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July 18-24, 2012



TEE TIME

PAGE 10

WHICH PLAN IS THE BEST BALL FOR THE OLD RED CEDAR GOLF COURSE?



ANNUAL CLEARANCE EVENT — Save 60-75% — see back page



Bigby coming to the Stadium District, Mikho's hookah hoo-ha — see page 24

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CITY PULSE NEWSMAKERS

Hosted by Berl Schwartz

THIS WEEK'S SHOW:

Bob Tresize

President and CEO of LEAP (Lansing Economic Area Partnership)

Sunday, July 22
Comcast Channel 16
Lansing
11 & 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, July 29
Comcast Channel 30
Meridian Township
11:30 a.m. & 11:30 p.m.

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Feedback

Peckham's mission unfulfilled

Contrary to what Edward Cook may think, those of us involved in the United Peckham union organizing effort are committed to seeing Peckham Vocational Industries grow and prosper. The difference between our visions for Peckham is that we wish to see that institution fulfill the mission statement it currently operates under; we want Peckham to actually become what it currently pretends to be.

We want a Peckham whose primary purpose is serving the community and the people who work there. Right now the primary purpose of Peckham managers is serving themselves and people like Edward Cook, all members of the "helping professions", in achieving a comfortable suburban middleclass lifestyle. Every day the managers of Peckham go home to that comfort and security, while the people who work there go home to dangerous public housing projects and cheap apartments. All this while the corporation they work for pulls in millions in profit (\$22 million in 2011 according to their own spokespeople) and expands its operations into ever more profitable sectors; All from the sweated labor of disabled people and refugees.

The true nature and arrogance of Peckham managers has been made abundantly clear by their irrational and illegal response to the current organizing drive. To date 6 (six) unfair labor practice charges have been approved by the National Labor Relations Board against Peckham manager's because of their inability to operate within the law. In addition, this public-financed "charity" has hired the law firm of Dickinson Wright PLLC, well known for their "union avoidance" services, to defend their illegal actions and advise them on how to oppress their workers without getting caught. Such firms usually charge \$1000 per day or more

for their services, meaning that they have already been paid an amount that would have been enough to improve the living standards of MANY Peckham workers. Instead, Peckham managers would rather use the profits produced by Peckham workers to pay for union busters.

Mr. Cook admits in his letter that he regularly refers patients to Peckham, establishing that he definitely has a professional relationship them. Whether this relationship involves financial benefit or merely Mr. Cook's reputation, he clearly has a serious professional interest in defending Peckham and all their abuses. His pretense of high-minded neutrality is just that: pretense. If Peckham is revealed has the tax-funded sweatshop it actually is, his own reputation becomes questionable.

What is actually a "terrible occurrence" is that people supposedly in the "helping professions" are willing to close ranks with people so blatantly WRONG as the managers of Peckham, all in defense of what has become the "non-profit industrial complex". I now feel as bad for Mr. Cook's patients as I do for the men and women working at Peckham for \$1.50 an hour.

— Mike Kolhoff

(The writer is the organizing coordinator of the United Peckham Employee Group of the Lansing Workers Center.)

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

1.) Write a letter to the editor.

- E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
- Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
- Fax: (517) 371-5800

2.) Write a guest column:

Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5061

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, August 8, 2012** at 7:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 1, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Spartan Technology Development for modified Special Use Permit approval for the property at 2000 Merritt Road. The proposed application would allow a portion of the existing office space on the property to be converted to allow a tasting room and retail sales of products produced by biomanufacturing and distilling on the property. The property is zoned OIP, Office Industrial Park District.

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

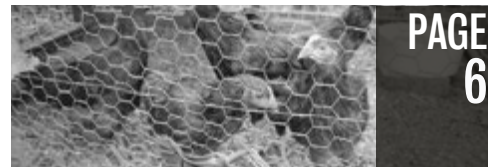
The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting.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

Marie E. McKenna
City Clerk

CityPULSE

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ISSUE 49**



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Urban chicken coop tour draws enthusiasts and the curious



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Broad Art Museum's Summer Annex hosts music and film events



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The Food Fight gang seeks a dish fit for The Avengers



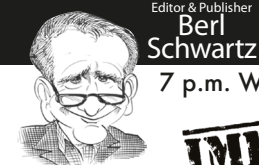
**COVER
ART**

THE RED CEDAR PROPOSALS by RACHEL HARPER

CITY PULSE ON THE AIR

THIS WEEK Sam Singh and Susan Schmidt, candidates for the Democratic nomination for the 69th District House seat

THIS WEEK MSU grad student Keri Littwiler



Editor & Publisher
Berl Schwartz

7 p.m. Wednesdays

**IMPACT
89FM**

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

REPUBLICAN JU-JITSU

THEY LONG AGO MASTERED THE ART OF TURNING A RIVAL'S STRENGTH INTO A WEAKNESS.

IF I AM NOT GOING TO EXPLOIT, FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES, MY OPPONENT'S LACK OF EARLY-STAGE ALZHEIMER'S!



IN 2004, THE BUSH CAMPAIGN NEUTRALIZED JOHN KERRY'S WAR RECORD WITH BREATHTAKING CHUTZPAN.

HA HA HA! JOHN KERRY GOT A "PURPLE HEART" IN "VIETNAM"!

OH, THE POOR WIDDLE BABY! DID HE STUB HIS TOE OR SOMETHING?



AND AFTER THE MOST INARTICULATE PRESIDENT IN AMERICAN HISTORY LEFT OFFICE, REPUBLICANS TRIED TO MAKE TELEPROMPTERS AN ISSUE FOR HIS SUCCESSOR.

DO YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT OBAMA IS JUST READING THOSE WORDS HE SAYS OFF OF SOME SORT OF SCREEN?

I AM SHOCKED TO LEARN OF THIS DECEPTIVE TECHNIQUE WHICH NO OTHER POLITICIAN HAS EVER UTILIZED!



BUT--AS WITH SO MANY THINGS-- THEIR CURRENT NOMINEE CAN'T QUITE SEEM TO GET THE HANG OF IT--

MITT ROMNEY OUTSOURCED AMERICAN JOBS DURING HIS TENURE AT BAIN CAPITAL!

BARACK OBAMA OUTSOURCED AMERICAN JOBS DURING HIS TENURE AT BAIN CAPITAL!



--OPTING INSTEAD FOR THE MORE STRAIGHTFORWARD "I'M RUBBER, YOU'RE GLUE" STRATEGY.

MY OPPONENT NEEDS TO RELEASE HIS TAX RECORDS--AND CLARIFY EXACTLY WHEN HE LEFT BAIN!

YOU REALLY HAVE TO STOP THAT!



HOW FAR HE'LL GO WITH THAT IS ANYBODY'S GUESS.

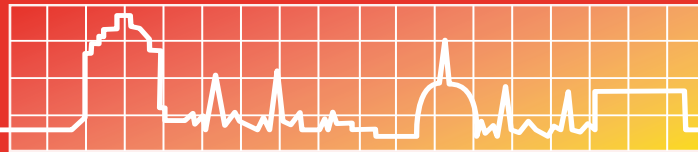
--AND IF YOU ASK ME, BARACK OBAMA IS THE REAL MORMON FORMER GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS AND SON OF GEORGE ROMNEY IN THIS RACE!

GOTTA LOVE THAT THICK, LUSTROUS HEAD OF HAIR, THOUGH!



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PULSE



news & opinion



Erica Hewitt

He said, she said, they said

Automated phone calls hit on name-calling claims; Jody Washington calls them a “public nuisance” and wants them to stop

Lansing residents were blanketed last week with robo-calls alleging that Mayor Virg Bernero called a female City Council member a drag queen. Some houses received as many as four in 24 hours.

The automated phone message contains a woman’s voice saying she was calling to tell people about “anti-woman comments made by Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero. The mayor said Councilwoman Jody Washington was — quoting: ‘A man in drag.’ Just because she dared to speak her mind. The mayor’s comments do a great disservice to women in Lansing. It is time Lansing women

be treated with the respect they deserve. Call Mayor Virg Bernero at 483-4141. Tell him to stop disrespecting Lansing women.”

The message alludes to a confrontation at a July 10 Council meeting when Washington — the 1st Ward representative — said someone in the community informed her that Bernero was calling her “Eric Hewitt in drag” behind her back.

Hewitt, the previous 1st Ward Councilman, and Bernero had heated exchanges. Hewitt could not be reached for comment.

You might think Washington would support unknown political operatives sticking up for her, yet she said she felt “mortified” when she received the robo-

See Drag, Page 6



Left: City Pulse illustration of former 1st Ward Councilman Eric Hewitt. Councilwoman Jody Washington (above) alleged last week that Mayor Virg Bernero referred to her as “Eric Hewitt in drag.”

Far from over

Now the Lansing City Council will consider tying tax incentives for Niowave to exterior improvements at its pole barn

After hearing pleas from Walnut Neighborhood residents, Lansing City Council President Brian Jeffries is open to the idea of tying Niowave Inc.’s proposed tax incentives to exterior improvements on the company’s unsightly 14,000-square-foot pole barn.

“The idea of tie-bars, I think, makes a lot of sense,” Jeffries said following Monday night’s Council meeting. Six residents spoke during the meeting against Niowave’s new \$10 million expansion that has yielded what they call a “monstrosity” amid their residential neighborhood.

“To move this forward, there has to be assurances to the neighborhood,” Jeffries said, adding that he thinks it “does make sense” to either require building changes upfront or insert some sort of “claw-back,” in which the incentive is pulled back if Niowave doesn’t improve the exterior of the building. He hesitated to support withholding the incentives until changes are made, though: “I don’t like to hold up development.”

“It’s clear there is zero trust there,” Jeffries said of Niowave’s neighbors toward

the company. “That’s too bad.”

The Niowave saga has officially spilled over into the City Council chambers. At next week’s Council meeting, a public hearing is scheduled on a personal property tax exemption worth more than \$200,000 over six years on new equipment. A vote date on the incentives is uncertain, and the proposal will likely be referred to the Council’s Development and Planning Committee for further discussion on Monday.

Niowave, a local high tech manufacturer specializing in commercial particle accelerators, moved into the former Walnut Street School in 2006. The three-story, 14,000-square-foot metal structure adjacent to the school, which is in the middle of a residential neighborhood west of Old Town, will be used for research and development of superconductor particle accelerators. Niowave is guaranteeing 25 to 35 new jobs as part of the tax abatement deal.

Niowave originally wanted to buy the former Verlinden Elementary School on the west side a few blocks from the vacant General Motors Verlinden site, said Bob Trezise, Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) president and CEO. He helped Lansing secure Niowave in 2006 when he held the same post at the Lansing Economic Development Corp.

Now, six years after restoring the Walnut School, Niowave erected the pole barn on the same plot of land at 1012 N. Walnut St.

See Niowave, Page 6

Eyesore of the week

- Property: 2222 Grand River Ave., Okemos
- Owner: Primarc Properties LLC
- Assessed value: \$109,900
- Owner says: Could not be reached for comment
- Architecture critic Amanda Harrell-Seyburn says: Good economy, bad economy: vacant buildings happen. Blight isn’t vacancy, but it begins with poorly kept properties that are all too often the result of vacancy. Unoccupied properties can avoid blight if owners attend to the vital maintenance, like the roof and grounds. Buildings experience vacancy: It is the steps taken to maintain the property in the interim that matters.

This eyesore is hard to spot, which is probably a good thing. If you happen to catch a glimpse of this property while doing 45 miles per hour down Grand River Avenue, you’d probably second guess whether you actually saw a building or just vegetation. It’s like the structure decided to hide itself in a bush. Two-thirds of the front façade has been completely overtaken by rampantly over-



grown shrubs and trees. The only visible parts of the building are the front door and the arch of the roof. It’s nearly impossible to see the bay windows that flank the main entrance. Greeting visitors in the parking area is a large (at one time) electric sign that has been smashed out and disemboweled, its wiring dangling pitifully down the pole.

— Sam Ingot

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

Drag

from page 5

call (she it got twice). She said she doesn't know who is behind it but she wants them to stop. She called the calls a "public nuisance." She said she would never "hide behind" a robo-call.

And whoever is behind the calls is unknown. The company who forwarded the calls, Insight Teleservices, which is based in Southfield, did not respond to several requests for an interview.

Recently, when asked to identify the gossip, Washington said she could not reveal who had supposedly leaked the mayor's comments to her.

"The person asked me not to use their name," she said, because it is "somebody very involved in the city" that would have "a lot to lose" if his or her identity were revealed.

Washington's speech came as a bit of a shock at an otherwise uneventful July 10 Council meeting.

"I am a strong woman and I can accept criticism," the rookie Councilwoman said at the meeting. "But I will not accept misogyny, whether it's from a random person on the street or the mayor of Michigan's capital city."

That night, Washington said the mayor should act with "class," but instead "he is calling a female Council member a man in drag." She added that she felt the comments bordered on a violation of the city's human rights ordinance.

The mayor denied the rumors at the meeting, calling them "hearsay" and "innuendo."

She went on to mention the mayor's history of what she called "derogatory" comments toward political opponents and Native Americans.

Earlier this year Bernero referred to an opponent of his casino plan as "Chief Chicken Little."

Bernero said in a follow-up email that Washington's claims are an "orchestrated political attack."

"I never said what she alleges," he wrote. "She does not allege that she heard anything directly nor can she produce any evidence of what I am purported to have said."

— Sam Inglot



Niowave

from page 5

"The building doesn't look right," Trezise volunteered.

"It was my fault," Trezise said of the controversy, explaining he should have been more pro-active regarding the building's final appearance before it was built. He said he's "had very positive discussions" with Niowave about improving the appearance, including landscaping.

Trezise said expanding on-site was the last option after a "year-long search for buildings" inside and outside of the city, resulting in nothing acceptable to Niowave.

A search Monday of available parcels and buildings — for sale and lease — in the Lansing area turned up at least nine properties that match similar specifications to Niowave's pole barn. Some were vacant parcels — like three acres along North Grand River Avenue one mile east of the airport selling for \$100,000, which is adjacent to residential and commercial and near industrial properties. Others are

vacant industrial buildings — like a former 84 Lumber store selling for \$300,000 about seven miles south of Niowave's headquarters.

Beth Grimm, finance manager of Niowave and wife of founder Terry Grimm, said Monday, "It's much more efficient and productive to have all your facilities together."

Beth Grimm met with eight Walnut Neighborhood residents on Monday to discuss solutions and said it would take "research and time" to discuss possibilities among management. One resident, Mary Elaine Kiener, told City Council Monday night that the meeting was "neighborly and respectful."

However, Kiener said residents still want to see an alternative façade to the building and for the city to create "processes and safeguards to prevent similar situations from occurring in the future."

"I understand the process was apparently legal," Kiener said, "but being legal doesn't necessarily make it right."

The Lansing Planning Board discussed Niowave at a special meeting last week. The outcome suggested there's nothing more the citizen advisory board can do and that there's regret about not requiring more of Niowave's building intentions six years ago.

"We're not happy with the way it looks either, believe me," Susan Stachowiak, Lansing's zoning administrator, said at the meeting. Stachowiak oversaw Niowave's applications for rezoning and a special land use permit for its headquarters in 2006 so it could manufacture despite office zoning.

The sole condition of the rezoning was that Niowave find a suitable place for the playground equipment that was there when it moved in. That equipment was moved to Sleepy Hollow State Park before Niowave opened, minutes from a September 2006 City Council Committee of the Whole meeting show. Several "criteria" were attached to the special land use permit that involves conforming to the look and feel of the neighborhood, but Stachowiak has said that applies only to the "use" of the property, or what goes on inside the buildings.

Former State Rep. Lynne Martinez, who serves on the Planning Board, expressed concern that Niowave would expand into the neighborhood on a dozen properties it already owns. Niowave has rehabilitated the residential plots and aims to rent and

eventually sell them. Trezise said that in two more years, Niowave is going to need "even more space." While the company owns the twelve residential parcels nearby, Trezise said, "We will definitely be working with them on another building somewhere else" and added Niowave "absolutely" intends to maintain them as residential.

Stachowiak said Niowave couldn't expand business operations to those properties unless it sought another rezoning and special land use permit. "I think if they ever came back, now we'd be sensitive to this type of thing," she said.

Another board member, Alisande Henry, asked, "How do we use caution when we issue special land use permits in the future?"

