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May 1-7, 2013

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See page 8



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A special thanks to the City Pulse, ImABeerHound.com & Great Lakes Bounce for their contributions!

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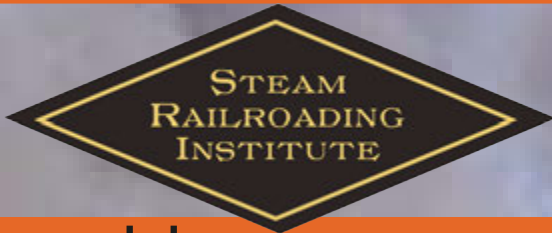
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Feedback

Ken Beachler in "Funny Girl"

It's no surprise for me that Dana Casadei in the "City Pulse" review (April 24, 2013) of "Funny Girl" (having been recently presented at MSU) should mention Ken Beachler's "booming voice" and "charisma." Certainly, Ken does have a booming voice, an excellent voice coming from understanding that speaking on stage isn't like chatting on television. As for charisma, Ken has that aplenty, having a delightful personality. He's far from being a run-of-the-miller.

In my opinion, Ken Beachler is one (of two, other being Brad Rutledge) of the finest actors Lansing area has ever had. I've seen him act many times, and he never disappoints me.

Advice: See Ken whenever you can.

— Marion Owen-Fekete
Lansing

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

- 1.) Write a letter to the editor.
• E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
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• Fax: (517) 371-5800
- 2.) Write a guest column:
Contact Berl Schwartz for more information:
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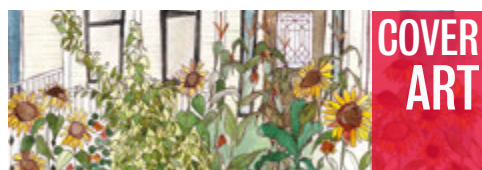
Bernero "inclined" to support City Charter amendment to legalize less than an ounce of marijuana on private property in Lansing



Anthony Bourdain dishes on fellow celebrity chefs, farm-to-table dining and why he loves to make fun of hipsters



Leelanau Peninsula's Black Star Farms dazzles with wine dinner



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This week on lansingcitypulse.com ...

WHITMER: EXPECT SCHAUER TO BE DEMS' GOVERNOR NOMINEE, APRIL 29: State Senate Democratic Leader Gretchen Whitmer predicted Monday that former Congressman Mark Schauer will be the Democrats' candidate for governor in 2014.

POLITICS AND CLIMATE CHANGE, APRIL 29: If you believe in the science behind climate change, you're more likely to support combating regardless of your political affiliation, according to new research at Michigan State University. However, you're more likely to be a Democrat.

DO WE NEED LPD IN SCHOOLS? APRIL 25: Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero and City Councilwoman Jody Washington are at odds over whether Lansing Police officers should be in Lansing high schools. Bernero says they should; Washington says they're not needed if deputized security guards are already there.

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THIS MODERN WORLD
by TOM TOMORROW

PRISONERS AT GUANTANAMO ARE STAGING A HUNGER STRIKE. MOST OF THEM HAVE BEEN HELD FOR MORE THAN A DECADE WITHOUT CHARGES, OVER HALF HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN CLEARED FOR RELEASE, BUT ARE TRAPPED IN LEGAL LIMBO.

LALALALA I CAN'T HEAAARR YOU!

I'M SO OLD, I REMEMBER WHEN OBAMA CAMPAIGNED ON A PROMISE TO CLOSE THAT PLACE.

AND HE TRIED! CONGRESS WOULDN'T LET HIM!

NOT EXACTLY. WHAT OBAMA TRIED TO DO WAS MOVE THE ENTIRE SYSTEM OF INDEFINITE DETENTION, INTACT, ONTO AMERICAN SOIL.

EVEN IF HE'D SUCCEEDED, WE'D BE FACING THE SAME SITUATION--JUST IN A DIFFERENT LOCATION.

BE THAT AS IT MAY--IT'S A MOOT POINT! AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE AND DID NOT SUCCEED! THERE'S NOTHING MORE TO BE DONE! THERE'S REALLY NO POINT IN EVEN THINKING ABOUT IT!

SO YOUR SOLUTION IS TO FORGET ABOUT THE PROBLEM ENTIRELY?

WHAT PROBLEM IS THAT?

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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Failing the test

Governments lack transparency in Judge Collette's view

(This is the first in a series of columns on government transparency by Steve Miller, a freelance journalist who specializes in issues involving open meetings and open records. This project is cosponsored by City Pulse and Mlive.)

Last month, Ingham County Circuit Judge William Collette ruled that an ACLU-led lawsuit, which alleges that the Michigan Legislature's approval of a right-to-work measure in December violated the state's Open Meetings Act, could move forward.

It thrust Collette into the national news simply on the merits of a ruling on a First Amendment case, although few news outlets cast the case as such — it was a union issue, most felt. The right-to-work crowd versus the unions. But the complaint Collette heard was not on the merits of the law — which struck down forced unionization in a state that defines the labor movement — but whether the

state Legislature operated within the law regarding transparency.

That word, “transparency,” is the buzzword of a movement that has all the right intentions but is mostly about feel-good notions with little substance. After all, who isn't for an open government?

“If I hear that word again, transparency, I'm going to jump off a bridge,” Collette said recently as we sat in his third floor office overlooking Mason's town square. “The truth is with transparency, government spends most of its time trying not to be transparent.”

Collette noted that under the state's open records laws, a public body is not required to create records but only to provide existing records. Unless it already exists, a database, for example, is not required to be assembled.

“Some people seem to think [Freedom of Information Act compliance] requires an organization to amass data for you,” he said. “That's not the way it works. So if an organization is able to artfully manipulate the way it retains data, they can make it very hard for you to obtain the info that you want.”

It hurts to hear that.

It gets worse. He said cases like the recent right-to-work challenge are common and that public bodies are frequently not honest.

“I've had a lot of open meetings cases, and they seem to revolve partly on an organization that doesn't realize it is covered by the law,” Collette said. “Others have made a valiant effort, rightly or wrongly, to arrange whatever they do in a fashion to avoid needing to comply.”

In other words, there are boards, panels, commissions and authorities that are levying taxes and spending public money while working to ensure you don't know about it.

I suggested the idea of mandatory and continuing training for elected officials, in which they are schooled on the law regarding open records and open meetings.

“I think it's a great idea,” Collette said. “But just remember that there's not a township in this state, or a city or a village, that does not have an attorney that they pay to handle routine legal matters. And often times they are the ones who advise them how to avoid open meetings and open records requirements, as well as to comply with them.”

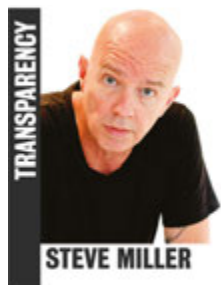
In the case of the right-to-work measure, a public interest group with a decided agenda — the ACLU — is rightfully there to put the notion of openness to the test. Did legislators fail to provide reasonable access to the public as it deliberated on the measure?

The spirit of the complaint is an assertion of Michigan's Open Meetings Act, which requires a political body to do its business in the open.

The plaintiff claims the lawmakers gathered to deliberate right-to-work legislation while disallowing the public entry to the Capitol gallery.

The complaint opens with a beautiful line: “Open government is the cornerstone of our democracy.” It's been uttered over the years in editorials and by fund-seeking do-gooder First Amendment groups over the years, often

See Transparency, Page 6



TRANSPARENCY

STEVE MILLER

Pot petition

Bernero “inclined” to support City Charter amendment to legalize less than an ounce of marijuana on private property in Lansing. Legal questions abound.

Should it be legal to possess up to an ounce of marijuana on private property in Lansing if you're over 21? City voters may get a chance to answer that question at the polls in November.

The Coalition for a Safer Lansing is gathering signatures to place on November ballots a City Charter amendment allowing for “the use, possession or transfer of less than 1 ounce of marijuana, on private property, by a person who has attained the age of 21 years,” according to

ballot language on the group's website.

“Primarily we realize cannabis prohibition is a failure — it's not working,” coalition Chairman Jeffrey Hank said last week on “City Pulse on the Air.”

“If you are an adult, on your own property, we believe police should leave you alone and focus on real crime, real victims, and thereby free up police resources to focus on serious crimes and all the problems associated with cannabis prohibition.”

The ballot initiative approach would circumvent the need for City Council approval. The group needs about 4,200 valid signatures by late August. Hank expects to get the needed amount in the next month and a half.

Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero is “not surprised” a legalization bid has surfaced here. “I would think it would pass,” he said. While he wants to study Hank's proposal more, Bernero said he's “inclined” to sup-

port it. Just last week, Bernero said he has asked the city attorney to look into the lesser step of decriminalization.

If legalization were approved, Lansing would join Detroit and Flint in allowing up to an ounce of marijuana on private property, which 65 percent of Detroit voters and 57 percent of Flint voters supported in November's election. Grand Rapids voters amended their City Charter in November to decriminalize marijuana, making possession punishable by fine. Also in



Hank

See Pot, Page 6



Property: 1623 S. Washington Ave., Lansing

Owner: Gloria and Orlando Spagnuolo

Assessed value: \$63,500

Owner says: While looking to sell, city can store its construction materials there

Architecture critic Amanda Harrell-Seyburn says: This structure, indicative of so many in the Lansing area, is vacant and nearly windowless. Ribbon windows on the south and east sides have been filled in with masonry block, closing it off from the street — unapproachable to the point of irrelevance. Combined with new car-dependent, competing commercial centers, this approach reduces vibrancy at the street necessary for successful retail, laying waste to many commercial buildings and corridors. Open up facades with windows. Limit sprawling retail. Concentrate on existing structures and corridors.

It seems we've finally found the sacred construction equipment burial grounds. The property at 1623 S. Washington Ave., formerly a Little Caesars pizza joint, is now nothing but a storage unit for more orange barrels and caution signs than is usually considered tasteful decorating.

Property owner Gloria Spagnuolo said she's looking to sell the building, but for now she allows the city to stash all of its extra roadwork goodies in the parking lot.

Spagnuolo said the city should be completing roadwork nearby and moving the equipment out by the end of May. I'm no business expert, but a lack of road signs and sandbags littering a prospective property is usually a good thing.

— Dylan Sowle

“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.

Transparency

from page 5

in vain. And it still sounds fresh.

Let's end with another reality to ponder: A bill to carry out Gov. Rick Snyder's plan to revamp the state's auto insurance system was filed April 23. Deep within the 67-page legislation, on pages 59-60, is a provision that would exempt the newly created Michigan Automobile Insurance Fraud Authority from the state's open records laws.

Two other states, Louisiana and Pennsylvania, have auto fraud authorities similar to the one proposed here. Both are legislatively created and are subject to open records requests.

Michigan's fraud authority would approve grants to public agencies, engage in public education programs and otherwise spend money on behalf of the public. But it doesn't want you to see how it works.

Like the plaintiffs claim regarding the right-to-work legislation and the circumstances of its passage, the secrecy under which this proposed insurance fraud authority could operate is bad for First Amendment rights, and bad for democracy.



Pot

from page 5

November, Ypsilanti voters amended their City Charter to make marijuana possession for those 21 and older the lowest law enforcement priority.

Whereas legalization frees one from any penalties associated with marijuana, decriminalization moves possession from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction and a fine, which usually starts at \$25 for a first offense.

At the same time as those Michigan cities, voters out west in Colorado and Washington said yes to legalizing cannabis statewide. Last week, state Rep. Jeff Irwin, D-Ann Arbor, introduced a bill that would decriminalize cannabis statewide. To be sure, marijuana changes are afoot.

"We think this is a trend nationwide. It's time for a change — people realize that — and we want to be on the forefront of that change here in the capital city," Hank said.

But with new trends come legal questions.

For example, just because Lansing could legalize cannabis on private property, doesn't mean you're free from prosecution. Local law enforcement is still empowered to enforce state law, Ingham County Prosecutor Stuart Dunning III said.

"I guess it's just a matter of a police chief who's going to enforce it," he said. "The police have a choice. They can either say, 'OK, we have a city ordinance that says this is not a crime

and do nothing.' Or they can say, 'This is still a violation of state law that we will enforce.'"

A decriminalization City Charter amendment that passed in Grand Rapids in November is before a Kent County circuit judge. The county prosecutor there says it conflicts with state law. A court order stopping the amendment was lifted in January, and the city will reportedly start applying the new ordinance today as it awaits a legal decision.

Kalamazoo City Attorney Clyde Robinson says the central problem with new marijuana laws at the local level is that cities "can't permit its citizens to do something that state law otherwise prohibits. I think it creates a legal question right off the bat."

To "knowingly or intentionally possess" cannabis — if you're not a registered medical marijuana patient — is a misdemeanor in Michigan, punishable by up to a year in jail or a fine of not more than \$2,000, or both. Manufacturing or delivering pot is a felony, with varying penalties based on weight involved. The lowest penalty — for less than five kilograms — is up to four years in jail or a fine of not more than \$20,000, or both. One kilogram is more than 35 ounces.

Robinson said Kalamazoo has eased marijuana penalties by making it a 93-day misdemeanor or up to a \$100 fine.

Hank said the group's "intent" is to legalize cannabis on all private property, whether it's your own or on someone else's if you have permission. "This isn't meant so people can use or smoke in public parks or on the street," he said.

But let's say you bring your own supply to a friend's house: Is it legal to drive with it there? And would you be able to cultivate your own product? Hank says the ballot language is simple and that such questions would have to be determined later by the courts or through new legislation.

"It's symbolic to law enforcement that the people of Lansing want to be able to do these kinds of things and want the police officers to be able to focus on real crimes, and we want to free up their resources to do so," Hank said. "How this would be interpreted by the courts is anyone's guess."

Hank is working with Tim Beck, an activ-

ist in Detroit who was behind the nearly identical proposal that passed there in November. Hank said the Lansing language is "almost exactly" what passed in Detroit, but it adds the word "transfer" to "allow two consenting adults to transfer marijuana between themselves and not face prosecution, which in this case would be felony drug charges." Transfer would include the sale, he said.

Beck said Detroit "refuses to make any statement" about whether it will make a formal policy of enforcing local law or charging people under state law, which would then have to be prosecuted in circuit court. While Detroit is staying mum, the city of Flint has been open about charging people under state law, Beck said — "the equivalent of an 'F-you'" to voters.

