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## Garden tour

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handle different terrain.” This will be Niedermeyer's second time participating in the tour.

“KLCC does a wonderful job to make it easy on the gardeners who participate,” she said. “It is a real pleasure to work with them.”

Stephanie Niedermeyer and her husband, Paul, have had their garden for about five years, and while it is one of the many things they enjoy doing, they admit that with their busy lives and three kids the garden doesn't get as much attention as it could.

“It is something we enjoy, but we don't let it take over our lives,” Niedermeyer said. “People passing by in the street enjoy it. It is a very neighborly thing, and it's nice because we eat the vegetables out of the garden.”

For some of the gardeners, the beautiful landscapes represent more than just a relaxing hobby.

“Each year we approach gardening like we do life,” participating gardener Kate Joost said. “Sometimes we have more weeds than others.” This year Joost feels like she has an especially close relationship with her small piece of land.

“There has been a lot of digging and removal of clay,” Joost said. “It has been very physical.” She is calling her garden a grieving garden. The novice gardener just recently lost past sweetheart Christopher Lister to prostate cancer and is dedicating her garden to his memory.



Azle Malinao-Alvarez Emerald

Veterans of the tour point to the personal touches as a highlight for participating.

“He was a Buddhist Brit,” Joost said. “The garden will have aspects of an English garden mixed with Zen ... an American Eclectic.” Her garden has been on the tour before, but during a previous ownership.

“It will be interesting for people who have been on the tour before to see how the garden has changed and matured,” Joost said. While she is happy to share her garden

with the public, Joost will not be present during the tour.

“The garden speaks for itself,” she said.

This year the tour is expected to attract 1,500 to 2,000 people.

Tickets are on sale now at various locations for \$10. They may also be purchased the day of the tour for \$13. For more information call (541) 726-2224.

## Modest Mouse

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mosphere and into the expanse of space.

Musically, it comes as no surprise that this first record on Epic sounds tighter and more polished than the band's previous independent releases. The frayed edges that defined the band's early sound on numbers like “Dramamine” and “All Night Diner” have been smoothed out to make way for more refined transitions.

The vocals are mixed in a little bit louder, but there are also more studio effects put on them than ever before, creating atmospheric textures that compliment the layers of guitar tracks. Drummer Jeremiah Green is still the most solid

player of the trio and his inventive licks propel the instrumental sections.

On the opener, “Third Planet,” an ethereal guitar glides along lyrics with a childish kind of charm punctuated by Brock's syllable lisp. When he sings, “Your heart felt good, it was dripping with pitch and made of wood,” you can't help but smile at the closest thing to a love song the band has attempted since their 1996 EP “Interstate 8.” “Third Planet” sounds so peaceful that you can't help but wonder if Brock has fallen in love or something.

But darkness lingers not far beneath the whimsical opener. “Tiny Cities Made of Ashes” employs a disco beat, and Brock raps a menacing verse about hell freezing

over and God telling him to get a sweater.

“As we're headed down the road towards tiny cities made of ashes/I'm going to get dressed up in plastic/Gonna shake hands with the masses,” Brock sings before breaking into a gut wrenching chorus recalling equal parts Pixies and Nirvana. This line makes for a pretty good comment on indie rock's current darling's sentiments on being mass distributed in cellophane packaging.

Modest Mouse is fueled by their lyrics. Never knowing what Brock will spew out next is enough of a reason for any fan to pick up this new album. If you've never heard these boys from Issaquah, Wash., “The Moon and Antarctica” makes an excellent introduction to this most unusual band.

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