

CityPULSE

a newspaper for the rest of us

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August 8-14, 2012

FREE

FORECLOSURE FIGHT

THE UNLIKELY
BATTLE OVER
THE RIGBY ESTATE

PAGE 7



Toarmina's Pizza, page 19

Ingham County Animal Shelter

To adopt one of these pets from the Ingham County Animal Shelter call (517) 676-8370. 600 Curtis St., Mason, MI 48854. ac.ingham.org



Oblio

Oblio is a street survivor! She was pregnant when she arrived at the shelter. She's affectionate and loves attention.
In Memory of Whitey



Sassafras

Sassafras is a spaniel mix. She's had some training, but she'll need a securely fenced yard because she'll want to follow her nose!
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SLICE AT GRAND RIVER



Feedback

Don't forget Eaton County

I look forward to reading City Pulse each week and as such looked forward to reading your primary endorsements. Unfortunately, no endorsements were given for races in Eaton County. Among the primary races here, there is a three-way Democratic primary for House District 71 that certainly warranted an endorsement. There is also a Democratic primary for Delta Township trustee in which there are five candidates on the ballot for four seats--but one has dropped out and will not serve even if elected. Your readers would have been well served if you had included that information, as you surely would have if that were the case in an Ingham County race.

Eaton County is hardly the Republican stronghold that it was in the past, given that Jennifer Granholm, Debbie Stabenow and Mark Shauer have all won the county in their respective races and the Democrats held the majority on the county commission from 2006 to 2010. Though it will be a challenge, it is certainly possible that a Democrat can win the House District 71 seat, so the primary is not insignificant. As such, three very capable individuals have thrown their

hats into the ring for the Democratic nomination. There are also competitive Republican primaries for sheriff and drain commissioner that warranted coverage in City Pulse.

I see City Pulse newsracks in many businesses in Eaton County, which indicates you acknowledge your strong readership here. Please do not forget your west-of-Lansing readers when you make endorsements for the coming November elections.

Peter Ruark
Delta Township

Corrections

A story in last week's issue on the primary race for Meridian Township clerk said that Jim Hershiser had the endorsement of the Ingham County Republican Party. The story should have said Hershiser has the endorsement of the chairman of the Ingham County Republican Party, Norm Shinkle. Also, a story on the Ingham County Circuit Court Judge race should have said Ken Ross is one of the candidates, not Steve Ross.

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:

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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

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

PRIME TIME SENIORS' CULTURAL ART STUDIO ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION
CITY OF EAST LANSING
819 ABBOT ROAD
EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN 48823

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of East Lansing Prime Time Seniors' Program (819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823), up to 11:00 A. M., Friday, August 17, 2012, at which time and place proposals will be publicly opened and read for the furnishing of materials, labor and equipment for the installation of electrical outlets, halogen lighting, and circuits in the City of East Lansing. Proposals may either be mailed C/O Kelly Arndt, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823 or hand delivered to the City of East Lansing Prime Time Seniors' Program Office, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing, Michigan 48823.

The Contract Documents, including Specifications and Bidding Forms may be obtained at the Prime Time Seniors' Program office location.

Prevailing wages are required for this project.

A non-mandatory prebid meeting will be held on-site of the Prime Time Senior Cultural Art Studio (819 Abbot Rd) on Monday, August 13, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.

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

CITY OF EAST LANSING

By: Marie McKenna
City Clerk

CityPULSE

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Great Lakes Folk Festival 2012 brings world music to the streets of East Lansing



Lansing hosts major disc golf tournament this weekend



Ukai serves up a sizzling spectacle



THE RIGBY ESTATE by RACHEL HARPER

CITY PULSE ON THE AIR

THIS WEEK Kristan Small
Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing
Political roundtable with Kyle Melinn



Editor & Publisher
Berl Schwartz

7 p.m. Wednesdays

IMPACT 89FM

THIS MODERN WORLD

EXPERTS AGREE: NOTHING CAN BE DONE

GUNS
THE COLORADO THEATRE MASSACRE HAS AGAIN RAISED THE ISSUE OF GUN CONTROL--
--WHICH NO SANE POLITICIAN WILL TOUCH WITH A TEN-FOOT POLE!
TALK ABOUT A NON-STARTER!

GLOBAL WARMING
SCIENTISTS SAY THAT CLIMATE DAMAGE WILL SOON BE IRREVERSIBLE--UNLESS WE TAKE DRAMATIC ACTION TO CUT EMISSIONS.
LIKE THAT'S GONNA HAPPEN IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ELECTION YEAR!
OR ANY OTHER YEAR.

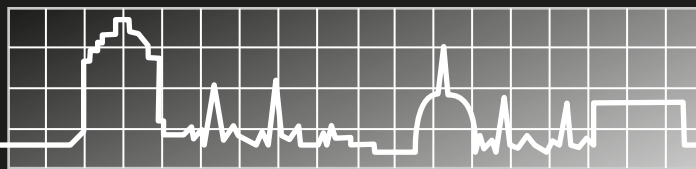
THE BANKING CRISIS
THE LIBOR RATE-FIXING SCANDAL MAKES IT CLEAR--BIG FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS STILL DON'T THINK THE RULES APPLY TO THEM.
AND OBVIOUSLY THERE'S NOTHING ANYONE COULD POSSIBLY DO ABOUT THAT.
WE'VE WASTED PRECIOUS SECONDS OF OUR LIVES EVEN DISCUSSING THE MATTER.

ECONOMIC INEQUALITY
WEALTHY AMERICANS ARE ACTUALLY PAYING SOME OF THE LOWEST EFFECTIVE TAX RATES IN FIFTY YEARS.
IT'S JUST THE WAY THINGS ARE! NO POINT IN GETTING UPSET ABOUT IT!
MIGHT AS WELL ACCEPT IT--YOU'RE POWERLESS TO CHANGE ANYTHING.

VOTER APATHY
FOR SOME INEXPLICABLE REASON, AMERICANS SEEM TO FEEL ALIENATED FROM THE POLITICAL PROCESS.
HOW UTTERLY IRRATIONAL OF THEM!
OH WELL! WHAT CAN YOU DO?
NOT MUCH, AMIRITE?

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PULSE



news & opinion

Funding sidewalks

Would city voters approve a \$2.5 million tax increase over three years for fixing sidewalks? A millage is in the works — and has tentative support from the mayor.

The city of Lansing may be going back to voters for a second November election in a row asking for more public infrastructure funding. This time, it's for sidewalks.

Lansing City Councilwoman Jessica Yorko is leading the initial stages of a proposal that would ask voters at the Nov. 6 election to allow for .5 mills in additional funding “exclusively for the purpose of building, replacing, and repairing sidewalks.” The proposed resolution is before the Council's Public Services Committee, which Yorko chairs, and seeks to amend the City Charter to increase the city's millage rate from 19.44 mills to 19.94 mills for three years beginning on July 1. Council would need to approve the measure at its Aug. 27 meeting to meet the ballot language deadline, Yorko said.

Officials say sidewalk funding has continually declined in recent years, causing safety and accessibility concerns. The proposal appears to have Mayor Virg Bernero's tentative support.

“Mayor Bernero is leaning toward supporting the millage proposal,” Chief of Staff Randy Hannan said in an email. “Sidewalks across the city are in serious need of repair and a 3-year millage would allow the city to make significant improvements to existing sidewalks as well as closing sidewalk gaps.”

In June, Council members agreed the sidewalk gap closure program could use more funding after advice from the citizen Public Service Board, but it's uncertain whether a Council majority will approve putting another millage proposal before voters.

The millage would cost homeowners 50 cents per \$1,000 of taxable home value. It would take effect July 1, 2013, and generate about \$870,000 in the first year and nearly \$2.5 million over three years, city projections show.

In a special May 2011 election, city voters rejected 4-mill property tax increase for police, fire and road services 52 percent to 48 percent. In the November city election, voters approved the proposal — 1.5 mills each for police and fire and 1



mill for road maintenance — by a 52-48 percent margin.

The city's sidewalk problems are twofold, said Chad Gamble, director of the city Public Service Department. There is the standard maintenance and repair and then there is gap closure, where entire sections of sidewalks are missing. According to Gamble, the city needs \$1 million a year for appropriate sidewalk upkeep and \$9.7 million is estimated to be the total cost of gap closure.

A 2005 report compiled by the Public Service Department outlines which sidewalk gaps exist on city-owned major streets and state-owned trunk lines, which are maintained by the city. Of the areas identified in the 2005 report, nearly six miles of the highest priority sidewalks have had gaps closed to date, while almost 65 miles of major street gap closure sidewalks remain unfixed. There are six priority levels, with 1-A being the most important. The report doesn't include neighborhood streets. The Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council and AARP have been doing walkability audits of neighborhood sidewalks since last year, pumping the data back to the city. Gamble said the data is being organized for a new study.

While the millage wouldn't be enough to cover the gap closure costs or cover maintenance expenses entirely, Gamble said it would be a much-needed boost to the city's “woefully inadequate” sidewalk funding.

The Council's Public Service Committee first looked at the proposed Charter amendment on Aug. 1, Yorko said, adding that there are still a lot of details to work out and conversations to be had. The committee, which also includes Council members Kathie Dunbar and Tina Houghton, met with Gamble on Tuesday, but Yorko said they'll still need to meet with the Finance Department before bringing the idea to

Sam Inglot/City Pulse

A proposal has taken shape in a City Council committee that would ask voters for a .5-mill funding increase for improving sidewalks, like this one at Clemens Avenue and Vine Street on the east side.

the City Council at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

The mayoral-appointed Public Service Board gave a presentation to the Council in June showing that more funding for sidewalks is a high priority for the board.

The last two city budget proposals didn't include any General Fund money dedicated to sidewalks. However, the Council amended the current fiscal year budget earlier this year, allocating \$60,000 to fill the most critical gaps, which Bernero supported.

The citizen board in June suggested another way of fixing sidewalks is to restructure how property owners are assessed to bear less of a burden on city coffers. Before 2006, if a sidewalk was damaged, property owners would shoulder 100 percent of the costs for repair. In 2006, the number was lowered to 50 percent and the city pays the other half.

The state of Lansing's sidewalks has been on the Public Service Board's radar for years, board member Shirley Rodgers said. In fact, it's one of its highest priorities.

Although she wouldn't comment on the proposed millage until she had more details, she said, “We think that there ought to be some funding for sidewalks in all of our budgets and whatever the Council thinks is the best way to approach that, the board would likely be supportive.”

Officials say that if the 540 miles of Lansing sidewalks were in pristine condition, there would fewer hit by cars or falling or tripping and the overall appearance of the city would improve.

“Sidewalks enhance the appearance of the city,” Rodgers said. “We're encouraging citizens to walk for health reasons, and they need to have safe sidewalks to accomplish that. It shows the public and businesses that we're trying to attract that we do take care of our infrastructure.”

— Sam Inglot

Eyesore of the week



Property: 1915 Harding Ave., Lansing

Owner: Rollin and April Williams

Assessed value: \$23,200

Owner says: Could not be reached for comment

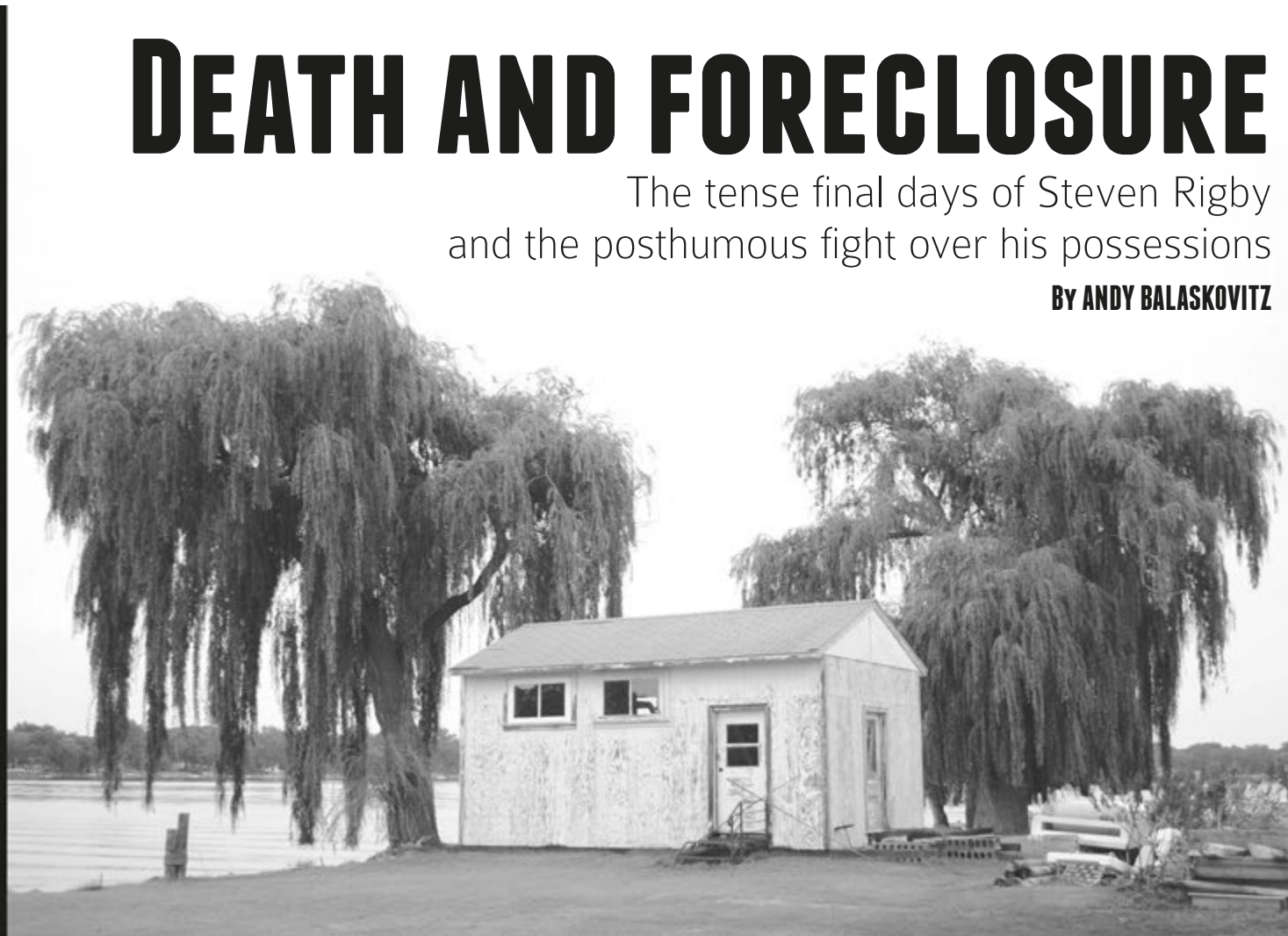
Architecture critic Amanda Harrell-Seyburn says: Enclosing a front porch to gain extra living space, as seen here at 1915 Harding Ave., is a common practice in cold-climate states. It's easy to underestimate the value of a front porch, especially in Michigan. Truth is, a front porch is a relevant feature of a house for more than just half of the year. Consider the tradeoff of enclosing a front porch for more living space: You may gain interior square footage, but you lose the connection to the outdoors. The key to a successful enclosure is transparency: It is a subtle balance between a fully enclosed three- to four-season room and maintaining the semblance of a porch.

Among the row of manicured lawns and well kempt homes on Harding Avenue, this property sticks out like ultra-Republican state Rep. Dave Agema in a mosque. (Google Dave Agema Muslim sometime.)

