminar. A dvd series, with small support group discussion, part of an ongoing 13 week program. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Lansing Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-9477.

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

Gadget Help. One-on-one help session to learn basics about your cell phone. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. www.dttl.org.

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

Homeschool Science Series. Eight week series long, introducing students to scientific principles. Grades 3 to 5. 1:30-2:30 p.m. FREE. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 485-8116.

EVENTS

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

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

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

MUSIC

Lisztomania. Derek Polischuk, Minsoo Sohn, and more pay tribute to Franz Liszt. 7:30 p.m. \$10; \$8/seniors; FREE/students. MSU Music Building Auditorium, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000.

Open Mic Jam. With Kerry Clark Blues Company.

6:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. Michigan Brewing Company (Lansing), 402 Washington Sqr., Lansing. (517) 977-1349.

Tuesday, October 25

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Schizophrenics Anonymous Self-help Support Group. Support Group for persons with schizophrenia and related disorders. 10 a.m. FREE. Clinton-Eaton-Ingham Community Mental Health center, 812 East Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 614-7820.

Widowed Persons Support Group. With Susan K. Zimmerman & Dan Popoff. Death of a spouse is a major loss. 7-9 p.m. FREE. University Lutheran Church, 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. (517) 339-4675.

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

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

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

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. 5:45-6:45 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-9900.

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

Homeschool Science. Eight week series long, introducing students to scientific principles. Grades 5 to 7. 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. FREE. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 485-8816.

EcoTrek Fitness Outdoor Workout. Outdoor group workouts. 5:45 p.m.-7 p.m. \$12/session. Mt Hope Cemetery, 1709 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 243-6538.

"Between Two Worlds." Documentary that on the divisions among Jews that are redefining Jewish identity and politics. 7 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, 100 Main Library, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-6449.

Financial Literacy. Learn how to manage money, and do more with less. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. North West Initiative, 1012 N. Walnut St., Lansing. (517) 999-2897.

Speakeasies Toastmasters Club Meeting. In Building 3, second floor conference room B. 12:05-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham Community Health Center, 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 282-5149.

DJ-hosted Trivia. Prizes awarded to the top three teams. Wide variety of topics, drink specials and 75-cent pizza. 8-9:30 p.m. FREE. Tin Can, 644 Migaldi Lane, Lansing. (517) 925-8658.

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

Maker's/Hackerspace Meeting. To support a wide array of technical & creative disciplines through infrastructure and sharing. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Second Gear Coworking, 1134 N. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 281-7323.

Salsa Dancing. DJ Mojito spins tunes for salsa, merengue & bachata. 9 p.m.-Midnight, FREE. 621, 621 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-2212.

Pickin' in the Park. Grab your guitar, your tambourine or a pair of spoons and show what you can do. 6 p.m.-Dusk, FREE. Burchard Park, Old Town, Lansing. (517) 485-4283.

Artist Caleb Weintraub. Between Willy Wonka and Night of the Living Dead, paintings and installations on cultural identity and notions of morality. 7 p.m. FREE. South Kedzie Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-3961.

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

Curtis Hertel's Town Hall Meeting. 5:30 p.m. FREE. African American Health Institute, 835 W. Genesee St., Lansing. (517) 676-7264.

GRC Business Breakfast. Discuss how Michigan is faring in a knowledge-based economy. 7:30 a.m. FREE/members. James B. Henry Center for Executive Development, 3535 Forest Road, Lansing. (517) 353-4350.

Networking Night. Get the election spirit by networking. At Boji Tower in the 22nd floor at Fraser Trebilcock. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Downtown Lansing, Washington Sqr., Lansing. www.grandriverconnection.com.

Creepy-Crawly Worm Composting Party. Learn about vermicomposting with an opportunity to build your own bin. RSVP by calling. 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$25/build bin. Michigan Energy Options, 405 Grove St., East Lansing. (517) 337-0422.


