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September 18-24, 2013

AFTER THE FLOOD

THE MAKING OF A CLASS-ACTION SUIT IN SOUTH LANSING

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Lansing parents and medical marijuana patients battle the state to keep custody of daughter

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Q & A with Lansing artist and Old Town pioneer Roxanne Frith



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FRI
9.20

MICHELLE HANDELMAN

IRMA VEP, THE LAST BREATH

The Broad MSU presents the world premiere museum showing of *Irma Vep, the last breath*, a multichannel video installation by artist Michelle Handelman. Join Handelman for a conversation at 6pm followed by the exhibition opening at 7pm.



Michelle Handelman, *Irma Vep, the last breath*, 2013. Courtesy the artist. © Michelle Handelman

FRI
9.27

FOCUS

BEVERLY FISHMAN

Exploring the relationship between medical science and abstract art making, Detroit artist Beverly Fishman's large-scale polished stainless steel panels are vibrant and stunning. Join Fishman for a conversation at 6pm followed by the exhibition opening at 7pm.



Beverly Fishman, *Dividose N.S.H.*, 2012. Courtesy the artist and Wasserman Projects, Birmingham, MI.
© Beverly Fishman

547 East Circle Drive, East Lansing, MI 48824
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Correction

Due to a reporting error, a Sept. 4 story about the Preservation Lansing awards incorrectly spelled Louise

Breisch's last name. Also due to a reporting error, Emily Horvath's relationship to Breisch was given incorrectly. Horvath is Breisch's great-grandniece.



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CityPULSE

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Walt Sorg: Is Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum positioning for a shot at lieutenant governor?

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BluesFest 2013 returns with a few twists

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Tablesides grilling at East Lansing's newest Korean restaurant

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FLOOD CYCLE by RACHEL HARPER

COVER ART

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CITY PULSE ON THE AIR

THIS WEEK Activist David Cobb
U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Brighton
Anas Attal, MSU international relations student
Russell Lucas, director of MSU Global Studies in Arts and Humanities
Roxanne Frith, artist/teacher/co-founder of Old Town



Editor & Publisher
Berl Schwartz

7 p.m. Wednesdays

IMPACT 89FM

my 18 MY18-TV! 10 A.M. Every Sunday
THIS WEEK: Medical marijuana and child welfare
CityPULSE NEWSMAKERS Hosted by Berl Schwartz

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THE SUPREME LEADER OF OUR LAND MASS SAYS A BRIGHT, COLORFUL INDICATOR OF DEMARCATION HAS BEEN CROSSED--AND IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO RESPOND!

THE VILIFIED LEADER OF THE REMOTE PROVINCE OF SIRIYUH HAS REPORTEDLY USED UNAPPROVED WEAPONS ON HIS OWN SENTIENTS!

AS DISTINCT FROM THE APPROVED WEAPONS HE HAS ALSO USED ON HIS OWN SENTIENTS!

WITH APPROVED WEAPONS, OF COURSE!

BUT PLANS FOR ACTION BY THE MILITARY CASTE WERE DELAYED--

--AFTER AN OFFHAND REMARK BY THE HIGH UNDERLING FOR INTRAPLANETARY AFFAIRS LED TO AN UNEXPECTED OUTBREAK OF DIPLOMACY!

--THE VILIFIED LEADER COULD GIVE UP HIS UNAPPROVED WEAPONS--BUT HE'LL OBVIOUSLY NEVER DO THAT!

SIR? HE SAYS HE'LL DO IT. WHAT?

IF THE VILIFIED LEADER FAILS TO ABIDE BY THE TERMS OF THE DIPLOMATIC EFFORT, SOURCES SAY IT MAY YET PROVE NECESSARY TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK--

--BUT IN NO WAY SHOULD THIS BE CONSIDERED A WAR!

INDEED NOT! THERE WOULD BE NO TENTACLES ON THE GROUND!

STILL, THE NOT-WAR COULD COST BILLIONS OF SHINY STONES! WITH YET ANOTHER ARBITRARY ACCOUNTING CRISIS ON THE HORIZON, SOME SENTIENTS WONDER IF WE CAN EVEN AFFORD TO TAKE ACTION!

OUR PROFESSIONAL OPINION-SPEWER SAYS YES!

THE NORTHERN LAND MASS CAN ALWAYS FIND THE SHINY STONES TO ATTACK A DISTANT PROVINCE!

NEXT, IN A COMPLETELY UNRELATED STORY: CAN THE NORTHERN LAND MASS AFFORD THE SHINY STONES NEEDED TO REPAIR OUR TRANSIT TUBES AND EDUCATE OUR HATCHLINGS?

OUR PROFESSIONAL OPINION-SPEWER DOESN'T THINK SO!

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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

'Free Bree'

The case of 7-month-old Brielle Green and her parents' fight to bring her back home

Maria and Gordon "Steve" Green want to know why being legally registered medical marijuana patients makes them unfit to live with their 7-month-old daughter.

More than 100 people who staged a protest on their behalf in downtown Lansing Tuesday are wondering the same thing.

The Greens, who appeared at a hearing Friday in Ingham County Probate Court, had their 7-month-old daughter, Brielle, removed from their Larch Street home after Child Protective Services successfully petitioned the court to do so. By the same decree, her 6-year-old son, Elliott, for whom she had shared custody with her ex-husband, can no longer stay with them. He lives with his father in Genesee County.

The CPS recommendation was based on an interview with Elliott, testified Lori Bundy, a services specialist with the state Department of Human Services, who is working on the case. Bundy said the child told her last month that he had witnessed "medicine flowers" growing at the house. He also reported "various people in the home smoking in the kitchen with children present," she testified.

Bundy was unable to verify the presence of marijuana in the home, she said during Friday's hearing, because the Greens refused to let her enter the house without a court order, based on their attorney's advice.

Maria and Steve Green have felony marijuana charges pending in Oakland County, where they used to live, from an incident in 2011. They said they plan to show the court next month that they were legal under the state medical marijuana law to grow the 29 plants that police found. The Greens have had bond conditions placed on them since January, which include not using controlled substances.

Maria Green, 31, is a caregiver for four medical marijuana patients and is a patient herself to treat multiple sclerosis. Steve Green, 34, uses medical marijuana to treat epilepsy, but he is not a caregiver for others because of a felony larceny conviction when he was 17. Five years ago, Steve Green was also convicted of attempted breaking and entering. Maria Green said, "He was on so many prescriptions for his health problems and he was unaware he was trying to open a door to a building that was not his home."

All of this factored into attorney referee Rod Porter's decision Friday to remove Bree from the home. But at the heart of his decision to place Bree into custody of the state

Department of Human Services (which in turned placed her with Maria Green's mother), was that he saw the Greens' home as unfit because there was medical marijuana growing there, albeit legally.

"It's reasonable to assume marijuana is being grown in the home with children being present," Porter said during Friday's hearing. "That is dangerous for children to be involved with that situation. We have homes in this community robbed at gunpoint by individuals who know children are living in the home. ... I've had several robbery cases come before me where people on the street hear drugs are being grown in the home, know children are present in the home, choose to break in anyway with guns thinking they're going to make it rich getting some drugs, marijuana and money."

Porter also said that Steve Green had tested positive for eight months this year while having bond conditions from the pending charges in Oakland County. It never came up during the hearing, but Steve Green said afterward that he was able to continue using medical marijuana to treat his epilepsy until June, when an Oakland County judge stipulated as a bond condition that he could no longer use marijuana to treat his condition. He tested negative for marijuana on Aug. 15 and has been clean since, according to an Oakland County supervision report that also said he has not violated any bond conditions.

Outside of the hearing room, "disbelief" is how Green described his emotions. "I can't believe they would do that."

East Lansing attorney Joshua Covert, who represents the Greens, said Probate Judge Richard Garcia will decide Friday on giving the couple temporary custody. That's before an Oct. 7 hearing in which Garcia will decide whether the Greens will keep

custody. A week before that, Covert plans to request the decision be made by a jury.

"I feel that if we present this to a jury of their peers, they will have a hard time proceeding" with taking Bree away, Covert said. "I believe a jury would be shocked to see what has transpired. The Greens' fundamental right has been trampled on."

Covert pointed to a section of the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act that says a person shall not lose custody of a minor unless it "creates an unreasonable danger to the minor that can be clearly articulated and substantiated."



Andy Balaskovitz/City Pulse. Courtesy photo.

Maria (left) and Gordon "Steve" Green at a rally Tuesday outside of the state Department of Human Services building. The Greens are in a battle to keep custody of their 7-month-old daughter, Brielle (inset), who was removed from their Lansing home based on the presence of medical marijuana.

"Having plants at home locked and potentially using marijuana for medicinal purposes would not put them" in unreasonable danger, Covert said. "I grew up around parents who smoked marijuana openly, illegally. I never once as a child thought my parents were abusing or neglecting me."

Covert added during a speech at Tuesday's rally: "What I saw on Friday was one of the hardest things I've ever had to see. It's something that will stay with me for the rest of my life."

The Department of Human Services won't comment on individual cases due to

privacy concerns, spokesman Dave Akerly said in an email. "But, in general for any case here at DHS, we would look at parenting as being the key factor during an investigation."

"The safety and well-being of the children involved is always going to be paramount."

"As for marijuana itself, we look at it in the same way as we would any drug usage, prescription drug or otherwise with one major difference: in the case of pills, etc., we can determine with a blood sample or series of samples if the dosage matches that of the prescription in terms of use. That simply is not the same case with marijuana."

Over a hundred people gathered at noon Tuesday outside of the Department of Human Services building on Grand Avenue to protest Bree Green's removal from her parents. Elected officials, attorneys and advocates stood beside the Greens, erupting occasionally into loud chants of "Free Bree."

Thomas Lavigne, a Detroit-based attorney with Cannabis Counsel, said the Greens' case is not isolated and said there's "a level of xenophobia against medical marijuana patients."

"Now with our children, this is where we draw the line. This is our red line," he said, in reference to President Obama's "red line" comment about the use of chemical weapons in Syria.

Jim Gierach, a former prosecutor from Chicago who represents the organization Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, said the failure of the War on Drugs "is seen on the Green family and this infant Bree. ... Bree belongs home."

State Rep. Jeff Irwin, an Ann Arbor Democrat who has introduced statewide legislation to decriminalize marijuana, called Porter's decision Friday "twisted and imbecilic logic."

"This infant has been taken from her mother. That's wrong. The rationale the judge employed was that because of a position the parents hold, they're subject to additional risk of robbery. That is the slippery-est slope I've ever heard of."

Irwin wondered if the same logic could be applied to a wealthy family in a 5,000-square-foot home who might have valuables inside.

"The rich and powerful play by a different set of rules," Irwin said. "We need a judicial system that follows the clear letter of the law."

— Andy Balaskovitz

"Eyesore of the Week," our look at some of the seedier properties in Lansing, will return next week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call Andy Balaskovitz at 999-5064.

Political notes from around town

Less than two years after being elected Ingham County clerk, Barb Byrum is looking for greener pastures. The former three-



WALT SORG

term state representative is not-so-quietly promoting herself for lieutenant governor.

Byrum earlier had hopes of running for secretary of state but apparently has shifted her sights with the growing likelihood

that 2010 secretary of state nominee Jocelyn Benson will take a second shot at the job.

Byrum basically has to convince one person: presumptive Democratic gubernatorial nominee Mark Schauer. While Republicans will see a battle royale between tea party folks and Gov. Rick Snyder over Lt. Gov. Brian Calley's nomination at their party's convention, Democrats will happily endorse whomever Schauer wants.

Byrum is working to raise her visibility with the party people whom Schauer might consult in the process. She's encour-

aged friends to push the story that she's a leading candidate and took out a one-month sponsorship on the political blog MichiganLiberal.com.

Working in her favor is her track record as a candidate, winning four elections over the last decade, three of them by large margins. She has a reputation as an effective campaigner.

Working against her: geography and political choices.

I speculated earlier this year that Schauer would look to metro Detroit for his running mate, with Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown — also a former state House member — and Detroit Rep. Rashida Tlaib as the most likely choices. Brown drew national attention after beating an incumbent Republican to become clerk of Michigan's second-largest county.

Also working against Byrum: She and her mother, former state Sen. and Rep. Dianne Byrum, loudly supported the reelection of Mark Brewer as state Democratic Party chairman, even speaking on Brewer's behalf at the February convention where he ultimately lost to Lon Johnson.

Whitmer takes a break

At the other end of the political ambition spectrum is state Senate Minority Leader Gretchen Whitmer, D-East Lansing. Whitmer, who is term limited out of the Legislature next year, is making it clearer by the day that she will walk away from elective politics at the end of 2014 to spend more time raising her two pre-teen daughters.

Whitmer told me recently that if she wanted to run for attorney general, she would need to be working actively right now to lay the groundwork for the nomination. Left unsaid was the fact that she isn't making any effort to pull together a campaign.

