

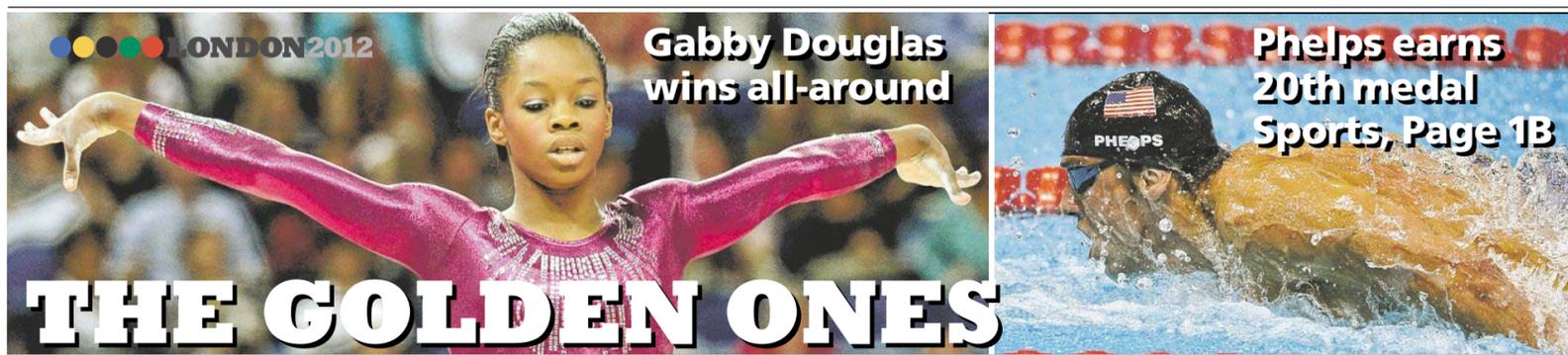
Lansing State Journal

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SCHOOL REPORT CARDS

State cites achievement gaps

East Lansing, Okemos, Holt have schools listed in education report

By Matthew Miller
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Nearly two dozen suburban Lansing schools — among them many in high-performing districts such as East Lansing and Okemos — have large achievement gaps between their highest and lowest-performing stu-

dents, too large according to the state Department of Education. A list of 358 so-called focus schools was released Thursday as part of the school report card data. It includes all six public elementary schools in East Lansing and the middle school, Bennett Woods and Cornell elementary schools in Okemos

along with Kinawa School and Chippewa Middle School, both of Holt's middle schools and three of its elementary schools. The designation is new, part of the state's deal with the federal government for leniency on the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act, and it was applied to the 10 percent of schools statewide where achievement gaps were largest. "We will own our data in East Lansing," said East Lansing Public Schools Superintendent

MORE ONLINE

» To see report cards for all area districts, see this story at lsj.com.

David Chapin, "and move forward with a number of initiatives that are already in place." Chapin said the district recognized a few years ago that it had "an achievement gap issue" and established a task force to address the problem in 2010. "I think the conversation is

further along than the action," he said, "and this may enable the action to catch up with the conversation." Under No Child Left Behind, schools had been required to meet performance measures not only for their student bodies as a whole, but for certain racial and demographic subgroups. That "addressed a longer-term problem," said Robert Floden, co-director of the Edu-

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HALL OF FAME HOMECOMING



Former Everett High School, MSU and NBA star Earvin "Magic" Johnson (center) greets the room Thursday at the Greater Lansing Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony at the Lansing Center. Johnson's 1977 Everett High School team was inducted, as was his sister, Evelyn. KEVIN W. FOWLER/FOR THE LANSING STATE JOURNAL

INSIDE

» Area has a big spot in Magic's heart, **Page 1B**
» Nine individuals, two teams inducted as part of the Class of 2012, **Page 2B**

MORTGAGE FRAUD

7 indicted in alleged mortgage scheme

Feds say \$1.7M stolen in sham Lansing-area deals

By Ken Palmer
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Seven people have been indicted on federal charges in connection with an alleged mortgage fraud scheme that operated in the Lansing area from 2005 to 2007, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Grand Rapids said. The indictment, unsealed Thursday, alleges the defendants took part in a scheme to strip equity from approximately 35 homes, obtaining bank loans for sham real estate purchases and splitting the money among themselves. The mortgages went into foreclosure, resulting in losses of about \$1.7 million, according to court documents.