Still, Beck says the key to avoiding litigation is allowing local police to be able to make that decision.

If anything, these local cannabis changes are symbolic. More so here, Hank said, because it's the capital city — even though it's behind several Michigan cities.

"It's only right that Lansing is in this fight as well to change the laws," Hank said. "We should be a model for this. We think we should be leading the way and if our local politicians aren't going to do it, then we're going to do it."

— Andy Balaskovitz

The cleanup crew

River conservation program still going strong after two decades

Booze bottles, syringes, old cars — just a sampling of what's been pulled out of the Grand and Red Cedar rivers since the Adopt A River campaign debuted 20 years ago.

The river cleanup program began with an idea from journalist Mark Nixon, who was working at the Lansing State Journal

See Cleanup, Page 6

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, to consider ordering in sidewalks in conjunction with 2013 local street improvement project.

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

Marie E. McKenna
City Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing City Council on Tuesday, May 21, 2013, at 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, to consider the following:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from East Lansing Jonna's 2 Go, LLC for Special Use Permit approval for the property at 210 Michigan Avenue. The applicant is proposing to add liquor sales under a SDD license, in addition to beer and wine sales under the existing SDM license. The property is zoned B-2, Retail Sales Business District.
2. A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering Ordinance 1289, a City initiated ordinance to amend Section 50-573 of Division 2 — Article VI — Business, Office and Industrial Districts, and Section 50-593 of Division 4 — Article VI — Business, Office and Industrial Districts — of Chapter 50 — Zoning — of the Code of the City of East Lansing to amend the height allowed subject to a Special Use Permit in the B-2 District and to amend the parking requirements in the B-3 District.

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

Marie E. McKenna
City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on Wednesday, May 22, 2013 at 7:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

A second public hearing will be held for the purpose of reviewing the proposed 2013-2019 Capital Improvements Program.

Call (517) 319-6930, the Department of Planning, Building and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, for additional information. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. These matters will be on the agenda for the next Planning Commission meeting after the public hearing is held, at which time the Commission may vote on them. The Planning Commission's recommendations are then placed on the agenda of the next City Council meeting. The City Council will make the final decision on these applications.

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

Marie E. McKenna
City Clerk

Cleanup

from page 6

at the time. (Ed. note: Nixon is a restaurant critic for City Pulse). Nixon said he grew up around rivers and lakes and always had a fondness for history. Those two aspects of his life, along with some encouragement from his executive editor, helped him formulate the idea.

“The Grand was used and abused over the centuries,” he said. “In the early 20th century it was used poorly, and in the latter part it was simply neglected. At the time, Lansing was really struggling to save its own identity. It dawned on me that we have a beautiful river and natural resources, and thought, ‘Wouldn’t it be great to have festivals and restaurants overlooking the river?’”

Inspired by the river’s potential, Nixon wrote a series of editorials called “Grand Vision” and organized community summits that eventually wound up in the creation of the Adopt A River

program.

The inaugural event launched on May 21, 1994 and it’s still going strong. The 20th Adopt A River program will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

The Lansing Board of Water and Light has always been the main sponsor of the event, but over the years different commu-

nity groups and organizations have taken turns. For the past few years, the folks at Impression 5, a children’s museum and science center, have been at the helm.

Erik Larson, the executive director of Impression 5, said they are taking pre-registrations for volunteers throughout the week. He said once all the volunteers have been tallied, he assigns groups of 15 to 20 people to clean up a quarter-mile stretch along either the Grand or the Red Cedar. He said past years have averaged 500 to 600 volunteers.

Volunteers will traverse the 10.2 miles of the River Trail — as well as the banks and shallows of the rivers — to remove trash and rubbish.

“Unfortunately people don’t respect the river,” Larson said. “We find couches, bed frames, we found a washer and dryer once and lots of tires, but it is getting better. The whole point is to bring awareness to this beautiful natural resource in the middle of our city. We want people to take care of it and take pride in it.”

Larson said he doesn’t know precisely how much trash has been pulled out of the river over the last two decades, but he wishes he did.

“It’s gotta be tons and tons,” he said. “Typically, we have two 20-yard roll-off containers, and this year we’re folding in some recycling.”

“Everybody acknowledges this too, but we’re the victims of our own success,” said Nixon, who will be there Saturday passing out tree seedlings. “There’s not as much rubbish to clean up as there used to be. That’s why they’re branching out with

things like kids activities — they’re trying to do more than just a river cleanup.”

Volunteers will receive a picnic lunch and free admission to Impression 5 and an environmental fair, which was organized by the Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council.

Julie Powers, the executive director of the environmental group Mid-MEAC, has been involved with the program for several years. She said the health of the rivers is greatly improving.

“The Grand River, first and foremost, is pretty darn healthy,” she said. “And the Red Cedar is in the best shape it’s ever been in. A river can come back from completely dead in 27 years if you leave her alone — nature will find a way — but it helps if we keep the trash out of the river.”

Powers said there is an aspect to the Adopt A River program that is steeped in urban legend.

“There (used to be) a fountain in the river in front of the Lansing Center, and then it disappeared,” Powers said. “There’s an urban legend that says it was cut off, floated down the river and sank somewhere between the Lansing Center and the Brenke Fish Ladder in Old Town.”

Powers said whoever finds the fountain “wins Adopt A River forever.”

“It probably got thrown into storage or something, but I remember it as a kid,” she said. “(But I think) it’s somewhere in the river. I love telling kids that story — it’s good fun.”

— Sam Inglot

Computergate codified

City Council adopts computer usage policy city attorney says is unenforceable

A new internal policy requiring City Council members to sign out their computers to take home and that restricts the use of social media websites is unenforceable, the city attorney says.

After three months and seven drafts in the Council Personnel Committee, the City Council approved a resolution Monday night that governs Council member use of city-issued laptops, desktop computers and cell phones. It is a reaction to an incident several months ago involving Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar’s city-issued laptop.

Here’s the kicker: City Attorney Janene McIntyre says it’s not enforceable and the whole thing will need to be reworked.

“You can’t enforce it. So, therefore, it’s not worth the paper it’s written on,” McIntyre said Monday following the Council’s meeting.

McIntyre said the City Charter doesn’t allow Council members to discipline other Council members on anything short of a criminal act. The new policy says that technology use can be forfeited if a Council member breaks the rules.

See Computergate, Page 8

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF EAST LANSING
PROPOSED PY 2013/2014
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN
(PY 2013/2014 CDBG PROGRAM & BUDGET)**

The 2013 Action Plan represents the first year of the City’s current Consolidated Plan. The proposed projects and activities would be funded with federal government Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program funds awarded to the City through the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). The City’s anticipated PY 2013/2014 CDBG Entitlement Grant is \$432,030. The proposed budget will be considered by the City Council as part of the City’s Fiscal Year 2014 Budget and Program of Services. This is to provide notice that the formal 30 calendar day comment period on the proposed Action Plan commences on May 1, 2013 and will conclude on May 31, 2013. During this period, copies of the Action Plan may be reviewed at the City of East Lansing, Department of Planning and Community Development, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823, and the East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd, East Lansing, MI 48823.

Proposed PY 2013/2014 CDBG Program and Budget

1. Section 108 Loan, Virginia Avenue Project, repayment of principal and interest	\$ 130,122
2. Housing Rehabilitation program, <i>location: City Wide</i>	\$ 14,704
3. Hometown Housing Partnership, Homeowner Opportunity Assistance Program I & II	\$ 61,750
4. East Lansing Department of Public Works, Bailey Neighborhood Sidewalk Improvements	\$ 74,244
5. Public Services Activities	
a. Legal Services	
<i>Legal Services of South Central Michigan</i>	\$ 2,850
b. Shelter and Support Services for Dating and Domestic Violence	
<i>EVE Inc.</i>	\$ 7,600
c. Child Abuse Prevention Services	
<i>Child and Family Charities</i>	\$ 7,125
d. Shelter for Families with Children	
<i>Haven House</i>	\$ 29,179
e. Support Services for Low Income Migrant Services	
<i>Michigan State University, MSU HEP CAMP</i>	\$ 10,450
f. Shelter & Support Services for Survivors of Domestic Violence	
<i>MSU Safe Place</i>	\$ 7,600
6. Program Planning and Administration	\$ 86,406
	TOTAL \$ 432,030

Anticipated Program Income During PY 2013/2014: Program income from sale of real property purchased with Section 108 Loan proceeds is estimated at \$200,000. Other sources of program income funds are estimated at \$20,000.

Proposed Use of Program Income: Program income typically returns to the program which generated the income; i.e., recapture of second mortgage proceeds, through the Homeownership Opportunity Assistance Program (HOAP), will be budgeted for additional homebuyer subsidy. All program income generated from sale of lots in the Virginia Avenue Project will be put back into the project to cover further eligible acquisition and related costs. The specific use of other program income will be determined at a later date.

Beneficiaries: Activities under Project 1 meet the objective of low-moderate income housing benefit. Projects 2, 3, and 5 are limited clientele benefit, meaning that households and individuals assisted with these activities must meet the low-moderate income guidelines established by HUD or be considered by HUD to be members of a clientele generally presumed to be low-moderate income. Project 4 is a public improvement activity, which meets the low-moderate income area benefit. These activities are undertaken in areas in which at least 51% of the households have low-moderate income, as defined by HUD. Project 6 is planning and/or administrative activities.

Displacement: As required by HUD regulations, the City will follow the Federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Properties Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended and all applicable minimized to the greatest extent possible.

Range of Activities Eligible for CDBG Funding: Activities which may be undertaken with CDBG funds include but are not limited to: acquisition, disposition, public facilities and improvements, clearance, public (human) services, homeownership assistance, housing rehabilitation and preservation, renovation of closed buildings, lead-based paint hazard evaluation and reduction, special economic development activities, micro-enterprise development, technical assistance, and planning and administration. For additional information on eligible activities, refer to 24 CFR 570, Subpart C.

Further Information and Comments: If you wish to obtain further information regarding anything contained in this public notice, please contact the East Lansing Planning and Community Development Office at 319-6930 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Comments may be submitted to the East Lansing Planning and Community Development Department at City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823.

Dated: May 1, 2013
Marie McKenna
City Clerk

Computergate

from page 7

“Plus, there are a lot of issues with the document itself,” McIntyre said, referring to some of its language. “But even with some of those things being addressed, they can’t enforce what they’re trying to enforce.”

There are other options, such as amending the City Charter, she said. The Council voted 5-2 Monday on the policy, with Dunbar and Councilwoman Tina Houghton opposed. Councilwoman Jessica Yorke was absent.

The Personnel Committee — made up of Council President Carol Wood and members A'Lynne Boles-Robinson, Brian Jeffries and Jody Washington — is a reaction to an incident involving Dunbar's city-issued laptop, which was damaged during an argument with her husband last fall. Former Council office manager Diana Bitely said that Dunbar asked her to file a false police report in November saying it was stolen when Dunbar was asked to bring it in for software updates. Dunbar denied the accusation. Subsequently, the Personnel Committee questioned whether Dunbar was trying to cover up materials on the laptop.

An investigation by the City Attorney's Office cleared Dunbar of any suspected criminal and ethical wrongdoing in the matter, even with Bitely's statements taken as true.

At a February City Council meeting, Boles-Robinson said the reason the committee was looking at the policy was an old technology policy dating back to 2002 was “antiquated” — not because of Dunbar. Yet the resolution passed Monday mentions Dunbar's incident in a “whereas” clause, which gives background on the resolution: “WHEREAS, in 2012 the President of Council was notified by a staff member of an incident with a Councilmember concerning a computer.”

“The reference to ‘the Council member,’ we all know it’s me,” Dunbar said from the dais Monday night. “It’s no secret: My com-

puter broke and it was an issue. I know it’s about me. It’s a ridiculous policy. Don’t pretend this is not about me.”

Another reason the policy was pushed, according to its supporters, was that the Council should at least be held to the same standards as city employees.

“As elected officials, we should be the example — not the exception,” said Washington, who supported the resolution. “We were told clearly that we can’t use the city employee policy.” Another policy governs technology use by city employees.

The new policy limits the use of social media to “accomplish tasks related to the City’s mission,” which include record keeping, “administrative support activities” and “database access.” No one else may use a Council member’s computer. If Council members want to take a laptop out of City Hall, they’ll have to check it out and say when it will be returned.

The seven-page document also outlines what happens if equipment is damaged and who can authorize the replacement. For instances involving \$500 or more, the Council must approve the expense by resolution. Council members are also not allowed to store or create personal information on city-issued equipment, according to the policy.

But the policy doesn’t mean anything right now. The fact that the city attorney says the policy is unenforceable was discussed at Monday’s meeting.

“Right now, if you’re telling me this is not enforceable and there is no policy that governs us, we could take taxpayer-purchased equipment — laptop, cellphone, computer — in the office and do whatever we choose ... which means we could throw it out the window, we could give it to a child going off to college, we could give it to a family member to use for personal use. Nothing says at this point that we couldn’t do those things,” said Boles-Robinson, who chairs the Personnel Committee.

Despite the fact the committee worked on the policy for three months and it’s still unenforceable, Boles-Robinson said Monday night’s approval of the policy is a “starting point.” She said everything rests “squarely on the shoulders of the city attorney” to figure out how to make the policy enforceable.

— Sam Ingot

Medicaid face-palm

There’s a reason we have clichés. Quite often, they reflect reality.

“Cutting off your nose to spite your face.”

That is an apt description of the state Legislature as it ponders whether Michigan should be a part of the federal expansion of Medicaid. Should Michigan join most other states in expanding healthcare coverage to a half-million or more Michigan residents? Or should Michigan’s federal tax dollars go to other states so their residents can have



WALT SORG

healthcare? Should Michigan turn its back on \$1.1 billion in budget savings as a matter of principle?

Those are the questions Republicans in the Legislature are beginning to answer. And, if you are one of the tens of thousands of people in their dis-

tricts without health coverage, the answer so far is that ideology is more important than people — or even the state’s budget.

It is a Republicans-only debate. They hold most all the cards in the Legislature.

So far, they are saying “no” to Medicaid expansion. But that might change if federal rules allow the state to make lower-income families pay a little more.

The irony is that county-by-county healthcare statistics show the areas with the most pressing need for the program are Republican-leaning counties.