Whitmer, 42, announced in January she would not seek the Democratic gubernatorial nomination, which helped clear the field for Schauer.

With Whitmer apparently out of the mix, MSU Law Professor Mark Totten appears ready to breeze to the nomination. And Benson, who's the acting dean of Wayne State University's law school, will likely be the party's repeat candidate for secretary of state.

Hertel working early

Ingham County Register of Deeds Curtis Hertel, Jr. isn't taking anything for granted in his run for to succeed Whitmer in the state Senate. Despite being a prohibitive favorite in the heavily Democratic district, Hertel is campaigning hard more than a year before the general election.

Hertel is already going door to door in Ingham County, personally visiting more than 1,500 homes so far.

Hertel is working early to clear the Democratic field, which most believe he has already done. Virtually all the public officials who could have challenged for the nomination have endorsed him: state Reps. Sam Singh, Andy Schor and Tom Cochran; former state Rep. Mark Meadows; Ingham County Sheriff Gene Wriggelsworth; Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann and Clerk Barb Byrum. Former state Rep. Joan Bauer has announced she will not run in the primary.

With the field pretty well cleared in the Ingham County district, little stands in Hertel's path to continuing a family tradition of state legislative service.

He would be the fourth Hertel to serve in the Legislature. His father, Curtis Sr., was co-speaker of the House in 1973-'74; his uncle, Dennis, served six years in the state House and 12 years in Congress; his uncle John served for eight years in the state Senate.

Crenshaw not initially unanimous

Bryan Crenshaw, who took office as Ingham County commissioner last week, initially wasn't a unanimous choice for the job. Sources indicate the initial vote among Democrats on a successor for Debbie DeLeon included two votes for Catherine Mooney, who lost to DeLeon in last year's Democratic primary. The final official vote, however, was unanimous.

DeLeon resigned after being elected vice chairperson of the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, based in Petoskey, a job that required her to relocate to west Michigan.

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PUBLIC NOTICES



CATA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Route 11-Waverly/Colonial Village
Service Change Proposal Effective January 2014

CATA will hold hearings in October to take public comments on a January 2014 service change proposed for Route 11-Waverly/Colonial Village. The proposal specifies:

- Service 1) along Waverly Road, north of Moores River Drive, 2) along Old Lansing Road, between Waverly and Lansing Road, and 3) along Lansing Road, between Waverly and Main/Malcolm X, would be discontinued.
- The new routing would travel 1) Olds Avenue, between Everett Drive and MLK Blvd., 2) MLK, between Olds and Mt. Hope, and 3) Mt. Hope, between MLK and Pleasant Grove.
- Service hours and departure times from the CATA Transportation Center would remain the same.

Public Hearing Schedule

Thursday, October 3, 2013

CATA Transportation Center

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

The CTC is located at 420 S. Grand Avenue in downtown Lansing. The facility is fully accessible with 14 routes traveling to the Center during the hours of the public hearings. Please contact CATA's Customer Service Representatives at 517.394.1000 for trip planning assistance or if you have special needs requiring transportation to a session. CATA will provide reasonable accommodations if your request is received by Friday, September 27.

Representatives from CATA will be present at each public hearing. The sessions are conducted in an "open format" style. No formal presentations will be made to allow the public to interact with CATA staff one-on-one at any time during the public hearing periods.

If you cannot attend a hearing but would like to provide input, comments can be submitted in writing and must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 3.

Email comments to: jfroehlich@cata.org

Mail comments to: January 2014 Service Changes
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Lansing, MI 48910

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Check out LansingCityPulse.com for coverage of last week's protests in East Lansing and Owosso, where diverging groups staged separate rallies against military intervention in Syria.

A CIVIL ACTION COMING

SOUTH LANSING RESIDENTS GET BEHIND CLASS-ACTION LAWSUIT OVER STORM WATER, SEWAGE FLOODING IN THEIR HOMES

BY ANDY BALASKOVITZ

An overnight storm dumped 4 inches of rain on Lansing on June 12 and 13. Predictably, basements flooded, leaving hundreds with sewage or rainwater backups.

Predictably, residents railed against City Hall.

"In this area, the systems have failed," Deanna Ray, a resident of the Coachlight Neighborhood in south Lansing, told the State Journal.

Predictably, city officials expressed sympathy but said Mother Nature won this one, overwhelming an infrastructure that isn't designed to protect against all serious storms.

But perhaps less predictably, residents are doing something about it.

Nearly 400 people with damaged basements have banded together in what will soon

be a class-action lawsuit against the city. They're seeking a fix and money to cover damages that could easily climb into the millions of dollars. The Detroit-based law firm representing them is well versed in the field, promoting on its website that it's settled with municipalities — mostly in metro Detroit but also in Indiana and Ohio — over sewage backups totaling more than \$46 million. That includes a \$1.2 million settlement with Lansing in 2001. The lead attorney taking the case, Steven Liddle,

"IT'S UNACCEPTABLE IN MODERN SOCIETY TO HAVE SEWAGE BACKUPS. IT'S UNACCEPTABLE FOR A COMMUNITY TO LIVE LIKE THAT. IT IS NOT A BAD THING FOR PEOPLE TO DEMAND THAT THEY HAVE WORKING INFRASTRUCTURE."

— PAT LINDEMANN, INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER

helped write the state law enacted in 2001 that provides for government immunity from damages after storms. Indeed, the firm of Macuga, Liddle & Dubin has become known statewide for this sort of thing.

The suit, which Liddle said will be filed early next month, will claim that piping defects beneath those homes caused the backups; that the city knew about the defects; and that the city failed to correct them in a reasonable amount of time. That all must be proven for the city to be held liable, based on that 2001 state law known as Public Act 222.

Moreover, the number of suits against cities particularly vulnerable to flooding, like Lansing and southeast Michigan, exploded in the mid-1990s when insurance stopped covering such major risks, experts say.

Perhaps at the heart of these issues that lead to wretched experiences for property owners is aging infrastructure dating back to a time when routing sewage and storm water together was perfectly acceptable. While upgrading that infrastructure is underway throughout the country, it's expensive and doesn't happen overnight. Ultimately, all of these costs incurred when these old systems fail are passed on to all taxpayers.

PA 222

Days after the June storm, word had spread that a Detroit law firm might be able to help all of those residents who wanted the city to take some responsibility for damages. By late July, Liddle's law firm contacted the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office and the city of Lansing with a "sewage notice claim form" that included over 300 properties in the southwest quadrant of the city.

Under Public Act 222 of 2001, the claimants had 45 days after the storm event to provide written notice to the city. It then must wait another 45 days before it can file suit if a settlement hasn't been reached.

"I've handled thousands of these cases. This is what we do," Liddle said.

"A lot of these people have had enough, and it hasn't been one time. There are frustrations there."

Deanna Ray is one of those frustrated residents. Ray, who lives on Danbury Crossroad Street in the Coachlight Neighborhood, contacted the law firm early. Then she started the petition drive to get others to join in the suit, "trying to create as much exposure as possible."



Courtesy Photo

Sarah Catey, who lives on Danbury Crossroad Street in southwest Lansing, said "4-plus" feet of sewage and rainwater backed up in her basement during a rain storm on June 12-13.

She was also one of the first after the storm to speak out in the local media.

"This was the third time my basement has flooded with raw sewage," adding she had "never received any compensation from the city of Lansing. I always filled out the property complaint forms but was always just denied."

Ray, 32, has lived in Lansing all her life in the house where she grew up. She feels "stuck" with her two children in her home without insurance and little outside resources. She said the Red Cross did all it could to help, coming out with buckets and squeegees. It wasn't easy removing roughly 4 feet of standing water and sewage from her basement.

"It's terrible," she said.

Ray's and two other properties on her road are part of the city's "Basement Backup Pilot Program." Launched this year, it "proactively addresses the issue of basement sewer backups and offers assistance to protect families from future backups," according to the city's website.

Forty-three homes that have had sewage backups were chosen for the program. Participants can hire contractors to fix plumbing issues, for which the city will reimburse up to \$4,750. (All of the first \$1,000 of eligible costs will be reimbursed, plus 75 percent of the next \$5,000 in eligible costs.) Residents at five properties in the pilot program have also joined the lawsuit, according to basement pilot addresses recently released by the city and the list of claimants.

Sarah Catey lives in her parents' home with her husband, son, two siblings and parents down the street from Ray. Catey said the June flooding, which she said brought 4-plus-feet of sewage and storm water into their basement, was the third — and worst — such event since 2010. Her parents, as the property owners, are on the list of claimants but haven't started on work related to the basement pilot program, she said.

She and her husband "lost pretty much everything of ours" that was in the basement,

See Lawsuit Page 8

Lawsuit

from page 7

which included clothes, dressers, computers and laundry machines. “The insurance wouldn’t cover any of the flooding damage in the basement unless we had a sump pump.”

Catey, 24, said she called the city at 12:30 a.m. June 13 to let it know about the sewage coming in. She was told a half-hour later to ride the storm out. Her parents bought the home 15 years ago.

“First of all, we were pissed. The city should have done something right when they knew water was coming in,” she said. “There was sewage coming up. Shit all over the basement.”

Forty-year-old Keisha Wade, who lives with her family about a mile north of the Coachlight Neighborhood on Lucie Street, also is part of the lawsuit and the pilot program. She said every time a major rainstorm comes, water rises up through her finished basement. While they’ve had seven or eight floods in the 10 years living there, she has not had problems particularly with sewage.

“We always just kind of prepare now for the storm,” she said. “It’s the new normal for us.”

She joined the lawsuit to have the problem fixed and for the city to reimburse her

for the \$5,000 or \$6,000 she said it cost her during the last storm. “I’ve filed (insurance) claims, but there’s been times I didn’t make a claim because I didn’t want to risk losing my homeowners insurance,” she said.

“It’s an ordeal. It’s very depressing to go downstairs in the morning and stand in puddles of water. And that’s a two-week process to get the smell out,” she said.

Following the June event, Lansing Public Services Director Chad Gamble told the State Journal that serious storm events will challenge even functioning storm water management systems. He also told the LSJ that projects are planned, including upgrading a pump station in Frances Park, that could help alleviate the flooding in that area of the city.

It’s unclear yet how much the claimants may seek from the city for damages. Liddle said that will likely be determined during the case’s discovery phase when dollar amounts for each property are calculated.

“We have evidence that some people have flooded on numerous occasions,” Liddle said. “That really says something is wrong.”

HOW IT WORKS AND WHO PAYS

Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann explains that backups happen as a result of our built environment of vast impervious surfaces and antiquated practices for dealing with storm water runoff.

“There’s an age-old saying in the water business: Never declare war on water,” he

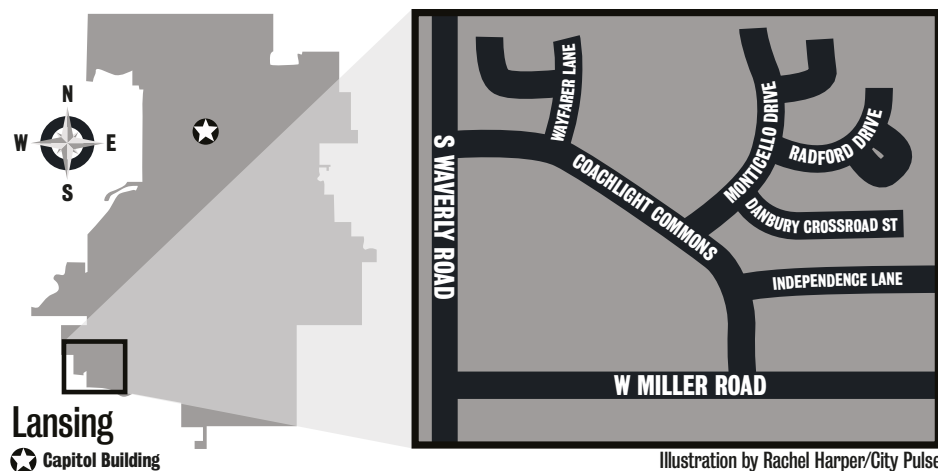


Illustration by Rachel Harper/City Pulse

Illustration by Rachel Harper/City Pulse

Three residents on Danbury Crossroad Street near Waverly and Miller roads that are among hundreds joining in a class-action lawsuit against the city have also been chosen by the city to participate in a pilot program that attempts to fix basement backups.

said. “If you try to, the water will always win. Backups are a product of inadequate infrastructure.”

While houses are hooked up to sanitary lines that can back up with too much storm water in them, Lindemann said the ultimate problem is how Lansing, like all cities, was built.

“When you build more parking lots and you don’t accommodate the space necessary to store the water, pipes become overwhelmed. The infrastructure just needs to be rebuilt,” he said, which could include installing bigger pipes and “low-impact design” like rain gardens and generally more pervious surfaces.

However, Gamble said that a “vast majority” of basement sewage backups the city investigates turn out to be problems with privately owned plumbing and drains on private property — not publicly owned sewer systems. “In the City of Lansing, property owners are responsible for maintaining their sewer service pipe,” he wrote.

