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November 2-8, 2011



Chamber of Commerce



Unions

OFFICIAL BALLOT
City of Lansing
General Election

Polls Open Tuesday
NOVEMBER 8
7a.m. - 8p.m.

**SAME OLD STORY:
BUSINESS VS. UNIONS**

See our Lansing election
preview & endorsements see page 5



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ON NOVEMBER 8TH

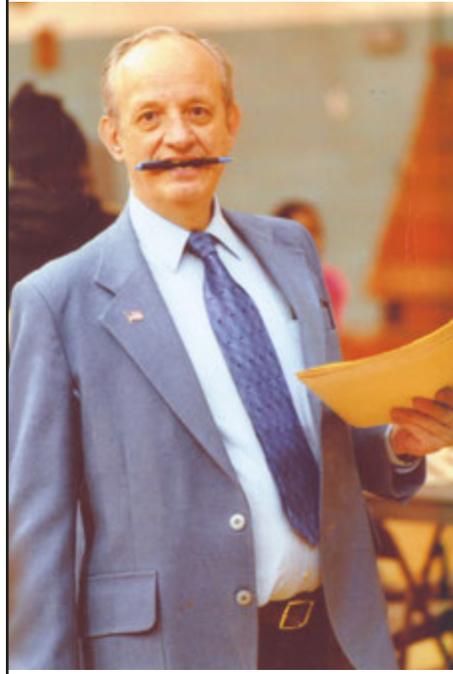


WWW.RORYNEUNER.COM

RORY NEUNER
for Lansing City Council At-Large

People for Rory Neuner, 907 Britten Ave,
Lansing, Michigan 48910

Best move on the Board:
VOTE FOR: Lansing School Board
B. MICHAEL WILLIAMS
aka 'Willy Williams', aka 'the Chess Guy'



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

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THE CHAMBER
helped Gov. Snyder cut our schools to give a \$1.8 billion tax break to rich CEOs.
Lansing Chamber Press Release, 4/29/11

THE CHAMBER
is fighting laws that protect our air, water and health.
Lansing Chamber Press Release, 7/5/11

THE CHAMBER
created a "scam" front group to attack candidates with mail and robocalls.
MLive.com, 10/4/11

THE CHAMBER doesn't want Jody Washington on City Council.
(Learn why: www.jodywashington.com)

Paid for by:
Jody Washington for City Council, 521 Nantucket, Lansing, MI 48906

VOTE
A'Lynne Robinson
Lansing City Council **THIRD WARD**



Listen! Advocate! Lead!

Paid for by the Friends to Elect A'Lynne Robinson



Hi,
I'm Tom Stewart, candidate
for City Council At-Large.

I believe Lansing deserves leadership that will put political gameplaying aside and focus on **helping Lansing prosper** over the next 20 years. If elected, I will focus on encouraging **innovation** and **opportunity** for our city. Please read on to see my plan to put people before politics as a member of city council.

VOTE Tom Stewart

CITY COUNCIL ★ AT-LARGE

Election Day - **November 8**

3 MAIN GOALS	Empowering People	No-Nonsense Government	Regional Cooperation	OUTCOME
EFFICIENT LEADERSHIP • Use online communication to keep residents informed and engaged.	• Reduce council meetings to bi-weekly.	• Hold quarterly meetings with neighboring city councils to tackle common goals.	• More for less • More participation • Better understanding of city issues	
ESSENTIAL CITY SERVICES • Put more officers on the streets and integrate them into our neighborhoods.	• Enforce city codes consistently and fairly.	• Use partnerships to make services like trash removal and snow plowing cheaper and easier.	• Better living • Cleaner & safer neighborhoods • Fair code enforcement	
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES • Facilitate open dialogue between neighborhoods and small businesses.	• Create neighborhood improvement incentives for homeowners.	• Encourage regional funding of regional attractions. (e.g. Potter Park Zoo)	• More jobs • Less bureaucracy • Stronger regional relationships	

PUTTING PEOPLE BEFORE POLITICS TomForLansing.com
 Paid for by the Committee to Elect Tom Stewart, 1801 N. Genesee, Lansing, MI 48915



The change we **NEED**
 A leader we **TRUST**

VOTE
Lynne Martinez

Vote Lynne Martinez for Lansing City Council on Tuesday, November 8

Lynne Martinez
 for 1st Ward City Council

Paid for by: People for Lynne Martinez, 306 Leslie Street, Lansing, Michigan 48912

Feedback

Support "Occupy," vote against Wood

Oh what a beautiful thing to see, the middle class and working poor, college students etc finally doing what they realize must be done. The "occupy" protests all over the country are about good hard working decent people who have done all the right things, only to be shafted and rolled by Corporate greed and corruption, wall streets as yet uncharged crimes, and the right wing protection of the filthy rich.

They are doing it through filibuster and obstruction because of course that's their sole reason for existence and when Corporate stooges like Nolan Finley and Frank Beckmann are squirming like stuck pigs, that's a sure sign you've hit the nail on the head. And, when they put out their manifesto, the people will be behind them.

Lately, while I don't follow City Council closely, I've seen and read enough to make this judgement. Robinson and Martinez should be elected and the clear choices elsewhere are Quinney and Neuner. If you want a functioning and forward looking City Council that will actually work, City Pulse is correct, the bottleneck to progress herself, Carol Wood needs to go, quick. Do your city a favor.

— Steve Jarvis
Lansing

Thanks for a 'heartwarming tribute'

My personal thanks to staff writer Carlee Schepeller for the heartwarming tribute to the late Brian Knoblock.

I knew Brian well and you described this wonderful person perfectly.

— Angelos Vlahakis
East Lansing

Vote no on the millage, vote for Wilkes

On the matter of the millage I am voting No. Millage is not the solution, finding Councilmembers who can reach

consensus is.

On August 15th Councilmember Jeffreys wanted to make a contribution to the Southside Community Coalition and had worked out a procedure to do that. The procedure however was not that desired by President Robinson or Past President Quinney and so since there were only six members present that evening (another topic entirely) the measure failed 4-2. When asked about it at a candidate forum they both said it was purely a matter of procedure.

During the past three years there have been many instances where Robinson and Quinney have shown

that they prize procedure more than people, and if the little guy loses out, that is all right as long as proper procedure is followed.

For this and other reasons I am supporting, and ask the electorate to vote for Jason Wilkes.

— William Hubbell
Lansing

Vote for Derreck Quinney

Dear Mr. Quinney. I have recently had my mail bombarded by the Chamber of Commerce smear job attempts to discredit you. If even half of it is true you WILL have MY vote. The people of this state OVERWHELMINGLY voted to approve medicinal marijuana. It was OUR decision. NOT Bill Schutte's or the Chamber's whose pockets are filled with money from big pharma. WE THE PEOPLE decide how we want to have OUR medicine distributed. Closing dispensaries has put it BACK on the streets and made it dangerous to acquire again for those incapable of growing their own. I applaud your efforts to enable the will of THE PEOPLE. I take the actions of the Chamber or Horrors as typical scare tactics of the 1% and disregard them UTTERLY. ANY candidate with the Chamber's stamp of approval will NOT be getting my vote. THEY ARE THE 1%. We are the 99%. Thank you.

— kdorlich
from lansingcitypulse.com

Corporation campaign contributions

"It's illegal for political candidates to accept campaign contributions from corporations." Now THAT's hilarious. It shows just what a joke our campaign finance laws are. OF COURSE, a corporation can give a candidate money...the only difference is the law doesn't just incentivize but REQUIRES that the corporation throw a cloak over itself and do it through a PAC. This country is a joke.

— BiddleCityGuy
from lansingcitypulse.com

CityPULSE

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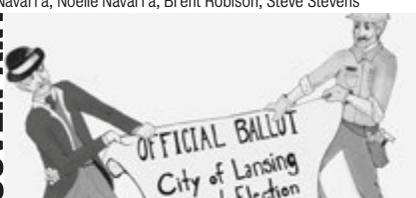
7 p.m. Wednesdays

This Week

Candidates for the Board of Education



COVER ART



TUG OF WAR by JESSICA CHECKEROSKI

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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

Now you have two ways to sound off:

1.) Write a letter to the editor:

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

2.) Write a guest column:

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

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

CityPULSE

endorsements

election 2011

No single word crystallizes Tuesday's city election more than this one: Progress.

Across the Midwest, visionaries are leading old manufacturing cities like ours back to life by drawing new business and hard-working, creative people into its borders.

We're part way there in Lansing. We're not a crime-ridden dump like Saginaw or Flint, but we don't quite have the buzzing, go-to downtown like Indianapolis or Madison either. The Stadium District and the revamped Ottawa Street Power Station shows us what's possible, but there are plenty of examples of what still needs to be done.

The empty, hulking eight-story mass of the old Oliver Towers on Capitol Avenue is Exhibit A. The chewed-up parking lot across the Grand River where the old Farmers Market once stood and the field of waist-high weeds formerly known as the Red Cedar Golf Course off Michigan Avenue are Exhibits B and C.

Picture those properties before filling out your ballot. Davenport University isn't building its new campus at the Oliver Towers site because of a 4-4 split on the Lansing City Council. The Gillespie project for the former Farmers Market site stalled on a 4-4 vote. It took the state Appeals Court to undo the Council's deadlock.

Nobody wins on tie votes. Literally.

At-Large

In August, City Pulse urged voters to say no to Lansing's example of Groucho Marx singing "Whatever it is — I'm against it" — Councilwoman Carol Wood. We have one more opportunity to deny her another four years on the Council. Please, for the city's future, do so.

Instead, **Rory Neuner** deserves to be everybody's first vote in one of two open at-large Council seats. The project coordinator for the Transportation for Michigan Coalition is a local product with an open mind and a strong ability to work well with others.

This bona fide progressive supports or supported solid redevelopment proposals for all three aforementioned vacant properties. Neuner is an unwavering "yes" on the millage vote and has a sensible approach to managing marijuana dispensaries along Michigan Avenue if the courts or the Legislature allows it.

Neuner is a must-vote on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Councilman **Derreck Quinney** has been the city's leading voice for legitimate businesses serving patients



in chronic pain with legal medical marijuana. Instead of playing community politics by dreaming up spooky stories about imagined crime, Quinney has advocated for patients and against empty storefronts.

Yes, Quinney has found himself on the wrong side of some of these 4-4 votes, but we take solace in knowing his principled opposition comes from genuine concern our working men and women. His "no vote" is not political pandering or a finger flip to Mayor Virg Bernero.

We appreciate the organized labor blood running through Quinney's veins, but we would strongly urge this full-time Michigan AFL-CIO official to work his passion into the city's progress as opposed to being labor's rubber stamp.

1st Ward

On Lansing's east side, **Lynne Martinez** has the temperament and experience to be the Council's new 1st Ward councilmember.

Like anyone else, Martinez has strengths and weaknesses. But she thrived as state representative and an Ingham County commissioner, where she represented progressive viewpoints while moving good ideas forward as opposed to throwing up roadblocks.

While her overly scripted opponent also supports selling a piece of the former Red Cedar Golf Course, Martinez didn't need months of study to get there. While her opponent supports the millage, Martinez worked the "yes" vote into her own campaign. Using "progress" as our guide, Martinez is the better choice here.

3rd Ward

No Lansing City Council member has blossomed these last four years more than 3rd Ward Councilwoman **A'Lynne Robinson**. Originally seen as a Wood yes-woman, Robinson is refreshingly open to new ideas while running efficient meetings as Council president.

We also like Robinson's frankness. She's crystal clear on where she stands, unlike her mysterious opponent, whose artful dodging of basic questions on standard city issues is alarming.

In short, Robinson has done nothing to be denied a second term. Rather, she gives us new reasons every week why Lansing needs her for four more years.

Ballot proposals

On the millage vote, voting "yes" should be as automatic as picking up that little black marker, filling in ovals, running the ballot through the machine and taking a sticker. Absolutely no formula for Lansing's success includes fewer police officers, fewer firefighters, fewer mowed parks and fewer plowed streets.

State government shoved its budget cuts onto cities like Lansing, and local leaders have no other place to go. Yes, times are tight, but with declining home values, most property owners don't pay more under this higher millage rate anyway.

Lansing simply cannot make progress if more crime seeps back into our streets. We need a properly staffed police department. We need a **vote yes** on the millage.

The Red Cedar Golf Course proposal may be Lansing's most misunderstood. The question is whether the Lansing City Council can sell off about a quarter of that 48-acre field of urban nothingness.

No specific redevelopment plans are tied to it. The Lansing City Council would still need to sign off on any proposal.

A golf course is not returning and the city can't maintain the parks it has, let alone build a huge new park across the street from Frandor. A guaranteed gated field of city-owned weeds into perpetuity is not progress. What would be progress is creating a greater bridge between MSU and our city, which that stretch of Michigan Avenue is ideal for. We urge a **yes vote** on the Red Cedar Golf Course proposal.

As for a **City Charter revision**, this isn't the time to divert attention from greater needs. No one has made a convincing case that the charter is in serious need of repair. We urge a **no vote**.

School board

Finally, Lansing can't truly progress unless its school district invites parents into its public schools instead of chasing them to East Lansing, Holt, DeWitt,

Okemos, privates or charters.

Let's not focus on the well-documented dysfunctionality of the Lansing Board of Education. We are recommending leaders that see turning the Lansing School District into a selling point by offering classes that mid-Michigan parents want their children in. (Their views were outlined in last week's City Pulse and can be seen free online in the archives of our Digital Edition.)

Peter Spadafore, a Michigan Association of School Boards official, embraces this vision. Spadafore realizes that our public schools' future is offering Chinese immersion programs like that at Post Oak Elementary or the arts curriculum at Pleasant Grove. The LSD is competing for children and it needs to give parents what they want.

Likewise, we feel **Jeff Croff**, a vice president at Astera Credit Union, gets it. As a parent of students in the district, Croff has a vested interest in the district's success. His business experience is nicely complemented by his creative side as the founder and artistic director of a theater company, which will give the arts a needed voice on the board.

Of all the candidates, **Nicole Armbuster** brings the only experience as an incumbent who in her one year as an appointee has avoided the board's factionalism. Moreover, we like her open-mindedness: She is the only candidate who was willing to consider the idea of placing the board under city government, akin to the Board of Water & Light. In these difficult times, all ideas should be considered. Lansing city and the LSD work together to attract people. If that means mayoral appointees on the school board, we're happy to hear this state government property analyst and mother of two Lewton Elementary School children is open to talking about it.

Lansing, its school district and its citizens must be bold together if they are to progress together.

Candidates endorsed by City Pulse are invited to place signs on the front lawn of our building at 1905 E. Michigan Ave.

"Eyesore of the Week" will return next week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call Nyssa Rabinowitz at 999-5064.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

On Tuesday, Lansing residents will vote in three City Council races in the November general election. The 1st Ward, 3rd Ward and two At-Large seats are up for re-election this year. Voters will choose from a field of two 1st Ward candidates, two 3rd Ward candidates and four At-Large candidates. Last month, City Pulse asked each candidate to complete a questionnaire on current issues that the Council is facing. All candidates responded. City Pulse requested answers be 50 words or less. Responses were not edited or condensed. Answers more than 50 words were cut off. To hear more about the candidates' views, listen to the Oct. 19 and Oct. 26 podcasts of "City Pulse on the Air" at www.lansingcitypulse.com/lansing/flex-84-radio-show.html. Residents will also elect three new members to sit on the Board of Education. Voters will choose from a field of nine candidates. Visit the City Pulse digital edition archives to view their responses to our questionnaire in last week's edition. To learn more about the Board of Education candidates' views, listen to the Oct. 12 podcast of "City Pulse on the Air" at www.lansingcitypulse.com/lansing/flex-84-radio-show.html or tune in to 88.9 FM The Impact at 7 tonight to hear a rebroadcast.

1st Ward Candidates

Jody Washington, 55

Education: Lansing Eastern High School, 1974.

Lansing Community College / pre-requisites for Mortuary Science (did not earn degree)

Significant Appointments:

Lansing Fire Board

Elected Positions: None



Lynne Martinez, 63

Education: Ladywood High School, Livonia, MI 1966.

College at LCC and NEIU, Chicago, not completed

Occupation: Self Employed Consultant, Martinez Consulting Group

Significant appointments: Power of We Consortium community representative; Lansing Community Economic Development Network; Design Lansing Stakeholders Group

Elected positions: Ingham County Commissioner, 1985 - 1994; Michigan State Representative, 1994 - 2000



1. Do you think the 1st Ward has benefited or suffered with the recent disappearance of medical marijuana dispensaries, in light of the August Court of Appeals ruling? Why?

The first ward was overly saturated with dispensaries. I support regulations to ensure seriously ill patients have access to their medicine—that includes a few well-regulated dispensaries. The Court of Appeals went too far in placing an outright ban. This can't be an "all or nothing" proposition.

The court ruling has left Michigan Avenue and other parts of the city with again-vacant buildings. It is not clear that crime has decreased or where / how patients and caregivers are doing business. We need to closely monitor impacts on neighborhoods and court rulings still to come.

2. Do you support bringing a casino to Lansing?

Yes, as long as it is kept in the entertainment district and can provide good jobs for Lansing residents. However, it is likely a moot issue, as it appears highly unlikely that the city can work through the numerous legal roadblocks that prevent casino expansions.

I would consider a casino, and will view any proposal with a skeptical eye. A casino could bring new jobs to Lansing and spur growth. It would also have social and public safety costs. I would look carefully at cost / benefit analysis and public opinion before casting a vote.

3. How will you vote on the Red Cedar Golf Course ballot proposal & why?

After research, I support the sale and development of the 12 acres and dealing with the Montgomery Drain issue. I am, however, still concerned that the Council won't exercise the necessary oversight to ensure this project is developed fairly and openly, and uses local workers.

I will vote yes on the ballot proposal and I encourage everyone to support it. This project can spur further revival and development along Michigan Avenue, enhance connections between Lansing and East Lansing, control storm water and pollution of Red Cedar River and provide an attractive and lively park.

4. Did you support a millage increase in May and do you support it this time around?

Yes, provided the money goes toward making our neighborhoods stronger and safer. Crime is rampant throughout our city—we don't have enough public safety personnel to adequately deal with it. Our neighbors are afraid to leave their homes. Further, our citizens are tired of the condition of our roads.

I supported the millage in May and now. Police, Fire responders and road maintenance are essential quality of life services the City must provide. Use of the millage is tightly restricted and will expire in five years. Without millage, we will almost certainly see further cuts in police and fire.

5. Do you think your opponent or her endorsers have engaged in a positive campaign?

No. Lynne Martinez' campaign is supported by the Chamber of Commerce. They advocated for Governor Snyder's plan to slash education to pay for tax breaks for businesses and stand for stripping away collective bargaining. They are now showing their true colors by attacking candidates through a shady front group.

Some has been positive and some not so much.

6. Is the administration's plan to naturalize some city parks a good way to balance budgetary problems and the social benefits of parkland?

I don't call it "naturalization." It is "abandonment." My answer is no. Abandoning our parks reduces the quality of life in our city. We can't attract new businesses and jobs to Lansing, if we let our city become a place where nobody wants to live.

