

TIME *Out*

MORNING SUN

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St. Louis hosts weekend festival, Page 8

inside

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WHAT they said...

By The Associated Press

"I'm frankly sick of it. I've been going out for a long time now. Yeah, it's fun, but it's not going to be the mainstay of my life anymore."
— **Paris Hilton**, telling CNN's Larry King that she's through with her party lifestyle.

"We want to have fun. That's one of the many reasons for this, for our children to see what we used to do."
— **Victoria "Posh Spice" Beckham**, on the Spice Girls' upcoming reunion tour.

"This is why I haven't allowed any champagne toasts in the newsroom when the ratings have been flawless and spectacular and joyous. This is a back-and-forth dogfight."
— **NBC "Nightly News" anchor Brian Williams**, on losing the ratings race to ABC and Charles Gibson.

"While I was finishing the film, sitting in the editing room, I just started thinking, geez, I'm seeing myself on the screen. This is so hypocritical. You're making a health-care film, and you're not taking care of your own health."
— **Michael Moore**, director of the new documentary, "Sicko," on following his own advice to exercise and eat healthy.

"I am looking forward to moving into another form of what I feel is another creative outlet for me and that would be acting."
— **Christina Aguilera**.



BRIAN WILLIAMS

Weekend's top picks

Blues for the festival

Center Stage at the Gem Theatre in St. Louis hosts a variety of musical acts during a blues gala on Saturday, that coincides with St. Louis' summer festival.

See Page 8 for details.

Holiday spirit

The post-Fourth of the July weekend continues with a patriotic theme at Rosebush's Red, White and Blue events this weekend. In Weidman, check out the annual Weidman Daze.

That Was Then

By The Associated Press

Entertainment highlights during the week of July 8-14:

1939: Frank Sinatra made his first record, singing "From the Bottom of My Heart" and "Melancholy Mood" with the Harry James Orchestra.

1956: Dick Clark made his debut as host of "Bandstand" on a Philadelphia TV station. The name was changed to "American Bandstand" when it went to ABC.

1964: The Supremes released their first hit, "Where Did Our Love Go."

1967: Actress Vivien Leigh died of tuberculosis. She was 53.

Celebrity Birthdays

Today: Actress Katherine Helmond ("Who's The Boss," "Soap") is 73. Actress Shirley Knight is 71. Singer Huoey Lewis is 57. Country keyboardist Charles Ventre of River Road is 55. Singer Marc Cohn is 48. Actress Edie Falco ("The Sopranos") is 44. Actress Kathryn Erbe ("Law and Order: Criminal Intent") is 42. Rapper RZA is 38. Drummer Bengt Lagerberg of The Cardigans is 34. Rapper Bizarre of D12 is 31. Singer Jason Wade of Lifehouse is 27. Bassist Nick O'Malley of Arctic Monkeys is 22.

July 6: Actor William Schallert ("The Patty Duke Show") is 85. Talk show host Merv Griffin is 82. Actress-singer Della Reese is 76. Actor Ned Beatty is 70. Country singer Jeannie Seely is 67. Actor Burt Ward ("Batman") is 61. Actor Fred Dryer is 61. Actor Sylvester Stallone is 61. Actor Geoffrey Rush is 56. Actress Shelley Hack is 55. Rapper Inspectah Deck of Wu-Tang Clan is 37. Rapper 50 Cent is 31. Actresses Tia and Tamera Mowry ("Sister, Sister") are 29. Actor Jeremy Suarez

("Bernie Mac") is 17.

July 7: Blues pianist Pinetop Perkins is 94. Bandleader Doc Severinsen is 80. Drummer Ringo Starr is 67. Actress Shelley Duvall is 58. Actor Billy Campbell ("Once and Again") is 48. Bassist Mark White of the Spin Doctors is 45. Actress Jorja Fox ("C.S.I.") is 39. Actress Cree Summer ("A Different World") is 38. Actor Troy Garity ("Barbershop") is 34.

July 8: Singer Steve Lawrence is 72. Actress Anjelica Huston is 56. Actor Kevin Bacon is 49. Country singer Toby Keith is 46. Singer Joan Osborne is 45. Actor Billy Crudup ("Almost Famous") is 39. Actor Michael Weatherly ("NCIS," "Dark Angel") is 39. Singer Beck is 37. Guitarist Stephen Mason of Jars of Clay is 32. Actor Milo Ventimiglia ("Heroes," "Gilmore Girls") is 30. Trumpeter Tavis Werts of Reel Big Fish is 30. Actress Sophia Bush ("One Tree Hill") is 25. Guitarist Jamie Cook of Arctic Monkeys is 22.



A look at live entertainment offerings for the weekend and coming week.

Bars and restaurants

Rubbles in downtown Mt. Pleasant features bands on the weekend.

This weekend, **Milligram Smile** is scheduled to play on Friday. Music starts about 10 p.m.

McB's, on M-20 east of Mt. Pleasant, features live bands on the weekends. Bands play Friday and Saturday. Music starts at 9:30 p.m.

Comedy Night at Boomers at the Holiday Inn in Mt. Pleasant on Wednesday begins at 9:30 p.m. \$5 cover, waived for hotel guests.

Fifi's French Press in downtown Mt. Pleasant features **Fifi's Front Porch and Open Mic nights** on the second and fourth Monday of each month, with a disc jockey on the first Wednesday of each month at 9 p.m.

White Wagon Sports Bar and Restaurant in Rosebush features live music on Fridays and Saturdays. Music starts about 9:30 p.m.

The Brass Café in downtown Mt. Pleasant normally features live music on the weekend. The restaurant is closed through July 10.

Karaoke, etc.

The Blue Bar and Restaurant, on Winn Road in Beal City, offers karaoke on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings. A DJ plays on Fridays.

Ghost Town Saloon in Elwell, with new owners, offers karaoke on Tuesday and Friday and a DJ on Saturday.

The Gateway Lanes Lounge in Clare offers karaoke every Tuesday, Friday and Saturday evening, beginning at 9:30. No cover.

Bravehearts Pub in Alma features karaoke every Thursday from 9:30 p.m. to close. No cover.

McB's Bar, on M-20 east of Mt. Pleasant, hosts karaoke every Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

The Loon Saloon in Mecosta features karaoke Thursdays from 8 p.m. to midnights.

White Wagon sports bar restaurant in Rosebush offers karaoke every Wednesday, beginning at 9 p.m.

If your bar or restaurant has an entertainment event that you would like included in this listing, you may send information to Mindy Norton at mnorton@michigannewspapers.com.

LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT

Weidman Daze set for weekend

By MINDY NORTON
Sun Weekend Editor

Weidman's annual festival has a long tradition in the community, going back decades.

The key to a successful festival in a small town is a variety of events to appeal to the whole family, and Weidman Daze organizers strive to do just that.

This year's festival runs from Friday through Sunday. In all, two parades are planned, the Lights and Sirens Parade featuring the Nottawa Sherman Fire Department at dusk on Friday and the festival parade at 11 a.m. Saturday.