"This one just sort of slipped through the cracks, is the best way I could put it," replied Stachowiak, adding that the Planning Board and city could have "put some conditions on the character of the buildings" as part of the special land use permit. "Going forward, we can add those types of conditions, we just didn't do that."

Board Chairman John Ruge ended the meeting, disheartened: "This was thoroughly unsatisfying. This just happened and now we're stuck with it."

— Andy Balaskovitz



Lansing's 'Tour de Coop'

Urban chicken coop tour draws enthusiasts and the curious

Eager bicyclists filled the Foster Community Center parking lot Saturday afternoon for the aptly titled "Tour de Coop": This caravan was on a tour of urban chicken coops throughout Lansing.

The four-hour route wove through Lansing's east side. At one point the 37 cyclists took up the entire right west-bound lane of Michigan Avenue as they made their way to the Capitol.

See Chickens, Page 7

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of East Lansing in the Counties of Clinton and Ingham

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ADOPTION OF THE AMENDED BROWNFIELD PLAN #16 FOR THE CITY OF EAST LANSING PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACT 381, 1996, AS AMENDED, OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN.

Please take notice that a Public Hearing shall be held before the Council of the City of East Lansing on Wednesday, August 8, 2012 at 7:30 pm in Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing, MI 48823 on the adoption of the Amended Brownfield Plan #16 for the City of East Lansing, within which the Authority shall exercise its powers, all pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, being Act 381 of the Public Acts of the State of Michigan of 1996, as amended.

The brownfield site includes the property at 1525 West Lake Lansing Road (former Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Central). The property consists of land and there is no personal property included. A detailed legal description of the property along with maps and a copy of the Brownfield #16 are available for public inspection in the Department of Planning and Community Development, City of East Lansing, 517-319-6930.

Please note that all aspects of the Brownfield Plan are open for discussion at the public hearing, at which all interested persons will be provided an opportunity to be heard and written communication will be received and considered. **The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable accommodations, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at this meeting, upon notice to the City of East Lansing prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations or services should write or call the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbott Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, 517-319-6920, TDD 1-800-649-3777.**

Marie McKenna
City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR POTENTIAL PROVIDERS OF SERVICES FAIR HOUSING

The City of Lansing, Michigan is seeking a qualified individual and/or firm knowledgeable of the current issues and legal framework of Fair Housing and experienced in a broad array of Fair Housing matters related to data collection, analysis, and public engagement to update the City of Lansing's Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing.

If you are interested in receiving a proposal package, the information is on City's website www.lansingmi.gov/pnd/development. If you have any questions, please contact Dorothy Boone, Development Manager, City of Lansing Planning/Development Office, 316 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI, dboone@lansingmi.gov, (517) 483-4040. Proposals are due by 12:00 p.m. August 13, 2012.

Chickens

from page 6

The caravan stopped at 10 different coops, which ranged from simple to elaborate.

Many of those riding in the pack were owners of the various chicken coops. Each stop featured a different set of stories. Owners discussed a range of issues including pecking orders, brooding hens, types of chickens, coop maintenance and feeding tactics.

Some coops were made of scrap wood or old house siding; some had chicken wire and chain-linked fences that served as cages; other chickens roamed freely through the yards outside of their pens.

The fact that chickens provide fresh eggs is a big reason people raise them.

"Where your food comes from is important," explained Matt Jason. "Raising chickens is an easy way to raise your own protein. Plus the eggs taste better than what you get at the store."

Jason and his family, who live on Prospect Street, have always had a big garden where they grew vegetables — building a chicken coop seemed like a logical "next step." Plus, Jason said, his kids wanted them. They've been raising chickens for three years.

"It's very grounding to raise animals," he said. "Especially when you live in the city. You can enjoy the food and the connection to nature."

Jason said he built most of their chicken coop out of loft wood that was thrown out from the MSU dorms.

His wife, Corie Jason, was involved with getting the ordinance passed in 2009 that allows residents to raise chickens in the city. She said people can have up to five chickens per household and

that roosters are not allowed because of their loud, constant crowing.

Just seeing them walk around the yard gives you a good feeling, Matt Jason said.

Bob Peña's house on Vine Street was midway through the trip. He's raised his chickens since they were hatchlings. One of them jumped into his arms like a puppy when he opened the pen. He also raises honeybees on the roof of his house.

The tour ended at Rivendell Co-op on West Genesee Street where Jacqueline Buleje, a poultry expert from Milwaukee, was available to "talk chicken" with the weary cyclists while they enjoyed complementary beer and pop.

While standing in the fenced-in coop, Buleje held a chicken while she talked about how the creatures have varying vocals, egg-laying habits, feathers and behaviors. She mentioned one type of "Easter egg" chicken that lays three different pastel-colored eggs.

She laid down some chicken facts during her talk: Dogs are the No. 1 killer of urban chickens. "Chicken diapers" allow people to keep their chickens indoors. The "vent" is where the egg comes out. And chickens can be taught to do tricks.

"They're not stupid birds, they just think differently than us," she said, spurring some laughter from the crowd. "You'd be surprised at how many urban folks are scared of chickens."

— Sam Ingot

Online gallery

More photos from the "Tour de Coop" will be available this week at www.lansingcitypulse.com.

Singh, Schmidt race to photo finish in 69th

For essentially four weeks of my life this spring, I authored the 170-page "MIRS' 2012 Michigan Election Guide and Almanac," a breakdown of all statewide political races in the state.

Early mornings, nights, weekends, I wrote candidate profiles and analyzed all 110 state House races taking place in the August primary and November general election. Not all 110 seats have competitive primaries. In fact, about only 40 do.

What I quickly discovered was that one of the state's most competitive races is in the East Lansing/Meridian Township-based 69th House District

featuring former East Lansing Mayor Sam Singh and Lansing Community College Adjunct Professor Susan Schmidt.

Initially, the conventional wisdom in Lansing was that this would be a walk for Singh. Elected to the East Lansing City Council in 1995 at age 24, Singh is the known commodity who folks in Lansing knew as the president and CEO of the Michigan Nonprofit Association and that lucky SOB who took off a year of his life to travel around the world and blog about it.

He's been active in the Democratic Party and has since racked up tons of endorsements — the UAW, SEIU, Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce and more than a dozen other groups — which doesn't include the support of all the former and current elected officials.

One endorsement he hasn't gotten, though, is that of the current office holder, term-limited Rep. Mark Meadows, D-East Lansing, even though Meadows and Singh ran as a slate for City Council in 1995 with Doug Jester.

Meadows is showing loyalty to Schmidt, who's been his chief of staff for years. On the campaign trail, she's been making him proud. Before heading out to the doors on a 100-degree day, Schmidt said she's on her second round of door knocks and has heard varying degrees of prognostication on her chances.

"You can win in a walk. ... It's going to be a tight race. ... You've got your work cut out for you."

"You sort it out," Schmidt quipped to me.

What is a sure thing is the 55-year-old former East Lansing School Board president is working her tail off and has put herself in a position to win. It's not that there's much policy difference between the two.

This is a race where the difference is one of experience. Singh has worked in

the nonprofit, private and public sector. He's been a member of a legislative body (the East Lansing City Council) and is passionate about making sure Michigan invests in its future through "reinvesting" in K-12 schools, universities and communities so the state can compete in the 21st Century.

Schmidt notes that she has the experience of working within the legislative system and knowing how the state House works. At the doors, she stresses that she wants to make sure legislators truly appreciate the impact that legislation has on everyday people, something that can get lost in policy and budget discussions. She is a parent and a former educator, who has a different set of life experiences than the recently engaged Singh.

She taught at Reo Elementary in Lansing from 1996 to 2007, specializing in learning disabilities and dyslexia. She served on the East Lansing School Board from 1999 to 2003, serving as president in 2001-02. Schmidt has also held an adjunct faculty position at LCC since 2009 in the Department of Transitional Learning.

She's talking to the Michigan Education Association this week about a possible endorsement, which would be a notable win for the MEA member since some in the organization hope the MEA stays neutral in the race.

Meanwhile, Singh is working the doors hard, too, crossing paths with Schmidt once. His campaign team is seeing her out and about, as well. He's on his second time around the 69th, having started walking the district in late March.

If he was the perceived front-runner going in, he hasn't acted like it. Singh has said from the beginning of his campaign that he takes nothing for granted and is passionate about putting Michigan in a position to succeed economically.

His family immigrated to Michigan from India in the 1960s. He was active in student government at Michigan State University before being elected to the City Council, where he served 10 years.

At that time, he also led the Michigan Nonprofit Association. These days, he continues to work with nonprofits, including the New Economy Initiative.

The competitive nature of the race is now moving to the TV airwaves. Singh on Tuesday released his second TV ad. Schmidt announced Monday that she was up on local cable with an ad of her own.

Stay close to your TVs on Aug. 7. This could be a photo finish.

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



Sam Ingot/City Pulse

"Hawky" pecks at some feed as one of his younger owners, Henry Jason, holds him. Urban chickens are seen by many as both food-producing livestock as well as family pets. The Jasons have raised chickens in their backyard coop for three years.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

DATE: July 18, 2012
CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN

To: All Interested Agencies, Groups, and Persons

Purpose: Notice and Public Explanation of Proposed Projects
Use of Funds - 38th Year FY 2012-2013 (Community Development Block Grant, HOME and Emergency Solutions Grant)

Emergency Solution Grant Program (Substantial amendment 7/1/11-6/30/12)

This statement of findings is hereby posted pursuant to regulations found at 24 CFR 50.4(b), for HUD funded activity. On or about **August 5, 2012**, the City of Lansing will request the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to release Federal funds under Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-383) as amended, for the following projects located in the City of Lansing, County of Ingham, Michigan.

The public notice serves to promote public understanding and provide opportunities for public input of the proposed use of funds and proposal.

Please address your comments **no later than August 2, 2012** to:

Dorothy Boone, Development Office Manager
Department of Planning & Neighborhood Development
316 N. Capitol Avenue, Suite D-2
Lansing, MI 48933
Phone: 517-483-4040

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

July 18, 2012
CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN

On or about **August 5, 2012**, the City of Lansing will request the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to release Community Block Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-383) as amended Emergency Shelter Grant funds under the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act Amendments (Public Law 100-620) of 1988, and also funds under the HOME Investment Partnership Act (HOME) of Title II of the Cranston Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-625) for the following projects located in the City of Lansing, County of Ingham, Michigan.

NATURE AND LOCATION OF PROJECTS CATEGORICALLY EXCLUDED FROM NEPA REQUIREMENTS

PROPOSED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ACTIVITIES AND USE OF FUNDS - 38th YEAR HUD Fiscal Year 2012-2013- Categorically Excluded 58.35(a)/58.35(b)

PROJECT A - CDBG Owner Rehab Program

- Includes loans and grants for rehabilitation of owner occupied housing units through city-sponsored programs, and in conjunction with affordable housing efforts sponsored by nonprofit housing corporations and other state and federal agencies.
- Includes funds to meet lead hazard reduction regulations in rehabilitated structures, funds to assist in emergency rehabilitation, market analysis activities and technical assistance to nonprofit housing corporations, contractors, and low and moderate income households.
- Includes loans and grants for owner-occupied single-family units through city-sponsored programs, loans to rehabilitate historic homes in conjunction with rehabilitation of the unit, and loans and grants for ramps or weatherization.
- Includes staff, office space, technical assistance, training and other direct project costs associated with the delivery of Community Development Block Grant, HOME, Emergency Solutions Grant and other state and federal Programs.
- 20 housing units estimated. Additional units may be completed with prior year funds.

Estimated Total Expenditure: \$ 1,000,405.00 (CDBG)

PROJECT A1 - CDBG Rental Rehab Program

- Includes loans and grants for rehabilitation of rental housing units through city sponsored programs. Includes funds to meet lead hazard reduction regulations in rehabilitated structures. 7 units estimated.

Estimated Total Expenditure: \$ 150,000 (CDBG)

PROJECT B - Weatherization

- Includes financing of Energy Fitness Program and/or Energy Optimization Program to benefit low and moderate-income households. 60 housing units estimated with current funding. Additional units may be completed with prior year funds.

Estimated Total Expenditure: \$ 40,000 (CDBG)

PROJECT C - Acquisition

- Includes acquisition, maintenance and security of properties acquired through programs and activities related to acquisition, disposition, relocation and clearance of dilapidated structures. Funds may also be used to acquire properties in the flood plain. Also includes staff time associated with this activity. 1 housing unit estimated. Prior year funds may be used.

Estimated Total Expenditure: \$ 1,000 (CDBG)

PROJECT D - Public Improvements

- General street, sidewalk, water/sewer improvements, including assistance to income eligible owner-occupants or those in CDBG-eligible areas for special assessments related to new improvements. Includes improvements to neighborhood parks, recreational facilities; neighborhoods, medical and community facilities in CDBG-eligible priority areas. Some improvements may be made with prior years' funds.

Estimated Total Expenditure: \$ 1,000 (CDBG)

PROJECT E - Public Services (limited to 15% CDBG)

- Includes homeownership counseling and education, neighborhood counseling, youth and senior programs, neighborhood clean-ups, community gardens, home repair classes, tool lending programs, employment training, and community safety. Services are for low and moderate-income individuals and/or those in CDBG-eligible areas located within the Lansing city limits.

Estimated Total Expenditure: \$272,000 (CDBG)

PROJECT F - Economic Development

- Loans, technical assistance and training to low and moderate-income owners of and persons developing micro-enterprise within or planning to locate within or planning to locate within the Lansing city limits. A micro-enterprise is a business with five or fewer employees, including the owner (s). Estimate 8 people trained.
- Creation of jobs to benefit low and moderate income city of Lansing residents. Estimate 3 jobs.
- Technical assistance to for-profit businesses including workshops, technology assistance, façade improvement loans/grants, market analysis, business promotion or referrals for the attraction of new businesses and expansion of existing business within CDBG-eligible areas of Lansing. Estimate 40 individuals and 4 businesses assisted.

Estimated Total Expenditure: \$ 100,000 (CDBG)

PROJECT G - CDBG General Administration (limited to 20%)

- Includes staff and other costs associated with preparation of required Consolidated Planning documents, environmental clearances, fair housing activities and citizen participation activities associated with delivery of CDBG, HOME and other State and Federal programs.
- Includes planning and general administration costs associated with delivery of CDBG and other state and federal programs.
- Includes indirect administrative costs and building rent paid to the City.

Estimated Total Expenditure: \$255,469 (CDBG)

TOTAL CDBG EXPENDITURES \$1,819,874

PROPOSED HOME ACTIVITIES AND USE OF FUNDS - 38th YEAR HUD Fiscal Year 2012-2013 - Categorically Excluded 58.35(a)/58.35(b)

PROJECT H - HOME Owner Rehab Program

- Includes loans and grants for rehabilitation of at least two owner occupied housing units. Additional units to be completed with prior year funds.

Estimated Total Expenditure: \$ 75,000 (HOME)

PROJECT I - Down Payment Assistance

- Funds provided to homebuyers for down payment and closing costs for purchase of a single-family home located within the Lansing city limits. Up to \$15,000 will be available as a 0% interest second mortgage for homebuyers with income at or below 80% of median income. Assistance not limited to first-time homebuyers. May include staff time and/or homeownership counseling associated with this activity. Estimate 12 housing units. Prior year funds may be used.

Estimated Total Expenditure: \$150,000 (HOME)

PROJECT J - New Construction

- Includes funds for loans and grants for construction of 1 affordable housing unit. Additional units to be completed with prior year funds

Estimated Total Expenditure: \$ 80,150 (HOME)

PROJECT K - HOME Development Program

- HOME funds allocated for housing developed in partnership with the city, including Supportive Housing Program (SHP) activities and Homeowner Purchase Rehab (HPR). Projects may include new construction and rehabilitation activities with nonprofit and for-profit developers, including CHDO's. Funds may also be transferred for use in single-family, owner-occupied rehabilitation projects. Also includes staff time associated with these activities. 2 housing units estimated. Additional units to be completed with prior year funds.

Estimated Total Expenditure: \$107,597 (HOME)

PROJECT L - Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Operating

- Funds reserved at option of the City to provide operating funds to CHDOs utilizing HOME funds provided by the city to produce affordable housing in the community.

Estimated Total Expenditure: \$ 29,573 (HOME)

PROJECT M - CHDO Set-Aside (15%)

- Home Program set-aside reserved for housing developed, sponsored, or owned by CHDOs

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PUBLIC NOTICES

B/13/006 - LARGE FORMAT PRINTER as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing.

