

CityPULSE

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DEAN PHILLIPS HAS A MESSAGE FOR MICHIGAN DEMOCRATS

BY KYLE MELINN

See Page 12



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Am I smart? I don't know. I know what I know, but I also know that there's so much more that I don't know than what I do know. I have been thinking a lot about Palestine and trying to educate myself better on what is going on there. Frankly, the bottom line to me is that over 20,000 people have been killed in three short months, many more injured, and even more who are now living in conditions without shelter, clean water, and medical care. The death toll is only going up with no end of the bombing in sight.

The piece I wrote last week was an ode to my wife, but I ended with a note on how the Palestinian people are a circumstance of where they were born, and that they certainly do not deserve to die because of where they exist on a map. I apologize if anyone took that essay as me comparing my circumstances to theirs; that is not what I was doing. I was simply making a point that we are all human and our circumstances of existence are not within our control. I think it is important to discuss what is happening over there because the dead cannot speak for themselves and, as humans, we have to speak out when families' entire lineages are erased because of a dispute over geography.

I live with my wife, who majored in archeology and anthropology, and minored in religion. Without her, I might have been totally uncultured, but I have spent the last 25 years listening to and learning from her. The two-state solution goes way back, and it has always been described as a difficult situation. I will not argue that. We are talking about the most discriminated-against people in modern times who have suffered horrifically. Six million Jews died in the Holocaust. They have been wrongfully driven out of every place they've tried to settle. It has been cruel and unfair. Everyone deserves to have a home and security.

The problem should have never been considered a Jewish problem, but rather more accurately portrayed as a lack-of-humanity problem. Jewish people unquestionably have not been deserving of the hate that so many people espouse. The world has not done enough to undo the harmful stereotypes that exist in every corner of the globe that we all share.

The fact that the Jewish people have continuously been on the receiving end of injustice is partly what complicates what is going on now. The old saying two wrongs don't make a right is what comes to my mind. I want to support their plight, but not blindly. The Palestinian people have been on the receiving end of injustice starting after WWII. The land they lived on was under British control and was given to Jewish people to form the state of Israel. Palestinian lives were upended. Their ancestral land was taken from them, and they were violently removed from their homes. They have spent decades living under constant restrictions and occupation.

It is understandable that the sentiment of people forced from their homes would be contentious, especially after being forced to give up everything you've ever known and having many of your family killed. You'd be disingenuous if you think those so wronged wouldn't at some point seek retribution. We all like to think that peace is attainable, but American history is all the proof you need to see to know that oppression doesn't usually end peacefully. I'd even go so far as to say that much of the anti-American sentiment around the world can be attributed to a bomb that killed innocent people who were just trying to navigate their own lives, but just happened to live in a part of the world that America intervened in militarily.

The history of Jewish people deserves to be recognized. They have suffered the deepest failures in modern human history. It should always remind us of how unfair humanity can be, but also it cannot blind us to ignore unthinkable atrocities just because of that suffering.

I am asking that we look at this objectively. The current government in Israel has a responsibility to protect the people of Israel. They have every right to defend themselves. As a nation that has the largest military in the region, it also has a responsibility to avoid killing innocent people. Palestinians are not Hamas, and yet

2 million Palestinians live in the Gaza strip and have been ostensibly occupied it for decades. And now they are relentlessly and indiscriminately targeted in their homes, schools, hospitals, and refugee camps. It is a humanitarian nightmare for them, and it just adds to the sentiment that they are again being forced from their ancestral land. Many are afraid that if they leave, they will never be allowed to return.

Hamas was elected in 2006 and replaced the Palestinian Authority. While I personally do not agree with their ideology, they are an extension of the Arab League that was resistant to giving up their land, which was controlled by the British after WWII. British Palestine sounds a lot like American Indian to me. One group of people, who have inhabited a land, fall to the subjugation of colonizers because they claim the land and its people through force. Resistance is inevitable and Hamas is just the latest, but it won't be the last. Acknowledging history is the only way to start the peace process, but it won't be easy, and every Palestinian killed, and every bomb dropped will only fuel the resistance to the next generation.

I am not defending Hamas; I am pointing out that they exist simply because the land they have lived on for centuries was taken from their people. Who was Britain to claim land so far from their island nation? What gave the French the right to colonize Vietnam? There are countless examples of colonization nightmares that are still impacting people's lives all over the world today.

I cannot blame Jewish people for wanting a place to live after all they have suffered. Who wouldn't, if you were in their shoes? They deserve security as much, if not more than any other people just because they have been endlessly targeted and treated horrifically. The creation of the state of Israel was at the expense of the people living on that land, though, and that was an injustice to those already there, just like it was for the indigenous people who live in North America.

I do not know what the solution is. I only know that killing tens of thousands of people is not the answer. Benjamin Netanyahu and many in his administration are not on the side of peace. Hamas is not on the side of peace. We need a permanent cease fire, and the nations that support either side need to promote peace. Arming either of them with weapons is a bad idea, any way you look at it.