Fireworks are planned for dusk on Saturday. Friday's events get started with a Fishing Contest at 9 a.m. The contest runs through Saturday.

A Quilt Show takes place in the Community Building from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday (see below for more details).

Other events Friday include the Red Hat Blessing and Luncheon at the United Methodist Church at 11 a.m.; a softball tournament at 6 p.m.; a horseshoe tournament at 6 p.m. and a Texas Hold 'Em tournament, also at 6 p.m.

A pizza eating contest will be at Pizza King at 1 p.m. You must pre-register and may do so at Pizza King.

The festival's beverage tent, food wagons, pony rides and a farm zoo will open at 6 p.m.

Live music is planned from 7 p.m. until midnight.

Saturday gets started with a flea market and craft show at Sherman Township Park at 9 a.m. Car show registration starts at noon.

Quilt show part of festival

Country Quilters will host their annual Quilt Show and Demonstration during Weidman Daze.

The show is planned for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Community Center, at the Community Center, 5918 W. Bridge Road (behind the IGA). Admission is free.

The group's queen-sized raffle quilt, "Rising Star" will be on display. The raffle will be held at noon Aug. 15 during the group's weekly quilt session (Ticket holders do not need to be present at drawing).

Country Quilters uses raffle ticket proceeds to make donations to local charities. Raffle tickets are six- or \$5 or \$1 each and are available from any member of the group or can be purchased at the show.

If you go

Event: Weidman Daze festival
When: Friday through Saturday
Highlights: Lights and Sirens Parade at dusk Friday
Festival parade at 11 a.m. Saturday
Fireworks at dusk Saturday
Hog Roast at noon Saturday at Weidman Elementary School

Also on tap for Saturday is music by the Back Porch Pickers from 1 to 4 p.m., a hog roast at Weidman Elementary School at noon, and children's games from 1 to 5 p.m. with pie eating at 2 p.m.

The Bed Race is planned for 6 p.m. Music by The Silver Fox will entertain from 7 p.m. until midnight.

Sunday's events include:

■ A fireman's breakfast by the Nottawa Sherman Fire Department at the VFW Hall from 8 a.m. until noon.

■ The beverage tent opens at noon.

■ The Lawnmower Tractor Pull gets underway at 1 p.m. (Weight-in is at 11 a.m.)

■ Softball tournaments continue at 1 p.m.

CELEBRATION! Cinema

****Transformers (PG-13)**
Thurs-Sun: 12:15, 1:55, 3:30, 5:10, 6:45, 8:25, 10:00
Also Fri/Sat: 11:35pm

****License to Wed (PG)**
Thurs-Sun: 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15

****Ratouille (G)**
Thurs-Sun: 12:05, 1:25, 2:50, 4:10, 5:35, 6:55, 8:20, 9:45

****Live Free or Die Hard (PG-13)**
Thurs-Sun: 12:50, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40 • Also Fri/Sat: 10:50pm

****Evan Almighty (PG)**
Thurs-Sun: 12:00, 2:10, 4:20, 6:30, 8:40

****1408 (PG-13)**
Thurs-Sun: 12:40, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:55

****Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer (PG)**
Thurs-Sun: 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30

Ocean's Thirteen (PG-13)
Thurs-Sat: 3:35, 8:45
Sun: 7:10, 9:50

Surf's Up (PG)
Thurs-Sun: 12:10, 2:15, 4:15

Knocked Up (PG)
Thurs-Sun: 6:45, 9:35

Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End (PG-13)
Thurs-Sat: 12:05, 8:15
Sun: 12:05, 8:45

On the cover

Jennifer Shattuck posts information about the musical acts that will appear at Center Stage at the Gem in St. Louis this weekend. The St. Louis Blues and Music Festival is Saturday.

Photograph by Dick Bolton

TIME Out

Your guide to music, movies, and local entertainment

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AREA EVENTS

Rosebush hosts Red, White and Blue festival

From staff reports

For many area residents, the annual Red, White and Blue Celebration is as much a part of the Fourth of July weekend as the Fourth of July itself.

Held each July, as close as possible to the July 4 holiday, the event is a chance for Rosebush to roll out the welcome mat.

This year's events are Friday through Sunday, July 6 to 8.

The festival gets started with an ice cream social from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Rosebush United Methodist Church.

Saturday's events start with a softball tournament at Isabella Township Park.

The tractor pulls get started at 10 a.m.

Line-up for the parade begins at 10 a.m., and the Piece to Peace Quilters also will hold its raf-

fle. The quilt show runs from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The parade begins at 11 a.m. Saturday, traveling from Rosebush elementary to the Isabella Township Park.

Grand marshals are Marlin and Joyce Clark.

In addition, the Clarks will be honored for their dedication to the community with a presentation at 1 p.m. The Rosebush Garden Club also will be recognized.

Entertainment for the kids starts at noon, with inflatables. The concession stand also opens at noon, offering barbecue pork sandwiches, chips, ice cream and cookies (prepared by area churches) at the township park.

Joe Meyer and the Way-backs will perform from noon to 3 p.m. at the festival tent.

One of the major attractions of the festival is sure to be the third annual Classic Auto Show, which runs from noon to 3 p.m.

If you go

Event: Red, White and Blue Celebration in Rosebush

When: Friday through Sunday

Opening event: Ice cream social Friday evening.

Parade: 11 a.m. Saturday, from Rosebush elementary to the Isabella Township Park.

The Best of Show Award is scheduled to be presented at 3 p.m. in front of Rosebush Hardware, presented by Ed Fancon.

Events on Sunday include a Community Worship Service at 10:45 a.m. and the continuation of the softball tournament.

Visit to CMU to be shown on 'Little People, Big World'

By CMU PUBLIC RELATIONS
Special to the Sun

Central Michigan University will serve as the backdrop for an upcoming episode of a popular television show.

"Amy's College Homecoming," a second-season episode of TLC's "Little People, Big World," was filmed on CMU's campus and around Mt. Pleasant during CMU alumna Amy Roloff's visit

to her alma mater in March, when she delivered a speech to a capacity crowd in the university's Plachta Auditorium.

The episode will air at 8:30 p.m. Monday, July 9, on TLC. It will be shown again at 11:30 p.m. July 9, 7:30 p.m. July 16, 2:30 a.m. July 17, 9:30 p.m. July 22 and 12:30 a.m. July 23.



The episode is expected to feature Roloff's speech, as well as the 1985 CMU graduate's time with her parents and sister; her interactions with CMU students, faculty and staff; and her visits to fondly remembered campus sites.

"With all the chaos on Roloff Farms, Amy can hardly find time to prepare for her upcoming motivational speech at Central Michigan University. Amy heads to Michigan feeling unprepared, but her arrival on campus triggers a flood of inspirational memories," according to the episode summary on TLC's Web site.