He also said the city doesn’t consider it a system “defect,” as specified by state law, if problems are “caused by a rain event that is greater than the sewer is designed to carry.”

Lindemann said it’s likely true that a majority of backups throughout the year are a result of private plumbing issues. “But when

you have backups all in one neighborhood all on the same night, it’s probably unlikely it’s a private drain problem,” he said. “It’s more than likely not the faults of theirs. It’s more likely the fault of an over-burdened sewer system.”

Which takes us to the heart of this class-action lawsuit: When pipes do back up and cause damage in residential homes, who’s responsible to pay for it?

Mike Forster, director of risk management services for the Michigan Municipal League, said since the mid- to late-’90s when losses “spun out of control and became uninsurable,” law firms started filing class-action lawsuits against cities “virtually every time there was a severe rainstorm. It exceeded the capacity for cities to handle, and the cities would nonetheless get hit with a class-action lawsuit.”

“It presents an enormous amount of exposure,” he said, adding that hundreds of people with relatively minor damages can end up costing huge amounts. So by the early 2000s, he said, insurers became overwhelmed and “severely restricted or even eliminated the coverage for it.”

The Municipal League’s Liability and Property Pool is an insurance entity of about 400 communities throughout the state to self-insure losses. However, it doesn’t in-

See Lawsuit, Page 9

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Lawsuit

from page 8

clude places that are more susceptible to flooding, such as Lansing, which is self-insured and not a member.

"Those communities that don't have sewer backups don't want to subsidize those that do," Forster said. "If we have to raise rates a couple million dollars a year for five communities where it's going to occur, the other 395 communities are just going to get insurance somewhere else for cheaper. It makes it almost impossible to insure."

"When a plaintiff attorney comes in filing a lawsuit on behalf of 500 people that may or may not have damage, it's simply not an insurable risk," he added.

While Forster couldn't speak specifically to what Lansing would do in such a case, typically the ultimate costs are rolled into water rates, he said.

Gamble said the city reviews complaints and investigates whether the system "is operating as designed." It tries to "determine the cause of the damage, reviewing the amount of precipitation, complaint history, cleaning records, sewer drawings, etc.," he said.

But if a government is found liable, is it fair for those costs to be passed on to other taxpayers or ratepayers?

Forster said one side may argue that.

"On the other hand, sewer backups are a very emotional, frustrating, miserable event for someone who's had it occur to them. I can certainly understand why the courts are very reluctant to dismiss claims no matter what the circumstances are for homeowners who had a backup," he said. "It's always a very difficult issue for everyone involved."

OLD INFRASTRUCTURE

Pipes installed underground in the 1930s, '40s and '50s were designed to carry water to treatment plants before being discharged into the river. The city's effort to separate those, known as the Combined Sewer Overflow project, was mandated under state law and started in 1992. It is a 30-year, \$176 million project to separate the sewage and storm water so that the sewage

goes to the wastewater treatment plant and the storm water to the river.

The city has put that program on hold after completing 70 percent of it and reducing the annual overflow volume by 58 percent. It has alternative plans pending with the state Department of Environmental Quality, some of which could qualify the city for revolving loan funds to help pay for it.

"Despite all the work completed to date, the existing sanitary sewer system provides variable wet weather performance," according to a new project proposal the city sent to the state. That project, called the Wet Weather Control Program, is estimated to cost \$420 million and "is expected to extend beyond 2020 due to the program cost and the City's continuing economic hardship," the proposal says.

"I wish we had millions and millions of dollars to be able to help these people," Gamble told the Journal in June, referring to the fact that upgrading infrastructure takes time and lots of money.

Chuck Bennett, an environmental engineer with the DEQ, said Lansing has "a history of some problems with capacity of sewer systems during wet weather and has been working with us to address them over a number of years."

While the combined systems present one challenge, even some areas that have already been separated are experiencing what are called "sanitary sewer overflows."

"It's analogous to fighting a battle on two fronts," Bennett said. "They've come to us with a proposal to remedy those problems. Instead of working on them separately, they come with a holistic plan, the Wet Weather Control Plan."

The schedule for completing that is being negotiated, Bennett said.

As cities grapple with these fundamental infrastructure problems, time ticks. Mother Nature is not waiting and, as multiple studies have shown, is getting more powerful as extreme weather events are being exacerbated by climate change.

Governments are battling time and money to get the work done. But there's a more absolutist view held by some, like Lindemann, who say sewage backups are unacceptable, period.

"The government is supposed to repre-



Courtesy Photo

Sarah Catey said the June 12-13 storm was the third one since 2010 that caused sewage backups in the basement. At left are the remnants. "The insurance wouldn't cover any of the flooding damage in the basement unless we had a sump pump," she said.

sent the people. We work for them. My job is to make sure they're safe and that public health is taken care of," he said. "When sewage backs up in your basement floor, you think that's healthy?"

Liddle, the attorney leading the suit, agrees.

"This is the United States in 2013. A lot of these people have said, 'I've flooded three times.' One person said, 'I let it go one or two times.' But what do you do? This is how the system works. You can't just sit there and flood people out," he said.

Referring to the idea that we live in an age when it's no longer acceptable to directly discharge sewage into waterways: "If it's so bad that it can't be in Lake Michigan or Lake Huron, it sure can't be in someone's basement. That's something that's intolerable."

Indeed, Lindemann says.

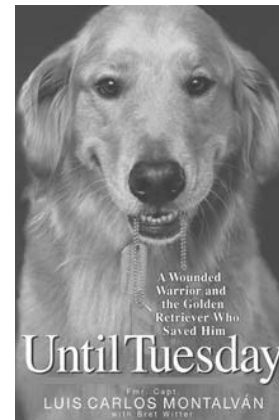
"It's unacceptable in modern society to have sewage backups," he said. "It's unacceptable for a community to live like that. It is not a bad thing for people to demand that they have working infrastructure."

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MEET THE AUTHOR

Luis Carlos Montalván

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Roxanne in bloom

Post-surgery, Old Town co-founder ready to get her hands dirty again

By ALLAN I. ROSS

Roxanne Frith was part of the team that started the renovation process of Old Town in the late '70s. Through her knack for coaxing life from the earth and her dedication to the art of photography, Frith, 55, planted the seeds for what grew into a bustling gallery district, and has become a guiding force in the local art scene. She also teaches photography at LCC and is still an avid gardener.

This summer, Frith, needed a kidney transplant because of a rare genetic disorder. Insurance covered the surgery, but not the incidental costs of her day-to-day life. The Old Town and art communities rallied to raise funds for Frith, successfully helping her navigate through a difficult financial period.

Frith took some time to reflect on going through surgery, her relationship with Old Town and taking pictures of her shadow.

What was your reaction to the support you received during your kidney surgery?

It was completely humbling. I think it's incredible that because of that support, I'm going to get to continue to be here and be the artist and teacher that I've always wanted to be. It affirms that none of us live by ourselves and the most important thing you can do is to contribute to your community. If you can help someone, do that.

I didn't sow the seeds with the expecta-

tion there would be a return. Every day I wake up, grateful to be alive. I've had a few opportunities to leave this life, but I haven't. I still need to be here. I have stuff to do. I have art to make and community contributions to make.

When do you go back to work?

I shot Michigan Pride last month, which was my first outing in a large public group since my surgery on July 18. But I had to wear a mask and stand far away from groups — my immune system was still too fragile. And it still is too fragile be out in public on a regular basis, so I can't go back to LCC until next semester, which starts in January. But life will offer me many more years to be in the thick of it. I'm being patient. The gratitude for being alive outweighs the disappointment of not being able to do that now.

Currently, I'm splitting my time between editing photos of a Mediterranean cruise I took last summer with my mother and the ones I took at last Sunday's statue dedication to Robert Busby.

How has it been watching Old Town's growth and development over the years?

I got involved in Turner Street when I was 19 years old. I saw it as part of my education, part of being a young artist. I think a good metaphor would be the landscaping that's occurred. I planted many of those perennials and I've watched as the buildings

"I've had a few opportunities to leave this life but I haven't. I still need to be here. I have stuff to do. I have art to make."

ROXANNE FRITH,
LANSING PHOTOGRAPHER AND TEACHER



Photo by Monique Goch/Moxy Imagery

Lansing photographer/artists Roxanne Frith, at work in her home studio. The LCC teacher recently underwent a successful kidney transplant.

have developed around them. The green space has grown into a beautiful garden with a rich diverse plant life, nourished by all the different people who have moved in since we started. I'm proud to know that I was there to till that soil.

Has this experience changed how you approach your art?

It has, but I'm not exactly sure how. It hasn't even been two months since the transplant. Something is gestating, but I just don't

know where it's going to take me yet.

When I was a child, I used to do shadow portraits, and in the last couple years I've found myself returning to that. I did a self-portrait for a book I want to publish, called "Always Present." My shadow is always there; it's not a dark place, but you have to be able to move through the dark to come to the light. It's a good life metaphor for this journey I've gone through: Coming to the threshold of death and coming back to life.

Music with a Mission *Fiesta!*

All performances will be on the State Capitol lawn and steps

Thursday, Sept. 19

1 p.m. Magdalen Fossum
1:45 p.m. Drew Howard
2:45 p.m. Drew Nelson
4 p.m. Steve Leaf & Chris Dorman
4:45 p.m. Daniel Roberts
5:45 p.m. Twyla Birdsong
7 p.m. Taylor Taylor
8 p.m. Cindy McElroy

Friday, Sept. 20

9 a.m. Drum Circle
Noon: 724th Weekly Peace Vigil and Drum Circle
1:15 p.m. Drum & Poetry Open Mic
2 p.m. Deacon Earl
3 p.m. Wil Fossum
4:30 p.m. Karen Hoene
5 p.m. The 89th Key
6 p.m. Bargain Store
7:15 p.m. Temesgen Hussein
8 p.m. The Fascinators

8:45 p.m. Mushhh,
9:15 p.m. M-Cellus.

Monday, Sept. 23

9 a.m. Drum Circle
11:30 a.m. Mighty Medicine
12:15 p.m. Free Jam Open Mic
1 p.m. Joshua Davis & Laura Bates
2 p.m. Jen Sygit & Geoff Lewis
3:15 p.m. Kathleen and the Bridge Street Band
4:15 p.m. Abbey Hoffman
5 p.m. Medicine Grow
6 p.m. Peter Dougherty
6:30 p.m. Scratch Pilots
7 p.m. David Meeder
7:45 p.m. Yogurt Culture

Compassionate mission

Concert series benefits Lansing's needy

By ALLAN I. ROSS

As we approach the end of another Lansing-area festival season (just waiting on you, Oktoberfest), temps are already beginning to plummet; it won't be long before concerts in the park are replaced by Christmas tree lots. But as sugarplums start to dance in some people's heads, others are focused on humbler aspirations. Such as, "Where am I going to sleep tonight?"

"In the last year, the Volunteers of America shelter on Larch Street in Lansing served nearly 4,200 people, a 50 percent increase over the previous year," said Kathie Kuhn, at-large board member of East Lansing's Peace

Education Center. "They also served over 130,000 meals, which is up 70 percent since 2007. As those numbers climb, donations have been going down. Something needed to be done."

Kuhn said she thinks traditional fundraisers are too "confrontational," so she organized the Music with a Mission Fiesta!, a free three-day concert and activity series on the State Capitol lawn and steps. It runs Thursday, Friday, takes the weekend off and wraps up Monday. Cash donations and blankets, food and hygiene items will be collected for the VOA shelter, and while you drop off your contribution, you get to enjoy a little music.

"The support of these artists has been extraordinary," Kuhn said. "We've been adding acts every day. It's incredible to see how many people are willing to help."

CURTAIN CALL Off the radar

Riverwalk's "M*A*S*H" is mostly swampy

By MARY CUSACK

War is not hell in Riverwalk Theatre's production of "M*A*S*H." It's not even heck. It's a minimalized setting for playwright Tim Kelly's shallow versions of some of America's most iconic pop culture characters.

The stage play is an adaptation of Richard Hooker's novel, which was adapted into an acclaimed feature film and iconic televi-

sion series. Set in a mobile Army hospital during the Korean War in the mid-1950s, the story focuses on the often conflicting, survival mechanisms employed by the enlisted and drafted staff. While the tone of the novel, film and series skewed toward humor, no punches were pulled when it came to showing the tragedy of war.

Unfortunately, Kelly's script lacks any character development and tension. Kelly is considered one of the nation's most prolific playwrights, but quantity trumps quality in this adaptation, reflected in the bloated cast and running time. For his directorial debut, Justin Brewer should have selected a better script with a manageable cast.

Upon arrival, the audience is treated

to a fantastic set that effectively recreates the gritty location of the 4077th, courtesy of Mark Mandenburg and Melody Stratton. But once the cast takes the stage, the production heads not to South Korea but just south.