I don't care if you are Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Atheist or whatever, people don't come out of the womb and ask to be any of those things, they are just born into a place and are surrounded by people who have learned their way of life from those that came before them. It is the circumstances that can influence people to act or react a certain way, and we should all remember that some of us have less obstacles to hurdle over than others. Those of us who aren't born into the chaos that we are witnessing should just be thankful, but it is nothing more than luck. But it should be our responsibility as stewards of humanity to not be silent. Silence is apathy and apathy is lethal. Dignity denied to any is dignity diminished for all.

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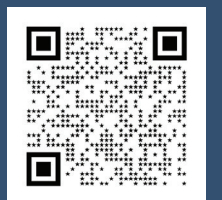


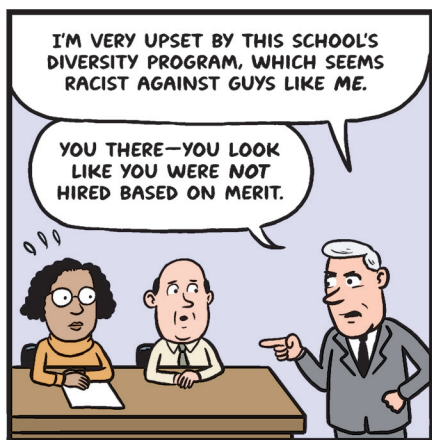
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MSU's Martin Luther King Jr. concert goes back to basics

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Frontier Ruckus releases first album since 2017

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The falafel game is strong at Bell's Greek Pizza

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Delivery drivers: Quill Blankenship, Cindy Heistand, Curtis Lauck, Terri Paine, Diane Scofield

Cover photo courtesy Dean Phillips for President

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ROUND AND ROUND AND ROUND WE GO

PARTISANS AND OPPORTUNISTS DEMAGOGUE THE ISSUE, UNTIL THE TARGETED INSTITUTION AND/OR INDIVIDUAL IS FORCED TO CAPITULATE.

IT'S ANOTHER VICTORY IN THE CULTURAL BATTLE FOR **ETHICS IN GAMING JOURNALISM!**

AND THEN--

ER, I MEAN, INTEGRITY IN OUR ELITE INSTITUTIONS.

AND THEN--

TOM TOMORROW@01-09-2024

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

To Airbnb, or not to Airbnb?

Weighing the pros and cons of short-term rentals in Greater Lansing

When residents of East Lansing's Glencairn Neighborhood found the house at 921 Sunset Lane listed on Airbnb without a proper city license, they rallied and had it taken down.

The incident was the catalyst for increased discussion about how the city should approach regulating short-term rentals, or properties that are leased through companies as Airbnb and VRBO for up to 30 days. It led to a petition calling for an R-O-1, or rental restriction overlay district, which would prevent any more licenses from being granted to Glencairn homeowners.

Natalie Ryckman, who moved into the house next door in August, said she signed the petition "after much consideration."

"It's disappointing that the process doesn't distinguish between short- and long-term rentals, so you have to go against both even if your issue is just with short-term," she said. "My hope is that the process will be updated to meet modern needs."

Ryckman, whose work with domestic violence programs has often included dealing with affordable housing, ultimately decided that the negative impact of short-term rentals outweighed her concern.

"When one person rents through Airbnb, other folks start to see them making money, which creates this domino effect," she said. "What I've seen is that these rentals can take away from the pool of long-term rentals in a community, from families who need affordable, permanent housing."

One property owner, who asked that his name not be printed, uses Airbnb and VRBO to rent out homes in Lansing, Colorado and Wisconsin. From his perspective, short-term rentals uniquely benefit the local economy.

"The people who stay at my properties all come from out of town. They'll visit for a week or so, spend gas money, shop at businesses, and eat out for almost every meal. That's bringing in a lot of money that wouldn't come in if it wasn't an Airbnb," he said.

Of the three cities he hosts in, the

Airbnb owner said that "Lansing is probably the easiest place" to operate. He pays around \$1,200 per year in extra taxes to the city.

"In some places, they've really come down hard with restrictions. A lot of people just don't want to deal with that, so right now I don't see a lot of new Airbnbs being bought," he said.

He said he prefers renting his Lansing house to longer-term boarders like traveling nurses but uses Airbnb and VRBO to fill in the gaps. In both cases, across his three rental properties, he said he's gotten just one complaint, from neighbors in Wisconsin who alleged he was operating his own home illegally for short-term rentals, which he said wasn't true.

According to AirDNA, an app that uses artificial intelligence to analyze data from Airbnb and VRBO listings, Lansing has 437 active short-term listings and East Lansing has 73. About a quarter of those are private rooms, rather than entire homes. More than half of the guests stay for just one night.