The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the FINANCE DEPARTMENT/PURCHASING OFFICE, 8TH FLOOR CITY HALL, 124 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933 until 3:00 PM local time in effect on **July 26, 2012**.

Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson CPPB at (517) 483-4128 or email at srobinso@lansingmi.gov, or for content and purpose of this proposal contact: Jennifer Volk at (517) 483-4464 or email at jvolk@lansingmi.gov or go to www.mitn.info

The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

B/13/004 –Francis Park Fencing as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing.

The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the FINANCE DEPARTMENT/PURCHASING OFFICE, 8TH FLOOR CITY HALL, 124 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933 until 3:00 PM local time in effect on **July 26, 2012**.

Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson CPPB at (517) 483-4128, or for content and purpose of this bid contact: Dick Schaefer at (517) 483-4283 or email at dschaefer@lansingmi.gov or go to www.mitn.info

The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL**

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on Wednesday, August 8, 2012 at 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, to consider **Ordinance No. 1282**; an Ordinance to amend Section 2-253 of Division 1 – Generally – of Article V – Boards and Commissions – of Chapter 2 – Administration – and Section 42-6 of Article I – in General – and Section 42-43 of Division 1 – Generally – of Article II – Administration and Enforcement – and Sections 42-214 and 42-215 of Article IV – Franchise Fees – of Chapter 42 – Telecommunications – of Code of the City of East Lansing and to Repeal Division 2 – Cable and Telecommunication Commission – and Sections 42-71, 42-72, 42-73 and 42-74 of Chapter 42 – Telecommunications – of the code of the City of East Lansing.

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

Marie E. McKenna
City Clerk

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL**

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Wednesday, August 8, 2012** at 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, to consider the following:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from the Michigan Farmhouse Association for Site Plan and Special Use Permit approval for the property at 151 Bogue Street. The proposed application would permit an expansion of the existing Farmhouse fraternity, increasing occupancy from 44 to 63 persons. The property is zoned EV, East Village.
2. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1279, a request from the owners of 903-935 East Grand River Avenue to rezone the properties from B-1, General Office Business District, to B-2, Retail Sales Business District. The properties combined are 1.16 acres

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

Marie E. McKenna
City Clerk

from page 8

PUBLIC NOTICES

in partnership with the City, 1 unit estimated. Prior year funds may be used.

Estimated Total Expenditure: \$ 90,000 (HOME)

PROJECT N - HOME General Administration

- Includes staff and general administration costs to deliver HOME program.

Estimated Total Expenditure: \$ 59,146 (HOME)

TOTAL HOME EXPENDITURES: \$ 591,466

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES -USE OF FUNDS - 38h YEAR FY 2012-2013 – 24 CFR Part 50, Categorically excluded 50.19(b) (12) not subject to 50.4

PROJECT S – Emergency Solution Grant Activities

- Funds provided to address homelessness \$ 36,000
- Funds provided to prevent homelessness. \$35,195
- Funds provided to shelter providers to cover cost of maintenance, operations, insurance, utilities and furnishings in shelter facilities. Funds provided for street outreach activities \$96,966
- Funds provided to offset the cost of administering emergency solutions program \$6,552

Estimated Total Expenditure: \$ 174,713 (ESG)

TOTAL ESG EXPENDITURES: \$ 174,713

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES -USE OF FUNDS - 37h YEAR FY 2011-2012 – 24 CFR Part 50, Categorically excluded 50.19(b) (12) not subject to 50.4

PROJECT S1 – Emergency Solution Grant Activities

- Funds provided for homeless assistance and homeless prevention.

Estimated Total Expenditure: \$ 54,746

TOTAL ESG EXPENDITURES: \$ 54,746

It has been determined that such request for release of funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the physical and human environment and, accordingly, the City has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (Public Law 91-190). The reasons for such decisions not to prepare such Statement are as follows:

- The will be no adverse environmental impact, man made or natural, generated by all the projects or subsequent development or use of the sites.
- The proposed use of the sites for all projects is consistent with City policy and will meet all State and local requirements related to land use, zoning and health, safety and welfare.
- The proposed sites for all projects are situated in an urban environment and will positively influence the human environment in the City.
- The properties to be effected in New Construction have no historic significance.

- The City has complied with the Section 106 process for historic review for all projects.
- Project D includes, to a large extent, replacement of existing equipment with nominal change in character, location and extent.

An Environmental Review Record for the above projects has been made by the City of Lansing which documents the environmental review carried out. This record is on file and is available for public examination and copying upon request at the DEVELOPMENT DIVISION OFFICE, DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT, SUITE D-2, 316 N. CAPITOL AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933. All interested parties disagreeing with the designation of these projects relative to NEPA requirements are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the City on or before 5:00 p.m. on **August 2, 2012** to Doris M. Witherspoon, Senior Planner, City of Lansing Department of Planning and Neighborhood Development, 316 N. Capitol, Lansing, MI 48933, dwithers@lansingmi.gov All comments received will be considered by the City of Lansing Department of Planning and Neighborhood Development prior to authorizing submission to HUD of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing. All such comments will be considered and the City will not process the request for a release of federal funds or take administrative action on the written projects prior to that date.

The City is certifying to HUD that the City of Lansing, and Mayor Virg Bernero in his official capacity as Mayor, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental review, decision making, and actions, that these responsibilities are being satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that, upon its approval, the City of Lansing may use Block Grant, HOME, and ESG funds, and HUD will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Lansing, MI's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Mayor, City of Lansing; (b) the City of Lansing, MI has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to: Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development, 477 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, MI 48226. Potential objectors should contact HUD at (313) 226-7900 to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Virg Bernero, Mayor, City of Lansing, MI
Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedure (24 CFR Part 58) and may be addressed to HUD at:

U.S. Department of HUD
Community Planning and Development
477 Michigan Avenue
Patrick V. McNamara Building
Detroit, MI 48226

Objections to release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by HUD. Objections received after **August 20, 2012** will not be considered by HUD.

FIVESOME ON THE FAIRWAY

BIG TALK BOILS DOWN TO A HANDFUL OF OPTIONS FOR THE RED CEDAR PROJECT

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Thunk, plop, thunk, plop, thunk.

Last week, Lansing received five proposals to develop 12.5 acres of the former Red Cedar Golf Course on the city's eastern fringe. With sky-high hopes for regional transformation riding on the project, the proposals plopped on the porch with a lighter thunk than expected.

Even before Lansing voters approved selling part of the golf course last November and keeping the rest as a park, the parcel's strategic location and size attracted big talk the way mud holes draw elephants.

Former Lansing mayor David Hollister, who tried to develop this key stretch of Michigan Avenue for years, called the decision "probably one of the most critical

decisions of the Bernero administration up to this point."

"The potential for making that a gateway and connecting MSU to the capital would be a dream fulfilled," Hollister said.

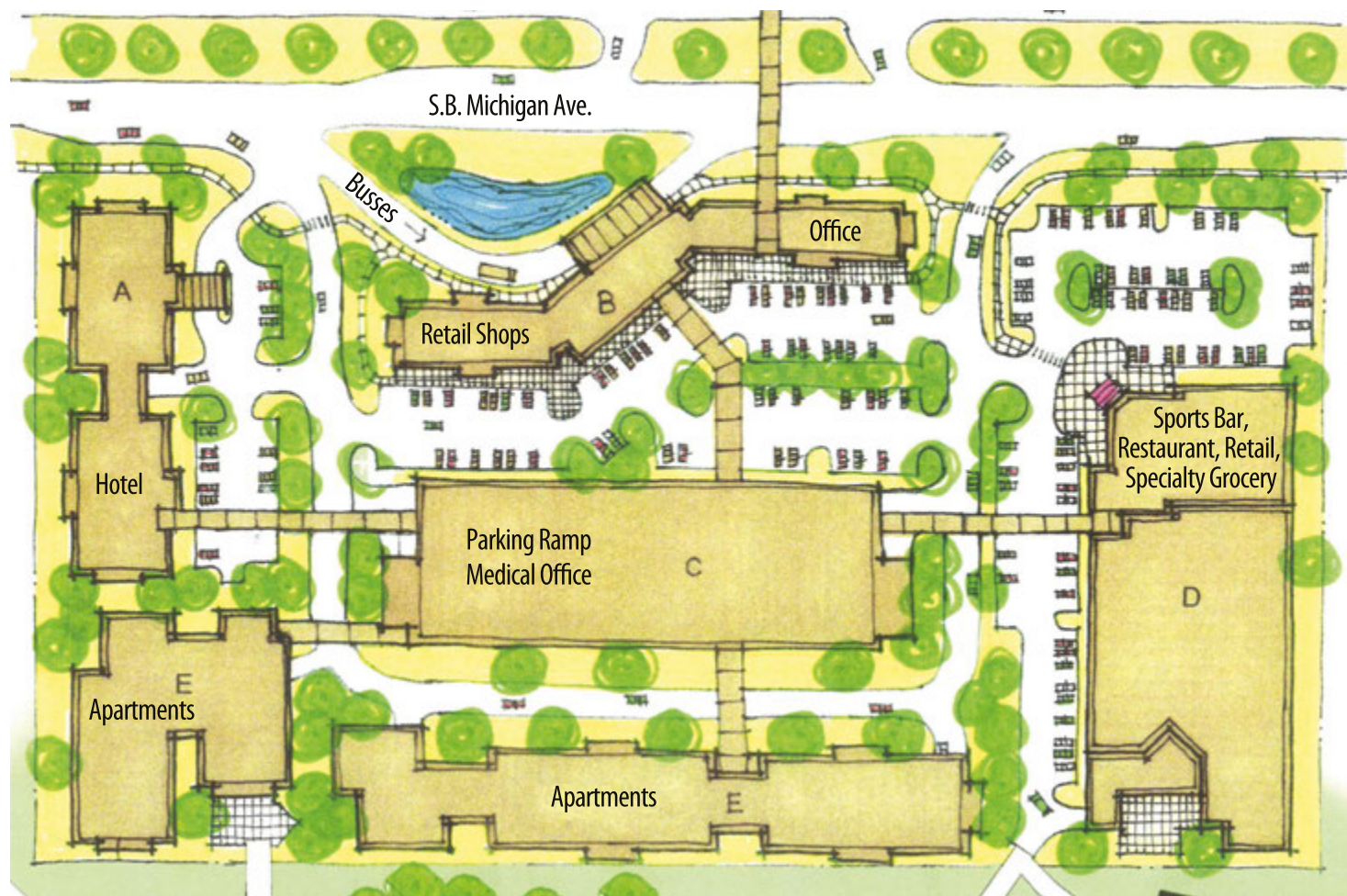
Another big thinker, and a member of the panel that will choose the project, is Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann. His master plan to clean up the polluted Red Cedar River would envelop 49 acres of parkland surrounding the development and stretch into the Frandor shopping center to the north, making the project an environmental as well as an economic watershed. Lindemann said the Red Cedar project needs to "meet the vision of something spectacular."

"We don't know what it is, but we know it's spectacular," he said. Without

'I'M DISAPPOINTED THERE WASN'T MORE, BUT I STILL THINK THERE'S ENOUGH THERE TO WORK WITH.'

FORMER LANSING MAYOR DAVID HOLLISTER

blushing, he compared the project's potential to boost the area's economic activity, tourism, environmental cleanup and regional cooperation to the 1969



Courtesy Image

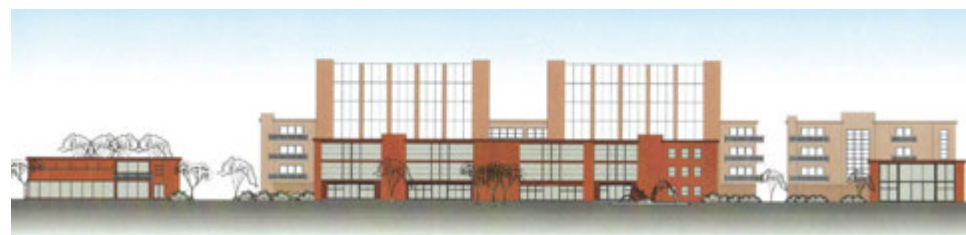
For the old Red Cedar Golf Course site, Lansing Township-based DTN Management proposed five buildings totaling 845,200 square feet of offices (mostly medical), retail and housing, along with a restaurant, sports bar and specialty grocery.

moon landing.

However, a quick rundown of the proposals doesn't immediately call Apollo 11 to mind. A Texas company that specializes in mega-sized college housing harped on one note — 1,000 beds of mega-sized college housing — and not the regional chord the city wanted to hear. A plan to build an aquarium is the boldest by far, but it's a Power Point worked up in two days by a local graduate student with no financing or development team. (See related story, "Keri Litwiller swims with the big fish.")

That leaves the city with three "live-play-work" complexes that mix housing, retail and offices in various combinations. One of the three, from Lansing developers Chris Jerome and Joel Ferguson, adds an amphitheatre and extensive plug-ins to the surrounding park. The other two are seven-story mixed-use complexes with few distinguishing features.

Is there a glass slipper — the long-hyped gateway from MSU to Michigan's capital — in this short pile of shoeboxes?



Courtesy Image

Artist's rendering of the proposed DTN Management buildings.

Bob Trezise agreed that it was disappointing to get only five responses, but he cautioned that a "big process" is only beginning. As president and CEO of the Lansing Economic Area Partnership, or LEAP, the lead organization on the Red Cedar Project, Trezise is one of the people who will pick a project to recommend to the mayor and the City Council. Last week, he packed the proposals into the family car to scrutinize them during a family vacation at Torch Lake.

Karl Dorshimer, also of LEAP, said

he's "pleased" with the five. "It's not so much quantity as quality," Dorshimer said. "There's several in there that look pretty good."

In the next two weeks, an eight-member panel will score the proposals: Trezise, Lindemann, Dorshimer, Lansing Parks Board President Rick Kibbey, Parks and Recreation Director Brett Kaschinske, Lansing Planning and Neighborhood Development Director Bob Johnson, mayoral Chief of Staff Randy Hannan and Ken Szymusiak, also

Red Cedar

from page 10

of LEAP.

Dorshimer expects to have a choice ready for the mayor and the Council in late August.

But that's only a start. With so many players involved in the Red Cedar project, from Lansing to East Lansing to MSU to Frandor to the eastside neighborhood to Lindemann's office, the five proposals are on the first tee in the morning dew. "When we select somebody, then the real negotiation, the real project comes together," Trezise said. The proposals could be modified, combined, or rejected en masse. "None of the above" is also an option, although Trezise and Dorshimer said that's unlikely.

Hollister is not on the panel, but as the grandfather of Lansing's development renaissance, he urged the team not to rush. He's dreamed of doing something special with the corridor between MSU and Lansing for "15 or 20 years."