At the top of the needs list, according to a study from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is a five-county area in northeast Michigan where residents are poorer, older and sicker than almost anywhere else in Michigan (Presque Isle, Montmorency, Alpena, Alcona and Oscoda counties). It’s no coincidence that those five counties have both the lowest rates of health insurance coverage in the state and the state’s highest rates of premature death.

A study by the Michigan League for Public Policy says 43 percent to 48 percent of the uninsured in those five counties would gain coverage through a Medicaid expansion.

Most of the other Michigan counties with the highest levels of uninsured and premature mortality are in northern Lower Peninsula and the U.P. — all areas dominated politically by Republicans.

Gov Rick Snyder has included Medicaid expansion in his 2013-14 budget. So far, Snyder and his allies — as well as those half-million uninsured people — are losing.

The state House has passed a budget that omits the expansion; the Senate health budget subcommittee has followed suit. A vote on the issue by the full Senate could come as early as Thursday, although back-

ers hope to separate the Medicaid expansion issue from the rest of the budget in an effort to broker a compromise.

It’s not just Republicans against the needs of many of their own constituents. It is also a battle against some traditionally Republican-leaning support groups.

The Small Business Association of Michigan, which historically has strongly favored Republican candidates, is pushing for the expansion. SBAM’s executive director, Rob Fowler, notes that business owners indirectly pay the cost of non-paying emergency room patients through higher insurance premiums — about \$1,500 per family. Obamacare will sharply reduce those costs. Fowler’s group is joined by the Detroit and Traverse City chambers of commerce and the Michigan Business and Professionals Association in supporting the expansion.

Polling released last week by EPIC/MRA may hold the key to a compromise.

While a majority of Michigan supports Medicaid expansion, support falls along party lines. Pollster Bernie Porn said support for expansion expands from 60 percent to 74 percent if a “personal responsibility” rider (copays and/or premium participation) is attached. Most of the added support comes from self-identified Republicans.

It plays to the mindset expressed by Mitt Romney’s famous “47 percent” statement — that nearly half the population is made up of “takers” who simply don’t pay enough for government programs and services.

“We don’t have the votes for what the governor put out,” said Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville. “But that doesn’t mean we don’t have the votes to get something done that would expand Medicaid.”


Rep. Robert VerHeulen, R-Walker, a member of the Appropriations Public Health subcommittee, is among those who says his “no” vote could switch if there were a copay. “Even if it’s 50 cents, it’s something contributing to one’s own healthcare or well-being,” VerHeulen said. “I think that’s a healthy objective.”

The sticking point? Requiring copays will require a waiver of federal rules.

For Snyder, this is the latest challenge to his leadership from within. It hasn’t gone well for him so far. GOP lawmakers turned their back on his call to approve the International Bridge from Detroit to Windsor. (Snyder ultimately orchestrated an end-run around the Legislature.) Snyder is also getting little GOP support in his call for significant tax increases to fund repairs to Michigan roads and bridges.

Does the Governor have the political juice to produce tough votes from his own party? He hasn’t yet. Unless he reverses that record, a lot of people will continue to rely on the emergency room as their doctor’s office and the rest of us will pay the price through higher insurance premiums. Meanwhile, the rest of the nation will thank Michigan and a handful of other recalcitrant states for subsidizing healthcare for their citizens.

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GET ON MY LAWN!

Front-yard gardeners kill the turf and woo the world with food and flowers

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Everybody wants to brag about his garden, right? Maybe get it into the newspaper? “I’m not interested,” an 80-ish woman in her bathrobe said curtly at the curb. “Not interested.”

There’s no set profile for people who get rid of their front lawns and plant gardens. They range from tear-it-up anarchists to compulsive control freaks, from fussers to fanatics. Some just love tasty food and pretty flowers. Others hate the “hegemony of the lawn,” noisy gas mowers, poisons and the conformity of suburbia. Some are looking for old-fashioned community in a lock-and-load, neighborhood-watch culture. They love to lure butterflies and curious neighbors, give away tomatoes and share perennials.

Gardeners can also be private, even in the front yard. Not all of them are eager to talk your ears off about their big plans or green ideas.

For years, I’ve admired one small front yard on the near east side of Lansing, in the shadow of Sparrow Hospital. In the summer, it’s carpeted edge to edge with flowers and vegetables and ringed with pots of more flowers. There isn’t a blade of grass in sight.

“It seems futile to me to plant grass, fertilize it, cut it, and it all takes carbon. My parents would never have used a lawn mower or a leaf blower.”

SUE EBY, MOORES RIVER PARK RESIDENT

When I knocked one afternoon, a man in pajamas came to the door and told me his mother has been doing all the work in the yard for 40 years. That’s all he told me before she called him back into the house, in a language I didn’t understand. As the door closed, I glimpsed icons and ornate family portraits on the walls inside and smelled spicy food.

Early the next morning, I found the lady herself, hacking at the strip of grass between the street and the sidewalk with a hand tool, ignoring a dusting of late April snow. She wore round glasses, like Leon Trotsky’s.

“Not interested!” she repeated. She didn’t even look at me.

I left her in privacy, bent and absorbed in the dirt, to sing all summer with flowers.

I found lots of other people who were hap-

py to talk about their plans, their tools and their methods.

GETTING STARTED

On the first warm day this spring, Sue Eby pressed a fluffy pillow of mulch on her entire front lawn — on Britten Street in the Moores River Park area — and waited for it to die. She’s itched for this day since she moved into the house last November, within walking distance of her job with the state of Michigan. Eby grew up in a Mennonite community in the Upper Peninsula and always felt close to the land. She lived in a condo for years but chafed at its restrictions. Growing plants in pots on the porch didn’t satisfy.

Saturday morning, she dumped a layer of leaves and four truckloads of oak mulch onto every inch of her front yard to smother the grass.

Digging a lawn up is hard work, even with a rototiller, but smothering is almost fun. To prepare, Eby raked hills of leaves from her neighbors’ yards, with their glad permission. Many lawn-smotherers wait for trash pickup day and harvest bagfuls from up and down the street. Some learn all the pickup days and cruise the city in pickup trucks for free leaves. It takes a lot of them to kill a lawn.

The mulch cost about \$400, but Eby considers it a long-term investment. You can also smother grass with newspaper or cardboard — City Pulse works great, says East Side garden expert Peter Hudy — but mulch is easier on the eyes and smells nice during the transition.

Like most front-yard gardeners, Eby considers routine lawn care a boring, unproductive ritual.

“It seems futile to me to plant grass, fertilize it, cut it, and it all takes carbon,” she said. “My parents would never have used a lawn mower or a leaf blower.”

Digging is hard work, even with a rototiller. Smothering takes about a year of waiting before you can plant, but it’s a lot less work. You can do a large area at once, sit back, and scheme for next spring.

“Gradually, I’m going to plant a combination of flowers and things to eat,” Eby said. She might use strawberries for ground cover, as her neighbor across the street does. She’s got time to think about it.

DON'T DO IT ALL AT ONCE'

For an extreme — almost Babylonian — “after” picture, Denise Chrysler and Paul

See Gardens, Page 10



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

John Lindenmayer and Sarah Schillio’s front-yard garden on Leslie Street (top) is a magnet for neighbors and butterflies. On Saturday, (bottom) Sue Eby dumped a layer of dead leaves and four truckloads of oak mulch onto her front yard to kill the grass at the Moores River Park home. She plans to start beds of vegetables and perennials, with strawberries for ground cover.

Gardens

from page 9

Pratt's place will do. They have lived in their west side home on Everett Drive for 32 years. They've been digging up the front, side and back yards for 30 of those years.

"My advice is: Don't do it all at once," Chrysler said. They started by digging up small areas of grass, mixing the dirt with compost, making a bed for something tasty or pretty, and gradually working outward.

By 2010, their entire front yard was gone. Now the whole back yard is a vegetable garden, the side yard is a flower bed, and the front yard is full of ornamental grasses, perennials, shrubs and trees, filled out with bulbs and annuals.

Now for the Babylonian bit. Pratt happens to be Ingham County's deputy drain commissioner. That means there will be infrastructure. "I think of it as a garden — he thinks of it as a water management system," Chrysler said.

Their house and surrounding yard is Las Vegas for visiting drops of rain: What falls there stays there. Downspouts lead to rain barrels or rain gardens. Paths are made of porous concrete and permeable pavers, even the sidewalk and driveway.

Chrysler isn't a fanatic about using only native plants, as some gardeners are, but she does favor drought-resistant plants and avoids invasive species.

"When it's in its glory, there's not many inches that are empty," Chrysler said. Hummingbirds, butterflies and mantises are frequent visitors. And humans. In the evening, Pratt and Chrysler drink wine and chat with

neighbors who go out of their way on daily walks to see what's in bloom.

GET ON MY LAWN

The friendliness of front yard gardens — their total rejection of suburban home-is-my-fortress hunkering — is a big draw for many gardeners. Everyone has heard of surly seniors who yell at kids to get off their lawn. Helen Nethaway Mindiola is the opposite.

Five years ago, Mindiola, 87, installed a Japanese tomato ring smack dab in her front yard, where it towers like a silo, taking up half her frontage on Allen Street on the East Side. Heating bills were going up and she wanted to do something to help herself and her neighbors. In the off-season, her son, Patrick, installs weird Halloween and Thanksgiving displays inside the tower. Last Christmas, it morphed into a decorated gift exchange where kids could leave a toy and take one.

The tower is a growing technique Mindiola learned while living at a Venezuelan coffee farm 30 years ago. It's a ring of chicken wire about 15 feet around, up to 12 feet tall, with compost in the middle. Four tomato plants are positioned on the outside. The ring is watered in the middle, so the roots are drawn toward the moist, compost-rich soil.

She got over 2,000 tomatoes in her first year.

"I've stopped telling people that because they think I'm lying," she said.

The idea of the ring, she said, is to share. "My rules are: You can take tomatoes free, as many as you want, but only if you're walking or riding a bicycle."

She hastened to point out a misnomer. "It's not Japanese. It was invented by a post-



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Helen Nethaway Mindiola's tomato tower yields thousands of tomatoes each summer, which she gives away to passersby. The structure doubles as a Halloween scare zone and Christmas toy exchange in the off season.

man from South Dakota."

The community-minded East Side is Lansing's prime spot for front-yard gardens. Not far from Mindiola's tomato tower, John Lindenmayer and Sarah Schillio tend a classic front-yard sitter's garden, with purple coneflowers and brown-eyed Susans, at their house on Leslie Street.

"We get a lot of foot traffic," Lindenmayer said. "People stop and talk. It changes and grows."

They had a prosaic reason for installing it. "I'd mow the side yard but I couldn't reach the front with my electric mower," Lindenmayer said. "The cord was too short."

With the help of the in-laws, they dug most of the yard up in one back-breaking weekend seven years ago, then worked it out further over the years. They brought in rocks and mulch. Neighbors donated perennials. Now they're returning the favor.

"That's cool, sharing them," Lindenmayer said. "Since then, we've passed on a lot of plants."

Lawns are a lot of work, but so are gar-

dens. Separating perennials to keep them from crowding each other is a chore, especially if you hate sharing flowers with people.

In Lansing, as in most American towns, front-yard gardens are still a novelty, but grass is increasingly on the defensive.

SPREADING THE MESSAGE

On April 9, a dozen would-be sod-busters crowded into a small shed, as thunder and lightning crashed outside, to get tips from experts at a "Sod-to-Garden Ideas" workshop on Lansing's East Side.

They had different reasons for being there. Southsider Beverly Smith has already been gardening for about seven years and really wants to tear things up this year.

"I have five kids," she said. "That's why I garden."

It seems that no bastion of the American lawn is safe. Glenn Ernst, a member of the St. Johns Masonic Lodge, was tired of years of mowing two city lots behind the lodge.

"We want to convert that into a commu-

See Gardens, Page 11

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Botanical Gardens

Native Plant Strategies for Attracting Great Insects

Fenner Nature Center, 2020 Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing

Gardens

from page 10

nity garden, to donate to the community," he declared. Last weekend, Ernst braved the wet ground and built some raised beds, but hasn't begun tilling up the sod yet.

Getting down to basics, Julie Lehman, coordinator of the Greater Lansing Food Bank's Garden Project, gave the group a cup of composted soil to fondle. It sprinkled softly through my fingers like slightly dried coffee grounds.

"We have a very nutrient-rich, wet clay soil around here," she explained. That's good, she said, but compost is essential to break it up.

"Compost absorbs and distributes the water, not like subsoil that captures and holds onto it," she explained.

Peter Hudy, who tends community gardens at the Marshall Street Armory, showed the group how to kill grass with mulch (or City Pulse). He said he's already dug up "about a third" of his own lawn.

"Our first year [at the Armory], we used 200 bags of chopped up leaves, worked them into the soil and put paper bags on top," Hudy told the group. The weeds stayed at nearly zero for three years. "The moisture stays in there, nutrients stay in there," he said. "The neighbors have smaller tomato plants, and they're out there watering three or four times a week."

Some people don't have patience for a slow smother. For those who want the quick kill, burly Americorps volunteer Neal Valley waded into the violent mechanics of sod removal.

He recommended a gas-powered tiller for big yards.

For a small plot, he suggested a square point shovel and a "bastard file" to keep the blade sharp. He made a vertical chop-down motion.

"Step down about two inches, just below the root zone of the sod," he said. Chunk.

Then came the stake in the heart. Valley leaned over and pried up the imaginary square of grass with a \$15 gadget called a soil knife, a cross between a pie server and a Roman short sword.

"It has a lot of uses, but it's really great for cutting roots," he grinned. "Just loosen the patch and work the soil."

I could almost hear a thousand little grass roots rip away and a new door open in the dirt.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Julie Lehman dishes the dirt on Lansing's clay-ey soil (gardeners should mix it with compost) at a sod-to-garden workshop April 9. Lehman is the Garden Program Coordinator for the Greater Lansing Food Bank's Garden Project.

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'Confidential'—ly speaking

Anthony Bourdain dishes on fellow celebrity chefs, farm-to-table dining and why he loves to make fun of hipsters

By GABRIELLE JOHNSON

Anthony Bourdain had just returned to New York after spending a week in Spain filming his new CNN show, "Parts Unknown," when we spoke by phone recently. The bestselling author and culinary world's sexy, swaggering *bête noire* was sitting next to his 6-year-old daughter, who was playing Grand Theft Auto throughout the interview. Not exactly the kind of discipline you'd expect from one of TV's most high-profile celebrity chefs.