Mark Polzin (Trapper John) and Cassie Little (Captain Bridget McCarthy) give understated, naturalistic performances, but the regular army officers, including General Hamilton (Ed Baker), Lt. Col. Blake (Chris Goeckel) and "Hotlips" Houlihan (Sandy Vanlancker) are devoid of nuance. It would seem that the only direction they received was "more bluster."

The best acting comes from the Bonwit Sisters (Bridget Farhat, Rikki Perez and Sophia Vitello), a trio of bubble-headed

showgirls who get stranded at the hospital. The squeaky and spoiled sisters are perfect comedic foils in one of the few rewarding scenes, a showdown between the war-weary nurses and the pampered pretties.

The cast and crew are earnest in their desire to celebrate our military personnel, and the closing slideshow celebrating their loved ones in the military is truly touching. Still, this "M*A*S*H" is just mush.

"M*A*S*H"

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Moving the people

BluesFest 2013 returns with a few twists

By JORDAN BRADLEY

The motto for Old Town BluesFest has always seemed to be, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." But what's wrong with a little tweaking? As always, when BluesFest opens on Friday, the intersection of Turner Street and Grand River Avenue will pack a full slate of local and traveling blues artists who will ensnare local eardrums with heartbreaking sax solos and screaming guitar riffs. But just like the whiff of drying leaves you might smell when you step outside, change is in the air in the 19-year-old festival.

In a twist of style that stays true to the blues, the format by which the bands perform has been changed, allowing for more freedom from the artists. Instead of having bands perform one set, the featured bands for each evening will play three one-hour sets, each showcasing a special guest. Jimmy Gleason of Jimmy G and the Capitols is excited for the change as he and the rest of the band prepare to play their third BluesFest.

"This year is trying to capture that spirit of camaraderie that you used to get at an

open mic night," he said. "When I was approached with this format, I was excited to keep that fire going."

The event is sponsored by the Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art. Joshua Pugh, spokesman for MICA, said the event brings over 10,000 people to Old Town over its two-night run, but the motivation for his involvement is simple.

"The blues moves people," he said. But it's not just the blues doing that moving: The Historical Society of Greater Lansing will give a walking tour of Old Town on Saturday. Featured stops include Elderly Instruments and the recently renovated Comfort Station, a former public restroom that is home to a home furnishings store on the first floor and the Michigan Historical Preservation Network on the second floor. The tour departs from the Cesar Chavez plaza next to the former Chrome Cat building at noon.

But for Gleason, the BluesFest isn't just about the new format. He said he's going through a challenging period in his life: his father died about six weeks ago, and all of his equipment was recently destroyed.

"There've been a lot of intense feelings to get out," he said. "The blues have a regenerative power, and I look (at BluesFest) as an opportunity both for myself and for the city of Lansing to experience a little healing."

BLUESFEST 2013 SCHEDULE

FRIDAY SOUTH STAGE

4-6 p.m.: Kevin Nichols & Blue Tuesday
7-8 p.m.: Maurice Davis Quartet
9-10:30 p.m.: Sugar Ray & the Bluetones

NORTH STAGE: Jimmy G & the Capitols (three sets with featured guests)

6-7 p.m.: Twyla Birdsong
8-9 p.m.: Kathleen Mendoza Walters & Andy Wilson & "Johnny D" Davidson
10:30-midnight: Sugar Ray Norcia

MICA Stage

5:45-6:45 p.m.: Sugar Ray Blinic
7-8 p.m.: Buzz 'n Buster

SATURDAY SOUTH STAGE

2-4 p.m.: The Further Adventures of Fat Boy & Jive Turkey
From 5-10:30 p.m.: Big Llou & the Bluesville Revue (four sets, three with featured guests)
5-6 p.m.: The Mike Wheeler Band
7-8 p.m.: Russ Green
9-10 p.m.: Nellie "Tiger" Travis
10-10:30 p.m.: Big Llou & the Bluesville Revue

NORTH STAGE: Rob Blaine & Big Otis Blu (four sets with featured guests)

4-5 p.m.: Pete Galanis
6-7 p.m.: Mike Sterling

8-9 p.m.: Dana Thompson
10:30-midnight: Big Llou Johnson

MICA STAGE

1-1:45 p.m.: Tunes & Tales by Tricia (storytelling and music)
2-2:45 p.m.: Andy Wilson (kids' music)
3-3:45 p.m.: Gina Garner
4-4:45 p.m.: Sweet Willie Tea the OMB (One-Man-Band)
5-5:45 p.m.: Mike Daniels Drum Clinic
6-6:45 p.m.: Matchette & Frog

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oldtownoktoberfest.com



Photo by Deb Drew Brown

A piece from Williamston artist Deb Drew Brown's photography exhibit, "The Grandest Canyon Collection," which are in competition at this year's ArtPrize event in downtown Grand Rapids.

Prize fighters

Lansing artists take part in world's largest art competition

By JORDAN BRADLEY

As a first-time participant in the Grand Rapids ArtPrize competition (opening today and running through Oct. 6), Haslett artist Sarah Gilmore de Ruiter of Lansing found herself joining the buzz with a painting called "Thunder, Perfect Mind." The piece is inspired by a gnostic poem by the same title.

"It's one of my favorite poems," de Ruiter said. "It reflects the contrasting and varied roles of women in society. Even though the poem was written hundreds of years ago, it is very contemporary."

De Ruiter teaches seventh grade science at Sexton High School. This week, de Ruiter installed her piece in the RVC Offices in the Riverview Center, 678 Front Ave. in downtown Grand Rapids.

She is one of 42 Lansing-area artists competing in the fifth annual event, which Time magazine called one of the top five festivals in the world earlier this year. About 2,000 artists will compete from a variety of media; over half a million dollars will be awarded to the top 21.

Deb Drew Brown, a photographer from Williamston, is participating in her third ArtPrize competition. She submitted five prints from a trip to the Grand Canyon. Her pieces, collectively called "The Grandest Canyon Collection," will be displayed in the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.

Brown, an X-ray technician by day, specializes in nature photography. She uses bright, saturated colors in her artwork. This year, she offers advice to first time participants and visitors alike.

"Buy a wristband for the shuttle bus," she said. "It gets very crowded downtown. It's beyond your imagination"

For a full list of all Lansing-area artists competing in ArtPrize, please see page 19.



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Percussion and purity

Symphony serves up spectacle, breaks bread

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The Lansing Symphony Orchestra had a stiff creak in it, like a pair of new shoes, at the beginning of Friday's season opener, but it's amazing what a little sweat can do.

As Romanian composer George Enescu's "Romanian Rhapsody No. 1" got up a head of steam, the orchestra got its dance moves on so fast the music started to blur. Sharp woodwind solos helped pin the whirling skirts of melody to the supple body of music under them.

Maestro Timothy Muffitt reveled in the weirdness of the music, especially toward the end when a series of strange harmonic blocks go by like mismatched train cars. When the dance figures started bouncing like crazy molecules, he kept on pushing the energy down and hushing them up until it was time to go nuts and lift the lid.

The same play of tension and release, on a much bigger scale, drove the evening's big event, Jennifer Higdon's Percussion Concerto, featuring New York-based percus-

sionist Lisa Pegher as soloist.

The first two minutes seemed to recap the history of life on the planet, from solo marimba tremors that hinted at inchoate, wiggly bacteria, to up-thrusting Manhattan skyscrapers in the brass and strings. Who got their Aaron Copland in my Steve Reich? Pegher returned many times to the five-octave marimba, which carried most of the solo weight. She almost seemed to hearken to it, head tilted like a robin listening for a worm, pouncing on each life-giving note.

The next big revelation was an aching solo by Pegher on vibraphone, with bowed overtones that seemed to herald the next phase of existence: pure thought.

There was spectacle to spare, but careful, often fleeting details knit the music together. A harp picked up a vibraphone passage, violins echoed Pegher's bowed overtones, and countless other touches built up a seamless world of sound.

Frequent parries and thrusts between Pegher and three (!) percussionists in the back of the orchestra reached their peak when Pegher played a solo cadenza, followed by a group drum avalanche with her comrades-in-arms and -sticks. The solos drew two waves of cheers from the audience. When the concerto was over, Muffitt called Pegher back and they did it all over again for an encore.

After the bravura percussion experience, Antonin Dvorak's Seventh Symphony gave Muffitt and the orchestra a chance to make pure music — the purest this side of Brahms or Haydn. This time, there was no soloist, no unusual hardware and no stylistic breakthrough to distract or divert the ear. As deftly as



Courtesy Photo

LSO maestro Timothy Muffitt led New York-based percussionist Lisa Pegher (left) through a bravura performance last week, including Jennifer Higdon's Percussion Concerto.

Muffitt handles splashy works and unusual collaborations, he seems to relish these trips to the well of pure music more than anything. He broke the symphony open slowly and with deep purpose, like a monk tearing open a loaf of bread.

The music didn't even have any extra-musical associations to chew on, like the Americana bit in Dvorak's "New World" Symphony or the artist-vs.-authority tussles underlying Beethoven's Third and Shostakovich's Tenth, all featured in recent LSO programs.

The biggest drama you can wring out of the Seventh is that Dvorak wanted to top his hero, the god of "absolute music," Brahms, and gave it a good shot. Melodies and countermelodies drifted and collided

in a majestic play of contrast and shadow. The string section built up color on color, tan on ochre on brown on black, from the violins through the violas and cellos down to the double basses, like the strata of a mountain rising under your feet. Silvery highlights from flutist Richard Sherman snaked through the earthy tapestry throughout the night.

The breadiest part of the symphony was the simple second movement, with its noble, hymn-like chorales, first in the woodwinds, then in the finely blended Lansing Symphony brass. There were also huge swells, as in the first movement, but both movements died away with an almost liturgical hush.

In the third movement, Muffitt locked into a striking, schizophrenic rhythm — waltz on top of march — with airtight mastery. The whole orchestra bumped up and down to that gear-like pattern, generating hypnotic patterns like architecture in the air. It ended with the satisfying hammer-on-nail ending coyly withheld in the first two movements. (We didn't know it yet, but that was only the little hammer hitting the little nail.)

By the last movement, Muffitt seemed to have everyone herded onto the mountain of pure music. The lady in front of me stopped looking at her cell phone and the guy next to her let the program slip out of his hands. What do you know about Dvorak? Nothing? Good. Our minds are jumbled with too much gossip about who Beethoven or Mozart were sleeping with, what a jerk Stravinsky was and so on. It's fun to know all those things but it's not music.

When Muffitt and the Lansing Symphony waded into the last movement of the Dvorak, a vast drama of pure vibrations, a tapestry of time, closed in on a shattering finish. Before the initial build-up was over, the main theme hovered in the wings and you could hear Muffitt open a definitive can of sonic whoopass. At symphony's end, three major chords, like blasts from high Olympus, closed a well-argued case for absolute music.

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Spilling secrets

Two Michigan authors write about opening up

By **BILL CASTANIER**

What's your family secret —the one you want no one else to know, the one you'll take to your grave? Most families have secrets held from even other family members. Maybe it's a child out of wedlock, a half brother in a faraway country fathered by a G.I. in WWII or a love child with an unnamed father. The secret is kept until death, and only then the story emerges as the survivors go through the deceased's papers.

That's exactly what happened to Detroit native Steve Luxenberg, author of "Annie's Ghosts: A Journey Into a Family Secret," which has been selected as the Great Michigan Read for 2013 by the Michigan Humanities Council.

Luxenberg has been a newspaper reporter and editor for nearly 40 years, most recently as a Washington Post associate editor. He discovered after his mother's death that she held a family secret: She had a sister who had been placed in Eloise, a Detroit

"Annie's Ghosts"

Author talk by Steve Luxenberg, part of the Great Michigan Read
7 p.m. Tuesday
Michigan Historical Center,
717 W. Allegan St., Lansing
FREE, but registration
required at
michiganhumanities.org

area mental institution, and was never mentioned again. "My mother would tell elaborate stories about being an only child," Luxenberg said. He said that once he discovered this was not the truth, he asked himself, "If that isn't true what else isn't," and set out to discover everything there was to know about his family and his lost aunt Annie.

"As the story emerged I grasped the enormity of what my mom did," he said. "Since I was trained as a journalist, I reacted more analytical and never felt any revulsion."

Luxenberg said he decided to tell what he calls "a universal story," one that many



Courtesy Photos

Michigan authors Steve Luxenberg (left) and Rob Roznowski will speak next week about their books. Luxenberg's nonfiction work "Annie's Ghosts" focuses on the stigma of mental illness, while Roznowski's book serves as a manual for stage actors.

believe is "better off left unwritten." He said he firmly believes that every family has a secret that needs to be aired.

"The consequences of secrecy roll down into subsequent generations," he said. He said since his mother's death, he saw no downside to revealing his family secret. He hopes that by writing about his journey to explore the secret and its roots that other secret keepers will release what they have been hiding. He also said he wanted to shine a light on the shame of mental illness that we still carry more than six decades after his aunt was sent to a mental institution to be forgotten.