The budget situation means that serious cuts will be needed. I support a comprehensive discussion with lots of public input about repurposing and maintenance of city parks. We need to seek input from and cooperation with neighborhoods about priorities and possibilities.

3rd Ward Candidates

A'Lynne Robinson, 42

Education: Everett High School, 1987. University of Michigan, 1990.

Occupation: School Administrator

Significant appointments: Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan - trustee and board development committee; Michigan Works - administrative board; Employee Retirement System (ERS) - board;

Lewton-Rich Neighborhood Association

Elected positions: President - Lansing City Council (2 terms); Vice president - Lansing City Council; Vice president Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Lansing alumnae chapter; Executive board - Lewton Rich Neighborhood Association.



Jason Wilkes, 37

Education: Grand Ledge High School, 1993. Lansing Community College

Occupation: Production Worker; Bridgewater Interiors

Significant appointments: CAP Delegate - UAW Local 724; Chairman UAW Community Service Committee Bridgewater Interiors Unit; Health and safety committee - Bridgewater Interiors; Averill Woods Neighborhood Association public safety liaison; Kozminski Charity Car Show coordinator.

Elected positions: No elected offices held, been elected to community and job related positions.



1. Do you think the 3rd Ward has benefited or suffered with the recent disappearance of medical marijuana dispensaries, in light of the August Court of Appeals ruling? Why?

I do not believe the Third Ward has suffered as a result of the recent court rulings. The Southwest side of Lansing did not have an overwhelming number of dispensaries.

I have been involved in many committee meetings and public forums where residents voiced concerns about the number of dispensaries. I cannot control what the courts decide and must wait and see what the outcome will be.

2. Would a downtown casino benefit the 3rd Ward?

We will not know the potential benefits of a casino, to the Third Ward or the city as a whole, until a proposal is presented.

At this point there is no way of knowing. I question, will this bring increased tax revenues? Will it create jobs for 3rd Ward residents? These are questions that are not known. Has the current downtown development benefitted the 3rd Ward residents?

3. How will you vote on the Red Cedar Golf Course ballot proposal & why?

I am in favor of the ballot proposal. My goal is always to put issues such as this before the voting public. The question on the ballot is: does city council have permission from the public to sell the property. It is a first step in the process that could

I support it being on the ballot and allowing the residents to decide. I know that Parks Millage's have passed in Lansing for 15 years, obviously meaning they think parks are important. With no concrete proposal in front of us, it is concerning.

4. Did you support a millage increase in May and do you support it this time around?

Yes and Yes

I questioned the millage language not dedicating where the money was to go in May. It is now dedicated and we must have adequate public safety, this will help sustain or reduce the amount of layoffs in public safety.

5. Do you think your opponent or her endorsers have engaged in a positive campaign?

Neighbors, family and friends have expressed concerns with a call they received that expressed an extremely negative and false message about me. To that end I am saddened that they had to be exposed to such a call. However, I am encouraged by the enormous amount of support I have

To this point, my opponent and I have engaged in discussions on the issues. I pledge to run a positive and clean campaign; I would expect the same of my opponent.

6. Is the administration's plan to naturalize some city parks a good way to balance budgetary problems and the social benefits of parkland?

The information that council has received thus far does not show enough budgetary savings to off set and/or justify the detrimental social affect some of the naturalization will have on neighborhoods. As council president I scheduled a joint meeting with the parks board, my colleagues and I to review this

Neighborhood parks are essential to property values. Decisions should be made that do not bring down property values and quality of neighborhoods. Neighborhood Associations have engaged city employees and worked together to maintain our parks in the past. There are many other ways to cut the budget.

At-Large Candidates

Rory L. Neuner, 31

Education: Haslett High School, Class of 1998. Yale University, B.A., political science, 2003; University of Chicago, master of public policy (MPP), 2008.

Occupation: Project coordinator for the Transportation for Michigan Coalition
Significant Appointments and Elected Positions: Ingham County Women's Commission; City of Lansing Public Service Board; REO Town Commercial Association Board of Directors; South Lansing Community Development Association Board



Derreck Quinney, 56

Education: First graduating class of Harry Hill High School, 1973.

Occupation: Director of health and safety, Michigan AFL-CIO; Incumbent Lansing City Council member at-large.
Significant appointments and elected positions: Former member of the Lansing Board of Police Commissioners; Elected Officials Compensation Board; United Labor Loans Executive; Honorary Old News Boys of Great Lansing Board Member; Community Services Board Member of the United Auto Workers



Tom Stewart, 29

Education: Bath High School, 2000. Michigan State University, 2005.

Occupation: Small business consultant
Significant Appointments: Chair, Organization Committee, Downtown Lansing, Inc.; President, Art Alley; Board of Directors, REO Town Commercial Association; Member, Business Development Committee, Westside Commercial Association; 2010 recipient, Lansing Regional Chamber 10 Over the Next 10 Award; Advisory Board, Capital Area United Way Young Leader's Society
Elected Positions: none



Carol Wood, 61

Education: J. W. Sexton High School, 1968. Some college courses at University of Alaska, Anchorage, Alaska 1969.

Occupation: CEW Consultant LLC; Elected member of the Lansing City Council
Significant appointments: Crime Victims Advocacy Council; Board hospice community awareness/Professional advisory committee; MSU College of Social Science community group; Lansing Community College dental hygienist program advisory board; Neighborhood Association of Michigan; Principle shopping district comprehensive master plan; Retired senior volunteer program advisory board; Lansing police reorganization committee; Billboard adhoc committee; Kellogg Foundation "Community Voices"; President City Council; Vice president City Council
Elected positions: At-Large Lansing City Council Member, three terms



1. Do you think the city has benefited or suffered with the recent disappearance of medical marijuana dispensaries, in light of the August Court of Appeals ruling? Why?

Prior to the ruling, I supported policy that would ensure dispensaries met standards similar of what we require of other businesses, including zoning regulations and health and safety standards. I never wanted to see all dispensaries shuttered. I am now concerned about patients' ability to access the care they need.

The issue of medical marijuana has become a divisive political tactic in our city. A majority of Michigan residents support the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes as evident by the 2008 election results. On one side patients have lost access and property owners are left with vacant storefronts.

The grief caused to Lansing residents due to poor regulation of medical marijuana has been unnecessary and hard to stomach. After all this turbulence, I believe it is in the best interest of the city for the dispensaries to remain closed until more fair and consistent solutions have been reached.

Regulations that allow patients & caregivers to have safe environment without negatively impacting the supporting community is what makes sense for Lansing. This question will be answered in the Court of Appeals and many owners listened to their own attorneys and decided to close their doors.

2. Did you support a millage increase in May and do you support it this time around?

I supported the May millage and will vote yes on November 8th. The severity of our budget situation means we are not adequately maintaining basic infrastructure or investing in public safety. How are we to attract residents and businesses if we aren't willing to invest in basic, vital services?

Yes, I supported it in May and I continue to work on educating folks around town about this issue. Now is a time to invest in our public health and safety.

Yes for both. This is about funding the core services a municipal government is responsible for providing its residents. The alternative – laying off police and continuing to let our roads deteriorate – will only serve to impede the progress Lansing residents are fighting so hard to create.

I voted for the millage increase in May and will support the millage by voting yes in on November 8th.

3. How will you vote on the Red Cedar Golf Course ballot proposal and why?

I will vote yes. That proposal gives us a potential opportunity to create a gateway between East Lansing and our City's Eastside, and remediate the serious environmental issues on that site. Council would still get to weigh in on an actual proposal. Let's trust that process.

Investing in our Michigan Avenue corridor will not only create jobs during the construction phase of the project and increase economic activity on the east side, it will also allow us an opportunity to address many longstanding environmental concerns with the area as well. I will vote Yes.

I support this initiative. Putting this site up for sale doesn't mean we have to sell. This can be an opportunity for Lansing to preserve green space and create an attractive gateway into the city. I won't accept a deal that's anything less than what's best for Lansing.

I am voting no. I believe:

- The heritage of our community is dedicated park land
- Must preserve it
- Park property helps to ensure quality of life & is a proven economic engine
- River will be clean whether the property is sold or not

4. Do you support the city's proposed development agreement with Davenport University that would lead to razing Oliver Towers? Do you think it's an equitable trade? Should LCC be considered for the property?

I was disappointed to see that four of our current Councilmembers voted against having a public hearing on the matter. That's business as usual, and I hope it doesn't push Davenport out of the City of Lansing.

The Davenport University proposal has been withdrawn. I support taking a look at any and all proposals on the table that seek to invest in that property. LCC should absolutely be considered along with anyone else. I would love to see some new activity over there.

Yes, I supported the development deal. Yes, I would've liked to see a public hearing on the issue to determine whether it was an equitable deal. I truly believe if we had tried to forge a compromise between LCC and Davenport, we could've come up with a win-win solution.

I did not vote against Davenport but for taxpayers. You want to sell your home, someone offers to swap houses then someone else turns up on your door step and offers you \$2.5 million, would you need more than 45 minutes to understand all the ramifications, I did and you

5. Do you think your opponents or their endorsers have engaged in a positive campaign?

For the most part, yes, I think they have.

I don't concern myself with how others choose to represent themselves or candidates they have endorsed. I am out hitting doors almost every night talking to people who can't afford glossy mailers or robo calls – I am much more interested in what real people have to say.

I was surprised to see the amount of negative campaign tactics used at this local level; however, I believe for the most part the candidates have treated each other with respect. I've really enjoyed getting to know everyone on an individual level.

Having been involved in four campaigns for Council this has been the most negative. I believe my opponents or those that have endorsed them have engaged in a negative campaign so far with five robo calls and six negative pieces of literature directed against the incumbents.

6. Do you support bringing a casino to Lansing? Why or why not?

From what I understand, there are tremendous legal hurdles to the proposal. I'd like to see our economic development strategy focus more on items that would positively benefit quality of life, such as improving the look of the commercial corridors on the Southside, on bringing a grocery store to downtown.

The casino project is intriguing. I look forward to hearing more information about what exactly will be proposed. I am open to sitting down with stakeholders and going from there.

No. I don't believe the short-term benefits of bringing a casino to Lansing will come close to balancing the long term detrimental effects casinos often have on the financial stability and public safety of communities. In short, quantity is not always quality and I'm looking for long-term solutions.

As stated in the this newspaper this is a very complicated issue and isn't as simple as yes or no answer and requires a great deal more information before I am willing to state my position.

The race for Council: 2011

The underbelly of local politics

As Mark Twain wrote more than 100 years ago: "... when you are in politics you are in a wasp's nest with a short shirt-tail ..."

Ask Lansing City Council candidates, particularly in the 1st Ward and At-Large races, and they might liken the past few weeks to living and campaigning in a wasp's nest.

Over the past two weeks in the At-Large race, a campaign consultant for At-Large incumbent Derrick Quinney, a labor-backed, labor-employed candidate (he's an executive with the state AFL-CIO), accused the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce of "bigoted" and "racist" political strategies. In the 1st Ward, one candidate, Jody Washington, said her opponent, Lynne Martinez, is taking advantage of "tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars" to consult on Ingham County Land Bank initiatives, which turned out to be

about half that. (Washington corrected herself, but said the dollar amount was immaterial.) And at times, some candidates have been left in the awkward position of being affiliated with their endorsers' dirty campaign tactics after having pledged to run positive campaigns themselves.

Is it any surprise that, with less than a week to go before Lansing residents elect candidates to fill four positions on the City Council, the races have been divided between business- and labor-backed candidates? Not really. It might be argued that it's a predictable political narrative for this town.

And perhaps it's getting so heated because, as one Democratic political strategist said, all of the races are close.

"The only thing I'd be surprised about is the idea that someone will pull away from one of these races," said Todd Cook, of Lansing-based Main Street Strategies. And when you get down to it, he said, candidates might have to renege on their positive-campaign promises in order to distinguish themselves from other candidates. "Elections are about differences. If you're laying out the differences between yourself and your opponent in an effective manner, that benefits you."

But what happens when, say, you don't agree with what those who endorse you are doing? Or you don't agree with positions they've taken on issues?

Campaign literature

From top: Paid for by the Greater Lansing Labor Council; Paid for by Greater Lansing Progress; Paid for by Jody Washington for City Council.

case anymore. If they've endorsed you, they're gonna put resources into this race."

So, do endorsements even matter if they don't fully explain where a candidate stands on issues? "They matter in terms of campaign resources," Cook said. "If you're gonna take someone's endorsement, that means you get the good with the bad. You don't get to cherry-pick — 'I only like the good parts and all the bad parts I don't like' — come on, give me a break."

Cook is referring to the chamber, which supports Tom Stewart and Rory Neuner in the At-Large race, A'Lynne Robinson in the 3rd Ward and Martinez in the 1st Ward. The chamber also supports the ballot proposal to sell nearly 13 acres of the former Red Cedar Golf Course, but it opposes the 4-mill property tax increase for police, fire and road services in the city. All of the chamber's candidates support the millage.

Over the past few years, campaign finance records show that the chamber has contributed to both Republicans and Democrats (the Council races are nonpartisan). That includes Republican Rick Jones for state Senate, Republican Deb Shaughnessy for the state House, and Steve Dougan and Andy Schor for Ingham County commissioner — a Republican and Democrat, respectively. In the 2009 city races, it spent \$10,000 on Mayor Virg Bernero's campaign, \$2,500 on At-Large Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar's campaign and \$2,000 on 4th Ward Councilwoman Jessica Yorke. In 2007, it spent \$5,000 on Gina Nelson's failed At-Large campaign.

Cook, who worked at the chamber from 2003 to 2007, said the chamber is spending much more on local elections than it did in his four years. Kristin Beltzer, who has Cook's former job as senior vice president of government affairs and public relations, said it's true the chamber has increased the amount of money it's put into local elections. "I think we've worked very hard on that. Our membership looks at us for a voice of reason. We've worked hard to build a strong PAC," she said.

Beltzer also said the chamber "absolutely" realizes that its candidates may not agree with every position the chamber supports. "We know these are independent thinkers. We don't expect people to line up with us all the time. We do expect people to be open-minded and straight with us. Sometimes we run into (disagreements)."

At-Large: Politics is a contact sport

An e-mail Friday landed in my inbox from a campaign consultant for Quinney, a black man seeking re-election for his At-Large Council seat, accusing the chamber of "race baiting" and "bigotry" in its latest literature against Quinney's record on medical marijuana dispensaries. Joe DiSano, the consultant from Main Street Strategies (the same firm as Cook), accused the chamber of darkening a photo of Quinney, which chamber

By ANDY BALASKOVITZ

Lansing's Working Families Deserve Strong Voices on the City Council



Lansing City Council At-Large
Carol Wood

Lansing City Council At-Large
Derreck Quinney

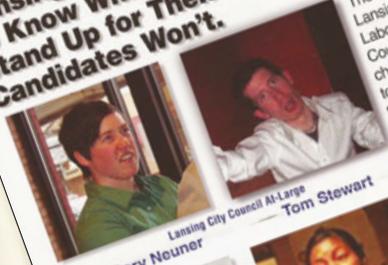
Lansing City Council First Ward
Jody Washington

Lansing City Council Third Ward
Jason Wilkes

Each of these candidates endorsed by the Greater Lansing Labor Council have shown a strong commitment to issues facing working people.

Elect Carol Wood, Derreck Quinney, Jody Washington and Jason Wilkes to the Lansing City Council on Tuesday, August 2nd!

Lansing's Working Families Need to Know Which Candidates Will Stand Up for Them. And Which Candidates Won't.



Lansing City Council At-Large
Rory Neuner

Lansing City Council At-Large
Joe Manzella

Lansing City Council Third Ward
A'Lynne Robinson

The Greater Lansing Labor Council chose not to endorse these candidates because of their support for developers using Lansing's tax dollars to hire non-union, scab contractors.

Neuner, Stewart, Manzella and Robinson Are On the Side Of Anti-Labor Developers. Vote No on Neuner, Stewart, Manzella and Robinson on August 2nd

Let's look at the FACTS.

First, Councilman Derrick Quinney took campaign contributions from Lansing marijuana shop owners. Days later, Councilman Quinney voted against reforms to keep marijuana shops away from our schools, out of our neighborhoods and out of Lansing's historic Michigan Ave. Quinney also opposed a limit on the number of shops, even though Lansing has more marijuana shops than pharmacies. Campaign money from marijuana shops? Then votes to oppose common sense marijuana shop regulation?



DERRECK QUINNEY Lansing deserves better.

"I'M NOT NEW TO POLITICS."
"I'M NOT A NEW QUANTITY."
- LYNNE MARTINEZ

"WHEN YOU'RE A CAREER POLITICIAN, YOU LOSE FOCUS OF THE SERVICE AND IT BECOMES MORE ABOUT THE PAYCHECK."
- JODY WASHINGTON

COMMUNITY SERVICE

PUBLIC SAFETY

ON NOV. 8, VOTE FOR JODY WASHINGTON - NOT THE STATUS QUO

Follow the money

A look at campaign finance report filings since Friday.

1st Ward

Lynne Martinez

Aug. 23-Oct. 23: \$16,485.43

Total: \$24,377.35

Notable contributors: Pat Gillespie (\$500); Chris Swope (\$50); Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce PAC (\$5,000); Lansing Association for Human Rights PAC (\$700); Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan PAC (\$1,000); Virg Bernero (\$300 personally and \$100 from campaign committee); Eric Schertzing (\$125); Sam Eyde Construction Company (\$100)*

Jody Washington

Aug. 23-Oct. 23: \$9,237

Total: \$16,347.19

Notable contributors: UAW V-PAC (\$2,500); Carol Wood (\$50); James Herbert, CEO of Neogen (\$200); Operating Engineers Local 324 PAC (\$1,000); Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 333 PAC (\$1,000)

3rd Ward

A'Lynne Robinson

Jan. 1-Oct. 23: \$6,365

Total: \$6,365

Notable contributors: Pat Gillespie (\$100); Chris Swope (\$25); Mid Michigans Patient Group (\$25)**; Pretendia LLC (\$100); Virg Bernero (\$100 from campaign committee); CAP PAC (\$2,000); Joel Ferguson (\$250)

Jason Wilkes

May 27-Oct. 23: \$1,160

Total: \$4,400

Notable contributors: Carol Wood (\$25); Kitty Lipsky of Teamsters Local 580 (\$100); John Pollard (\$50)

At-Large

Rory Neuner

Aug. 23-Oct. 23: \$7,755

Total: \$25,983

Notable contributors: Pat Gillespie (\$1,000); Chris Swope (\$50); Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce PAC (\$8,000 total); Lansing Association for Human Rights PAC (\$450 total)

Derrick Quinney

Aug. 22-Oct. 23: \$10,270

Total: \$24,002.83

Notable contributors: Michigan Education Association PAC (\$150); Operating Engineers Local 324 PAC (\$500); Kelly Rossman-McKinney (\$100); Chris Swope (\$100); IBEW C.O.P.E. (\$1,000); Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 333 PAC (\$1,000); Brian Jeffries (\$200)

Tom Stewart

Aug. 23-Oct. 23: \$3,110

Total: \$12,680.39

Notable contributors: CAP PAC (\$5,000 total)

Carol Wood

Aug. 23-Oct. 23: \$4,970

Total: \$13,535

Notable contributors: Eric Hewitt (\$100); Operating Engineers Local 324 (\$300); Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 333 (\$700 total); Jason Wilkes (\$20); Citizens for a Better Government (\$1,250)

* Martinez said she returned this contribution out of fear it would have violated campaign finance laws for accepting a contribution from a corporation.