The molding white siding, hanging rain gutters and boarded window simply don't match the character of this neighborhood just south of Mt. Hope Avenue between Pennsylvania Avenue and Aurelius Road. Apparently there were days when children played here, as evidenced by the countless plastic toys in the backyard and those strewn about the messy inside of the house. The city tagged this house — which records show was built in 1921 — unsafe to occupy, but the tag doesn't say when it was issued.

— Andy Balaskovitz

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



Sam Inglot/City Pulse

DEATH AND FORECLOSURE

The tense final days of Steven Rigby and the posthumous fight over his possessions

BY ANDY BALASKOVITZ

Relatives of Steven Rigby are in a battle with the Ingham County Treasurer's Office over the above property at 6200 Columbia St. on Lake Lansing in Haslett. Rigby routinely paid delinquent property taxes at the last minute, risking his property going into foreclosure. The Ingham County medical examiner determined he committed suicide this year on or after March 29, three days before the deadline to pay back taxes. Rigby's body was not found for up to 34 days, leaving a complicated court battle over who gets to keep the property: the heirs or the county.

We'll never know how Steven Rigby would have wanted this to go down. We do know the Ingham County treasurer and his relatives disagree on how it should.

Rigby's home and his personal possessions have ignited a bitter debate between relatives and the Ingham County Treasurer's Office over who gets what following Rigby's suicide this spring. At stake are prime real estate property valued at a quarter of a million dollars on Lake Lansing, personal possessions and peace of mind following Rigby's death, whose body went undiscovered for up to 34 days — during which time the family says it missed the chance to pay the delinquent property taxes and avoid foreclosure — in his 70-year-old, white one-story house near a cove on the northwest side of Lake Lansing. He was 58.

Rigby was no ordinary taxpayer, no ordinary neighbor and no ordinary relative, the 12 people interviewed for this story say. Employees of the county Treasurer's Office remember Rigby out of several hundred others who are at risk of losing property to foreclosure each year. He was a property tax delinquency regular, you might say. Treasurer Eric Schertzing even remembers dealing with the Rigby family from when he was the chief deputy drain commissioner in the mid- and late-'90s.

Neighbors describe a fickle-tempered man who one day could carry on a friendly conversation and the next day kick you off his lawn. A couple who loaned him money to pay off property taxes last year said Rigby approached them

after three years of no contact, threatening to kill himself if they didn't loan him \$14,000 to pay off delinquent taxes.

And then there's the family. The two attorneys working this case against them strongly suggest they're only coming around now that nearly \$250,000 worth of real estate is available. One attorney, Pat Gallagher, called one of Rigby's cousins, Gordon Small of Lansing, a "money grubber."

But heirs say Rigby purposely estranged himself from them, avoiding contact at all costs.

"BECAUSE MY FATHER WAS NOT CLOSE TO STEVIE DOES NOT MEAN HE WASN'T CLOSE TO THAT LAND AND THE CONTENTS IN THAT HOUSE. IT DOES NOT MEAN THEY CAN JUDGE MY FAMILY'S RELATIONSHIP."

—Kristan Small, daughter of one of the heirs to Steven Rigby's estate

"Stevie was very odd," said Kristan Small, Gordon Small's daughter. "We couldn't push his door down. He did not return our phone calls. He did not return our letters."

Gordon Small, who is 80, called Rigby "very withdrawn and introverted. He would kick neighbors off the grass."

Rigby had told neighbors he'd be leaving town for a while. He told some neighbors Pennsylvania, others Florida, still others New York. When his grass grew abnormally long (he kept it in great shape, neighbors say) and his beloved cats' meowing grew louder, they knew something was up.

The heirs to Rigby's estate — cousins Gordon Small, Beverly Bach of Ohio and Dennis "Jerry" Rigby of California (and possibly more) — say they were never properly notified of cousin Steven's death, which was discovered by Meridian Township Police on May 3, after Rigby's body lay decomposing in his house for up to five weeks. It was another five weeks, on June 10, when relatives first heard he was dead, after a neighbor tracked down cousins Small and Bach. Meanwhile, the Ingham County medical examiner estimated Rigby's suicide to have happened "on/after" March 29.

Rigby, who had regularly waited until the annual deadline to pay his delinquent property taxes — statutorily set as March 31 — may have died within mere days of this year's deadline, which was April 2 because March 31 was on a weekend. As the death certificate states, he could have died before the deadline. It could have been after.

The family says that had they known before the deadline, they would have paid the taxes.

Dead men don't talk.

Meanwhile, the Ingham County Treasurer's Office says it pursued the foreclosure process in standard fashion — relatives would say unreasonably. Gallagher was appointed by Ingham County Circuit Judge Richard Garcia as the personal representative of Rigby's estate, which handled the material belongings within the house. The Treasurer's Office padlocked the doors and nearly sold the home at a July 24 auction. However, Ingham County Circuit Judge

See Rigby, Page 7

Rigby

from page 6

Clinton Canady III intervened a week before it was to be sold, putting the ownership on hold and allowing the family to pay off three years' worth of back taxes and penalties, or \$38,207.49. But the county's not backing down. It plans to appeal Canady's July 16 decision. The money is being held in escrow.

That's where the case stands today: Some of Rigby's possessions have already been sold at an auction and resold at local yard sales; others are still strewn about the house. And it's uncertain who will ultimately own the property. At the heart of this story, though, is Ingham County's tax foreclosure process. Rigby's death presents an unlikely and unique case as to the timing of paying off delinquent taxes, death and who owns property — in this case valuable property because of its location. And perhaps a principle over whether a Circuit judge can override a statutory deadline because, as Canady reportedly said in court, it was the "equitable" thing to do.

PAYING LATE

Rigby's story really began in 2001 after the death of his father, Ellis "Todd" Rigby. Records show Ellis is still listed as the owner of three parcels at 6200 Columbia St. in Haslett, even though Steven lived on and maintained the property following his father's death. Court documents show that Steven had a history of nearly losing the property to foreclosure year in and year out. Some years, he worked out a payment plan with the Treasurer's Office; others, he borrowed money from acquaintances. On March 30, 2011, Mark and Donna Ellis loaned Rigby money to pay off his 2008 delinquent taxes, says an affidavit signed by Ingham County property tax coordinator Karen Conroy after his suicide. "Mrs. Ellis told me that Rigby had come to their house requesting help and had told them that he would commit suicide if they did not loan him the money to pay his taxes," the affidavit says.

Donna Ellis said she and her husband, who was friends with Rigby since junior high, were under the impression the roughly \$14,000 they loaned him would cover taxes from 2008, 2009 and 2010 — not just 2008. "He was in dire straits," Donna Ellis said, confirming that Rigby told them he would commit suicide if they didn't loan him the money. The Ellises hadn't seen Rigby for three years when he approached them about the loan. "Mark and I could not have lived with the guilt knowing we could have helped him and did not," she said. It was a tough decision — the Ellises had to cash out a certificate of deposit early to get him the money — and one they agreed couldn't be done again the next year. She said Rigby did not approach them for more money the next year. On the day after Thanksgiving 2011, she said, "We decided to remove the 900-pound elephant from the room and said it's not going to happen again — don't ask." That was the last time the Ellises spoke to Rigby.

Each year, the Ingham County Treasurer's Office publishes a public notice of tax delinquents three times in December — for the last few years in City Pulse — and notifies owners and parties of interest of what properties are at risk of foreclosure. In February, the properties are foreclosed on if the taxes haven't been paid, but taxpayers have a redemption period until March 31 — April 2 this year



Sam Inglot/City Pulse

A view inside of Rigby's home on Thursday. Relatives say a company was hired to come in and take personal belongings and in doing so ravaged the interior. An auctioneer would not disclose who the company was.

because March 31 was on a Saturday, said Charles Lawler, the attorney in Clark Hill's Old Town office representing the Treasurer's Office. Generally, properties not paid off by the end of the redemption period are sold at one of two auctions later in the year. The county is willing to give extensions, but usually only if a payment plan is worked out before March 31. By March, the county had offered 200 payment plans, information provided by Lawler shows. Following that date, the Ingham County Circuit Court ordered about

20 extensions, mostly if not entirely by Canady, most of which the county "acquiesced" to, Schertzing said. One of those extensions was

"WHAT I'M ALWAYS LOOKING TO DO IS FAIRLY AND EQUITABLY EXERCISE THE STATUTES THAT WE'RE GIVEN. SOMETIMES THAT MEANS BAD THINGS HAPPEN."

—Eric Schertzing, Ingham County treasurer

for Rigby's property, and it's one on which Schertzing strongly disagrees. Lawler, who says the law is clear that only the Appeals Court can decide whether to break the statutory deadline, is preparing a motion to reconsider. If, as is likely, Canady rejects it, then Schertzing intends for Lawler to appeal.

For Schertzing, his concern is about maintaining the integrity of the foreclosure process as outlined by state law — not necessarily obtaining a uniquely valuable property to be sold, though that does play a part, he said. The assessed value of the Rigby property is \$244,200, property records show.

"What I'm always looking to do is fairly and equitably exercise the statutes that we're given," Schertzing said. "Sometimes that means bad things happen."

"The challenge here is that the courts come into play and Circuit Court judges exercise a great deal of authority in these processes," he said, adding that can throw kinks into a 25-month foreclosure process. "I appreciate that a property that is lost to tax foreclosure that has value, people would like to come back and have a second bite at the apple. But folks with less means or properties that are a blight in the neighborhood — no one's ever coming back for those."

Canady did not return requests to be interviewed about why he granted the extension.



Courtesy Photo

Steven Rigby's father, Ellis Todd Rigby, who passed away in 2001. Property records show Steven has not formally taken over the estate and Ellis is still listed as the property owner. Circa 1943.

'WHERE WERE THEY?' AND PERSONAL POSSESSIONS

If the family — and others before who have tried to obtain foreclosed properties after the payment deadline — wants the property so badly, Schertzing asks: "Where were they?" before and immediately after Rigby's death?

"I think it's just too late in the process for somebody to come in," he said, adding that "we go above and beyond to notify families, neighbors and the public at large through publication and advertising...to make sure people are aware."

For the family, the question of "Where were they?" is met with "We didn't know he was dead." Also, Rigby had estranged himself from family members and didn't want anything to do with them.

Kristan Small, a Wexford Elementary teacher and the daughter of Rigby's first cousin Gordon Small, is nearly brought to tears by the question of: "Where were they?"

"We came forward the next business day after we learned he died," Small said. "Because my father was not close to Stevie does not mean he wasn't close to that land and the contents in that house. It does not mean they can judge my family's relationship."

"I'd say to the county: Did you enjoy interacting with Steven Rigby? How dare the county say that?"

Following a recent day in court, 80-year-old Gordon Small recalled growing up on the lake. His grandfather

Rigby

from page 7

built the cottage in the 1940s. “I was out there every summer. I have a lot of memories there,” he said. Gordon Small added that he saw Steven “often” in his “formative years,” but far less so later in life.

“I’m just totally disillusioned about how we were treated,” Gordon Small said of the county. “I hope other families aren’t treated this way.”

Gordon Small also says that had he known about Rigby’s death when it occurred, he would have paid off the back taxes.

But the property taxes are only one part of the story. There’s also Rigby’s personal possessions, many of which have already been sold. After Rigby’s death was reported by the medical examiner on May 3, Probate Judge Richard Garcia appointed the Gallagher Law Firm in Lansing Township to be the estate’s personal representative to handle all of Rigby’s possessions.

Pat Gallagher, who oversaw the process, said after the body was cremated on May 23, he proceeded with publishing the notice of the estate in Ingham County Legal News, saying that was sufficient notice, it fit the impending timeline and didn’t incur extra costs (genealogy search firms can be “quite expensive,” he said). A neighbor found the relatives in about three weeks using ancestry.com.

Around this time, Gallagher also contacted local auctioneer Mel White to do an inventory of the home’s contents, which were worth about \$6,500, Gallagher said.

Gallagher said Gordon Small first contacted him on June 11, saying he wanted to be the estate’s personal representative. “We said great, file a petition with the court because you’re the cousin,” Gallagher said. As of last week, Gordon Small still hadn’t been named the estate’s personal representative because it was found there might be more heirs around the country who have not been contacted. Also, even though contents are still messily scattered throughout the house, a letter from the Ingham County Treasurer’s Office from



Andy Balaskovitz/City Pulse

Kristan Small, left, with her father, Gordon Small. Gordon Small is one of three of Steven Rigby’s first cousins who have come forward as heirs.

June 12 states the personal property must be removed by July 12 or “it will be considered abandoned and the property of the Ingham County Treasurer.”

Meanwhile, White had auctioned off most of the contents to “an antique dealer” to resell. White would not identify the buyer. White said the antique dealer was responsible for the disheveled look of the inside. Also, the neighbor who located relatives — Nanette Meier — inquired about getting Steven Rigby’s father’s ashes that sat in a box on a piano as the house was being cleared out. The movers produced the ashes in a plastic bag within a cardboard box along with photos and other papers, she said in an email. Other personal documents were taken right to Gallagher’s office and later picked up by Kristan Small. Still others — like old report cards, social security cards and a college I.D. from Lansing Community College — were purchased by one of Gordon Small’s friends at a yard sale recently. “That’s our family business,” Gordon Small said. “It has no business being out on the street.”

White and Gallagher both side with Schertzing, saying the county is entitled to the property and that the family came

forward too late. Meier, the genealogist neighbor, said the relatives are being treated unfairly with “no respect” from the county and attorneys.

ARE ALL PROPERTIES CREATED EQUAL?

The case of 6200 Columbia begs the question of whether the county would pursue a property so doggedly if it were worth, say, \$30,000. The Rigby property, three parcels in total, have an assessed value of \$244,200, county property records show.

“It appears the county is acting in pursuit of the profit and not in pursuit of land rights,” Kristan Small said. “It’s the idea that because one piece of property is worth so much, this group of people is having a different experience.”

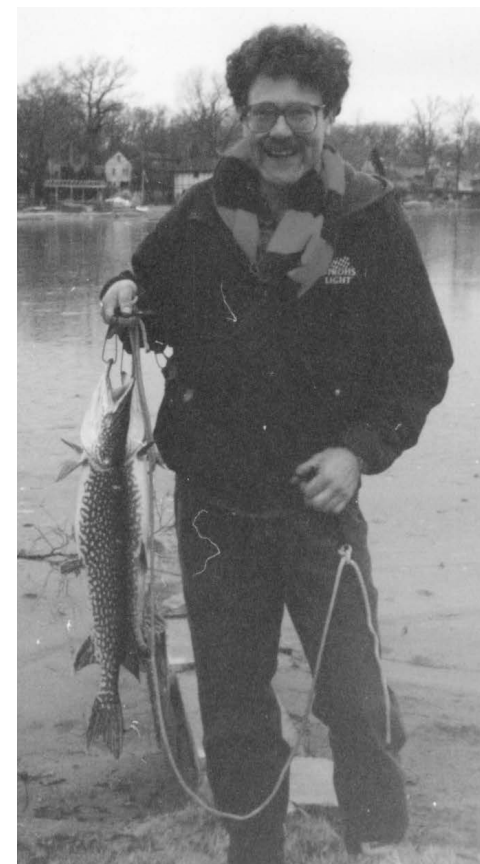
While Schertzing said the county’s pursuit is about upholding the law and not making exceptions for those who have the means to do so, he acknowledged that a more expensive property that could be auctioned off would help offset the costs of the entire countywide foreclosure process. To that, Schertzing said, he is looking out for taxpayers.