"I don't know whether that's bad parenting or awesome parenting," Bourdain said, unapologetically. And speaking of unrepentant, Bourdain will fire up the Wharton Center with his sharp tongue and even sharper wit as part of his "Guts and Glory" tour on Tuesday. He will undoubtedly have the audience's full attention, should he choose to air his highly publicized grievances with fellow celebrity chefs Paula Deen (whom he famously called "the worst, most dangerous person to America") or Guy Fieri, whose New York restaurant he called a "terror dome" — even if the East Coast counter-culture is ironically enjoying it.

"I love making fun of hipsters," Bourdain said. "But they're good for the restaurant business."

Photo courtesy CNN

Anthony Bourdain struck a chord in pop culture with his debut book "Kitchen Confidential." He has two TV shows in production and will soon publish a book by a North Dakota food critic.



Bourdain, 56, shot to the front of the crowded celebrity chef pack after his 2000 book, "Kitchen Confidential: Adventures in the Culinary Underbelly," was both a commercial and critical hit. He went on to host the travel food show "No Reservations" on the Travel Channel for seven years and became a frequent contributor to "Top Chef," the alpha competition-based kitchen reality show. He further jacked up his public profile earlier this year with the premiere of ABC's "The Taste," another reality show tailor-made for gourmands and wannabes, along with the debut of "Parts Unknown."

And 150 VIP ticket holders who still hunger for more Bourdain will get to hear what he has to say in person at a sold-out post-party at Red Haven, one of the Lansing area's newest and most culinarily

ambitious restaurants. Co-owner Nina Santucci said she's prepared for one of the biggest nights of her career.

"We're all super geeked about his visit," Santucci said. "He was always on the top of our list of dream people to come to our restaurant, but we never thought he would actually make it."

Red Haven's farm-to-table menu changes seasonally, but it makes the most of Michigan's abbreviated growing season. Red Haven opened last fall after Santucci and her partner, executive chef Anthony Maiale, spent a year taking their talents on the road — literally. Their Purple Carrot food truck was the first iteration of their restaurant.

Bourdain expressed admiration for the structure of Red Haven, both from an agricultural standpoint and after being told of Red Haven's modest beginning.

"We've made an effort to reach out to whoever is doing God's work out there," Bourdain said. "I love (restaurants that) transition from food truck to brick and mortar. It's a low-cost way into the public consciousness. It helps people get started who otherwise wouldn't be able to start at all. (Celebrity chefs) Paul Qui, Ludo Lefebvre and Roy Choi all started with a food truck. It's a ballsy thing to do, to have a farm-to-table mentality in Michigan where the agricultural situation is a little less optimal. It's to be admired."

While anyone who looks at a map can deduce that growing seasons in Michigan leave a little to be desired, Bourdain encouraged mid-Michigan cooks to look to the French masters for instruction and in-

are going — there seems to be a more intense interest every year in authentic food," Bourdain said. "People are more and more adventurous, more and more interested in food. Jonathan Gold (of the Los Angeles Times) pointed out brilliantly: Dining out has become a counter-cultural experience."

Shows like "The Great Food Truck Race" have also piqued mid-Michigan's interest in portable restaurants, Clyne said.

"There are two food trucks on campus now, that kind of thing has evolved from the Food Network and the response is amazing," he said. "(Last week) it was freezing, but people were still coming out of their office because they were so excited — 'It's a food truck!'"

Clyne acknowledged that some culinary phenomena take their time making it to Lansing.

"We are probably about three years behind everyone else, but that's not bad," he said. "You go to other cities of similar size, population, demographic, and they don't have any of the stuff that we do. It's nice that we're able to be first of the second wave, if you like."

Clyne named several local restaurants that stand out in the

"I cannot complain with the way things are going — there seems to be a more intense interest every year in authentic food. People are more and more adventurous, more and more interested in food."

—Anthony Bourdain, chef, author and TV personality

inspiration in the kitchen.

"In Julia Child's 'Mastering the Art of French Cooking,' she explains this is not hard, fancy, or necessarily expensive," Bourdain said. "(Same with) Jacques Pepin's 'La Technique.' All of these French classics were written by hardworking people who were looking to make the best of second-best ingredients. They are really good examples of approachable technique and non-snobbery. The French, the Italians, the Spanish — they all have a long tradition of making the most out of secondary ingredients."

As evidenced by the sold-out party at Red Haven — not to mention that Bourdain is even coming to East Lansing — the effect of the foodie culture has not been lost on locals. Senior executive chef Michael Clyne of Michigan State University's Kellogg Center, said he sees the "Food Network Effect" as a good thing. He said blogs, TV shows and entire networks devoted to food encourage amateur gourmands to expand their knowledge and their boundaries when it comes to what they put in their mouths.

"People who watch (cooking shows) definitely have higher expectations once they're educated about food," Clyne said.

And who's Bourdain to argue?

"I cannot complain with the way things

Lansing area's dining scene — including Dusty's Cellar, the English Inn and the Soup Spoon Café — but even Olive Gardens have a place in Americana, according to Bourdain. Last year, an Olive Garden review written by longtime North Dakota food columnist Marilyn Hagerty went viral, and Bourdain confirmed rumors that he will publish Hagerty's forthcoming book. While a publication date has not been announced, Bourdain's excitement about the project is evident.

"It's a history of dining in that part of America," he said. "In over 30 years of writing about restaurants, (Hagerty) has cumulatively managed to tell the story of the history of a lot of our communities between New York and LA. It's fascinating — it will kill snark dead."

And with that, the frequent flier, ultimate adventurous eater and chef attacker drifted back to the little girl playing the ultra-violent video game beside him. He said she likes to make omelets and ratatouille with him, but didn't know which way they were leaning that day. Maybe he'll tell the story someday.

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The Lansing-Lolla connection

Two mid-Michigan acts take the stage at national music fest

By SHAWN PARKER

A lot has changed since Jane's Addiction honcho Perry Farrell gave birth to the mammoth music festival known as Lollapalooza in 1991. Long gone are the days of the fest as a traveling road show featuring up to a dozen headlining bands on a main stage and as many as 40 second-tier acts on a smaller stage. Where, at an amphitheater such as the former Pine Knob Music Theatre in Clarkston, Mich. (since renamed the DTE Energy Music Theatre), you could catch emerging cutting edge artists such as Nine Inch Nails, Pearl Jam and Tool.

In 2006, Lollapalooza transitioned into a "destination festival" in Chicago's Grant Park with eight stages and over 120 artists each year. And so on Aug. 2, hordes of music devotees will descend on the second closest major metropolis to Lansing, desperate to see massive headliners like The Cure, The Killers and — heaven help us — Mumford & Sons.

But perhaps even more thrilling to attendees are the scores of blog-worthy up-and-comers, all looking to make an impression and gain a few new fans, which this year include two acts with Lansing connections. While their sounds couldn't be more different, the swelling of their fan bases is much the same.

Electronic artist GRiZ (real name, Grant Kwienicki) is a former Michigan State University student who recently faced the reality of his growing popularity when a secret show in Lansing quickly grew out of hand.

"I wanted to have (the secret show) at Mac's (Bar), because that's kinda where

I started — sort of as a 'thank you,'" GRiZ said. "I should have known. It blew up in my face, but I think in a good way."

Hundreds of fans couldn't get inside the small club, the most agitated and immature of which resorted to throwing bottles in protest when they were denied seeing his set of pulsing, bass-laden dubstep.

"It was a free show, one-in and one-out kind of deal," he said. "Everyone that got in had a great time. I wrote a tweet asking everyone to relax, that this isn't an end-of-the-world show, and we don't want the cops to show up and ruin it for everyone."

From beyond capacity bedlam in Lansing to the sprawling Grant Park, GRiZ is suitably stoked to play Lollapalooza.

"(Lollapalooza) was the second major festival I ever went to," he said. "My entire world was shook, seeing electronic dance music like that at a major festival. I will never forget it, and to play on that stage is absolutely amazing."

Equally thrilled for the opportunity to play at the storied event is Davey Jones, banjo player for indie folk outfit Frontier Ruckus. Originally formed in Metro Detroit but composed almost entirely of MSU grads, the band is a fixture at local shows and on radio station WDBM-FM (88.9 The Impact)



Courtesy Photo

Lansing-based Frontier Ruckus takes a step up to the big time when they perform at Lollapalooza in Chicago this summer. Lansing electronic artist Griz will also appear.

in East Lansing. Jones says his band playing Lollapalooza is particularly meaningful.

"We're hugely influenced by '90s alt radio, and the bands that started (Lollapalooza)," Jones said. "We've played Bonnaroo and other festivals, but I think this might be the biggest. It's very exciting to be able to do something this cool."

Jones hopes that even though his band

has a potentially barren, midday time slot, they will leave with some new fans.

"The nice thing about playing a festival is that people can wander around and hear a lot of music that they haven't heard before, and hopefully some people will do that with us," Jones said.

GRiZ is just thrilled to drop the beat for what he hopes is the eager and accepting masses.

"Midwest crowds, that's where I'm from — I love playing there," he said. "Midwesterners get it."

But GRiZ hints that he may be stepping back from the sound that got him where he is. He hopes to distance himself from — but not entirely abandon — that oft-maligned moment in electronic dance music called "the drop," where the crowd is granted cathartic release in the form of a ridiculously telegraphed bass wobble and tempo change.

"I'm moving away from that genre and production," GRiZ said. "I really appreciate the energy it provides, but stylistically, I'm (starting to) identify more with soul and funk."

Frontier Ruckus is on tour in support of its latest record, a sprawling double album called "Eternity of Dimming." Jones thinks the festival is still relevant but has modest hopes for his band's appearance.

"It's a huge cultural attraction, attracting hundreds of thousands of people," Jones said. "We just want to play in front of more people, and for more people to hear the music."

"It would be great to play Lollapalooza and then come back to Chicago and have a great show (of our own)," he said.

Maybe GRiZ and Frontier Ruckus will join forces someday for some kind of massive, Lansing-fueled, folk-tronica mash-up, complete with a banjo solo and, yes, one more drop. And maybe Trent Reznor will see it and smile; wouldn't you know it, Nine Inch Nails is one Lollapalooza's headliners this year.

Maybe it hasn't changed that much after all.



Courtesy Photo

One of the pieces from last year's exhibit at Absolute Gallery.

Fostering hope

Art exhibit heightens awareness of teenagers in foster care system

By DANA CASADEI

The First Sunday Gallery Walk is usually dedicated to established or upcoming artists, but at Absolute Gallery this Sunday, guests will be greeted by novice artists working with elementary media. Raku, fiber and oil paints will be replaced by crayons, magic markers and Popsicle sticks as eight teenage artists who are part of Wendy's Wonderful Kids

— a program that helps children in the foster care system — display their work.

"We're looking to find these kids forever homes," said Whitney Banks, adoption recruiter at St. Vincent Catholic Charities and the event's organizer. "One of the kids created a plate that has hearts around it. He said that he needs love from his future family."

This is the third such exhibit at Absolute Gallery, following successful shows last November and May. Four of the artists will be present to discuss their pieces and "vision boards." Banks said that vision boards have three themes: dreams, needs and hopes. This lets viewers get into the mind of the young artists.

"These kids have a story why they're putting this artwork together," said Tamra Johnson, a spokeswoman for St. Vincent. "They're allowing families to see what exactly it is they want in

a family. Anything that we can do to make (adoption) happen, I want to be a part of."

Banks got the idea to display art from kids looking for a home when she was on a date and stopped into a gallery to see if its featured any children's art. She was recommended to go to Absolute Gallery, where she was told they did a lot with kids' art.

"I went there, checked out the gallery and instantly got a great vibe," Banks said. She wrote an email to gallery owner Kathy Holcomb about her idea, and Holcomb quickly replied that they had to do this.

Banks said she hopes to continue doing the show in November and May of each year (November is National Adoption Month; May is National Foster Care Month). There are also plans to take the art exhibit to other places.

Wait for it ...

Pulitzer Prize-winning MSU grad reflects on his early struggles

By **BILL CASTANIER**

A woman from a local book club recently accosted me about Richard Ford's novel, "Canada." She'd read my review, but was perplexed by its lack of kinetic action.

"When are the murders?" she asked me. "I'm almost two-thirds into the book and there are no murders."

"You're close," I told her. "Real close."

Ford would have probably told her to enjoy the journey, but it's his own fault; the first sentence of "Canada" really gets the reader wound up: "First I'll tell you about the robbery our parents committed. Then about the murders ..."

You knew the murders were going to happen — you just didn't know when.

Quite like Ford's life, which is filled with fits, starts and pitfalls.

Ford, a Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, will give the keynote speech and receive an honorary doctorate of fine arts at 3:30 p.m. Friday at Michigan State University's advanced degree commencement ceremony. Ford, 69, came to MSU in 1962 to study hotel restaurant management, but he changed his major to English when he discovered he was not good at organic chemistry or math — along with "having done all the work as a kid." Ford worked in his stepfather's hotel growing up.

Even though Ford arrived on campus from the Deep South during the height of the Civil Rights movement, he said he found MSU to be "very invigorating" and different from what he experienced in his hometown of Jackson, Miss. He received his MSU degree in 1966.

"The first thing I noticed was I was going to school with African-Americans and that there were a lot of people with non-Anglo-Saxon names in my classes," he said. (Neither of those would have been the case back home in Jackson.) "MSU enabled me to run from the identity I had worked up for myself."

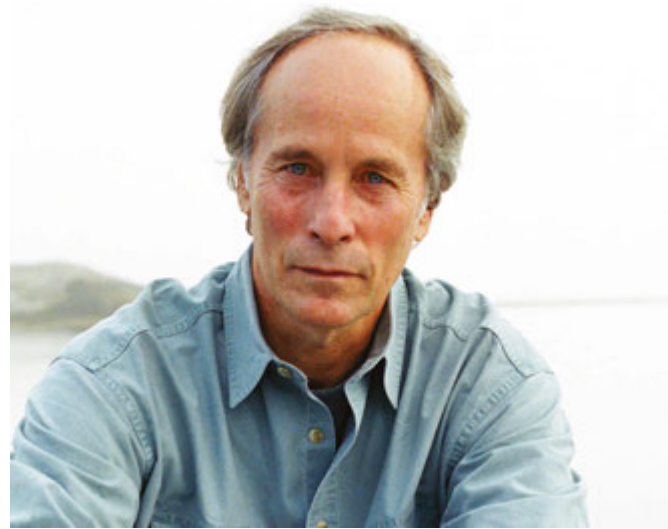
Part of that identity was boosting cars for joy rides with a friend, who ended up in prison.