** MichiganMessenger.com reported Monday that this contribution is from a not-for-profit corporation, which also would have been illegal. Robinson told City Pulse Tuesday that her campaign is resolving the issue and would return the money if required.

Election

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President Tim Daman adamantly denies. The campaign literature was distributed by the group Greater Lansing Progress, which Daman called an “effort and initiative within the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce.”

Quinney said Sunday he'll let residents decide for themselves if the photo was actually darkened and that he doesn't want to make it a “race issue.”

“They've (the Chamber) certainly gone above and beyond with all the blatant lies and trying to paint me as a drug dealer,” he said referring to the medical marijuana literature. “I'm really disappointed but not surprised as to the depths the chamber folks will go. Do I think (the photo) was doctored? You can be the judge of that.” Quinney emphatically agrees, though, with the notion that the chamber has been trying to suggest he is a drug dealer.

In fact, Quinney's position on medical marijuana dispensaries was basically lock-step with that of the mayor's. Both supported allowing dispensaries in any zoned property in the city, except for residential and parking. Both were against capping the number of them and believed the buffering requirements between businesses would have sufficiently solved a clustering problem. Both believe that without dispensaries, the medical marijuana trade would revert, illegally, to neighborhoods and from people's homes. Bernero even had City Attorney Brig Smith draft an ordinance outlining these rules, but that received little to no attention in the media and at City Hall.

Quinney's campaign also released a radio ad Tuesday that will run through Monday. In the 60-second spot, Quinney says the “Chamber of Commerce is spending thousands of dollars to distort my voting record.” He also says, in light of Bernero supporting Neuner: “On Council issues, Mayor Virg Bernero has a right to his opinion but he is not my boss. The people of Lansing are.”

Quinney said the negative campaigning “was not this bad at all” when he ran for Council in 2007. Carol Wood, who's seeking her fourth term as an At-Large Council member, agrees and had this to say in a City Pulse questionnaire: “Having been involved in four campaigns for Council, this has been the most negative,” citing “five robo calls and six negative pieces of literature” against incumbents.

The chamber's Daman said Friday in response to DiSano's claims: “To step out and call us a racist organization is appalling.”

Daman said the claims about the photo darkening are “not factual and not true. I'm deeply offended. They have a candidate in trouble and this is what they're stooping to.”

But Daman defended the general tone of the mailings. “It raises the level of awareness voters of Lansing need to be educated on as they vote to re-elect candidates.”

(The chamber's fliers also appropriated a photo of Quinney from City Pulse, whose attorney has sent the chamber a cease and desist order; Daman said Tuesday any future fliers will not use the photo.)

The mailing, which comes from Greater Lansing Progress, is the latest in a series of fliers that attack Quinney's record on medical marijuana dispensary regulations. For the At-Large candidates whom the chamber endorsed — Rory Neuner and Tom Stewart — the Quinney mailings have been nothing short of disappointing and awkward. Both have said recently that their intent all along was to run positive campaigns. Both have used the word “disappointed” when asked about the Chamber's ... er, Greater Lansing Progress' ... tactics.

“I'm trying to run a campaign based on rising above (negative politics),” Stewart, who's in his first bid for an elected position, said Sunday. “It's a little discouraging to have that happen.”

But Stewart said it goes both ways — he mentioned campaign literature that surfaced before the Aug. 2 primary election that targeted him, Neuner, then-1st Ward candidate Joe Manzella and 3rd Ward incumbent A'Lynne Robinson “because of their support for developers using Lansing's tax dollars to hire non-union, scab contractors,” the mailing — paid for by the Greater Lansing Labor Council, said. Stewart said the labor group used a “drunk picture” of him from Facebook and other not-so-flattering photos

of Neuner, Manzella and Robinson, compared to the Labor Council's candidates — Quinney, Carol Wood, Jody Washington and Jason Wilkes. “There have been dirty tactics back and forth,” Stewart said.

However, the At-Large race to most observers is for second between Neuner and Quinney. Wood swept the primary with more than 31 percent of the vote out of five candidates, leaving doubts both Quinney and Neuner could pass her.

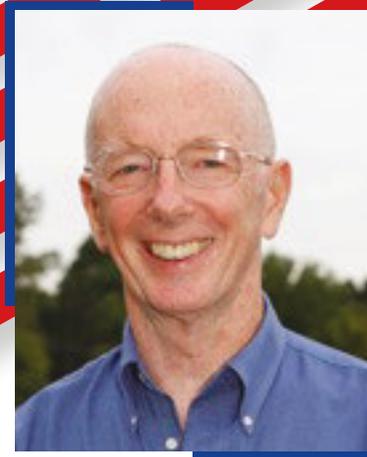
“It's made my life difficult because people are torn who want to support my campaign and Derrick's and they feel alienated,” Neuner said last week.

Neuner said she “made it clear” in candidate interviews with the chamber that she does not agree with state legislation that proposed to take away prevailing wage and project labor agreements. She also does not agree with the chamber's position of not supporting the millage. And as for a descriptor on Greater Lansing Progress' website that says “Ingham County recently adopted a so-called Pollution Prevention ordinance that imposes costly and duplicative regulations on businesses that handle hazardous materials”?

“I work for an environmental organization,” Neuner said of her employer, the Transportation for Michigan. “There's very clear evidence that every dollar we spend on reducing pollution has a positive effect on quality of life and well being.”

See Election, Page 10

Vote: STEPHEN MANCHESTER for Lansing School Board



Over 45 Years Working with People for the Common Good

- Citizens for Lansing Schools; Co-chair; election campaign to fund Pattengill School construction
- Policy Specialist with non-profit association; early education and child-development
- Community Mental Health Board; Chairperson, Finance Chair
- Ingham County Board of Health; Chairperson
- Michigan House of Representatives; Analyst in K-12 Education/Finance
- University of Michigan School of Medicine; Education Consultant
- High School English/Social Studies Teacher; Redford Twp., Michigan
- Peace Corps Teacher; Tanzania, Africa

The “buck stops” with the Lansing School Board and its top administrators; success is credited to the efforts of many.

On the Board, I will take the heat as needed and heap praise broadly on students, teachers, staff, and community participants for our successes.

Election

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"I hope voters will see I'm trying to stand on my own two feet with this. They're not voting on whether to elect the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, but me," she said. "The thing I'm most concerned about is this distance between the labor community and the business community. Right now this community is strained."

1st Ward: 'I don't think informing people is negative'

Jody Washington, in a Sunday evening phone interview, said the media — particularly City Pulse — is devoting questionable coverage to her race against Martinez. Washington said she's "being hammered on" for one mailing her campaign sent out against the Ingham County Land Bank paying Martinez "tens of thousands" of dollars for consulting work.

"I've made one sentence and you said I've been running a negative campaign and that's what this is about. I think you've been fair but you've got to understand my frustration in all of this. You have not asked her any tough questions," she said. "(Martinez) has not been held to the same standard as I have. I want you to be tough on me, but ask everybody the tough questions."

A second mail piece from Washington calls herself "The New Voice" and Martinez "The Career Politician." Like the first mailer, Washington cites Martinez's Land Bank con-

tract on a bike-sharing program: "At a time when crime is rampant and people can't find work, Martinez's job is to use taxpayer dollars to launch a county program for people to share bicycles." Washington also says Martinez is "not supported by any police and fire organizations." Washington landed endorsements from both of the local police and fire unions, while Martinez announced Tuesday the support of Ingham County Sheriff Gene Wriggelsworth.

Martinez defended the contract on "City Pulse on the Air" by saying her job was to "facilitate a variety of stakeholders and bring them together and build consensus. ... Eric Schertzing trusted me to facilitate those meetings and get the job done."

Washington also criticized Martinez on the same radio show for accepting the chamber's endorsement. Martinez said on the Oct. 19 show that "I'm really saddened and disappointed in the conversation that has begun to go on in this race. This isn't about business versus labor. ... It isn't about personalities bickering," she said.

Martinez added that she's "pleased to have the chamber's endorsement." She does not agree with the chamber's support of Gov. Rick Snyder's tax cuts for businesses and cuts to public education funding. Martinez also supports the millage proposal in the city, but she incorrectly stated on the Oct. 19 radio show that the chamber is too. "The chamber is well aware that I support labor, I support collective bargaining, prevailing wage," she said.

The major campaign contributions, though, show that it really is business ver-

sus labor, whether Martinez wants to admit it or not. Martinez received \$5,000 from the chamber's PAC this election, while Washington received \$4,500 between the UAW, Operating Engineers Local 324 and Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 333. Washington's landed the endorsement of most union groups in Lansing, including the Michigan Education Association.

3rd Ward: The quiet candidates

The race for the southwest side of town, however, is comparatively quieter and less contentious than what's played out in the 1st and At-Large races.

A'Lynne Robinson, who's seeking her second term as 3rd Ward Councilwoman, mentioned in a City Pulse campaign questionnaire that "neighbors, family and friends have expressed concerns" about a robocall portraying "an extremely negative and false message about me. To that end I am saddened that they had to be exposed to such a call. However, I am encouraged by the enormous amount of support I have received and appreciation for the high and positive road my campaign has chosen to take."

Robinson's opponent, Jason Wilkes, was asked the same question about whether he thought his opponent was engaging in a positive campaign. "To this point, my opponent and I have engaged in discussion on the issues. I pledge to run a positive and clean campaign; I would expect the same of my opponent."

In an interview, Robinson said "I think 3rd Ward residents expressed very, very clearly that is nothing they want to see and it would bode very negatively for the indi-

vidual who chose to go that route."

However, you could argue that none of the Council candidates are engaging in dirty politics — it's their endorsers. Robinson — who's endorsed by the chamber — said it's "cowardly" to not own up to the claims made in robocalls or mailings. "Certainly if I was going to point out somebody's shortcomings, I would own it. Those would be places I depart from anyone using those tactics, both the chamber and organized labor."

Robinson said particularly the At-Large race has taken on "a life of its own."

"Individuals endorsed by both camps (the chamber and organized labor) are pawns at this point," she said. "That is now a race between those two camps and individuals are caught up in it."

Wilkes could not be reached for an interview for this story.

Cook, of Main Street Strategies, summed up why the 3rd Ward "has been the quietest of all the Council races."

"In the 1st you have Lynne Martinez, who is a known quantity and has been around. Jody Washington is very aggressive, with strong endorsements from groups considering she's a first-time candidate. In the At-Large you have some interesting personalities there. The 3rd Ward has an overall theme of a couple of candidates out working the community and shaking hands along the way," Cook said. "There's not as much heat coming out of that. ... You haven't seen this sparring back and forth between the two camps, either, which is another thing that drives attention. When there's no conflict, it's hard to write about." ■

Ballot proposals

By Andy Balaskovitz

Millage: Part deux

For the second time in six months, Lansing voters will be asked to support an increase in the city's operating millage rate to bolster revenue for police and fire protection as well as local road maintenance. All

eight City Council candidates support it.

Voters shot it down 52 percent to 48 percent May. What will they say this time?

While the city is asking for the same 4-mill increase — which would raise the city's operating millage rate from 15.44 to 19.44 — this proposal stands to generate \$7.6 million instead of \$8 million, which is what would have been generated in May.

Also, this money would go toward the next fiscal year budget and not affect any of those departments' budgets until July 1, 2012. The proposed increase represents a \$4 increase for every \$1,000 of a property's taxable value.

The proposal would allow the city to override the Headlee Amendment for five years, allowing it to raise the taxing capacity to 20 mills. The cap is slightly above 19.1 mills. Theoretically, the Council could raise the operating millage rate by about 3.7 mills without voter approval, but no Council member or candidate has pledged he or she will do that if this proposal fails.

This proposal also differs from May's because dollar amounts are allocated specifically for police, fire and road maintenance: 1.5 mills each for police and fire (or \$2.85 million) and 1 mill (or \$1.9 million) for local road maintenance.

Some critics of the millage in May, such as 3rd Ward Council candidate Jason Wilkes, have said they were skeptical about voting yes because they were concerned the revenue wouldn't ultimately go to those services, but elsewhere in the General Fund budget. The Council approved a non-binding resolution the night before the May 3 special election saying it would be used for those services.

However, similar to the circumstance in May, the city is anticipating another budget

deficit for the next fiscal year — to the tune of \$12 million to \$15 million. To balance this fiscal year's budget shortfall, the city laid off 36 police officers and 11 firefighters and closed three fire stations. Eleven of those police positions were recently filled with a federal grant.

Because property taxes are calculated by the taxable value of a house — which have largely been on the decline — Mayor Virg Bernero said recently that, like with the May proposal, most property owners won't see a net tax increase on their property.

"A significant amount of misinformation about this millage has been circulating. It's been characterized by some as the largest tax increase in history, but most homeowners would see a lower property tax bill even with the millage," he told the City Council Oct. 24. On that same night, the Council unanimously approved a non-binding resolution that says it "fully and enthusiastically" supports the millage.

Some political observers said the first try failed because millage supporters did not target absentee voters soon enough.

"I think the public safety millage will do better than it did before," said Todd Cook, a Democratic political consultant with Lansing-based Main Street Strategies. "The most likely scenario is that it squeaks out a win. (Supporters) have been more aggressive working the absentee vote than last time."



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A charter revision: Is it worth it?

What would the city of Lansing have to gain by rewriting its City Charter? Not much, says the city clerk.

"I don't see a benefit to it. It would be distracting," said Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope.

The City Charter is a 28-page document that outlines the duties of elected officials, boards and commissions, as well as the general regulatory structure of the city including assessments and taxation. It establishes the process of adopting new legislation. Basically, the charter sets the ground rules for how the city works.

The current charter was adopted by Lansing voters in 1978 and has been amended twice since, in 1993 and 1994. One of the provisions in the 1978 charter said voters would automatically be asked to revise it every 12 years after 1987.

Swope has been against this proposal from the get-go. While a few amendments may be necessary — such as the number of times City Council meets a year — Swope has said a wholesale revision isn't necessary.

"While there may be some cases that can be handled on an individual basis, an overall charter revision isn't needed," he said.

On top of that, it could be expensive. If voters approve the revision, they would have to elect a nine-member Charter Commission, which would likely happen in the Republican presidential primary early next year, Swope has said. Proposed changes set forth by a commission would have to be approved by voters. These elections could result in at least one special election, which Swope estimates run about \$60,000 a piece — the main cost is paying election workers. The City Council might also vote to pay charter commissioners, but it wouldn't have to, and the city clerk and city attorney offices would have to devote staff time to the revision process.

Swope also said he's concerned that a wholly revised Charter could change the way the city functions on a day-to-day basis. "Is it going to be different? Will the process be different? It just makes me nervous."

Red Cedar: A facelift for the east side?

The City Council voted against asking Lansing residents' permission to sell 12.68 acres of the former Red Cedar Golf Course back in May, but then changed its mind in August. Now, voters have the opportunity Tuesday to allow the city to sell off a portion of the abandoned golf course for redevelopment purposes.

Three members on Council in May said they didn't have enough information about the plan to support it, which was enough to keep it off the August primary ballot. So what's changed?

For one, the property was appraised for about \$5 million. Also, Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann has promised to use organized labor on his piece of the project. However, detailed ideas about a potential redevelopment were not and still aren't available unless voters approve the ballot proposal.

Lindemann has been talking about the need to clean up the nearby Red Cedar River — which is polluted largely because of storm water runoff from Frandor Shopping Center — for years. He aims to do so by making the former golf course a natural filter for the water before it reaches the river. It would look similar to the natural area in the Tollgate Drain area across the street from Groesbeck Golf Course, he has said. At the same time, if the city is allowed to pursue a major development on part of golf course and build a new park for public use on the remaining 48.32 acres, Lindemann has called it a "win-win-win" for the city, the environment and for creating new jobs.

The Bernero administration closed the course in 2007 due to budgetary reasons. If

voters approve the sale Tuesday, the Lansing Economic Development Corp. — which can tout development as a way to attract more MSU faculty and staff to work and play in an area bordering on East Lansing — will launch a potentially global public request for proposals. The ballot proposal is merely the first step in a process in which the City Council — if attractive proposals ultimately come forward — has the final say.

Proceeds from the potential sale would go toward improving the other 48 acres, as well as for park improvements throughout the city. Bernero has also said some of the proceeds could offset some of the costs of Lindemann's project. Lindemann has declined to say how much it will cost to improve the drainage infrastructure.

Council members unanimously agree that the river needs cleaning, though not all are on the same page when it comes to selling the 12.68 acres. At-Large Councilwoman Carol Wood, who's seeking re-election, voted to put the question on the ballot but has said she won't be voting for it. Wood believes that the administration intentionally abandoned the course so it could make the case for developing it in the future, and that the river will be cleaned regardless if the ballot proposal passes. Council members Brian Jeffries and Eric Hewitt voted against putting the question on Tuesday's ballot back in August. Third Ward Council candidate Jason Wilkes supports asking voters to sell the 12.68, but said the idea is "concerning." Every other Council candidate, along with the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Lansing Labor Council, supports it.

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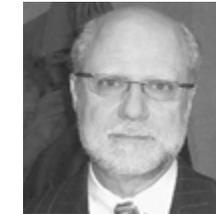
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Restoring Survival Kits

The Weekend Survival Kit program that provided the area's neediest elementary schoolchildren with packs of food to get through the weekend might be reinstated next summer, sources say.

The Mid-Michigan chapter of the American Red Cross announced last week that the Mid-Michigan Food Bank, a pilot program of the American Red Cross that used to run the program, will merge with the Greater Lansing Food Bank by July 1, John Cauley, the chapter's executive director, said.

"We think it will be in the best interest of the community to have these operations under one roof," Cauley said. "(The Mid-Michigan Food Bank) will no longer be a Red Cross program. We're going to be totally focused on the Red Cross mission and we're going to let the Mid-Michigan Food Bank be totally focused on their mission."

The American Red Cross refocused its core mission in August to concentrate on disaster relief, cutting resources that addressed a former mission to reduce hunger. That decision, along with the removal of management personnel to run the program, forced the Mid-Michigan Food Bank to end the Weekend Survival Kit Program, said Jim Ramos, a former AmeriCorps volunteer stationed at NorthWest Initiative who delivered kits to children at Riddle School, one of the district's poorest elementary schools.

Ramos said the program might return following the Food Bank merge.

"We're hopeful that when the dust settles the partnership between Mid-Michigan and the Greater Lansing Food Bank will continue the program," Ramos said.

NorthWest Initiative delivered 233 kits to Riddle last Friday after fundraising to continue the program. A larger group of volunteers is working to deliver kits to 12 Lansing schools that participated in the program last year, including Riddle, Ramos said.

"The excitement of the kids was just phenomenal," Ramos said. "You know you've done something really good."

