



# SUMMER SHOWS

Barn Theatre is putting on the old razzle dazzle for audiences. **WOW**

THURSDAY  
MAY 29, 2014



# ENQUIRER

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## Food trucks back on city agenda

### Revised ordinance introduction to be considered

**Jennifer Bowman**

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After months of heated debate among residents and restaurant owners, city commissioners will vote next week on

proposed changes to allow food trucks to operate in part of downtown Battle Creek.

City commissioners will vote on whether to introduce three ordinances at their regular meeting Tuesday, the first of two steps necessary to bring an end to decades-old regulations that have banned food trucks, leashed dogs, bicycles and skateboards in the downtown area. The ordinances also in-

clude guidelines for the city's special events and expanding and renaming the central business district as the downtown business district.

If they vote to introduce the changes Tuesday, commissioners still would have to formally adopt the ordinances at a later meeting before food trucks would be allowed.

Since the last public comment last month, the city ad-

ministration has added a "sunset" provision to terminate the part of the ordinance that would allow food trucks downtown at the end of 2015 unless the commission votes for an extension.

"There's a lot of concerns about what might be," Interim City Manager Susan Bedsole said. "And until we get to go through it a little bit so we know what is and not what might be, this gives us the opportunity to

really go through two seasons and see. But it also gives some comfort level to those who don't think they should be there at all and to say, 'Look, we're going to talk about this next fall.'"

The most recent draft is not what opposing restaurant owners suggested in April — a one-year pilot program for food trucks on Liberty Street at the

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## A place for monarchs and neighbors

### Butterfly waystation first phase of project

The Enquirer

First-grade students from Dudley STEM Elementary School converged Wednesday on Tennyson Avenue, just off Capital Avenue Southwest, to create a monarch butterfly waystation. They also helped to beautify the neighborhood.

Bobbi VanWormer, a Dudley first-grade teacher who helped develop the project, said it gives students an outdoor activity as they create a community garden for monarch butterflies and the neighborhood.

"This is the first phase of a neighborhood

project," said Grace Cowens, Gracious Homes director. "We're looking to continue to have this as a beautiful site where the kids can come back and say that they were a part of this," Cowens added.

Lindsey Westfall of AmeriCorps VISTA, working for HandsOn Battle Creek, helped organize the effort, including obtaining support from Meijer, Wal-Mart and other community businesses and organizations.

Kimorah McPeters, left, and Ta'Nadia Robinson, Dudley STEM School students, rake the front yard of a house on Tennyson Avenue during Wednesday morning's monarch waystation work project. Below, Jalisa Davis isn't quite sure what's on her left hand as she carries a handful of dirt in her right hand. JOHN GRAP/THE ENQUIRER



## Minimum wage: Customers will pay

### Locals concerned about increase

**Olivia Lewis**

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Not everyone in Calhoun County is happy about the increase in minimum wage.

Gov. Rick Snyder signed a law Tuesday raising the state minimum wage to \$9.25 per hour from \$7.40. The change will show up in paychecks in early September and the rate will increase with inflation until 2018.

"It really just depends on how everything gets reacted to," Kara Beer, president of the Battle Creek area Chamber of Commerce, said. "Are people going to increase the cost of doing business? And more than likely that is how it's going to happen. Because employers are going to have to figure out a way to make up that cost."

Paul Conkey, owner of the Griffin Grill and Pub downtown Battle Creek, said prices at restaurants may increase as owners seek a way to survive.

"Any cost the government has to meddle with or get involved with, taxes or mandates, will get passed on to customers," Conkey said. "There is no other way about it. There's fixed costs here."

Conkey said he is already hiring above the minimum wage level, paying servers between \$3 and \$6 an hour depending on experience. Those workers also earn tips. Conkey said the hourly wage positions would probably be the first to go. The increase will require tipped employees to be paid 38 percent more than the current minimum wage of \$2.65.

"We try to educate our servers and develop our servers so they're making maximum impact while

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MAYA ANGELOU | 1928-2014

## Maya Angelou, poet and essayist, dies at 86

**Hillel Italie**  
Associated Press

Maya Angelou, a poet and author who rose from poverty, segregation and the harshest of childhoods to become a force on stage, screen and the printed page, Wednesday morning. She was 86.

Angelou died at her home in Winston-Salem, N.C., her son,

Guy B. Johnson, said in a statement. The 86-year-old had been a professor of American studies at Wake Forest University since 1982.

"She lived a life as a teacher, activist, artist and human being. She was a warrior for equality, tolerance and peace," Johnson said.

Tall and regal, with a deep, majestic voice, Angelou defied

### MORE INSIDE

**A2:** Enquirer coverage of Maya Angelou's 2003 speech at Starr Commonwealth.

all probability and category, becoming one of the first black women to enjoy mainstream success as an author and thriving in virtually every artistic medium.

The young single mother who performed at strip clubs to earn a living later wrote and recited the most popular presidential inaugural poem in history.

The childhood victim of rape wrote a million-selling memoir, befriended Malcolm

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(AP)

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Randy L. Crabtree

Jamir D. Davis  
Theresa Y. Greene  
Bobby Jones  
Curtis J. Knowles  
Benjamin D. Mercer  
Jeffrey S. Rice

Marsha K. Rockett  
Sidney L. Rootes  
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### SETTING IT STRAIGHT

» All editorial corrections and clarifications will appear here. If you spot an error, call the editor at 966-0670.

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