"I didn't like it, and it was Etch-A-sketched out of existence," he said. "For me, the South was a bogus place, and the Midwest was real America."

Ford said he was "a real dogged student," spending six nights a week in the library. Most often, he was on a study date with a coed he met bussing tables at Mason Hall. After four solid years with great grades, he applied to the top tier law schools.

"I'd been expecting to go to law school, but I was rejected by all the places I wanted to go," he said. "I had no other plans."

After graduation, his life took a meandering route. He put in a short stint at a law school that did accept him, St. Louis' Wash-



Courtesy Photo

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Ford delivers the keynote address at MSU's commencement ceremony on Friday.

ington University, but returned to Michigan before he graduated and taught junior high school in Flint. He also had a go at being an Arkansas state trooper and even enlisted in the Marines Corps, but an illness there forced his resignation.

"I was working with the fear of failure — I was sick of failing," he said. "I had failed at everything. But then I remembered one of my writing professors telling me that if I wanted, I could get into a good writing school for an MFA."

Ford was accepted to the University of California at Irvine's writing program, where he studied under famed historical fiction author E.L. Doctorow, among others.

"I knew what it was like to work hard, but I was not the star of the show by any means," Ford said. Following graduation from the University of California in 1970, Ford wrote two novels — "Piece of My Heart" in 1976 and "The Ultimate Good Luck" in 1981 — but sales were disappointing, and Ford was once again facing failure. But then things took a fortuitous turn.

He took a job with a start-up sports publication, "Inside Sports," which soon folded. The experience, however, inspired his 1986 novel, "The Sportswriter," which took his

writing career in a completely new direction. "The Sportswriter" became the first of what would become one of the most highly regarded trilogies in literature, often cited as one of the most forthright books about being a man in modern America.

Ford calls the trilogy "unintended." Following "The Sportswriter," which was nominated for a PEN/Faulkner Award, he wrote "Rock Springs" (1987), but then switched gears for the second book in the trilogy, which took eight years to write — but that ended up being well worth the wait. That novel, "Independence Day," won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction

and made Ford the only MSU graduate to win that award. He finished the trilogy in 2006 with "The Lay of the Land."

He's dedicated all of his novels and short story collections to his MSU study date, Kristina Hensley, who's now his wife. Some would argue that Ford is a born writer; his prose has a deep, hypnotic rhythm that propels his languid stories forward. But he refuses to wear the mantle.

"I'm not a natural born storyteller," he said. "There's nothing natural about (writing) — it's artificial, an illusion. What's natural to me is work."

He certainly didn't pick it up at home.

"Nobody in my family told stories," Ford said. "They lived through the Depression and didn't want to revisit that. If you would ask them about the past, they would say, 'Why would you ask me that?'"

What does come naturally to Ford is his ability to represent life, including its many disappointments. For him, it's not the challenges that matter but what you do with them. "Canada" is filled with conflicts; What could be worse than having your parents rob a bank and end up in prison?

Well, there are those two murders. But you have to wait for them.

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New Exhibits

Absolute Gallery. "What We Really Need," work by eight teenagers in the foster care system. Reception: 1 p.m.-4 p.m. 307 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 482-8845 (see story, p. 13).

Arts Council of Greater Lansing. "Celebrating Creativity." Lansing School District's elementary art exhibit. Reception: 1 p.m.-4 p.m. 1208 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 372-4636.

Belen Gallery (inside the Michigan Women's Historical Center & Hall of Fame). "Of Fears and Memory." The work of Lansing artist Alina Poroshina. Reception: 2 p.m.-4 p.m. Hours: Noon-4 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday; 2 p.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. 213 W. Malcolm X St., Lansing. (517) 484-1880.

Creole Gallery. "Graduation portfolio." Work by Lansing Community College's Photographic Imaging Class of 2013. Reception: 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Hours: 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. 1218 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-2736.

EagleMonk Pub and Brewery. Ryan Shelander's photography. Reception: 3 p.m.-5 p.m. Hours: 3 p.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; noon-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday; noon-8 p.m. Sunday. 4906 W Mt. Hope Highway, Lansing. (517) 708-7350.

East Lansing Public Art Gallery. "Abstracts and Landscapes." Paintings by Myrtle Joy. Reception: 1 p.m.-2 p.m. Hours: 6 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday; noon-8 p.m. Sunday. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 894-2166.

Gallery 1212. "Hong Kong State of Mind," by Kellie Buckley and "Steam Punk," by Faith Keresztes. Reception: Noon-5 p.m. Hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday. 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212. gallery1212.com.

Great Lakes Artworks. Featuring work by

Jodie Grzadzinski and Chris Hopp. Reception: Noon-4 p.m. Hours: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday; 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; noon-4 p.m. Sunday. 306 E. Grand River, East Lansing. (517) 372-4293.

Grove Gallery Co-op. "Marigolds to Mulberries: Exploring Natural Dyes." Reception: Noon-4 p.m. Hours: Noon-6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; noon-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. 325 Grove St., East Lansing. (517) 333-7180. grovegallerycoop.com.

Lansing Art Gallery. "School of Fish," by Stephen Palmer and "Outgrowth Series," by Cara O'Brien. Reception: 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Friday. Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and First Sunday. 119 N. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 374-6400. lansingartgallery.org.

MICA Gallery. "Take Flight." Paintings and drawings by Steve Barber. Reception: Noon-4 p.m. Hours: Noon-5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; noon-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. 1210 Turner St., Lansing (517) 371-4600. oldtownarts.org.

MODI Art Gallery. "Works," by Lansing artist Rob Shelburg. Reception: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. Hours: By appointment. 605 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 582-9402.

MSU Museum. "East Lansing Modern, 1940-1970." Exploring the area's modern architectural design heritage. Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. 409 W. Circle Drive, Michigan State University, East Lansing. (517) 355-2370. museum.msu.edu.

North Foyer Gallery (East Lansing Public Library). The "I" and the "Eye." Paintings and collages by Carole Steinberg Berk. Reception: 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Hours: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Saturday; 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Saper Galleries. "Costa Rican Cocobolo (Revisited)." Celebrating the gallery's 35th anniversary. Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 1 p.m.-4 p.m. First Sunday. 433 Albert Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-0815.

The Studio Gallery. Artwork by Paul Thornton.

Reception: Noon-6 p.m. Hours: Noon-6 p.m. Thursday-Sunday. 15098 Peacock Road, Haslett. (517) 339-9563.

Ongoing Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum. "Pattern: Follow the Rules," "Alyson Shotz: Geometry of Light," "Variations on a Line (Moving)," "Guillermo Kuitca: Diarios," "Naiza Kahn: Karachi Elegies" and "Geometries: Selections from the Collection." Hours: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; noon-9 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. 556 E. Circle Drive, Michigan State University, East Lansing. (517) 884-3900. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Mackerel Sky. "Benches and Shelves," by Peter Czuk. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday; noon-4 p.m. Sunday. 211 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2211. mackerelsky.com.

Neighborhood Empowerment Center. Work by eight Michigan artists. Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. 600 W. Maple, Lansing. (517) 372-5980.

Okemos Library. Fourteen artists from the Deckled Edge Art Group. Hours: 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 1 p.m.-7 p.m. Sunday. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 349-0250.

(SCENE) Metrospace. "Residuum." Multi-media work by five artists. Hours: 2 p.m.-5 p.m. Thursday; 2 p.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday; noon-4 p.m. Sunday. 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6832. scenemetrospace.com.

TIC Gallery. "Shadow," multi-media work by 15 artists. Hours: 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday. Technology Innovation Center, 325 E. Grand River, East Lansing. (517) 319-6861.



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Gallery 1212 FINE ART STUDIOS



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OUT ON THE TOWN

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

Wednesday, May 1

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes & activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840.

Babytime. Beginning story time for babies under 2. 10:30-11 a.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

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

Writing Your Life. Write a memoir. To register, email kathleendeeganveith@yahoo.com. 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$80 for 8 weeks. Kellogg Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing.

May Day: Labor Movement Discussion. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. PilgrimUCC.com.

Michigan Farm Bill Conservation Summit & Citizens Forum. RSVP required. 3-8 p.m. FREE. Kellogg Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. miconservation.eventbrite.com.

Beginning Genealogy Series. Presented by librarian & archivist Kris Rzepczynski. 6-7 p.m. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840.

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

EVENTS

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

Lansing Liederkrantz Club Luncheon. Mini bazaar & bake sale. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. \$8. 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing.

"Chops" Screening. Jazz documentary. For all ages. 7:30 p.m. \$5 students, \$10 adults. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-6480.

Grande Paraders Square Dance Club. Round dancing, 7 p.m. Modern-style square dancing, 7:30 p.m. \$4 members, \$5 guests. Holt 9th Grade Campus, 5780 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 694-0087.

Poetry Slam. NALS of Lansing hosts. Theme: "Realizing the dream; equality for all." 6 p.m. FREE.

See Out on the Town, Page 18

THU. MAY 2 >> HOW WE BUILT IT PANEL DISCUSSION

As soon as the building process began, the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum was the talk of the town. The design of the building was a mystery as Lansing waited for its completion. On Thursday, a panel discussion will focus not on its design, but the building process. The panel will include a local architect, a construction company and others that turned Zaha Hadid's vision into a reality. The event will be moderated by Min Jung Kim, the museum's deputy director. 6-7:30 p.m. \$6, \$3 students, FREE members. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

THU. MAY 2 >> MEET ROBIN MARTY & JESSICA MASON PIEKLO

This Thursday, political and reproductive rights reporters Robin Marty and Jessica Mason Pieklo will be at Schuler Books in Lansing. The duo will discuss their book, "Crow After Roe: How 'Separate But Equal' Has Become the New Standard in Women's Health and How We Can Change That." The book looks at 12 states that since 2010 have passed various anti-abortion or anti-women's health laws. It also looks at how those laws are written to provoke a repeal of Roe vs. Wade, the landmark U.S. Supreme Court abortion decision that celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. 7 p.m. Schuler Books & Music Lansing, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495. schulerbooks.com.



MAY 2-4 >> SPRING POTTERY SALE & SHOW

In 1969, 40 potters met to discuss the idea of starting a potters' guild. Now, over 40 years later, that group is still going strong and will host the Spring Potter Sale and Show this week. Running Thursday through Saturday, there will be hundreds of items from more than 30 of the Great Lansing Potters' Guild potters to choose from. The semi-annual sale will have a variety of wheel-thrown and hand-built pieces in stoneware and porcelain and will showcase a variety of firing techniques. Thursday, 5:30-9 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. glpg.org.

MAY 3-5 >> 'SLEEPING BEAUTY'



The Children's Ballet Theatre of Michigan presents "Sleeping Beauty" this weekend. The production, directed and choreographed by Gregory M. George, tells the story of Aurora, who is played in a shared role by high school seniors — and twin sisters — Jessica and Jennifer Jimenez. The full-length ballet also includes several dancers from the Children's Miracle Network. The Children's Ballet Theatre of Michigan includes more than 50 dancers, ages 8-18. The Children's Miracle Network is also the focus of the CBT Company's community fundraising campaigns. Friday & Saturday, 7 p.m. Sunday, 2 p.m. \$12, \$10 students. Holt High School, 5885 Holt Road, Holt. cbtdance.org.

SUN. MAY 5 >> INTERNATIONAL FAMILY EQUALITY DAY

This Sunday, celebrate family pride as part of International Family Equality Day, a celebration of the global LGBT family community. The event will take place in the Newton Room at Impression 5 Science Center and snacks will be provided, but feel free to bring your own. A group photo will be taken at 3:30 p.m. In July 2011, LGBTQ family activists from around the world took part in the first-ever International Symposium of LGBTQ parenting organizations. International Family Equality Day was an outcome of that event and will take place every year on the first Sunday in May. 2-5 p.m. \$5 adults & children one and older, \$4.50 seniors. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 281-6470.

WED. MAY 8 >> MSU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE SPRING GALA

Even though the Michigan State University Department of Theatre's season recently closed with "Funny Girl," it's never too early to think about next season. Next Wednesday, the department will host its 4th Annual Spring Gala as a fundraiser for the upcoming season and to replace the department's dance floor. This year's goal for the event is \$15,500. The evening will have food and drinks, a silent auction and dancing with the string band Oh! Contraire and caller Mike Clark. WLNS anchor and community theater personality Evan Pinsonnault will emcee the event. 6-9 p.m. \$45. MSU DOT Scene Shop, 714 S. Harrison, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 355-6691.



TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

SUN. MAY 5TH



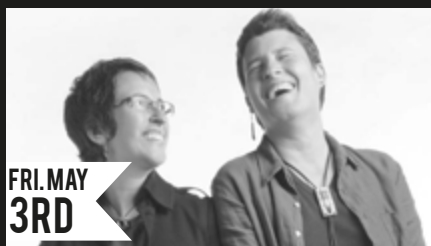
Dick Andrews operating his pirate radio station in his parents' basement in Lansing during the late '50s.

DICK ANDREWS MEMORIAL

Fraternal Order of Eagles #1039, 4700 N Grand River, Lansing, 1 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Local radio personality and avid record collector Richard "Dick" Andrews died on March 13 at 71. A memorial service stocked with food and live music will be Sunday at the Fraternal Order of Eagles #1039 in Lansing. Performing are the Blue Echoes, the Sea Cruisers, the Jack Clarkson Band, the Van-dells and the Fabulous Oldies But Goodies Band. Andrews started his own radio station (WONE) at age 14 in his parent's basement in Lansing. He graduated from Sexton High School in 1961 and took positions at WILS and WVIC. He also hosted sock hops at the Lansing Civic Center alongside radio legend Erik O. Furseth.

EMMA'S REVOLUTION



FRI. MAY 3RD

Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St., East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. \$15, \$12 Fiddle members, \$5 students, \$25 family.