Other communities in Michigan have already taken steps to regulate short-term rentals. In 2021, Ann Arbor banned non-owner-occupied short-term rental properties in residential neighborhoods. Under that regulation, hosts who reside in their home and rent out a single room can continue to do so, but absentee hosts and third-party companies "cannot apply for a short-term rental license under any circumstances."

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor has publicly advocated for greater autonomy in how municipalities choose to regulate short-term rentals. The only city regulation now is that if an owner who resides elsewhere markets a property for short-term stays, then it must be registered as a rental.



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

When residents of East Lansing's Glencairn Neighborhood found this two-bedroom 1,144-square-foot home at 921 Sunset Lane, listed on Airbnb without a proper license from the city, they rallied and had it taken down.

"I'm not opposed to them altogether, but when you have so many that you start taking appropriate affordable housing offline, that's a problem," Schor said. "What concerns me is that some in the industry have pushed bills that would remove any local controls or regulation whatsoever."

He cited one such example in Michigan House Bill No. 4722, which would prevent local governments from banning short-term rental housing. Though it passed the House in 2021, no progress has been made since.

"If they want to prevent banning short-term rentals, that's fine, but if they want to prevent any regulation, that's not. The community should have that ability to protect residents and their housing stock," Schor said.

These protections could include increased penalties for property owners who rent to parties who go on to violate ordinances. It could also take the form of a cap on the number of properties that can be listed on Airbnb and VRBO, a strategy implemented in cities like New Orleans and San Diego.

"If you have short-term rentals and people who aren't occupying the home for a year, they may not listen to the

city's ordinances," Schor said. "So, anyone who lives near a short-term rental just wants to make sure they're not being awakened in the middle of the night, that there's not trash all over the place, that there aren't big parties going on next door."

Back in East Lansing, Ryckman said the owner, Benjamin Jamo, tried to post the home on Airbnb a second time, but under his fiancé's name.

"I think he was trying to conceal it so neighbors wouldn't find it again," Ryckman said. "It's just been really contentious in the neighborhood lately, and kind of a gnarly way to meet all your new neighbors."

Jamo, who did not respond to a request for comment, has since applied for a rental license from the city.

It may be too late, however. In December, residents in the surrounding Glencairn Neighborhood, which lies within the boundaries of Saginaw Street, Abbot Road and Grand River Avenue, submitted the R-O-1 petition with signatures from 100 of the 149 properties in Glencairn that fall within the overlay's proposed boundaries. That was enough to warrant the proposal's introduction at the City Council meeting on Dec. 5.

The next step comes in a public hearing at tonight's planning commission meeting. After that, it could stay on the commission's agenda for multiple meetings before it's passed back to the Council for a final vote. Until then, a moratorium has been placed on all new rental licenses in Glencairn, including Jamo's property and at least two similar applications.

If approved, the neighborhood would become the city's 21st overlay district.

"Regardless of the outcome of the overlay, we need to find a new way forward so we can have some semblance of community belonging again," Ryckman said.

— TYLER SCHNEIDER

REWIND



BY TYLER SCHNEIDER

Because of the holiday season, Rewind has been in hiatus since the Dec. 20 issue. Here's a look at what made news in Greater Lansing over the last three weeks:



On Dec. 15, the MSU Board of Trustees unanimously approved settlements with families of the students killed in the mass shooting on campus

Feb. 13, 2023. The families of Alexandria Verner, Arielle Anderson and Brian Fraser will each be awarded \$5 million. "While no amount of compensation can ever replace the loss of a life, we do hope this brings some closure, support and relief to these impacted families," Trustee David Kelly said. The Verner family said it will use its settlement to increase a scholarship fund they founded in their daughter's memory.



Berkey Hall, where two of the students were killed, reopened for classes Monday for the first time since the shooting. The university said the classrooms where Arielle Anderson and Alexandria Verner were shot by Dwayne McRae remain closed indefinitely. Staff was on hand to greet students, with muffins and therapy dogs in tow. About two dozen students protested the reopening outside the Hannah Administration Building.

The Lansing City Council chose Jeremy Garza (right) and Adam Hussain as president and vice president on Jan. 3. Garza, a Second Ward member since 2017, was vice president in 2023. Hussain, who has represented the Third Ward since 2015, served as vice president in 2020 and 2021 and as president in 2022. The unanimous vote came after new



at-large Council members Trini Lopez-Pehlivanoglu and Tamera Carter were sworn in.



MSU Federal Credit Union's acquisition of Gabriels Community Credit Union, announced Nov. 14, became official Jan. 1 after approval by the National Credit Union Administration. This week, MSUFCU disclosed it will close Gabriels' Lansing branch at 1901 E. Michigan Ave., on Feb. 29. The other former Gabriels branch, in Jackson on 1800 N. Wisner St., will remain open. MSUFCU President and CEO April Clobes told City Pulse it was "not economically feasible to maintain an additional location." Around 2,700 former Gabriels customers will be impacted by the takeover.