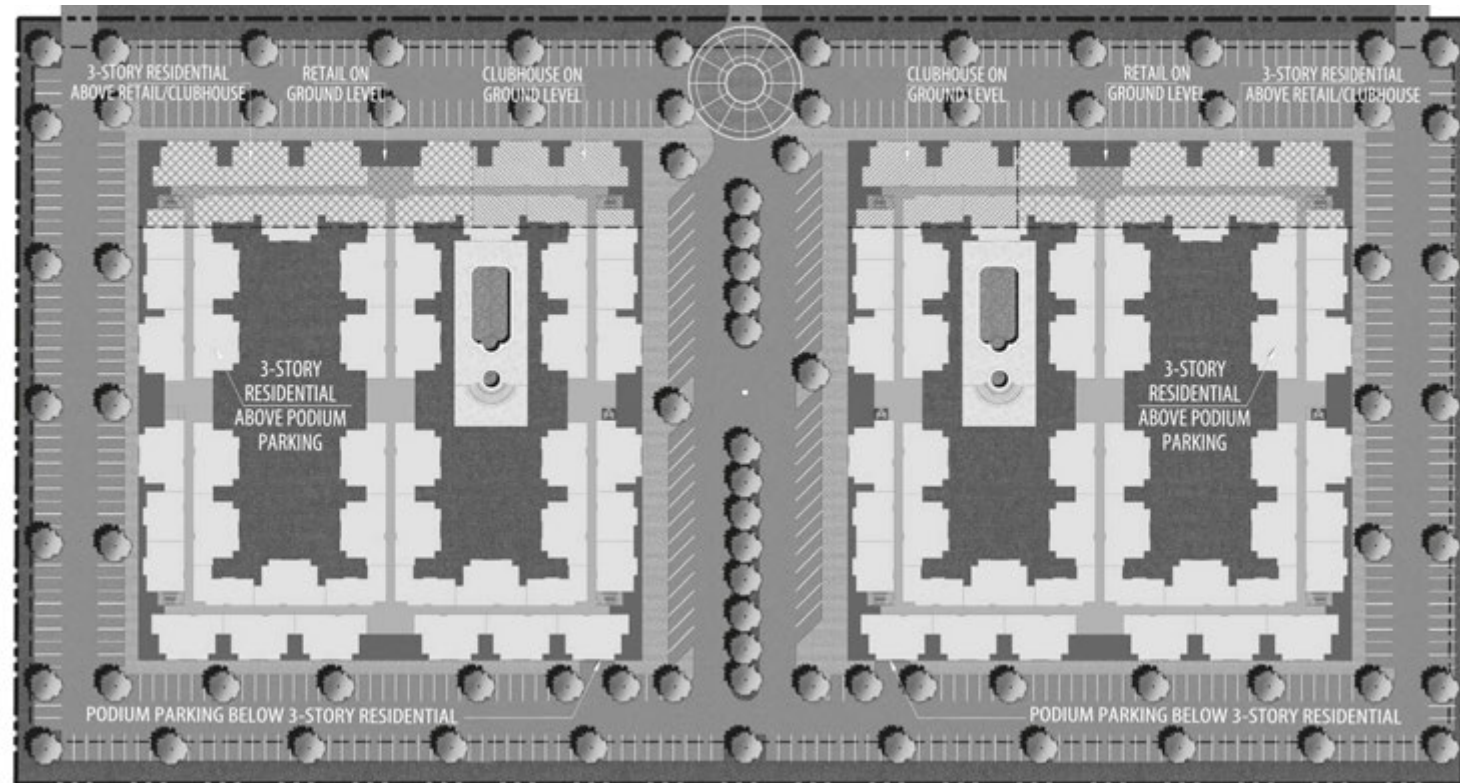
"We were never able to get that stretch [of Michigan Avenue]," Hollister said.

"We took care of the sin strip downtown," he said, referring to the blocks east of the Capitol where adult bookstores were prominent. "We moved the marker. We cleaned up down to Sparrow [Hospital]. My dream was to have that developed all the way to the university. We talked about trolley, rail, we had a lot of dreams."

Hollister said the handful of proposals, and the sketchiness of some of them, shouldn't alarm people at so early a stage.

"I'm disappointed there wasn't more, but I still think there's enough there to work with," Hollister said.

The most comprehensive, ambitious and locally savvy of the five proposals comes from local developers Chris Jerome and Joel Ferguson, with housing for students and professionals, a hotel, retail and restaurant space and an amphitheater. The Jerome and Ferguson proposal is the only one of the five to include the neighboring former Story Olds and Sawyer Pontiac dealerships,



Courtesy Images

American Campus Communities, based in Austin, Texas, proposed a 1,000-bed student housing complex with a layer of retail below. ACC built and manages 147 campus communities across the country, including this 1,300-bed unit (below) at the University of Central Florida in Orlando said LEAP's Trezise: Massive student housing is not wanted.

which Jerome's family owns.

The proposal comes in large and medium: a master plan covers the entire 60 acres; a smaller-scale version, minus sports field and some of the housing, covers the 12.5-acre site alone. Developers estimate the master plan "investment value" would exceed \$100 million and "may become the largest mixed use project in area history." (None of the other four proposals even took a stab at cost.)

No matter who ends up building the project, the amphitheatre may prove attractive for practical reasons. When builders scoop a foundation for the main development, along with Lindemann's storm water management ponds and ditches, they'll heap mountains of dirt that would cost a lot of money to bring to the site — or cart away. Lindemann said it will be tempting to draft that dirt into service as a grass-covered outdoor

entertainment venue.

Of the five proposals, the Jerome and Ferguson plan has by far the most detailed plans for winning over the community. There's a bow to the tight eastside neighborhood organizations and a full page acknowledging the extensive river cleanup and drainage challenges. In a bold flourish, the developers' first planned public meeting would be "in honor of" the City Council "regulars" who scrutinize and often object to new developments.

The proposal is also the only one of the five to spar openly with potential competitors, including out-of-state mega-developers. "We shudder to think of the eyesores that would be built by these 'usual suspects,'" the proposal reads.

If there's a prime "usual suspect" in the campus housing business, it's American Campus Communities, an Austin, Texas, company that also submitted a Red Cedar proposal last week. ACC runs 147 student communities totaling more than 97,700 beds across the country. Its Red Cedar proposal, a 1,000-bed dormitory with a ground layer of retail, has only one page laying out the "development concept" and many pages of annual-report-style financial information touting its recent growth from \$350 million to \$4.8 billion since going public in 2004. The proposal traces the company's success to "maximizing occupancy and efficient management of our communities."

That may sound good to an investor, but to others it might sound like packing

the kids in as cheaply as possible.

Trezise wouldn't comment on any proposals specifically, but had this to say on City Pulse's TV show airing Sunday:

"It would be all too easy just to propose, right next to MSU, a massive undergrad housing complex. We do not want that."

'IT'S NOT SO MUCH QUANTITY AS QUALITY'

KARL DORSHIMER OF THE LANSING ECONOMIC AREA PARTNERSHIP

But Dorshimer said nobody, including American Campus Communities, will be dismissed out of hand.

"They might be from Texas, but if they have a track record and the proven ability to work with locals, they're familiar with the politics and the bureaucracy, they could do well," Dorshimer said.

Another proposal comes from DTN Management Co., based in Lansing Township. DTN proposes 845,200 square feet of offices (mostly medical), retail and housing, along with a restaurant, sports bar and specialty grocery. The company manages over 6,000 apartment homes in the Lansing area and built Riverwalk Apartments, directly across Clippert Street from the Red Cedar site. Recently DTN built the Hamptons of Meridian, the quilt-like





Courtesy Image

Local developers Chris Jerome and Joel Ferguson submitted two proposals. The smaller one, seen here, would build housing, bars, restaurants, retail stores and an amphitheater on the 12.5-acre site the city where the city wants to build. A master plan adds more housing, a game field, nature trails and other features that knit the development into the surrounding parkland.

Red Cedar

from page 11

mixed-use apparition that sprang from the alfalfa fields south of MSU two years ago, and is building The Heights at Eastwood retail and apartment project.

DTN proposes a “unique configuration of building design and shapes,” with a central parking ramp and medical office reaching seven stories.

The fifth player in the Red Cedar fivesome is the team of Southfield developers Plante Moran Cresa and Neumann Smith, which propose a “sensibly-scaled, complementary mixed use component for Lansing’s most important gateway corridor.” The Plante Moran plan has no map or drawing, but the project “is anticipated to rise approximately seven levels above the surrounding streetscape with purpose and place for the distinctive culture of Lansing.”

There is nothing in the proposal about the distinctive culture of Lansing.

“They’d have a steeper learning

See Red Cedar, Page 13

KERI LITWILLER SWIMS WITH THE BIG FISH

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

One of these things is not like the others.

There’s a wild — and wet — card among the five proposals for redevelopment for the Red Cedar golf course.

Two days before last week’s deadline, Lansing grad student Keri Litwiller knocked out a Power Point presentation urging the city to build an aquarium there.

There’s no financing and no developer, but there is a lot of passion. Litwiller has been thinking about the idea for two years. She proposed it to the Lansing City Council earlier this summer, but got no reply to her letter.

Litwiller sees an aquarium as Lansing’s smart answer to the state’s Great Lakes beaches — only better, because the weather won’t shut it down.

“We live in the Great Lakes state,” she declared. “We have three rivers that converge in Lansing. [The Red Cedar site] is next to the interstate and two malls. People are becoming more environmentally conscious, and we need to bring more culture into the area. Why not combine everything?”

Realistic or not, Litwiller’s proposal shows up the other four by one measure: boldness. It’s hard for some people to get excited about another mixed-use development, however big or strategically placed.

“When I look at the other proposals — nothing against them, but we have

empty office and retail space. We need something new to draw people in,” she said.

“One of the proposals [from Chris Jerome and Joel Ferguson] involved a hotel. They need people to fill the hotel. Why not bring the aquarium first and then build the hotel?”

Former Lansing Mayor David Hollister called Litwiller’s proposal “really interesting.” In the early 1980s, when Hollister was in the state Legislature, he and other lawmakers tried to develop an aquarium in the Capitol Complex, east of the parcel where the Hall of Justice now stands, but couldn’t get it started.

Without money or a development team, Hollister cautioned, the aquarium idea is “just an idea.”

“There might be some potential to integrate some of her ideas into the larger plan,” Hollister said.

Litwiller is from St. Johns, lives in Lansing, works at the Delta Township District Library and studies community counseling at Siena Heights University in Adrian. She spotted the Red Cedar request for proposals while scanning a job listing on the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) website.

She doesn’t consider the proposal symbolic.

“I’ve never done anything like this before, but I’m pretty persistent when I want something to happen,” she said.

She wasn’t expecting the Red Cedar



Courtesy Photo

Someday, Lansing graduate student Keri Litwiller (here with her niece, Emilee Litwiller) wants to take groups of children to the Lansing Aquarium.

proposals to be made public on the LEAP website, but she’s glad they were. Since the proposal, with her email address included, has gone on line, she’s gotten several emails expressing support.

Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann, a member of the panel that will choose one of the five proposals to recommend to the city, was also intrigued.

“What’s unique about Lansing is that it sits in the exact middle of 20 percent of all the available fresh water in the world,” Lindemann said. “We’re the seat of the state’s government and we have an extraordinary university. Does that not deserve unique ideas?”

Lindemann said he’s not supporting any particular plan, but he thinks the aquarium idea is at least worth looking into.

“We ought to apply to the Department of the Interior and see if there’s any grant money,” he said.

Litwiller plans to investigate grants, ask for help from big guns like GM, Meijer and the Kellogg Foundation, and contact some of the other

developers who submitted plans last week. She also wants to recruit Michigan celebrities like Kid Rock, Tom Selleck and Jeff Daniels to the cause.

“It’s hard to do, when you’re busy with school and work and you’re not a 501(c)(3), but I’m going to keep at it,” she said.

Her dream is to someday take a group of children she is counseling to the Lansing Aquarium.



Courtesy Image

Southfield developers Plante Moran Cresa and Neumann Smith proposed a “sensibly-scaled, complementary mixed use component for Lansing’s most important gateway corridor.” The proposal doesn’t have a drawing. Pictured above is a project by the same developer, “university student housing campus with resort-like amenities” near the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Red Cedar

from page 12

curve” than Jerome & Ferguson or DTN, Hollister noted.

The plan calls for “a viable suburban square” with parking, “upscale” shops, restaurants and five mixed housing types. The language is padded with all-things-to-all-people descriptors such as “well integrated but clearly distinguishable.”

Hollister said it’s not surprising to receive such vague proposals at first. “You’re not buying a project, you’re buying a partner,” he said. “It’s important that the partner they choose be open to community engagement, transparent in what they’re doing, and be consensus builders.”

Dorshimer said that’s just what he and his panel will look for.

“What’s the team, what’s their background?” he said. “Can they work well with others?”

In the coming months, the enormity of the Red Cedar project will likely test the limits of consensus building, but the gearbox for cooperation is in place. In June, the city contracted with LEAP, which has a regional focus, for development services in place of the Lansing Economic Development Corp., whose staff has moved to LEAP to work for Trezise, their former leader at the LEDC.

Trezise said there is “no way” the Red Cedar project could have been attempted

20 years ago. As long ago as a year and a half, Trezise said, the city of Lansing was talking with Lansing Township, MSU and Lindemann about the property.

“We knew we couldn’t come in there and say, ‘That’s Lansing property and the hell with all of you,’” Trezise said. “Now [the project’s lead organization] is LEAP, and we can portray it as a regional project with even more credibility.”

‘IT WOULD BE ALL TOO EASY JUST TO PROPOSE, RIGHT NEXT TO MSU, A MASSIVE UNDERGRAD HOUSING COMPLEX. WE DO NOT WANT THAT.’

BOB TREZISE, CEO OF THE LANSING ECONOMIC AREA PARTNERSHIP

Back at the big-talk mudhole, Hollister suggested that the panel and the city look to MSU President Lou Anna Simon’s decision to put the new Broad Museum on Grand River Avenue, not far from the Red Cedar site, rather than “burying it somewhere in the university.”

“We’ve got to appeal to the creative class,” Hollister said. “This development links the university, the business community, the neighborhood groups. It really has the potential to bring it all together.”

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Arts & Culture

art • books • film • music • theater

Hey, Mr. Curator, put a record on Broad Art Museum's Summer Annex hosts music and film events

By JAMES SANFORD

There has not been much music in the former Chrome Cat space since the bar closed last year. That will change Thursday during "Dollar-Bin DJ Night," one of the Broad Art Museum's summer events in its Summer Annex.

Broad Art Museum Summer Series

'Dollar-Bin DJ Night'
8 p.m. Thursday, July 19,
Broad Art Museum Summer
Annex, 226 E. Grand River
Ave., Lansing
Free

'Summer Dance Party'
8 p.m. doors, 9 p.m. music,
July 26, 1215 Turner St.,
Lansing
\$7

'New Movies in Old Town'
9:15 p.m. Aug. 2, 9 and
16 (titles are still to be
confirmed), Broad Art Museum
Summer Annex
\$5 general admission

'Broad Art Museum Family
Day at Lansing JazzFest'
Noon-4 p.m. Aug. 4, Old Town
Free
broadmuseum.msu.edu

Among the DJs who will spin their favorite used-vinyl finds is Dan Hirsch, the Broad's curator of performances and public programs, who explained the DJ night ties into Kristin Cammermeyer's "Resituating" exhibition, which is on display in the Annex.

"We decided to have fun with the theme of taking dusty vinyl from the bargain bins and throwing it back into the light," said Hirsch, a former Bostonian who has made many a visit to East Lansing's Flat Black and Circular shop. "Since I've moved here, it's

from construction sites in her artwork, Hirsch and his fellow DJs — including Bay Area transplant Tammy Fortin, a musician, vocalist and mixtape artist — will do the same with old records.

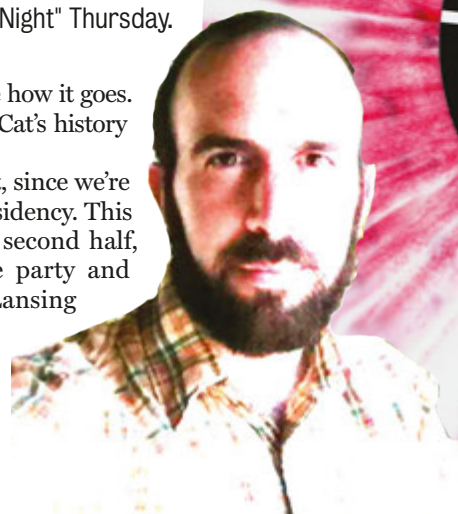
"Once Kristin's show came in, as far as a theme, it seemed like a natural 'a-ha' moment to combine the two (ideas)," Hirsch said. "It might have a life beyond this (show's) closing, but we'll see how it goes. It's also a tribute to the Chrome Cat's history as a bar with music and dancing.

"It also serves as a pivot point, since we're halfway through the summer residency. This marks the transfer over to the second half, which includes films, a dance party and family programming during Lansing JazzFest."

Hirsch wasn't certain what he'd be playing, although he warns attendees to expect variety. "It's gonna be all over the

Dan Hirsch, the Broad Museum's curator of performances and public programs, plays DJ at "Dollar-Bin DJ Night" Thursday.

Courtesy Photos



been kind of a haven for me," he admitted.

In the same way, Cammermeyer used discarded items

See Broad Summer, Page 15

Selling secrecy

Vacant 2 event mixes revitalization with recreation

By TRACY KEY

Vacant properties often become an eyesore, a reminder of what happens when a space is neglected and falls into ruin. It can be easy to forget the potential such properties hold. Vacant 2 will put a new spin on one empty space in Lansing — but the organizers won't tell you how just yet.

"Expect nothing" is the catch phrase for Vacant, a project that is centered on "taking something empty and filling it," according to Suban Nur Cooley, founder

of the Vacant Lansing events.