The group hopes to make another delivery later this month, said Randy Bell, a group organizer.

Joe Wald, executive director of the Greater Lansing Food Bank, said it was too early in the merging process to determine which programs may be brought back.

"What we will be doing is looking at all the programs of both organizations," Wald said. The Weekend Survival Program, which his Food Bank has supported in the past, will be one of the programs the merger considers restoring, he added.

Wald said he hopes the merger strengthens community support for the organization and helps it feed the hungry effectively and efficiently.

"It's such an amazing need that we can't miss (this opportunity)," he said. "We've got to be successful. There's no room for failure because the outcome is so important."

— Nyssa Rabinowitz

All aboard

Michigan Rail Summit throws diverse parties into transports of joy

Judging by the upbeat toots and chugs heard at Monday afternoon's Michigan Rail Summit in Lansing, there's one toy that inspires Republicans and Democrats, environmentalists and business leaders, Feds and locals and all the other boys and girls to play nicely together: a train.

Every speaker at the Lansing Convention Center, from Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder to federal transportation officials to the state Chamber of Commerce, mayors, legislators and the summit's co-sponsor, the Michigan Environmental Council, gushed over renewed prospects for improved passenger and freight train service in Michigan.

"Rail is critically important," Snyder said.

"This is huge," Michigan Environmental Council president Chris Kolb enthused.

"This is one of those issues where we can all come together," Michigan Chamber of Commerce CEO Rich Studley proclaimed.

The prospect of a new era for rail travel in Michigan, stoked mainly by federal dollars, had frequent political opponents borrowing each other's talking points. Snyder talked up the "better sustainability and urban lifestyle" rails would bring to the state, while Kolb predicted that new and better railways would help "rebuild Michigan's economy."

"When other governors were turning down help from Washington, he said we'll take all we can get," Kolb said of Snyder.

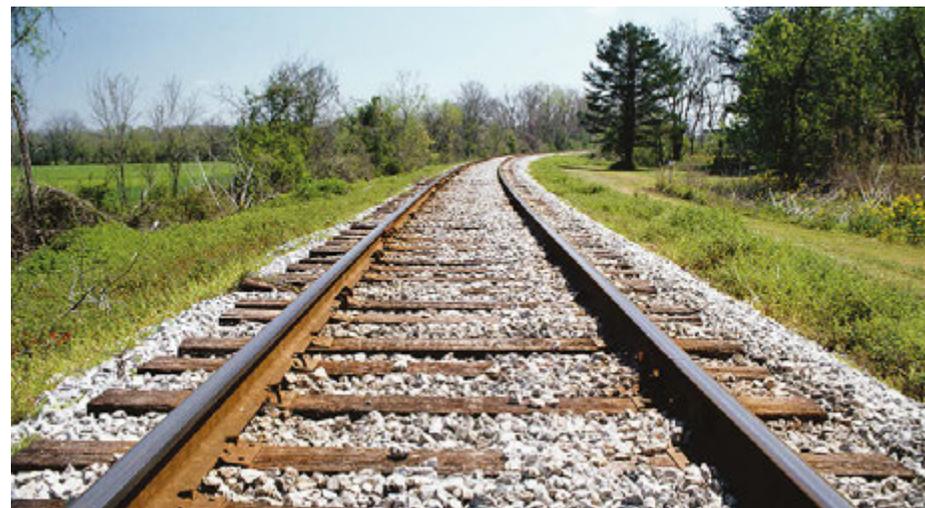
Snyder got an extra wet valentine from Ann Arbor Mayor John Hieftje. "This is probably the greatest opportunity for the expansion of rail in our state in 100 years," Hieftje said. "I was inspired to hear the governor. He's got to stop taking our best people to Lansing. I like what he's doing with transportation."

Snyder urged the assembled legislators, local officials and entrepreneurs to drop the peninsular thinking that puts Michigan on the nation's margins.

Instead, he asked them to imagine a map of North America. "Draw a circle that starts at Montreal and goes down to Chicago and you'll find that Detroit is right in the heart of that," he said. "A third of the economy of North America is in that circle."

Snyder said the east-west corridor from Detroit to Chicago was "top priority," but also called for better freight yards in Detroit and improved rail tunnels to Canada. He urged a rail connection with Metro Airport and called for "customs questions" to be smoothed out so passenger rail could go "seamlessly" from the American Midwest into Canada.

Snyder also encouraged the assem-



City Pulse file photo

bly to consider commuter rail options in southeastern Michigan.

The buzz at the Lansing summit was generated in part by a dramatic rise in passengers and revenue on Michigan's railways.

"Last year in Michigan, Amtrak took 800,000, the most ever, and expects a million next year," Kolb said.

John Porcari, deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, took the opportunity to talk up President Obama's American Jobs Act, up for a vote in the U.S. Senate this week. Porcari said the bill would create an "immediate investment of \$50 billion in the nation's surface transportation infrastructure," including extensive work on roads, rails and airports, "of which Michigan will get a significant share."

Porcari laid out the Obama administration's three-tiered plan to connect 80 percent of the American people to high-speed rail in 25 years: first, a core network of high-speed, European-style lines reaching 220 miles an hour or faster in California, the Northeast and Midwest corridors and wherever it "makes sense;" a second tier of "regional service as fast or faster than the fastest trains we have today;" and a third tier of local "emerging corridors."

"This is exactly the blueprint we followed when building the interstate highway system," Porcari said. "Without knowing where every last bit of money was going to come from, President Eisenhower set a goal, and through 10 administrations and 28 sessions of Congress, we got it done."

Porcari admitted that the St. Louis-Chicago-Detroit corridor has had "severely degraded service" in recent years, but said that would soon change. "It's long past time to turn it around," he said.

With the aid of federal stimulus dollars, new locomotives, coaches and stations will serve the 235-mile section from Chicago to Detroit, beginning with the most troubled bottlenecks to the southwest.

"We've got a whole bunch of things coming to make that ridership experience significantly different," Michigan Department of Transportation Director Kirk Steudle said.

Last month, the Michigan legislature passed a bill green-lighting the east-west corridor project, funded by \$360 million in competitive federal grants and \$39 million in local, private and state matching funds. The deal included the state's purchase of 138 miles of tracks between Dearborn and Kalamazoo previously owned by Norfolk & Southern Railroad.

"We're hiring workers, laying track and building stations," Porcari said. "We've gone from planning to construction in less than three years. That's unprecedented speed for a national initiative of this magnitude."

Joe Schwartz, a surgeon, railroad nut and former U.S. congressman, now Midwest Interstate Rail commissioner, predicted Monday that the east-west corridor from Porter, Indiana to Detroit would be "in prime condition in three years."

"It's already in prime shape west of Kalamazoo," he said, where speeds are at 95 mph and only needed federal approval to reach 110.

Schwartz told the assembly that the complicated Norfolk & Southern deal had a "less than 50-50 chance." He thanked the Snyder administration, Norfolk & Southern and MDOT for their patience and finesse, but couldn't resist an additional nod.

"I'd like to thank the governor of Florida for deciding he didn't want to use that money," Schwartz cracked, referring to Florida Gov. Rick Scott's rejection of over \$2 billion in federal funds for high-speed rail in that state. Schwartz added lesser nods to the governors of Ohio and Wisconsin, who also rejected federal rail money.

By contrast, Snyder and the other assembled officials and guests made sure Porcari and Federal Railroad Administration official Joseph Szabo felt welcome Monday. Snyder poked of "a partnership with the federal government" while Porcari spoke of an "extraordinarily tight working relationship" with Steudle.

"Thank you, come back anytime," Steudle cracked to Porcari.

— Lawrence Cosentino

Arts & Culture

art • books • film • music • theater

Where there's a Will, there's a way

Kevin McKillip lassos a legend in a one-man show at Stormfield Theatre

By JAMES SANFORD

A few years ago, Kevin McKillip got one of those offers that actors dream of.

“(First Folio Theatre), which I’m a member of in Chicago, came to me and said, ‘We’d like you to do a one-man show,’” McKillip said. “I said, ‘Wonderful. Can I see the script?’”

The surprising reply: “We don’t have one yet. We were hoping you could write it.”

'Will Rogers: An American Original'

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That challenge led to McKillip’s discovery of Will Rogers, the actor/writer/radio personality whose wit and insight captivated America in the early 20th century. “Will Rogers: An American Original,” which McKillip wrote and performs, begins a three-week run at Stormfield Theatre tonight.

Although McKillip, 36, is a classically trained actor who spent two years at the Stratford Festival in Ontario, Canada (winning the Tyrone Guthrie Award for his work during the 2003 season), he also has “a reputation for being somewhat physically adept,” he said. He’s a clown, a fight choreographer, a unicyclist and a juggler.

Those skills served him well as he taught himself the rope tricks that were a trademark of the Oklahoma-born Rogers.

“I got lassos and started tossing them around my apartment, knocking things over,” he said. He also practiced in a nearby park on Lake Shore Drive. “I actually did

What's next for Stormfield Theatre?
See Page 18

take the bullwhip out there and cracked it a few times. But the police showed up: Someone had reported hearing gunfire.”

McKillip’s research led him to Rogers’ birthplace in Claremore/Oologah, Okla., and a two-day trip through the private library of the Will Rogers Trust, where he perused Rogers’ original letters and other items not available to the general public.

Rogers became a beloved figure through his appearances in the touring Ziegfeld Follies, which he joined in 1915. (His Ziegfeld performances were the basis for the Tony-winning musical “The Will Rogers Follies.”) Over the next 20 years, Rogers wrote a syndicated column, hosted radio shows on CBS and NBC, wrote best-selling books on everything from the perils of Prohibition to the aftermath of his gall bladder surgery and became an enormous movie star, first in silent films and then in the “talkies.” His quotes — “Be thankful we’re not getting all the government we’re paying for,” “I never met a man I didn’t like,” “Lettin’ the cat out of the bag is a lot easier than puttin’ it back in,” “If stupidity got us in this mess, why can’t it get us out?,” etc. — were known around the world.

Imagine a celebrity with the combined power and influence of Oprah Winfrey, Tom Hanks and Stephen Colbert, and you’ll have an idea of the hold Rogers had on the nation in the 1920s and 1930s. “He was the king of all media,” McKillip said.

Even more astonishing, Rogers’ observations about the political world of his day are still timely.

“Some of his material could have been written five minutes ago,” notes Kristine Thatcher, who’s directing “Original.”

“I belong to no organized party: I am a Democrat,” Rogers noted. Other choice one-liners included, “There’s no trick to being a humorist when you have the whole government working for you” and “People are taking their comedians seriously and the politicians as a joke.”

When McKillip did the show recently, he said he was approached by an audience member “who asked which lines I’d pulled from the 1930s and which ones I’d written about the current economic climate.” The words, he explained, are all Rogers’.

When Rogers was killed in a plane crash on Aug. 15, 1935, America was shaken. NBC and CBS radio ceased to broadcast for 30 minutes. An estimated 150,000 mourners attended his funeral services at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, Calif.

“He was a living national treasure,” McKillip said. “One of the reasons I decided to do this is that people don’t remember or haven’t been told who he is.”

Even those who should know better. McKillip gave an interview to a theater columnist in Chicago who wanted to know which songs would be featured in his show. He was puzzled at first since one thing Will Rogers was not famous for was his singing.

“Then it hit me,” McKillip said. “She thinks this is about Roy Rogers,” the celebrated “Singing Cowboy” of the 1940s and 1950s.

Blame it on those rope tricks.

Courtesy Photos

Will Rogers died 40 years before actor Kevin McKillip was born, but McKillip is amazed by the timeliness of the humorist’s observations about politics, society and human nature. “He was a living national treasure,” says McKillip.



Courtesy Photo

Timothy Muffitt conducts the Lansing Symphony Orchestra’s “Mozart & Bruckner” Saturday. Performing with the LSO will be 225 singers.



Mass and massiveness

Lansing Symphony rolls out a pair of blockbusters

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

This symphony preview is so erudite you have to take an entry quiz. Match the adjectives in Line A with the nouns from Line B:

A. Sacred/secular.

B. Gothic cathedral/ Mentos and Diet Coke.

If you drew diagonal lines instead of

vertical ones, you’re either a compulsive contrarian, a subtle genius, or you peeked at the line-up for the Lansing Symphony’s second MasterWorks concert, “Mozart & Bruckner.”

Saturday’s slate is a sly sacred-secular switcheroo. Mozart’s fizzy Coronation Mass, with the Michigan State University Choral Union and four guest vocalists, will open the evening with high spirits, and Anton Bruckner’s colossal Fourth Symphony will shut it down in solemn awe. No overtures or fillers will be added.

It’s also a historic night. For the first time in Timothy Muffitt’s five-plus-year tenure as music director, he’s taking his legions into the brass-heavy world of

Bruckner, where your ears have to crane their necks to take in all the grandeur.

“I’m really looking forward to diving into this piece with this orchestra because it will take us to new places,” Muffitt said.

Muffitt endorses the phrase “cathedrals of sound,” often invoked to describe Bruckner’s symphonies. (Good heavens, is nothing secular anymore?)

“His music is built in very large blocks, long extended phrases,” Muffitt said. “It’s more about building these massive structures than it is about a lot of activity on the surface of the music.”

The Fourth’s head-spinning sonori-

See LSO, Page 14



Courtesy Photo

Soprano Anne Nispel sings with the Lansing Symphony Orchestra Saturday.

LSO

from page 13

ties don't come from crowding the stage with extra musicians, double-wide glockenspiels or other extras. Take away Philip Sinder's trusty tuba and Saturday night's wind section won't look any different than a Beethoven symphony.

"The way he voices the brass instruments — how the chords are spaced out — is a lot of where the beauty lies," Muffitt said.

If the symphony's overwhelming towers of sound evoke a cathedral's master builders, so does its fine-grained detail work. To illustrate, Muffitt chose one feature among thousands: when Bruckner marks a note "marcato," meaning "give it extra emphasis," the direction means something different than when Beethoven or Strauss does

it. Bruckner requires a polished, rolling kind of oomph; Beethoven just wants you to spank it harder.

"Our job in preparing a piece like this has a lot to do with creating that sense of grandeur, spaciousness in the sound itself — not just in the pacing, the unfolding of the piece, but also in the execution," Muffitt said.

The long list of big and small demands, new to this group, will make rehearsal week intense. "The work we do on this symphony will stick with the orchestra for a very long time."

Saturday's pairing challenges the listener's idea of what secular and sacred music are about. While Bruckner's sonic cathedrals evoke a religious awe and transcendence in many listeners, Mozart's Coronation Mass is flat-out feelgood stuff. In Mozart's hands, the liturgy springs from the dewy grass, banners fluttering, more like a striped row of Mayday festival tents than a Gothic pile.

"Most of the movements are bright and loud and fast and in C major," Muffitt said. "It's just brilliant writing — lots of trumpets and drums and oboes, a full-throated choir."

Only the "Agnus Dei," with its long and buttery soprano solo, departs from the home key.

Anne Nispel, on the voice faculty at Michigan State, will handle that buttery solo. A quartet of stellar guest soloists includes alto Nicole Weigelt of New York and tenor Paul Appleby, a rising young star who has already sung at the Metropolitan Opera. MSU alumnus and bass soloist Benjamin Clements, fresh from a Carnegie Hall debut in Handel's Messiah, will grab the low end.

These large-scale orchestral-choral mash-ups call for generalship as well as musicianship. First, Muffitt will rehearse with the soloists alone, so "we're all speaking the same language."

"The four soloists, except in the 'Agnus Dei,' work as a unit through the whole piece," Muffitt said. "We have to agree on issues of pronunciation, balance between voices, especially four voices who haven't sung together."

He'll assemble the whole army, with the MSU Choral Union and orchestra, for the first time Friday.

One division — the viola section — will be AWOL during the mass, but only because Mozart left them out. Muffitt loves to bring out the middle voices in a large work, so the omission puzzles him a bit. "I have no idea why that is," Muffitt mused. "It's on my list of questions to ask him when I see him."

Lansing Symphony Orchestra:

'Mozart & Bruckner'

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Beyond Transylvania

Author discusses 'Dracula' Thursday

By NICOLE LaCHANCE

Before Edward Cullen and "True Blood," there was Dracula, the terrifying blood-sucker from Transylvania. A young Jane Congdon was fascinated by his tale and developed a desire to tour the land of the famous vampire. What followed was a memoir about her 18-day journey and coming to terms with a broken childhood.

The author discusses "It Started with Dracula" at 7 p.m. Thursday at EVERYbody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E, Michigan Ave., in Lansing.

Along with discussing her memoir, Congdon will also be signing copies of the book. For more information on the author, visit www.janecogdon.com.

Caustic comedy

When two couples clash, brutal laughs result in Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.'s 'God of Carnage'

By CHRISTOPHER HORB

We seem to live in an age when uncouth behavior is showcased and celebrated across the reality-TV spectrum — and audiences can't get enough of it. It's clear there is fun to be had in watching people behaving badly. That is exactly what director Chad Badgero is counting on.

Badgero is at the helm of "God of Carnage," the pointed comedy of manners from Peppermint Creek Theatre Co., opening Thursday. Of course, the troupe is billing it as a comedy of manners — without the manners.

"We're all so wrapped up in this idea of political correctness, but this looks at

what bubbles under the surface of that," said Badgero, Peppermint Creek's founder and artistic director. "We all have things we want to say but don't. What happens when we do?"

Yazmina Reza's play begins with a seemingly innocuous premise: Two sets of Brooklyn parents meet to discuss a playground altercation between their 11-year-old sons. An evening that begins under a banner of diplomacy quickly spirals into unpleasantness as tensions flare and facades crumble.

"The genius thing that (Reza) has done is to show how they all start off very adult — very polite, very refined — but by the end they're behaving exactly like kids themselves," Badgero said.

Reza wrote "Carnage" in French, which is how it was performed in its initial stagings in Zurich and Paris. The play was translated by playwright/screenwriter Christopher Hampton ("Les Liaisons Dangereuses," "Atonement") for its London premiere, which starred Ralph Fiennes. The 2009 Broadway production, starring Jeff Daniels, Hope Davis, James Gandolfini and Marcia Gay Harden, collected Tony awards for best play and best leading actress in a play (for Harden). The feature film adaptation, which stars Jodie Foster, Kate Winslet, Christoph Waltz and John C. Reilly, opens in December.

The Peppermint Creek cast stars Blake Bowen, Heather Lewis, Allan I. Ross and

Shannon Rafferty, and Badgero praises the actors for tackling such heated but humorous material

"They've really grasped and enjoyed the concept in rehearsals. They really all push each other to a nice, fun extreme."

Although the behaviors on display are often unlikeable, the director doesn't think of the characters as bad people by any means.

"The way they break each other down is surprising — you're definitely shocked by some of things they say to each other," he said. "But they're just ordinary parents. Good parents — just very different parents."

Badgero thinks that despite such pointed subject matter, "Carnage" will offer audiences a chance to see a lighter side of Peppermint Creek, a troupe known for tackling frequently serious and controversial material in its shows.