Capital Honda's Trick or Trunk. Trick of Trunk in cars, horse drawn wagon rides, pumpkin and face

228 Museum Drive, across from Lansing Center

Riverwalk Theatre

CONSPIRACY

Drama by Loring Mandel Directed by James Houska



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EVENTS

See Out on the Town, Page 29

September 29 - October 30, 2011



by Eric Coble

Directed by Tony Caselli

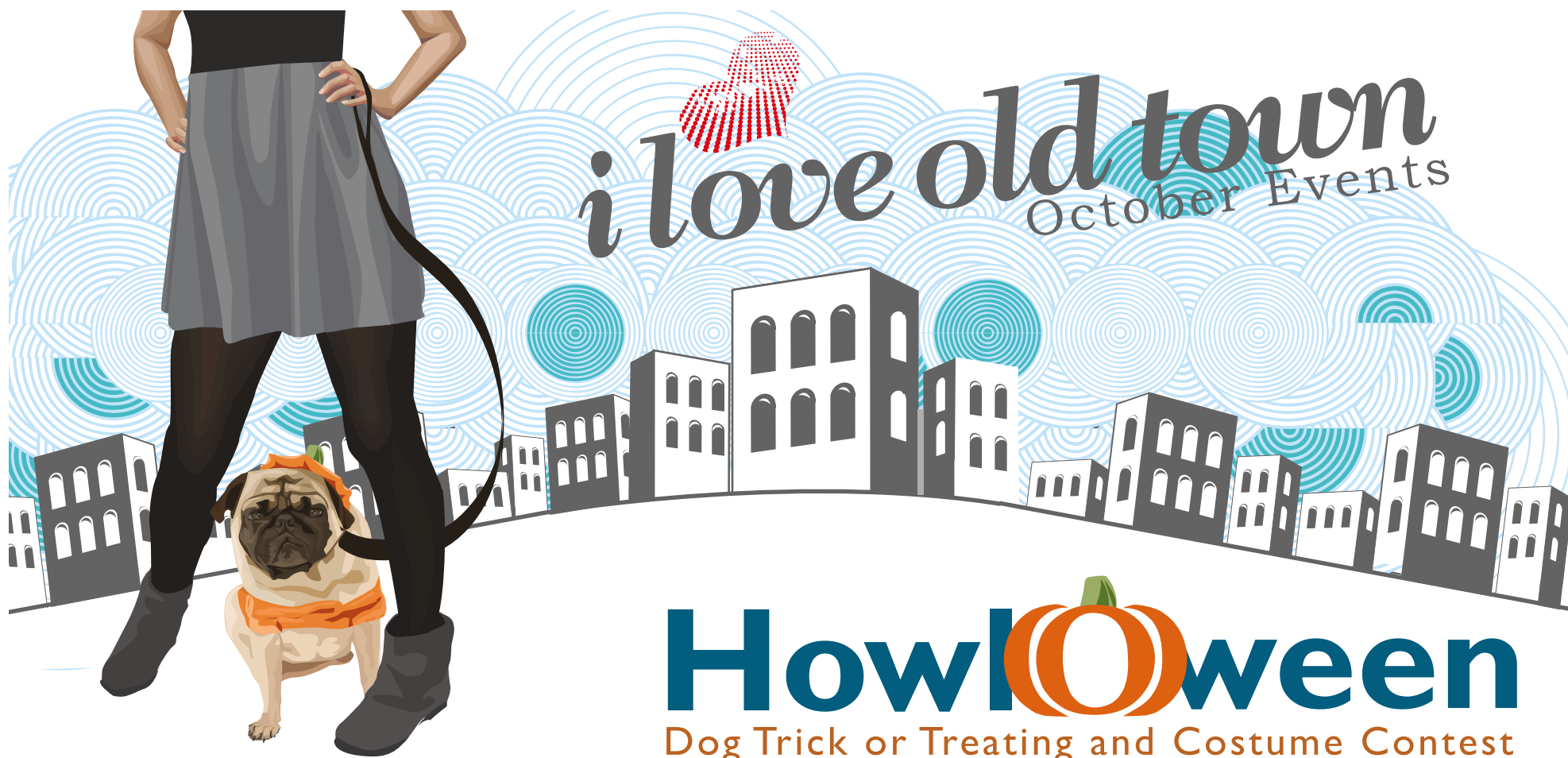
Performances:
Thurs., Fri. & Sat. @ 8PM
Sunday @ 2PM
With 3PM performances on
Saturdays starting October 8