"Annie's Ghost" is more than a memoir; it is an investigation into the mental health system and how Luxenberg's aunt ended up institutionalized. It is also about how, in the name of secrecy, it is nearly impossible to delve into the process that saw her end up at Eloise.

Luxenberg launches a statewide tour in Lansing at the Michigan Historical Center at 7 p.m. Tuesday. He will be joined by another Michigan author, Mardi Jo Link, whose new book, "Bootstrapper: From Broke to Badass on a Northern



Michigan Farm," tells about her life as a divorced single mom raising three boys. Link admits to writing about what might be called "family secrets," but she's quick to point out that she let her boys read the manuscript before publication.

"The Great Read program is a unique opportunity to get Michiganiens reading the same book at the same time, discussing important social topics like mental health, interacting with Michigan authors, and considering our shared ideas of what it means to be part of this great state," said Erik Nordberg, executive director of the Michigan Humanities Council.

Self-analysis

"What should an actor be thinking on-stage?" That's the central question behind "Inner Monologue in Acting," a new book by Rob Roznowski, associate professor of Acting at MSU.

"It seems like a basic phenomenon as an actor that you have to think like the character, but in most acting texts, there's very little mention of it," Roznowski said. To fill that void, he collaborated with Chris Hopwood, assistant professor of psychology at MSU, to solidify a psychoanalytical approach to acting. "It's taking the clues from

the playwright and then becoming this armchair psychologist to think in the way of the character," Roznowski said. "In psychology, they call it 'projecting,' or thinking like another person. How you project and inhabit at the same time?"

Although the book is a required text for his acting classes, Roznowski said the principles explored are accessible and applicable even to non-actors.

"Inner Monologue in Acting"

Author talk by Rob Roznowski
7 p.m. Monday
Schuler Books & Music, 2820
Towne Center Blvd., Lansing
FREE
schulerbooks.com

SCHULER BOOKS & MUSIC

AUTHOR EVENTS

Talk & Signing
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The Owner's Manual to the Voice

Wed. September 25. 7 p.m.
Okemos Location

Local Author Night
YOUNG ADULT PANEL

Featuring K.A. Barson
Hannah Harrington
Cori McCarthy
Rosemary Van Deuren
Kris Yankee

Thursday. Sept. 26. 6 p.m.
Lansing Location

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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 lansingcitypulse.com. If you need help, please call Jonathan at (517) 999-5069. E-mail information to calendar@lansingcitypulse.com

Wednesday, September 18 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

How to Optimize Bone Health. Discussion on bone health and lowering fracture risks. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Arthritis Care PC, 1106 N. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 267-0107. arthritispcarepc.com.

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

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

Drawing Class. All skill levels, with Penny Collins. Pre-registration required. 6-8:30 p.m. \$60 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Old Town, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212. gallery1212.com.

Drop-in Figure Drawing. Easels and drawing boards provided. 7-9:30 p.m. \$7, \$5 students. Kresge Art Center, located at Physics & Auditorium roads, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 337-1170.

Technology and Ethics. Special speaker. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. pilgrimucc.com.

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

EVENTS

DTDL Book Club: "The End of Your Life Book Club." By Will Schwalbe. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtdl.org.

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

Watershed Wellness Center Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Watershed Farmers Market, 16280 National Pkwy., Lansing. (517) 886-0440.

Allen Street Farmers Market. 2:30-7 p.m. FREE. 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911.

Capital Area Crisis Men's Rugby Practice. Weather permitting, all experience levels welcome. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Marshall Park, Corner of E. Saginaw and Marshall St. Lansing.

Meet the Candidates Night. Colonial Village Neighborhood Association is hosting. 6-9 p.m. FREE. Grace United Methodist, 1900 Boston Blvd.,

SEPT. 17-22 >> 'WIDOWS'



After all a town's men disappear during the rule of a dictator, the women come together in defiance of the country's military in the Michigan State University Department of Theatre's production of "Widows." Directed by Ann Folino White, "Widows" is in collaboration with East Lansing's "One Book, One Community" program. Cast members will perform selections from this year's book, "Yellow Birds," as part of a post-show discussion after Thursday's show. White leads a discussion before Sunday's show. Tickets are available at the Wharton Center box office, whartoncenter.com or by calling (800) WHARTON. Showtimes vary. Through Sunday. Auditorium Arena Theatre, 149 Auditorium Drive, East Lansing.



WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 18 >> PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT RECEPTION

A pair of portrait exhibits is coming to the MSU Museum that focus on humans during a time of great change. "Detroit Resurgent" is a look at "the strength of human creativity in evolving Detroit" as those living there cope — and sometimes thrive — as the city struggles with financial and physical ruin. "An Extraordinary Document of Our World" is a selection of workers from around the world over the past 25 years. Both are works of photographer Gilles Perrin in collaboration with Nicole Ewencyk. 5 p.m. Wednesday. MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing.

SEPT. 19-29 >> 'BONNIE & CLYDE — A NEW MUSICAL'



At the height of the Great Depression in the early 1930s, Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow took the Midwest by storm, capturing the country's attention as notorious outlaws and bank robbers. The Peppermint Creek Theatre Co. puts its take on the legendary duo's tale with "Bonnie & Clyde — A New Musical," which it describes as a "thrilling and sexy musical with a nontraditional score" that combines blues, gospel and rockabilly. Brittany Nicol stars as Parker and Adam Woolsey as Barrow. Thursday through Sept. 29. Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. Tickets are available at peppermintcreek.org.



SATURDAY, SEPT. 21 >> OWOSSO HISTORIC HOME TOUR

This year's historic home tour in Owosso is planned to be the biggest one yet with 18 stops — twice as many as were made in the past. Hosted by the Owosso Historical Commission, the all-day event includes a tea party at the Gould House, music at various tour sites and a reception. Among the buildings on the tour, attendees can visit Curwood Castle and Christ Episcopal Church, which dates back to the Civil War era. \$15. Proceeds benefit the Owosso Historical Commission. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Various sites in Owosso. Tickets can be purchased at owossohistorichometour.com



SUNDAY, SEPT. 22 >> EAST LANSING SUNDAY SOUP

There's been a surge in microfunding websites, like Kickstarter and Indiegogo, that crowdsource funding for all sorts of projects. A localized offshoot of the international network called Sunday Soup — which pairs fundraising for the arts with a meal — is back in East Lansing. During the event, local artists present their ideas for local projects that patrons vote on after a soup dinner. The project with the most votes is awarded the proceeds from admission. \$5. 5-7 p.m. Sunday. (SCENE) Metrospace. 110 Charles St., East Lansing.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 25 >> BUTLER CORRIDOR COALITION NEIGHBORHOOD FORUM

Working closely with new tenants in the 101-year-old Genesee School is just one way a group of dedicated residents in Lansing's 4th Ward is breathing life back into their neighborhood. The Butler Corridor Coalition hosts a neighborhood forum to "pass the torch" from former tenants of Genesee School to Zero Day, a nonprofit in the building that helps veterans gain skills in home renovation. The event fits with the coalition's motto: "You don't have to move to live in a good neighborhood." The Butler Corridor connects Ottawa and Saginaw streets along Butler Boulevard north of downtown. 6-8 p.m. Sept. 25. Lansing Association of Women's Clubs, 310 N. Butler Blvd. butlercorridor.org. Call Bill Morris at (517) 214-6368 for more information.

TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE
BY RICH TUPICA

SAT. DEC 21ST



MICHAEL MCDONALD AT WHARTON

Saturday, Dec. 21 @ Wharton Center, 750 W. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. \$35-\$65, 8 p.m.

Tickets for Michael McDonald's "This Christmas: An Evening of Holiday & Hits" are on sale at whartoncenter.com. McDonald is best known for his soulful vocals and keyboard skills in the Doobie Brothers from 1976 to 1982. The Doobies earned hits with "What a Fool Believes" and "Takin' it to the Streets." He has also earned critical acclaim for his solo efforts, including two Motown covers LPs. McDonald has won five Grammys and released eight solo albums and two Christmas records. This year he's performed alongside Justin Timberlake on "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon" and recorded with buzz-worthy indie bands Grizzly Bear and Holy Ghost.

BIRDS OF CHICAGO AT TEN POUND FIDDLE



FRI. SEPT 20TH

Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove Street East Lansing. All ages, \$15, \$5 students. 8 p.m.

Married couple JT Nero and Allison Russell of the folk duo Birds of Chicago play the Ten Pound Fiddle on Friday. They're touring internationally in support of their 2012 self-titled debut record, which received glowing reviews from the Chicago Sun Times, No Depression, Jambase and Daytrotter. Accompanied by a banjo and a guitar, their sound echoes of mountain gospel, street corner doo-wop and classic soul. Prior to starting their group, they were members of Po' Girl and JT and the Clouds; the songwriters first combined musical forces on 2011's "Mountains/Forests." The Ten Pound Fiddle is a long-running folk music series. Check its website for a complete list of shows: tenpoundfiddle.org.

GRATEFUL DEAD TRIBUTE NIGHT



FRI. SEPT 20TH

Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 18 and over, \$3, 10 p.m.

A roster of Michigan bands pay tribute to rock legends the Grateful Dead Friday at Mac's Bar. The Jerry Garcia-loving event is hosted by That Freak Quincy, a Kalamazoo-based jam/funk band and Psychedelic Eyes Photography. Performing the all-Dead set list is an assortment of experimental bands and musicians, including members of That Freak Quincy, Digeometric, The Dallas Barr Band, Desmond Jones, Fried Egg Nebula, Mighty Medicine and more. Organizers describe the show as "a family jam." Aside from the psychedelic sounds, the evening also includes a tripped-out light show and live painting from Cody Norman and Jaclyn Pack. Vendors include Dreaded Designs, Forest People and Tree House Creations.

THE SILLIES AT MAC'S BAR



SAT. SEPT 21ST

Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 18 and over, \$3, 10 p.m.

Detroit punk legends The Sillies headline a night of punk Saturday at Mac's Bar. Opening the show is The Chirps, a demented Lansing-based rockabilly outfit fronted by Chaz Brackx, a local songwriter and professional wrestling promoter. The Chirps are returning from an extended hiatus. The Sillies, formed in 1977 by front man Ben Vaughn, may be Detroit's first genuine punk band. In its heyday, the band warmed up stages for The MC5, The Cramps and The Dead Boys. The Alternative Press praised the band thusly: "The Sillies writhed with a reckless energy that also galvanized Detroit's most revered rockers. The music swaggers with New York Dolls-like panache and is as raunchy as Iggy Pop's reputation."

AARON CARTER AT THE LOFT



WED. SEPT 25TH

The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$15 advance, 6:30 p.m.

Aaron Carter, brother of Backstreet Boy Nick Carter, headlines a poppy night of epic boy-band proportions on Sept. 25 at The Loft. Carter broke into the music biz at 7, and became the youngest male solo artist to score four Top 40 hit singles. Tampa native Carter, 25, released his debut self-titled disc in 1997 when he was 10 years old. His 2000 album "Aaron's Party (Come Get It)" became a Billboard hit and earned him opening slot on Britney Spears' tour. "Oh Aaron" and 2002's "Another Earthquake" followed. He began touring again last year and is working on a new disc. For hardcore fans, \$65 VIP tickets are available, good for a meet-and-greet and photo.

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. | | Jackpine Snag, 9 p.m. | | |
| Classic Pub, 16219 S. US 27 | | Karaoke w/ DJ Waffles, 8 p.m. | DJ Sassy, 8 p.m. | Full House, 8 p.m. |
| The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave. | DJ Woody Wood, 9 p.m. | DJ Juan Trevino, 8 p.m. | Showdown, 9:30 p.m. | Showdown, 9:30 p.m. |
| Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave. | | Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 PM | One Ton Trio Band, 8 p.m. | Good Cookie Band, 8 p.m. |
| The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave. | | UV Hippo, 8 p.m. | Pacifier, 9 p.m. | Lansing Derby After Party, 9 p.m. |
| Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave. | | | Lansing Does the Dead, 10 p.m. | Man Overboard, 5 p.m. |
| Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave. | Open Mic 10 p.m. | The Simpletons 9:30 p.m. | Those Delta Rhythm Kings, 9:30 p.m. | Those Delta Rhythm Kings, 9:30 p.m. |
| Tin Can West, 644 Migaldi Ln. | Waterpong w/ Big Dawg Dave, 9 p.m. | Carl Rewerts, 9 p.m. | | |
| Tin Can Downtown, 410 E. Michigan Ave. | | | DJ Mack Attack, 9:30 p.m. | DJ Mack Attack, 9:30 p.m. |
| Tin Can DeWitt, 13175 Schavey Rd. | DJ Trivia with DJ Dave Floyd, 9 p.m. | Hair of the Dog, 7 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. |
| Uli's, 4519 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. | | Scattered Hamlet, 8 p.m. | La Coparation, 8 p.m. | Death Valley Dragline, 8 p.m. |
| Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Drive | Frog & the Beeftones, 6 p.m. | Rhythm on the River, 6 p.m. | Joe Wright, 6 p.m. | |
| Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St. | DJ, 9 p.m. | DJ, 9 p.m. | DJ, 9 p.m. | DJ, 9 p.m. |

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Out on the town

from page 16

Lansing. (517) 482-5750. cvnaneews.com.
Capital Area Michigan Works. Topic: Attracting & retaining young talent. RSVP online. 7:30-8:30 a.m. FREE. Capital Area Michigan Works, 2110 S. Cedar St., Lansing. youngtalent.lb.eventbrite.com.
Business Mixer and Wine Social. DJ & cash bar. Benefits Lansing Spartan Youth Organization. 5-8:30 p.m. FREE. Rum Runners, 601 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing . (517) 894-8429.
Exhibition Reception. Two photographic exhibits by Gilles Perrin & Nicole Ewencyk. 5-7 p.m. Donation. MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-6897. museum.msu.edu.