On May 3, Pete Seeger's 94th birthday, the harmonizing folk duo Emma's Revolution will lead a night of Seeger songs at the Ten Pound Fiddle. Attendees are welcome to sing along, with lyric sheets provided. Emma's Revolution comprises songwriters/activists Pat Humphries and Sandy O., who will also perform some of their own tunes, including "Swimming to the Other Side" and "Peace." The duo has been described as "Rachel Maddow and Jon Stewart with guitars," and is a perfect choice for the event — Seeger himself is a fan. "The powers that be can control the media, but it's hard to stop a good song ... Pat's songs will be sung well into the 22nd century," Seeger said on NPR's "All Things Considered."

LANSING CD & VINYL SHOW



SAT. MAY 4TH

University Quality Inn, 3121 E. Grand River Ave., Frandor, FREE, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For those who love nothing more than flipping through thousands of vinyl records, the Lansing Record & CD Show at the University Quality Inn in Frandor on Saturday will be right up your alley. The event happens every couple of months and features vinyl (45s and LPs), CDs, DVDs, posters, T-shirts, vintage magazines and other music memorabilia. All genres are represented, from rock 'n' roll and soul to jazz, funk and folk. There's even some rare garage rock, rockabilly and punk vinyl. The event, which has been going on for about 20 years, features 35 dealers who also buy record collections from guests. For more information, email rerun45@rocketmail.com, call (734) 604-2540 or go to facebook.com/lansingrecordshow.

BRODY & THE BUSCH RD TRIO



SAT. MAY 4TH

The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18+, \$5 adv., \$7, 9 p.m.

After a series of semi-drunken jam sessions in a musty three-car garage near Frankenmuth, Brody and the Busch Rd. Trio officially formed in July 2009. The four-piece alt-rock band, made up of Eric "Brody" Braeutigam (vocals/rhythm guitar), Derek Burk (lead guitar), Josh Rodammer (bass) and drummer Cody Little, play a mix of covers and originals, taking influence from Bob Dylan, Pearl Jam, Led Zeppelin and Incubus. The band gigs across the state, covering tunes by Nirvana, Kings of Leon and the Rolling Stones. Opening The Loft show is a long roster of bands, including Mr. Denton on Doomsday, Big Brother Smokes, Billiards Music and Pulp Culture. DJ Futurism, DJ Gene and DJ FireAnt will spin music during intermissions.

CAPTURED BY ROBOTS



WED. MAY 8TH

Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all ages. \$15, \$12 adv., 7 p.m.

Since 1996, Captured by Robots has been weirding-out audiences across the country with its odd lineup: one man and five real robots. The band returns to Mac's Bar on May 8. Captured by Robots is a manic San Francisco-based outfit led by JBOT (the human), who builds and programs his robot backing musicians to play horns, guitars and percussion. The band has been on over 10 national tours, warming up stages for Public Enemy, Motörhead and Flock of Seagulls. Each tour has a different theme; this time around it's a psychedelic experience titled: "C!BR is Trippin' Balls." The news release promises to take attendees to "a place where up is down" and "Vietnamese sandwiches dance with rabbits."

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

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café , 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Law Day Poetry Slam, 6 p.m.	Peter Nelson Jazz Quartet, 9 p.m.	Redline Blues, 8 p.m.	Various artists, 7 p.m.
Bar 30 , 2324 Showtime Drive	D.J. Skitzo, 10 p.m.	D.J. John Beltran, 10 p.m.	D.J. John Beltran, 10 p.m.	D.J. Skitzo, 10 p.m.
Colonial Bar , 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		Open Mic Night, 9 p.m.	Homespun, 9 p.m.	Homespun, 9 p.m.
Connxtions Comedy Club , 2900 N. East St.		Mike Armstrong, 8 p.m.	Mike Armstrong, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.	Mike Armstrong, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.
Crunchy's , 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Adrain Sanchez, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 10 p.m.
The Exchange , 314 E. Michigan Ave.		Wine Night, 8:30 p.m.		
The Firm , 229 S. Washington Square		DnW Sound DJs, 9 p.m.	Various DJs, 9 p.m.	
Grand Café/Sir Pizza , 201 E. Grand River Ave.		Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karaoke with Joanie Daniels, 7 p.m.	Ladies Night w/DJ Fudgie, 8:30 p.m.
Green Door , 2005 E. Michigan Ave.			Soulstice, 9:30 p.m.	Jesse & the Downbeat Groove, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft , 414 E. Michigan Ave.		The Polish Ambassador, 9 p.m.	Framing Hanley, 7 p.m.	Broadway & the Busch Rd Trio, 9 p.m.
Mac's Bar , 2700 E. Michigan Ave.			Various artists, 5 p.m.	Cavalcade of Stars, 8 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub , 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic Night, 10 p.m.	Lincoln County Process, 9:30 p.m.	Blastica, 9:30 p.m.	Blastica, 9:30 p.m.
Rookies , 16460 S. US 27	Sea Cruisers, 7-10 p.m.	Water Pong DJ, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Dance Party, 9 p.m.	Live Bands, 7:30 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.
Uli's Haus of Rock , 4519 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.			Various artists, 9 p.m.	Various artists, 9 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern , 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.	Frog & the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.	Frog & the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill , 325 City Market Drive	Suzi & The Love Brothers, 6 p.m.	Kathleen & Bridge Street Band, 6 p.m.	Joe Wright, 6 p.m.	
Whiskey Barrel Saloon , 410 S. Clippert	D.J., 9 p.m.	D.J., 9 p.m.	D.J., 9 p.m.	D.J., 9 p.m.

Sunday 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., Open Blues Jam, 7-11 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, Monday Funday, 9 p.m., The Firm.
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

The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 648-1214.

MUSIC

Marshall Music Open Jam. All ages & levels. 6 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700. marshallmusic.com.

Sam Winternheimer Quartet. 7-10 p.m. Midtown Beer Company, 402 Washington Square, Lansing.

Thursday, May 2

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Yoga for Beginners. With Gaby Kende, certified yoga teacher & yoga therapist. 9:30-11 a.m. FREE for new students. Center for Yoga, 1780 E. Grand River Ave. East Lansing. (517) 351-6640. center4yoga.com.

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes & activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363. cadl.org.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Weigh-in, 6 p.m. Meeting, 6:30 p.m. FREE to visit. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 882-9080. stdavidslansing.org.

Water media. All levels welcome, with Donna Randall. Pre-registration required. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212.

Lunch and Learn. Optimum Omegas with Tim Brolus. Light lunch served. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Backbone Chiropractic, 802 W. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. (517) 316-1277. backbonechiro.com.

Meijer Hiring Event. Eight sessions. Register. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Capital Area Michigan Works, 2110 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (800) 285-9675.

Family Education Day. Activities, recipes & trivia about asparagus. 5-6 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460. LansingCityMarket.com.

Codependents Anonymous. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Community Mental Health Building, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 672-4072.

EVENTS

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

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

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

Senior & Caregiver Appreciation Day. Call to sign up. Lunch & more. 1-6 p.m. FREE. Prestige Way, 4300 Keller Road, Holt. (517) 694-2020.

Transitions. Multi-art collaboration. 7 p.m. FREE. MSU Residential College in the Arts & Humanities, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

Bananagrams Night. 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music Lansing, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495. schulerbooks.com.

THEATER

"In The Heights." Look into the life of Washington Heights. 7 p.m. \$11, \$9 students & seniors. Mason High School, 1001 S Barnes St., Mason. (517) 676-9055. showtix4u.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Meet Mark Binelli. Author of "Sacco" and "Vanzetti Must Die!" 7 p.m. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave. Lansing. (517) 367-6300.

Friday, May 3

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Artist Talk. By Alixandra Summitt. 5 p.m. Windwalker Gallery, 125 S. Cochran St., Charlotte.

Oil Painting. For all levels, with Patricia Singer. Pre-registration required. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212.

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

EVENTS

Karaoke. Valencia Club. 8 p.m. FREE. Best Western Plus Lansing Hotel, 6820 South Cedar St., Lansing.

Family Event. Food, games & more. 3-6 p.m. FREE. Lansing Christian School, 3405 Belle Chase Way, Lansing. (517) 882-5779. lansingchristianschool.org.

First Annual Save-a-Life Adoptathon. Reduced adoption rates, entertainment & more. Noon-5 p.m. FREE. PetSmart West Lansing, 305 Marketplace Blvd., Lansing. (517) 622-4653.

Artist Reception. Traverse City artist, Stephen Palmer. 7-9 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 119 N. Washington Square, Suite 101, Lansing. (517) 374-6400. lansingartgallery.org.

Mystery Dinner Theater. Come in '50s attire. Food, prizes & more. 6:30 p.m. \$20, \$15 seniors & students. Meridian Christian Church, 2600 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 230-3473.

Student Dance Performance. 11 MSU student dancers. 3-5 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-3900. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Singles TGIF. Hors d'oeuvres, prizes & music. 8 p.m.-Midnight. \$12. Hawk Hollow Golf Course, 15101 Chandler Road, Bath. (517) 281-6272. singlestgif.com.

MUSIC

LCC Radio. Featuring Mike Vial and Grand River Band. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1710.

First Friday Live Music. Featuring Mike Vial. 7 p.m. FREE. Great Lakes Art Works, 306 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-4293.

What the Folk is Folkstep. 18 and up. 9 p.m. \$5. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

THEATER

"Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." Musical story of the Biblical Joseph. 7:30 p.m. \$10, \$5 students & seniors. Okemos High School, 2500 Jolly Road, Okemos.

"In The Heights." 7 p.m. \$11, \$9 students & seniors. Mason High School, 1001 S Barnes St., Mason. (Please see details May 2.)

Saturday, May 4

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Day of Buddhist Meditation. Registration

See Out on the Town, Page 19

Advice Goddess & Savage Love

CAN NOW BE READ ONLINE

www.lansingcitypulse.com

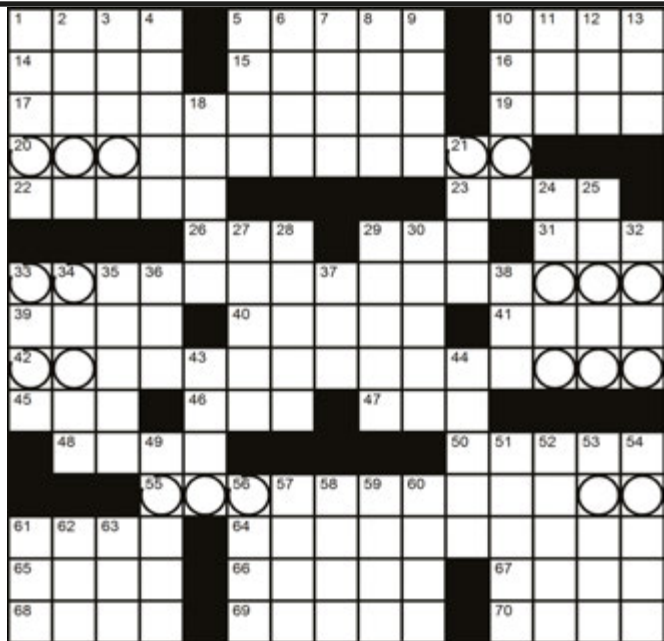
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Gonna Crack"--but you'll figure it out.
Matt Jones

Across

- 1 They're not as busy in May
- 5 Planned to rob
- 10 Jimmy of shoes
- 14 Square footage, say
- 15 "I want to play ____" (line from "Saw")
- 16 Good thing to check Snopes.com for
- 17 Superman's city
- 19 Like squid spray
- 20 Awaiting a court date
- 22 Slow mover
- 23 Astley who gets rolled
- 26 It's north of Afr.
- 29 They'll come before U
- 31 "Dexter" actor C.S.



- 33 It may have a five-point harness
- 39 Comes up short
- 40 Subside
- 41 Sir Topham ____ ("Thomas the Tank Engine" manager)
- 42 Going way back?
- 45 Author referenced in "The Following"
- 46 Brit. reference that added "uplink" in 2013
- 47 Mining find
- 48 Nuremberg number
- 50 Eagle's nest
- 55 Big trouble
- 61 Vulcan mind ____
- 64 Old pantyhose brand with a famous Joe Namath ad
- 65 Berry variety
- 66 Pocahontas' husband John ____

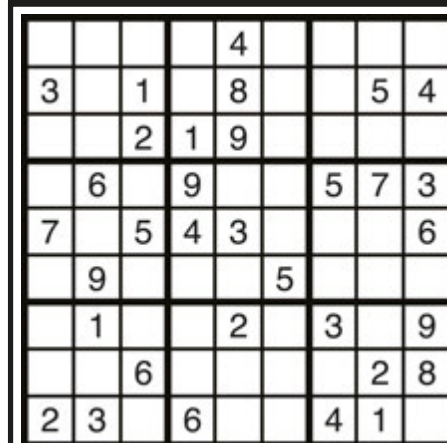
- 67 Oaxaca water
- 68 What the four circled answers "crack"
- 69 Outdo
- 70 Bestselling 16-bit console, briefly

Down

- 1 Pitches a tent
- 2 Get grooming
- 3 Insurer based in Hartford
- 4 Manhattan restaurateur Vincent
- 5 Rank on a cereal box
- 6 Wide-eyed
- 7 Bad substance for a 22-across
- 8 Mideastern ruler
- 9 South Asian
- 10 It's rated with alarms
- 11 Pet name
- 12 Charter ____ (tree on Connecticut's state quarter)
- 13 Acne-fighting brand
- 18 Fixed a squeak
- 21 Bohemian
- 24 Word used with defibrillators
- 25 He wrote "Endymion" and "Hyperion"
- 27 Grammarian's concern
- 28 Overzealous
- 29 Nostalgia-evoking
- 30 Take the helm
- 32 Suffix after Rock or Raisin
- 33 Provide freebies
- 34 Tinseltown, in old headlines
- 35 "Did ____ tell you about the time..."
- 36 California-based semiconductor company founded in 1981 (hidden in FALSIFY)
- 37 Follower
- 38 That boat
- 43 Film ____
- 44 Immature, like some meat
- 49 One of the Munsters
- 51 Watson and Thompson
- 52 Take to the throne
- 53 Problem
- 54 You are, in the Yucatan
- 56 River through Catalonia
- 57 "____ Flux" (futuristic MTV cartoon)
- 58 Carnegie or Chihuly
- 59 ____ Berry (Jones Soda flavor)
- 60 Sch. near the US-Mexico border
- 61 It's un-PC
- 62 Earth Day prefix
- 63 Wee boy

SUDOKU

BEGINNER



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.