"It is thought-provoking, but it is really very funny," he said. "It doesn't get darker so much as it gets ruder, more crass, more unguarded as it goes on and brings on the laughs. I'd certainly say it's brutal — the truth can be brutal to take and absorb."

'God of Carnage'

Through Nov. 12
Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner St., Lansing
8 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6
\$15 adults; \$10 students and seniors.
(517) 372-0945
www.peppermintcreek.org



Courtesy Photo

From left, Blake Bowen, Heather Lewis, Allan I. Ross and Shannon Rafferty star in the black comedy "God of Carnage," directed by Chad Badgero.



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Must be 18 to enter

THE SCREENING ROOM

by JAMES SANFORD

A bombed Johnny Depp bombs with moviegoers

In case you haven't heard, it's a blast to be an international superstar.

If you're Angelina Jolie, you can get the financing to direct "In the Land of Blood and Honey," a love story set against the backdrop of the Bosnian war, featuring such major box office magnets as Goran Kostic, Zana Marjanovic and Dolya Gavanski. (Well, perhaps they're box office magnets *somewhere*.)

What about Madonna, whose cinematic luck has been questionable at best in the more than 25 years since "Desperately Seeking Susan" helped burnish her superstar credentials? Although her first directorial effort, "Filth and Wisdom," sank without a trace in 2008, she was able to secure a sizable budget for her follow-up, "W.E.," a

romantic fantasia involving a modern-day woman (Abbie Cornish) obsessed with the scandalous affair between American divorcee Wallis Simpson and King Edward VIII. Reviews so far have been mixed at best, but that shouldn't spell any sort of serious trouble for Madonna the next time she feels like stepping behind the camera: Her name remains bankable, simply because anything she works on is likely to get considerable attention.

The same is true of Johnny Depp. Once one of the most consistently adventurous actors around — in the space of a few months in 1990, he launched his movie career by playing the title roles in John Waters' demented 1950s teen musical "Cry-Baby" and director Tim Burton's satiric fairy tale "Edward Scissorhands" — Depp finally hit serious pay dirt with his portrayal of swishy swashbuckler Captain Jack Sparrow in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" films. Since then, he's been content to more or less play it safe, headlining several profitable Burton remakes ("Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," "Alice in Wonderland")

and starring in glossy showcases like the empty-headed, eye-filling "The Tourist."

But for years, Depp dreamed of bringing Hunter S. Thompson's semi-autobiographical early novel "The Rum Diary" to the screen. Depp's earlier Thompson-inspired movie, director Terry Gilliam's "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas," was a box office disaster in 1998, grossing less than \$11 million; it's built up a loyal following in the years since.

Perhaps the cult cache of "Vegas" and the fact that Depp is usually catnip for moviegoers inspired enough investors to sink their money into "Rum." They would have been better off gambling on Captain Morgan than Captain Jack,

however: "Rum," in which Depp plays a hard-boozing journalist in 1960 Puerto Rico, bombed at theaters last weekend, selling only \$5 million worth of tickets (a pitiful average of barely \$2,200 per location).

It's obvious that although moviegoers adore Depp, they won't automatically line up for anything he's in. Second, unless your movie has "Hangover" somewhere in the title, it's tough to sell a comedy that relies heavily on the questionable appeal of drunken, debauched guys on a spree. Third, we now know for certain that Hunter S. Thompson is a name that's marketable in bookstores, not in cinemas.

The \$45 million film was shot two years ago — always a warning sign — and had been in limbo ever since, waiting for distribution. It's likely that FilmDistrict, which previously handled "Insidious" and "Soul Surfer," regrets giving "Rum" a shot.

If Depp wants some consolation, he can always turn to Bill Murray's "The Razor's Edge," another superstar pet project that was a far worse film (and an even bigger bust) than "Rum."



Courtesy photo

Johnny Depp stars in "The Rum Diary."

Howl-oween in Old Town

Disguised dogs compete in annual costume contest

By L. EDWARD STREET

Hannibal Lecter, Sparty and King Leonidas walked away with big prizes on Friday — and they did it on all fours. That's because all three characters were awarded at the annual dog costume contest in Old Town.

Despite chilly weather, over 100 dog owners squeezed into registration lines for the event. WLMI-FM host Tim Barron hosted the competition and the Wag N' Tails Pet Resort company handed out free dog treats and boarding coupons to the top three winners.

"We usually expect a big turnout if the weather's decent," Barron said. "I've been doing this for 23 years, and I always have a good time."

Many dog owners came to the event with competitive spirits; others simply came for the entertainment and the experience. Amy Boersna and Jules Brovant of Lansing brought their Yorkie Maltese, Rocco, to the contest just so they could enjoy the show and meet new people. "This is a great way to meet other dog owners in the area," Brovant said. "We've been here since 5 p.m. and we're still enjoying ourselves." The event lasted for three hours and attracted a fairly large crowd of spectators.

Some of the most notable costumes included Sebastian from "The Little Mermaid," Captain Jack Sparrow from "Pirates of the Caribbean" and a British Bulldog shark with a tal-

Jeff Hammer/City Pulse

Mariah Puente and her dog Sparkles joined the Dog Halloween festivities in Old Town Friday evening.



Jeff Hammer/City Pulse

Top prize went to Glenna DeJong and her Italian Greyhound, Hershey, who was costumed as the mad genius Hannibal Lecter.

ent for skateboarding.

One doggy costume in particular, Hannibal Lecter, managed to steal the show and had everyone on their tippytoes attempting to get a peak at him. As Barron said the famous line, "Well, hello, Clarice," dog owner Glenna DeJong wheeled out her Italian Greyhound, Hershey, on a homemade stretcher. With his little straitjacket and Lecter face mask, Hershey rolled passed the judging table and into first place.

"Last year, we told ourselves that we would win this year's competition," Djong said. Hershey and Djong were awarded free dog food, a \$50 gift certificate to Preuss Pets and three free days of boarding at Wag N' Tails Pet Resort.

"That was definitely one of my favorite costumes," said Melik Brown, Midwest Communications marketing consultant and contest judge. Brown and his three fellow judges agreed that Ben Park and his Great Dane Apollo would walk away in second place for their King Leonidas and warrior dog costumes.

"I came with my wife and 3-year-old son," Park said. "We're mainly here to have fun."



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Not the same old 'Story'

Can some Spanish flavor spice up 'West Side Story'?

Si, se puede, says one of the tour's stars

By ROBERT SANCRAINTE

One of the ways in which theater trumps other forms of media is that you never see exactly the same show twice.

"West Side Story" — written by Arthur Laurents, with music by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim — was first

'West Side Story'

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 8
 , Wednesday, Nov. 9, and
 Thursday, Nov. 10; 8 p.m.
 Friday, Nov. 11; 2 and 8
 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12;
 1 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday,
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performed in 1957, and in the 50-plus years since then, much of the original has remained constant, with only minor changes to keep the musical fresh while maintaining its timeless appeal.

The musical is based on Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," using the violent atmosphere of gang warfare to juxtapose the romance that blooms between Tony, a member of the native Jets, and Maria, whose brother

is one of the Puerto Rican Sharks.

The characters are "surrounded by racism, hatred, and bigotry — and love tries to surpass all of that," says Ross Lekites, who plays Tony in the touring cast, which comes to the Wharton Center Tuesday.

(The following night, the Oscar-winning film version of "West Side Story" returns to theaters for a 50th anniversary showing at 7 p.m. Nov. 9, at Lansing Mall Cinemas; call (517) 321-1521 for ticket information.)

The unique character of "West Side Story" is partly due to some of the late-1950s slang that the characters use; that remains, in some form, in this latest version.

One of the most pervasive aspects of the current version of the show, however, is the inclusion of musical segments with Spanish lyrics.

"It gives the Sharks more of a sense of a personal character, Lekites said. "It empowers them more than (they were) originally."

Evy Ortiz plays opposite Lekites as Maria. Of the actresses to have played the character on Broadway over the years, she is one of the first who is actually Puerto Rican. Lekites says that adds greater depth and authenticity to her portrayal.

"She brought in pictures on one of the first rehearsal days of her family," he said. "They look like Maria and (other characters), all up on the rooftop of their apartment in New York City. And I think to her it definitely hits home."

Two of the show's songs, "A Boy Like That" and "I Feel Pretty," are sung partly in Spanish, adding more of that ethnic authenticity.

Part of the show's enduring power comes from a lamentable common thread stretching from the 1950s up to the present day. "It's sad that racism is still a huge part of our society and our daily life," Lekites said.

Social issues, such as America's changing ethnic landscape, certainly play a critical role, but there is yet another core value at the heart of this "West Side Story." David Saint, the director of this latest incarnation, was a close friend of Laurents.

"David Saint worked with Arthur on the Broadway production as associate director, and he was Arthur's closest friend for 25 years," Lekites said.

When Laurents died earlier this year, Saint inherited his estate: "He's as close as you can get to the playwright."



Courtesy Photo

The Jets and the Sharks are still having rumbles, but director David Saint has made some changes to the lyrics in the latest tour of "West Side Story."



Courtesy Photo

Evy Ortiz plays Maria and Ross Lekites plays Tony in the touring cast of "West Side Story." In 1950s New York, the couple finds themselves "surrounded by racism, hatred, and bigotry — and love tries to surpass all of that," Lekites said.

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Stormfield faces heavy weather

Theater company faces challenges ranging from budgeting concerns to fixing up its facilities

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Breaking the fourth wall isn't always an artistic choice for Stormfield Theatre and its artistic director, Kristine Thatcher.

What if the wall is made of concrete? "We just wrote a grant to bring our bathrooms up to code," Thatcher said. "The men's room is three inches shorter than it should be. You have to move the toilet over, too."

A Shakespearean set of high and low problems, from securing rights to David Mamet to securing access to the dudes' toilet, have Thatcher and her loyal staff scrambling for money to keep the 2-year-old professional theater alive.

To help circle the wagons, Thatcher has enlisted rope-twirling humorist Will Rogers, played by Chicago theater luminary Kevin McKillip. The one-man show will replace David Mamet's "Race" as

Stormfield's second production of the 2011-2012 season. In the meantime, Thatcher said, the season will be scheduled "from show to show," depending on finances.

Will Rogers isn't Mamet, but Thatcher hopes the folksy precursor to political humorist Jon Stewart may lasso enough money to further her goal of keeping Equity theater — with material by living playwrights — alive in Lansing.

Thatcher said loyal donors have been generous, but grant funding is at "an all-time low." Only a third of Stormfield's budget comes from ticket sales.

"Even Shakespeare relied on patronage," she said. "He had Queen Elizabeth and King James I to help pay the bills. That system hasn't changed."

Thatcher said she yanked "Race," a racially charged courtroom drama, not because of money, but because the licensing agency pulled the rights.

"In my six years of securing rights to various shows, I've never encountered this situation," she said.

However, the Will Rogers replacement show gives Stormfield a chance to save



Courtesy photo

Kristine Thatcher

money, tap Rogers' broad public appeal and keep the company alive to mount Mamet another day. In previous seasons, one-person shows showcasing personalities like Mark Twain and Ann Landers have helped Stormfield stay afloat.

Thatcher applied for the rights to "Race" shortly after the JET Theatre in Detroit did the same. The play's licensing agency, Samuel French, feared the two productions would undercut each other, even though Thatcher argued that the two markets are separate.

An East Coast colleague told Thatcher it's a "typical New York point of view," and that any other production in Michigan, "even if the second one were in the U.P.," would have been considered too close.

"Race" was set to be Stormfield's entry into the Cooley Law School Stages of the Law series. It will be replaced by two nights of a staged reading of "The Exonerated," about six Death Row inmates exonerated by DNA evidence, in January. Thatcher still hopes to produce "Race" for next year's Stages of the Law series.

Thatcher's first choice to replace "Race" in the Stormfield schedule was "Vigil," originally set for later in the season, with veteran stars Carmen Decker and Aral Gribble, but Stormfield's budget outlook is too uncertain.

"('Vigil') had a real large footprint — a lot of set pieces, the prop list went on forever, two Equity salaries," Thatcher said. "I want to do it, and do it with them, so hopefully we can push it back until later in the season."

After Will Rogers rides back West, Thatcher and her board of directors will decide how to approach the 2012 schedule. "Romantic Fools," a farce by Rich Orloff, was set for January, with "Vigil" set for March, and Thatcher's own drama about the poetess Lorine Niedecker in May.

Thatcher, an actor/writer/director, returned to her home town of Lansing from Chicago in 2005 to be he artistic director of BoarsHead Theatre. She founded Stormfield in August 2009 after her contract was not renewed at BoarsHead, which closed its doors that December.

Many top BoarsHead actors, staffers, donors and supporters followed Thatcher and her stellar reputation to Stormfield, but the going has not been easy.

Thatcher admits her quest to bring Equity theater to a former judo studio in a shopping mall in Lansing might look quixotic to some people.

"Quixotic? It's absolutely insane. It could be a certifiable offense."

In the coming weeks, Thatcher said the theater will push to find more donors, revamp its marketing techniques to use social media more effectively, and pursue further initiatives for "growth" she can't yet discuss.

"We're pulling out the stops to try and go forward," she said. "I came home to produce theater and be closer to my family. I didn't really have an option. This is what I want to do."



Courtesy photo

LeAnn Dethlefsen and Joe Dickson in Riverwalk Theatre's "Size 8 Shorts."

Going Over the Ledge

Theater vet Joe Dickson launches a new company

By TOM HELMA

Some people wish, some people dream, others take action. Joe Dickson acts. He also directs, handles lighting and sound, is on the Lansing Civic Players' board of directors and is in the process of creating his own theater company, Over the Ledge. The name references the Ledges Playhouse in Grand Ledge (which will be the summer venue for his fledgling company), but it's also an apt metaphor for risk-taking.

"I want to get better at theater, and the best way to do that is to just do it," he said. "But that's not all of it. I want also to share emotion, maybe put in an adjacent coffee shop where audiences can congregate and discuss the play after it's over."

Dickson is not alone in this venture, having assembled a team of local actors to create the company. Many board members are familiar names: Veronica Wing, Kat

Cooper, Eric Grill, Chris Ordiway.

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When opportunity knocked and Capitol Theater Works did not renew its lease with Grand Ledge, Dickson jumped. He's not waiting for next summer to get started.

Over the Ledge's production of "The Guys," which focuses on the post-9/11 lives of New York City firefighters, opens Thursday at the Holt High School Black Box Theater. Rick and LeAnn Dethlefsen make up the two-person cast, and 50 percent of the proceeds go to the National Fallen Firefighters foundation.

A pre-Christmas production of "The Eight: Reindeer Diaries" is also under consideration.

"Promotion is high on my list," Dickson said, "but the bottom line always is whether it's a good script."

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Coming-of-old-age story

Jim Harrison shares poetry and mystery

By **BILL CASTANIER**

A conversation with Jim Harrison is like opening a box of Cracker Jacks. You get to nibble through the delightful crisp kernels knowing a prize awaits: You just won't know what it is until you get there. His books always hold similar delights, and both his newest novel, "The Great Leader," and his poetry collection, "Songs of Unreason," are super-sized and filled with prizes where you least expect them.

About this time each year Harrison, 73, comes forth with a book or two, one fiction and a book of poetry. This year, both books are dripping with rich passages about Michigan, his former home, until he ske-daddled to Montana and Arizona in corpus only. Much of his heart is still in Michigan. The back of the poetry book's jacket begins with this excerpt from a poem: "In the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and the mountains of the Mexican border I've followed the call of birds."

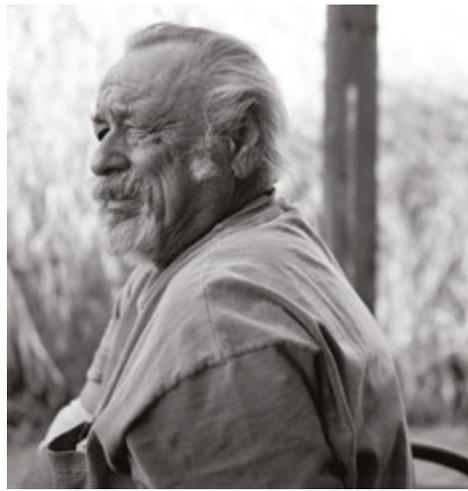
Another poem, a haunting piece of verse about his sister, Judith, killed by a drunk driver in 1962, will leave you with a tiny tear. In part: "You were buried at nineteen in wood with Daddy. I've spent a lifetime trying to learn the language of the dead." A handful of other poems salute the dogs of his life and a poem, "Anniversary," is a present to his wife, Linda, on their 50th wedding anniversary.

You shouldn't get the idea his book is maudlin in any way. Harrison's wit, which draws on his experiences and those of his friends, can be found throughout the nearly 70 poems. In "Corruption" he writes: "I know a man, happily married who bought a girl a hundred dollar pair of panties. I was stunned. For this price I buy a whole lamb each fall." I'll save the punchline for the reader.

It goes without saying that an inordinate number of poems touch on what Harrison calls his "lifetime obsession with water." Harrison blames his uncle for buying a cabin on the lake, in which "the sound of water could be heard 'round the clock."

In his most recent novel, "The Great Leader," Harrison places his protagonist, retired state police detective Sunderson in Marquette where, besides fishing the streams and ponds, Lake Superior is his siren call.

Although publicity has called the book a noirish mystery, it is much more a coming-of-age tale: old age, in this case. Sunderson has lost his dog and lost his marriage, but is able to find an endless supply of whisky to get him through the nights. He's afloat, but barely treading water.



Courtesy Photo

Jim Harrison's latest novel is "The Great Leader," in which a retired police detective tries to expose a cult.

Not to worry — readers soon learn he hasn't lost his sexual drive. His neighbor, Mona, a 16-year-old girl, becomes a willing target for Sunderson's window-peeking. It's clear early on that his critics, who claim his writing is sexist and that he relies on lust and libido too much, won't be disappointed.

The author, with his usual frankness, addresses his critics: "I don't give a fuck. I'm a writer."

Harrison said he decided to write the book for a lot of reasons, but most important, he said, he was "tired of melancholy" and he "had never written about trashy culture." He also wanted to explore cults that prey on young girls, the appropriation of the American Indian culture (which he has written about many times and has a spiritual respect for) and, as he describes it, the "two- or three-year hole — a bomb crater" that divorce leaves within you. He accomplishes all these goals with vigor in "The Great Leader."

He said he has run across cults in the Southwest and Leelanau County that are "sicker than horse turds."

Sunderson, with the aid of his next-door neighbor, begins to investigate a cult, which leads him to Arizona. After Sunderson is seriously injured, revenge becomes the end goal.

The plotline has drawn comparison to the works of Cormac McCarthy. Harrison thinks the comparison strange and reminds readers that McCarthy was accused of borrowing from Harrison's "Revenge" in "No Country for Old Men."

Harrison says revenge and Mexico are always linked. "Any white guy who goes to Mexico — well, he's in for it," recalling a time when a drug lord in Mexico gave him his business card with instructions to show it to anyone who gave him trouble: "The drug lord told me they will run off pissing down their legs."

He said his wife has taken the card away from him. "It was for the better."

Harrison said he also wanted to explore in the book what happens when, as a homicide detective, "you look through shit-stained glass. It's a very rough life. Many detectives become excitement junkies."