"Why not give people the opportunity to see what happens in a space that doesn't have anything in it the rest of the time?" asked Nur Cooley, as she described her inspiration for creating Vacant. "It puts ideas in other people's minds about what the space could be."

While most charitable endeavors collect money for a cause, Vacant 2 takes a

more active approach.

"The whole idea behind the Vacant events is to take a vacant piece of property and showcase the possibilities of what it could be, and to show people a new and different way to have fun," explained Jamie Schriener-Hooper, a former director of the Old Town Commercial Association and one of the organizers of Vacant 2.

In turn, this is meant to capture the interest of people potentially interested in purchasing the property. Vacant 2 will donate proceeds from tickets sales to support the South Lansing Community Development Association.

But Vacant 2 is more than just a showcase of the hidden potential in vacant properties — it is also a top-secret party event. The theme won't be announced ahead of time; neither will the exact location, or even precisely what sort of activities will happen. In fact, almost all of the details will remain a mystery.

"People like to discover things for themselves sometimes," Nur Cooley explained. "There's something adventurous about not knowing and taking the risk to buy the ticket."

Although no major details will be given

away in order to preserve the mystery of the event, ticket holders will receive several clues via email that provide hints about the festivities to come.

"The sooner you buy tickets, the more hints you'll get through email," Schriener-Hooper said.

Despite the secretive nature of Vacant 2, Nur Cooley was able to give a couple of early clues to anyone interested in buying tickets.

"There are four different color options when you go to buy tickets: red, yellow, blue and green. If you're going with your friends, I would encourage you to buy different colors than your friends — it will be more fun," she said, emphatically. "I can't say why, but trust me: It will be fun."

It is also suggested that guests wear the color of their ticket on their clothing in some way, although, of course, the reason will be a surprise.

The first Vacant event was held this year on Leap Year Day. It followed the same theme of secrecy and the revitalization of an abandoned space, but it was geared toward adults, recreating a speak-

Vacant 2

6-9 p.m. Saturday, July 21
Location is to be announced
\$20 adults; \$10 children
www.vacantlansing.com

Jessica Checkerowski/City Pulse

The Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle performed at the first Vacant event, which took place Feb. 29. That was a party designed to recreate the ambiance of a 1920s speakeasy; the Vacant event on Saturday is still a mystery, although organizers promise it will be family-friendly.



See Vacant, Page 15

Broad Summer

from page 14

place; I'm not married to any particular genre," he said. "In keeping with the vision of the museum, it should be very eclectic, with some curveballs in there. I think I'll be as surprised as anybody else."

"Dollar-Bin DJ Night" is the first of several projects the Broad Art Museum has planned for July and August. A "Summer Dance Party," headlined by Janka Nabay and the Bubu Gang, is planned for July 26 in Old Town's former Mustang Bar. Nabay, a native of Sierra Leone, teamed up with a group of New York musicians to play what Hirsch calls "an intersection between the bubu-style music that Nabay knew and this really rhythmic music that the other guys were playing in other bands they were in."

August brings "New Movies in Old Town," a weekly series that features "buzzed-about films from the festival circuit that might not otherwise reach Lansing area," according to Hirsch. Two confirmed titles are director Ira Sachs' "Keep the Lights On" — a portrait of a turbulent 10-year-long relationship between a filmmaker and an artist that Hollywood Reporter critic David Rooney hailed as "breaking new ground in contemporary American gay cinema" — and the documentary "Marina Abramović: The Artist is Present," which examines the Yugoslavian artist as she prepares for a major show at the Museum of Modern Art. A third film will be announced shortly.

"We want to contribute to the film culture here, along with the great East Lansing Film Festival and the emerging Capital City Film Festival," Hirsch said. "We want to contribute to that with some adventurous, experimental and independent films. This is our bid for jumping into that pool."

Aimee Shapiro, the Broad's director of education, oversees the crafts, games and activities during Broad Art Museum Family Day at Lansing JazzFest on Aug. 4. "It's our way of being involved in JazzFest," Hirsch said, "and hopefully, our involvement will grow."

Vacant

from page 14

easy from the Prohibition era.

This time, however, Vacant 2 is intended as a family-friendly event.

"Impression 5 and Reach Children's Art Studio will be at this event for a kid-friendly aspect," said Schriener-Hooper, although she was unable to elaborate on any further details.

"We promise it will be just as exciting to people without children as well," Nur Cooley added.

Until then, guests are left with one final cryptic hint about what might be in store for them at Vacant 2: "In West Philadelphia, born and raised ..."

See you in November

Broad Art Museum sets a Nov. 9 dedication date

By JAMES SANFORD

The Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University has announced a dedication date: Nov. 9.

"Yes, finally!" said founding director Michael Rush, with a laugh. "It seems every day there are dramatic changes, and we will be fully ready and installed by then — probably, we'll be ready earlier."

The groundbreaking ceremony for the \$40 million museum took place March 16, 2010; the museum had previously announced an opening date in April.

"The building has been so complex," Rush said of the 46,000-square-foot museum designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Zaha Hadid. "Each facet is so unique, from the glass to the steel encasements and all the finery inside. It's been an enormous challenge and all the workers have risen to it wonderfully."

The November date was chosen to match the schedules of architect Zaha Hadid, the Broads and MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon. Rush also expects "a cadre of international artists, as well other VIPs" at the opening.

"It's always a challenge to get busy people together," Rush said.

An open house will be held the following day, with tours of the building for the public. "We're working out the final details, to be honest," Rush said. The dedication is planned for Friday afternoon, but the time has yet to be determined.

Seventy percent of the museum's space will be devoted to displaying art. "That's atypical," Rush said. "This is one of the great features of this place. It's been a great desire of the Broads especially that the museum be fundamentally dedicated to exhibits rather than restaurants, auditoriums, gift shops, that sort of thing."

"(The Broad) will have a small gift shop and a cafe, yes, but these are relatively small situations. The bulk of the space is



Michael Rush



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Construction began on the Broad Art Museum two and a half years ago.

devoted to the galleries; even the offices, which are below ground, are quite spare." Rush and the rest of the museum's staff will continue to be housed in the Student Services Building.

The abundance of gallery space allows for what Rush called "an extended dialogue between the contemporary and the historical. We're placing contemporary art in a historical context. We have that advantage by inheriting the Kresge collection. No other self-defined contemporary art museum can draw on a historical collection like the Kresge; they wouldn't have that kind of a collection, would they?"

The Kresge Art Museum closed last July. Approximately 7,500 artworks were transferred to the Broad.

The museum's inaugural exhibitions, curated by Rush, will be "Global Groove 1973/2012," which uses Nam June Paik's 1973 video "Global Groove" as the basis for an exploration of current trends in international video art; and "In Search of Time," which examines artists' expressions of time and memory via dialogues between works by such artists as Josef Albers, Romare Bearden, Damien Hirst, Toba Khedoori, Andy Warhol, Eadweard Muybridge and Sam Jury.

"Great contemporary artists don't break completely with tradition," said Alison Gass, the Broad Museum's curator of contemporary art. "The really great artists always root themselves in what people have been struggling with for years," such

as social issues or questions of identity.

"Artists have been dealing with that forever," Gass added. "But, hopefully, they take it a step further and add a perspective on it you never considered before. Here, we have a chance to show what makes contemporary art sing, and how it connects to the classics."

Gass sees "In Search of Time" as a particularly strong illustration of that idea. "You'll see artists dealing with the slippery nature of time or the idea of time," she said. She's delighted with the contrasts Rush has set up, such as "taking a terrific, very small medieval triptych from the Kresge collection and pairing it with a grand, opulent, enormous piece by Damien Hirst. They're completely different, but they are both really addressing the same kinds of issues of desire. Michael has thought a great deal about the importance of showing all of the collection — both the Kresge collection and the new collection — and making it feel like it is in a dialogue."

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Photo by Kevin Fowler

Theophilus North (Devon Faught) sees the sunnier side of life with help from a Newport native (Mariah Baumgartner) in Lansing Community College's production of "Theophilus North."

Getting a bit of 'North'-ern exposure

Lansing Community College cast tackles a whimsical Thornton Wilder story

By JAMES SANFORD

How many lives can you live at one time? Theophilus North might be able to answer that question. The hero of Thornton Wilder's 1973 novel — Wilder scholars continue to debate how much of it was autobiographical — is a young school-teacher whose big dreams lead to multiple schemes.

"He ends up in Newport, R.I., because he wants to find adventure," explained Andy Callis, who is directing Matthew Burnett's dramatization of "Theophilus North" for Lansing Community College's Summer Stage Under the Stars Festival.

"Throughout most of the play he thinks that adventure will be in Europe or Cairo, some great place. He wants also to be nine different professions: a saint, an architect,

an actor, a rascal, a lover — things like that."

As it turns out, excitement is not in short supply in the seemingly laid-back, luxurious parlors and playgrounds of Newport, where North (Devon Faught) becomes embroiled in the lives of the wealthy and the working-class, opening minds, revitalizing spirits and saving impetuous young lovers from acting hastily.

Most of the "Theophilus" cast is made up of students from LCC's second semester Theatre Studio class, and Callis isn't the only one who's been giving them guidance.

"One of the great things about this show is that the playwright makes himself available for productions to speak to the actors," Callis said. "(Burnett) had a Skype

session with our students, which was really nice and invaluable in terms of answering questions."

Callis, who calls himself a Wilder fan, finds some similarities between "Theophilus" and Wilder's most famous play, "Our Town."

Theophilus "thinks he's stuck wasting his life away in a nowhere town," Callis said. "But, in a way, it becomes like 'Our Town.' The theme is to learn to accept love in the here and now. The adventure is where you are, not in the future; life should be lived right now."

'Theophilus North'

Lansing Community College
Summer Stage Under
the Stars Festival in the
Amphitheater
8 p.m. Wednesday, July 18
through Sunday, July 22
Free
(517) 483-1488

Courtesy Photo

A young Louisiana girl named Hushpuppy (Quvenzhané Wallis) sees magic all around her in "Beasts of the Southern Wild," which won the Camera d'Or for the best debut film and the international critics' prize at this spring's Cannes Film Festival.



Get an early look at 'Beasts'

East Lansing Film Society previews acclaimed drama

The East Lansing Film Society hosts a free sneak preview of "Beasts of the Southern Wild" at 7 p.m. Thursday at East Lansing's Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road. The film is scheduled to open locally July 27.

Director and co-writer Benh Zeitlin's film stars Quvenzhané Wallis as Hushpuppy, an imaginative 6-year-old Louisiana girl who

lives with her single father (Dwight Henry) in a bayou village endangered by flooding. The film won the Grand Jury Prize at this year's Sundance Film Festival, as well as the Camera d'Or for the best debut film and the international critics' prize at the Cannes Film Festival. Doors open at 6 p.m. and eating is on a first-come basis. For more information, visit www.elff.com

Return of the Texas twosome

Williamston Theatre catches another 'Tuna'

By HOLLY JOHNSON

It's summertime in Tuna, the third smallest town in Texas, and residents are eager to celebrate the Fourth of July Reunion and Fireworks display.

There's a reunion on the Williamston Theatre stage as well: Actors Aral Gribble and Wayne David Parker are once again playing a cross-section of the Tuna population (some 20 kooky characters in all) in the two-person quick-change comedy "Red, White and Tuna."

"Red, White and Tuna" is a sequel to "Greater Tuna," which Williamston produced in the fall of 2010. Written by Jaston Williams, Joe Sears and Ed Howard, the frenzied comedic series (other "Tuna" productions include "A Tuna Christmas" and "Tuna Does Vegas") has been a box office bonanza for theaters across the country during the past 30 years; "Greater Tuna" remains one of Williamston Theatre's biggest draws to date.

So the company couldn't resist continuing the "Tuna" series this summer.

What keeps the audience yearning for more "Tuna"? Gribble credits its satire of small-town America, combined with the relevance of the play's characters to its audience members.

"Whether we like it or not, there are a lot of characters that we all relate to or we all know," he said.

He also says it's pretty fun to watch two dudes perform onstage in dresses.

Director John Lepard says Williamston's previous success with "Greater Tuna" is



Aral Gribble

directly related to Gribble and Parker. "When you get two guys together that are that funny, it's hard not to draw a crowd," he said.

Gribble said "Red, White and Tuna" is a "completely different kind of show."

Viewers can expect to see flower children, taxidermists, Humane Society employees and radio personalities. You might think having that much "Tuna" on your plate would be difficult to convey, but Gribble said the challenge was fun and rehearsals were even better.

"I've never seen more work get done while two people were goofing around in my life," he said.

The Williamston crew even had the idea of charging people to watch the rehearsals because of how funny they were. After about a week of figuring out how to differentiate each character, Gribble and Parker spent the last chunk of rehearsals perfecting the quick costume changes in the hopes of achieving perfect comedic timing.

Williamston Theatre plans on producing "Tuna Gone Vegas" next summer, with Gribble and Parker playing opposite each other once again.

'Red, White and Tuna'

Williamston Theatre
122 S. Putnam St., Williamston
Preview 8 p.m. Thursday, July 19; all seats \$15
Friday, July 20 through
Aug. 19: 8 p.m. Thursdays,
Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m.
Sundays; 3 p.m. July 28, Aug.
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From courts to escorts

MSU grad Allison Leotta uncovers the world of call girls in 'Discretion'

By KURT ANTHONY KRUG

The "D.C. Madam" scandal served as a jumping-off point for Michigan State University alumna Allison Leotta's latest legal thriller, "Discretion."

"As a prosecutor, I handled a lot of cases where the victims were prostitutes," Leotta said in a phone interview. "I saw on a firsthand basis how dangerous their lives were, especially some college girl getting into the business thinking it's a quick, easy way to make money."

"But that's really far from the truth. I wanted to paint that picture realistically. What is it really like? What are the dangers? What are the unsavory things that have to happen? I didn't want to glamorize it at all. I hope I hit that chord in 'Discretion.'"

Leotta appears at 7 p.m. Thursday at Schuler Books & Music in Okemos.

A former sex crimes prosecutor for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, Leotta grew up in Farmington Hills and lives outside Washington with her family. She is an alumna of Harvard University, where she received her juris doctorate in law. By becoming a lawyer, Leotta followed in the footsteps of her father, Alan Harnisch.

The "D.C. Madam" scandal came to light in 2006, centering on Deborah Jane Palfrey, who owned and operated the Washington-based escort agency Pamela Martin and Associates. Palfrey escorts, many of whom had recently graduated from college or had professional 9-to-5 day jobs, charged as much as \$300 per hour. Palfrey made more than \$2 million in 13 years.

In 2008, Palfrey was convicted of racketeering, money laundering and using the mail for illegal purposes. She faced 55 years in prison. Palfrey committed suicide.

"I was fascinated by the case," Leotta

Courtesy Photo

"Discretion" is Allison Leotta's follow-up to her 2010 bestseller, "Law of Attraction."

said. "I was interested in the lives of the women who decided to become escorts, what it was like for them at the time, what the decision was like, and how it has affected their lives going forward — two years after they graduated from college and 20 years after they graduated from college — how that secret has played out in their lives. I was fascinated hearing about that testimony."

"Then when the madam died, it was tragic on a case-level for many reasons, but as a crime writer, it also raised a question."

"My logical prosecutor side thought it was a very sad, tragic way for the case to end. However, the crime writer in me was wondering could it actually have been a homicide? There were a lot of powerful people who had an incentive to shut her up. If it had been a homicide, who would have done it? And how would it have been done? That got the wheels turning in my head and was the beginning for the basis of 'Discretion.'"

The novel is set in Washington, where a beautiful young woman falls to her death from the balcony of the residence of a powerful congressman. To make things worse for this politician, who's in the middle of a hard primary fight, the woman was one of the city's highest-paid escorts.

Leading the investigation is Assistant U.S. Attorney Anna Curtis, a sex crimes prosecutor introduced in "Law of Attraction," Leotta's debut novel. Anna's investigation leads her to Discretion, a high-end escort service catering to D.C.'s rich and power-

ful.

This high-profile case could make Anna's career — or break it, should she make a mistake. Another obstacle is her relationship with Jack Bailey, the chief homicide prosecutor, which they're both keeping quiet in the U.S. Attorney's Office. This relationship could be exposed in the media attention surrounding this case. However, as the mystery deepens, more than her career is at stake; some very powerful people who are threatened by this investigation want Anna shut up — permanently.