"Little People, Big



Courtesy photo

Amy Roloff spoke at Central Michigan University in March.

World" chronicles the life of the Roloff family, including Livonia native Amy and her husband, Matt, both of whom are active members of Little People of America, and their children, twins Zach and Jeremy, daughter Molly, and youngest son Jacob. The Roloffs live on and operate Roloff Farms, a 34-acre property near Portland, Ore.

The student group On the Fly Productions expects to host a viewing party for the episode after the start of the 2007-2008 academic year. The public will be welcome.

MOVIES

Say 'I Don't' to 'License to Wed'

By CHRISTY LEMIRE
AP Movie Critic

Here's how bad "License to Wed" is: Even the outtakes at the end are lame.

It's exactly what it looks like from the commercials — a one-joke movie, and that one joke isn't even funny to begin with.

Robin Williams is constantly straining as Reverend Frank, the minister from hell who forces the newly engaged Ben (John Krasinski) and Sadie (Mandy Moore) to undergo a sadistic marriage prep course before they can say "I do."

You'll wish you'd said: "I don't." As in the similarly desperate "The Ex" and "You, Me & Dupree," Ben is the only one who recognizes that Reverend Frank's methods are suspect; everyone else thinks he's great. This conceit grows old, like, immediately.

It is refreshing, though, to see a new face in Krasinski as the straight man in one of these wacky romantic comedies. The co-star of TV's "The Office" has unconventional good looks and an easy likability about him; more importantly, he's not Ben Stiller or Luke Wilson or someone else you've seen a thousand times before.

But this is the second flat, shrill chick flick Moore has starred in this year, following "Because I Said So." We know from movies like "American Dreamz" and "Saved!" that there's more to her than her pretty, pop-star past would suggest. She just needs to choose roles that let her prove that. Meanwhile, Wanda Sykes, Bob Balaban and Grace Zabriskie are squandered here in bit parts.

So here's the story, which bafflingly took four writers to concoct: Ben and Sadie meet awkwardly in line at Starbucks, fall in love and move in together. When he asks her to marry him — in front of everyone at her wealthy parents' 30th wedding anniversary party, which is also awkward — she says yes, but tells him it's been her lifelong dream to be wed at her family's church.

That's where Reverend Frank rules absolutely, with wannabe hipster slang tossed into his sermons and corny rhymes to teach the Ten Commandments ("Be chill, don't kill"). And before he'll marry any couple, he makes them pass his bizarrely intensive course, which he administers with his obnoxious, pint-sized choir boy sidekick (Josh Flitter, Shia LaBeouf's precocious caddy in "The Greatest Game Ever Played").

And so Ben and Sadie can't have sex before the wedding, which Frank monitors by bugging their apartment, then eavesdropping on them in the back of a van with the choir boy in tow, which is just wrong. They have to argue with each other in an uncomfortable role-playing exercise.

Ben is forced to try belly dancing as part of his group couples therapy — it's just one contrived situation after another.

The only vaguely amusing example comes when they have to practice parenting with a couple of robot babies that look like mini Lex Luthors — but even then, director Ken Kwapis can't help but go for the obvious gross-out joke by having one of the babies pee all over Ben and poop out a substance that looks like blue cake frosting.

Kwapis has also directed episodes of "The Office," and he actually showed a surprisingly deft hand at potentially painful material with his adaptation of "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants." Sitting through that movie again would be preferable, even for guys — at least the characters felt like real people.

"License to Wed," a Warner Bros. Pictures release, is rated PG-13 for sexual humor and language. Running time: 86 minutes. One and a half stars out of four.

Motion Picture Association of America rating definitions:

G — General audiences. All ages admitted.

PG — Parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

PG-13 — Special parental guidance strongly suggested for children under 13. Some material may be inappropriate for young children.

R — Restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

NC-17 — No one under 17 admitted.



'License to Wed'
In theaters now
One and a half stars

At the Movies

By The Associated Press

A look at what's in theaters this weekend:

"Transformers" — The Hasbro toys inspired an animated TV series and movie 20 years ago, and this version essentially is another cartoon, though it's live-action seamlessly blended with an overload of computer-generated effects.

In case you missed the 1980s, Transformers are giant, sentient robots made up of a gazillion moving parts that shift around to turn the big guys into all sorts of things — vehicles, jet planes, helicopters and such.

Director Michael Bay's tale has the good-guy Autobots and their evil foes the Decepticons duking it out on Earth over a power source the villains want to use to wipe out humanity and create a new race of nasty machines.

The robotic human cast includes Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox, Tyrese Gibson, Jon Voight, John Turturro and Anthony Anderson. Silly as the story is and bland as the characters are, the visuals — particularly the cool robot transformations — are the real stars.

Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of sci-fi action violence, brief sexual humor and language.

144 min. Two stars out of four.
— David Germain, AP Movie Writer

"Joshua" — A long lineage of evil child movies — from "The Bad Seed" to "The Exorcist" to "The Omen" — has spawned "Joshua," which is at once familiar and yet startlingly inventive and thrilling.

The feature debut from director and co-writer George Ratliff, best known for the documentary "Hell House," is a tantalizing, tense thriller in the most genteel of settings.

Hedge fund manager Brad Cairn (Sam Rockwell) and his wife, Abby (Vera Farmiga), have just brought their newborn daughter home to their high-rise apartment on Manhattan's Upper East Side when strange things begin happening. In the middle of all this turmoil is the couple's 9-year-old son, Joshua (played by the subtly creepy Jacob Kogan), a serious boy with a talent for the piano and a flair for the dramatic.

In select cities this weekend, nationwide at a later date. Rated R for language and some disturbing behavior by a child. 105 min. Three stars out of four.

— Christy Lemire, AP Movie Critic

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July 6th - 8th

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9am-3pm Merchants Day - Downtown - Contact Sheila 644-3669
9am Fishing Contest Begins - Contact 644-3501 or 644-3453
9am Fishing Contest Ends - Sat., July 7th at 3 pm
Flea Market & Craft Show - Sherman Twp. Park
Contact Amy 561-2715, Brenda 644-6104 or Sandy 644-5853
10am-4pm Quilt Show - Community Building
11am Red Hat Blessing & Luncheon - United Methodist Church - Contact Lois Clark 989-433-5748 by 6/25
1pm Pizza Eating Contest at Pizza King - Must pre-register
4pm Softball Tournament - Contact Kasey Thren 644-6252
Horseshoe Tournament Doubles - Contact Pella 644-3196
Beverage Tent, Food Wagons, Pony Rides & Farm Zoo
Texas Hold'em Tournament
7pm-12mid Live Music
Dusk Lights & Sirens Parade by N.S.F.D.