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www.williamstontheatre.org

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Chris Korte
Robin Lewis-Bedz
Ian Page
Chris Purchis
Michelle Serje





HowlOween

Dog Trick or Treating and Costume Contest

Residents Of Old Town Group Meeting

October 20, 2011, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Join us as we discuss issues and more at our monthly ROOT Gr and more at our monthly ROOT Group meeting held at the Old Town Community Garden on N. Cedar across from SuCasa Jewelers.

Princess Tea at Turner Dodge Mansion

October 22, 2011, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Our royal guests will be treated to treats, tea, story time, and a special Make-it-Take it project. Cost is \$8 per person. To reserve your spot, please call 517-483-4220

Old Town Ghost Tour

October 27, 2011, 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Tour begins at 7:30pm at the Old Town Commercial Association. Cost of tour is \$5. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes.

Friday - October 28th, 2011

4-6 pm **Dog Trick-or-Treating in Old Town**

5 pm **Costume Contest Registration**

6 pm **Tim Barron's Costume Contest for Dogs**

7-9 pm **Yappy Hour at Preuss Pets**

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517-371-3221

18+ Welcome



Courtesy Photo

Crunchy's is dedicated to craft beers: Approximately two dozen are always on tap, and 40 to 50 craft beers are included in the monthly rotation, including Samuel Adams' creamy double pumpkin.

Tapping into craft beers

Toast the season at Crunchy's in East Lansing

By JOE TOROK

Beer geeks are a species of connoisseur — not unlike oenophiles — in perpetual search of a beverage both pleasing to the palate on its own and complementary to a meal.

Craft beer continues to grow as an industry, relying on the enthusiasm of beer aficionados looking for something a little less mainstream, unsatisfied with the selection of mass-produced beers on tap courtesy of the historical big three brewers — Anheuser-Busch, Miller and Coors — with their multitude of brands.

In this area, if you're looking for a tap that travels the less beaten path, Crunchy's in East Lansing is good place to start.

Crunchy's has been a destination for beer geeks for over a decade, tapping into the growing popularity of microbrews and offering a steady stream of craft beers.

General manager Michael Krueger has been sampling and selecting craft brews at Crunchy's for almost two years. His own appreciation of beer has grown through the years as a server and bartender at various establishments around town.

Krueger says the first step in beer tasting is noticing the color (more on that

Crunchy's

254 W. Grand River Ave.,
East Lansing
Noon-1 a.m. Sunday; 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Monday-Saturday
For more information on Crunchy's Brewer's Nights, call (517) 351-2506
www.crunchyseastlansing.com

later). Next, a beer lover will look for a good nose, a bouquet of aromas one learns to distinguish from beer to beer with practice.

"Going in blind, the smell hits you first," Krueger says. His own preference is for an IPA, an India Pale Ale, with citrusy and floral notes.

"I like hoppy IPAs," Krueger says. "Others like theirs malty."

One particularly timely brew on tap this month is a tasty pumpkin beer, courtesy of Samuel Adams. The double pumpkin builds on Sam Adams' original pumpkin beer recipe, intensifying flavor and spice. The double pumpkin is creamy and features a bite of pumpkin pie spices (cloves, allspice and the like) that hits the tongue on first sip and leaves a smoky finish.

The creaminess of Sam Adams' double pumpkin comes from the malt, Krueger says.

Most beers look to barley as the grain of choice for malting, though mass producers will use rice or corn for their cheaper price — and cheaper flavor, a beer geek might add. The other basic ingredients of beer include water, hops and yeast.

Malted grains add sweetness to beer, while hops add bitter and other flavorings and the yeast initiates the fermentation process that results in alcohol.