Neighbors disagree among themselves as well. A line has been drawn between those who say the county is being unfair and the relatives are the rightful heirs to the property and those who say the family is only in it for the money and that they should have been closer with Rigby if they expect to get the property.

Neighbors and friends describe Rigby as a complicated man. He likely was bipolar, they say, had it been diagnosed. The Rigby family grew up on that property and Steven, after his father’s death, maintained it immaculately, those who knew him say.

“He was extremely protective of the house and the yard,” said Donna Ellis, who helped Rigby pay off delinquent taxes in 2011.

Meier, who lives a few doors down



Courtesy Photo

Steven Rigby is described by relatives, neighbors and county officials as having a difficult personality. Circa 1998.

from Rigby’s property and found the family online, first met him five years ago. They shared an interest in gardening and he would join her while she walked her bichon fries, Biff, around the neighborhood. While she never experienced it personally, “He would just unfriend people at the slightest things,” she said. Another neighbor, who thinks the county ought to get the land and asked not to be identified, said Steven’s father, Ellis Todd Rigby, was the same way.

Of those interviewed for this story, some believe dealing with foreclosure is what finally led Rigby to commit suicide in the house he protected so closely. Others, including Gordon and Kristan Small, declined to speculate on that possibility.

“Dealing with this for 11 years is probably ultimately what put him over the edge,” Donna Ellis said. “He lost hope. He had nothing and no hope of saving the house.”

“That’s a hard call,” Gordon Small said, adding that he could have sold one of the adjacent lots for money.

The final days of Steven Rigby will remain a mystery even after judges offer their opinions and ultimately decide who owns the property. But, as some claim through Rigby’s unpredictable and difficult personality, his ability to turn on friends quickly and his resolve to never formally take ownership of the property from his deceased father, maybe he wanted it that way.

“He made things as difficult as possible,” Ellis said, “even in death.”

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Folk in the road

Great Lakes Folk Festival 2012 brings world music to the streets of East Lansing

By RICH TUPICA

Bob Dylan may have changed music forever and inspired millions of coffee-shop songwriters to pick up an acoustic guitar, but that nostalgic brand of folk music won't be heard at this weekend's Great Lakes Folk Festival in East Lansing. Lora Helou, the festival's associate director, said she respects the Dylan-esque sound, but said the team of organizers is more interested in introducing fascinating faraway cultures to East Lansing.

"Folk music is such a broad term," Helou said. "A lot of people think of it as just Bob Dylan, Peter, Paul and Mary, and James Taylor — the singer-songwriter brand. That's one element, but what we're trying to do is really show the diversity of traditions, ones carried on and passed down through generations."

The free, three-day, multi-ethnic festival is organized and hosted by the Michigan State University Museum, and goes beyond live music, exposing the massive crowd — approximately 90,000 attendees each year — to worldly dance, arts and cultural programs from across America and around the globe. The festival collaborates on programs with Smithsonian Institution, adding to the ambience with hands-on activity workshops and an art fair and market place

featuring works by traditional and "green" artists. Plus there's a lot of tasty food in the Taste of Traditions Food Court.

While music lovers can expect some legit American blues from Piedmont blues artists Jay Summerour and Warner Williams along with the usual mix of bluegrass and Cajun acts, Helou promises another "incredibly diverse" roster of far-reaching genres.

"There will be Armenian and Indian music, music from Iran, polka, and Dominican merengue," Helou said. "It's one of the first times I think we've featured Dominican music. Some people may be big Celtic music fans, and that's what they come to see, but while they're here they might also be totally amazed by something they've never heard before. It's sort of a fun sense of discovery in a lot of ways."

Helou said performers often fall in the "left of the dial" category, but are recognized and respected in their given genre.

"We're not doing pop music here so it's maybe a little bit more under the radar, just because of the whole diversity of these musical genres," she said. "But we're getting a lot of great feedback on



Courtesy Photo

Bluegrass artist Claire Lynch brings her quartet to the Great Lakes Folk Festival stage this Friday and Saturday in downtown East Lansing.

(popular bluegrass artist) Clare Lynch. We've actually been trying to book her for a couple years so we're happy that she's going to be here. Also the Freight Hoppers, they're just a terrifically talented group."

Ron Eggleston, a volunteer and blues representative on the festival's committee, credits Patrick Powers, the event's coordinator, photographer, and head of music programs, for keeping each year fresh.

"Pat (has) done a wonderful job at bringing in young, new talent," Eggleston said. "People have started to realize that it doesn't matter if you've heard of someone or not—it's going to be a quality act. The variety is great."

Eggleston will also present one of the four Michigan Heritage Awards to the late Detroit bluesman Johnnie Bassett, a Great Lakes Folk Festival veteran who died last week after complications from a stroke.

For attendees who enjoy piping in, the Community Singing event happens at 3:15 p.m. Saturday at the Abbot stage outside Beggar's Banquet. The event's song leaders, Mark Dvorak and Sally Potter, welcome everyone to the two-hour event, no matter the skill level.

Helou said the festival still has three stages, but the main, open-air venue has shifted down to the

City Hall parking lot to escape the road construction going on in downtown East Lansing. The M.A.C. stage has been axed for the year, but the Albert Avenue dance tent and stage remain in place.

A Campus and Community theme is also spreading across the fest this year, with much of it centered at the Legacy Stage near Dublin Square. It will focus on the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act, a bill signed by Abraham Lincoln that provided funding for universities. But the grassroots emphasis doesn't stop there.

"We're, of course, focusing on Michigan State University," Helou said. "We've got different research programs that are spotlighting everything from community gardens, green building, and then some more light-hearted looks at campus."

Amber Shinn, a longtime volunteer, said taking part in the festival has helped her stay involved in the community. She said the event never fails to open her ears to lively new sounds, even though, to her, "folk" feels like such a "dusty, antique word."

"Since I've started attending the festival, I've fallen in love with Zydeco and sacred steel, danced to Malian kora music, and even learned to Merengue," Shinn said. "I've clapped along to Caribbean junkanoo, Irish Celtic and heard amazing blues. This year I'm excited to check out international strings, like the Indian sitar, Ethiopian begena and Iranian kamança. I'll take those over Justin Bieber any day."

Courtesy Photo

Leroy Thomas, one of top Zydeco players in the country, is a featured artist at this weekend's Great Lakes Folk Festival in East Lansing. This year's festival emphasizes world music with a variety of performers and styles.



'It was a good run'

Kristine Thatcher looks at life after Stormfield

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Parking lot seagulls pace around the Sears water tower in the Frandor Shopping Center, looking as out of place as Chekhov characters in a strip mall. There are few hints of what went on inside the nondescript little building nearby, the former Stormfield Theater, which officially closed June 30 after three years.

Artistic director Kristine Thatcher hasn't gone back to the unlikely cubicle that sheltered her dream of keeping professional theater alive in Lansing.

"I haven't looked through the windows or anything," she said. "I had my shot at running a theater. I did the best I could, and it's time to move along."

With grant money shrinking and donors strapped for cash, there's little chance Stormfield will come back, she said, but that comes almost as a relief to her.

Thatcher is facing a round of "serious" health problems that came to light just as



Courtesy Photo

Longtime Lansing theater staple Kristine Thatcher recently bid adieu to the fledgling Stormfield Theater, which closed after three years. She plans to re-focus on her writing as soon as her recent health problems clear up.

the theater was winding down. She didn't want to go into detail about them.

"I've got a great team at Sparrow, and I hope to make a full recovery," she said.

In the longer term, she wants to get back to an absorbing pile of long-put-off writing projects.

"I was a playwright before I came back here," she said. "I need to start writing again, maybe do some freelance work directing and acting."

A modest sign and a few other remnants still testify to Stormfield's three-year,

seat-of-the-pants run. The two-by-fours wedged into the windows held up judo mats that kept the house dark. The pots, buckets and tin cans that caught the leaks are pushed together into one corner.

"We improvised a lot," Thatcher said. "I was really proud of the productions we put on there. There were lots of problems, but the space also made you get creative."

It's a stretch, perhaps, but the sensitive, literate Thatcher has a lot in common with the autocratic Captain Bligh of the HMS Bounty: they were both booted off

the big boat they commanded, only to work miracles on a smaller one. Thatcher returned to her native Lansing in 2005 from Chicago, where she made a strong mark as playwright and actress, to take over the Boarshead Theater. She founded Stormfield in August 2009, a few months after she was laid off from the struggling Boarshead.

Then came the storms.

After the famous mutiny, Captain Bligh and 19 loyal British navy officers made the 3,600-mile journey from Tahiti to Southampton, England, in a 23-foot longboat.

Thatcher laughed at the image, recalling how loyal Thatcherites — staff, crew and actors from Boarshead — jumped with her into the Frandor parking lot dinghy with her in 2009 and took the heavy weather with a smile.

"I can't believe we even made it for three years," she said. "And if we're going with sea images, my donors were the Rock of Gibraltar."

In June, Thatcher wrote a letter to Stormfield's 400-odd donors explaining the decision to fold.

"One of my largest donors wrote back and said, 'I could have told you this was going to happen,'" Thatcher said. "And yet she was always right there for us and went along with whatever fantasy I was in."

Last month, it became clear that the theater didn't have the wherewithal to go on. Two years of negotiations to move the theater to a new venue foundered. Thatcher didn't want to name the venue, because "the main developer was really kind to us." Sources close to Stormfield confirmed it was the new theater under construction at the

See Thatcher, Page 11

A smooth 'Crossover'

Local artist Phil Denny drops debut CD

By RICH TUPICA

Phil Denny has no regrets about his drastic career swap. Two years after ditching his day job as vice president for US Capital Mortgage, the Lansing native has adeptly transitioned into his dream job as a professional smooth jazz saxophonist.

"I just had to take a step back and make a career decision," Denny said. "The turmoil the mortgage industry was experiencing at the time (inspired me to) pursue music full time. I made it a business for me."

That risk has already paid off for Denny. Earlier this year, he was invited to participate

in the 10th Annual Dubai International Jazz Festival, allowing him to rub elbows with talent such as Jason Mraz, James Blunt and Spyro Gyra. And this Friday, Denny is dropping his debut album "Crossover" at an exclusive CD release performance party at south Lansing's Best Western Hotel ballroom. While Denny has been playing the saxophone for 22 years, "Crossover" is his first venture into original arrangements, all of which will be featured at Friday's show.

"Until recently, I played a lot of cover tunes at (local) bars and events," he said. "This is my chance to really identify who I am as an artist on my instrument. This is my voice at this point. People can identify the tone of my horn and some of the melody writing. I put a lot of effort into those things."

Denny listeners may hear traces of his heroes, like Grover Washington Jr., Kirk Whalum, Richard Elliot and Boney James, but his scope doesn't stop at one genre.

"I'm kind of across the board with influences," he said. "From R&B and neo-soul to smooth jazz and guitar sounds from the '80s, the new album infuses a lot of different rhythms. It has melodic hooks — some reviewers are calling them infectious grooves. It's got a bit of that sexy, sultry side to it, and it's also got the up-tempo stuff that breaks outside of the traditional smooth jazz box."

LaToya English, Denny's event coordinator, said Denny's dedication is evident not only in his music, but his diligent promotional tactics.

"Phil is very dedicated with music, (and) his hard work shows," English said. "He goes out and passes out his own fliers and talks to people. The VIP section sold out weeks ago, (and) we're actually thinking of asking the hotel to open up another section of the ballroom so he can accommodate more guests."

"It's been a great transition so far," Denny said. "I'm my own boss, but I still have an agenda every day. I work eight to 12 hours a day. It's more than performing on the stage. It involves building relationships, networking on social media and doing things in the community. But I'm also a father, so at the same time it's opened up my schedule for the kids."



Courtesy Photo

Local jazz saxophonist Phil Denny celebrates the release of his debut CD this weekend with a performance at south Lansing's Best Western Hotel ballroom.

Phil Denny "Crossover" Album Release Concert

Friday, Aug. 10
8 p.m. doors, 9 p.m. show
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6820 S. Cedar St.
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\$15 advance, \$20 door
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Hitchcock farce beats the heat

Frenzied quick-change extravaganza sets Grand Ledge stage on fire

By TOM HELMA

For those of us who have vague recollections of the 1935 Alfred Hitchcock movie “The 39 Steps,” rest assured that this is not a stage version of that movie. Rather, it is a parody of that movie — and of the entire genre of Hitchcock films. Director

The 39 Steps

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Saturday
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students
(517) 318-0579
overtheledge.org

Rick Dethlefsen has assembled a seamless sequence of sight gags and silly shtick that is sufficiently sharp and snappy — and also overcomes the torpor of hot August nights and lack of ventilation of the old red barn of Fitzgerald Park in Grand Ledge.

The play opens with Jason Woodworth, in the lead role of Hannay, duplicating the dead-pan mannerisms of Masterpiece Theatre’s Alastair Cook. The play soon explodes,

however, into a flurry of activity, with overlapping action scenes featuring actors hanging perilously off the sides of virtual railroad cars and strobe lighting effects simulating slo-mo movements that result in impeccable comic timing. Three other actors round out the cast, each of whom play multiple roles and who keep things moving throughout most of the first act. A scene with multiple hat changes, each one suggesting a different character with a different accent, accelerates to hats dropping everywhere, and while the weight of sweat-laden costumes slows down the action a bit in Act II, a bawdy bedroom scene between the two main actors, complete with handcuffs, keeps the audience alert and attentive.

There isn’t much of a real plot to this convoluted comedy. Rather, it is like a storm surge of oncoming ocean waves, one joke crashing in after another until the audience is applauding wildly. A scene near the top of the show in which Kathleen Egan, in the role of Annabelle, dies from a hyper-dramatic stabbing and falls across Hannay seated in a chair, ends

Lansing-area actors. She fondly recalled the theater’s first fully staged production in October 2010, “Among Friends,” written by Thatcher, with Lansing mainstays Aral Gribble and John Lepard and Chicago import Bill Bannon.

“Those three guys came together, committed to it and put on one of the best productions I’ve ever seen, in that tiny little space.”

In 2011, the bizarre “Kimberly Akimbo,” with veteran actress Carmen Decker as a prematurely aging teenager, was another highlight.

“That was our largest cast, with six people,” Thatcher said. “On that stage, that’s a lot.” To deal with many changes of scene, designer Michelle Raymond made stackable orange modules the crew called “Cheetos.”

“In about a minute’s time you were at an ice skating rink, the kitchen table, or wherever you had to be next,” Thatcher said. “That was the brilliance of Michelle Raymond.”

When the health problems are under control, Thatcher looks forward to getting back to work on three long-shelved plays that will delve with her customary acuity and sensitivity and into tangled skeins of American history, personality, race and politics.

The first play will bring to life an “amazing, exceptional writer and human



Courtesy Photo

Over the Ledge’s slapstick take on Hitchcock’s “The 39 Steps” keeps the audience in stitches, but could use some ventilation.

with Hannay realizing he is pinned down and has to crawl out from under her. His escape from under her now-dead body is a must-see extensive sight gag.

Josh Martin and Jeff Kennedy are Clown I and Clown II and play most of the supporting roles. (I lost count of how many at 12.) Combining fright-wigs and a variety of English, Scottish and German accents with characters of indeterminate gender, Martin and Kennedy set the stage on fire with their comic improvisations.