Saturday, July 7th
9am Flea Market & Craft Show - Sherman Twp. Park
10am-4pm Quilt Show - Community Building
10am Parade Lineup - Contact Debbie 644-8133
11am Parade
12pm Car Show Registration - Sherman Twp. Park
Hog Roast - Weidman Elementary School
Horseshoe Tournament, Singles, Softball Tournaments, Car Show, Beverage Tent, Food Wagons, Pony Rides & Farm Zoo
Weidman Reunion at Elementary School
1pm Music by Back Porch Pickers
Kids Games - With Pie Eating at 2pm and Balloon Toss at 3pm
Kids Peddle Pull - Tom Noble
2:30pm Lawnmower Test & Tune - Contact Doug Lowery 644-5060
4pm-7pm Bed Race - Contact Jill 644-2889
Texas Hold'em Tournament
7pm-12mid Music by The Silver Fox
10pm Hatful Drawing - Sherman Twp Park
Dusk Fireworks

Sunday, July 8th
8am-12n Fireman's Breakfast by the N.S.F.D. at the VFW Hall
11am Lawnmower Weigh-in - Sherman Twp. Park
12noon Beverage Tent
1pm Lawnmower Tractor Pull
Softball Tournaments

Have a Safe Weekend!!!! Events are subject to change

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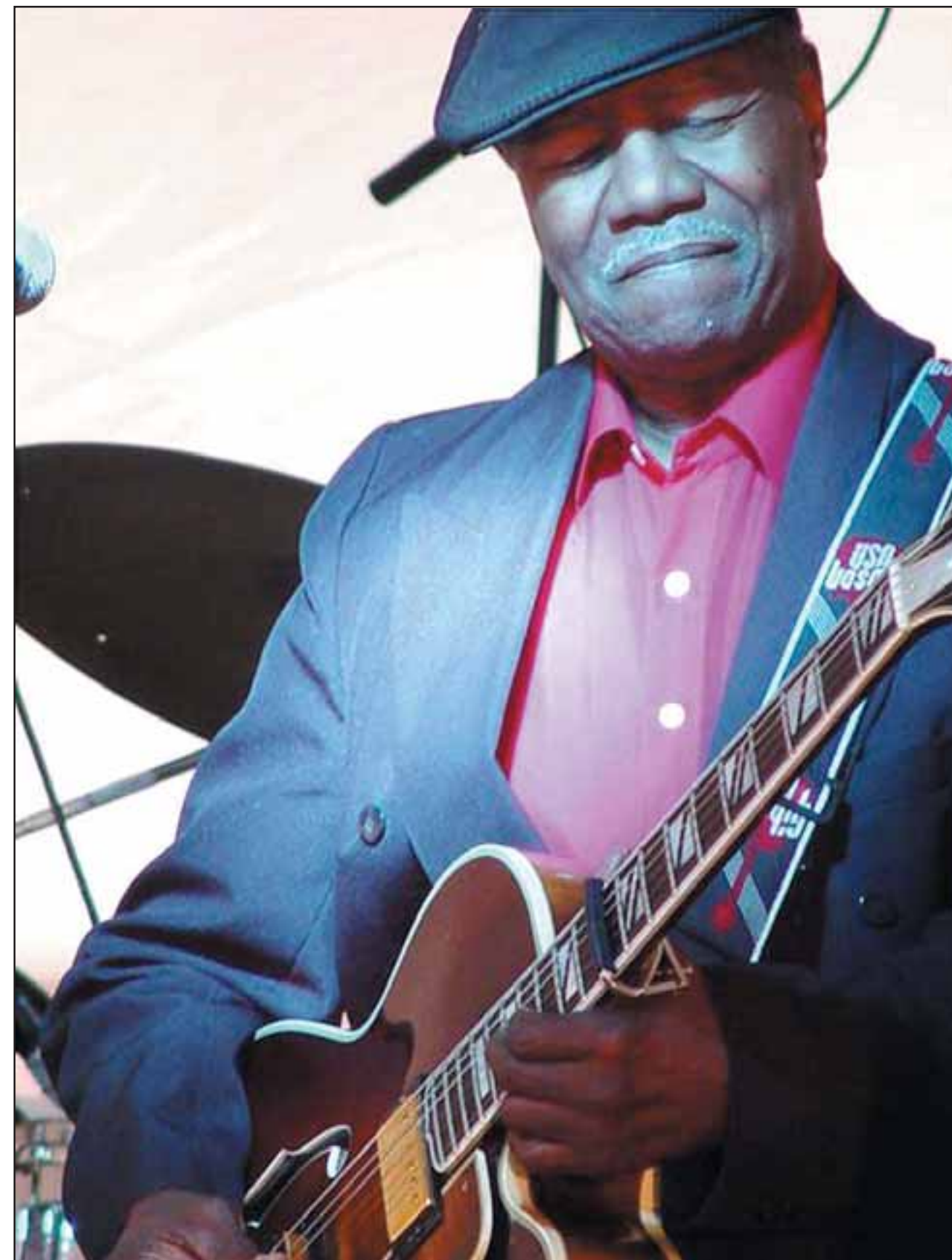
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Blues festival features top talent



Courtesy photo

Bluesman Johnny Bassett is one of the acts that will entertain Saturday in Center Stage at the Gem Theatre's Blues Festival in downtown St. Louis. Organizers hope the festival will become an annual event, with an expanded schedule next year.

By ROSEMARY HORVATH
Sun Staff Writer

Blues musicians from Lansing, Detroit and central Michigan will turn up the heat when St. Louis stages its annual Fourth of July fireworks celebration Saturday.

Organizers moved the Independence Day observance to late in the week so holiday revelers on the Fourth wouldn't miss out on what promises to be the start of an annual attraction.

This year's opening of Center Stage at the Gem Theater on Mill Street as a music venue for different types of music, but especially the blues, will add to the city's popular July attraction.

"I put together the best show I could," said blues musician and owner of Center Stage, Minard Shattuck, who intends to put the "Middle of the Mitten" St. Louis on the blues map.

The Capital Area Blues Society is plugging Saturday's concert on its MySpace page and Shattuck distributed handbills at festivals in Lansing and Detroit promoting the day of continuous blues music, which starts out at 1:15 p.m. with smooth harmonic blues.

Taking over at 9:15 p.m. is the classic rock band from the St. Louis area named Love Child to precede and follow the fireworks



Courtesy photo

Harmonica Buzz and Jacob Clyde will perform in St. Louis on Saturday for the Blues Festival.

show. Love Child plays until 1:15 a.m.

An open-air tent located outside the Gem Theater on Mill Street will have seating, but it's wise to bring a lawn chair.

Shattuck will accept donations to help cover fees. Area businesses made the concert possible after it became clear grant funding from the state was impossible to get, at least this year. Shattuck is already planning a three-day blues festival for next year.

Here's a schedule of Saturday's lineup:

1:15 p.m.: Buzz & Clyde Band from Lansing, a regular at Lansing's Blues Festival in Old Town

2 p.m.: Earl Jam of Mt. Pleasant, a jazz guitarist and regular at Rubbles

3 p.m.: Shattuck's own Blues Ambush band, featuring vocalist Natalie Shattuck

4 p.m.: Howard Glazer and The EL34s, a high energy blues trio from "Detroit City." Glazer is on electric guitar, acoustic resonator guitar and vocals, Bob Goodwin on bass, and Charles Stuart on drums.