MUSIC

Sam Winternheimer Quartet. 7-10 p.m. Midtown Beer Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing.
Songwriters Meetup. Collaborate and network with fellow songwriters. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700. marshallmusic.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Tween Book: "Missing on Superstition Mountain." By Elise Broach. Call to register. 4-5



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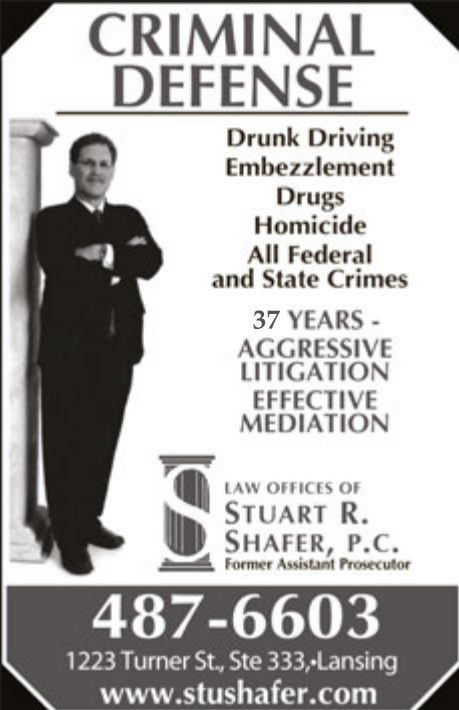
p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3.

Thursday, September 19 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Restorative Yoga. Poses are adjusted for your comfort and ease. 6-7:30 p.m. \$10. Good Space Yoga, 2025 Abbot Road #300, East Lansing. (517) 285-2782. goodspaceyoga.com.
St. Vincent Catholic Charities Stress Management Workshop. Open to all adults. 6-7 p.m. FREE. St. Vincent Catholic Charities, 2800 W. Willow St., Lansing. (517) 323-4734 ext. 1700.
Meditation. For beginners and experienced on Thursdays. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Quan Am Temple, 1840 N. College Ave., Mason. (517) 853-1675. quanamtemple.org.
Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Weigh in, 6 p.m. Meeting, 6:30 p.m. 6 p.m. FREE to visit. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 882-9080. stdavidslansing.org.
Learning about Healthy Living: Tobacco and You. Free quit-smoking classes. 2-3 p.m. FREE. Community Mental Health Building, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 887-4312.

EVENTS

Evening Storytime. Stories, songs and crafts. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtdl.org.



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Spanish Conversation Group. Both English and Spanish spoken. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.
Euchre. No partner needed. 6-9 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.
Karaoke. With Atomic D. 9 p.m. LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 482-0184.
Apple Festival. 3-7 p.m. 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 374-5700.
Michigan Beer Show Podcast: Tap Takeover. Tap takeover with home brews, open to public. 8-9 p.m. FREE. Midtown Beer Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 977-1349.
Household Hazardous Waste Collection. Collecting hazardous waste items for disposal. 2-6 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Health Department, 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 887-4312.
Harvest Basket Produce Sale. All produce grown naturally on the Smith Floral Property. 3-7:30 p.m. Smith Floral & Greenhouses, 124 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing.
17th Annual Forget-Me-Not Auction. Proceeds support children's program at EVE. Doors at 5:45

p.m. \$20. Eagle Eye Golf Club, 15500 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 372-5976 ext 4. eveinc.org.
Bananagrams Night. Chapbook Café hosts. 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music (Lansing), 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495. schulerbooks.com.
MSU Film Collective: Nashville. Room B122. 8 p.m. FREE. MSU Wells Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-4441. filmstudies.cal.msu.edu.
Brown Bag Series. "Life in Format: 25 Years of Worker Portraits." 12:15-1:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum Auditorium, MSU Campus, East Lansing. museum.msu.edu.
Music with a Mission Fiesta. Live entertainment & more. 1 p.m.-8:30 p.m. FREE. State Capitol lawn and steps, downtown Lansing. (517) 489-5278.
Third Thursday Potluck. Bring a dish to pass. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Lansing Roots Incubator Farm, 1084 S. Hagadorn Road, Mason. greaterlansingfoodbank.org.

MUSIC

Live Music at P Squared. 8 p.m. FREE. P Squared

See Out on the Town, Page 19

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Freestyle for All"--
no theme, so what?
by Matt Jones

Across

- 1 "Cool" amount of money
4 Lewd dude
9 Wyclef Jean or Lauryn Hill, once
14 "Entourage" agent Gold
15 They blow off steam
17 Chinese revolutionary Sun ___-sen
18 Was preceded by
19 "Addams Family" cousin
20 Gordie who played 26 seasons
21 Sphinx's offering
22 Scary Spice's alter ego
24 "7 Faces of Dr. ___"
25 Prefix past tera- and peta-
26 Historical time
28 Get (behind)
30 Wu-Tang Clan producer
33 Side dish often oven-roasted
39 Dimensions beyond description
40 What yoga and meditation help with
41 Data storage device, for short (hidden in PRESS DOWN)
42 Latest craze
43 Poetic planet
44 Amtrak listing, briefly
47 Angler's need
49 A kazillion years, it seems
52 Reagan biographer Peggy
55 Teen follower
57 Eat daintily

- 58 Neo's realization that prompts the line "Show me"
60 Concert shirt
61 They come before deliveries
62 "Green Acres" star Gabor
63 Showing some cheek
64 Last name in tractors
65 Hunky-dory

Down

- 1 Bialik of "The Big Bang Theory"
2 Hardly a happy camper
3 Unnamed source of a secret, playfully
4 Grateful Dead bass guitarist Phil
5 Glorify
6 Park Avenue hotel, casually
7 Blink-and-you'll-miss-it

- sighting
8 Engine noise
9 Former Army base in N.J.
10 Norwegian phrase heard in the Upper Midwest
11 Ending for Scotch (anagram of DRAG)
12 Organic compound
13 J.D. Salinger heroine
16 Drought-damaged (hidden in SERENA WILIAMS)
23 ___ Canyon (Utah attraction)
27 Some abstract paintings
29 It's said with a pat
30 Brew from South Africa
31 Paradoxical philosopher
32 Part of NCAA
33 Eleanor's White

- House successor
34 Bldg. units
35 Hosp. facilities
36 1989 play about Capote
37 Label for Sonny & Cher
38 Solution strength, in Southampton (anagram of TRITE)
44 Makes out, to Brits
45 Light golden brown
46 He wrote "She's a Lady"
48 Put off
50 New, in Nicaragua
51 Say something
52 Slight bites
53 Cajun vegetable
54 They get swapped for quarters
56 Bit of subterfuge
59 "Hansel ___ Gretel" (German opera)

SUDOKU

ADVANCED

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TO PLAY

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

To avoid erasing, pencil in your possible answers in the scratchpad space beneath the short line in each vacant square.

Answers on page 21

Out on the town

from page 18

Wine Bar, 107 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 507-5074.

Marshall Music Drum Circle. Led by Ian Levine. Drums provided. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700. marshallmusic.com.

Ultraviolet Hippopotamus. Five-piece improvisational band. All ages. 9 p.m. \$8-\$12. The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. uvhippomusic.com.

THEATER

"M*A*S*H." Following the zany antics of the 4077th mobile army surgical hospital in the Korean War. 7 p.m. \$8-\$14. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Talk and Signing with Dr. Owen Anderson. Author of "Running Science." 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music (Lansing), 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495. schulerbooks.com.

Friday, September 20

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Oil Painting. For all levels with Patricia Singer. Preregistration required. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$60 for four weeks. Gallery 1212 Old Town, 1212 Turner St. Lansing. (517) 999-1212. www.gallery1212.com.

Meridian Senior Center Health Festival. Demos, tips & information on living healthy. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5046. okemosschools.net.

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

EVENTS

Teen Game Show Night. Ages 13-18. Dinner and games. 6-9 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtdl.org.

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

Lansing Bike Party. Bike ride with TGIF stop. 5:30 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

Used Book Sale. Featured this month: large print and books about artists. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-9588.

Music with a Mission Fiesta. Raffle, art, dance, yoga, open mic & more. 9 a.m.-9:30 p.m. FREE. The State Capitol building steps and lawn, downtown Lansing. (517) 489-5278. michigan.org.

Live Cello Candlelight Yoga. Kintla Yoga featuring Cellist Suren Petrosyann. Beginners welcome. 7 p.m.-8:15 p.m. \$15. (SCENE) Metrospace, 110 Charles St. East Lansing. (517) 333-2580. kintla.net.

MUSIC

Grand River Radio Diner With WLNZ 89.7. Featuring Buzz N' Buster & Twyla Birdsong. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 483-1710. lcc.edu/radio.

MSUFCU Showcase Series. 20 acts in 90 minutes. 8 p.m. \$8-\$20. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON. music.msu.edu.

THEATER

"M*A*S*H." (Please see details Sept. 19.) 8 p.m. \$8-

\$14. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

Saturday, September 21

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Couponing Basics. How to stay organized & save money. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtdl.org.

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

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

EVENTS

Nature Camp. Movie release event. Trivia, food and prizes. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtdl.org.

Michigan Rails Conference. Keynote speakers, historical sessions & more. 9 a.m. \$15. Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 373-1300. michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan.

Watershed Wellness Center Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 16280 National Pkwy. Lansing. (517) 886-0440.

Holt Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 2050 Cedar St. 2050 Cedar St., Holt.

Art From the Lakes. Exhibit dedicated to lakes. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. Lansing Art Gallery, 119 N. Washington Square Suite 101, Lansing. (517) 374-6400 ext. 2. lansingartgallery.org.

Native Michigan Plant Sale. Proceeds will help Wild Ones programs. Noon-4 p.m., Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 337-9282. wildoneslansing.org.

Touch a Truck. Animals from Potter Park Zoo & more. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. \$4 adults, \$2 kids(12 & under) \$10 family (up to five people). Hawk Island County Park, E. Cavanaugh Road, Lansing. (517) 244-7186.

Petting Zoo at the Library. Dozens of animals. All ages welcome. 11 a.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840.

Lethal Lucha (Pro Wrestling). I.R.O.G. pro wrestling event. 6 p.m. FREE. 1200 Marquette St., Lansing. 517-574-1993. facebook.com/theirog

Used Book Sale. Featured this month: large print and books about artists. 10 a.m.-noon, FREE. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-9588.

Dig the Past: A Hands-on Intro to Archaeology. Hands-on activities. 1-3 p.m. FREE.

Tomatoes .99/lb

(Also available by the half bushel)

Hardy Mum Plants

3 for \$11.99 (9-inch pot)

Green Peppers 5 for .99

(fresh from our field)

Bales of Straw \$5.49 each

Lansing Gardens Farm Market

1434 E. Jolly Road, Lansing | 517.882.3115

LANSING AREA ARTISTS PARTICIPATING IN ARTPRIZE:

DENISE AUVENSHINE, Eaton Rapids, "Moose Mountain Scene" (glass)

INGRID BLIXT, LANSING, "The Beatitudes" (graphite)

HENRY BRIMMER, EAST LANSING, "the case of the unusually long ladder" (mixed, photography)

KIM BROCK, EAST LANSING, "Gas Station along I-90, South Dakota" (photography)

DEB DREW BROWN, WILLIAMSTON, "The Grandest Canyon Collection" (photography)

WILLIAM CHARLAND, OKEMOS, "Cellular Structures" (latex)

MARK CHATTERLEY, WILLIAMSTON, "Conversation" (clay)

RICK CUNNINGHAM, GRAND LEDGE, "Men" (acrylic)

APRIL DAKER, LANSING, "Like mother like daughter Like father like son" (graphite)

HOLLY EKWEJUNOR-ETCHIE, LANSING, "The Portrait" (oil)

XIA GAO, OKEMOS, "Tie in" (cable tie)

SARAH GILMORE DE RUITER, HASLETT, "Thunder; Perfect Mind" (acrylic)

RYAN GROENDYK, LANSING, "Living Off the Fat of the Land" (systems-based)

GRANT GUIMOND, LANSING, "untitled" (acrylic)

CHRISTINE V. HAMPTON, Okemos, "The Omega Point" (relief sculpture)

ANGELICA HAY, LANSING, "Butterfly Scenes" (mixed)

TONY HENDRICK, GRAND LEDGE, "Awakening" (acrylic)

BRUCE HERRICK, HOLT, "Animals of the World" (photography)

JANE HILDEBRAND, EAST LANSING, "Wraith" (ceramics)

MSU Museum, 409 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 355-2372. museum.msu.edu.