MSU trustee and former chair Dianne Byrum, a Democrat, confirmed Friday that she would not seek reelection for a third term in November. Byrum, who was first elected in 2008, faced calls from her peers to resign in June, after a report claimed she filed for improper exemptions to save \$11,900 in school taxes on her rural Ingham County home over seven years. Her term expires on Jan. 1. Former Ingham County Commissioner Rebecca Bahar-Cook, CEO of Capital Fundraising Associates in Lansing, plans to seek the Democratic nomination, while Michael Balow, who has run previously, will seek the Republican nomination.



After being hired by MSU to investigate reports that a university employee had leaked the identity of Mel Tucker accuser Brenda Tracy last fall, the Jones Day law firm announced Dec. 29 that it found no evidence supporting the claim. MSU Trustee Dan Kelly said that report would be made available to the public but didn't say when. Board Chair Rema Vassar, who was accused of leaking Tracy's identity, said in the meeting that she was relieved to have been "fully exonerated" after some had accused her of leaking Tracy's name to reporters.

Jeremy Fears, a freshman on the MSU basketball team, was shot in the thigh while on holiday break in his hometown of Joliet, Illinois. The Joliet Police Department said Dec. 23 they found two people shot in a residence at 3:44 a.m. the



previous night. The other was an unnamed 19-year-old woman. Fears is expected to make a full recovery from surgery. The suspect, an unnamed male who fired a handgun into the apartment has not been found.

A 17-year-old was fatally shot near the 1400 block of Ravenswood Drive in Lansing on Dec. 21. Police arrived at the scene around 10 p.m., where they found Brooke Lawson unresponsive, plus a 20-year-old woman from Sunfield who had non-life-threatening injuries. Lawson was pronounced dead at the hospital. Lydia Renee Nance, 35, was arraigned in the 55th District Court. She faces charges of one count of homicide, one count of assault with intent to murder and two felony firearm counts. Her bond was set at \$200,000.



The family of Stephen Romero, a 33-year-old man who was killed in an officer-involved shooting Dec. 1, has filed a \$100 million lawsuit against the Lansing Police Department. The federal lawsuit is directed at the city and officers Donovan Moore and Jeff Kurtz. The four-year veterans were placed on administrative leave after the shooting. The suit claims that the city failed to adequately train its officers and that Moore and Kurtz failed to properly intervene and save Romero's life. The lawsuit also alleges unlawful use of force, saying Romero's actions were "slow and undisguised" and that he was complying with officer demands when he was killed.



The state Capitol building was evacuated on Jan. 3 after a bomb threat was sent to a state email address that morning. While federal officials found no explosives and labelled the threats as a hoax, the building remained closed for the rest of the day. Other state capitols, including those in Georgia, Mississippi, Kentucky and Connecticut, received similar threats that day.

Rewind

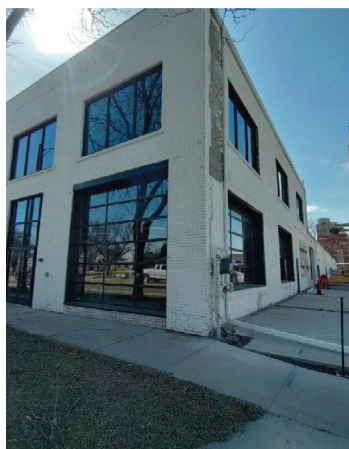
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The Michigan Supreme Court is taking up an appeal involving the Diocese of Lansing

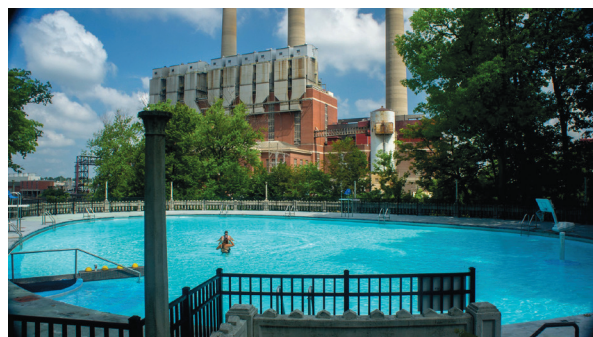
after Brian McLain spoke out about the alleged abuse he faced from the Rev. Richard Lobert (above) at the W.J. Maxey Boys Training School in 1998-'99. McLain, then 16, filed a 2021 lawsuit against Lobert, the Diocese of Lansing and the Archdiocese of Baltimore, where Lobert is employed but on administrative leave due to the case. The court could hear arguments as early as this spring, where it will consider whether a 2018 amendment to the state's statute of limitations applies to the case.



Ellison Brewery and Spirits shuttered its REO Town location, 1314 S. Washington Ave., for good on Dec. 30. The decision came just under a year after the brewery opened the location, its second, with owner Aaron Hanson citing unsustainable losses. Ellison's original taphouse, at 4903 Dawn Ave in East Lansing, will remain open.