5:15 p.m.: Old Town Blues Band out of Lansing, features Bill Malone on guitar and vocals, David "Benny" Zdybel on bass guitar and vocals, Connie Currier on vocals, Dennis Cullinan on saxophone and vocals, and Lawrence



Courtesy photo

Howard Glazer and the EL34s are slated to perform at 4 p.m. on Saturday at the St. Louis festival.

If you go

Event: St. Louis Blues and Music Festival

When: Saturday. Musicians play from 1:15 p.m. Saturday until 1:15 a.m. Sunday

Where: Tent outside of the Gem Theatre in downtown St. Louis.

Admission: \$2. **St. Louis Festival**

The blues festival coincides with the City of St. Louis' traditional July 4 festival, which was moved to this weekend this year.

Events include:

Fireworks at dusk
The Lions Club steak fry in Clapp Park. Meal tickets will sell \$8 for adult and \$4 child.



Courtesy photo

Fireworks will begin at dusk. This is a picture of a previous year's show in St. Louis.

Annual St. Louis festival will have fireworks, steak fry

By ROSEMARY HORVATH
Sun Staff Writer

Spectators lined up around St. Louis will see quite a fireworks show Saturday night.

Money raised from a golf outing sponsored by the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce and a contribution from the city will underwrite the expense of a spectacular fireworks show at dusk.

The sky will be ablaze in color, with fireworks that can be seen for miles, according to Phil Hansen, director of the St. Louis Downtown Economic Development Authority.

Fireworks begin at about 10 p.m., originating at the Mill Street bridge.

The city's Independence Day celebration begins Saturday with a pancake breakfast, which runs from 7 to 10:30 a.m. at the St. Louis First United Methodist Church. Tickets are \$5 for adult and \$3 child.

Kevin Palmer said he signs up more runners every year to participate in the 5K run. Runners start off at St. Louis High School at 8 a.m. Call 763-2328 for more information.

David Eldridge of Pine River Outfitters in St. Louis wanted to

organize canoe races on the Pine River. Must be that people need more lessons, because no one signed up.

According to Eldridge, even beginners can look like pros because paddling a canoe or kayak is about the easiest thing to do.

Eldridge still will have a supply of canoes on hand at the new parking area next to the Mill Street bridge where the city installed a new dock. He plans to have kayaks and canoes to take out on the river from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday at no charge.

River Rock Restaurant will oversee the beer tent set outside its Mill Street location, near the music tent. Beer and music will flow from 1:30 in the afternoon to 1:30 Sunday morning.

A few things are different about this year's festival, besides a later date.

The Lions Club steak fry and auction is the only activity scheduled for Clapp Park. Meal tickets will sell \$8 for adult and \$4 child.

Usually the park has activities for children, but not so this year. Instead the upcoming Community Day later this month will focus on things children like to do



Sun photograph by DICK BOLTON

The marquee of the Gem Theatre is promoting this weekend's festival. Organizers are also spreading the work statewide.

NEAR AND FAR

All Weekend

■ **Weidman Daze** events are planned for Friday through Sunday. See Page 3 for details.

■ **Rosebush Red, White and Blue** celebration is planned for Friday through Sunday. See Page 4 for details.

■ **St. Louis** is hosting its annual summer festival and a new expanded music festival on Saturday. See Page 8 for details.

Today

■ **Easy Goin'** will perform folk/old country music from 6 to 8 p.m. in downtown Clare as part of Clare's weekly summer concert series. Free admission.

■ **Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation** Department is sponsoring **Walk Mt. Pleasant** each Thursday evening from now until Aug. 9, from 7 to 8 p.m. Meet at the Island Park Gazebo.

Friday

■ The first in a series of summer concerts in downtown Mt. Pleasant begins at 6:30 p.m. with the **Dave Kellan Band**. Music and events are planned until 8:30 p.m. at the Town Center.

In addition to the live music, Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation will be on hand with activities for children, including crafts, games and refreshments.

Free admission. The weekly Friday night concerts are planned from now until Sept. 7.

Saturday

■ **The Saturday Farmers Market** continues in Mt. Pleasant from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Town Center downtown. The market will be held each Saturday through September.

The market still has openings for local farmers. For more information, contact Eric VanHevel at 989-779-5331.

■ **Farwell** will host **fireworks** at dusk, about 10 p.m. at the Farwell Fairgrounds.

Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort

Here is a look at upcoming concerts. All shows begin at 8 p.m., unless otherwise noted:

- Patti Labelle, July 13.
- Randy Owen, July 19
- Kenny G, July 27
- Nashville Star, Aug. 10
- Hootie and the Blowfish, Aug. 16
- Kingdom Rockfest, 7 p.m. Aug. 17 and 7 p.m. Aug. 18.

■ **Summer Dance Party 2007** is set for 7 p.m. Aug. 26. Featuring Abbamania, an Abba tribute band, and Stayin' Alive, a Bee Gees tribute band. General admission tickets are \$25 and are available from Carson City Hospital and Sheridan Community Hospital, as well as the Soaring Eagle Box Office and Startickets Plus locations, including Meijer.

Tickets may be purchased at the Soaring Eagle Box Office, all Star Tickets Plus outlets or by calling 1-800-585-3737. The box office is open Mondays through Thursdays 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., and from 8:30 a.m. Saturdays to 9 p.m. Sundays.

CMU

■ CMU's recreation, parks and leisure services administration department offers **open climbing on the A-Wall**, its indoor climbing wall, from 5 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays during the summer months. The wall is located in Room 112 of Finch Fieldhouse.

Participants must sign an informed consent release waiver and pay a \$5 fee to climb; participants under age 18 must have a parent or guardian sign the waiver. There is an additional charge for equipment rental. Student staff members are on hand to assist climbers. For more information, call the A-Wall office at 989-774-1425 or Rob Schumacker at 989-774-7307, or visit <http://rpl.cmich.edu/adventure/awall.htm>.

■ As part of CMU's "Music on the Mall" concert series, University Events and WCZY-FM will host a performance by **Freshwater** at 7 p.m. July 11 on Warriner Mall, the lawn in front of Warriner Hall. The group, which includes four college students from mid-Michigan, is known for its performances featuring traditional acoustic folksongs and Irish dancing. Admission is free and open to the public.

The Central Box Office is located on the lower level of the Bovee University Center. Tickets may also be ordered by calling 989-774-3000 or 888-CMU-0111 and they may be purchased online at: <http://centralboxoffice.cmich.edu>.

Center Stage @ The Gem Theater

■ Acclaimed bluesman **Sean Costello** will perform Aug. 23, with two 60-minute sets. Doors open at 9 p.m., show begins at 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

The Gem is located at 205 N. Mill St. in St. Louis. Information is available at the Gem's Web site at www.centerstage.bz. For ticket information, call 989-621-5948.