There comes a point at which one realizes that this play isn’t going anywhere.

being,” Leanita McClain, one of the first African-American editors at the Chicago Tribune. Deeply depressed by the “race war” that accompanied Harold Washington’s election as Chicago’s first black mayor, McClain wrote an essay, “How Chicago Taught Me to Hate Whites” and committed suicide.

“A Fair to Middlin’ Woman” will tell the story of Suzanne Dechevaux-Dumesnil, playwright Samuel Beckett’s wife.

“There would have been no Samuel Beckett without her,” Thatcher said. “She saved him from the Nazis. ‘Endgame’ is about the end of their relationship, and nobody knows anything about her. People don’t even know he was married.”

Thatcher’s most ambitious project, “The Bloodhound Law,” will recreate the Chicago Common Council’s deliberations as it passed a resolution calling on city

No matter. An improvised airplane wheels across the stage, a la “North by Northwest.” No context. An actress climbs a 2-foot ladder announcing that she has ... (dramatic pause)... “Vertigo.” The audience groans, then laughs. The sound track from “Birds” is injected. No relevance. Each time the title of the play is mentioned, there is a dramatic movie music cue. Bits go on and on, until, eventually, the audience is exhausted from laughter. Mercifully, it ends, and the cast of four, now sweat hogs, drip their way onto the stage for a final set of earned applause and damp bows. Phew!

police not to enforce the Fugitive Slave Law, which mandated the return of runaway slaves. Chicago’s City Lit Theatre, where Thatcher is associate director, commissioned her to write the play as part of a five-year Civil War Sesquicentennial project. The drama will be crammed with bigger-than-life characters, such as abolitionist Frederick Douglass, underground railroad pillars John Jones and Mary Richardson Jones, and Stephen Douglas, nemesis of Abraham Lincoln, who opposed the council and supported the Bloodhound Law.

Thatcher’s three-year tussle with the logistics of tiny Stormfield should stand her in good stead. “The problem, at the moment, is how to recreate the (Chicago) Common Council without 17 guys on stage,” she recently wrote in a letter to City Lit. “Don’t worry, I won’t do that to you.”

Thatcher

from page 10

Heights at Eastwood complex.

“Each time we’d get together, the space was beginning to morph a little,” Thatcher said. “It was becoming a shared space and more and more constrictive for us. We wouldn’t have been able to do a full season.”

By the 2011-’12 season, the recession caught up with Stormfield. “We needed a full-time person just to go after the money, but we were all wearing two or three hats already,” she said.

The theater’s short history made it hard to compete for grants, and the plan to change venues further complicated the fiscal picture. “While we were trying to put (the new venue) in place, we couldn’t announce it to the world,” Thatcher said. “We couldn’t start a capital campaign.”

She called the last three years a “good run.”

“I was impressed that the people who followed us from those comfortable seats at the Boarshead and that wonderful stage to this tiny building and those uncomfortable plastic molded chairs.”

A key arrow in Stormfield’s small quiver was Thatcher’s ability to draw top Chicago talent as well as the cream of

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'All of the frustration, none of the prestige'

Lansing hosts major disc golf tournament

By SAM INGLOT

Those metal baskets with dangling chains you may see at the local public park are not trashcans or weird barbecue grills. And no, Sidewinder, Monster, Destroyer, and Boss are not ex-American Gladiators. You are now entering the realm of disc golf: the baskets are disc golf "holes" and those pro wrestler-sounding handles being the name brands for the discs used in the offbeat sport.

The baskets, throwing styles and vast array of colorful discs are just as varied as

Information and Pre-Registration

for the CCR Open, go to discgolfscore.com/tournaments/CCR_Open_2012. There are 13 divisions of tournament play, with group and competition divisions for players at all levels. Entry fees range from \$30 to \$100.

fool you — there are disc golfers that take the sport to a level of passion and professionalism comparable to the PGA. And this weekend, national and local disc golfers from around the country — including several touring Professional Disc Golf Association athletes — will converge in Lansing for the CCR Open, the largest local tournament of the year.

The Capital City Renegades, a Lansing-

the people who play the game. But even though you're more likely to see players rocking a Grateful Dead T-shirt than a Nike polo with matching visor, don't let that casualness

area disc golf club started in the 1980s, will host the event, which will feature three days of disc golf from Friday to Sunday at Grand Woods Park in Delta Township and Burchfield Park in Holt. Renegades vice president Jeff Dutka said four professional disc golf players have made commitments to attend, and national disc retailer Dynamic Discs is sponsoring the tournament along with local retailers J-Bird Discs and DJ Discs. There will also be a live DJ and free food for registered players.

Also playing this weekend, Dutka said, is "international supermodel" and disc golf celebrity Holly Finley, who has modeled for designers like Oscar de la Renta, Calvin Klein and Louis Vuitton.

The Capital City Renegades hosts 14 events a year and recently held several youth clinics in the area to teach kids about the sport and to promote outdoor activities.

"People are drawn to disc golf in many different ways," Renegades president Matthew Rinker said. "I was drawn to the sport because it was an inexpensive way to get outside on a beautiful day and enjoy the nature that our parks provide. Now I play because I love the game. I love the sound the chains make when the disc smashes into them, I love watching a perfectly

See Disc Golf, Page 13



Sam Inglot/City Pulse
Jeff Dutka, CCR vice president, attempts to sink a short shot at Burchfield Park, a course that members of CCR helped design and construct.

Less filling, tastes lame

Inaugural beer and music festival fell short of expectations

By SAM INGLOT

There is more than enough room for improvement for the Michigan Rock N Brew festival after last weekend's bust of a maiden voyage. It was a first-year festival — and you could definitely tell.

After pulling the plug just days before what was supposed to be the first Rock N Brew last year, event organizers went out of their way to secure all the proper licenses and sufficiently paper the town with their bright orange fliers and posters. Alas, it still seems efforts would have been better spent elsewhere.

It was advertised as a festival that sought to promote a vast array of Michigan music, businesses, environmental concerns and microbrew beer. But when I attended the event on Saturday, all I kept asking myself, "What are they trying to be?"

There was definitely plenty of

"rock," with over 25 musical acts ranging from rockabilly to metal, but the "brew" aspect really seemed to be lacking. For the record: I'm a beer-snob. For me, it's craft brew or nothing at all. With craft beers being a focal point of the festival, I was disappointed to learn that even after paying for a \$30 day pass or a \$50 weekend pass, you still ended up paying \$5 per beer. That's more than I'd usually pay at the bar. [Editor's note: The writer and others received complimentary tickets.]

Having the name Michigan Rock N Brew, I expected a wider selection than what is typically available at the local watering hole—but there were two beer tents that served basically the same 10 or so beers. If you promote beer as one of the event's tent poles, I'd expect to have individual beer tents from each brewer, sample size drink options and more variety.

Even worse was attendance. Other media have reported that only 1,000 tickets to the event were sold (far short of the 3,000 they had claimed and the 2,000 they supposedly

needed to break even), but all I saw when I was there Saturday afternoon were a few dozen folks milling about and trying to stay out of the sun. And oh, that sun. The rain-or-shine event certainly didn't benefit from the shine that was going on. With temps in the 90s — and not a cloud in sight — the sun and humidity made standing in front of the stage a straight-up challenging affair. Another big headsatcher was the VIP setup, which was nothing more than a section of fenced-off sofas baking in the afternoon sun. You were better off standing under a tree.

I love what Rock N Brew is trying to go for, but in its inaugural year it missed the mark. Next year I'd like to see individual brewer tents with sample sizes of a larger choice of drafts. Don't just serve beer — celebrate it. Having separate tents would really highlight the unique styles and traditions of each company and give festivalgoers a chance to talk tap with their favorite crafters. And please — please — more shade.

Claire Lea/City Pulse

Tyler Bryant and The Shakedown were one of the inaugural Rock N Brew headliners.



Modern family

LCC's Community Dance Project brings dance to the masses

By HOLLY JOHNSON

Modern dance showcases aren't known blockbusters in the entertainment world, but that's not stopping a group of nearly two dozen choreographers from attempting an epic feat of synergistic pageantry. "Sometimes the audience for local dance is not terribly strong," said Lisa Whiting-Dobson, stage manager for this week's gargantuan Community Dance Project at LCC's Dart Auditorium. "By coming together as a

community, we can pull more viewers than we can with just one school or choreographer."

Well, it worked for "The Avengers," and there were only seven of them. The Community Dance Project assembles 19 seasoned and novice dance choreographers from across Michigan to bring the art of modern dance to the forefront of community arts experience.

The event, now in its eighth year, will be split over tonight and Thursday night, with performances composed of five or fewer dancers performing tonight and larger-cast performances of six or more tomorrow. Music ranges from classical to contemporary, producing an eclectic blend of artistic expression. By combining emerging and professional choreographers, each choreographer was able to share their techniques, providing for a community-based learning environment.

"Part of the experience of being a choreographer is how you get your ideas onto a body," Whiting-Dobson said. "You've got to take the ideas you have and make them work with a group of dancers."

Featured dancers include local high school students, MSU and LCC students and graduates and area professionals. The idea of combining dancers that vary in their levels of expertise creates a balanced atmosphere with a primary focus on education.

According to the group's website, the project's mission is to "enhance the understanding and accessibility of the modern dance genre by providing the foundation to share knowledge between novice and experienced choreographers." They also yearn "to expose audiences to the choreographic process, to strengthen relationships among various community dance agencies and to perform in a variety of venues that bring modern dance to the Greater Lansing community." Not ambitious, or anything.

But it's not simply to entertain that drives the folks behind the project — they also want to instruct their audiences, and to make modern dance more understandable to the public. Choreographers will address the audience before the presentation of each dance, sharing their intentions and process to more fully illuminate. At the end of the show, dancers and choreographers alike retake the stage to participate in a talkback session that will hopefully clear up any mysteries for the (potentially bedeviled) spectators.

With sponsorship from Okemos-based dance company Happendance, and Lansing Community College — and with

mini-grants from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and assistance from the Arts Council of Greater Lansing — the Community Dance Project has been able to stimulate support for the art of dance throughout the Lansing area. It knocked the socks off attendees at last weekend's Lansing JazzFest in Old Town, and both groups of dancers are set to perform Sunday at (SCENE) Metrospace in East Lansing.

Courtesy Pulse

Grand Valley State University student Jesse Powers and MSU student Sarah Dobson in "Rumors," one of the dances performed at last year's Community Dance Project.



Disc Golf

from page 12

thrown disc soar 400 feet, and I even love the sound of a disc hitting a tree dead center. They are all aspects of the game that make it fun, exciting and unpredictable. It's like traditional golf with all of the frustration but none of the prestige."

Disc golf has many similarities to traditional golf, with shared terms such as bogey, birdie, fairway and the shouting of, "Fore!" uniting them. The goal is to throw your disc into the chain-link basket in as few tries as possible, just as in traditional golf, complete with a tee-off area and par system. But the main difference is what's flying through the air. Rather than using a variety of clubs to control the ball's distance as in golf, disc golfers use different flying discs in their approach to the baskets. The discs range from distance drivers to midrange and putters. Different types of plastic, weights and designs give discs varying properties based on how a thrower wants it to sail.

"Most players have at least three discs in their bag, a driver, a midrange and a putter," said Dutka. "Some of us carry as many as 15 to 20 discs which allows for more specialized choices depending on the weather and course conditions."

Cost is a major perk to disc golf — green fees are negligible, and discs range from \$9 to \$18. You can barely get a sleeve

of golf balls for that price these days.

"One of the sport's greatest appeals is its accessibility," he said. "Some of the nicest courses in the world cost no more than \$5 a round and most are free so you don't need to be rich to play the game. Typically the only cost is the access fee for the local or state park."

Walking around Grand Woods Park it's obvious that most players there are not looking to impress anyone or show-up the rookies. The sport is very laid back, with congregations of disc golf-goers forming behind players winding up to throw, swapping stories, showing off discs, and talking shop.

"It really has a festival type feel," Dutka said, "It allows for folks to get a close up look at the game in a comfortable setting."

WHERE TO DISC GOLF IN THE AREA?

You don't need to go far to find disc golf courses around Lansing, and this weekend you won't have to go far to see competitive play. To the right are a few courses that Dutka recommended for those living in the capital region.

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Satanic verses

Author Michael Poore provides some damned good summer reading

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Michael Poore must have had a devil of a good time writing his debut novel "Up Jumps the Devil" about a modern-day Lucifer on the make for souls. Poore would probably be the first to admit that the Prince of Darkness is one hell of a popular character in literary fiction; he was, after all, inspired by reading "The Devil and Daniel Webster" in his youth.

Since the devil began showing up in literature in the 1300s in works such as Dante's "Inferno," there's been no

shortage of casting calls for him as either protagonist or antagonist. He's there in Milton's "Paradise Lost" and Marlowe's "Doctor Faustus" and is later exported to America, where Mark Twain dropped him into "Letters from Earth." Most recently, transgressional fictionist Chuck Palahniuk ("The Fight Club") cast Old Nick in his novel titled simply "Damned."

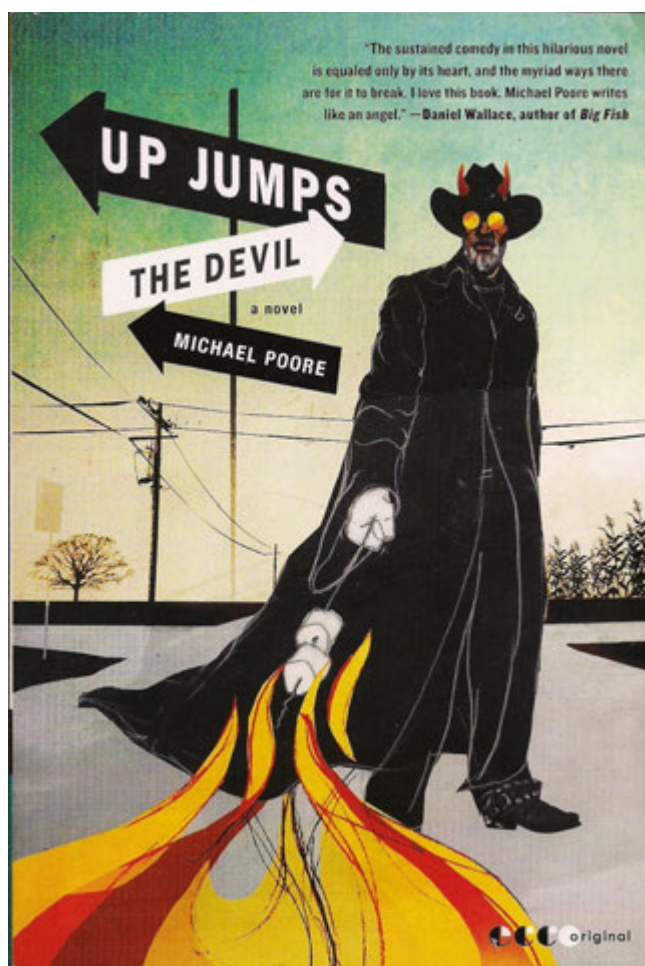
The devil's dark doings have captivated authors for centuries, so it was only natural for Poore to continue this love affair.

"I was always fascinated about what may be hiding in the closet," Poore said. "There is a great deal we don't know about ourselves, and it sounded like a lot of fun to write about."

Initially, Poore wrote his devil, John Scratch, as a porn star with amnesia, but he admits that was a bad idea. He then turned to classic Americana, tracing Scratch's interaction with humanity from Plymouth Rock through the '60s music scene. Poore, who teaches American history in his day job (he's a seventh grade social science teacher in northern Indiana, and he said this book is off-limits for his class due to content), has woven some memorable historic moments throughout his book.

