Worshippers, including Muhammad Qawwee (center), greet each other with hugs and handshakes after Friday prayers at Lansing's Wali Mahmoud Islamic Center.

Matthew Miller
miller@lsj.com

The building was a corner market once, tucked among the houses on the city’s west side, but the shelves of fruits and vegetables and the meat counter are long gone.

What was once the storefront is sealed up, wrapped with battered white siding. There is a hand-painted sign on the back that says “Malouf Wilah Islamic Center.” Inside, 17 men were seated on pale green-blue carpeting, gathered for prayer under fluorescent lights.

It was the Friday of the big lottery jackpot. In the world beyond the walls, the day was percolating with half-blimped-dreams. Anthony Weatherpoon had intended to talk about something else, but his small congregation “was always asking about the lottery.”

“There is a frenzy out there to go out and buy a lottery ticket,” he said. “It’s tempting. Yes. They make it tempting. The games. It’s true. It’s true. It’s that wish that you win, one in a hundred million chances of winning. What does it tell us in the Quran? We are not immune to the temptation.”

Weatherpoon is a retired honor guard who lives with the family of Michigan’s former governor, a big-hearted man who grew up near Wali Mahmoud Islamic Center.

Most of the share of the $7.6 billion voter-approved millage for Lansing’s police and fire departments in Mayor Virg Bernero’s proposed 2013 budget would cover such expenses as health care and pensions...
up on a farm in Cass County, the imam for the past dozen years. The wonders of the natural world and his family were a dominant theme in his sermons, and he would speak from memory. 

Assisting him in the pulpit was his daughter, Fatima Mberwa, 15, who was studying Arabic at the Wali Mahmoud Islamic Center last month.

There was a lineage to what she heard. Malcolm and Elijah's father, Earl Little, was a field organizer for Marcus Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association when he brought his family here in 1929. In his autobiography, Malcolm recalled the meetings held in people's homes and the same cut of black gladrags and white costumes, of self-sufficiency, self-discipline and self-love, framed by a reading of Islam that would have been only thinly recognizable to the rest of the Muslim world.

The change began in 1971 with the death of the Nation of Is- lam's leader, Elijah Muhammad. By the following year, the imam at the temple, Wallace D. Fard vanishes, and his followers have converted to Islam. Malcolm X, who once had an X in his name. "That really came to eradicate a lot of the history of white America, really," he said. "It was actually taught that the white man was the devil and the black man was God," he said. "It was a social movement, movement of its founder, Wallace Fard, in 1928 in a house at 408 S. Butler St., then closes under Interstate 496. Philbert Little is its minister, but travels frequently, sometimes to Lansing. The church is in a small converted corner store and was formerly a Nation of Islam Temple.

By the time Muhammad Qawwee arrived in Lansing in 1969, the movement had moved for a time to Philbert's house, who had taken the name he hadn't yet changed and who once had an X in his name. "That really came to eradicate a lot of the history of white America, really," he said. "It was actually taught that the white man was the devil and the black man was God," he said. "It was a social movement, movement of its founder, Wallace Fard, in 1928 in a house at 408 S. Butler St., then closes under Interstate 496. Philbert Little is its minister, but travels frequently, sometimes to Lansing. The church is in a small converted corner store and was formerly a Nation of Islam Temple.

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and the life of the Prophet Muham-

dings, Kareemah Hasan among them.

that was the time."

father’s teachings about race and the

studying the Quran had been God incarnate.

books of Elijah Muhammad to the Qur-

What Weatherspoon and Qawwee both

He would emphasize the basic duties of Islam:

faith, prayer five times daily, fasting

charity and pilgrim-

He joined the Nation."

spoon, who was living in Coloradowhen

found enough of that,” said Weather-

Those who stayed talk about an evo-

mad.

March. Marwa Adawe, 24 years old, a

recent graduate of MSU in entomology,

brightly colored head scarves.

I decided to come in here last Ram-

"As-salaamaleikum" (Peace be upon you) and "Wa ashhaduanna Muham-

I just realized that’s the future." 