Gratiot County Players

■ The next round of **Gratiot Idol 2007** is at 7 p.m. July 12 at the Gratiot County Players Strand Theatre located in downtown Alma.

The program, in its second year, will follow an "American Idol" type format. Admission is \$5.

Holland Guitar Concerts

The following concerts are planned at the **Holland Guitar** facility in McBride:

■ **Junior Valentine**, July 21.

The concert site is located at 4321-2 S. Division in McBride. For specific times of individual performers call 989-762-9040; e-mail, hollandguitar@yahoo.com or see their site on MySpace.

Evening in the Park in Gratiot County

■ **The Evening in the Park** series in Gratiot County is again planned for this summer with concerts and presentations planned once a week through Aug. 7. Free admission.

■ Local historian **David McMacken** will provide a look at crimes of the past in Gratiot County in a program titled "Who Done It?" The program will be at 7 p.m. July 10 in Woodland Park in Ithaca or at the Ithaca Community Center if it rains.

■ Banjo picker **Barry Van Guilder** from

Grayling is a new addition to the summer series. He will perform at 7 p.m. July 17 in Clapp Park in St. Louis or at St. Louis High School if it rains.

Shepherd Ice Cream Social

■ The Shepherd Historical Society's annual **Ice Cream Social** is planned for Monday, July 9 in downtown Shepherd. The Central Michigan Area Concert Band will perform at 7 p.m.

Art Reach of Mid Michigan

■ The **Let's Do Lunch** series continues Wednesday, July 18, from 12:12 to 12:50 p.m., featuring folk musician **Nic Gareiss**. Bring your lunch and enjoy the program.

Summer Dance Party 2007

■ **Summer Dance Party 2007** is set for 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 26, at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort. Featuring Abbamania, an Abba tribute band, and Stayin' Alive, a Bee Gees tribute band. The eighth-annual Dance Party is a fund-raiser for Central Michigan Community Hospital in Mt. Pleasant, Carson City Hospital, Sheridan Community Hospital and the Sparrow Foundation-Children's Miracle Network in Lansing. The show begins at 7 p.m.

General admission tickets are \$25 and are available from Carson City Hospital and Sheridan Community Hospital, as well as the Soaring Eagle Box Office and Startickets Plus locations, including Meijer.

Wheatland Music Organization

■ Tickets are now on sale for the 34th annual **Wheatland Music Festival**, set for Sept. 7 to 9. Tickets can be ordered online.

For information on Wheatland events, call (989)-967-8879 or e-mail wmo@wheatlandmusic.org. The Gladys Wernette Building is located at 7251 50th Ave. (two miles west and two miles south of the M-66 and M-20 intersection in Remus).

Dance

■ **Dance Crazy Dance Studio** at 1008 W. High St. in Mt. Pleasant, offers day and evening weekly classes at the beginner level. Weekly classes include beginner ballroom, beginner line dance, hip hop and salsa blast aerobics.

In addition, social dancing is offered two Saturdays per month from 7 to 11 p.m. (line dance, country western couples, and ballroom).

For details on classes and weekend dances, visit the Web site at www.dancecrazy.homestead.com or call 989-953-4602.

■ **Singles dances** are scheduled for every Sunday at 8 p.m. at the Quality Inn in Houghton Lake, located on M-55, one block east of U.S. 127. A variety of music is played, such as the waltz, two step, polka and more. Parents Without Partners members are welcome. Admission is \$6 per person. Call Best Entertainment at 989-539-5406 for more.

■ **Dance** the Swing, Two Step, waltz, line dance, Electric Slide and other dances at 8 p.m. Friday, July 6, at the Quality Inn in Houghton. \$6 admission. Call Best Entertainment at 989-539-5406 for more information.

Dance

■ A **singles dance** for adults age 21 and older is 7 p.m. to midnight Saturday, July 7, at Winding Brook Golf Club, 8240 S. Genuine Road in Shepherd. \$8 cover charge. Dance lessons will be offered from 6 to 7 p.m. Dances are scheduled every other Saturday.

Jamborees

Area jamborees are held on a regular basis at the following sites.

■ **A Wheatland Music Organization** jamboree, an informal gathering of acoustic musicians, singers and listeners, is planned for 2 p.m. Saturday, July 7, at the Wheatland Cabin. Free admission.

■ **Clare I.O.O.F Hall** hosts an old-time country music jamboree the third Saturday of the month, from 6 to 10 p.m. Open to the public; admission by donation.

■ **Ithaca Wesleyan Church** the first and third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

■ **Edmore VFW Post** first Friday of the month at 7 p.m.

■ **Crystal Elementary School**, second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, 6:30 p.m.

■ **Vestaburg Elementary School**, fourth Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m.

■ **Country music and gospel jamboree**, second Friday of each month at 6:30 p.m., at the Youth For Christ Student Center, 2550 W. Cheesman Road in Alma. Concession stand open throughout the evening. All musicians and singers welcome. Sponsored by the Hillbilly Rock Stars Band.

■ **Charlie's Wag-n-Train Opry** jamboree is the second Friday and Saturday of the month at 5672 Cedar Lake Road, near Sheridan in Montcalm County. Potluck supper at 5 p.m. Rustic camping and wagon rides are available. For directions or more information, call 989-261-4475.

Concerts

■ Tickets are on sale for concerts at the **Mountain Rock Music Festival** July 19 to 22 in Farwell.

- Da Yoopers at 7 and 9 p.m. July 19
- Collective Soul at 7 p.m. July 20
- The Mick Fleetwood Band at 9 p.m. July 20
- REO Speedwagon at 11 p.m. July 20
- Grand Funk Railroad at 7 p.m. July 21
- Third Eye Blind at 9 p.m. July 21
- Deep Purple at 11 p.m. July 21
- Uncle Kracker at 4 p.m. July 22
- Def Leppard at 10 p.m. July 22.

See www.mtcountryfest.com or www.mtrock-fest.com to order.

■ Country singer **Keith Anderson** will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11, at the second annual Morey American Legion Festival.

Tickets are \$25 for general reserved seating. Tickets are available at all Startickets Plus locations, including all Meijer stores; online at starticketsplus.com, and by phone at 1-800-585-3737.

■ Country group **Sugarland** and **Emerson Drive** will perform at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14, at the Midland County Fair in Midland. Tickets are \$49.50 for platinum reserves, \$29.50 for general reserved seating and \$24.50 for grandstand seating. Tickets can be purchased at the Midland County Fair Box Office or charge by phone at 989-585-3737, and through Startickets Plus (including Meijer).

NEAR AND FAR

■ **Lizard Fair** at the Midland County Fair will feature **Chris Daughtry** to perform at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 15. Opening the evening for Daughtry and his band will be Relient K and Small Town Sleeper.