Always one to take advantage of opportunities as they present themselves, Scratch throws in with the Puritans. He describes them as a clumsy lot: "If the white people had a plan, he observed over time it was this: Come ashore, build a fort, and starve to death." Scratch makes some promises to the passionate Jenny Mather, through whom he assists the early American settlers to climb out of their death spiral. He later works closely with Nat Turner, starts a reality TV show, and finds himself in Alcatraz working with the Aryan Brotherhood.

Later, the devil runs across Memory, Zachary and Fish, a trio of down-on-their-luck musicians at the proverbial midnight crossroads. The promise of fame, power and wealth leads to the cutting of



Courtesy Photo

The devil comes up to 16th century America and sticks around through the Woodstock Era in Michael Poore's assertive debut novel, "Up Jumps the Devil." Poore is coming to Schuler Books in Okemos on Thursday, Aug. 19 to discuss his book.

a deal, harkening back to the legend of blues great Robert Johnson and the plot of Charlie Daniels' song "The Devil Went Down to Georgia." After Scratch promises one of promoters a huge crowd, the band finds itself on stage at Woodstock — until a biblical wind destroys the stage and their dreams. In the devil's world, not everything is as it seems and we then follow our budding musicians as their lives go in unsuspected directions. All the while, Scratch pines for Memory, who has a little problem with her lower case memory.

Poore said he thought it was important

audacious novel that can be both horrifying and humorous, with touches of Vonnegut and Irving.

As he writes about Memory, "Fame is like an animal, too. It was like having a lion on a silver chain. It impressed people that you had it. It brought you good things, but it made demands, too. It had to be fed. It was phones that never stopped ringing. It was deadlines and miles to be traveled and hard work to be done."

The road to hell is paved with good intentions, indeed.

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AMY ALKON
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Attention defici—oooh, shiny!

Q: My girlfriend of eight months has ADHD (attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder). She was diagnosed about 10 years ago, in her early 20s. She takes medication that helps her focus better at work and has steps (like writing everything down) to avoid forgetting important things, stay more organized, etc. Despite this, she is very disorganized and often gets distracted. (I sometimes catch her checking out when we're right in the middle of a phone conversation.) She often runs late when we are supposed to be someplace and forgets things — minor things as well as major things. She can also be very impatient. There are a lot of great things about her and us, and we do love each other. Still, when she forgets about me or is totally unready (as in, unshowered and wearing a towel) when I come to pick her up, I can't help but feel like not quite a priority to her.

—The Boyfriend

A: There are surefire ways to get a woman's attention, like kneeling and pulling out a big gleaming rock. For an ADHD woman, you may also want to hire one of those street-corner sign-spinner guys to stand next to you in a chicken suit jerking a big arrow at the ring. This should substantially improve your chances of hearing a simple yes or no instead of "Oh, no, I think I left my stove... we should order Chinese. Did I charge my cellphone? Look, a spider!"

ADHD is a stupidly named disorder. Those with it don't have a deficit of attention; they just have problems controlling the *allocation* of their attention, explains researcher Martha Bridge Denckla, M.D., on Dana.org. People blame ADHD on too much videogaming, too much television, sheer laziness, and even the use of green chalkboards and yellow chalk. (Therapist

Susan Tschudi, author of "Loving Someone With Attention Deficit Disorder," heard that last one on the radio; a caller was convinced it had caused her son's ADHD.)

Researchers can't say conclusively what causes ADHD, but Tschudi notes that there's strong evidence it's a "neurobiological disorder in which the neurotransmitters dopamine and norepinephrine are not regulated properly and cause the brain to underfunction," leading to problems "staying focused, sustaining effort, managing emotions, and accessing working memory (that is, remembering)."

Having ADHD is like trying to think while being attacked by a flock of crows or having 16 squirrels in your head, all scampering off in different directions. I know this firsthand, because I was diagnosed with ADHD about 15 years ago and take Adderall to make the little squirrels sit at their little desks so I can focus and write. Unfortunately, Adderall isn't a life-wide miracle cure. As my boyfriend likes to joke when he's asking me about something important: "Do I have your divided attention?"

People dating those with ADHD tend to take its effects personally. In the heat of the moment, it's easy to forget that your girlfriend has a mind like a steel sieve. When one of her attentional shortcomings makes you feel like she's messing with you, you might ask yourself whether she's messing with her wallet when she means to put it back in her purse but instead puts it back in the freezer. That said, it's important that ADHD be used to explain only ADHD-related behaviors; she can't be all "Oh, my attention wandered, and so did I — into bed with your best friend." (She may have the attention span of a tsetse fly; she doesn't get to have the ethics of one.)

For your relationship to work, you both need to try harder, but in different ways. You need to accept that she isn't a regular-brained person, and she needs to avoid acting like she probably does in the world

of the regular-brained — by hiding it when her attention wanders off. (You can't have a life with somebody if she's always pretending she's heard what you just said.) She also needs to admit it when she's feeling too impatient to discuss or do something. (Better than pushing herself and snapping at you.) She needs to see that she's on time when it's important to you, and you need to have perspective when she comes to the door in a towel when it's not. Ultimately, making things work comes down to the most basic of basics — love — and wanting to be together so much that the tradeoffs seem worth it. As I've noticed in my own relationship...my dog needs a bath. Kale. Like Pauline Kael but spelled differently and also it's a vegetable. Do you think the Iranians have nukes? Sorry...what was I saying about ADHD?

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



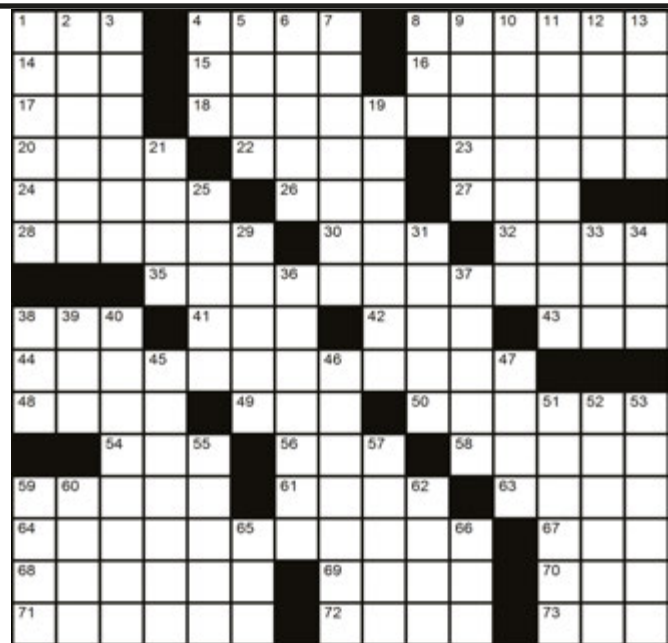
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"What's That Sound?" — you tell me. Matt Jones

Across

1 Princess's problem
4 "SNL" alum Horatio
8 Exploded
14 Patent holder, often: abbr.
15 Song from Sarah McLachlan's "Surfacing"
16 Holmes's former partner
17 Gun gp.
18 HINT FOR SOUNDALIKE #1
20 TV android with a pet cat
22 Former Heat star, familiarly
23 1966 Michael Caine role
24 Visibly shocked
26 Tony-winning one-man play of 1989
27 CCLI doubled
28 Go back to the book
30 "Can ___ least sit down?"
32 Gps. like CARE and Amnesty International, to the UN
35 HINT FOR SOUNDALIKE #2
38 Where, in Latin
41 End of most university web sites
42 Victory run, maybe
43 Pull a waterskier
44 HINT FOR SOUNDALIKE #3
48 Lemony Snicket villain
49 Reno and Holder, for short
50 Unlike wax fruit
54 Gunky stuff
56 "This ___ test..."



58 ___ Wrap
59 Bronze medalist's place
61 Amt. on a food package
63 Guy with a "Jaywalking" segment
64 HINT FOR SOUNDALIKE #4
67 Soccer's Freddy
68 Spanish chant
69 Sitcom that featured Andy Kaufman
70 Go droopy
71 Steal cattle
72 Doctors who check out head colds, for short
73 With 1-across, phonetic representation of the four soundalikes

Down

1 Odist with a type of ode named for him
2 Make royally angry
3 James Cameron movie

that outgrossed his own "Titanic"
4 Gullible guy
5 Fusses
6 Not, in German
7 CNN host Fareed
8 1/100th div.
9 "Whether good ___..."
10 Doing some knitting, maybe
11 Many a Three Stooges melee
12 Morales of "La Bamba"
13 2000s Bengals running back Dorsey
19 With even distribution
21 On the ocean
25 Group of experts
29 "___ ever wonder..."
31 Swap cards
33 Ear-related prefix
34 U-turn from NNE
36 Urban crime
37 Tablets that don't dissolve in water
38 Common tabloid

subject
39 ___ Harbour, Fla.
40 Dreams up
45 "Can't quite recall..."
46 Washington, e.g.
47 Outdated verb used with phones
51 Chicken piece
52 Martin who played Bela Lugosi in "Ed Wood"
53 "I give!"
55 Former "Access Hollywood" host Nancy
57 Phrase for the slightly miffed and disappointed
59 "The Avengers" character
60 One way to watch old shows
62 Send a quick message
65 Riddle-me-___ (old kids' rhyme)
66 Member of the fam

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OUT on the TOWN

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Essay Contest for College Students: "HOW CAN COMMUNITIES FIGHT HUNGER?"

The essay should demonstrate the importance of diversity & embrace the Muslim culture, bring awareness to the plight of hunger and promote a better understanding of problems communities face to help feed those that experience hunger. The winners will be awarded \$500 for first place, \$200 for second place and \$100 for third place. Contestants will be presented at the Mayors' Ramadan Unity Dinner on Sept. 7, 7 p.m., at the Lansing Center. The deadline is August 24. For contest rules and additional information contact Steve Shaydik at (517) 483-4141 or sshaydik@lansingmi.gov or Guillermo Lopez at (517) 483-4083 or glopez@lansingmi.gov

Wednesday, August 8

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

Healthcare Reform and You. Find out how the Affordable Care Act affects you. 5:30-7:30

See Out on the Town, Page 18

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

AUG. 9-11



Courtesy Photo

A man walks into a bar

Jeremy Greenberg, an internationally headlining stand-up comedian, author and blogger, will perform at Connxtions Comedy Club this Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Not only has Greenberg done numerous national TV and radio shows, he has also done five overseas tours to perform for American troops. As a writer he contributed material for "Complete Idiot's Guide to Jokes" and wrote "Relative Discomfort: The Family Survival Guide" as well as "Sorry I Peed on You And Other Heartwarming Letters to Mommy." 8 p.m. Thursday \$8; 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday, \$12; 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Saturday, \$15. Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 N. East St., Lansing. (517) 374-4242. connxtionscomdeyclub.com.

We're not in Frandor anymore

This weekend, Lansing theater-goers are being whisked off to see the wizard, witch and yellow brick road as the Mid-Michigan Family Theatre continues its run of "The Wizard of Oz." Since the publication of L. Frank Baum's "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" in 1900, the story has become one of America's most beloved children's fairytales, and adapted into plays, musicals, movies and television shows. Featuring a cast of newcomers and veterans alike, director Bill Gordon hopes audience members will feel like there's no place like Oz. Performers include Katie Murphy as Dorothy, Kyle Sodman as Scarecrow, Spencer Holly as Tin Man and Ralph Maldonado as Lion. 7 p.m. Friday, 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. \$7 general, \$5 for preschoolers. The Mid-Michigan Family Theatre, 440 Frandor Ave., in the Frandor Shopping Center, Lansing. mmft.net.

AUG. 11

Summer social helps kids

This Saturday, beginning at 3 p.m., Redeemer Lutheran Church will hold its annual Ice Cream Social and 50/50 Raffle. Now in its 12th year, the event will raise funds that will go to support programs that will improve the lives of economically challenged children in the neighborhood. Guests will get free ice cream from Melting Moments, and there will be games and prizes for kids. The event will also feature crafts, face painting, clowns, inflatable rides, and a variety of food and music for the young and not-so-young. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. FREE, \$2 for game bracelets. Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2727 W. Holmes Road, Lansing. (517) 882-8000. redeemerlansing.com.



Courtesy Photo

A nostalgic drive

Is the Woodward Dream Cruise just too far of a drive? No worries. The Colonial Village Baptist Church will host a series of classic and street rod car cruises during its 7th Annual Cruise-N-Tuesdays. The yearly gathering of vintage, custom and modern classic automobiles is an opportunity for the Greater Lansing area to come together and enjoy these flashy cars in all their glory. There is no registration fee, and is open for car owners of all makes and models. The event will have a concessions stand and a DJ for the night. Vehicles will be parked on the front lawn and owners will get a free concession combo with each car they show. 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. FREE. Colonial Village Baptist Church, 2010 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 896-1682 or (517) 484-4446.

AUG. 10-12

AUG. 14

TURN IT DOWN.

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPIKA

GET BOMBED AT MAC'S BAR

Bomb the Music Industry! (BtMI), a New York-based DIY musical collective led by songwriter and producer Jeff Rosenstock, returns to Mac's Bar Wednesday for an early, all-ages concert hosted by Fusion Shows. Opening the show are Decades, Take A Hint, CBJ and Inflatable Best Friends. BtMI is out promoting its 2011 album, "Vacation." The band, which has toured with Mustard Plug and Anti-Flag, plays catchy punk-pop mixed with some ska and synth-pop elements, but it also lists Harvey Danger and Neutral Milk Hotel as influences. BtMI also releases all its music for free online and burns fans free CDs. However the band asks fans pay a suggested donation. The collective/band releases these records via its own imprint, Quote Unquote Records. For more information, visit: bombthemusicindustry.tumblr.com.

Wednesday, Aug. 8 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all ages, \$10, 5 p.m.

WORLD FUSION AT LAKE LANSING BAND SHELL

With a hard-to-define blend of African, Celtic, Latin and jazz, it's easier to just call Thom Jayne and the Nomads a "world fusion" band. The East Lansing-based six-piece, which plays the Lake Lansing Community Band Shell in Haslett on Friday, first gained recognition back in 2002 when it received an award-winning recognition at the John Lennon Songwriters Contest. The group features Jayne (vocals, guitar, didgeridoo), Jon Weber (percussion), Greg Howe (lead guitar), Greg Saucedo (drums), Heather Kulaga (bass), Todd Gaffke (sax-



Courtesy Photo

Catalina Wine Mixer

ophone), and Nate Bliton (keyboards/viola). Now a professor at MSU, Jayne travels four times a year to places such as Ethiopia, Kenya and Zambia, further influencing the band's eclectic style of music.