In "The Great Leader" Harrison offers a lot of lessons for those growing old and for younger ones watching. In his book of poetry he describes his thinking as "atavistic, primitive and totemistic."

Harrison, who turns 74 next month, is not slowing down. His excitement comes from writing, and he's just finished another installment of his famous "Brown Dog" novellas, the latest of which finds Brown Dog back home in the U.P.

Harrison also spent a week earlier this year in Leelanau, meeting with his good friend Mario Batali, the celebrity chef.

He says they are collaborating on a book that will explore what "we find most real in American food." Harrison once wrote a monthly column for Esquire magazine on food and cooking; they are collected in "The Raw and the Cook."

After great French wine, which is Harrison's drink of choice (he thinks every state has a right to bad wine), food is his passion. He describes a particular delight, a dish served by one of his French friends: a stew made of 50 baby pig snouts, all "staring at you from the top of a steaming pot."

That's almost as good as the column he wrote for Esquire on how to make head cheese, which begins, "Take one pig's head, boil for 24 hours."

In many ways the recipe is a description of his writing style, which is both complex and simple, but always boiling when it hits the page.

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By the Riverside

Featuring Duane Feldpausch with his recreations of nature in acrylics and oils. Reception: 1-4 p.m. Nov. 6. Hours: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 1-6 p.m. Wednesday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, special showings by appointment. 1209 Turner St., Old Town, Lansing. (517) 484-6534.

Coffee and Friends Cafe

Bruce Herrick's photography featuring wildlife from around the world. Reception: 1-3 p.m. Nov. 15. Hours: 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. 5100 Marsh Road, Suite C, Okemos. www.coffeecafeokemos.com (517) 347-0962.

East Lansing Public Art Gallery

"Art Among Friends 2011," an exhibition of a variety of paintings, drawings, hand-blown glass, jewelry and photography from the Michigan State University Community Club Art Group. Reception: 1-2 p.m. Nov. 6. Hours: 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday and Noon-8 p.m. Sunday. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 241-9230.

Gallery 1212

"Kittens, Kittens, Kittens," a collection of works by the Mason Area Art Guild, done in a variety of mediums, each with an animal theme. The show benefits the Ingham County Animal Shelter. Hours: 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Noon-5 p.m. Sunday. 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212. www.gallery1212.com

Great Lakes Artworks

Featuring the jewelry of Sandi Leister, Middy Church and fiber artist Sue Peterson. 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Reception: Nov. 6. Hours: 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Sunday. 306 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-4293. www.greatlake-artworks.com

Grove Gallery Co-op

Holiday Open House, featuring a selection of holiday gifts created by over 20 mid-Michigan artists. Reception: Noon-5 p.m. Nov. 6. Hours: Noon-6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, Noon-4 p.m. Saturday & Sunday. 325 Grove St., East Lansing. (517) 331-7180. www.grovetallerycoop.com

Lansing Art Gallery

Holiday Art Market, works inspired by the downriver area. Detroit artists and educators: Jeanne Bieri, Martine MacDonald and Nancy Patek. Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. 119 N. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 374-6400. www.lansingartgallery.com.

Ledge Craft Lane

Carol Basso's student display. Hours: 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday. 120 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-9843. www.ledgecraftlane.com.

Mackerel Sky

"Prospecting the Heart," oil paintings on canvas and birch panels depicting the Michigan landscape. Also pottery by Deb Stabley, depicting ravens and sunflowers. Hours: 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and Noon-5 p.m. Sunday. (517) 351-2211 www.mackerelsky.com.



Courtesy Photo

It's "Bedlam" at (SCENE) Metrospace this month, as photographer Robert Turney shows his tintype photographs.

The MSU Museum, Heritage Gallery

"On Death and Hours and Other People," featuring images by Czech photographer Marketa Luskacova. Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday. (517) 355-2370. www.museum.msu.edu.

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(SCENE) Metrospace

"Bedlam," a visual exploration created by local photographer Robert Turney of 19th-century mental patient imagery, using the tintype photographic process. Reception: 6-9 p.m. Nov. 4. Hours: 2-5 p.m. Thursday, 2-6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Noon-4 p.m. Sunday. 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6832. www.scene-metrospace.com.

Soup Spoon Cafe

Roger Frye, of Rayform Productions, will be showcasing his high dynamic range photographs, mainly of Michigan,

but also his travels though Eastern United States, including Niagara Falls and Cape Cod in "The Magic of Michigan Seasons." Reception: 7-11 p.m. Nov. 11. Hours: 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 7 a.m.-Midnight Friday; 8 a.m.-Midnight Saturday. 1419 E Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 316-2377.

Ongoing

MICA Gallery

"Themeless," artists Kirby Milton, Jack Bergeron, Mary Cusack, Terry Terry, Bruce Thayer, Ilene Curts, Greg Limmer, Anne Nolan, Grant Guimond, Roxanne Frith and Tim Whalen. Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. 1210 Turner St., Lansing (517) 371-4600. www.oldtownarts.org.

Riverwalk Theatre

Photography of Jessie Buttermore. Hours: 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. 228 Museum Drive Lansing. (517) 482-5700.

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Saturday - Nov. 12th - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
All Saints Church, 800 Abbot Road
East Lansing, Michigan

www.glpg.org

ADVICE GODDESS

Flee circus & Between a walk and a hard place



AMY ALKON
adviceamy@aol.com

Q: I have a good relationship with my boyfriend of a year except for how he ignores me when he's stressed. The first time this happened, he disappeared for a week and didn't respond to texts or voicemails. He later explained he'd been swamped with work and apologized repeatedly. Last weekend, he again disappeared for a week. After I texted and left voicemails, he finally texted, "Work is big right now." He has told me he likes me because I don't complain or try to get his attention when he's busy. Actually, I'm a wreck when he disappears. My ex would also ignore me for weeks and then text like nothing had happened. Stupid me for staying around for two years, as it ultimately ended when he texted me that he couldn't talk to me anymore because he'd gotten married.

—Scared Of History Repeating Itself

A: When a guy you're dating ignores your texts and voicemails for weeks, you don't call him your boyfriend; you block his number so he can never call you again — and long before his excuses go from "I got a little busy" to "I got a little married."

Men do seem to have more of a "fight-or-flight" response to stress, but the impulse to drop out is just a tendency, not a biological mandate. If a man cares about you, he will somehow manage to overcome his teensy-weensy feelings of discomfort to stay in touch with you, even through tough times in his life. Sure, now that messages are no longer delivered by the Pony Express, letting you know that he still cares can sometimes take some effort — perhaps even tapping his finger eight times on a tiny wireless gadget and hitting "send." And yes, I did see your boyfriend's excuse above: "Work is big right now." Right. Besides being your "boyfriend," is he also known as "Barack Obama" and "The Leader of the Free World"?

History *is* repeating itself because you're repeating yourself. Like one of those robot-hings in "The Terminator," no matter what indignity a guy blasts you with, you drag what's left of you upright and go back for more: "Hey, just call me when you have some free time — maybe between marriages." You probably even take it as a compliment when your boyfriend admires how you're all "I am victim, hear me roll over" when he ignores you. Beverly Engel, in her terrific book "The Nice Girl Syndrome," cautions that the motive for being "nice" in the face of cruel treatment is often guilt, shame, fear of confrontation, fear of rejection, and an intense fear of being alone.

Being so compliant is pretty counter-productive because men are into the thrill of the chase, not the thrill of a woman who's on them like a tick on a dog no matter what they do. To be treated with respect, you need to be the disappearing one; disappear from the dating scene until you develop the self-respect to express your needs like you have a right to have them. You'll be ready to date when you require only one person in your life to feel whole — and it isn't some guy who does with your dignity what other people do with Quilted Northern.

Q: I've had a seven-year crush on an acquaintance despite how, whenever I see him, he barely remembers he's met me before. I'm now eight months into a relationship with a wonderful man. While at a bar with him, I ran into my crush. He was all over me and emailed later to ask me on a hike. On one hand, it's just a hike. On the other hand, I'm terrified to risk losing what I have.

—Conflicted

A: Sure he wants to go on a hike — a hike your skirt up over your head. It's tempting to have your shot at the one who got away. That one's usually more sparkly and exciting than the one who holds your hair back after a few-too-many at a party lands you on the roadside, giving what's

left of the grapes back to nature. The question is, who really wants to go on this hiking date, you or your ego? You determine that by laying out the qualities you find essential in a man and seeing whether your boyfriend has them. Also consider that a relationship takes more than finding somebody with a blast of bar charisma; it's a "culture" two people create by being together. If your relationship is really good, you're gambling a lot. Much as you want to believe your crush has finally "seen" you, maybe he has just seen that you're taken and wants to engage in a little poaching — the kind where the thing you bag in the woods gets to ride back in the truck cab instead of roped to the hood.

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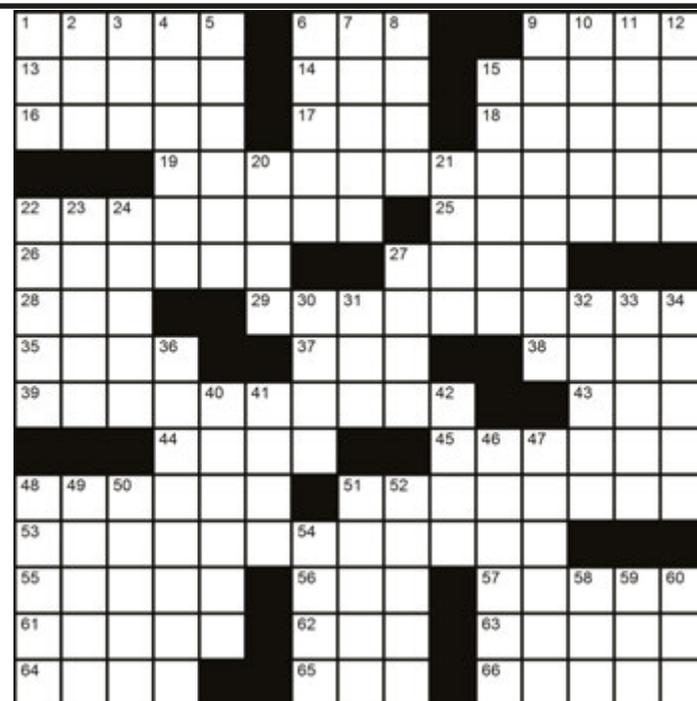
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Coldplay" — that's a sick songlist.
by Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Poet Sylvia
6 Ultrafast plane, once
9 Senators and representatives, for short
13 Studly
14 Number cruncher
15 "Who Can It ___?" (Men at Work song)
16 Charlie who has tiger blood, apparently
17 Gas station "product"
18 Wombs
19 Band with the 1998 hit "Circles"
22 With 29-across, movie whose soundtrack contains "Stayin' Alive"
25 Hangman's loops
26 Actress Maria Conchita ___
27 Refine flour
28 Victory run, maybe
29 See 22-across
35 Seacrest show, for short
37 Great Leap Forward promoter
38 Former Polish leader Walesa
39 With 51-across, 2000 solo album by Rush's Geddy Lee
43 86,400 seconds
44 Narrative
45 Delight in cruelty
48 Witnessed
51 See 39-across
53 Travis Barker opening lyric before "lay low and stay breezy"
55 Actor Lash of early westerns
56 It's north of Afr.
57 "Who's there?" response



- 61 Secluded spots
62 Big buffoon
63 Firming shot
64 Otherwise
65 555-55-5555, e.g.
66 Head of the Slytherin House

Down

- 1 "Aunt Flo" hassle
2 "Well, ___-di-freakin'-dah!"
3 Card "in the hole"
4 Centerpiece of some kids' science models
5 Accolades
6 La ___ (Italian opera house)
7 With a kick
8 Poi base
9 Upscale place where Fido stays while his owner's on vacation
10 "___ the loneliest

- number..."
11 "SNL" producer Michaels
12 Quick drinks out of the bottle
15 "Get out of here!"
20 Japanese noodles
21 Foot, fathom or farad
22 Late Iraqi politician Ezzedine (MAILS anagram)
23 "Three Times ___"
24 On ___ the world
27 Serving of 44 ml
30 Hungarian statesman Nagy
31 Moo goo ___ pan
32 Like some Hinduism
33 Online currency of sorts
34 Tears for fears, for example
36 When summer begins

- 40 Algebraic figures
41 Automotive pioneer Ransom
42 Morales of "La Bamba"
46 Wings it
47 He played Bond between Moore and Brosnan
48 Hogwash
49 "You can't win ___"
50 Long-eared hoppers
51 Really big bras
52 "Jackass" alum McGhehey
54 Lapsang souchong, et al.
58 Depot stop: abbr. need
60 File extension that runs programs

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OUT on the TOWN

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

Nov. 4

A stressed-out psyche

Lansing Community College Performing Arts Department revives the play that won the Pulitzer Prize in 1952. "The Shrike," written by Joseph Kramm, is a psychodrama about an intellectual trapped in a mental asylum by his scheming wife, who suspects him of infidelity. As Jim recovers from a suicide attempt, he realizes the power of institutional law — and that recovery doesn't necessarily guarantee release. Paige Dunckel directs a large cast, which features Michael Banghart as Jim Downs, Beth Martin as his wife, Ann, and Ken Beachler as Dr. Schlesinger. The Nov. 5 performance offers 2-for-1 tickets and a reception and talkback with a Cooley law professor. 8 p.m. Nov. 4-5 & 11-12; 2 p.m. Nov. 6. \$10 adults, \$5 students, seniors, LCC faculty, staff and alumni. Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-0945. www.lcc.edu/cma/events.



Courtesy Photo

Wednesday, November 2

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Meditation. For beginners and experienced, practice in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, 3015 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 351-5866.

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

The RecordSetters. With Dan Rollman and Corey Henderson. 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7801. www.schulerbooks.com.

Post Polio Support Group. With Aletha Kuentler, retired nurse and polio survivor, will share her book, "Chronic Illness," 7:8:0 p.m. FREE. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 339-1039.

Vinyasa Yoga. An energetic class that uses a flowing series of postures connected with breath. 9:30 a.m. FREE. Spartan Dance Center, 3498 Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. (517) 999-5415. www.spartandancecenter.com.

Mid Michigan Photography Club. Meeting featuring guest speaker Jason Blaschka — Astro-photography. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE first time. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. (517) 482-0668. www.lansingfirstpres.org.

EVENTS

Day of the Dead Fiesta. Enjoy Mexican food, a

See Out on the Town, Page 25

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Nov. 5

Mindfulness, discussion and relaxation

The Lansing Area Mindfulness Community and the Vietnamese American Buddhist Association of Lansing welcome Lansing to participate in "A Day of Mindfulness," which Dharma teacher Jack Lawlor plans to lead in the tradition of Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh. Enjoy sitting and walking meditation, chanting, a group discussion and a Dharma talk on the communication of love. The day also includes an opportunity to take the Five Mindfulness Trainings and a vegetarian lunch provided by the Vietnamese community. The Vietnamese Buddhist Temple hosts weekly meditation every Wednesday, 7-9 p.m., for beginners and experienced meditators. Bring a blanket and/or seating cushion. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Suggested donation of \$20, \$10 students. Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, 3051 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 351-5866. www.lamc.info.

Nov. 6

Art and animals seek new homes

Animal lovers and art lovers will appreciate this month at Gallery 1212 in Lansing. The gallery will feature about 20 paintings created by members of the Mason Area Art Guild, said Donna Randall, one of two partners at Gallery 1212. All proceeds from works sold will be donated to the Ingham County Animal Shelter. The paintings will be available for purchase at "Kittens! Kittens! Kittens!" event, which also features adoptable kittens from the shelter. There will also be music by Cindy McElroy, and wine and other refreshments will be provided. The gallery will be displaying paintings by artist Tim Krantz, an art professor at the University of Michigan-Flint. His work features childhood toys in unusual life situations. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Gallery 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 1212. www.gallery1212.com.



Courtesy Photo

Nov. 8

1980s New York nightlife revisited

"Ace Deville's Tantalizing Tuesdays" is flashback to the days of "Less Than Zero" and "Bright Lights, Big City": Host Ace Deville delivers the essence of the "club kids" of 1980s New York: Large gold shoulder pads, pumps and obscure masks are only a few elements to look for in the sexy juxtaposed fashion show, featuring two quartets of professional male dancers that, Deville promises, "will fulfill the freakiest fantasy, deliver your every desire, and quench your thirst for testosterone." Come wearing your dancing shoes, because DJ Restless will be playing house, Top 40 and more. Doors at 9 p.m., show at 11:30 p.m. \$3 21+; \$7 18+. The Fahrenheit Ultra Lounge, 6810 S. Cedar, Lansing. (517) 488-1517.

TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

(SCENE) HOSTS ONE-MAN-INDIE-BAND

For those looking for an eclectic mix of rock and indie sounds, (SCENE) MetroSpace hosts Commodore Cosmos (a Lansing-area rock duo), Scott Nelson and a return appearance from Jerry Fels and the Jerry Fels, a Massachusetts-based one-man-indie-band. (SCENE) MetroSpace is an alternative art and performance space located in downtown East Lansing. The gallery/venue was founded in 2004 and hosts a diverse schedule of art exhibits, music performances, theatrical productions, independent film screenings, dance, poetry and other forms of expression. For more information on shows and gallery hours, visit www.scenemetrospace.com.

Wednesday, Nov. 2 @ (SCENE) MetroSpace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. \$5, all ages, doors at 8 p.m.; music at 9 p.m.

FOLLOW THE FOLK RAINBOW TO MAC'S

While Joe Hertler is originally from Lake Orion and resides in Mt. Pleasant (where he attends Central Michigan University), his band Joe Hertler & the Rainbow Seekers has become an indie-folk staple in Lansing over the past couple years. Hertler will release his new album, "On Being" (Bigger Brush Media), Thursday at a Mac's Bar all-ages show. The cost of admission includes a copy of the new album. Fans of Sufjan Stevens might want to check Hertler out. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/joehertlermusic. Also performing is a roster of indie bands, including Prussia,

Kelly Deanne and the Octagon Band, and The Shout Aways.

Thursday, Nov. 3 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all ages. \$10 advance, \$12 at door, 7 p.m.

SMOKIN' COVER BAND AT GREENDOOR

With a set list that ranges from Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean" to Naughty by Nature's "OPP," The Smoking Jackets pride themselves on covering multiple genres. The band performs at the Green Door Friday. Expect a large dose of '80s tunes and some newer pop hits by Justin Timberlake, Franz Ferdinand, Kid Rock and Cake — as well as some classics from Steely Dan and Stevie Wonder.

Friday, Nov. 4 @ Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 21 and over, 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

STARFARM LOVES THE '80S



Courtesy Photo

Starfarm

For those who miss the days when Cyndi Lauper, Madonna and Simple Minds ruled the airwaves and MTV, Starfarm might be your new favorite cover band. Lovers of '80s hits can catch them Saturday at the Green Door. The band plays a wide variety of hits from the glory days of new wave and pop radio. Starfarm plays weekly area shows and often rocks festivals across the state. The colorful East Lansing-based group has been performing since November 2001 and features co-lead vocalists Whitney Spotts and Slammin' Danny, creating a dynamic blend of female/male vocals. For more information, visit www.starfarmband.com.