Writing Anna was easier this time around for Leotta.

"She was so young and naïve in ('Law of Attraction'). In 'Discretion,' she's more confident, she's older, she's wiser, she's getting her sea legs. It's fun to be with her as she grew that way. It was fun to see what happened to her relationship with Jack after their happily-ever-after. That was a challenging — and interesting — part to write," she said.

In addition, Leotta's e-short-story, "Ten Rules For a Call Girl," serves as a prequel to "Discretion," focusing on the escort prior to her death.

"One interesting thing about the 'D.C. Madam' case is the people testifying are the type of people you might meet in court," Leotta said. "There was this one guy who testified he 'tested' the escorts (by having sex with them). And this was a regular guy: an attorney."

"What happens with most of these escort services, particularly the high-end escort services generally run by women, is the women can't test their products; they want a man to give their opinion, so they have a session with a prospective escort and tell the madam what he thinks."

"That was something I found intriguing and something I put in 'Discretion.' He was just a regular guy. You might meet him at a bar function. He might be on some advisory committee. Who knows?"

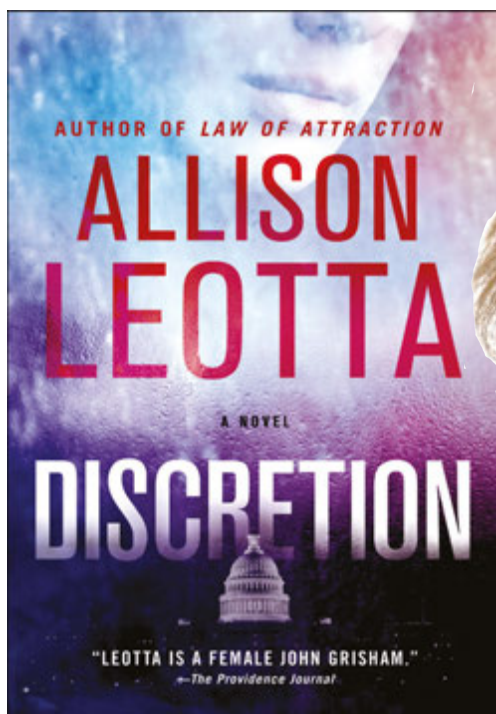
"It's this idea that everybody has this secret life. How did they come about getting it and how does it affect them as they try to carry out the side of their life that isn't secret?"

Critics have called her "the female John Grisham," referring to one of the godfathers of the modern-day legal thriller.

"I love John Grisham's books," Leotta said. "I'm happy to bring the female perspective to the table. It's an honor to be called that."

Allison Leotta

7 p.m. Thursday, July 19
Schuler Books & Music
1982 Grand River Ave.,
Okemos
Free
(517) 349-8840
www.schulerbooks.com
allisonleotta.com



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7 pm Thu. July 19

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2 pm Sat. July 21

For more information, visit
www.schulerbooks.com

Get on the write track this month

Short story contest challenges authors to build a story around a bookstore

By **BILL CASTANIER**

"It was a dark and stormy night. No light shown in the window."

Only 1,098 words to go. See how easy it is?

Local authors Randy Pearson and Rosalie Petrouske wanted to draw attention to the plight of independent bookstores. They settled on a writing contest called "Save the Independent Bookstore."

Pearson said the writing contest has a few rules: The theme must include a small-town, independent bookstore; the short story must not exceed 1,111 words; and you must be 14 or older. The deadline for entry is July 31.

There is a \$10 entry fee per story and there will be a minimum first place prize of \$50. It could grow, depending on the number of entries.

Petrouske said 50 percent of the entry fees go to the Capital Area Literacy Foundation and the winning entry will be included in the next "Writing from the Ledges," an anthology due in December.

Pearson said as a writer he is committed to the independent bookstores that have helped him sell his independently published novel, "Driving Crazy."

"I am a writer and being self-published I couldn't get in the big bookstores," Pearson said. "But all the little bookstores took my book."

**'Save the
 Independent
 Bookstore'
 Writing Contest**

For more information on the contest and submission rules, visit www.writingattheledges.com/writing-contest

Worried about the future of small bookstores, he was motivated to do something when he learned that Scott Harris, proprietor of Everybody Reads in

Lansing, had returned to his insurance business to keep the store open.

"That saddened me. Everybody Reads has been open six years and Scott has never taken any money out of the store. Small bookstores are going to go away if we don't buy books at them."



Courtesy Photo

Everybody Reads Books and Stuff is one of the area's independent bookstores. It shares space with Capital City Collectibles.

Harris is a practical man and says that the local economy, online book sales and the advent of the e-book created a perfect storm for him: "a perfect storm to not open a bookstore," he clarified.

He said in the short time he has been open he observed more and more people going online to buy books or to download them, especially among college students who were major supporters of Everybody Reads.

People still seem to be buying big-ticket items, but they are showing more restraint when it comes to books, Harris said.

The Lansing area has two locations of Schuler Books & Music, an independently owned chain that's been in operation for 30 years, and two used book stores, Curious Book Shop and Archives Book Shop. However, none of these are located within the city of Lansing. Lansing is not alone in that regard.

Cities such as East Lansing, Ann Arbor, Bay City, Saginaw, Flint and Detroit also lack bookstores selling new releases. On the other hand, smaller resort cities, such as Traverse City and Petoskey, can boast two independent bookstores each.

Nationally, independent bookstores are faring no better, and over the last decade

more than 500 have closed.

With the sale of e-books exceeding the sale of physical books and nearly one-third of older readers owning an e-reader device, the future doesn't look bright. Even successful small-town bookstores are cutting back on titles, selling more gift items and scrambling to get on author tours.

Harris said he doesn't see a successful business plan for selling e-books in bookstores.

Let's face it: Only in the movies do Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks get together to run a bookstore.

Harris knows things change. Some Lansing residents still talk about the Ellison's Books (once

located at 103 East Washtenaw Street in downtown Lansing), where author Jim Harrison is purported to have read from "Lolita." Before Ellison's was a bookstore it was an indoor putt-putt golf course, and before that a livery stable. It's now a parking lot.

Poet Rosalie Petrouske, a Lansing Community College writing instructor and one of the founders of the writing group Writing at the Ledges, said she has seen small bookstores close too many times. She hopes the short story contest brings awareness to the merchants' plight.

"It's fun going into a locally owned bookstore," Petrouske said. "They know your name and you get personal service."

Former Lansing State Journal columnist John Schneider will serve as one of the "Save the Independent Bookstore" judges, along with Harris, Petrouske and Pearson. The winner also receives a copy of "Voices from the Ledges" and a chance to read his or her piece at a winner's party at Everybody Reads.

"It was a dark and stormy night. Only the light from a single volume illuminated the bookstore window. It was like a beacon calling me in."

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ADVICE GODDESS



AMY ALKON
adviceamy@aol.com

Bitter homes and gardens & making shove last

Q: If your wife says another man's name while making love, what does that mean? It was her ex's name — my stepson's dad. She apologized, saying it was only because she remembered needing to call him about problems their son's having at school. Although I don't think she's cheating, I can't say I believe her excuse, as she compares me negatively with previous men in her life. Had I blurted out another woman's name, she never would've forgiven me. She has lots of anger and a very suspicious nature. She goes through my phone and constantly checks up on me. I know she's had men cheat on her, but I've given her no reason to doubt me. Her response when I try to have a healthy discussion about this or anything is either "whatever" or calling me names and starting a full-blown argument, then suggesting we shouldn't be together. That's the last thing I want for our kids.

—Upset

A: There you are, trying your best to give your wife an orgasmastical time in bed, and not only does she belt out another man's name, she decides to get a head start on her to-do list. (Apparently, what you thought was her sex face is also her "Did I schedule that parent-teacher conference?" face.)

Chances are, your wife's explanation, that this was just a brain burp, is the truth. And people's minds do wander during sex — especially when it's not exactly their first time with a particular partner. They just don't usually let on that they're talking dirty but staring up at the crown molding and resisting the impulse to reach for the telescoping feather duster.

Although every relationship gives rise to wounds, slights, and things you wish you could unhear, how you respond depends largely on what your "base" is — personally and as a couple. If you're emotionally secure and your relation-

ship is loving, you can shrug off a whole lot — maybe even tease your wife about her sexual faux pas by yelling out your own name in bed or moaning your to-do list: "Ohhh...when you do that to me, it makes me think about calling to change our health insurance to a PPO."

When you get married, it isn't just to a woman and all her annoying inlaws; you also marry all her unresolved issues. Your wife's insecurity makes her feel vulnerable, but instead of expressing her fears and giving you the chance to allay them, she takes the emotionally "safe" way out — attacking you. Her motto: "Don't go to bed mad. Stay up and scream about what a worthless worm your husband is."

Tell your wife that you need to remake your marriage to save it — because you love her and for your kids' sake. Because she fights dirty and you seem unable to stand up to her, you should bring in a therapist as a referee. What you can do yourselves is make a pact to never treat each other like you've forgotten you love each other. For backup, the way couples have a "safe word" in sex, you can agree to call "Empathy!" if the poo-flinging gets out of hand — your signal to stop and call up some compassion for what the other person must be feeling. It won't teleport you into instant maturity. But, because it's really hard to be a hugger and a hater at the same time, it should remind you that "till death do us part" is supposed to be a really romantic promise, not a battle cry.

Q: My wife of five years wants us to go to couples counseling. We've been fighting a lot these past two years, but I don't think that's reason to talk to some stranger about our issues. We love each other. Shouldn't that be enough for us to work through things together?

—Do-It-Yourself-er

A: Is this also your approach to a broken leg? "Who needs some stranger with a medical degree? Lemme see what I got in the garage." Or when your house is burning down: "I see no reason to invite

some stranger from the fire department into my life." Love might be the answer to some things, like who to get chocolate for on Valentine's Day, but it doesn't make you a great communicator. When you aren't getting through to each other on your own, the wise (and courageous) thing to do is seek help. This does require letting go of the need to be right and overcoming qualms about being judged. But, exposing what isn't working is your best shot at fixing things...much as you'd probably rather stamp your feet and insist, "Everything I need to know about being married I learned in kindergarten!" (Apparently, "Don't eat paste" is a little-known cure for everything from financial woes to erectile dysfunction.)

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

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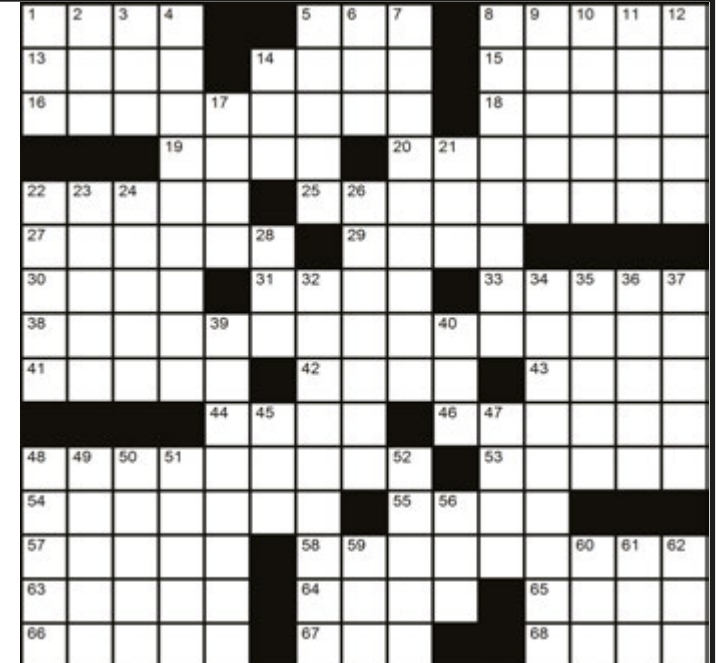
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Tally Ho!" — where have I heard that before?
Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Worker from another company?
- 5 1/100th division: abbr.
- 8 Start of a refrain
- 13 Quarterback Tony who once dated Jessica Simpson
- 14 Bad thing to hear when remodeling
- 15 Deadly snake
- 16 He had the 1994 #1 hit "Here Comes the Hotstepper"
- 18 Key same as B
- 19 ___ vital
- 20 Vendors
- 22 Capital of Kofi Annan's home country
- 25 Literary character who had a title "Prayer for" him
- 27 Totally sad
- 29 Away from the wind
- 30 Prefix meaning "times one trillion"
- 31 Poisonous fish
- 33 Sought out quickly
- 38 Emma Watson role in eight movies
- 41 City on the Ruhr
- 42 Filled with wonder
- 43 "Bad Romance" Lady
- 44 World Baseball Classic team
- 46 Kind of number
- 48 He played the bossy Stoooge
- 53 Second largest city in France
- 54 Triangular houses
- 55 Checklist component



- 57 Hiccup, for instance
- 58 It may be involved in tallying the four theme answers
- 63 Yaphet of "Alien" and "The Running Man"
- 64 Messes up
- 65 Alison of "Community"
- 66 Dave Matthews song with Alanis Morissette singing backup
- 67 86,400 seconds
- 68 Do some door drama

- a Louis XV quote
- 8 What anchors face
- 9 Winchester product
- 10 Cop ___
- 11 Hear (about)
- 12 More suitable for a film festival than the local multiplex, say
- 14 Thurman of "Bel Ami"
- 17 Jai ___
- 21 Dir. opposite WSW
- 22 Foaming ___ mouth
- 23 Native Canadians
- 24 Caleb and John Dickson, for two
- 26 Be belligerent
- 28 Accounts head, for short
- 32 Without apologizing
- 34 They run with torches
- 35 New Zealand mystery writer Marsh
- 36 Indie band ___ and

- Sara
- 37 Heard tests
- 39 Shared, like a characteristic
- 40 Map lines: abbr.
- 45 Much-maligned director Boll
- 47 Basic util.
- 48 Operating room covers
- 49 King ___ (Michael Jackson title)
- 50 Muse of love poetry
- 51 Lacks options
- 52 "Dear ___..."
- 56 End zone scores, for short
- 59 Major time period
- 60 Website address
- 61 "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" star Vardalos
- 62 President pro ___

Down

- 1 Tetra- minus one
- 2 One billion years
- 3 11 years ago, in the credits
- 4 Where kings don't rule
- 5 Opening for graph
- 6 Due to, in slang
- 7 It comes "after me," in

City Pulse Classifieds

Interested in placing a classified ad in City Pulse?
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YOUTH COORDINATOR

The Association for Children's Mental Health is seeking a full-time Youth Coordinator. Candidates must have a High School Diploma or GED, previous experience working with youth with mental health disorders, and flexible availability. A complete posting is available at www.acmh-mi.org or call 517-372-4016.

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OUT on the TOWN

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Lansing Art Gallery is seeking proposals for upcoming group and/or solo exhibitions in any media. Artwork must be original, 2-3 dimensions, created by Michigan artists 18 years or older, and no more than 3 years old to be considered. Proposals received on or by July 30, 2012, will be given preference, and exhibitions will be selected by a jury of qualified art professionals.

For more information contact Catherine Babcock at lagexhibitions@gmail.com. (517) 374-6400. www.lansingcitypulse.com.

Wednesday, July 18

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

LGBTQ Affirming Bible Study. On Bible passages taken out of context and used to discriminate based on sexual orientation. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

Forest View Citizens Association. Get updates from the Lansing Police Department. 7 p.m. \$5 per year. University Club MSU, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. (517) 882-9342.

Weed Warrior. Learn how to control common invasive plants around Fenner and in your own yard. 5-6 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. fofnc.org.

Native Plants and Wildflowers. Learn to identify and better appreciate native plants and wildflowers. 7 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 887-0596. wildoneslansing.org.

EVENTS

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

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

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

JULY 19

Park presents 'Chocolate Factory'

The Moonlight Film Festival outdoor film series in East Lansing continues Thursday with a screening of the PG-rated 2005 version of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory." There will be live music at 8:30 p.m. performed by The Bard Owls. Families should bring a blanket or lawn chair to watch the film on a big screen in Valley Court Park. Directed by Tim Burton, the film is an adaptation of the Roald Dahl novel, starring Johnny Depp as Willy Wonka and Freddie Highmore as Charlie; it should begin at approximately 9:30 p.m. Upcoming films include "Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey" on July 26; "ET: The Extra-Terrestrial" on Aug. 2; "Hugo" on Aug. 9; "Big Miracle" on Aug. 16; and "Back to the Future" on Aug. 23. FREE. Valley Court Park, Valley Court, East Lansing. (517) 319-6927. www.cityofeastlansing.com/communityevents.