On Dec. 22, McLaren Greater Lansing announced plans to demolish some of the vacant properties at its former Greenlawn Avenue hospital campus to create green space and clear land for possible future redevelopment. The company, which moved into a newly constructed healthcare campus at 2900 Collins Road in Lansing in March 2022, said the Belen Wing, a building that opened in the 1940s for treating tuberculosis patients, will be one of the first to be demolished. The project is expected to start in March and be completed in May. McLaren intends to repurpose the remaining buildings on its old campus.



On Dec. 28, Lansing Mayor Andy Schor announced that the city has accepted a \$6,254,251 bid from Rhino Recreational Construction to restore Moore's Park Pool. Most of the funding comes from a \$6.2 million grant from the state budget. Schor said it was the only bid submitted to the city. The pool, which first opened to the public in 1923, was closed in 2019 in ill repair.

Lansing officials cleared out a homeless camp under the Kalamazoo Street bridge on Dec. 20. The city, which brought out bulldozers to clear the space, notified residents the day before and provided two nights in a hotel to those who were impacted.



Mark Totten, the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Michigan, announced on Dec. 23 that his office will "repeat and strengthen" its "Safe Summer 2023" initiative in Lansing and elsewhere this year. The inaugural program was a collaborative effort between federal, state and local law enforcement officials to address violent gun crime in Michigan. The U.S. Attorney's Office will prosecute offenders for crimes committed with illegally possessed firearms. Totten's office is responsible for assisting local departments in analyzing firearms seized during criminal cases, using ballistic evidence and other forensic methods to try and trace the weapons to previous shootings.



Authorities seized gaming machines from a suspected illegal gambling operation at the former Rocky's Roadhouse bar and restaurant in Holt on Jan. 3. Ingham County detectives had been investigating the site at what was once Rocky's Roadhouse, 2470 Cedar St., since a complaint was filed in October, the Sheriff's Office said. "Multiple gaming machines and additional items were seized as evidence. Investigators from the Delhi Township Fire Department responded and condemned the building for fire code violations." The investigation is ongoing, and no additional details have been released.

In response to a rise in COVID-19 cases, Sparrow Health System reopened its West Saginaw Highway laboratory on Jan. 2. The lab will offer bloodwork and

administer COVID and respiratory testing for patients with a physician's note. It will operate from 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays.



In its 2023 rankings for K-12 schools, the educational resource website Niche.com ranked Okemos and East Lansing schools as the fourth- and 19th-best school districts in Michigan, respectively.

The rankings, which included 580 schools, also included a separate ranking of the state's "Most Diverse School Districts." Greater Lansing was well represented there, with Ingham Intermediate Schools in Mason third, the Lansing Public Schools fifth, Waverly Community Schools sixth, and the Cole Academy 16th.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

A Dec. 26 police chase that began at a Walmart in St. Johns lasted for eight hours and led authorities through four counties and involved two stolen vehicles before the suspect, a parolee suspected of retail fraud, was arrested and brought to the Mecosta County Jail in Big Rapids. ... A Christmas shooting near the 900 block of Long Boulevard, on Lansing's south side, left one man hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries. ... A man was injured Dec. 22 after a bull he was transporting to MSU's animal clinic on Bogue Street broke free and charged him. ... A 31-year-old man who was allegedly assaulted near the 200 block of East Cesar Chavez Avenue on Dec. 16 told police he was attacking in self-defense when he stabbed his alleged attacker, who has since been taken into custody.



Correction

Because of a reporting error, a story in the Dec. 20 edition of City Pulse incorrectly reported that the space involved in a legal malpractice lawsuit by Summit Street Development Co. against the old Loomis Law Firm was formerly occupied by the North Precinct of the Lansing Police Department. In fact, the space involved in the suit is at 700 May St., whereas the North Precinct was at 740 May St. City Pulse regrets the error.

ARTS & CULTURE

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'Intertwined and continuous'

MSU's Martin Luther King Jr. concert weaves drums, song and protest

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

To experience the Michigan State University College of Music's annual Martin Luther King Jr. commemorative concert is to be swept into a swirling celebration that's been going on for more than 300 years and shows no sign of letting up.

Led by the Jazz Studies area and its director, Rodney Whitaker, Sunday's (Jan. 14) "Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer and Protest" concert will follow the golden thread of great Black music through hopeless times, hopeful times and times like these, when it's impossible to tell.

This year's concert goes back to basics: the human voice and the hand drum. But basic doesn't always mean simple.

The African Diaspora Percussion Ensemble, a new addition to the annual celebration, puts some serious skin in the game.

"Contrary to Western belief that the music is primitive, it's very, very intricate," ensemble director Kevin Jones said. Jones is a percussion master — not only in jazz, but also in the percussion traditions of Congo, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Venezuela, Cuba and many other cultures.