When it comes to craft beers, creativity is vital. Additional ingredients are added to create unique blends and flavors in a brewing process that combines scientific know-how, alchemy and sheer gut feeling.

For neophytes, the sheer number of styles and categories into which beers may fall can be dizzying: there are porters, pilsners, ales, stouts and lagers and more. Beers are also classified by their color (according to the Brewers Association, an organization of craft beer brewers). with over a dozen categories ranging from light to dark, with monikers that include straw, pale, gold, dark amber, copper, chestnut brown and black.

To further complicate matters, craft brewers often add nontraditional and exotic ingredients, resulting in categories that are fuzzy, at best.

"Any classification of beer refers to how it's brewed," Krueger says. "It's based on a certain yeast or hop or malt."

Crunchy's and other restaurants have begun to match beer with menu items. Want a touch of sweetness with your meal? Ask for something malty. Krueger says a hoppy beer typically complements spicy-hot fare; mild flavored lagers go well with pizza; and stouts, with chocolate or coffee undertones, pair nicely with desserts and sweets.

Others have gotten in on the microbrew action, too.

In East Lansing, the newly opened Bagger Dave's matches beers with menu items; Beggar's Banquet has been serving craft beers for years; and Harper's actually brews its own beer onsite.

Craft Beers

from page 30

In Lansing, the Soup Spoon Café has jumped on the craft beer bandwagon, and downtown's Michigan Brewing Co. is an outlet for the Webberville-based craft brewer.

Crunchy's is dedicated to craft beer, with around two dozen always on tap and a monthly cycle that sees 40-50 craft beers rotated through any given month.

Crunchy's also hosts a monthly Brewer's Night, highlighting a specific craft brew-

ery.

Next up is the Grand Rapids-based Founder's Brewery on Nov. 2. Beginning at 7 p.m., revelers will be invited to taste up to 17 different Founder's brews. A sample of four small glasses served on a paddle (a "flight") typically runs \$8. Founder's representatives, and possibly brewers, will be on-hand, answering questions and distributing branded swag.

Beer appreciation might not capture the high culture imagination quite the same way wine enthusiasts do. Then again, matching the right craft beer to a menu item like Crunchy's Bucket O'Pizza Nugs is an art unto itself.

foodfinder

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

CAFES & DINERS

DENNY'S — Home of the original Grand Slam and Moons Over My Hammy, Denny's knows breakfast is good anytime. Also serving a wide range of sandwiches, dinner and desserts. 7330 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. Open 24 hours. (517) 323-2110. Also at 2701 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-0421. TO, \$\$.

FLEETWOOD DINER — A staple on this throwback diner's menu is the Hippie Hash, a medley of shredded potatoes, green peppers, mushrooms, broccoli, onions and tomatoes combined with any meat and cheese on the menu. 2211 S. Cedar St., Lansing. Open 24 hours every day. (517) 267-7606. TO, \$.

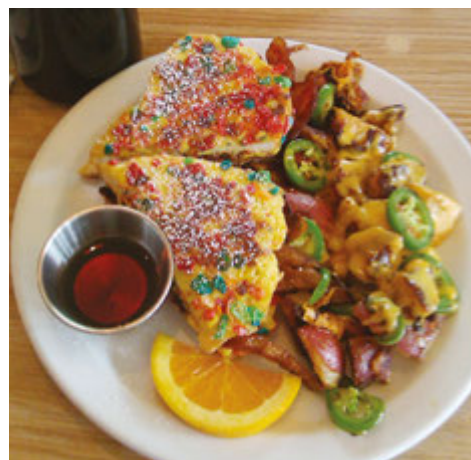
FRANDOR DELI — Pizza, sandwiches and more served cafeteria style in the Frandor shopping center. 300 N. Clippert St., Lansing. 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday, closed Sunday. (517) 351-9342. TO, \$.