Courtesy Photo

JULY 19

Lana sings the blues

Perspective 2 will be painted blue — in a manner of speaking — on Thursday when vocalist Lana LaReau presents "Feelin' Good With the Blues," her tribute to such legends as Billie Holiday, Merle Haggard, Johnny Cash and Etta James. LaReau calls jazz songstress and teacher Sunny Wilkinson her mentor. The backup band includes guitarist Jason Wicks, keyboardist Ron Newman, drummer Mike Daniels and bassist Louis Rudner. 7 p.m. July 19, Perspective 2, 319 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. \$8, or two for \$15; student tickets are \$5. (517) 282-3861.



Courtesy Photo

JULY 20 & 21

Get LinkedIn and the most from Gmail

The Information Technology Empowerment Center offers two free classes this weekend. From 6-8 p.m. Friday, participants can take a class to discover how to use LinkedIn to its full potential and benefit from professional networking. Students will create profiles and learn how to navigate the site. From 9-11 a.m. Saturday, ITEC offers "Making the Most of Your Gmail Account." The class provides Gmail users with a chance to explore features that can help increase productivity. Not only will the session go over e-mail management strategies, but it also helps students set up auto-responders. Students must have a Gmail account and understand how to log in without assistance. 6-8 p.m. Friday; 9-11 a.m. Saturday FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. To register, call (517) 708-4392, or e-mail sarah@iteclansing.org.

JULY 23

Speed dating with flavor

Divine Connections has a night on Monday for single professionals looking to mix and mingle. Beginning at 7 p.m., singles can attend Divine Connections' Speed Dating: Beer & Wine Tasting Social at Mark's Watershed Tavern & Grill in Haslett. Participants can enjoy six-minute conversations, with prepared questions for their six dates. There will be five varieties of wine or beer available and free cheese and crackers. A new beverage will be sampled each time seats are switched, allowing participants to meet different people throughout the evening. The goal of Divine Connections is to create speed dating socials that are more exciting than going to a bar to try and decipher who is single. After the speed dates, there will be a chance for more conversation and mingling. 7 p.m. \$20. Mark's Watershed Tavern & Grill, 5965 Marsh Road, Haslett. www.mydivineconnections.com/sample-page/. (517) 896-8842.

TURNIT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICHTUPICA

FRANK & EARNEST ARE "BOSS" AT THE LOFT

For those who dig unique covers of classic jams, Friday at The Loft may be the spot. The "Summer Singalong Vol. 2" hosts a roster of local bands, all performing sets by other bands and artists. Cavalcade, Lansing-based weirdo metal extraordinaires, performs the "Donnie Darko" soundtrack; meanwhile, pop-punks Frank & Earnest rocks out as Bruce Springsteen and the E. Street Band. Also taking the stage are Bike Tuff (as Jimmy Eat World), Good Weather For Airstrikes (as Death Cab For Cutie), Heroes on Parade (as Say Anything), Stacey Koziel (as Destiny's Child) and Earl Grey (as Modest Mouse). Fusion Shows, which is hosting the event, said the all-ages concert is meant to "celebrate how awesome music is ... and about throwing all the industry B.S. out the window." Also, the first 100 guests to arrive at the show, who are 21 and over, receive a free drink.

Friday, July 20 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, \$7, all ages, doors 6:30 p.m.

AUSSIE/NASHVILLE GUITARIST AT PUMP HOUSE

The Pump House has consistently brought acclaimed alt-country songwriters and Nashville-inspired rockers to East Lansing. This Sunday is no exception, when Anne McCue, an Australian native, plays a bluesy mix of folk rock and Americana. Heart's Nancy Wilson called her "my Aussie clone." McCue, who lives in Nashville, dropped her last album "Broken Promise Land" in 2010, a collection she describes as "a bit dirty, a bit rockin', a bit swampy and a bit blue-



Frank & Earnest at The Loft



Anne McCue at The Pump House

sy, with a touch of mysteriousness to it." The disc showcases her rockin' instincts and six-string virtuosity. The title track features a blazing Hendrix-like guitar solo. However, the blues-rock album also boasts the dirty guitar sound of late '60s English bands like The Yardbirds and The Rolling Stones. McCue has performed across the globe, including the Sydney Opera House, and throughout her career she has picked up some prestigious honors. She was voted the Roots Music Association's Folk Artist of the Year in 2008, and also performed in a Jimi Hendrix tribute at the 2007 International Guitar Festival — the performance was included in the "Four Decades of Folk Rock" box set, alongside Bob Dylan and Wilco. McCue grew up in Campbelltown, southwest of Sydney, Australia. Aside from music, she also graduated from the University of Technology, Sydney with a degree in film production and film studies. For more information, visit www.annemccue.com.

Sunday, July 22 @ Pump House, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing, all ages, \$15 suggested donation, \$10 for CABS members, show runs 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

HILLBILLY PUNKS AT MAC'S

Jason and the Punknecks, a Nashville-based trio, plays a trashy style of country and bluegrass. The band, which plays around 300 high-energy shows per year, stops at Mac's Bar July 25. Opening the show are local roots-rockers Leper Colony and Chaz Brackx & the Big Bucks. Fans of Hank Williams Jr., Social Distortion, Tom Waits, or The Kentucky Headhunters may want to check out Jason and the Punknecks. The Leper Colony, led by Seth C. Newton (vocals/guitar), plays a darker form of Americana, taking its influence from the likes of the Misfits, Danzig, The Goddamn Gallows and Hank Williams.

Wednesday, July 25 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18 and over, \$7, 9 p.m.

DIXON'S "TRANSFORMATIONAL JOURNEY" AT (SCENE)

David "Dixon" Hammond played traditional violin for 25 years until he decided to abandon all the rules back in 2005. Hammond, who spent many years living in Lansing, performs under the

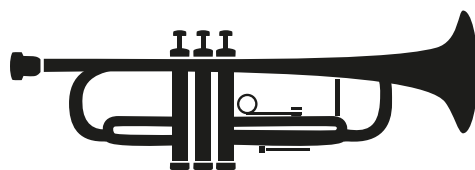
moniker Dixon's Violin and plays what he calls "a transformational journey through digital violin." His style of violin playing relies on improvisation, digital-effects processors and looping pedals. The result is a blend of classical, experimental, and even some rock tones. On Thursday, he brings his ingenuity to (SCENE) Metrospace. "Musically, it's a combination of classical and modern influences," he told City Pulse in March, "everything from Pink Floyd to Radiohead. But more than that, it's about following the moment and feeling the vibe, there's some influence from yoga and meditation." Dixon is constantly touring the country and playing festivals from Burning Man to Electric Forest — he's even given his own TED talk and performance.

Thursday, July 26 @ (SCENE) Metrospace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. All ages. Doors open at 8:30 p.m.; music at 9 p.m. \$10 suggested donation.

UPCOMING SHOW?

POST IT AT

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TURNITDOWN



LIVE & LOCAL

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

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

621 The Spot , 621 E. Michigan Ave.	Phil Denny, 8 p.m.	DJ Conrad, 8:30 p.m.	DJ Craig, 9 p.m.	Various DJs, 10 p.m.
Colonial Bar , 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.			Haphazard, 9 p.m.	Haphazard, 9 p.m.
Connxtions Comedy Club , 2900 N. East St.		Troy Davis, 8 p.m.	Troy Davis, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.	Troy Davis, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.
Crunchy's , 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Cloud Magic, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange , 314 E. Michigan Ave.		Tryst Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.	Showdown, Midnight	Showdown, Midnight
The Firm , 227 S. Washington Square		DnW Sound DJs, 9 p.m.	Various DJs, 9 p.m.	DJ Donnie D, 9 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza , 201 E. Grand River Ave.	Driver & Rider Show, 7 p.m.	Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karaoke with Joanie Daniels, 9 p.m.	
Green Door , 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Stan Budzynski & Third Degree, 9:30 p.m.	Jen Sygit & The Lincoln County Process, 9:30 p.m.	Mix Pack, 9:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft , 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Maps & Atlases, 7 p.m.	Michael Allman, 7 p.m.	Donnie Darko Soundtrack, 6:30 p.m.	T.O.K.I.N., 9 p.m.
Mac's Bar , 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	This is Hell, 5 p.m.	Commodore Cosmos, 9 p.m.		
Moriarty's Pub , 802 E. Michigan Ave.			Blastica, 10 p.m.	Blastica, 10 p.m.
Rick's American Cafe , 224 Abbott Road	DJ Dan, 10:30 p.m.	ICE DJ's, 10:30 p.m.		
Rookies , 16460 S. US 27	Sammy Gold, 7-10 p.m.	Water Pong DJ, 9 p.m.	Karaoke dance party with DJ Klimaxx, 9 p.m.	Live Bands with DJs & DJ Klimaxx, 9 p.m.
Rum Runners , 601 East Michigan Ave.	Open Mic Night, 9 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 9 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 7 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 7 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern , 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 9 p.m.	The Bear Band, 9 p.m.	The Bear Band, 9 p.m.
Uli's Haus of Rock , 419 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		Wayland, 8 p.m.		Man Unkind, 8 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill , 325 City Market Drive		Mike Evia Quartet, 7 p.m.	Joe Wright, 7 p.m.	Stan Budzynski & 3rd Degree, 7 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.
Zepplin's , 2010 E. Michigan Ave.		Standard Issue Citizen, 9 p.m.	Neural Tear, 9 p.m.	Violet Void, 9 p.m.

Sunday Open Jam with Bad Gravy, 9:30 p.m., Green Door; Karaoke, 9 p.m. Drag Queens Gone Wild, 11 p.m., Spiral Dance Bar; DJ Mike, 9:30 p.m., LeRoy's Bar & Grill; Open Mic, 5 p.m., Uli's Haus of Rock.

Monday Steppin' In It, 9:30 p.m., Green Door; Easy Babies funk trio, 10 p.m., The Exchange. Open-Mic Mondays, 6:30 p.m., Michigan Brewing Company-Lansing.

Tuesday Tommy Foster & Guitar Bob, 9 p.m., The Exchange; Neon Tuesday, 9 p.m., Mac's Bar. Jazz Tuesday Open Jam, 9 p.m., Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave.

Out on the town

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performing hits. 6:30 p.m. \$7. The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. www.theloftlansing.com.
Grand River Radio Diner Concert. Live concert featuring East Harvest. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 483-1710. www.lcc.edu/radio.
Sammy Gold (SaGoBa). Pop-rock. 6-9 p.m. FREE. Coach's Pub and Grill, 6201 Bishop Road, Lansing. (517) 882-0790. www.reverbnation.com/sammygold.
CAPTivating Rhythms. Chelsea Area Players celebrates its 40th anniversary by presenting a musical revue. 7 p.m. \$10, \$8 Seniors. Chief Okemos Sportsman Club, 4667 N. Gunnell Road, Dimondale. (734) 475-9818.
Grand River Radio Diner Concert. Live performance featuring Ebb n' Flow. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 483-1710. www.lcc.edu/radio.

THEATER

"Red, White and Tuna." 8 p.m. \$25. (Please See Details July 19)

"Theophilus North." Presented by Lansing Community College Summer Stage Under the Stars. 8 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details July 18)

LITERATURE AND POETRY

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

Saturday, July 21

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

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

Centered Woman Yoga. Early morning yoga. 9-10 a.m. \$5 donation. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (989) 397-3616. www.womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org.

Making the Most of Your Gmail Account. Learn about technology and what it can offer. 9-11 a.m. FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 708-4392.

EVENTS

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

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

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

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

Golf Outing. Includes one-half cart, light breakfast, lunch and dinner with raffle drawings. Proceeds help provide assistance to Leader Dogs, Michigan Eye Bank and other charities. 9 a.m. \$65. El Dorado Golf Club, 3750 W Howell Road, Mason. (517) 676-0595.

Girl Scout Gallery Day. Take a decade-by-decade look at Girl Scouting in Michigan history. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$6, \$4 seniors, \$2 kids. Michigan Historical Museum, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 373-3559.

Youth Talent Show Auditions. Ages 6-18 are invited to showcase an act for the August talent show. 11 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3.

Hull Court Festival. Neighbors can celebrate the rehab work completed with hot dogs chips and beverages. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Hull Court Park, 1500 Hull Ct. Lansing. RSVP: (517) 580-8825.

It's Always Earth Day. Need volunteers to work in flower beds, restore habitats and maintain trails. 9-11 a.m. FREE. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

Bare-Chest For Breast Cancer. A tasteful men's wet T-shirt contest, to raise money for breast cancer. 4-7 p.m. Donations. Marks Watershed, 5965 Marsh Road, Haslett. (517) 339-4877.

MUSIC

The Summer Concert Series. Featuring Those Delta Rhythm Kings. 7-9 p.m. FREE. East Plaza, Corner of Charles St. & Albery Ave. East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

THEATER

"Red, White and Tuna." 8 p.m. \$22 matinee, \$25. (Please See Details July 19)

"Theophilus North." Presented by Lansing Community College Summer Stage Under the Stars. 8 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details July 18)

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Book Signing: Chris Walker. Mr. Walker will be signing "The Green-Eyed Necklace." 1 p.m. FREE. Barnes and Noble, 5132 W Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. (517) 327-0437. www.bn.com.

Sunday, July 22

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. Meets on the third floor. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300. www.cadl.org.

Overeaters Anonymous. New location, in conference room F, 2nd floor. 2-3 p.m. FREE. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 332-0755.

The Family Show. "Space Chase," for children from preschool through grade 3 and their families. 2:30 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students & seniors, \$2 kids. Abrams Planetarium, 400 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 355-4672.

Aromatherapy Workshop. Learn about the power of aromas in this aromatherapy workshop. Noon, \$15. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

EVENTS

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

Alcoholics Anonymous. Closed meeting for those who desire to stop drinking, with American Sign Language interpretation. 9 a.m. FREE. Alano Club East, 220 S. Howard St., Lansing. (517) 482-8957.

Capital Area Singles Dance. Meet new friends with door prizes. 6-10 p.m. \$8. Eagles, 4700 N.

Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 819-0405.

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

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

Lansing City Market Presents: Summer Sundays. All businesses will be open and fully stocked to meet all of your shopping needs. Noon-4 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460.

THEATER

"Red, White and Tuna." 2 p.m. \$22, \$10 student. (Please See Details July 19)

"Theophilus North." Presented by Lansing Community College Summer Stage Under the Stars. 8 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details July 18)

Monday, July 23

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

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

EVENTS

Euchre. Come play Euchre and meet new people. No partner needed. 6-9 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township

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DIVORCE FAMILY LAW



Divorce
Custody • Visitation
Child Support
Alimony
Property
Distribution
Domestic Partnership
Agreements / Separation

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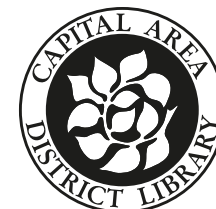
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cadl.org

Out on the town

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Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

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

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

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

Colonial Village Walking Group. Walks are 30-45 minutes. 10 a.m. FREE. (Please See Details July 18)

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

Vacation Bible School. For ages 4-12, with theme one-of-a-kind-zoo goes until July 20. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Holt Seventh Day Adventist Fellowship, 5682 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 388-1202. www.adventist.org.

Dating Beer & Wine Tasting Social. Enjoy great conversation with 6 minute dates, sample five varieties of wine or beer while meeting new friends. 7 p.m. \$20. The Watershed Tavern & Grill, 5965 Marsh Road, Haslett. www.mydivineconnections.com/sample-page/.

Career Carnival. Kids can "Dream big!" for the future and learn about a variety of careers. 2-3 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. www.dttl.org.

MUSIC

Open-Mic Mondays. Sign up to play solo, duo, with your band. Spoken-Word acts welcome. Drink specials. 6:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. Michigan Brewing Company, 402 Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 977-1349.

CMS Musical Theatre Camp. A day camp for elementary, middle and high school students. Camp runs July 23-August 3. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. \$230 (grades 9-12); \$185 (grades 2-8). MSU Community Music School, 841 Timberlane St., East Lansing. (517) 355-7661. cms.msu.edu.