The building on Lahoma Street has

the door four years ago were refugees

People would ask why they kept the

the mosque in the mid-1980s, the

trays set up on a card table were brim-

young man stood up to make an appeal

among what Weatherpoon and Qawwee both

the mosque was a part of a movement, but an

I decided to come in here last Ram-

I just realized what Weatherpoon and Qawwee both

I decided to come in here last Ram-

I said, “Well, we don’t know who

The group of men who came through

They were these three dozen children

There were three dozen children

Mosque

Continued from Page 5A

April 24, 2012—Parent/Student Informational Meeting
6:00-8:00 p.m.—611 Hagadorn Road, Mason

The program offers up to an associate degree, tuition free. This enrollment option is available for students in home, private or parochial schools that are currently a resident of the Ingham ISD service area and are on track to be junior status by June, 2012 as determined by the Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements*. Students will attend class all day on LCC’s main campus and are expected to complete the program in three years. After three years, they will have earned their high school diploma, up to sixty college credits, an associate degree, or a technical certification, tuition free.

Applications are due: May 15, 2012
For more information call 517.244.1287 or go to http://inghamisd.org/schools/theearlycollege

LANSING STATE JOURNAL
THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 2012
WWW.LSL.COM

Families have gathered at Eaton Rapids Holiness Camp Meeting for 127 years. For more photos go to LSJ.com, search and describe the image itself.

LACKLUSTER MONTH

By Matthew Miller

E. Rapids Camp Meeting: A Tradition for 127 Years

Revival & Reunion

By Matthew Miller

LANSING SALE & RENTAL FLEETS

By Lindsay VanHulle

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 2012 WWW.LSJ.COM

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LACKLUSTE
Camp

Continued from Page 1A

A couple walks to evening worship services recently at the Tabernacle on the grounds of the Eaton Rapids Holiness Camp Meeting, along the banks of the Grand River in Eaton Rapids.

A shift in focus

John Waley, the founder of Methodism, taught that God’s grace can free people from the burden of the law and the temptation to sin, and that holiness movement was developed as Methodists moved away from religious asceticism to a restoration of spiritual relationship to God. Waley’s thought, in turn, inspired the United Christian Church and the Church of the Nazarene, both denominations and their followers. The Nazarenes, for instance, focussed on the doctrine of ‘holiness’. Most Methodists, on the other hand, would look at holiness theology as “understanding that adoration in all of life is an unceasing, unselfish, and unself-seeking commitment to the worship of the living and true God.” The emphasis of the holiness movement was to show the social world that what God is doing is more than mere human experience, and is God’s presence, love, and grace. It has to be about a Christ-like spirit that is “inward and not merely external.” He insists that “there is still a demand for Christ in today’s world. The church is the body of Christ, and it can’t be separated from the world.” The movement he describes expanded into a widespread national practice of the Holiness Church, a Protestant denomination during the early 1900s. The holiness movement was the first to break from the Old Testament, focusing instead on the New Testament. It is a movement that still exists today, with a group of churches that are known as the Holiness movement.

There have been times in the camp’s history when the buildings have burned down, but the hot summer days that followed have always brought back the camp’s visitors. The camp has been in operation for over a century. The Holiness Church, taught that salvation in Christ was a way to lead believers to eternal life, and that camp meetings were a key part of the movement. The Eaton Rapids camp was founded in 1890. Today, the summer camp brings in campers and families from all over the country. The camp is a place where people can come to escape the heat and find peace. The camp can feel like a place of sanctuary, where you can come back to and see a kind of preaching that is different from what you are used to. The camp is a place where you can experience a removal, many others are on the ropes. The supporters are helping something wonderful change over time.
MDOT reviewing unsafe corridor

Webb Road sees 14-16 crashes a year

By Ken Palmer

SOUTHPAW — Ken Kain said he doesn’t need to see traffic studies and scientific data to know the Webb Road/Business U.S. 127 intersection is about as dangerous as it can be.

He lives along the highway, also known as Old 27, just 100 feet north of Webb Road. He “has all the crashes,” theDeWitt Township resident said. “It’s just a horrible intersection. We’ve had cars on our tires. We’ve had cars roll over the embankments by the flap-jack restaurant.”

“You have to live here to see the devastation. If you put in a full traffic signal, it would make all the difference in the world.”

Now, under pressure from local officials and people such as Kain, the Michigan Department of Transportation is studying ways to make the intersection and the Old 27 corridor safer along with the Lansing area.

“MDOT said this intersection is one of the most accident-prone intersections in the township, registering 14-16 crashes every year from 2007 to 2011, township police Chief Brian Arndt said.

“Within the last year,” Arndt said, “we have had a death and 35 more crashes. We have had at least 35 more crashes in the last year.”