**Friday, Aug. 10 @ Lake Lansing Community Band
Shell, 1621 Pike St., Haslett, all ages, FREE, 7 p.m.
to 8:30 p.m.**

SKATE PARK BENEFIT HOSTS 16 LOCAL BANDS

Mi Sk8 Park Club's 4th Annual Skate Park Benefit Concert happens Friday at Myja's Gray Wolf Inn in downtown Grand Ledge. The all-ages show will host a long roster of local punk, rock, and alternative bands from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Children 6 years old and younger get in free. Mi Sk8 Park Club formed in March 2009 as an effort to rally skaters to build an easily maintainable outdoor cement skate spot that will withstand daily skating and Michigan weather. The club's organizer said it formed after the Eaton County Parks Department demolished the town's original wooden skate park at Fitzgerald Park due to disrepair. Headlining the show is Decades, a Grand Ledge-based power-pop/pop-punk band led by Matt Waterman (guitar, vocals), the former leader of Jason Alarm. The band is working on material for John Krohn's Lower Peninsula Records. For those on a time crunch, here's each band's time slot at the benefit



Photo by Rob Yaskovitz

GDP at Mac's Bar

show: Sunrise Revolt (1 p.m.), Headz (1:30 p.m.), The Tumors (2 p.m.), Rhode Island Sluts (2:30 p.m.), Hat Madder (3 p.m.), Adaru (3:30 p.m.), Paul Dubya & The Oak River Bridge Boys (4 p.m.), Doctor Jones (4:30 p.m.), Mr. Fox & The Hounds (5 p.m.), Teenage Slumber Party (5:30 p.m.), Frank & Earnest (6 p.m.), Inflatable Best Friend (6:30 p.m.), Ailat (7 p.m.), The Plurals (7:30 p.m.), Catalina Wine Mixer (8 p.m.), and Decades (8:35 p.m.).

**Saturday, Aug. 11 @ Myja's Gray Wolf Inn, 219
N. Bridge St., Grand Ledge, all ages, \$7,
1 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

**MICHAELA ANNE, THOSE WILLOWS,
SMALL HOUSES AT (SCENE)**

Brooklyn-based Americana songwriter Michaela Anne credits her transient childhood for some of her musical inspiration. Growing up in a military family she would travel the world, picking up tidbits of influence along the way. Saturday she brings that country/folk/blues sound to (SCENE) Metrospace. Anne's 2011 debut album, "To Know Where," features nine honest and emotional tunes, as well as her powerful voice. Also performing at (SCENE) is local indie-folks Those Willows and Small Houses.

Saturday, Aug. 11 @ (SCENE) Metrospace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. All ages. Doors open at 7 p.m.; music at 8 p.m. \$5.

GDP BRINGS DEMENTED RAPS TO MAC'S

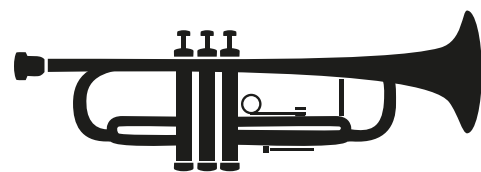
Underground New Jersey-based rapper GDP will bring his experimental brand of East Coast hip hop to Mac's Bar Sunday. Drug abuse and other roguish activities are often a focal point in his shrewd rhymes (you can check out GDP's "Gonzo Journalism" video on YouTube). Fans of early Eminem and Esham albums might appreciate GDP's wit and hasty wordplay. Over the years he has been on an endless tour while recording non-stop. In that time, he's shared the stage with Wu-Tang Clan, Dead Prez, Tame One, Rah Digga, Masta Ace, Skeletonwitch, Suburban Scum, Product Of Waste, and Dead to Me. GDP was set to drop the "Tunnel Buddies" EP digitally on Tuesday and on cassette via Ride The Fury Records Aug. 21. This fall he will also release the "Holla" EP, a project with The Wrong Address. Opening the show at Mac's is Apocalypse Inc., Red Pill and Adaru. For more information on GDP visit g6d6p6.tumblr.com.

Sunday, Aug. 12 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing \$8, all ages, 5:30 p.m.

UPCOMING SHOW?

POST IT AT

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LIVE & LOCAL

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

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

621 The Spot , 621 E. Michigan Ave.		DJ Radd1, 10 p.m.	Various DJs, 10 p.m.	Various DJs, 10 p.m.
Colonial Bar , 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.			Untamed, 9 p.m.	Untamed, 9 p.m.
Connxtions Comedy Club , 2900 N. East St.		Jeremy Greenberg, 8 p.m.	Jeremy Greenberg, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.	Jeremy Greenberg, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.
Crunchy's , 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Mighty Medicine, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange , 314 E. Michigan Ave.		Tryst Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.	Showdown, Midnight	Showdown, Midnight
The Firm , 227 S. Washington Square		DnW Sound DJs, 9 p.m.	Various DJs, 9 p.m.	DJ Donnie D, 9 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza , 201 E. Grand River Ave.	Driver & Rider Show, 7 p.m.	Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karaoke with Joanie Daniels, 7 p.m.	Lady Luck, 8 p.m.
Green Door , 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Dewaynes, 9:30 p.m.	Vegas Flu, 9:30 p.m.	The Smoking Jackets, 9:30 p.m.	Mix Pack, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft , 414 E. Michigan Ave.			Mark Davison, 7 p.m.	Forever the Sickest Kids, 6 p.m.
Mac's Bar , 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	Bomb the Music Industry, 5 p.m.		L Soul, 6:30 p.m.	
Moriarty's Pub , 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic Night, 10 p.m.	The Burnsides, 10 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 10 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 10 p.m.
Rick's American Cafe , 224 Abbott Road	DJ Big Red, 10:30 p.m.	ICE DJ's, 10:30 p.m.	Nature Boys, 10:30 p.m.	Nature Boys, 10:30 p.m.
Rookies , 16460 S. US 27	Sammy Gold, 7-10 p.m.	Water Pong DJ, 9 p.m.	Karaoke dance party with DJ Klimaxx, 9 p.m.	Live Bands with DJs & DJ Klimaxx, 9 p.m.
Rum Runners , 601 East Michigan Ave.	Open Mic Night, 9 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 9 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 7 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 7 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern , 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 9 p.m.	Dr. Gunn, 9 p.m.	Dr. Gunn, 9 p.m.
Uli's Haus of Rock , 419 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.			Sin Theroem & All Ends Black, 8 p.m.	
Waterfront Bar & Grill , 325 City Market Drive		Mike Eyia Quartet, 7 p.m.	Joe Wright, 7 p.m.	
Whiskey Barrel Saloon , 410 S. Clippert St.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.	Shelagh Brown, 9 p.m.

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

Out on the town

from page 16

p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Dr., Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.
Drawing Class. Must register and pay in advance. \$50 for 4 weeks. 1-3:30 p.m. Gallery 1212, 1212 Turner St. Lansing. (517) 999-1212.

EVENTS

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. Grand Ledge Baptist Church, 1120 W. Willow Hwy., Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954.
Kids Time: Ages 5–11. Help eastside youth to grow food, develop leadership and life skills. 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.
Practice Your English. Speaking and listening to English in a friendly, relaxing atmosphere. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.
Allen Street Farmers Market. Fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, crafts, activities, and more. 2:30-7 p.m. FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 485-4279. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.
Colonial Village Walking Group. Meet neighbors and get some exercise. Walks are 30-45 minutes. 10 a.m. FREE. Grace United Methodist, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 580-8560.
Teen Night at Spiral. Wtih DJ Alabama from 97.5-FM. Ages 14-18 can dance in a safe and fun environment. 7 p.m.-midnight, \$10. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St. Lansing. (517) 371-3221. clubspiral@aol.com.

MUSIC

Jazz Wednesdays. Featuring the Jeff Shoup Trio. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Gracies Place, 151 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-1100.
Concert in the Park. Summer music series. 7 p.m. FREE. St. Johns City Park, located off Morton and Park Streets, St. Johns. (989) 224-8944.
Sammy Gold Band. '80s pop rock. 7-11 p.m. FREE. Rookies Restaurant, 1640 S. US 27, Lansing. (517) 487-8686. reverbnation.com/sammygold.
Concerts in the Park. Featuring Shout, a Beatles tribute band. 7 p.m. FREE. Ranney Skate Park, Michigan Ave., at Morgan Lane, Lansing. (810) 347-4820.
Bomb the Music Industry! With Decade, Inflatable Best Friend and Take a Hint. 5 p.m. \$10. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795. macsbar.com.

THEATER

The C/d Community Dance Project. An annual dance collaboration between Happendance and LCC. 8 p.m. FREE. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/cma/events.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Baby Time. Books and songs for ages 2 years and younger, with a parent/caregiver. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Dr., Lansing. (517) 321-4014 x3.
Lansing Area Science Fiction Association Meeting. New location. Informal dinner and conversation every week. 7 p.m. FREE. Buddies Grill, 2040 Aurelius Road, #13, Holt. (517) 402-4481.

Thursday, August 9

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Water Media Class. Must register and pay in

advance. \$50 for 4 weeks. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Gallery 1212, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212.
Yoga 2XL. Learn to move with confidence. 7:15-8:15 p.m. \$8 suggested donation. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.
Eating Disorders Anonymous. 7-7:45 p.m. FREE. CADL Mason Library, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. (517) 899-3515.
QiGong & Tai Chi. Light exercises for those with physical limitations, senior citizens or just need to unwind. 8 a.m. Up to \$8. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.
Lansing Area South Codependent Anonymous Meeting. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Community Mental Health Building, 812 E. Jolly Rd, Lansing. (517) 672-4072.
Vermicomposting 101. Create nutrient rich compost for both indoor plants and outdoor gardens. 6:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Michigan Energy Options, 405 Grove St., East Lansing. (517) 337-0422 ext. 1302. michiganenergyoptions.org.

EVENTS

Youth Service Corps. East side youth grow food and develop leadership skills. Ages 11-17. 10-11 a.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community Garden House, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.
Karaoke. Every Thursday night with Atomic D. 9 p.m. LeRoy's Classic Bar and Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 482-0184.
Euchre. No partner needed. 6-9 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.
Mid-day Movies. Watch recent releases on the big screen. 2 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363.
Spanish Conversation Group. Both English and Spanish will be spoken. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.
South Lansing Farmers Market. Locally produced food, youth activities and educational opportunities. 3-7 p.m. FREE. Grace United Methodist, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 482-5750.
Lowe's South Side Cruise-In. Classic cars, trucks, hot rods, and motorcycles. 6-11 p.m. FREE. Lowe's, 6821 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 699-2940.
Colonial Village Walking Group. Walks are 30-45 minutes. 7 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details August 8)
Teen Wii Gaming. For teens 6th-12th grade. 1 p.m. FREE. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156. www.dewittlibrary.org.
Moonlight Film Festival. Outdoor movies on the big screen. This week: "Hugo." 9 p.m. FREE. Valley Court Park, 400 Hillside Ct., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

"Ruby Sparks." A new film from the creators of "Little Miss Sunshine." 7 p.m. \$1 donation. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. (517) 333-2580.
Youth Talent Show. Ages 6-18 will be showcasing acts. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Dr., Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtld.org.
Pre-School Olympics. Obstacle course, miniature golf, basketball and more for ages 2-5 with parent. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Delta Mills Park, 7001 Old River Trail, Lansing. (517) 323-8555.

MUSIC

The Williamston Summer Concert Series. Music every Thursday through August 30. 7 p.m. FREE. McCormick Park, located at N. Putnam and High Streets, Williamston. (517) 655-4973.
Sammy Gold Band. 80s pop rock. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Meridian Sun Golf Course, 1018 Haslett Rd., Haslett. (517) 339-8281. reverbnation.com/sammygold.
Concerts at the Shell. Featuring a different music act each week. 7-9 p.m. FREE. McCormick

Park, located at N. Putnam and High Streets, Williamston. (517) 655-4973.
Mike Eyia Quartet. Live music. 6 p.m. FREE. Waterfront Bar and Grille, 325 City Market Dr. Lansing. lansingwaterfront.com.

THEATER

"The 39 Steps." Four actors play over 150 characters in this adventure inspired by the Alfred Hitchcock film of the same name. 8 p.m. \$10, seniors \$8, students \$6. Ledges Playhouse, Fitzgerald Park, off Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. (517) 318-0579.
"Red, White and Tuna." Aral Gribble and Wayne David Parker portray an entire population of the town in this quick-change comedy. 8 p.m. \$20. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-SHOW. williamstontheatre.com.
The C/d Community Dance Project. An annual dance collaboration between Happendance and LCC. 8 p.m. FREE. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/cma/events.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Storytime With Ms. Deb. Three books will be read on a new topic each week. 10 a.m. FREE. Barnes and Noble, 5132 W Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. (517) 327-0437. bn.com.
Morning Storytime. All ages welcome for stories, songs, rhymes. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014.
Stories in the Garden. Teen volunteers will read stories to children in this beautiful outdoor setting. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. MSU 4-H Children's Garden, MSU Campus, East Lansing. elpl.org.

Friday, August 10

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Oil Painting Class. Must register and pay in advance. \$50 for 4 weeks. 10 a.m.-noon. Gallery 1212, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212.
Relics of the Big Bang. Emphasizes research currently underway at CERN. 8 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students & seniors, \$2 kids. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Rd., East Lansing. (517) 355-4676.

EVENTS

Summer Night Hikes. Search for signs and learn about adaptations of nocturnal creatures. 7-9 p.m. \$5, members FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. mynaturecenter.org.
Alcoholics Anonymous. With American Sign Language interpretation. 8 p.m. FREE. Alano Club East, 220 S. Howard St., Lansing. (517) 482-8957.
Alcoholics Anonymous. A closed women's meet-

ing. 7:30 p.m. FREE. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 6500 Amwood Dr., Lansing. (517) 882-9733.
Colonial Village Walking Group. Walks are 30-45 minutes. 10 a.m. FREE. (Please See Details August 8)
Kids Time: Ages 5–11. Help eastside youth to grow food, develop leadership and life skills. 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.
Friday Noon Stroll. Bring friends, dogs, children or stories. Noon. FREE. Hunter Park, 400 S. Holmes St., Lansing. (517) 367-2468.
Capital City Renegades Open 2012. The largest disc golf tournament in the region. All weekend, FREE. Grand Woods Park, 4500 W Willow Hwy., Lansing. discgolfscene.com/tournaments/CCR_Open_2012.

MUSIC

Great Lakes Folk Festival. A three-day celebration of culture, tradition and community. Find music, dance and food. 6-10:30 p.m. FREE. Downtown East Lansing, Grand River Ave., East Lansing. greatlakesfolkfest.net.
Phil Denny "Crossover" Album Release Party. 7 p.m. \$15. Best Western Hotel, 6820 S. Cedar St., Lansing. brownpapertickets.com.
Velocity Shift. Lansing-based trio performing classic and modern rock. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Buddies Grill, 2040 Aurelius Rd., Holt. (517) 699-3670.
Grand River Radio Diner Concert. Live performance featuring Scott Seth and Dave Samano. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 483-1710. lcc.edu/radio.