Saturday, Nov. 5 @ Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., \$5, 21 and over, 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

ROOTS ROCKIN' AT MAC'S BAR



Courtesy Photo

Dylan Rogers in front, L.U.V.S.

Big John Bates has rustic, dark lyrics and rural melodies, played hard and fast. Bates, a Vancouver-based rocker, has been gigging across the world for the past decade. On Saturday, his three-piece band plays Mac's Bar. While he was originally primarily influenced by punk and rockabilly styles he now embraces a more rustic, dark, and southern sound. After playing over 1,000 shows in 17 countries around the world, this endorsed Gretsch guitarslinger has a solid new band, including Brandy Bones on upright bass, and Timothy Explosion on percussion.

Also taking the stage is Lansing's Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle (L.U.V.S.). The band specializes in gypsy-jazz, and also dubs itself a speakeasy-swing act. The group got its start performing on local street corners and recruiting an array of members from Lansing's pool of musicians. The group blends the songs and growling vocalizations of frontman Dylan Rogers and harmonies by backup singers "The Paupettes," with a gypsy-jazz band of up to 10 musicians. Fans of Elvis, Tom Waits, Gogol Bordello — or even the vocal style of Screamin' Jay Hawkins — might want to check out these

guys. To hear the band's "Rust Belt Jukebox Blues" EP, visit dylanrogers.bandcamp.com. Also performing at Mac's is Calamity Cubes and The Devil's Cut.

Saturday, Nov. 5 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18 and over. \$10, 9 p.m.

THE BLEED'S FAREWELL TOUR STOPS IN LANSING



Courtesy Photo

The Bled

After a decade of making hardcore music and touring with such high-profile bands as Linkin Park, My Chemical Romance, Taking Back Sunday, and Rise Against, The Bled has decided this tour will be its last. The band plays an all-ages show at The Loft on Saturday. Also rocking the stage are Decoder, Versus The Ocean, New Venice, and Fuller. The Bled formed in 2011 and have since released four albums; the most recent, "Heat Fetish," was released in March 2010. Over the years the Tucson-based band has dabbled in a variety of genres, including metalcore, mathcore, melodic hardcore and post hardcore.

Saturday, Nov. 5 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, \$10 advance, \$12 day of show, all ages, doors at 6 p.m.

UPCOMING SHOW?

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LIVE AND LOCAL

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

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

621, 621 E. Michigan Ave.	Phil Denny, 8 p.m.		Yamina, 9 p.m.	DJ Cutt Nice, 9 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		DJ With Travis, 9 p.m.	Nothing 2 Lose, 9 p.m.	Nothing 2 Lose, 9 p.m.
Brannigan Brothers, 210 S. Washington Square		Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m.	Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m.	Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Cloud Magic, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Dublin Square, 327 Abbot Road	DJ Juan, 10 p.m.	Avon Bomb & DJ Beats, 10 p.m.	Showdown & DJ Donny D, 10 p.m.	Huckleberry Grove & DJ Beats, 10 p.m.
Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	3rd Degree, 9 p.m.	Suzi & The Love Brothers, 8:30 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9 p.m.	Summer of Sol, 9 p.m.
The Firm, 227 S. Washington Square	John Beltran, 9 p.m.	DJ Skitzo, 9 p.m.	DJ Donnie D, 9 p.m.	DJ Skitzo, 9 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.	Driver & Rider Show, 7 p.m.	Driver Rider & Road Show, 7 p.m.	Karaoke, 7 p.m.	
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.			The Smoking Jackets, 9:30 p.m.	Starfarm, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Jimkata, 9 p.m.	Toilsome, 7 p.m.	The Bled, 6 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Joe Hertler & the Rainbow Seekers, 7 p.m.	The Spektators, 9 p.m.	I Fight Dragons, 5:30 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.		Lincoln County Process, 10 p.m.	Harvestmen, 10 p.m.	Harvestmen, 10 p.m.
Rookies, 16460 S. US 27		Karaoke with Bob, 9 p.m.	Karaoke with DJ Roy, 9 p.m.	Karaoke with DJ Roy, 9 p.m.
Rick's American Cafe, 224 Abbott Road	Donnie D, 10:30 p.m.	ICE DJs, 10:30 p.m.	Hulkster, 10:30 p.m.	Jedi Mind Trip, 10:30 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & The Beeftones, 9 p.m.	Cash O'riley, 9 p.m.	Cash O'riley, 9 p.m.

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

Out on the town

from page 23

mariachi band, and the Fantasia Folklorico Dancers. 6-8:30 p.m. Suggested \$5 donation. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-7160. www.allsaints-el.org.

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

Allen Street Farmers Market. An encore market, inside. 2:30-6:30 p.m. Open to the public. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 367-2468.

MUSIC

Stan Budzynski & 3rd Degree. Blues and slide Guitar. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. \$15, \$10 student & seniors. The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 314-8000. www.lansingexchange.com.

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

Lansing Matinee Musicale. The theme is autumn. 1 p.m. FREE. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. www.lansingmatineemusical.org.

THEATER

"Will Rogers: An American Original." Set in 1934, this production will re-create the look and feel of one of Will Rogers' famous "lecture tours." 7 p.m. \$18-24; \$10 students. Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Lane, Lansing. (517) 372-0945.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Lansing Area Science Fiction Association Weekly Meeting. Informal dinner and lively conversation. 7 p.m. FREE. Sammy's Lounge, 301 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 402-4481.

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.

Fall Reading Series. With Andrew Hudgins author of "American Rendering: New & Selected Poems." 7 p.m. FREE. MSU Snyder Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-1932.

Thursday, November 3

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Yoga Class for Beginners. An introduction to yoga. For more information and to register e-mail gkende@msu.edu, 9:30-11 a.m., FREE for the first class. Center for Yoga, 1780 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-6640. www.center4yoga.com.

Stroke Education & Support Group. To provide invaluable information from experts in various areas to aid those who have suffered from a stroke. 1:30-2:30 p.m. FREE. Burcham Hills Retirement Community, 2700 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. (517) 827-2309. www.burchamhills.com.

Slow Flow Yoga. Geared toward beginners and focuses on the breath as well as gentle stretching to help clear the mind and relieve the stress of the day. 5:30-6:30 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. fofnc.org.

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

Home Improvement Classes. An ongoing series, get information on design, plumbing, flooring,

See Out on the Town, Page 26

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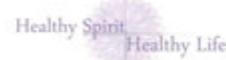
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Out on the town

from page 25

purchasing a home and more. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980.

EVENTS

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

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.

Our Daily Lives. "Two Versions/Visions of Irish Immigrant History: Ron Howard's 'Far and Away' and Martin Scorsese's 'Gangs of New York'," presented by Doug Noverr. 12:15-1:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum Auditorium, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-3982.

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

Jolly Grove Kids Club. Weekly kids garden club, watering, weeding, and planting. 10 a.m. FREE. Jolly Grove Community Garden, Intersection of Jolly Road and Pleasant Grove Road, Lansing. (517) 388-2325.

Tri-County Office on Aging 26th Annual Dinner & Auction. Elegant dining, live and silent auction, raffle, and live entertainment by the Sea Cruisers. 6-9:30 p.m. \$50. Eagle Eye Banquet Center, 15500 S. Chandler Road, Bath. (517) 887-1377 for tickets.

Pottery Fall Sale. Through Clayworks; enter a free drawing. 5-8 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 626-1160. www.stdavidslansing.org.

MUSIC

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

Scott Frost. Live music. FREE. 7-11 p.m. Ryan's Roadhouse, 902 E. State St., St. Johns. (989) 224-2550.

Avon Bomb. Live music. FREE. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Dublin Square Patio, 327 Abbott Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2222. www.dublinsquare.net.

Paulie O. Live music. FREE. 8 p.m.-Midnight. Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. (517) 321-0616.

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

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

THEATER

"Will Rogers: An American Original." 7 p.m. \$18-24. (Please See Details Nov. 2)

"God of Carnage." Two couples — one wealthy, one middle-class — meet to discuss a fight between their kids, but end up in a battle of their own in a black comedy. Presented by Peppermint Creek Theatre Co. 8 p.m. Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner St., Lansing. \$15 adults; \$10 seniors and students. (517) 372-0945. www.peppermintcreek.org

"The Guys." Rick and LeAnn Dethlefsen star in a drama reflecting on the lives of New York firefighters after 9/11. Presented by Over the Ledge Theatre Co. 8 p.m. \$8-\$12. Holt Senior High School Black Box Theater, 5885 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 318-0579.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Jane Congdon. Author of "It Started With Dracula: The Count, My Mother and Me." 7-9 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-9900. www.becauseeverybodyreads.com.

Jennifer Chiuverini. Author of the bestselling Elm Creek Quilts series. 7 p.m. , FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7801. www.schulerbooks.com.

Friday, November 4

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

Mobile Law Clinic. Apply for legal services and learn more about the MSU College of Law Small Business and Nonprofit Clinic. 9:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 336-8088. www.msu.edu.

EVENTS

Bras for a Cause. A fundraiser for the Women's Center, with live auction of decorative bras. 6-8 p.m. \$25, \$40 for a pair. Kellie's Consignments, 4800 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 899-297.

"Paints and Paws." Check out the artistic talent of Potter Park Zoo's animals. Showcasing the paintings actually created by their animals. 4-7 p.m. FREE. Artisan's Circle, 138 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston. (517) 420-4584.

Greater Lansing Weavers Guild. Sale of juried handwoven and fiber arts pieces. Noon-9 p.m. FREE. Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. lansingweavers.blogspot.com.

Oncology Open House. Services for patients,

survivor, caregivers, or those interested in learning more. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Creative Wellness, 2025 Abbot Road, # 200, East Lansing. (517) 351-9240.

Pottery Fall Sale. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (Please See Details Nov. 2)

Happendance 2 Concert. Fourteen dancers will perform new works by jazz, hip-hop and contemporary choreographers, plus a Lebanese dance. 8 p.m. FREE. Happendance Studios, 3448 Hagadorn Road, Okemos. (517) 333-3528.

MUSIC

Free Rein. Relaxing music. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 1982 Grand River Ave., (517) 349-8840. www.lansingmi.gov.

Steve Elgas. Live music. FREE. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Leo's Outpost, 600 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-7755.

Big Willie. Live music. FREE. 8 p.m.-Midnight. Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. (517) 321-0616.

Colin Johnson. Live music. FREE. 5-7 p.m. Potbelly's Sandwich Shop, 233 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 203-4278.

Rock Canyon. Live music. FREE. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Whiskey Barell Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St., Lansing. (517) 351-5690. www.whiskeybarrelsaloon.net.

THEATER

"The Shrike." A psychodrama about an intellectual trapped in a mental asylum by his wife's manipulations. 8 p.m. \$5 students, seniors & staff, \$10. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-0945.

"The Guys." 8 p.m. \$8-\$12. (Please See Details Nov. 3)

"Yamato: The Drummers of Japan." The idea that the drumbeat, like the heartbeat, is the very pulse of life. 8 p.m. \$35-\$15. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000.

"Will Rogers: An American Original." 8 p.m. \$18-24. (Please See Details Nov. 2)

"God of Carnage." 8 p.m. \$15 adults; \$10 seniors and students. (Please See Details Nov. 3)

"Dracula: The Vampire Play." Adapted by Tim Kelly from the classic novel by Bram Stoker. 7 p.m. \$5 kids; \$7 adults. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 333-2580.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Richard P. Smith. Author of "Deer Hunting," "Great Michigan Deer Tales Books 1-5," "Stand Hunting for Whitetails" and more. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-8840. www.schulerbooks.com.

Saturday, November 5

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

Restoration Works Tour and Tutorial. Learn low cost tech fixes for heat leaky houses and more. 10 a.m.-Noon. FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 367-2468. www.restorationworks.org.

Relics of the Big Bang. 8 p.m. \$3 students; \$2.50 students, seniors; \$2 kids. (Please See Details Nov. 4)

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

Math Circle. Grades 2-4 can make math discoveries and play games. 10-11:30 a.m. FREE. East Lansing

Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. www.elpl.org.

Intermediate to Advanced Coupon Class. List development, effective shopping at local stores and avoiding coupon pitfalls. 11 a.m. FREE. CADL Haslett Library, 5670 School St., Haslett. (517) 339-2324. www.cadl.org/events.

EVENTS

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

Greater Lansing Weavers Guild. Sale of juried handwoven and fiber arts pieces. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. lansingweavers.blogspot.com.

A Day of Mindfulness. Led by Dharma teacher Jack Lawlor. Meditation, chanting, discussion and vegetarian meal. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. \$20. Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, 3015 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 351-5866.

Haslett Library Used Book Sale. New memberships and renewals are available at the door. Hardcover books \$1 and paperbacks 50 cents. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St., Haslett. www.friendsofthehaslettlibrary.com.

Pottery Fall Sale. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (Please See Details Nov. 2)

D'Ear Trail 10K Race & Walk. For the Listening Ear, a crisis intervention center. 9 a.m.-Noon. Price varies. Lake Lansing North Park, 6260 E. Lake Drive, Haslett. https://www.signmeup.com/site/online-event-registration/79143.

Archaeology. Learn what's happening in archaeology today. \$6 all day; \$4 seniors; \$2 6-17; FREE 5 and under. Michigan Historical Museum, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 373-1359.

MUSIC

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

Lansing Symphony MasterWorks II. Mozart & Bruckner with Timothy Muffitt, conductor. 8 p.m. \$15-45. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 487-5001. www.lansingsymphony.org.

Temesgen Hussein. Playing the Krar, a six-string lyre, and the Begena, a ten-string harp. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Altu's Ethiopian Cuisine, 1312 Michigan Ave., East Lansing. (517) 333-6295.

Shakespeare Rocks. The American Shakespeare Collective, teams up with popular Lansing bands for a night of rocking music, 6 p.m.-Midnight, FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 484-4825. TASCtheatre@gmail.com.

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

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

Rock Canyon. Live music. FREE. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Whiskey Barell Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St., Lansing. (517) 351-5690. www.whiskeybarrelsaloon.net.

THEATER

"Will Rogers: An American Original." 8 p.m. \$18-24. (Please See Details Nov. 2)

"God of Carnage." 8 p.m. \$15 adults; \$10 seniors and students. (Please See Details Nov. 3)

"The Guys." 8 p.m. \$8-\$12. (Please See Details Nov. 4)

"Dracula: The Vampire Play." 2 and 4 p.m. \$5 kids; \$7 adults. (Please See Details Nov. 4)

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MEDIUM

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TO PLAY

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

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

Answers on page 29

Out on the town

from page 26

"The Shrike." 8 p.m. \$5 students, seniors & staff, \$10. (Please See Details Nov. 4)

Sunday, November 6

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

Relics of the Big Bang. 4 p.m. \$3 students; \$2.50 students, seniors; \$2 kids. (Please See Details Nov. 4)

EVENTS

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

First Sunday Vendor Day. Product demonstrations, and selling product and providing samples. Noon-4 p.m. FREE. Turner-Dodge House & Heritage Center, 100 E. North St., Lansing. (517) 483-4220. www.lansingmi.gov.

Holiday Bazaar. By the Lansing Liederkrantz (German-American) Club, with craft items, holiday items, and bake sale by members. 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. FREE. 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 351-5734.

MUSIC

American Guild of Organists Autumn Pops VI Concert. A blend of pop, classical and jazz on a variety of instruments. 3 p.m. FREE. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 321-4973.

New Horizons Jazz and German Band Concert. Live music. 3 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 841-B Timberlane St., East Lansing. (517)355-7661. www.cms.msu.edu.

Vienna Symphony Orchestra. With Grammy-nominated Eroica Trio. 7 p.m. \$78, \$60, \$35, \$25. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (800) WHARTON. whartoncenter.com.

THEATER

"Will Rogers: An American Original." 2 p.m. \$18-24. (Please See Details Nov. 2)

"God of Carnage." 2 p.m. \$15 adults; \$10 seniors and students. (Please See Details Nov. 3)

"Butterfly: The Story of a Life Cycle." A microscopic look at the insect world. 1:30 p.m. \$8. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. www.whartoncenter.com.

Monday, November 7

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

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

sing. (517) 485-9477.

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

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

Advanced Coupon Class. Topics include avoiding coupon pitfalls, shopping preparation and more. 6:30 p.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840. www.cadl.org/events.

EVENTS

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

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

Lecture & Lunch. Author Richard Paul Evans will speak on the importance of healing and parental love. 11 a.m. \$25 Lecture; \$15 Lunch. Causeway Bay Hotel,

6820 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 339-2246.

MUSIC

Movie, Music and Magnificent Voices. Band and MacDonald Middle School Choir will be performing. 7 p.m. FREE. The Marquette Activity room, 5968 Park Lake Rd and Saginaw Hwy., East Lansing. (517) 355-7661. www.cms.msu.edu.

THEATER

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.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Movie, Music and Magnificent Voices. New Horizons and MacDonald Middle School choir will perform. FREE. The Marquette, 5969 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661.

Microsoft Word Basics. Learn to modify, cut and paste text plus open, close and save new documents. 10 a.m. FREE. Haslett Library, 5670 School St., Haslett. (517) 339-2324.

Toddler Storytime. For ages 2-3 features stories,

songs and crafts. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021.

Preschool Storytime with Crafts. Ages 3-5, younger patrons welcome with close adult supervision. 11 a.m. FREE. Stockbridge Library, 200 Wood St., Stockbridge. (517) 851-7810.

Preschool Storytime. Ages 3-6. Stories, songs and crafts. 2 p.m. FREE. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021.

Writer's Discussion Group. For adults and mature teens. An informal venue to share work and receive feedback. 4:30 p.m. FREE. Stockbridge Library, 200 Wood St., Stockbridge. (517) 851-7810.

Drop-in After School Tutoring. Homework help in all subjects, grades K-12. 5 p.m. FREE. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021.

Homework Help. One-on-one tutoring sessions for grades K-12 taught by MSU students. 5 p.m. FREE. Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 672-4072. www.cadl.org.

Pizza & Pages Book Discussion Group. Talk about books and enjoy a pizza dinner. 6 p.m. FREE. Dansville Library, 1379 E. Mason St., Dansville. (517) 623-6511.

See Out on the Town, Page 28

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Out on the town

from page 27

Advanced Coupon Class. Avoiding coupon pitfalls, shopping preparation and efficient "check-out" strategies. 6:30 p.m. FREE. South Lansing Library, 3500 S Cedar St., # 108, Lansing. (517) 272-9840.

Evening Storytime. Ages 3 and up. Stories songs and crafts. Theme: Teddy Bear Picnic, bring your favorite stuffed animal. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Haslett Library, 5670 School St., Haslett. (517) 339-2324.

Better Living Book Club. Discuss 'A Bittersweet Season: Caring for Our Aging Parents and Ourselves; by Jane Gross. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Colleen Deatsman. Author of "The Hollow Bone," 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 2820 Towne

Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7801. www.schuler-books.com.