The agency has been talking to local officials on corridor improvements in the latest development in a long-running struggle between MDOT and local residents over a problematic stretch of road.

Webb and Old 27 is one of the most accident-prone intersections in the township, registering 14-16 crashes every year from 2007 to 2011, township police Chief Brian Arndt said.

“Within the last year,” Arndt said, “we have had a death and 35 more crashes. We have had at least 35 more crashes in the last year.”

The type of accidents we see this time of year, he said, include 18-wheeler/two-car, pedestrian/two-car and two-car/broadside collisions. He said the intersections are “full of accidents.”

Since a dual flashing signal went up in early 2011, after petitioning for a traffic signal at Webb and Old 27, the township police chief said he obtained another 2,000 signatures this year and those petitions were passed along to the state a few weeks ago, he said.

“MDOT said this intersection did not meet all 15 point criteria for a full traffic signal,” Kain said.

“When do they have three of 15 criteria met so the road is so busy and what’s that, they’re not going to put full traffic signals?”

MDOT has planned to do another signal study since approving the flashing beacon in early 2011, after it had been up for awhile, Arndt said.

A local agency has been talking to local officials about how to make the intersection safer and scientifically and is being conducted by independent transportation officials.

MDOT and Michigan State Police said the speed limit in the area should be increased from 50 mph to 55 mph to better reflect what motorists are actually driving.

Arndt said the speed limit could be changed as soon as next month, it said.

“We’ve found that’s the safer way when traffic is moving at a consistent speed,” Arndt said. “When you get the speed differential in when it becomes less safe.”

END OF WORLD COMES ... AND GOES

DOOMSDAY SCARY, EPIC FAIL

Mayan prediction much ado about nothing

By Matthew Miller

You’re reading this, it’s been a bumper year for book deals. When you come to predicting the end of the world, things are a bit more difficult.

The afternoon of Friday, the day wrongly heralded as the end of the Mayan calendar and perhaps of the world as we know it, brought snow and blustering winds to Lansing, not to mention an end-of-the-world party at Rum Runners with $4 killer Kool-Aid until 11 o’clock. But it passed with nary a zombie horde or run of meteors. As Dec. 21 ended for millions, the International Date Line, the streets were quiet and clear.

Now, at 12:21 p.m. in a house on Ionia Street, the home of ACC Natural Healing & Wellness Solutions, a group of 12 people began a meditation around the idea of the end of the world, the apocalypse and perhaps of the world in its entirety.

See MAYAN, Page 5A

Mid-Mich. spared but north nestled with 19 inches of snow

142,000 lose power as storm hits state

SAYSBORO — A monstrosity hitting the Midwest dumped more than 19 inches of snow in northern Michigan and knocked out electricity for at least 14,000 customers statewide.

The National Weather Service said the highest totals included 14 inches in Chippewa County’s Kinross Township in the eastern Upper Peninsula.

Total once Thursday in northern Michigan generally ranged from 4 to 8 inches.

Some of northern Michigan schools closed because of weather, giving students an early start to the holidays.

Southern Michigan received rain and snow.

CSX Energy Corp’s Consumers Energy and said 122,000 of its customers lost power. About 35,000 customers remained without power Friday afternoon.

The agency said most customers in the state were restored by late Friday afternoon.
Deputy Fire Chief John Kessler says he will work with the Lansing Fire Department on a resolution to increase funding for fire and rescue services in the city.

Kessler, who is also a delegate at the Democratic National Convention, says a resolution passed by the convention was a catalyst for the push for increased funding for emergency services.

The resolution, which was adopted by the convention, calls on Congress to provide increased funding for states and municipalities to improve public safety and emergency response systems.

Kessler says the resolution is a step in the right direction, but he says more needs to be done to address the needs of the city's emergency services.

He says the city needs to work with other local and state agencies to come up with a long-term solution to the funding issue.

Kessler says he is encouraged by the support he received from the convention, and he hopes that the resolution will help to move the city closer to addressing the needs of its emergency services.

The resolution calls on Congress to increase funding for public safety and emergency response systems, and to provide more resources to local and state agencies to help them meet the needs of their communities.

Kessler says the resolution is a good start, but he says there is still a lot of work to be done to ensure that the city's emergency services have the resources they need to respond to emergencies.

He says the city needs to work with other local and state agencies to come up with a long-term solution to the funding issue, and he hopes that the resolution will help to move the city closer to addressing the needs of its emergency services.