THEATER

"The 39 Steps." 8 p.m. \$10, seniors \$8, students \$6. (Please See Details Aug. 9)
"Red, White and Tuna." 8 p.m. \$20. (Please See Details Aug. 9)
"Getting Near to Baby." 8 p.m. \$14, \$12 seniors & students. After her baby sister dies, young Willa Jo is shipped off to an aunt who can't show love. 7 p.m., \$10, \$8 seniors and students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. (517) 482-5700.
"The Wizard of Oz." Tickets for the musical fantasy can be reserved at midmichfamilytheatre@gmail.com or phone. 7 p.m. \$7, \$5 pre-schoolers. Mid Michigan Family Theatre, 440 Frandor Ave., Lansing. (517) 339-2145. mmft.net.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

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

See Out on the Town, Page 19

ERASER-FREE SUDOKU

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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 21

TOARMINA'S PIZZA



By ALLAN I. ROSS

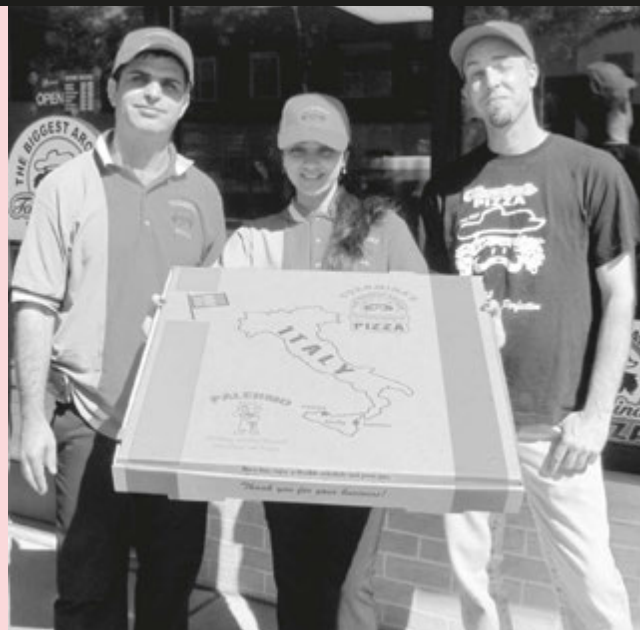
Now, I'd seen the sign in their window during construction claiming they were going to have the biggest pizza in town, but when I saw the flier for **Toarmina's Pizza**, which opened this week at 2011 E. Michigan Ave. in Lansing, my eyes just about popped out of my head: "16 FOOT LONG SLICES," it said. What were they baking these in, industrial blast furnaces? This I had to see.

Alas, 'twas nothing more than a quirk in semantics. "Sixteen styles of 12-inch pizza slices" just doesn't have quite the same ring to it. Either way, there's no getting around the fact that Lansing foodies had better start saving more room for the main course. Measuring a solid two feet from end-to-end, a large Toarmina's pie is definitely the size to beat.

"Nobody else is doing 24-inch pizzas in town," says owner Sardar Dijagah. "You get two of these, and it's enough to feed 20 people. The biggest size anyone else does is 16 inches, and that's our medium."

Dijagah said he opened this Toarmina's — a Detroit-based chain with 14 locations around the metro area and one in the U.P. — because he'd always wanted to have a restaurant. After considering his options, he decided on a pizza joint because of its likely durability in a bad economy. But with a crowded pizza market, including southeast Michigan-based heavy-hitters **Little Caesar's**, **Hungry Howie's** and **Domino's**, did the world really need another chain?

"The big difference with



Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

Above, from left to right: Sardar Dijagah, Suman Alizada and Jesse Purcell. Below, confusing marketing.

us is that nothing here is ever frozen and we cut all our toppings in-house from fresh ingredients," says Dijagah. "All the cheese is grated from blocks, and all of that makes our pizza much more tasty. Sure, you can get a Little Caesar's for \$5, but it has nowhere near the same quality as Toarmina's. It's just not about size here — it's about quality, too."

I had a chance to grab one of their random slices, and it was pretty impressive. The green peppers still had a fresh snap to them, the chicken was moist and tender, and the sauce had a distinctive sweetness to it that deftly offset the mozzarella cheese. That cheese is another hallmark of the store: the policy here seems to be "go heavy or go home." Toppings aren't so much nestled on top a layer of cheese as they are engulfed in it. Of course, that may not be for all tastes, but

at least Toarmina's is trying to do something different.

Toarmina's also features calzones, fresh salads, hot wings and — get this — that old Italian dessert favorite, cannolis. Of course, they also have those aforementioned monster slices available for walk-in customers, too. Dijagah says that they deliver to anywhere within a three-mile radius of the store, which means that every frat house on MSU's campus and every loft in downtown Lansing is now only a phone call away from a potential pizza overdose. But just a word of advice, guys: you may want a copy editor to take a look before you send out your next mailer — you may end up with some very disappointed giants banging at your door.

Toarmina's Pizza

2011 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
10 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday-Thursday;
10 a.m.-Midnight Friday and Saturday
(517) 374-1022

Out on the town

from page 18

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

Saturday, August 11

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

Relics of the Big Bang. (Please see details Aug. 10)

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

Morse Code Demonstration. And semaphore flags demonstration. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. \$6, \$4 seniors, \$2 kids. Michigan Historical Museum, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 373-3559.

Explore the World Wide Web. About the internet, how to use it effectively and how to browse safely. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 708-4392. itec Lansing. org/programs/itec-upgrades/.

Homebuyer Education. Programs and options to help get your dream home. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Center for Financial Health, 230 N. Washington Sq., Lansing. (517) 708-2550. centerforfinancialhealth.org.

Your Family's Genealogy Online. Learn how to make your family genealogy using WordPress software. 10 a.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6356. cadl.org.

EVENTS

Salsa Dancing. DJ Adrian "Ace" Lopez hosts Lansing's longest standing weekly salsa event. Singles welcome. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. \$5. Gregory's Bar &

Grille, 2510 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. (517) 323-7122.

Beer & Wine Tasting. Try free samples. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Vine and Brew, 2311 Jolly Road, Okemos. vineandbrew.com.

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

Neighborhood Extravaganza. Enjoy carnival games, inflatables, water games, dunk tank, dance contest and more. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Rd., Lansing. (517) 393-9883. lansingneighborhoods.com.

Truck Day. Kids can explore a tow truck, ambulance, firetruck and more. 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Sharp Park, 1401 Elmwood Rd., Lansing. (517) 323-8555.

DeWitt Band Boosters Scrap Metal Drive. Help the DeWitt High School Marching Band raise money for a new trailer. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. Dewitt High School, 13601 Panther Drive, Dewitt. (517) 930-6016.

Discover Red Cedar Glen. Explore Meridian Township's new preserved lands with a naturalist guide. 10 a.m. \$3. Red Cedar Glen Preserve, Sylvan Glen Dr., Okemos. (517) 349-3866.

Ice Cream Social. Food, games, music, fellowship, and ice cream. 3-6 p.m. FREE, \$2 for games. Redeemer Church, 2727 West Holmes Rd., Lansing. redeemerlansing.com.

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

MUSIC

CMS Choir Auditions. Prospective singers looking to join a CMS choir should audition. 9 a.m.-Noon, FREE. MSU Community Music School, 841-B Timberlane St. East Lansing. (517) 355-7661. cms.msu.edu/el/children/choirs.php?el_child_choirs.

Great Lakes Folk Festival. A three-day celebration of culture, tradition and community. Music, dance and food. Noon-10:30 p.m. FREE. Downtown East Lansing, Grand River Ave., East Lansing. greatlakesfolkfest.net.

THEATER

"The 39 Steps." 8 p.m. \$10, seniors \$8, students \$6. (Please see details August 9)

See Out on the Town, Page 20

July 12 - August 19, 2012



By Jaston Williams, Joe Sears and Ed Howard

Directed by John Lepard

Featuring Aral Gribble and Wayne David Parker

Performances:
Thursdays & Fridays @ 8PM
Saturdays @ 3PM & 8PM
Sundays @ 2PM

Williamston Theatre
122 S Putnam St., Williamston
517-655-7469
www.williamstontheatre.org



"... finding out which way the Tuna casserole bubbles is half the fun."
- Lansing City Pulse

"Right from the start, patrons know they're in for a treat."
- Encoremichigan.com

"... must-see, comedic thrill ride, that isn't something that you will be forgetting anytime soon."
- Lansingonlinenews.com

"... Parker and Gribble don't miss a beat, playing off each other with joy and energy"
- Lansing State Journal

CAPITAL AREA DISTRICT LIBRARIES

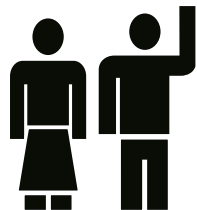
Your
Library
Card

Small enough to
fit in your wallet,
big enough to
change your life.

Did you know your
CADL card has an
expiration date?



Cards need to be renewed
every three years. Renew at
any branch with photo ID and
proof of your current address.



Capital Area District
LIBRARIES

Your branch, our family tree.

cadl.org

Out on the town

from page 19

"Red, White and Tuna." 3 p.m. & 8 p.m. \$22 matinee, \$25. (Please see details Aug. 9)
"Getting Near to Baby." (8 p.m. \$14, \$12 seniors & students. (Please see details Aug. 10)
"The Wizard of Oz." 3 p.m. \$7, \$5 pre-schoolers. (Please see details Aug. 10)

Sunday, August 12

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. Meets on the third floor. 2-3 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing.
The Family Show. "Space Chase," for children from preschool through grade 3 and their families. 2:30 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students & seniors, \$2 kids. Abrams Planetarium, East Lansing. (517) 355-4672.
Relics of the Big Bang. (Please see detail Aug. 10)

EVENTS

Overeaters Anonymous. In room B. 2-3:15 p.m. FREE. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 332-0755.
Salsa Dancing. DJ Mojito spins salsa, merengue and bachata. 7 p.m.-midnight. \$5 21, \$7 under 21. Fahrenheit Ultra Lounge, 6810 S. Cedar St., Lansing.
Alcoholics Anonymous. Closed meeting, with American Sign Language interpretation. 9 a.m. FREE. Alano Club East, 220 S. Howard St., Lansing. (517) 482-8957.

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


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

Stewardship Work Days. Families with children and community members can volunteer to keep Fenner beautiful. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. fofnc.org.

Lansing City Market Presents: Summer Sundays. All businesses will be open. Noon-4 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460.

DeWitt Band Boosters Scrap Metal Drive.

CRIMINAL DEFENSE



**Drunk Driving
Embezzlement
Drugs
Homicide
All Federal
and State Crimes**

37 YEARS -
AGGRESSIVE
LITIGATION
EFFECTIVE
MEDIATION

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

487-6603

1223 Turner St., Ste 333, Lansing
www.stushafer.com

Help the DeWitt High School Marching Band raise money for a new trailer. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. Dewitt High School, 13601 Panther Drive, Dewitt. (517) 930-6016.

Spartan Dance Center Open Houses. Learn all about what SDC has to offer and meet dance instructors. 3-5 p.m. FREE. Spartan Dance Center, 3498 Lake Lansing Rd., East Lansing. (517) 999-5415. spartandancecenter.com.

Second Sunday. 10 percent of what is spent will be donated to the library. 4-9 p.m. FREE. Dublin Square Irish Pub, 327 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. (517) 351-2222. elpl.org.

MUSIC

Great Lakes Folk Festival. A three-day celebration of culture, tradition and community. Find music, dance and food. Noon-6 p.m. FREE. Downtown East Lansing, Grand River Ave., East Lansing. greatlakesfolkfest.net.

GDP. With Adaru. 5:30 p.m. \$8. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795. macsbar.com.

Music on the Patio. Featuring Brad Maitland and Dan Wixon every Sunday. 6-9 p.m. FREE. Waterfront Bar and Grille, 325 City Market Dr., Lansing. (517) 267-3800.

THEATER

"The 39 Steps." 2 p.m. \$10, seniors \$8, students \$6. (Please see details Aug. 9)

"Red, White and Tuna." 2 p.m. \$22, \$10. (Please see details Aug. 9)

"The Wizard of Oz." 3 p.m. \$7, \$5 pre-schoolers. (Please see details Aug. 10)

Monday, August 13

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Divorced, Separated, Widowed Conversation Group. 7:30 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272. stdavidslansing.org.

GriefShare Seminar. A DVD series, with small support group discussion. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Grace United Methodist, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 490-3218.

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Rd., Lansing.

Chronic Pain Support Group. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

Fabric Discharging. The American Sewing Guild Lansing Clippers' meeting with Sandy Theisen. 6:30 p.m. FREE, bring \$ for materials. UAW Local 652, 426 Clare St., Lansing. (517) 699-8062.

EVENTS

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

Social Bridge. No partner needed. 1-4 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Rd., 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 Dr., Lansing. (517) 321-4014

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

Colonial Village Walking Group. (Please See Details Aug. 8)

Kids Time: Ages 5-11. Help eastside youth to grow food, develop leadership and life skills. 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.

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

Lansing. jazzjamm.com.

Cookbook Club. Make and share a dish from one of the selected cookbooks. Call to register. 6-7:45 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Dr., Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3.

MUSIC

Open-Mic Mondays. Sign up to play. Spoken word acts welcome. 6:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. MBC, 402 S. Washington Sq., Lansing. (517) 977-1349.

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

Tuesday, August 14

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Water Media Class. Must register and pay in advance. \$50 for 4 weeks. 6-8:30 p.m. Gallery 1212, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

QiGong & Tai Chi classes. Light exercises for those who have physical limitations, senior citizens or anyone who just needs to unwind. 8 a.m. \$8. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

Job Seekers Club. Share experiences, network, update your resume, and more. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Dr., Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtld.org.

Gadget Help. One-on-one help session to learn the basics about your device. 3-5 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Dr., Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtld.org.

Extreme Couponing. Learn to combine coupons. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Center for Financial Health, 230 S. Washington Sq., Lansing. (517) 708-2550.

Coupon Swap. Meet other coupon enthusiasts, exchange coupons, and more. Noon-2 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Dr., Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtld.org.

EVENTS

Youth Service Corps. East side youth grow food and develop leadership skills. Ages 11-17. 10-11 a.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community Garden House, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.

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

Mid-day Movies. Watch recent releases on the

Out on the town

from page 20

big screen. 2 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363. cadl.org.

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

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

Storytime. Stories, rhymes, songs and a craft for ages 2-5. 10:30-11:15 a.m. & 6:30-7:15 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Colonial Village Walking Group. (Please see details Aug. 8)

Walk Bike Task Force Meeting. Help make the Lansing region more walkable and bike-friendly. Noon-1:30 p.m. FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 292-3078.

Cruise-N-Tuesdays. A series of classic and street rod car cruises. 6-9 p.m. FREE. Colonial Village Baptist Church, 2010 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 484-4446.

MUSIC

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

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

Fundraiser for Women's Caring Program. With Arlene McDaniel Trio. 5 p.m. \$100. 1820 Canyon Trail, Lansing. womenscaringprogram.org/TwilightGatherings.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Books on Tap. Discuss "The Language of Flowers" by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Jimmy's Pub, 16804 Chandler Rd., East Lansing. (517) 324-7100. elpl.org.

Wednesday, August 15

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Meditation. 7-9 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Aug. 8)

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

Weed Warrior. Learn how to control common invasive plants around Fenner and in your own yard. 5-6 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount

Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. fofnc.org.
Judaism. Introduction to the Jewish faith, the Torah and more. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. PilgrimUCC.com.

EVENTS

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

Kids Time: Ages 5-11. Help eastside youth to grow food, develop leadership and life skills. 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.

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

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

Colonial Village Walking Group. (Please see details Aug. 8)

DTDL Book Club. Discuss Ann Patchett's "State of Wonder." 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Dr., Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtdl.org.

Dream Big Popcorn & Movie. Parents and children can enjoy a PG movie. 1 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

MUSIC

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

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

Sammy Gold Band. '80s pop rock. 7-11 p.m. FREE. Rookies Restaurant, 1640 S. US 27, Lansing. (517) 487-8686. reverbnation.com/sammygold.