Tuesday, November 8 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Widowed Persons Support Group. Facilitated by Susan K. Zimmerman & Dan Popoff. 7-9 p.m. FREE. University Lutheran Church, 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. (517) 339-4675. www.ulcel.org.

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

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

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

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

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

Home Improvement Classes. An ongoing series: Get information on design, plumbing, flooring, purchasing a home and more. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980.

EVENTS

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

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

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

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.

Maker's/Hackerspace Meeting. To support a wide array of technical and creative disciplines through infrastructure, inspiration, making and sharing. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. For location and more information: (517) 281-7323.

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

General Election. The election will fill three East Lansing City Council seats. 7 a.m.-8 p.m. FREE. Turner-Dodge House & Heritage Center, 100 E. North St., Lansing. (517) 483-4220. www.cityofeastlansing.com/elections.

Greater Lansing Weavers Guild. Speaker Martha Reeves will discuss and demonstrate about technique of "Beaded Leno." 6:30 p.m. FREE. St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 2418 Aurelius Road, Holt. (517) 694-0978. Lansingweavers.blogspot.com.

Ace Deville's Tantalizing Tuesdays. Show starts at 11:30 p.m. includes professional male dancers, DJ and a sexy fashion show. 9 p.m. \$3 21; \$7 18. Fahrenheit Ultra Lounge, 6810 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 488-1517.

MUSIC

Open Jazz Jam. Weekly jazz series hosted by the Jeff Shoup Quartet. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 487-4464.

THEATER

"West Side Story." Musical set in 1950s New York about forbidden love between an American young

See Out on the Town, Page 29

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Out on the town

from page 28

man and a Puerto Rican young woman. 7:30 p.m. From \$30. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (800) WHARTON.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Books on Tap. Discuss the latest titles while enjoying food and drinks in a fun, restaurant/pub atmosphere. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Jimmy's Pub, 16804 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Jerry Dennis. Author of "The Windward Shore: A Winter on the Great Lakes," 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-8840. www.schulerbooks.com.

Reading & Math Help for Adults. 1 p.m. FREE. Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 672-4072. www.cadl.org.

Lego Club. Ages 6-14. Let your imagination soar by building something. 4 p.m. FREE. Williamston Library, 201 School St., Williamston. (517) 655-1191.

African American Authors Reading Circle. Reviews of books & talks on the latest additions to our Ethnic Collection. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 672-4072.

Wednesday, November 9

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

ICE meeting. Network with professionals in the Greater Lansing/Mid-Michigan area. 6-8 p.m. FREE. The Hatch, 325 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517)-432-8800.

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

Meditation. For beginners and experienced, practice in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, 3015 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 351-5866.

ICE meeting. Network with professionals in the Greater Lansing/Mid-Michigan area. 6-8 p.m. FREE. The Hatch, 325 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517)-432-8800.

Community Yoga. Power yoga class. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Nov. 2)

EVENTS

Practice Your English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Nov. 2)

The University of Michigan-Flint at LCC: Advising Day. All prospective and current students welcome, attend the event and have your \$30 application fee waived. 2-6 p.m. FREE. Lansing Community College University Center, 422 N. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 483-9727.

Allen Street Farmers Market. An encore mar-

ket, inside. 2:30-6:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 367-2468.

Relay For Life of Lansing Corporate Kickoff. Get your business more involved with the community. 6 p.m. FREE. Tripper's Sports Bar, 350 Frandor Ave., Lansing. (517) 664-1343.

Design Lansing Comprehensive Plan. A public hearing to consider the adoption of the plan. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 483-4066.

East Lansing Film Festival. Celebrates its 14th year by showing iforeign, domestic and local features, documentaries and more. 7:30 p.m. Price Varies. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 993-5444.

Poker fundraiser. For the Michigan Women's Historical Center & Hall of Fame. Need volunteers. 3-11:30 p.m. FREE. Stacks Hold'em Bar, 4750 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. 517) 484-1880.

Soup & Sandwich Luncheon. Lansing Liederkrantz Club: homemade soups and sandwiches. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. \$6. Lansing Liederkrantz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 944-0500.

MUSIC

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

Trevor Compton. Live music. FREE. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Mark's Watershed, 5965 Marsh Road, Haslett. (517) 999-7433.

Nick Chase. Live music. FREE. 8 p.m.-Midnight. Leo's Spirits & Grub, 2085 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-1100.

Karaoke by Ryan. Live music. FREE. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Leo's Outpost, 600 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-7755.

THEATER

"West Side Story." 7:30 p.m. From \$30. (Please See Details Nov. 8)

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Larry Neitzert. Author of "Barn Stories: A Collection of Michigan Short Stories." 7-9 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 346-9900.

Lansing Area Science Fiction Association Weekly Meeting. 7 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Nov. 2)

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.

Fall Reading Series. With Jack Ridl author of "Practicing to Walk like a Heron." 7 p.m. FREE. MSU Snyder Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-1932.

Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsny

November 2-9

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Here's Malcolm Gladwell, writing in *The Tipping Point*: "We need to prepare ourselves for the possibility that sometimes big changes follow from small events, and that sometimes these changes can happen quickly . . . Look at the world around you. It may seem an immovable, implacable place. It is not. With the slightest push — in just the right place — it can be tipped." You are now within shouting distance of your own personal tipping point, Aries. Follow your gut wisdom as you decide where to give a firm little push.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Welcome to the autumnal garden of earthly delights, Taurus. It's a brooding, fermenting paradise, full of the kind of dark beauty that wouldn't be caught dead in a spring garden. There's smoldering joy to be found amidst this riotous flowering of moody colors, but you won't appreciate it if you're too intent on seeking bright serenity and pristine comfort. Be willing to dirty your hands and even your mind. Feel the moss on your back, the leaves in your hair, and the mist on your bare legs. (P.S. If you like, you can take what I just said as an elaborate metaphor.)

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Here's a vignette described by columnist Thomas Friedman: "Ludwig Wittgenstein once remarked that if you ask a man how much is 2 plus 2 and he tells you 5, that is a mistake. But if you ask a man how much is 2 plus 2 and he tells you 97, that is no longer a mistake. The man you are talking with is operating with a wholly different logic from your own." I'd like to suggest, Gemini, that for you right now the whole world is like the man who swears 2 plus 2 is 97. At least temporarily, you are on a very different wavelength from your surroundings. In order to understand what's coming toward you, you will have to do the equivalent of standing on your head, crossing your eyes, and opening your mind as wide as it'll stretch.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you want to grow vanilla beans, you have to pollinate the plant's flowers within 12 hours after they bloom. In nature, the only insect that can do the job is the Melipona, a Mexican bee. Luckily, humans can also serve as pollinators, which they do on commercial vanilla farms. They use thin wood splinters or stems of grass to perform the delicate magic. I'm thinking that you resemble a vanilla bean right now, Cancerian. It is the season when you're extra receptive to fertilization, but all the conditions have to be just right for the process to be successful. Here's my advice: Figure out exactly what those conditions are, then call on all your resourcefulness to create them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Even our most sophisticated drilling machines have barely made pinpricks in the earth's surface. The deepest hole ever dug was 40,000 feet, which is just 0.2 percent of the planet's 20-million-foot radius. I offer this up as a spur to your imagination, Leo. The coming weeks will be an excellent time for you to plumb further into the depths of anyplace or anything you're intrigued by — whether that's a subject you've always wondered about, a person you care for, the mysteries of life, or the secrets of your own psyche. You could reach the equivalent of five million feet into the Earth's innards.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): *National Geographic* speculates that most of the species on Earth are still unknown and unnamed (tinyurl.com/UnknownLife). While 1.2 million life forms have been identified by science, there may be as many as 7.5 million that are not, or 86 percent of the total. I suspect that this breakdown is similar to the situation in your life, Virgo. You know about 14 percent of what you need to know, but there's still a big frontier to explore. The coming months should be prime time for you to cover a lot of new ground — and now would be a perfect moment to set the stage for that grand experiment.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): I suspect that you will have a minor form of good luck going for you this week. It probably won't be enough to score you a winning lottery ticket or earn you a chance to get the answer to your most fervent prayers. But it might bring you into close proximity with a financial opportunity, a pretty good helper, or a resource that could subtly boost your stability over the long haul. For best results, don't invoke your mild blessings to assist in trivial matters like finding parking places or avoiding long lines at check-out lines. Use them for important stuff.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "Try to be surprised by something every day," advises Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi in his book *Creativity: Flow and the Psychology of Discovery and Invention*. That's an inspirational idea for everyone all the time, but especially for you Scorpios right now. This is the week of all weeks when you have the best chance of tinkering with your rhythm so that it will thrive on delightful unpredictability. Are you brave enough to capitalize on the opportunity? I think you are. Concentrate your attention on cultivating changes that feel exciting and life-enhancing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "Dear Rob: I was born on November 30, and am quite attached to having it as a birthdate. But there's a complication. While in Iraq in 2006, I was half-blown up by a bomb, and had a near-death experience. When I returned from my excursion to the land of the dead, I felt I'd been born anew. Which is why I now also celebrate September 24, the date of the bombing, as my second birthday. What do you think? Two-Way Tamara." Dear Two-Way: I believe we'd all benefit from having at least one dramatic rebirth in the course of our lives, though hopefully not in such a wrenching fashion as yours. In fact, a fresh rebirth every few years or so would be quite healthy. If it means adding additional astrological identities to our repertoire, so much the better. Thanks for bringing up the subject, as it's an excellent time for Sagittarians everywhere to seek out an exhilarating renewal.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Social climbers are people who are focused on gaining higher status in whatever circle of people they regard as cool, even to the point of engaging in fawning or ingratiating behavior. Soul climbers, on the other hand, are those who foster the power of their imagination, keep deepening their connection with life's intriguing enigmas, and explore the intersection of self-interest and generosity toward others. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you could go far in either of those directions during the coming weeks, Capricorn — but not both. Which will you choose?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): An Australian man named Daniel Fowler has more giraffe tattoos on his shoulders than any other human being on the planet. So says the Universal Record Database at Recordsetter.com. Meanwhile, Darryl Learie is now the only person to ever be able to insert three steak knives into an inflated balloon, and Billy Disney managed to inject a world-record 31 sexual innuendoes into a rap song about potatoes. What could or should be your claim to fame, Aquarius? This would an excellent time to try to establish your reputation as the best at your specific talent.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "You have to know how far to go too far," said poet and filmmaker Jean Cocteau. I reckon that's good advice for you right now. You're at a phase of your astrological cycle when you really can't afford to keep playing by all the rules and staying inside the proper boundaries. For the sake of your physical and psychological and spiritual health, you need to wander out beyond the limits that you've been so faithfully respecting. And yet, on the other hand, it would be a mistake to claim you have a right to stop at nothing. Know how far to go too far.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 26

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

P	L	A	T	H	S	S	T	P	O	L	S			
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Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsny's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.

November Food Show & Wine Tasting

November 12 : 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

The food show will feature primarily specialty Michigan food while the wine tasting will be 6 wines from around the world for only \$5.00.

Photobug photo booth will be on hand as well for fun photo booth pictures.

The same day our neighbors at Capital City Vision are hosting a tailgate party and trunk show. Stop in and visit with the great staff at Capital City Vision just down the sidewalk from Dusty's.



November Tapas Tasting

November 12 : 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

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

Dark Horse Beer Dinner

November 15 : 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Enjoy a five course meal paired with the great beers from Dark Hourse Brewing Company. Cost is \$46.50.

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A Trail worth following

There's something tasty at every stop along Michigan's Pioneer Wine Trail



By MICHAEL BRENTON

Looking for a fun, spontaneous activity to fill the seasonal void before the holidays? The Pioneer Wine Trail beckons. The trip comprises eight south-central Michigan wineries comprise the "trail," all within an easy day trip from the Lansing area.

These wineries boast many medal-winning wines and are attracting loyal followers. Geographically, the northernmost winery on the trail is Burgdorf's Winery, east of Haslett, and the southernmost is J. Tree Vineyards, near Blissfield. In between, six other wineries span from Dexter on the east side to Albion on the west. Many of these wineries source some of their grapes and fruit from a variety of growers around the state, so you'll be enjoying wines made from grapes grown in regions ideal for maturation of the variety.

All medal references are based upon results of the 2010 and 2011 Michigan Wine and Spirits Competition, the most significant judged event limited to Michigan wines.

Consider starting the tour just around the corner at Burgdorf's Winery. Drawing upon their extensive science and agricultural backgrounds, Dave and Deb Burgdorf not only create grape wines, but also bottle a variety of fruit wines. Featuring as many as 30 wine selections, there is something for every palate — plus, customers can even arrange to make their own wines. The 2007 Morado, a sweet red wine made from Concord grapes, won double gold at the Michigan Wine and Spirits Competition, a rare honor for any winery. Or consider the gold medal-winning 2009 Niagara, a sweet white wine, or the double gold-medal-winning Perfection, a blend of black raspberry and tart cherry.

Next, head south on US 127 to Chateau Aeronautique Winery, located at the edge of a runway at Williams Aero Estates, near Leslie. Founded by Delta Airlines international pilot Lorenzo Lizarralde, Chateau Aeronautique features an elegant tasting room and wood deck, which provide a perfect setting for enjoyment of classic vinifera wines such as Chardonnay, Pinot Gris, Gewurztraminer, Riesling, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot. Wine styles range from bone-dry to port-style sweet.

Not far away is Sandhill Crane Vineyards, aptly named to honor the nearby sandhill crane rookeries. Notable wines include gold medal-winning 2008 Sur Lie Chardonnay and 2010 Vidal Blanc, along with silver medal-winning 2008 Legacy (a dry blend of Chardonnay and Vignoles), 2009 Chardonel, Moulin Rouge, 2006 Port in a Storm, 2008 Late Harvest Riesling, 2009 Blushing Crane, 2009 Serenade and Raspberry Rose.

Head south across I-94 to Grass Lake

and linger at Lone Oak Vineyard Estate, where you might enjoy the raspberry wine creatively labeled "LOVE" after the winery name. It features 12 estate-grown European grape varieties, and vineyard management practices follow a unique path. The vines are trellised just three inches from the ground, for maximum absorption of ground heat, protection from cold weather at night and protection from winter kill during the dormant season. Lone Oak features dry through sweet wines, including Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Riesling and Gewurztraminer, as well as a red raspberry dessert wine. Look for wine dinners and entertainment on most Saturday nights.

Winding down the road to Tecumseh, you'll encounter Pentamere Winery, with its "urban" setting in an historic building in downtown Tecumseh. Sourcing grapes from a variety of vineyard sites, Pentamere not only offers a range of nearly 20 wines covering dry red through the most delectable "ice wine," but also offers fruit wines, spiced wine (to drink warm in front of a fireplace on a cold winter evening) and



Courtesy Photo

An old schoolhouse now houses some of the newest creations from John and Denise Burtka's Cherry Creek Cellars.

even wine jellies.

The next stop is the Pioneer Wine Trail's southernmost winery, J. Trees Cellars, on Main Street in Blissfield. Michigan State University viticulture grad Jon Treolar's wines have shown well in competition, including silver medals for 2008 Vidal Blanc Ice Wine, 2008 Dry Riesling and 2008 Chardonnay. Visit J. Trees Cellars' Facebook page for up-to-date information and comments regarding selections, such as Fuji Ice Cider and 2010 House Red.

Heading back home on Highway 223 toward John and Denise Burtka's Cherry Creek Cellars, you'll need to make a decision: Visit their winery and tasting room located in an 1870 schoolhouse off of US-12, or stop at their second tasting room location off I-94 near Parma? Either way, visitors have an opportunity to sample a vast array of wines, including gold medal winners such as Cherry Port, Jazz and La Mia

See *Uncorked*, Page 31

Uncorked

from page 30

Famiglia, double gold-winning Raceway Red (remember Michigan International Speedway is just around the corner), and silver medal-winning 2008 Montage, Wood Duck White, Dry Riesling, 2007 Lynn Aleksandr Cabernet Sauvignon, Michigan Cherry and Summer Breeze. Visitors will also enjoy the well-stocked merchandise shelves, featuring a variety of cherry-based products, coffees and fudge.

The wine trail journey ends at Sleeping Bear Winery, which also happens to be the home of the Bad Bear Brewery and a great Taste of Michigan store, featuring a wide variety of food and non-food items.

The wine selection is broad, covering a range of wine styles, including several fruit wines. Notable wines include double gold medal-winning Vignoles, and gold medal-winning Bear Lake White, Edelzwicker and Winedog Boardoe. As long as you are there, don't forget to check out the brewery side, where guests can enjoy pizza and sandwiches in the brew pub while sampling from the seasonally rotating list of fresh beers and ales.

Enjoy the journey.

For more information about the Pioneer Wine Trail, sponsored events, and links to the wineries' web sites, visit www.pioneerwinetrail.com.

In vino veritas

(Michael Brenton is president of the Greater Lansing Vintners Club. His column appears monthly.)

foodfinder

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

CAFES & DINERS

RESTAURANT MEDITERAN DELI — This bright, casual deli is set up as a New York-style take-out, but there are about 10 seats, if you want to sit by the window and watch the world go by. It offers fresh rotisserie chicken, pork and lamb, as well as fresh salads and wraps. 333 S. Washington Sq., Lansing.

11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (lunch), 4:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. (dinner) Monday-Friday, 4 p.m.-9 p.m. Saturday (dinner only). Closed Sundays. Deli side is open 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday. (517) 372-1072. www.restaurantmediteran.com. TO, OM, \$.

SAWYER'S GOURMET PANCAKE HOUSE — You may have had blue-

berry pancakes before — but how about mango? Sawyer's is known for its all-natural, organic and local approach to food, as well as for its diverse menu (which goes far beyond pancakes). 608 W. Saginaw St., Lansing. 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday-Sunday. (517) 485-9410. OM, \$\$.

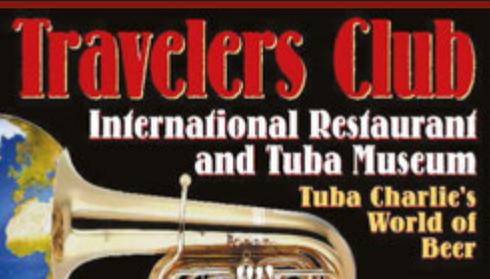
SOPHIA'S HOUSE OF PANCAKES — Pancakes and omelets fill the tables at Sophia's, but a dinner menu includes other favorites, such as stuffed chicken breast. 1010 Charlevoix Drive, Grand Ledge. 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. (517) 627-3222. TO, WiFi, \$.

Average price per person, not including drinks:

\$ Less than \$8 | \$\$ \$8 to \$14 | \$\$\$ \$14 to \$20 | \$\$\$\$ Over \$20

FB Full Bar **WB** Wine & Beer **TO** Take Out **OM** Online Menu **RES** Reservations **P** Patio **WiFi** Wireless Internet **D** Delivery

November Special: Sweden - start with Split Pea Soup, a little Glasmästarsill (pickled herring), Smoked Whitefish, and Rye Bread with Herb butter. Save room for the Main Course: Pytti Panna - a traditional hearty roast beef & ham hash, with some Steamed Kale topped by dill sour cream, and a side of Brown Beans



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