Eric Williams, Aaron Teachout, Isaac Modert, Mario Giannandrea, Rick Artibe, Dennis Sare and Nichole Buda are charged with bank fraud and conspiracy to commit bank fraud, each punishable by up to 30 years in prison, said the U.S. Attorney's Office. The U.S. Attorney's Office declined to provide ages or hometowns for any of those charged. Giannandrea and Buda also are charged with money laundering, a maximum 20-year offense. "Mortgage fraud schemes like this one hurt everyone in our community," Patrick Miles, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Michigan, said in a prepared release. "They make it harder for ordinary people to borrow money, and the damage ... to property values hurts public schools and neighborhoods, including residents who hope their homes will be a retirement nest egg."

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69TH DISTRICT STATE HOUSE SEAT

Race to replace Meadows heats up

Contest most well-funded House race in Michigan

By Scott Davis
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EAST LANSING — Two well-known East Lansing Democrats are duking it out in the Aug. 7 primary for the 69th District state House seat, while three Republicans are competing in the Democratic stronghold. Most eyes now are on the Democrats



Lansing school board president and former chief of staff to Rep. Mark Meadows, who now represents the district but is term-limited.

Both Singh and Schmidt have run TV spots and have networks of volunteers supporting their election efforts in what is the most well-funded state representative race in mid-Michigan.

— Sam Singh, a former East Lansing mayor and a philanthropic group consultant, and Susan Schmidt, a former East Lansing school board president and former chief of staff to Rep. Mark Meadows, who now represents the district but is term-limited.

According to finance reports filed last Friday, Singh had the fundraising edge as of July 22 with \$136,522, compared to \$95,356 for Schmidt. In the Republican primary, Susan McGillicuddy, longtime Meridian Township supervisor, is considered the front-runner among two other candidates — Frank Lambert, an autoworker she trounced in the 2010 primary, and George Nastas III, a retired U.S. Department of Defense analyst.

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SPEEDREADS

A daily feed of top headlines

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LOCAL & STATE

Musical theater camp gives kids stage skills

Students took part in this year's Take It From the Top musical theater camp at Michigan State University's Wharton Center. The program gives students as young as 10 a chance to learn the proper stage skills. — **Page 3A**



Young performers work with professionals during the Take it to the Top program. ROD SANFORD/LSJ

BUSINESS TODAY

GM profits down 41 percent

A big loss in Europe dragged down General Motors Co.'s second-quarter profit by 41 percent to \$1.5 billion, \$1 billion less than a year earlier, GM said Thursday. — **Page 7B**

NATION & WORLD

Doctor warned of shooter

The university psychiatrist seeing the man accused in the Colorado theater massacre tried to discuss her patient with a campus panel nearly a month before the attack, but the group never met. — **Page 7A**

HAPPENING TODAY

» **St. Casimir Corn Roast**, 4:30-11 p.m. St. Casimir Church, Lansing. Corn on the Cob, burgers, hot dogs, tacos, nachos, Polish kielbasa, sauerkraut and beverage tent all weekend, plus pasta dinner 5-8 p.m. Dancing to Frog and the Beef-tones 8 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday. Info: 482-1346.

» **Fourth Annual Rummage Sale**, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Meridian Senior Center, Chippewa Middle School, Okemos.



\$1.00 Retail
For home delivery pricing, see Page 2A.



TODAY'S FORECAST • High in the low 90s, low in the low 70s. Full forecast • **12C**

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