Sonia Leigh. All ages welcome. 7 p.m. \$13. The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. theloftlansing.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

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

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

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsný

August 8-14

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Apollo astronaut Russell Schweickart had a vision of loveliness while flying through outer space in his lunar module. "One of the most beautiful sights is a urine dump at sunset," he testified. He said it resembles a "spray of sparklers," as ten million little ice crystals shoot out into the void at high velocity. As you feed your quest for a lusty life, Aries, I urge you to be as quirky and resourceful as Schweickart. Come up with your own definitions about what's gorgeous and revelatory. Take epiphanies any way you can get them.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): At the heart of this horoscope is a quote from Maya Angelou. While it may seem schmaltzy, I assure you that its counsel will be essential to your success in the coming weeks. "I've learned that people will forget what you said," said Angelou, "people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Can you see how valuable this principle might be for you, Taurus? If you hope to get what you desire, you should turn your empathy on full blast. If you'd like to supercharge your vitality, hone your skills as a judge of character. If you want to get the love you think you deserve, be a master at making people feel good in your presence.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The coming week will be prime time to celebrate your eccentricities and cultivate your idiosyncrasies. Do you like ketchup on your bananas? Is heavy metal the music you can best relax to? Do you have a tendency to break out in raucous laughter when people brag about themselves? I really think you should make note of all the qualities that make you odd or unique, and express those qualities with extra intensity. That may grate on some people, true, but it should have a potent healing effect on you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Here are my questions: Will you thrust your foot across that imaginary line, or will you back away from it, scouting around for an escape route? Will you risk causing a commotion in order to scratch the itch in your ambition? Or will you shuffle on back to your comfort zone and caress your perfect daydreams? Personally, Cancerian, I'm hoping you will elect to do what's a bit unsettling. But that doesn't necessarily mean you should. If you make a bold move, make sure you're not angling to please or impress me — or anyone else, for that matter. Do it as a way to express your respect for yourself — or don't do it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): When Tchaikovsky wrote the musical score for his famous *1812 Overture*, it included 16 cannon shots. Literally. These blasts weren't supposed to be made by, say, a sledgehammer pounded against a wooden mallet, but rather by the detonation of an actual cannon. As crazy as that is, you've got to admire Tchaikovsky's creative gall. He was going way out of the box, calling on a source of sound no other composer had ever done. In accordance with the astrological omens, I invite you to be inspired by his example, Leo. In your own chosen field, mess with the rules about how to play in your chosen field.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "And if nothing is repeated in the same way," says poet Antonio Porchia, "all things are last things." That's a good principle to adapt for your own purposes, Virgo. A few weeks from now, I bet you'll be enmeshed in an orgy of novelty, creating yourself from scratch and exploring experiences you've never heard of before. But in the meantime, as you bring this cycle to a close, be equally inventive about how you finish things off. Don't imitate the approach you used in tying up loose ends in the past. Don't put stale, boring karma to rest in stale, boring ways. Nothing repeated! All things last things!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): All of us feel bad sometimes — sad, discouraged, helpless, unloved, and all the rest. It's a natural part of being human. Here's the good news: I am not predicting you will go through a

phase like that anytime soon. Here's the even better news: The coming week will be an excellent time to come up with effective strategies for what to do in the future when you go through a rough period. For example, instead of wallowing in self-pity or berating yourself for your weakness, maybe you can resolve, next time, to amble aimlessly out in nature, dance to cathartic music for three hours, or go to the gym and smack around a punching bag.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): When a domesticated weasel captures some treasure or beats out a competitor for food, it performs a celebratory dance that's referred to as the "weasel war dance." During this triumphant display, it might hiss, arch its back, fluff out its tail, and hop around madly. I encourage you to come up with your own private version of this ritual, Scorpio. It can be more dignified if you like: snapping your fingers, singing a magical phrase, or raising your arms in a V-for-victory gesture. Whatever you choose, do it after every accomplishment, no matter how small: buying groceries, arriving at an appointment on time, getting a good new idea, or any other success.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): One out of every four of us is afraid that we have missed our calling — that we have misread our soul's code and failed to identify the labor of love that would provide our ultimate fuel for living. If you're among this deprived group, I have good news: The next six weeks will be an excellent time to fix the problem — to leave the niche where you don't belong and go off to create a new power spot. And if you are among the 75 percent of us who are confident you've found your vocation, the next six weeks will be prime time to boost your efforts to a higher level.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can take this as a metaphor if you like, but I'm getting a psychic impression that you will soon be drawing on the energy of one of your past lives. Will it be a 13th-century Chinese lute player or a kitchen maid from 15th-century France? Will you be high on the vitality you had when you were a Yoruba priest living in West Africa 300 years ago or when you were a 16th-century Guarani herbalist in what's now Paraguay? I invite you to play with fantasies like these, even if you don't believe they're literally true. You might be surprised at the boost you get from imagining yourself alive in a different body and historical era.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The Italian mattress company Sogniflex has created a bed with features designed to facilitate love-making. It has straps and handles, plus a trench that helps you get better traction. The extra-strong springs produce an exceptional bouncing action. You might consider buying one for yourself. The astrological omens suggest it's time to play with more intensity in the intimate clinches. You could also try these things: 1. Upgrade your licking and sucking skills. 2. Cultivate your ability to listen receptively. 3. Deepen your sincere appreciation for what's beautiful about anyone you're attracted to. 4. Make yourself even more lovable than you already are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): My \$10-an-hour counsel only requires a few seconds to deliver. Here it is: "Never try to be someone you're not. Discover what you were made for, and do it with all of your passionate intensity." On the other hand, Pisces, my \$100-a-minute wisdom is more complicated, subtle, and hard to impart in less than an hour of storytelling. Here's a hint of it: There are times when you can get interesting and even brilliant results by experimenting with being something you're not. Going against the flow of your instinctual urges and customary tendencies might tweak you in just the right way — giving you an exotic grace and wild depth when you ultimately return to the path you were born to tread.

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION								
From Pg. 18								
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of East Lansing

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www.eastlansingseniorliving.com

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Jake Davidson
Political strategist

Channel 16 — Sunday, August 12th — Lansing — 11 a.m.-Noon

Channel 30 — Sunday, August 19th — Meridian Township — 11:30 a.m.

Watch past episodes at vimeo.com/channels/citypulse



Jessica Checkeroski/City Pulse

The sushi bar inside Ukai Japanese Steakhouse in Okemos is more serene than the hibachi room next door, where things get a little hotter.

Dinner and a show

Ukai serves up a sizzling spectacle

By JOE TOROK

There's really no need for a movie after dinner at Ukai Japanese Steakhouse—supper is the show. Arrive in any style, sit back and enjoy an evening of juggling eggs, flipping bowls and flying shrimp.

The Ukai location on Grand River Avenue in Okemos (there's a second location in Delta Township) has two dining spaces: the sushi bar and hibachi room. On my visit with two companions, the sushi bar was empty. The hibachi room, on the other hand, was kicking. Half a dozen islands each have their own teppan grill (a flat-surface griddle) as a centerpiece, around which eager diners wait for the chef.

Before the main event, two servers took our orders. The meals we ordered came with miso soup and a small, iceberg lettuce salad topped with a somewhat watery ginger dressing. The piping hot miso soup tasted as if it had much of the flavor cooked out of it.

When the chef arrived, knife holstered to his hip and ready to perform, he first served a pair of dipping sauces — a mild horseradish and a tasty ginger-based sauce — to each person. Then the acrobatics began.

A splash of oil was spread across the grill and lit into a quickly disappearing fireball. Younger diners covered their eyes and flinched backward in a flurry of fear and startled giggles.

The first act of the show was a flurry of clanging metal as the chef's spatula and fork spanked the griddle, twirled around his finger and flipped into the air to be caught behind his back. Next, the chef

deftly juggled eggs with a pair of spatulas before cracking them onto the now sizzling grill. He mixed the egg with rice and vegetables, pushing and pulling the pile until it was sufficiently blended for those who had ordered fried rice.

Of the seven guests who sat around our table, all but one ordered something to be grilled. Those of us who ordered steaks told the chef how they should be cooked, and he then laid out the chicken breasts, cuts of steak, shrimp, scallops, salmon and lobster tail. Each item was cooked and delivered to diners' plates one at a time, while longer cooking cuts were set to the side of the grill where the temperature is cooler.

First up was the shrimp, which was flattened with a smack of the spatula and deftly tossed onto each of our plates. The different entrée meats were then turned and sliced into bite-size chunks. I went with the origami special (\$28), which came with filet mignon, shrimp and scallops. I ordered the filet mignon medium rare and wondered how the chef would keep it from being overcooked once he started in with the shrimp. I was right to wonder — it ended up being cooked medium, with just a hint of red left in the center of each piece. While a touch more supple than my companion's lesser-grade steak, the filet mignon lost most of the tenderness I look for when I pay for that cut. My scallops,

Ukai Japanese Steak, Sushi & Seafood

2167 W. Grand River Ave.,
Okemos
4 p.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday
4 p.m.-11 p.m. Friday & Saturday
Noon-9 p.m. Sunday
(517) 349-0820

See Ukai, Page 23

Ukai

from page 22

however, remained tender.

One of my companions went with the steak and chicken Tokyo special (\$18) and was completely satisfied. My other companion went with the teriyaki salmon (\$16) from the less expensive Hibachi menu, and was glad he did. More than any other dish, the salmon kept its distinct flavor and was complemented by a nice savory-sweet teriyaki coat.

My biggest beef with the meal was that the flavors of each ingredient became a bit lost in the mix. Contributing to the mono-flavor effect was the same sauce being liberally doused onto nearly every item that

touched the grill. The ginger soy sauce and the horseradish sauce were pleasant, though the latter was a bit tame — I would have enjoyed more of a kick.

Our meals came with a choice of plum wine or ice cream for dessert. I was happy I went with the plum wine: first, it gave the meal a sweet, slightly tart, warming finish, and, second, the ice cream had large, unpleasant ice crystals in it.

If I go back to Ukai, it will surely be for the show and a selection from the Hibachi menu or perhaps some sushi. For a nearly \$30 plate, I expected much more out of the special I ended up with. But in the end, I was satisfied. Perhaps it was because of moments like when our chef flipped a bowl holding eggshells into the top of his hat. Seeing an artist at work is worth the price of admission.

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

CLARA'S LANSING STATION — Fun dining is the motto at this onetime railroad station with impressive decor and less-impressive food. Popular dishes include the chicken Hawaiian and dozens of sandwiches. Full review online at tinyurl.com/66g876o 637 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday for brunch. (517) 372-7120. www.claras.com, OM, TO, FB, WiFi, P, RES \$\$\$-\$\$\$

COLONIAL BAR & GRILL — This 47-year-old Lansing institution features an upgraded menu, including deluxe burgers, grilled pizzas and daily specials. 3425 S. Martin Luther King Blvd., Lansing. 9 a.m. - 2 a.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. - 2 a.m. Saturday, noon - 2 a.m. Sunday. (517) 882-6132. TO, FB, \$\$\$

CONRAD'S COLLEGE TOWN GRILL — Featuring creative sandwiches such as the J.F.K. (with chicken, mushrooms, jalapenos, banana peppers, and mozzarella)

and a full slew of breakfast items, burgers and (we swear, this is what the menu calls them) "Magical Munchies." 101 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Monday-Friday, noon-3 a.m. Saturday, noon-2:30 p.m. Sunday. (517) 337-2723. www.conradsgrill.com, D, OM, \$.

CORAL GABLES — This family-style restaurant offers handmade desserts, homemade soups and a small menu of homemade Greek specialties. 2838 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday; 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday; 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sunday. (517) 337-1311. www.coralgablesrestaurant.com, WB, WiFi, FB, TO, OM, \$\$\$

DIMITRI'S — The former stalwart of downtown Lansing now serves Delta Township with a full dinner menu along with familiar Coney dogs, burgers and fries. 6334 W. Saginaw, Lansing. 7 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday; 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday. (517) 323-6867; TO

EDEN'S JUICE — Fast food that's not fast food. All drinks are naturally low in calories, and are

friendly to vegans and the lactose- and gluten-intolerant. It's just fruit, ice and vitamins and minerals. 111 S. Washington Sq., Lansing. 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday. (517) 372-7700. www.edensjuice.com, TO, OM, \$

EL BURRITO — A cozy, authentic taqueria offering homemade Mexican cooking and baked goods. Stop by early for a breakfast burrito, try a lunch special entrée that comes with rice and beans, or fill a taco with marinated pork, beef tongue, chicken or a number of other meats. 5920 S. Cedar St., Lansing. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday. (517) 272-1665. TO, \$\$.

FISH & CHIPS — Serving fish, fries and more on Lansing east side for almost 40 years. Dine in or pull up to the drive-thru window for dinner on the go. 2418 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday. (517) 487-5774. TO, P, \$

GRACIE'S PLACE — Outstanding dishes

abound at this classy, cozy restaurant in downtown Williamston. See full review at tinyurl.com/CPGracies. 151 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; Closed Sunday. (517) 655-1100. www.gracies-placebistro.com, BW, TO, RES, P, WiFi, \$\$\$

HARRY'S PLACE — A bar and grill with Greek roots. Try the Greek chicken — a half chicken roasted in lemon oil sauce and doused with Mediterranean herbs. The all-you-can-eat Friday fish fry is popular, too. 404 N. Verlinden Ave., Lansing. 10 a.m.-11:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday, closed Sunday. (517) 484-9661. TO, FB, \$

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

August Tapas & Tasting

August 18: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Join Chef Kevin for a series of four tapas each paired with a different wine. Chef will discuss the wine pairings and cooking techniques. Cost is \$25.00.

Bell's Beer Dinner

August 21: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Join us for a five course meal prepared by chef Kevin paired with the wonderful beers from Bells Brewing. Cost is \$42.50 plus tax and gratuity. (\$52.40).

August Wine Tasting - Friday

August 24: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Join us in tasting 12 wines from around the world along with a selection of light appetizers. Cost is \$20.00.

August Wine Tasting - Saturday

August 24: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Join us in tasting 12 wines from around the world along with a selection of light appetizers. Cost is \$20.00.



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August Special: South America
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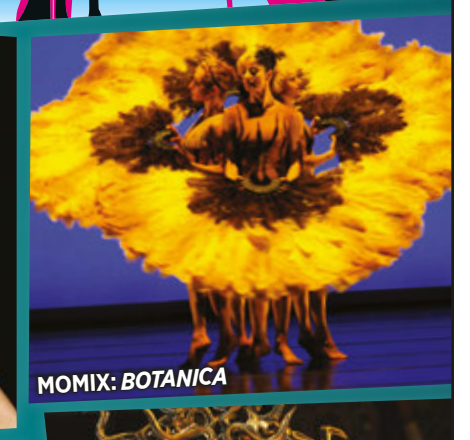
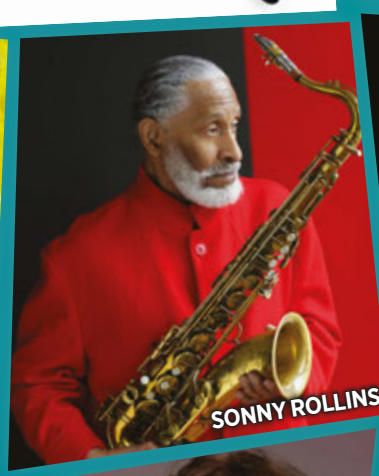
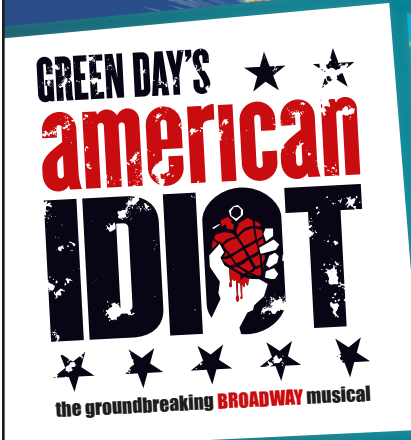
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