Mobile Food Pantry. Must bring valid state ID or driver's license. 9-11 a.m. FREE. Pennway Church of God, 1101 E. Cavanaugh Rd., Lansing. (517) 483-4477. pennway.org.

MUSIC

Sultans of String. Performing their new release "Symphony!" 7:30 p.m. \$10-\$15 donation. Lakehouse Music, 15860 Short St., East Lansing. (517) 899-9153.

THEATER

"M*A*S*H." (Please see details Sept. 19) 8 p.m. \$8-\$14. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

Sunday, September 22

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Spiritual Talk, Pure Meditation & Silent Prayer. 7 p.m. FREE. Self Realization Meditation Healing Centre, 7187 Drumheller Road, Bath. (517) 641-6201. selfrealizationcentremichigan.org.

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

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

Serving Greater Lansing's LGBT Community

Lansing Association for Human Rights

LAHR

LGBT News • Coming Out Group • Prism Awards

Breakfast Club • Downtown Lunch • Cafe Night

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

www.LAHRonline.org

JAMES HOLTON, HASLETT, "Elemental Being" (oil)

ELDEN KELLY, LANSING, "Solo Sessions, Vol. 1" (sound)

FAITH KERESZTES, LANSING, "Gats and Edward the Owl" (mixed)

TIFFANY KLEIN, LANSING, "Marilyn" (concrete)

VICCI KNOWLTON, LANSING, "Fallen Angel from Detroit: The Dangers of Social Activism" (digital)

EDWARD LEO ZAREMBA II, EAST LANSING, "Wedding Flowers" (acrylic)

DON MIDDLEBROOK, HASLETT, "Beach Life" (sound)

ELAINE MORTON, LANSING, "Connected" (mixed)

PAUL NILSSON, WILLIAMSTON, "Saint Francis of the Owls" (ceramic)

ANNE O'CONNOR, OKEMOS, "Autumn Breeze" (glass and metal)

DON PIXELY, EAST LANSING, "Eye in the Sky" (photography)

APRYL POOLEY, LANSING, "A Shot in the Dark, a Hole in the Heart" (found objects, acrylic paint)

ZAHRAH RESH, EAST LANSING, "Sprawl" (mixed)

JULE SCHATZ, OKEMOS, "Blue Flower" (oil)

BECCA SCHLAFF, EAST LANSING, "Radiant Brown Trout" (oil)

TOM SHEERIN, LANSING, "Bird of Prey" (silverware)

CARLY SILLS, LANSING, "Through Time: Michigan Mammals" (ink and watercolor paints)

CURTIS SIMMONS, LANSING, "Restitution" (earth and foam)

MARISSA TAWNEY THALER, LANSING, "Leaf (De)Composition #6" (pen and ink)

DENNIS VANGLEVE, LANSING, "A time before Kindle" (acrylic)

BRIAN WHITFIELD, LANSING, "Guardian Angel" (mixed)

BARB WHITNEY, MASON, "Recollection II" (mixed)

LAURA WIXSON, EATON RAPIDS, "Ashes: Dust" (photography)

DIANNE WOLTER, WILLIAMSTON, "Identity" (construction foam, papier mâché)

367-6300. cadl.org.

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.

City of East Lansing Farmers Market. Growers-only market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 400 Hillside Ct. East Lansing.

See Out on the Town, Page 20

Tours by Ruth

Branson, MO Oct. 9-13

3 Large Meals, Kenny Rogers, Oak Ridge Boys, Mel Tillis, Jersey Boys, Buck Trant

Chicago Nov.16

Day trip, Christmas lights, shopping

Turtle Creek Nov. 8 & 9

Soaring Eagle Casino

New Years Eve

Turtle Creek Casino

Contact Ruth at

(517) 267-0662 or (800) 363-8141

www.toursbyruth.com

Fliers available at Cedar St. and Waverly Flap Jack Shacks and West Saginaw Denny's

Out on the town

from page 19

Trade Faire & Open Mic. Bring things to sell or barter & open mic. Noon, FREE. 1200 Marquette St. 1200 Marquette St., Lansing. (517) 420-1873. thinklivemusic.com.

Atheists and Humanists Dinner. Norma Bauer will present. 5 p.m. FREE. Great Wall Buffet Restaurant, 4832 W. Saginaw Hwy. Lansing. (517) 914-2278. atheists.meetup.com/453/.

Let Peace Begin with Me. Personal peace presentations. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 333-2580. cityofeastlansing.com/hannah/.

MUSIC

MSU Faculty Recital. Anne Nispel and Harlan Jennings. 3 p.m. \$8-\$20. Cook Recital Hall, Music Building, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu/event-listing.

THEATER

"M*A*S*H." (Please see details Sept. 19.) 2 p.m. \$8-

\$14. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

Monday, September 23

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Cyber Safety for Kids Ages 5-9. Please register. 4:30-5 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. 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.

Metaphysical Mondays. Discussion. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 883-3414. triplegoddessbookstore.

Zumba Gold. For seniors or beginners. 11 a.m.-Noon, \$8 drop in rate, \$35 five-visit punch card, \$65 10-visit punch card. Kick it Out! Dance Studio, 1880 Haslett Road, East Lansing. (517) 582-6784.

Computer Training. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Faith United Methodist Church, 4301 S. Waverly Road, Lansing. (517) 393-3347.

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

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

Divorced, Separated and Widowed Support Group. 7:30 p.m. FREE. St. David's Church, 1517 Elmwood Rd., Lansing.

EVENTS

Kid Zone: Astronomy. Ages 5-8. Stories, games, activities & craft. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtdl.org.

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

Mac's Monday Comedy Night. Hosted by Mark Roebuck & Dan Currie. 9:30 p.m. FREE. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. macsbar.com.

One Book:Film Night. "Zero Dark Thirty." 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-319-6863. onebookeastlansing.com

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

Music with a Mission Fiesta. Open mic, drum circles, dance, yoga, speakers & more. 9 p.m.-8:30 p.m. FREE. The State Capitol building lawn and steps, downtown Lansing. (517) 489-5278.

MUSIC

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

LITERATURE AND POETRY

"Inner Monologue in Acting." Presented by MSU theater professor Rob Roznowski, 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495. schulerbooks.com.

Tuesday, September 24

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Mid-day Movies. Stop in or call for title. 2 p.m. FREE. Turner-Dodge House & Heritage Center, 100 E. North Street, Lansing. (517) 367-6363. lansingmi.gov.

Budding Naturalists. Pre-registration. Preschool children explore nature. 11 a.m.-noon, \$5. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. 517-322-0030. woldumar.org.

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.

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

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

Healing Hearts. For those who have lost a loved one. 4-5:30 p.m. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163. womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org.

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

Hopeful Hearts Grief Group. Learn, grow and heal together. 10-11 a.m. FREE. The Marquette Activity room, 5968 Park Lake Road and Saginaw Highway, East Lansing. (517) 381 4866.

Learning about Healthy Living: Tobacco and You. Free quit-smoking classes. 1:30-3 p.m. FREE. JIMHO, 520 Cherry St., Lansing. (517) 887-4312.

People's Law School. Auto no-fault. 7-9 p.m. \$25 for seven weeks. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 394-7500. peopleslawschool.org.

Pre-Retirement Planning. Call to register. Presented by Hantz Group. 6 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045. okemoschools.net.

New Tomorrows Meeting. Coping with guilt, anger and depression. Call to register. 10:30 a.m.-noon, FREE. Burcham Hills Retirement Community, 2700 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. (517) 975-9909.

EVENTS

One Book: Surviving in Conflict. "The Yellow Birds." Panel discusses living in a war zone. 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-432-0125. onebookeastlansing.com.

Company & Conversation: What Color is Your Food? Discussion. 5-7 p.m. FREE. Nonprofit Center at the Armory, 330 Marshall St. Suite 300, Lansing. (517) 485-1202. fbcnich.org.

Tea & Talk. Salon Style discussions. 8 p.m. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 883-3414. triplegoddessbookstore.net.

INDOOR GROW STORE

Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

Alex Manuel, owner/operator of The Indoor Grow Store and his invention, The Magic Trimmer. Manuel said it reduces trimming time on marijuana buds by up to eight times.



By ALLAN I. ROSS

When Alex Manuel turned to medical marijuana to help him deal with the effects of his diabetes, he was frustrated by the amount of time it took him to trim his plants. He was also disappointed by the quality of electric bud trimmers on the market, so he did what any budding entrepreneur with a knowledge of small motors would do: He invented his own.

"The other trimmers were grinding up the buds, ruining the plant," he said. "There was one for \$700 that didn't even work at all. So I started thinking."

The result is **The Magic Trimmer**, the fruit of about 14 months of design and

labor. Manuel, 68, sells the item exclusively at his six-week-old south Lansing business, **The Indoor Grow Store** and online (mytrimmer.com). He buys the A/C motor pre-manufactured, but other than that they are made entirely in Lansing.

"We started selling them last Monday, and already we've sold over 200," he said. "They're safe, they don't overheat and you can do in 45 minutes what it takes about six hours to by hand. And time is money."

The Indoor Grow Store features a variety of products for home growers, including lights, ballasts, nutrients and potting soil. He said that he's made sure that every item in his store has the lowest price around.

"I want to make a nice living, and I can do that with a lower level of

profit," he said. "I'm not losing money, but this kind of pricing makes me competitive not with other grow stores in town, but with the Internet."

Manuel hopes that the 2,000-square-foot store will serve as a template for expansion; in November, he will open a second location in west Lansing that's about three times the size, and more stores in other cities are planned.

"I want to have at least three in Lansing and then move on to other locations throughout Michigan," he said. "We've had a great response so far."

The Indoor Grow Store

4929 S. Cedar St., Lansing
10 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday; closed Sunday
(517) 203-5100
mytrimmer.com

See Out on the Town, Page 21

Out on the town

from page 20

MUSIC
MSU Faculty Recital. Symphony band. 7:30 p.m. \$8-\$20. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON. music.msu.edu/event-listing.

LITERATURE AND POETRY
Paws for Reading. All levels. Read to therapy dogs. Call to register. 11 a.m.-noon, FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtdl.org.
Tuesday Morning Book Club. Discuss Jennifer Chiaverini's "Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker," 10:15-11:15 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.
The Hero of Heroes. Sports writer John Rosengren presents Hank Greenberg, 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd. Lansing. (517) 316-7495.

Wednesday, September 25

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Capitalism and Christianity. Discussion. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. PilgrimUCC.com.
Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. First Congregational United Church of Christ, 210 W. Saginaw Highway, Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954. fogl.org.
Meditation. For beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, 3015 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 351-5866.
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.
Drawing Class. All skill levels, with Penny Collins. Preregistration required. 6-8:30 p.m. \$60 for four weeks. Gallery 1212 Old Town, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212. gallery1212.com.
Drop-in Figure Drawing. Easels and drawing boards provided. 7-9:30 p.m. \$7, \$5 students. Kresge Art Center, located at Physics & Auditorium roads, MSU campus, East Lansing. (517) 337-1170.