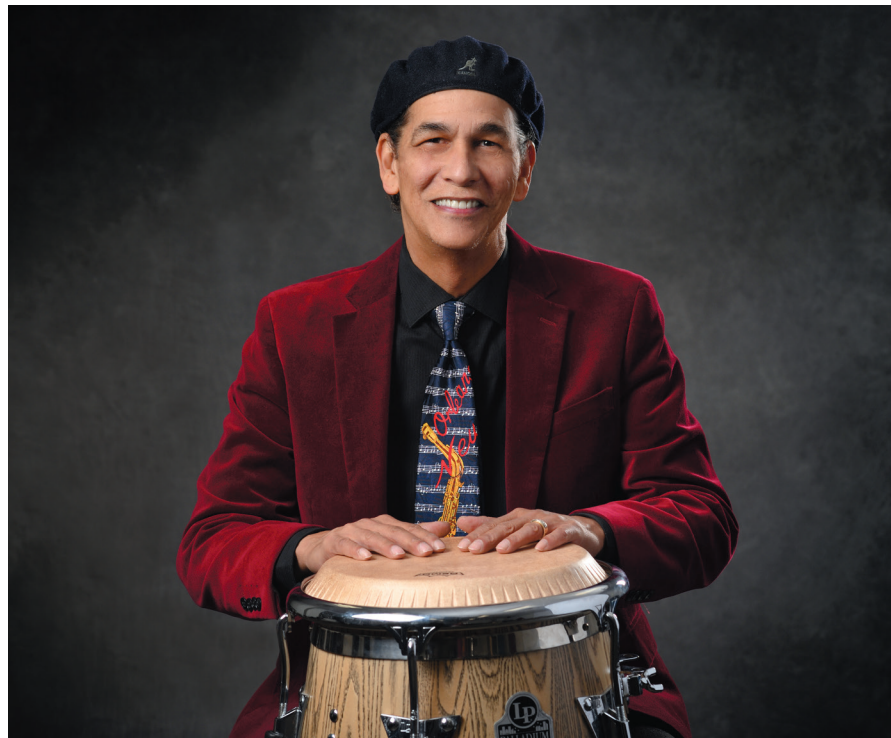
"You have to be able to articulate and understand the vocabulary of each particular drum culture," he said. "There's enough there to study for two lifetimes."

The 10-member group is a mix of percussion and jazz students.

Jones is also a veteran of many R&B, soul and funk gigs and recordings, having played with the Isley Brothers for 13 years.

His global approach to percussion took root when he was growing up in Englewood, New Jersey, soaking up music at home (his grandmother played with blues legend Bessie Smith) and joining neighborhood drummers who played on the streets.

Later, he played with the fire-breathing jazz saxophonist Archie Shepp and Detroit bop legend Charles McPherson and evolved into



Courtesy photo

Percussionist, scholar and educator Kevin Jones will lead the African Diaspora Percussion Ensemble at MSU's Martin Luther King Jr. commemorative concert on Sunday (Jan. 14).

a scholar-musician.

To Jones, it's all one continuous heartbeat.

"It's like a lineage," he explained. "If you follow the slave trade from Africa to the New World, slaves were taken from Congo in the early 1500s, from Benin, Nigeria, Togo and Ghana, and went to Cuba and eventually to New Orleans, and that's where jazz started."

Labels are of little use in a tradition so long, rich and unified, as Sunday's musical banquet will attest.

"All of these traditions are intertwined and continuous," Jones said. "Improvisation, syncopation — a lot of the rhythmic nuances of jazz are also in African drumming."

As recently as the 1970s, hand drums were prominent in R&B, funk and soul, from the Temptations'



Courtesy photo

Vocalist Ashton Moore will lend his voice to a set of spiritual, jazz, R&B, gospel and traditional music at the MLK celebration.

Dance," blown up to big-band proportions.

Gospel music is a root ingredient in jazz and an integral part of the MLK celebration. Come Sunday, the orchestras will breathe 21st-century life into gospel classics like "Take My Hand, Precious Lord" and former MSU associate professor of jazz trumpet Etienne Charles' glowing arrangements of "We Shall Overcome" and "I Wish I Knew (How It Would Feel to Be Free)," made famous in 1967 by Nina Simone. Coltrane's "Song of the Underground Railroad" roars like a locomotive of righteousness, while Sam Cooke's "A Change Is Gonna Come" offers a balm for despair.

By now, many of the tunes are familiar, even traditional, at MSU's MLK concerts, but the orchestras will tackle fresh material, too. Duke Ellington's simple, drifting hymn "I Like the Sunrise," from his "Liberian Suite," expresses hope for a better tomorrow. Vocalist Abbey Lincoln's "Africa" is a time capsule of 1968-style swing, a proud image of the "land of milk and honey on the river they call the Nile."

Whitaker loves to dust off nearly forgotten gems like "Heaven," from Duke Ellington's "Sacred Concerts," a reverent idyll that pierces the murk with slowly refracting beams of melody.

See Concert, Page 10

"Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer and Protest"

Sunday, Jan. 14
3 p.m.
MSU Fairchild Theatre
542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing
Free; ticket required
517-353-5340
music.msu.edu

Community comes together to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.