Answers on page 20

LAMAI'S KITCHEN / I SCREAM



City Pulse file photo

After 16 years in Lansing, including eight at this eastside location, Lamai's Thai Kitchen will close Saturday. There are tentative plans for another Thai restaurant to take its place, but nothing is finalized yet.



By ALLAN I. ROSS

Lansing diners are going to have to find a new place to find their pad thai next week — **Lamai's Thai Kitchen**, 2033 E. Michigan Ave. closes Saturday. After an eight-year run in Old Town, owner/operator Lamai Feighner moved her restaurant to Lansing's East Side in October 2004, but a combination of factors — including unpaid back rent — led to shattering the little restaurant.

"I love to cook, and I'm going to miss it," Feighner said. "I don't know anything else, but I'll find something to do."

Her son, Mike Feighner, a construction worker, has been helping out between projects. However, with the summer season heating up, he'll be heading back to work soon.

"It's just getting to be too much for her to do by herself, and I hate seeing her work that hard," he said. "I just wish we could have figured something else out."

One of the plans almost involved a newcomer who wanted to carry on Lamai's mantle, without Lamai at the helm. Andon Grieve-McSweeney, 29, has worked at several mid-Michigan restaurants, including **Soup**

Spoon Café, Dusty's Cellar and the defunct **Travelers Club**. He approached Lamai Feighner last month about taking over and letting her stay on as an employee. But he said the landlord nixed that idea.

"I was originally going to buy Lamai's equipment, take care of her back rent and slide into her lease, but it just got really complicated," Grieve-McSweeney said. "There are issues about who owns the equipment and damages to the building that need to be taken care of, so the landlord is going to take care of that before I can move in."

Grieve-McSweeney, who works in the kitchen at **Mitchell's Fish Market**, said that his superiors are aware of his plans and are accommodating him. He said that if he does make the move, he plans to keep the menu Thai, incorporating farm-to-table methods and slowly expanding the kitchen over time. He said that the kitchen is set up with wok stations, and would require the purchase of a range if he wanted to incorporate non-Asian fare.

Lamai's won for Best Asian Food in the City Pulse Top of the Town Awards in 2009 and was a runner-up two other times. Although things are ending on a bittersweet note for Feighner, she remained upbeat.

"The customers made it

worth it," she said. "I loved cooking for them and getting to know them. Who knows — this may not be the end."

I Scream

We've probably seen the last of the snow, which is good news for one of DeWitt's newest businesses, **I Scream**. Max Dalman, 21, recently opened the little ice cream store, which he's running in collaboration with his parents.

"My dad retired early, and we were thinking about dealing with investment properties," Dalman said. "But it looks like ice cream was my calling."

Dalman, who has been in the food service industry since he was 16, took the semester off from Lansing Community College to open the store. He said he and his parents were originally lined up to buy a local ice cream parlor, but then decided to build from the ground up instead.

I Scream serves Hudsonville and Homemade Brand ice cream and Energy Smoothie Boost, a brand from Albion. Dalman said they will soon be famous for their **Screamers** (I Scream's version of a Blizzard) as well as the homemade ice cream sandwiches called, fittingly, **Screamwiches**.

I Scream

13191 Schavey Road, Dewitt
Noon to 9 p.m. daily
(517) 624-2056

Out on the town

from page 18

required, email SucittoLansingBuddhist@gmail.com. 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. FREE. Amitabha Village Retreat Center, 14796 Beardslee Road, Perry. (517) 351-4673.

First Ward Meeting. With First Ward Council member Jody Washington. 10:30 a.m.-Noon. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

Science Saturday: Rocket Launchers.

Ages 6-10. Supplies for first 30 attendees. Demonstrations. 1 p.m. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840.

Crazy Container Gardens & Pallet Gardens

Workshop. With Dick Jensen. Call to register. Noon-2 p.m. \$10. Smith Floral and Greenhouses, 124 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-5327.

EVENTS

Star Wars Day. All ages. Crafts, games & more. Costumes welcome. 1-2:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtdl.org.

Miles for Smiles 5K. Registration, 9 a.m. Walk, 10 a.m. \$15 advance, \$20 on site. Granger Meadows Park, E. State Road & Wood Road, DeWitt. (517) 482-1504. cacsheadstart.org.

Art for Aids. Silent auction. Proceeds benefit Lansing Area AIDS network. 1-5 p.m. LCC Health & Human Services Building, 515 N. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 483-1285.

Antiques Barn Sale. Multi-dealer sale, inside & outside. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. DeWitt Centennial Farms, 4410 W. Howe Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-5096.

Going to Pieces Quilt Show. Silent auction, raffle & more. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$6. Best Western Plus Lansing Hotel, 6820 South Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 321-9492. capitolcityquiltguild.org.

Victorian Days. Variety of activities. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Downtown Grand Ledge, Bridge St., Grand Ledge. (517) 676-1589. victoriandays.org.

First Annual Save-a-Life Adoptathon. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. PetSmart West Lansing, 305 Marketplace Boulevard, Lansing. (Please see details May 3.)

Free Comic Book Day. Professional comic-book artists, games & more. 8 a.m.-6 p.m. FREE. Clem's Comics & Games, 216 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 485-2369.

National Homebrewing Day Celebration.

Demonstrations, games & more. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. That's How We Brew, 3000 Vine St., Lansing.

Mystery Dinner Theater. 5:30 p.m. \$20, \$15 seniors & students. Meridian Christian Church, 2600 Bennett Road, Okemos. (Please see details May 3.)

Community Clean Up. Volunteers will help out with planting & painting. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Turner Mini Park, Grand River Avenue & Turner Street, Lansing. (517) 485-4283.

Pierogi Day. Noon-7 p.m. Federated Polish Home, 1030 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing.

Comedy 4 A Cause. Mike Armstrong. Proceeds to Lansing Spartan Youth Organization. 8 p.m. \$15 donation. Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 N. East St., Lansing. (517) 894-8429.

Family Day. Noon-4 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-3900. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

27th Great Bar-B-Q Cookout. 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Trinity AME Church, 3500 W Holmes Road, Lansing. (517) 882-5722.

Derby Day Party. Fundraiser for Sparrow Hospital Guild. 3:30-6:30 p.m. \$25 advance, \$35 at door. Lou & Harry's Sports Bar and Grill, 16800 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 364-5680.

Stricly for Fun Ballroom/Swing Dance.

Lesson, 7 p.m. Pizza & dancing, 8 p.m. RSVP. \$15.

Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 712-6674.

MUSIC

The Aimcriers. 8-11 p.m. Log Jam, 110 W. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge.

Live Music at the Barn. With April Brown. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460.

THEATER

"Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." 7:30 p.m. \$10, \$5 students & seniors. Okemos High School, 2500 Jolly Road, Okemos. (Please see details May 3.)

"In The Heights." 7 p.m. \$11, \$9 students & seniors. Mason High School, 1001 S. Barnes St., Mason. (Please see details May 2.)

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Story Circle. Ages 2-5. "Homeplace," Anne Shelby. 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. \$5. Michigan Historical Museum, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 373-3559.

Sunday, May 5

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Juggling. Learn how to juggle. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Humphouse, 368 Orchard St. Lansing. (517) 485-9190.

Spiritual Talk, Pure Meditation & Silent Prayer. One of Mata Yoganandaji's "Inspiring Talks." 7 p.m. FREE. Self Realization Meditation Healing Centre, 7187 Drumheller Road, Bath. (517) 641-6201.

Rain Water Workshop. With permaculture specialist Shane Meike Celeste. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Suggested donation \$5 - \$10. 550 W. Rouse St., Lansing. (517) 862-0422.

Overeaters Anonymous. 2-3:15 p.m. FREE. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Conference room F, 2nd floor, Lansing. (517) 332-0755.

Alcoholics Anonymous. With ASL interpretation. 9 a.m. FREE. Alano Club East, 220 S. Howard St., Lansing. (517) 482-8957.

Codependents Anonymous. Meets on the third floor. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 672-4072.

EVENTS

Capital Area Singles Dance. With door prizes. 6-10 p.m. \$8. Fraternal Order of Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 819-0405.

Going to Pieces Quilt Show. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$6. Best Western Plus Lansing Hotel, 6820 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (Please see details May 4.)

Antiques Barn Sale. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. DeWitt Centennial Farms, 4410 W. Howe Road, DeWitt. (Please see details May 4.)

Victorian Days. Variety of activities. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Downtown Grand Ledge, Bridge St., Grand Ledge. (Please see details May 4.)

First Annual Save-a-Life Adoptathon. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. PetSmart West Lansing, 305 Marketplace Blvd., Lansing. (Please see details May 3.)

EVERYbody Reads' 7th Anniversary. Meet baseball writers, food & more. Noon-5 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-9900.

Fundraiser. For local mother & daughter fighting cancer. Golf outing, 11 a.m. Auction, 4 p.m. Timber Ridge Golf Course, 16339 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. (517) 202-6497.

27th Great Bar-B-Q Cookout. 11 a.m. Trinity AME Church, 3500 W Holmes Road, Lansing. (517)

Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsny

May 17

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Are you afraid that you lack a crucial skill or aptitude? Do you have a goal that you're worried might be impossible to achieve because of this inadequacy? If so, now is a good time to make plans to fill in the gap. If you formulate such an intention, you will attract a benevolent push from the cosmos. Why spend another minute fretting about the consequences of your ignorance when you have more power than usual to correct that ignorance?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Imagine you're in a large room full of costumes. It's like a masquerade store at Halloween plus a storage area where a theater troupe keeps the apparel its actors use to stage a wide variety of historical plays. You have free reign here. You can try on different masks and wigs and disguises and get-ups. You can envision yourself living in different eras as various characters. If you like, you can even go out into the world wearing your alternate identities. Try this exercise, Taurus. It'll stimulate good ideas about some new self-images you might want to play with in real life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Ray LaMontagne sings these lyrics in his tune "Empty": "I looked my demons in the eyes. Laid bare my chest and said, 'Do your best to destroy me. I've been to hell and back so many times, I must admit you kind of bore me.'" I wouldn't be opposed to you delivering a message like that to your own demons, Gemini — with one caveat: Leave out the "Do your best to destroy me" part. Simply peer into the glazed gaze of those shabby demons and say, "You bore me and I'm done with you. Bye-bye." And then walk away from them for good.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): I know a devotee of Tibetan Buddhism who got an unexpected message from her teacher. He told her she has made such exemplary progress in her quest for enlightenment that she has earned the ultimate reward. When she dies many years from now, the teacher said, she will enter nirvana! She will have no further karmic obligation to reincarnate into a new body in the future, and will be forever excused from the struggle of living in the material world. Although her teacher meant this to be good news, she was heartbroken. She *wants* to keep reincarnating. Her joyous passion is to help relieve the suffering of her fellow humans. Can you guess what sign she is? Yes: a Cancerian. Like her, many of you are flirting with an odd and challenging choice between selfishness and selflessness.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A lawyer named John Keogh filed an application with the Australian Patent Office. It was for a "circular transportation facilitation device." His claim was approved. He thus became the owner of the world's first and only patent for the wheel. So far, he has not tried to collect royalties from anyone who's using wheels. I nominate him to be your role model, Leo. May he inspire you to stamp your personal mark on a universal archetype or put your unique spin on something everyone knows and loves.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): This may be the best week in a long time to practice the art of crazy wisdom. And what is crazy wisdom? Here's how novelist Tom Robbins described it to *Shambhala Sun*. It's "a philosophical worldview that recommends swimming against the tide, cheerfully seizing the short end of the stick, embracing insecurity, honoring paradox, courting the unexpected, celebrating the unfamiliar, shunning orthodoxy, volunteering for tasks nobody else wants or dares to do, and breaking taboos in order to destroy their power. It's the wisdom of those who turn the tables on despair by lamponing it, and who neither seek authority nor submit to it." And why should you do any of that weird stuff? Robbins: "To enlarge the soul, light up the brain, and liberate the spirit."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "Why should we honor those that die upon the field of battle?" asked Irish poet William Butler Yeats. "A man may show as reckless a

courage in entering into the abyss of himself." A woman may show similar bravery, of course. In my astrological opinion, that's the noble adventure beckoning to you, Libra: a dive into the depths of your inner workings. I hope that's the direction you go; I hope you don't take your stouthearted struggle out into the world around you. All the best action will be happening in that fertile hub known as your "soul."

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Historical records suggest that ancient Greek philosopher Democritus went blind late in his life. There are different stories about why. According to one account, he intentionally did it to himself by gazing too long into the sun. That was his perverse way of solving a vexing problem: It freed him from the torment of having to look upon gorgeous women who were no longer interested in or available to him because of his advanced age. I hope you won't do anything like that, Scorpio. In fact, I suggest you take the opposite approach: Keep your attention focused on things that stir your deep attraction, even if you think you can't have them for your own. Valuable lessons and unexpected rewards will emerge from such efforts.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Search your memory, Sagittarius, and recall a time when you pushed yourself to your limits as you labored over a task you cared about very much. At that time, you worked with extreme focus and intensity. You were rarely bored and never resentful about the enormous effort you had to expend. You loved throwing yourself into this test of willpower, which stretched your resourcefulness and compelled you to grow new capacities. What was that epic breakthrough in your past? Once you know, move on to your next exercise: Imagine a new assignment that fits this description, and make plans to bring it into your life in the near future.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Nairobi is Kenya's capital and home of over three million urbanites. A few minutes' drive from the city center, there's a 45-square-mile national park teeming with wildlife. Against a backdrop of skyscrapers, rhinos and giraffes graze. Lions and cheetahs pounce. Wildebeests roam and hyenas skulk. I suggest you borrow the spirit of that arrangement and invoke it in your own life. In other words, be highly civilized and smartly sophisticated part of the time; be wild and free the rest of the time. And be ready to go back and forth between the two modes with grace and ease.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In the wild, a tiger's diet consists entirely of meat. The big cat loves to feast on deer and wild boar, and eats a variety of other animals, too. The hunt is always solitary, never done in collaborative groups. That's why the creature's success rate is so low. A tiger snags the prey it's seeking only about five percent of the time. It sometimes has to wait two weeks between meals. Nevertheless, a tiger rarely starves. When it gets what it's after, it can devour 75 pounds of food in one sitting. According to my astrological analysis, Aquarius, you're like a tiger these days. You haven't had a lot of lucky strikes lately, but I suspect you will soon hit the jackpot.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The French word *flâneur* is a meme that refers to a person who strolls around the city at a leisurely pace, exploring whatever captivates her imagination. To the casual observer, the *flâneur* may seem to be a lazy time-waster with nothing important to do. But she is in fact motivated by one of the noblest emotions — pure curiosity — and is engaged in a quest to attract novel experiences, arouse fresh insights, and seek new meaning. Sound fun? Well, congratulations, Pisces, because you have been selected as the Flaming *Flâneur* of the Zodiac for the next two weeks. Get out there and meander!