EVENTS
Volunteer Fair. Information about organizations and volunteer opportunities. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtdl.org.
Practice Your English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 18

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MUSIC
Sam Winterheimer Quartet. 7-10 p.m. Midtown Beer Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing.
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 18

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Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsný

Sept 18-24

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "If Taylor Swift is going to have six breakups a year," observed comedian Bill Maher, "she needs to write a new song entitled 'Maybe It's Me.'" He was referring to Swift's habit of using her romantic misadventures to stimulate her lyric-writing creativity. With that as your prompt, Aries, I'll ask you to do some soul-searching about your own intimacy issues. How have you contributed to the problems you've had in getting the love and care you want? What unconscious behavior or conditioned responses have undermined your romantic satisfaction, and what could you do to transform them? The next eight weeks will be prime time to revolutionize your approach to relationships.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Philosopher Alan Watts used to talk about how the whole world is wiggling all the time. Clouds, trees, sky, water, human beings: Everything's constantly shimmying and jiggling and wag-gling. One of our problems, Watts said, is that we're "always trying to straighten things out." We feel nagging urges to deny or cover up or eliminate the wiggling. "Be orderly," we command reality. "Be neat and composed and predictable." But reality never obeys. It's forever doing what it does best: flickering and fluctuating and flowing. In accordance with astrological omens, Taurus, I encourage you to rebel against any natural tendencies you might have to fight the eternal wiggle. Instead, celebrate it. Rejoice in it. Align yourself with it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Author Elaine Scarry defines "the basic impulse underlying education" as follows: the "willingness to continually revise one's own location in order to place oneself in the path of beauty." Consider making this your modus operandi in the coming weeks, Gemini. Always be on the lookout for signs that beauty is near. Do research to find out where beauty might be hiding and where beauty is ripening. Learn all you can about what kinds of conditions attract beauty, and then create those conditions. Finally, hang around people who are often surrounded by beauty. This approach will be an excellent way to further your education.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "Life is either always a tight-rope or a feather bed. Give me the tight-rope." So declared writer Edith Wharton. But she was an Aquarius, and more temperamentally suited to the tight-rope. Many of you Cancerians, on the other hand, prefer to emphasize the feather-bed mode. I suspect that in the next nine months, however, you will be willing and even eager to spend more time on the tight-rope than is customary for you. To get primed for the excitement, I suggest you revel in some intense feather-bed action in the coming weeks. Charge up your internal batteries with an extra-special deluxe regimen of sweet self-care.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Half of a truth is better than no truth at all, right? Wrong! If you latch on to the partially accurate story, you may stop looking for the rest of the story. And then you're liable to make a premature decision based on insufficient data. The better alternative is to reject the partially accurate story and be willing to wait around in the dark until the complete revelation comes. That may be uncomfortable for a while. But when the full truth finally straggles in, you will be very glad you didn't jump to unripe conclusions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A Chinese entrepreneur named Nin Nan dreamed up a unique way to generate capital: He sold dead mosquitoes online for a dollar apiece, advertising them as useful for scientific research and decoration. Within two days, he received 10,000 orders. Let's make him your patron saint and role model for the next few weeks, Virgo. May he inspire you to come up with novel ways to stimulate your cash flow. The planetary omens suggest that your originality is more likely than usual to generate concrete rewards.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "The most important

thing is to find out what the most important thing is," wrote Shunryu Suzuki in his book *Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind*. That's your assignment for the next three weeks. Do whatever it takes to find out beyond any doubt what the most important thing is. Meditate naked an hour a day. Go on long walks in the wildest places you know. Convene intense conversations about yourself with the people who know you best. Create and sign a contract with yourself in which you vow to identify the experience you want more than any other experience on earth. No waffling allowed, Libra. What is the single most important thing?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Sometime in the next nine months you may feel moved to embark on an adventure that will transform the way you understand reality. Maybe you will choose to make a pilgrimage to a sacred sanctuary or wander further away from your familiar comforts than you ever have before. Right now is an excellent time to brainstorm about the possibilities. If you don't feel ready to actually begin your quest, at least formulate a master plan for the magic moment when you will be ripe.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In the indigenous culture of Hawaii, "mana" refers to a spiritual power that may abide in people, objects, and natural locations. You can acquire more of it by acting with integrity and excellence, but you might lose some of it if your actions are careless or unfocused. For instance, a healer who does a mediocre job of curing her patients could lose the mana that made her a healer in the first place. I believe that similar principles hold true for non-Hawaiians. All of us have an ever-shifting relationship with the primal life force. What's the current state of your own personal supply, Sagittarius? It's time to make sure you're taking full advantage of the mana you have been blessed with. Your motto: "Use it or lose it."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Have you been getting enough? I doubt it. I think you should sneak a peek into the hiding place where your insatiable cravings are stored. If you're brave enough, also take a look at your impossible demands and your unruly obsessions and your suppressed miracles. Please note: I'm not suggesting that you immediately unleash them all; I don't mean you should impulsively instigate an adventure that could possibly quench your ravenous yearnings. But I do believe you will benefit from becoming better acquainted with them. You could develop a more honest relationship, which would ultimately make them more trustworthy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't tape your thumbs to your hands and stalk around pretending to be a dinosaur. Don't poke three holes in a large plastic garbage bag and wear it as a tunic while imagining that you are a feudal serf in a post-apocalyptic, sci-fi dystopia. Don't use a felt-tip marker to draw corporate logos on your face to show everyone what brands of consumer goods you love. To be clear: I would love you to be extravagantly creative. I hope you will use your imagination in novel ways as you have fun playing with experimental scenarios. But please exercise a modicum of discernment as you wander way outside the box. Be at least 20 percent practical.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "Take a lover who looks at you like maybe you are magic," says the poet Marty McConnell. That's good advice, Pisces -- not just in regards to your intimate relationships, but about all your other alliances, too. If you're seeking a friend or consultant or business partner or jogging companion or new pet, show a preference for those creatures who look at you like maybe you are magic. You always need to be appreciated for the sweet mystery and catalytic mojo you bring to your partnerships, but you especially need that acknowledgment now.

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



HE ATE

SHE ATE



Tableside grilling at East Lansing's newest Korean restaurant

A fine addition

By **MARK NIXON**

Let me apologize in advance to millions of Koreans on both sides of the Demilitarized Zone. Your national dish, kimchi ... How do I put this delicately? Bleh.

Spicy, fermented cabbage with after-notes of briny fishiness that linger in the mouth for what seems a fortnight. A gustatory buzzkill if there ever was one.

Fortunately for me, Korean cuisine does not subsist on kimchi alone. I found plenty to savor and devour at Bulgogi, a Korean restaurant in downtown East Lansing.

Let's start with the restaurant's namesake. Bulgogi is, roughly translated, grilled steak. In this case, it's thinly sliced rib eye steak that you grill yourself. The infrared grill, which is actually built into the table, cooks the beef quickly and to the degree of doneness you prefer.

Our order of Bulgogi came with corn on the cob, rice, translucent "glass noodles" lightly marinated in rice vinegar, Japanese-style daikon pickled radishes and thin medallions of carrot. The noodles and radishes in particular were appropriately tart accompaniments to the lightly seasoned meat.

On separate visits we feasted on Yaki Udon noodles, Pork Katsu, Dolsot Bibimbap, Seafood Pajun and Wasabi Shumai. I'll translate those in a moment, but it's fair to say each entree, along with several side dishes that come with each entree, can probably feed two people. It's also noteworthy that while Bulgogi highlights Korean cuisine, its menu is a hybrid of Japanese, Chinese and Korean cooking.

Now to translate the aforementioned dishes: Yaki Udon is Japanese for fried noodles. This great dish had long, thick noodles with chicken and fresh, pan-fried vegetables. For a finishing touch, the kitchen ladles in a fine, smoky sauce.

Pork Katsu is pork loin pounded thin, encrusted with panko breadcrumbs and quickly fried. It comes with a tangy, salty sauce with a hint of cloves. Delicious.

Dolsot Bibimbap was my personal favorite. It starts with a fried egg crowning layers of thinly sliced zucchini, mushrooms, minced beef and caramelized onion, which in turn topped a mound of rice. Most intriguing was what it came in — a hot stone bowl. The bowl is a marvel, keeping the entrée very warm throughout the meal.

The runner-up was Wasabi Shumai. Basically, it's shrimp dumplings infused with wasabi and wrapped in delicate noodles. If

See He Ate, Page 23

Do it yourself

By **GABRIELLE JOHNSON**

I don't want to cook my own food when I go out to eat (I'm thinking of a certain fondue chain). So when I heard about Bulgogi's "grill your own meat" gimmick, I was skeptical.

We ordered gyozi (dumplings) to start, which looked tasty enough when the first of the three servers we would have that night brought them out. I had to retrieve our chopsticks myself, however, while another one of the servers watched me.

We ate the dumplings and my frustration ebbed. These were pleasantly greasy, juicy little things, filled with flavorful minced pork. We ordered the barbecue combo for two, and when I asked another server what it came with, he read to me from the menu. When I specified that I was asking about side dishes, he rattled off, "vegetables, fish cake, and other things," flipped on the grill in the middle of our table and walked away.

Granted, I hate the fondue chain, but at least they tell you what the heck to do with their equipment. Server No. 3 returned with a platter of raw beef, shrimp and chicken. He also unloaded little bowls filled with white rice, salad, kimchee (a Korean fermented cabbage dish, which sounds gross but isn't), the fish cake and ... pasta salad. That's right — regular, Fourth of July cookout, tri-color rotini pasta salad. It looked like someone had made too much of it at home and decided to bring it to the restaurant.

Without being given any direction from the restaurant employees, I threw a mess of meat onto the grill. Nestled next to the raw meat were slices of uncooked corn on the cob. I'm sure these were supposed to be the garnish, but we put them onto the grill too. The boyfriend had a momentary food safety nerd freak out and mumbled things about "cross-contamination" and "salmonella" as he frantically swiped at things with his chopsticks. I let him do what he needed to do and waited until he loaded up my plate. The beef was chewy. The chicken was stringy. The shrimp tasted like air. There was absolutely no flavor to anything; even the corn was mushy.

As our last few pieces of meat came off the grill, one of the servers brought over the check. At that point I'm pretty sure you could have grilled the raw meat on the top of my head — I was pissed. Servers who bring over a check before I have finished my meal have crossed a line. The highlight of the meal was the salad. At least I didn't have to prepare it myself.

A few weeks later we returned on

See She Ate, Page 23

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Mark Nixon/City Pulse

Bulgogi's Pork Katsu encrusted with panko breadcrumbs.

She Ate

from page 22

a weeknight and were pleasantly surprised to see that the place was packed. I asked our server about the steamed egg appetizer, which she struggled to describe, and the beef sushi appetizer. She said she had never seen or tried it, which made sense, because the menu that we had on the second visit was completely different from that of the first.

We started with the edamame and seaweed salad. The edamame was standard, albeit a little over-salted. The seaweed salad had the lemony punch that I like so much. The dude had the Yaki Udon — a platter of thick udon noodles and sliced zucchini, carrot, cabbage, onion and beef, all pan-fried in a sweet brown sauce (think teriyaki). He ate it as quickly as his chopsticks would allow

and said that he would order it again, next time with a fork so he could eat faster.

Our server told me that the kimchee soup might be too much heat for me to handle and instead suggested the Den Jang Jjigae, which is Korean miso soup with beef, tofu, zucchini, mushroom and onion. If she thought this soup was milder, she's crazy. I'll put it this way: I'd recently had some dental work done and I'm afraid my fillings melted. There were slices of raw jalapeno floating in the broth — how could it not be spicy? Nonetheless, the flavor was delicious and similar to a gumbo, especially after I mixed in white rice in an attempt to cut both the spice and the temperature. I ran out of water after a few bites and couldn't get the server's attention, which is its own form of torture.

While our second visit was head and shoulders above the first, Bulgogi didn't leave me wanting more. Odds are I won't be back.

He Ate

from page 22

you're a fan of wasabi, the Japanese version of horseradish, this dish is for you.

Seafood Pajun is a crepe-like pancake with slices of green onion and carrot, mingled with assorted bits of seafood, including octopus. It was served with one of the many tasty and distinctive sauces that seem to be a Bulgogi's specialty.

Bulgogi's décor is spare; dark wood set against several roomy booths with those built-in grills. The restaurant's background music is, appropriately, Korean.

Or so I was told. Think "Barry Manilow sings Seoul music."

The service is friendly and prompt. And here's an extra kudo for one server. On our first visit, I left Bulgogi with my debit card still sitting on the table. My server came running out the door and spotted me as I was driving off. He handed me my card. I handed him the little cash I had on me, and thanked him profusely. Now, that's service.

There are many savory surprises on Bulgogi's menu. Open since January, it's a fine addition to a growing list of area restaurants showcasing international cuisine. I won't pass up a return visit to Bulgogi.

But I will pass on the kimchi.

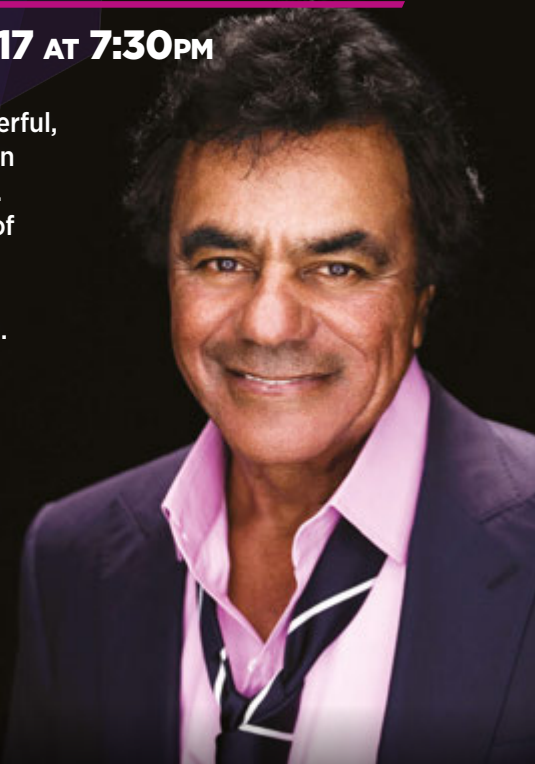
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