Tuesday, July 24

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Schizophrenics Anonymous. A self-help support group for those affected by the disorder. 10 a.m. Room 215-F, Community Mental Health Building, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 485-3775.

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

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

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

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

Intro to Computers. Professionals from

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

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

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

Speakeasies Toastmasters. Become a better speaker. 12:05-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Bldg., 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. 1926. toastmastersclubs.org.

Summer Tutoring. For students, grades K-6. An informal group tutoring from high school and college volunteers. 10:30 a.m.-Noon, FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

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

Financial Health part II. Learn how to get control of your financial life and improve your credit. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Center for Financial Health, 230 N. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 708-2550.

EVENTS

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

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

Mid-day Movies. Watch recent releases on the big screen. 2 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363. www.cadl.org.

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

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

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

Tuesdays at the Park. Join for stories, songs, and more. Bring a blanket and picnic lunch. 1:00 pm, free. McGuire Park, 1001 W. Main St., DeWitt. (517) 669-3156. www.dewittlibrary.org.

E-Reader User Group. Learn how to download library books to your Kindle, Nook, iPad, etc. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156. www.dewittlibrary.org.

Colonial Village Walking Group. Walks are 30-45 minutes. 7 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details July 18)

MUSIC

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

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

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BIGGBY, MIKHO'S



By ALLAN I. ROSS Biggby Goes Up

Next week, we'll reveal the plans for a popular local business that's about to branch out and become a mini-chain. But for now, let's focus on one of Lansing's other big success stories: **Biggby Coffee**, which is taking over a 2,200-square-foot location in the **Stadium District** in October. The new Biggby fills the void left by **Great Lakes Chocolate & Coffee**, which left the prime corner of Cedar Street and Michigan Avenue a couple months ago. Jason Kildea, director of commercial real estate for **The Gillespie Group**, which owns the building, says that it's been a pretty seamless transition and that some renovations are expected to give the location "a more Biggby-store feel."

When Great Lakes Chocolate & Coffee closed, the owners issued a release blaming sluggish sales on a lack of adjacent retailers in the Stadium District, which prompted their decision to leave after four years. It will be interesting to see how Biggby deals with this challenge. Until then, a huge "Coming Soon" sign will be teasing the Caramel Marvel and Mocha Mellow junkies that crave their caffeine fixes.

Looking ahead, Kildea says the Stadium District



City Pulse Staff

Biggby prepares to open soon at the corner of Cedar Street and Michigan Avenue.

is in discussions with an operator who is looking to open a "restaurant-type establishment" across from **The Nuthouse**, on the corner of Michigan Avenue and Larch Street. But details are being kept under wraps for now.

"It's a very large project, very exciting project, but I can't say more right now," Kildea said.

Hookah hoo-hah
Mikho's Hookah Lounge and Middle Eastern Cuisine opened last month at 3824 S. Cedar St. in Lansing. The location was formerly the home of **Van Houten Produce**, famous for its impressive outdoor flower and plant display; the business closed in the wake of owner Jeff Van Houten's death in 2005. Mikho's doesn't feature much in the way of fresh fruit and veggies, but it does have, um, a couple of pool tables. And some

couches. And big-screen TVs. It looks like you can probably eat there, too, but it's hard to say. I was given the owner's cell phone number last week by an employee at one of his other businesses, but when I called him he reproached me for bothering him, even after I had identified myself. He gruffly told me he'd "talk to his partners" and get back with me about whether he'd participate in this story, but he never did. When I went in last weekend to try to talk to him (or anyone, really), I stood around while people who obviously worked there utterly ignored me, even after repeated queries. Whatever. So, just so you know: new hookah/Indian food joint in Lansing.

Mikho's Hookah Lounge And Middle Eastern Cuisine
3824 S. Cedar St., Lansing
(517) 721-1181

Out on the town

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THEATER

Play in the Park. Fun for kids, families can pack a picnic and enjoy free entertainment in the park. "Taekwon-Do!" 7 p.m. FREE. Valley Court Park, 400 Hillside Ct., East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

Wednesday, July 25

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Meditation. For beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, 3015 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 351-5866.
Community Yoga. Power yoga class. 6 p.m. FREE. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

EVENTS

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

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

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

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

Colonial Village Walking Group. Meet neighbors and get some exercise at the same time. 10 a.m. FREE. Grace United Methodist, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 580-8560.

Colonial Village Neighborhood Meeting. The Association meets on the third Wednesday. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Grace United Methodist, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 482-5750.

Life Size Candy Land Game. Family Fun. 1-7 p.m. FREE. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156. www.dewittlibrary.org.

Knit-Wits. Bring a project of your own or join us in one of our community projects. 3:30 p.m. FREE. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156. www.dewittlibrary.org.

Teen Night at Spiral. With DJ Alabama from 97.5. Ages 14-18 can dance in a safe and fun environment. 7 p.m.-Midnight, \$10. Spiral Dance

Bar, 1247 Center St., Lansing. (517) 371-3221aDD. www.spiraldancebar.com.

Lansing Walkability Audit. Join for a weekly training and group walk. 3-5 p.m. FREE. Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 367-2468. midmeac.org.

Prayer and Meditation Group. Pray & meditate together in peace. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. www.PilgrimUCC.com.

MUSIC

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

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

Concerts in the Park. Featuring the Fabulous Oldies But Goodies. 7 p.m. FREE. Grand River Park, 3001 Lansing Road, Lansing. (810) 347-4820.

Author. Indie rock. 6 p.m. \$7. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795. www.macsbar.com.

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

THEATER

"Othello." One of Shakespeare's greatest tragedies follows a love triangle that leads to murder. 7 p.m. \$10 preview. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. www.lcc.edu/cma/events.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

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

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

Open Mic Poetry Slam. Featuring poetry, art, and live music, a public venue for poets to recite. 10 p.m. FREE. Adado Riverfront Park, 531 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. geophespen@gmail.

Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsny

July 18-24

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Acro-Yoga is a relatively new physical discipline. According to a description I read on a flyer in Santa Cruz, it "blends the spiritual wisdom of yoga, the loving kindness of massage, and the dynamic power of acrobatics." I'd love to see you work on creating a comparable hybrid in the coming months, Aries — some practice or system or approach that would allow you to weave together your various specialties into a synergetic whole. Start brainstorming about that impossible dream now, and soon it won't seem so impossible.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Unless you grow your own or buy the heirloom variety at farmer's markets, you probably eat a lot of tasteless tomatoes. Blame it on industrial-scale farming and supermarket chains. They've bred tomatoes to be homogenous and bland — easy to ship and pretty to look at. But there's a sign of hope: A team of scientists at the University of Florida is researching what makes tomatoes taste delicious, and is working to bring those types back into mainstream availability. I think the task you have ahead of you in the coming weeks is metaphorically similar, Taurus. You should see what you can do to restore lost flavor, color, and soulfulness. Opt for earthy idiosyncrasies over fake and boring perfection.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It'll be a humming, murmuring, whispering kind of week — a time when the clues you need will most likely arrive via ripples and rustlings and whirrings. Here's the complication: Some of the people around you may be more attracted to clangs and bangs and jangles. They may imagine that the only information worth paying attention to is the stuff that's loudest and strongest. But I hope you won't be seduced by their attitudes. I trust you'll resist the appeals of the showy noise. Be a subtlety specialist who loves nuance and undertones. Listen mysteriously.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Most change is slow and incremental. The shifts happen so gradually that they are barely noticeable while you're living in the midst of them from day to day. Then there are those rare times when the way everything fits together mutates pretty quickly. Relationships that have been evolving in slow motion begin to speed up. Long-standing fixations melt away. Mystifying questions get clear answers. I think you're at one of these junctures now, Cancerian. It's not likely you'll be too surprised by anything that happens, though. That's because you've been tracking the energetic build-up for a while, and it will feel right and natural when the rapid ripening kicks in.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Lately you've been spending time in both the off-kilter parts of paradise and the enchanting areas of limbo. On one notable occasion, you even managed to be in both places simultaneously. How'd you do that? The results have been colorful but often paradoxical. What you don't want and what you do want have gotten a bit mixed up. You have had to paw your way out of a dead-end confusion but have also been granted a sublime breakthrough. You explored a tunnel to nowhere but also visited a thrilling vista that provided you with some medicinal excitement. What will you do for an encore? Hopefully, nothing that complicated. I suggest you spend the next few days chilling out and taking inventory of all that's changed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The painter Philip Guston loved to express himself creatively. He said it helped him to get rid of his certainty, to divest himself of what he knew. By washing away the backlog of old ideas and familiar perspectives, he freed himself to see the world as brand new. In light of your current astrological omens, Virgo, Guston's approach sounds like a good strategy for you to borrow. The next couple of weeks will be an excellent time to explore the pleasures of unlearning and deprogramming. You will thrive by discarding stale preconceptions, loosening the past's hold on you, and clearing out room in your brain for fresh

imaginings.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Nineteenth-century author Charles Dickens wrote extensively about harsh social conditions. He specialized in depicting ugly realities about poverty, crime, and classism. Yet one critic described him as a "genial and loving humorist" who showed that "even in dealing with the darkest scenes and the most degraded characters, genius could still be clean and mirth could be innocent." I'm thinking that Dickens might be an inspirational role model for you in the coming weeks, Libra. It will be prime time for you to expose difficult truths and agitate for justice and speak up in behalf of those less fortunate than you. You'll get best results by maintaining your equanimity and good cheer.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): For many years, ambergris was used as a prime ingredient in perfumes. And where does ambergris come from? It's basically whale vomit. Sperm whales produce it in their gastrointestinal tracts to protect them from the sharp beaks of giant squid they've eaten, then spew it out of their mouths. With that as your model, Scorpio, I challenge you to convert an inelegant aspect of your life into a fine asset, even a beautiful blessing. I don't expect you to accomplish this task overnight. But I do hope you will finish by May of 2013.

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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

From Pg. 19

T	E	M	P		P	C	T		T	R	A	L	A			
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James Sanford/City Pulse

When it comes to shawarma, some like it hot — and Woody's Oasis aims to please. The East Lansing restaurant bakes its chicken shawarma and seasons the meat with red pepper for an extra touch of spiciness.

Shawarma safari

Food Fight gang seeks a dish fit for The Avengers

By ALLAN I. ROSS

If there's a preferred dish for superheroes who have just finished saving the world, it's shawarma. (Need your proof? Sit through the closing credits of "Marvel's The Avengers" again.)

So when the call came that City Pulse readers needed to know who had the best shawarma in town, an elite team of crack-erjack foodies banded together to save Lansing from well, nothing really. Just to find out who had the best shawarma, via this month's Food Fight.

The backstory: Shawarma is a traditional Middle Eastern method of meat preparation in which seasoned strips of beef, chicken, lamb or goat are pounded flat and slow-grilled on a revolving spit — the word "shawarma" itself means "turning" — with shavings cut and served in a sandwich or on a plate. We narrowed the list to six of Greater Lansing's more prominent Middle Eastern restaurants, with the dining experience being graded on a scale of 1 to 10, based on taste, authenticity, service, atmosphere and cost per portion size, with bonus points assessed for a variable X-factor. Decisions were based on either chicken or beef shawarma, depending on availability.

Woody's Oasis: 5.2 out of 10

We skipped the downtown East Lansing restaurant in favor of the company's flagship location on Trowbridge Road, after we were assured by a staffer at the Grand River location that the shawarmas were identical (the Trowbridge Woody's delivers many of its Mediterranean dishes to

the Grand River store). At the Trowbridge location, we encountered a "tough," "stew-like" concoction that was "overly onion-laden" and "swamped in juices." Several of our judges agreed that both beef and chicken varieties "tasted like Mexican food," with one suggesting an overuse of the spice annatto. Although the beef reminded one of us of "Salisbury steak" and the chicken tasted like it "fell out of a fajita," the \$6.50 price for an 8-ounce side was the real deal-breaker. The fact that it was baked and not cooked on a spit cost the location serious authenticity points.

Woody's Oasis, 1050 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing

Abu Sahara: 6.1 out of 10

No rotisserie here, either — sadly, it turns out that baked or grilled shawarma is actually the norm in Lansing, which someone in the group said was "inexcusable, given the fact that we're less than 90 miles from Dearborn," which has the largest Middle Eastern population in the Western Hemisphere. "Lacking any kind of balance" and tasting "like peppered chicken," the best we could say about this "bland" but "attractive"-looking dish was that it did at least have the best value (\$2 for 8 ounces). Apparently, Abu Sahara has a "pretty good lunch buffet," which some of our judges have enjoyed in the past, but we were still scratching our heads at the décor, which combined Tiffany lamps with a mural of the Sahara desert: "This is what Denny's looks like in Qatar," one of us mused.

Abu Sahara, 3536 Meridian Crossings Drive, Okemos

See Food Fight, Page 27

Food Fight

from page 16

Jerusalem Bakery: 6.5 out of 10

The “charming,” “homey” location is basically “a small grocery store with three tables,” and the service was “courteous and personal.” However, some were turned off by the “overuse of curry” in the chicken and found “something missing” in the “chewy” beef, although both were still “flavorful.” The \$4 price tag put it in the middle of the pack for value, but nearly everyone in the group picked up a unique beverage or found some unique food item in the store to attract their attention. Certainly a place worth a repeat visit.

Jerusalem Bakery, 1456 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

New Aladdin: 6.9 out of 10

The baked beef was described as “fall-apart tender” and “wonderful, with a spicy aftertaste,” while the “super-juicy” chicken was “not what I’m used to, but still very good.” The \$5.50 price of the beef was a little high for our tastes, but the “awesome mural” (really, you have to check it out) made it a “thoroughly enjoyable experience.” And that garlic sauce was “intense”: “It’s still dancing on my tongue half an hour later,” said one of the judges.

Still, baked shawarma just didn’t cut it. *New Aladdin’s Restaurant, 300 Clippert St. Suite 7, Frandor Shopping Center, Lansing*

Sultan’s Delight: 8.6 out of 10

Finally — a rotisserie! The “subtle, smoky” chicken (no beef here) was “100 percent authentic,” but “not as spicy” as some us had hoped for. The “marvelous flavor” and the “pleasantly crunchy” texture more than compensated for the “slightly dry” meat. Sultan’s Delight is still a pretty new restaurant, making the interior a little

too “sterile” for a couple of us, but this is downtown East Lansing — give it a couple months for the students to make it feel lived in. At \$2.39 for 8 ounces, this was still a “great price for an awesome meal.” As for the X-factor? One word: gelato. Our entire group did an impromptu taste testing of the various flavors for a pleasant palate cleanser.

Sultan’s Delight, 235 Albert Ave., East Lansing

Sultan’s Restaurant: 8.7 out of 10

Narrowly squeaking past its new baby brother in East Lansing, the original Sultan’s in Hannah Plaza took the honor of best shawarma in town. Check out these accolades: “hot and fresh,” “succulent,” “yummy,” “awesomely juicy,” “the way shawarma is supposed to be made” and “great price” (\$2.39 for 8 ounces). The only downside was that Sultan’s doesn’t serve beef, but the chicken was good enough to cover that base. One of our team is in love with Sultan’s “amazing” bread, which is made in-house; sadly, it was not available when we were there. What a great excuse for a return trip in the near future.

Sultan’s Restaurant, 4790 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing

It’s no coincidence that the only places in town that use a rotisserie to cook their shawarma — the three Sultan’s locations (including the lunchtime-only Express location in downtown Lansing) — are the ones that were rated highest in taste and authenticity. Of course rules and traditions were made to be broken, but when you’re dealing with a hallowed food item such as shawarma, it’s best not do anything that could get a purist angry.

You wouldn’t like a purist when you get one angry.

Got a beef with our picks? Have a suggestion for a Food Fight article? Drop us a line at foodfight@lansingcitypulse.com.

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

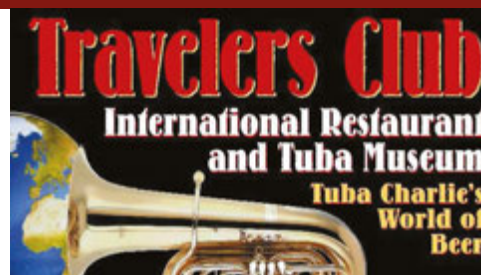
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THEIO'S — Serving breakfast around the clock, Theio's is a place to grab a burger for lunch or satisfy a late-night craving. 2650 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. Open 24 hours. (517) 487-3955. TO, P, WiFi, \$

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