Tickets are \$22.50 for general reserve seating and grandstand seating; platinum reserve are \$50. They are available through the Midland County Fair Box Office, Startickets Plus locations, or by phone at 989-835-7901.

■ **The Chesaning Showboat Music Festival** is scheduled for Saturday, July 7, to Saturday, July 14 in Chesaning.

The scheduled line-up features:

July 9: **The Beach Boys**; tickets are \$39.50, \$32.50 and \$26.50

July 10: **Michael W. Smith**, \$39.50, \$32.50 and \$27.50

July 11: **The Oak Ridge Boys**, \$35.50, \$29.50 and \$24.50

July 12: **38 Special and Edgar Winter**, \$35.50, \$29.50, and \$24.50

July 13: **The Spinners, Felix Cavalier's Rascals and The Diamonds**, \$35.50, \$32.50 and \$27.50

July 14: **The Badboys for Rock Tour** featuring Hinder, Blackcherry and Papa Roach, \$49.50 reserved and \$31.50 general admission.

For details, call the Chesaning Chamber of Commerce at 989-845-3055 or go online to www.chesaningshowboat.org.

Area Theater

■ Central Michigan University's **Summer Theatre** program will present a performance of **"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change"** at 7:30 p.m. July 19, **"Catfish Moon"** at 7:30 p.m. June 20 and **"Crimes of the Heart"** at 7:30 p.m. June 21 in Moore Hall's Bush Theatre.

Tickets for each of the plays cost \$5 for students and senior citizens and \$7 for all others (plus 50 cents per ticket for processing) and can be purchased at the Central Box Office on the lower level of the Bovee University Center or by calling 989-774-3000 or 888-CMU-0111. Tickets also can be purchased online at <http://centralboxoffice.cmich.edu>.

Midland Center for the Arts

■ The exhibit **"A League of Their Own: The Negro Baseball League"** is on display until Nov. 4 at the Midland County History Center, 3417 W. Main St. in Midland. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 4 to 14 and free for children 3 and younger.

Local exhibits and galleries

Art Reach

■ The Art Reach on Broadway Gallery will feature **selected Art Reach artists** from now until July 13. Entries for the **Art Reach Christmas Card Contest** will be displayed July 16 to 31.

■ The **Healing Arts Gallery** at MidMichigan Health Park at 4851 E. Pickard in Mt. Pleasant, is showing watercolors by **Becky Roslund** of Alma. The exhibit will be on display for July.

■ **Sloan Hall** at CMU is showing photography by **Cindy Matthews** of Alma. The photos will be

shown throughout July.

The Art Reach on Broadway gallery is located at 111 E. Broadway in downtown Mt. Pleasant. The gallery and gift shop is open Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is closed Sunday and Monday.

CMU

■ An exhibition of artwork created by children who participated in Central Michigan University's **Max's Place for Social and Emotional Growth summer camp** will be on display July 8 through Aug. 6 in the Extended Study Hours area of the Charles V. Park Library.

Max's Place was a two-week summer camp during which children with Asperger Syndrome and related forms of autism engaged in visual arts, creative writing and music. Admission to the exhibition is free and open to the public. Hours vary during the summer months; for hours, visit <http://www.lib.cmich.edu/libinfo>.

■ Selected works from the **permanent collection of CMU's Charles V. Park Library** are displayed through Sept 4 in the library's Baber Room. The exhibit will include a variety of paintings and prints from previous library exhibitions, as well as new acquisitions.

Admission is free and open to the public.

■ **"The Reed Draper Angling Collection,"** an exhibition of fishing books collected by the late Reed Draper, former president of the National Automobile Dealers Association and owner of Draper Chevrolet in Saginaw, is on display through Oct. 22 in Clarke Historical Library on the first floor of Park Library.

The collection features four centuries of documentation regarding fishing and fishermen's reflections on their sport. A companion catalog written by Robert E. Kehrman, dean of CMU's College of Science and Technology, also will be featured. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

■ **"Fine Feathered Friends: Birds of the CMU Museum,"** an exhibition showcasing the third-largest collection of birds in Michigan, is on display through Oct. 30 at the CMU Museum of Cultural and Natural History. The museum's renowned collection contains more than 125 species of birds and includes more than 400 mounted specimens, hundreds of bird skins and dozens of eggs. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Admission is free and open to the public.

Auditions

■ **The Broadway Players** will host open auditions for **"Escanaba in da Moonlight,"** by Jeff Daniels, on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 10 and 11, at 6 p.m. at the Broadway Theatre in Mt. Pleasant.

There are roles for five men and one woman.

Performances are Sept. 14-16 and Sept. 21-23. Laura Strait is directing the show.

In addition, the Film Committee at the Broadway Theatre is holding a hot-dog fund-raiser Saturday and Sunday, July 7 and 8, at Kroger in Mt. Pleasant. Cost is \$2 for a hot dog, pop and chips. Tickets for "Escanaba in da Moonlight" will also be on sale.

ROSEBUSH RED, WHITE & BLUE

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, July 6th
6pm - 7:30pm: ICE CREAM SOCIAL
 Hand dipped vanilla ice cream and sweet toppings of your choice. Held at the Rosebush United Methodist Church, behind Rosebush School.

Saturday, July 7th
9am: SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS
 Come cheer on your favorite team. Held at the Isabella Township Park.

10am: TRACTOR PULLS
 Pick your favorite tractor to win. For more information please contact Bob Benaske at 433-5832.

10am: PARADE LINE-UP
 Get in line at Rosebush School to march through the heart of Rosebush, waving to the local community.

10am: PIECE TO PEACE QUILTERS RAFFLE
 At the Rosebush Presbyterian Church the quilters will have a wonderful display of quilts from 9:30 to 4. They will also be selling raffle tickets to win a quilt in the fall.

11am: PARADE BEGINS
 Step out to watch your friends, family, and neighbors

as they make their way North up Mission Road from Rosebush Elementary to Isabella Township Park.

11-2pm: ICE CREAM STAND
 Located in the heart of Rosebush will be a roadside ice cream stand. Come enjoy a scoop before, during or after the parade.

12-3pm: CONCESSION STAND
 BBQ Pork Sandwiches, chips, ice cream and cookies prepared by the area churches will be available for everyone to enjoy. Come visit with friends and neighbors in the enclosed pavilion in the Township Park.

12pm: 3rd ANNUAL CLASSIC AUTO SHOW
 Wear your shades because these Classics are going to shine. Meet your friends and neighbors downtown in front of Rosebush Hardware.

12pm: CHILDRENS INFLATABLES
 Bring the kids down for a lot of fun & laughs. Let the youngsters jump in the inflatable.

12pm: ISABELLA NORTHEAST FIRE DISTRICT
 The volunteer Firemen will be hosting a demonstration and the fire trucks will be on display for the public to check out.

12-3pm: ENTERTAINMENT
 Joe Meyer and the Way-backs will be on hand to play festive music for the community under the tent.