GOLDEN HARVEST — Featuring home-cooked meals made from scratch every morning, this breakfast and lunch spot has been a Lansing

staple for more than 50 years. The restaurant's specialties include the popular omelets, waffles and pancakes, all which are homemade. 1625 Turner St., Lansing. 7 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Saturday & Sunday. (517) 485-3663. \$

GONE WIRED CAFÉ — This popular hangout and study spot serves more than coffee. Hungry java junkies can also grab a quesadilla, salad or other menu items. 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday-Sunday. (517) 853-0550. TO, P, Wi-Fi, \$

GRAND TRAVERSE PIE CO. — This bakery, cafe and catering company is known for its pies. They serve fruit and cream pies, potpies and quiches. Their menu also includes sandwiches, salads and grab-and-go dinner items. Also serving espresso and Fair Trade coffees. 3536 Meridian Crossing Drive, Okemos. 6:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. (517) 381-7437. www.gtpie.com. D, TO, P, OM, WIFI, \$ Other locations at 1403 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 6:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-10 p.m.



City Pulse File Photo

One of the imaginative daily specials at Golden Harvest is the Fruity Pebbles-Encrusted French Toast.

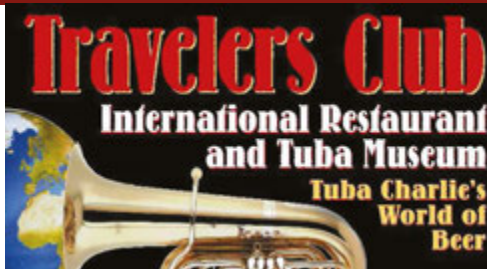
Saturday & Sunday. (517) 203-3304. D, TO, P, OM, WIFI, \$; and at 200 S. Washington Square, Lansing. 6:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. (517) 316-0900. D, TO, P, OM, WIFI, \$

HALAL MEAT & GROCERIES — A grocery store with halal meats doubles as a mini-diner with south Asian fare from a ready-to-serve hot case. Samosas, tandoori chicken, curries and flat bread can be found daily. A meal with two entrées and rice or

bread runs \$7. 2613 E. Michigan Ave. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2:45-8 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday. (517) 367-7288. TO, \$.

HOBIE'S — Hearty soups, subs stacked high with meats and toppings and much more are served cafeteria-style in this restaurant laden with sports memorabilia. 930 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing. 7 a.m.-7:50 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m.-7:50 p.m. Saturday, closed on Sunday year-round. (517) 351-3800. www.hobies-restaurant.com. OM, TO, Wi-Fi, WB, \$

October Special: New England Clam Chowder, served with Pimiento Toast Triangles and some Barley & Carrot Salad, aromatic with fresh dill. Then enjoy broiled White Fish served over Garlic Browned Greens, with a side of steaming Pumpkin & Butternut Squash and a Buttermilk Biscuit



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Our Favorite things Wine Dinner

October 26 : 6:30-8:30 PM

Join us for a five course wine dinner featuring our favorite wines. All wines selected are from wineries that Chef Kevin, C.J. or Matt have visited. Cost is \$49.00 plus tax.

October Beer Tasting - Friday & Saturday

October 28 & 29 : 6:30-8:30 PM

Join us in tasting 12 beers from around the world along with a selection of light appetizers. Cost is \$17.50.

Dusty's Artist Series Presents C.J. Davis

October 30 : 6:00-8:00 PM

Dusty's very own C.J. will be playing his favs from his folk rock, blues & solo days. Hear some things you know and some you don't. He is playing a few songs solo and the rest with his band. 4 course tapas paired with wine and a set of some great songs. Cost is \$49.60.

11/11/11 Wine Tasting - Friday

November 11 : 6:30-8:30 PM

Join us in tasting 12 wines from around the world along with a selection of light appetizers. Cost is \$11.11.

11/12/11 Wine Tasting - Saturday

November 12 : 6:30-8:30 PM

12 wines from around the world along with a selection of light appetizers. Cost is \$11.12.

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visit www.dustyscellar.com for details and tickets



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Livonia - 29220 Seven Mile Rd..... 248.957.8421

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Livonia store: Thursday, October 27 or Thursday, November 10
Space is limited. Please call the store to reserve your seat.

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