Out on the town

from page 19

882-5722.

MUSIC

LanSingOut Men's Chorus Spring Concert. 3:00 PM, Donations \$12-\$20. Molly Grove Chapel of First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. (517) 980-1444. lansingout.org.

City Pulse Classifieds

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

Computer/IT: Information Technologist II (Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI): Serve as software designer & developer for Kuali-based systems. Perform system design tasks, including integration of business functions, conversion & interface design, & database design. Requires bachelor's degree in computer science, information systems, business, or related field, 3 years exp. in job offered or a related analyst/software developer position, 3 years exp. developing Kuali-based IT projects, and exp. using Java Enterprise Edition (JEE) & Kuali-related technologies incl. Struts, Spring, JNDI, JMS, JTA, Eclipse, Ant, Maven, JDBC, Oracle, & JBoss/Tomcat. Apply online at www.jobs.msu.edu, posting #7653. The university actively encourages applications &/or nominations from women, persons of color, veterans & persons with disabilities. MSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer.

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LOST DOG!!! MUST FIND!! REWARDS!!!
\$\$\$ cash reward for safe return of Angel. Last seen on March 5th in the MLK/Holmes area. She is sorely missed and has been gone March 2nd. Angel is a female American Pit Bull Terrier. She has a brown coat with white on her face, chest, belly, and paws. She is seven years old, weighs approximately 50 pounds, and was wearing a pink and beige collar with a rabies tag. Angel is a friendly girl who will likely approach a stranger. She is the companion to a disabled man. Please help guide Angel back to her adoring family! Spread awareness and call 517.575.5599 with any information.



Rabies tag. Angel is a friendly girl who will likely approach a stranger. She is the companion to a disabled man. Please help guide Angel back to her adoring family! Spread awareness and call 517.575.5599 with any information.

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

Distribution Driver - PT Job opening to stock schedule racks in Greater Lansing area. flexible hours. Must have van or SUV w/own insurance, computer, cell phone w/text and energy. e-mail resume to: garrett@wayforwardinfo.com

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 18

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Monday, May 6

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Leadership, Management & Personal Enrichment Training. 7-8:30 p.m. CADL Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 879-1886. inspirationalministriesonline.com/leadership.html.

What to Read Next. Hear what's new & noteworthy. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtdl.org.

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

Babytime. Beginning story time for babies under 2. 10:30-11 a.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Metaphysical Mondays. Discussion. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 347-2112.

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

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

Chronic Pain Support Group. For those experiencing any level of chronic physical pain. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

EVENTS

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

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

Dinner and Bikes. Gourmet vegan dinner. Discussion. 7-10 p.m. \$8 advance, \$10 day of. ELFCO Community Center, 4962 Northwind Drive, East Lansing. dinnerandbikes.com.

MUSIC

Open Mic Blues Mondays. Blues, rock & spoken word. 6:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. Midtown Beer Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 977-1349.

Tuesday, May 7

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

See Out on the Town, Page 21

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 18

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Out on the town

from page 20

Tai Chi & Qigong. Taught by Bruce Ching. Drop-ins welcome. 5:45-7 p.m. \$12 per class, \$60 for 6 weeks. ACC Natural Healing and Wellness, 617 Ionia St., Lansing.

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. (517) 543-0786.

Intro to Computers. Learn from professionals. 2:30-4 p.m. FREE. Capital Area Michigan Works, 2110 S. Cedar St., Lansing.

Speakeasies Toastmasters. Become a better speaker. 12:05-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 887-1440.

Water media. All levels welcome, with Donna Randall. Pre-registration required. 6-8:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212.

Today's Special Program: The Battle of Fiber vs. Fat. Geared towards adults. Food demo & sampling. 5 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460.

Compassionate Friends of Lansing. For grieving parents who have lost a child. 7:30 p.m. Salvation Army South Community Center, 701 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 339-3553.

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

EVENTS

DTDL Crafters. Handcrafting projects. 2:30-4 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3.

Paws for Reading. All reading levels. Read to therapy dogs. Call to register. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtld.org.

Tea & Talk. Salon Style discussions. 8 p.m. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 347-2112.

Guts & Glory: An Evening with Anthony Bourdain. 7:30 p.m. \$35-\$55. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

MUSIC

Jazz Tuesdays. Hosted by the Jeff Shoup Quartet & will feature regular guest artists from the MSU Jazz Studies Department. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

Mid-Michigan Youth Symphony. Spring awards concert. 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing High School, 509 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. midmichiganyouthsymphony.org.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Girls' Night Out. Author Mary Robinette Kowal. 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music Lansing, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495. schulerbooks.com.

Wednesday, May 8

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes & activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840.

Babytime. Beginning story time for babies under 2. 10:30-11 a.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

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

Women's Rights. Mothers Day discussion. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. PilgrimUCC.com.

LWVLA Annual Meeting. Speaker George Erickcek. Executive Conference Room. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing.

Beginning Genealogy Series. Presenter Jeff Antaya. Registration required. 6-7 p.m. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840. cadl.org.

Old Everett Public Safety Meeting. 7-9 p.m. McLaren-Greater Lansing Education Building, 401 W. Greenlawn Ave., Lansing. oldeverett.org.

Moore's Park Neighborhood Meeting. 6:30-8 p.m. Shabazz Academy, 1028 W. Barnes Ave., Lansing. (517) 374-7525.

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

EVENTS

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

Pam Posthumus Signature Auction Event. Proceeds the Children's Trust Fund. 5-9 p.m. \$150. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. michigan.gov/ctfsignature.

Michigan's Famous & Forgotten Authors. Author Jack Dempsey. 6:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtld.org.

Grande Paraders Square Dance Club. Round dancing, 7 p.m. Modern-style square dancing, 7:30 p.m. \$4 members, \$5 guests. Holt 9th Grade Campus, 5780 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 694-0087.

Samantha Martin & The Acro-Cats. 7 p.m. \$18, \$15 kids 12 & under. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. circuscats.com.

MUSIC

Sam Winternheimer Quartet. 7-10 p.m. Midtown Beer Company, 402 Washington Square, Lansing.

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Bob Crawford . Cindy Evans . Gretchen Fielek . Jennifer Gardner . Janet Halfmann Erickson
Bobbi Kilty . Lee Kronenberg . Nancy Kronenberg . Sue Long . Joanne Lose . Mark Mehaffey
Paul Nilsson . Denise Paquette . Don Pixley . Carol Ray . Chris Triola
Jeannie West . Jim Wolnosky . Liz Wylegala**

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Michael Brenton/City Pulse

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A Star is born

Leelanau Peninsula's Black Star Farms dazzles with wine dinner

By **MICHAEL BRENTON**

Traveling north from Traverse City on M-22 always promises to be an exciting vinous adventure. The Leelanau Peninsula wine scene continues to expand, with this year's new wineries bringing the count up to 25 — one-quarter of Michigan's total. M-22 closely follows Grand Traverse Bay in a winding and picturesque path. The beauty of the bay and the rolling hills and vineyards are expected, but the sudden vision of what appears to be a grand southern manor may come as a surprise for the uninitiated. Just before Suttons Bay looms the sprawling mansion that defines Black Star Farms. Peaked gables, multiple chimneys and towering white columns attract the eye and pique the curiosity. This is the Inn at Black Star Farms, adjacent to the tasting room, cellar, paddocks, stables and underground cellars. Black Star styles itself as "a unique agricultural destination," and that it is. It is also becoming known for cuisine in the luxurious and palatial bed and breakfast, and the periodic wine dinners.



provided an opportunity to sample new releases of popular Black Star Farms wines and to evaluate how it is doing on the cuisine side of the equation. Featured white wines were from the excellent 2011 vintage. Longtime winemaker Lee Lutes noted (and guests affirmed) that whites from this vintage are bright and fresh, and acidity is pronounced, as you'd expect from the region. Black Star attaches the Arcturos label to its premium table wines. A 2011 Arcturos barrel-aged Chardonnay (\$18.50 at the winery) paired perfectly with the rich flavors of lake trout and morel mushroom risotto consommé with saffron. The wine world is filled with over-oaked wines, but this is definitely not one of them. Full-bodied, with a soft palate, it is well balanced with a touch of vanilla oak.

A course of prosciutto arugula salad with apple, fromage blanc, basil oil, verjus and bee pollen partnered beautifully with the 2011 Arcturos Dry Riesling (\$16.50). Good Dry Riesling is fruity and acidic, creating a flavor explosion on the palate that begs another sip. Lutes has the perfect touch with Dry Riesling — year in and year out, his vintage is one of Michigan's best. Created from Old Mission fruit, it displays effusive aromatics with distinct floral notes. With just 0.9 percent residual sugar acting as a counterpoint to the fine Riesling acids, it is a great backyard quaffer. If you enjoy Sauvignon Blanc, give this a shot. Furthermore, the

The recent Spring Wine Club Dinner

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fine acidity in this wine should make it a great ager, so don't be shy about buying several bottles and trying them over time.

Michigan Pinot Noir has its own regional style, and the pursuit of Pinot perfection is Lutes' Holy Grail. Don't expect something like the big, dark, high alcohol, overblown California style, and don't be confused that light color suggests light flavor. The 2011 Arcturos Pinot Noir (\$22.50) was presented alongside a delectable duck breast, parsnip and vanilla bean puree, wild leeks and a demi glace. Light ruby in color, this Pinot is a delicate and nuanced wine showing hints of strawberry and cherry, complemented by a dollop of oak.

Bigger reds such as Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon typically require more barrel and bottle time before becoming approachable, so our tasting in this category was a 2010 Leorie Vineyard Merlot/Cabernet Franc (\$48). This wine is from a single vineyard on Old Mission Peninsula. Grown in gravel soil, the Merlot/Cab Franc has deep garnet color, minerality, dark fruit, spice and a touch of cedar. The tannins are already well integrated, but this wine clearly has the stuffing to go the distance and was a perfect pairing for lamb-chetta with potato gnocchi with tomato and fennel. Executive Chef Jonathan Dayton seeks out locally grown food sources whenever possible, and the lamb exemplified the quality of the region.

Black Star Farms is serious about its array of dessert wines and liqueurs. The Sirius White Dessert Wine (\$28.50) made from 100 percent Chardonnay, finished with 10 percent residual sugar and 17 percent alcohol. Rich, viscous, mouth-filling, and honeyed, the wine is fortified with brandy distilled from the same Chardonnay fruit, and barrel-aged up to 10 months. It is surprisingly delicate, but still has good viscosity and a kick from the brandy on the mid-palate. Paired with a ricotta and almond torta with lemon curd, it was a fitting end to a great meal. Lutes suggested that the Sirius White would be a perfect component of a classic Portuguese cocktail consisting of white port with tonic or soda and a squeeze of lime. Just substitute the Sirius for the port.

Not part of the dinner, but right for any occasion is an affordable sparkling wine, one of the most versatile of wine styles. Black Star's 2011 "Be Dazzled" (\$13.75), comprised of the traditional Champagne blend of Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Pinot Meunier, with 1 percent residual sugar, fits the niche perfectly. Crisp, effervescent and palate cleansing, it can be enjoyed on its own or with a wide range of foods.

On deck at Black Star Farms is a Michigan gourmet delight: the Morels in May

mushroom hunt and dinner. Beginning at 4 p.m. May 8, guests will venture into the woods with a seasoned guide in search of the elusive morel. That will segue into a mouthwatering five-course meal consisting of smoked rabbit and caramelized morels, morel and asparagus with pea tendrils, fresh mozzarella and pickled ramp, morel and Swiss chard stuffed chicken breast, leg of lamb with pancetta and crisp morels and candied morel mushroom ice cream with hazelnut crumble and white chocolate. Seriously, this is a gastronomic morel extravaganza.

For more information about the periodic wine dinners presented at the Inn at Black Star Farms, go to blackstarfarms.com.

In Vino Veritas
(Michael Brenton is president of the Greater Lansing Vintners Club. His column appears monthly. You can email him at brenton@lansingcitypulse.com.)



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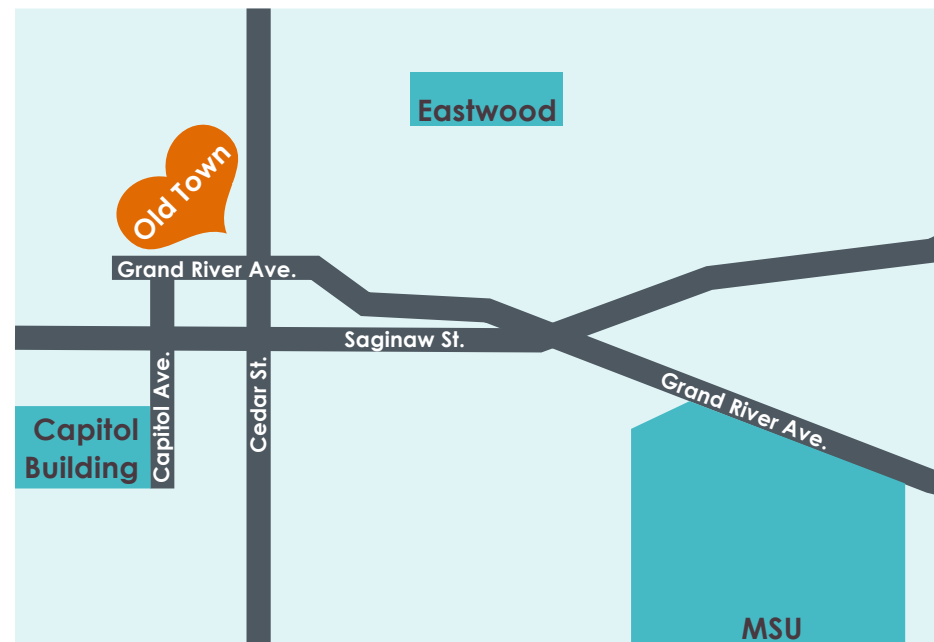
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