1pm: PRESENTATION OF AWARDS
 Give them a round of applause! This year's Grand Marshals, Marlin and Joyce Clark, will be recognized, as well as the Rosebush Garden Club for their continuing dedication to the Rosebush Community.

3pm: CLASSIC AUTO SHOW AWARDS
 Come join in the fun and come see who wins "Best in Show." In front of the Rosebush Hardware, Ed Fancon will present this year's winners with their award.

Sunday, July 8th
9am: SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS CONTINUE
 If you missed the excitement on Saturday come out and join us today.

10:45am: COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE
 This will be a service uniting all area churches. All are welcome to attend! The "Colmus Family" will be performing. Come and enjoy a Sunday in the Park with your family.



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Rosebush, MI

MUSIC

'Driving Lessons' comes to DVD

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP Movie Writer

'Driving Lessons'

We've watched Ron Weasley grow up from gangly, geeky kid to gangly, geeky teen as one of boy wizard Harry Potter's posse at Hogwarts.

Now we can see Rupert Grint, who plays Ro, do the gangly, geeky thing in the real world as a British teen in this quirky coming-of-age story.

Grint plays a youth who's tired of being under the thumb of his self-righteous mother (Laura Linney), who takes her Christian faith far too seriously for her own good and the good of her family. Grint winds up the object in a war of wills between his mom and a has-been actress (Julie Walters) with a foul mouth and devil-may-care attitude who hires the boy to handle odd jobs, including chauffeuring her about.

DVD extras include deleted scenes and outtakes and a making-of featurette. DVD, \$24.96. (Sony)

'Neverwas'

This charming little combination of psychological drama and fantasy missed out on a theatrical

New on Video

What's available for home video this week

release but comes straight to DVD with an all-star cast that includes Nick Nolte, Jessica Lange, William Hurt and Ian McKellen.

Written and directed by Joshua Michael Stern, the film stars Aaron Eckhart as a young therapist who takes a job at the run-down mental hospital that once treated his father (Nolte), a manic depressive who killed himself after writing a phenomenally successful children's book about a magical realm called Neverwas.

There, the young doc meets a patient (McKellen) whose detailed descriptions of that land of make-believe start our hero thinking that Neverwas might actually exist. The cast also includes Brittany Murphy and Alan Cumming. DVD, \$29.99. (Miramax)

TV on DVD:

"George Lopez: America's Mexican" — The star of the recently canceled self-titled sitcom headlined his first standup TV special with this performance at the Dodge Theater in Phoenix, in which he riffs on his Hispanic roots and jokes about the state of immigration in the United States. The DVD has extra footage and an interview with Lopez. DVD, \$19.97. (HBO)

"Chancer: Series 1" — Clive Owen hit the road to stardom with this early 1990s British series, playing an unscrupulous investment banker who gets sacked and ends up insinuating himself into the financial and personal lives of a family that runs a faltering car company. A four-disc set has the first 13 episodes. DVD set, \$59.99. (Acorn)

"Slings & Arrows: Season 3" — This Canadian series centers on the backstage mayhem of a regional theatrical troupe, whose big productions include

"King Lear" and a musical set among drug addicts and other lowly urbanites that bears a sneaky similarity to "Rent." Regulars and guest stars include Paul Gross, Don McKellar, Mark McKinney and Sarah Polley. Year three's six episodes come in a two-disc set, with extended and deleted scenes. DVD set, \$29.99. (Acorn)

"Batfink: The Complete Series" — The cartoon superhero debuted in 1967, fighting evil doers with his metal bat wings and super sonar. A four-disc set has all 100 five-minute cartoon shorts. DVD set, \$34.99. (Shout)

"High School Musical: The Concert" — The enormously popular Disney Channel movie hits the concert stage as the teen stars perform songs from their big show. The DVD gives fans a chance to select different camera angles, while co-star Lucas Grabeel is host for a backstage visit with the cast. DVD, \$19.99. (Disney)

"Psych: The Complete First Season" — A phony psychic (James Roday) sets up shop as a crime investigator, with his disbelieving buddy (Dule Hill) on hand to help out and keep him honest. The first 15 episodes come in a four-disc set, along with commentary, deleted scenes, featurettes and Roday's audition reel. DVD set, \$59.98. (Universal)

"Monk: Season Five" — Tony Shalhoub returns as TV's favorite crime-solver with obsessive-compulsive disorder. Year five's 16 episodes are packed in a four-disc set, accompanied by commentary by cast and crew. DVD set, \$59.98. (Universal)

"Reno 911! The Complete Fourth Season Uncensored" — The over-the-top cops of Reno, Nev., return for more mayhem on the streets in the spoof of crime reality shows. A two-disc set contains season four's 13 episodes, with cast commentary and an extended scene. DVD set, \$26.99. (Paramount)

"Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C. — The Second Season" — The spinoff of "The Andy Griffith Show" enters its second tour of duty with Jim Nabors as the goofy hick creating havoc for the Marine Corps. Season two's 30 episodes arrive in a five-disc set. DVD set, \$42.99. (Paramount)

"The New Adventures of Batman," "The New Adventures of Superman" — The DC Comics heroes are back in two animated series. The "Superman" show from the mid-1960s features the Man of Steel in 36 six-minute episodes on two discs, while the 1970s "Batman" series has 16 half-hour episodes on two discs, with Adam West and Burt Ward of the 1960s live-action series doing the voices of Batman and Robin. DVD sets, \$26.99 each.

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MUSIC

Rowland's in a sophomore slump

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP Music Writer

Kelly Rowland, "Ms. Kelly" (Columbia)

Kelly Rowland's sophomore album starts with tantalizing promise in the form of the club banger "Like This," featuring the rapper Eve.

Listening to that irresistible track, you begin to think the yearlong delay in releasing "Ms. Kelly" was worth it. That this is finally Rowland's time to emerge from the shadows of larger-than-life Beyonce and Destiny's Child and show formidable star power of her own.

But that promise quickly disintegrates as the

album goes on, revealing a singer with a strong voice that is once again felled by mediocre material.

"Come Back" is a potent jam, and "Ghetto," featuring Snoop Dogg, is sexy and seductive. (Though the latter is yet another troubling song featuring a young black woman craving a thug. What's next, a song titled "Felon"?)

But things fall apart quickly after that. The synthesized "Flashback" is positively lackluster, and "The Show," featuring Tank, which is supposed to be a bedroom jam, fails to elicit much passion.

The rest of the album is filled with passable mid-tempo songs and ballads that may be enter-

taining enough for background music, but nothing you'd put on full blast.

It's particularly disappointing considering Rowland has the pipes, the looks and the charm to be so much more than one-third of Destiny's Child.

But if she doesn't produce better material, she'll have a hard time defining herself as anything else.



Alma Cinemas
www.NCGmovies.com

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FANTASTIC FOUR: THE RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER (PG)
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NANCY DREW (PG)
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MORE FEATURE BUSINESSES LISTED ON PAGE 16

Feature Business
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Feature Business

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