By **NICOLE NOECHEL**

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, observed annually on the third Monday of January, celebrates the birth of the legendary Baptist minister and nonviolent leader of the civil rights movement. This year, the holiday takes place on King's actual birthday, Jan. 15, but celebrations in the Lansing area aren't contained to just one day. From the annual Day of Celebration luncheon, featuring a very special keynote speaker, to concerts, a commemorative march and an ecumenical service, plus much more, residents of Greater Lansing can rest assured that there's no shortage of ways to honor this hero of American history.

A Lansing tradition for 39 years, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan will host its annual Day of Celebration luncheon 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday (Jan. 15) at the Lansing Center. This year's theme is "the measure of a country's greatness is its ability to retain compassion in times of crisis," a quote by Thurgood Marshall, the first Black justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Ruby Bridges, who at 6 years old was the first Black student to be integrated into an all-white school in the South in 1960 — and was greeted by a mob of

hostile protesters, requiring a guard of federal marshals for the rest of the school year — will headline the luncheon. She'll deliver an informal fireside chat, drawing on decades of experience as a civil rights advocate, author and speaker to address civil rights and race-related issues, underlining the importance of history "as both a cornerstone and a source of truth," the commission wrote in a press release.

"Ruby Bridges' story will inspire and educate the audience about the importance of courage, resilience and the pursuit of equality," said Elaine Hardy, commission chair. "The commission is elated to host Ms. Bridges, a living link to the past, to share a firsthand account of the challenges faced during the civil rights movement. Her personal journey is a testament to the impact that individuals can have in challenging systemic injustice."

The commission has paused ticket sales, but those interested in attending can contact Fonda Brewer at (517) 410-2998 for additional table and ticket information.

Michigan State University has a full week of free events planned, with highlights including a health and wellness fair 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday (Jan.

13) at IM Sports East, featuring a pop-up roller skating rink with free skate rentals as well as wellness activity stations, information tables and workshops; a MLK Holiday Ecumenical Service 1:30 p.m. Sunday (Jan. 14) at the MSU Chapel, which includes a variety of faith-based performances and will be followed by a soul food tasting; the annual "Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer and Protest" concert 3 p.m. Sunday at the Fairchild Theatre; the annual MLK Commemorative March 9 a.m. Monday, which starts at Beaumont Tower and finishes across the street from the site of the MSU Multicultural Center; and the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Unity Dinner 5:30 p.m. Tuesday (Jan. 16) at the Kellogg Center, featuring a keynote speech by Blaire Morseau, a citizen of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and an assistant professor in the Department of Religious Studies. For a full list of events, visit inclusion.msu.edu.

Finally, Carl Clendenning, a bass vocalist and keyboardist who recently retired from his more than 37-year tenure as director of music at Detroit's Gesu Catholic Church, will perform an evening of spirituals 7 p.m. Monday at the First Congregational United Church of



Courtesy photo

Ruby Bridges, who was the first Black student to be integrated into an all-white school in the South in 1960, will deliver the keynote speech at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan's Day of Celebration luncheon on Monday (Jan. 15).

Christ in Charlotte. The concert aims to honor the lasting significance of spirituals, which began as a way for enslaved people to communicate with each other and continue to be integral in Black culture and music today. The concert is free, and additional information can be found at micharlotte.org/events/an-evening-of-spirituals/.



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Visit the events website
inclusion.msu.edu

Soul of the trumpet

LSO world premiere grows from a musical friendship

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

No matter how young and fun the party crowd is, the newborn baby will get all the attention.

Friday's (Jan. 12) Lansing Symphony Orchestra concert is a perfect example. In the group photo, two all-time greats are in the pink of youth, flashing million-dollar smiles. Mozart was in his mid-20s when he wrote his joyful Symphony No. 35, and Georges Bizet was only 17 when he wrote his one and only, equally joyful Symphony in C Major.

Nice try, boys, but Friday's concert also features the world premiere of a brand-new trumpet concerto by Michigan State University associate professor of composition David Biedenbender, with LSO principal trumpet Neil Mueller as soloist.

Mueller is ecstatic to be the first human to play the probing, profound and revelatory concerto that takes the trumpet to its outer limits and beyond.

In his excitement, he stammered the word "I'm" at least five times, groping for an adjective juicy enough to describe his feelings.

"It's a wonderful piece," he said, finally giving up. "It covers a lot of aesthetic territory."

About a month ago, Mueller wrote a heartfelt letter to the composer, confessing that he was getting "almost too attached" to it.

"I'm a little like a doctor who delivers a baby and says, 'Cute baby, I think I'm going to keep it,'" Mueller said.

The concerto sprang from a backstage discussion more than a year ago between Mueller and LSO music director Timothy Muffitt, who likes to let the orchestra's principal players

step out in solo roles.

Mueller loves a Haydn trumpet concerto as much as the next guy, probably more, but he wanted "a little bigger mountain to scale."

He was familiar with Biedenbender's music, especially an absorbing and dramatic trombone concerto written for LSO principal trombonist Ava Ordman in 2018.

Biedenbender, in turn, was deeply impressed by Mueller's clarion tone, virtuosity and thoughtful approach to music. Mueller's first concert with the LSO as principal trumpet was in fall 2019, just before the year-and-a-half pandemic hiatus, although he appeared as a guest principal trumpet twice before that, after the retirement of his predecessor, Rich Illman.

Mueller and Biedenbender found they had a lot in common besides music.

"Neil is one of the most thoughtful, reflective, well-read humans I've met," Biedenbender said.

Their friendship quickly progressed from nods in the hallway to long, late-night conversations around their backyard fire pits about music, metaphysics and how to juggle a musical career with a growing family. Mueller has three

grown children; Biedenbender has two elementary-age children.

More to the point, they agreed that the trumpet has a huge — and largely unexplored — expressive range.

"It's not all loud and declamatory or technical and fast," Biedenbender said. "I tried to think about, 'What is the soul of the trumpet? How do I come up with music that becomes a vessel for Neil?'"

The composer's ears perked up when a former colleague at MSU,

conductor Kevin Noe, used the phrase "river of time" in a conversation. The phrase brought to mind a passage from the "Meditations" of Roman Emperor and stoic philosopher Marcus Aurelius: "Keep in mind how fast things pass by and are gone. Existence flows past us like a river."

Biedenbender was near the MSU Union when the horrific shooting erupted on Feb. 13, 2023.

"It rocked me," he said. "I saw the hurt and trauma in the students, and I thought about the fragility of life and how lucky we are just to have a day."

Around the same time, a mind-bending book by Italian physicist Carlo Rovelli, "The Order of Time," was rolling around in his head.

The concerto coalesced into a three-movement "there and back again" journey.

Along the way, Biedenbender emailed several snippets to Mueller for comment. Mueller loved the music but occasionally reminded the composer of more practical concerns.

"I'd say, 'Maybe a breath mark here, because I've got to breathe,'" Mueller said with a laugh. "Little things like that."

The first movement, "The Coming," depicts the awakening of time itself, a moment of creation heralded by the trumpet at its most commanding. Long, lyrical lines drift through the second movement, "Flowing."

Biedenbender called it a "meditation on becoming a part of time, being in the present moment."

"I think about being a father, being present in the moment with my children," he said.

The third movement, "Crossing," warps into wild concepts Rovelli explores in his book. To mangle it all into a crude approximation, Rovelli teaches that time is a convenient



Courtesy photo

Trumpeter Neil Mueller and MSU associate professor of composition David Biedenbender do some last-minute work on "River of Time," an ambitious trumpet concerto the Lansing Symphony Orchestra will premiere Friday (Jan. 12).

tool, like up and down or north and south, that works well enough when you're meeting your boss at Kewpee's but evaporates into 56-dimensional tortellini when you look at the bigger picture.

"I imagine crossing time, bending time, moving backward and forward through it," Biedenbender said.

Biedenbender is also mindful that the Wharton Center is right next door to MSU's Facility for Rare Isotope Beams.

"The kinds of experiments Rovelli talks about, probing the universe and time and matter and stars, is happening a few hundred feet away from where the premiere will take place," he said.

But it's not a total head trip. Mueller loves the finale's "joyful physicality."

"Some trumpet concertos have a very intellectual, academic character to them," he said. "This is not that."

Concert

from page 8

Familiar or fresh, the songs will be brought to life by a stellar lineup of singers, including dynamic MSU grad Ashton Moore and versatile vocalist Rockelle Whitaker. Rodney Whitaker is also bringing in one of Detroit's

greatest jazz vocalists, Naima Shamborguer, a mainstay of many concerts and recordings with Detroit legends, from pianist Barry Harris to guitarist Kenny Burrell.

"She's a great Detroit singer, one of the last of that generation," Whitaker said.

Despite kaleidoscopic changes in the jazz faculty, student body, choice

of music and roster of artists over the years, the mid-January MLK concert is always a sonically spectacular, emotional community celebration without parallel.

"There's certainly a lot to protest about, but I'm focused on hope this year," Whitaker said. "With all the stuff that's happened on campus in recent years, the shooting we had

last year, there's a lot of people that need hope. It's hard to go on and live your life without it."

Jones struck a similar note.

"The whole purpose, not just of drumming but of the music in general, is to uplift and heal people," he said. "If you go to a Baptist church, you can't have a service without the band."

Spring 2024 registration is open



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Library of Michigan announces 2024 Michigan Notable Books

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Each January, the Library of Michigan issues its annual Michigan Notable Books list, picking the best books with Michigan themes or written by Michigan authors that were published in the previous year.

This year's list of 20 books runs the gamut from "An Ordinary Man," by Richard Norton Smith, an 832-page biography of President Gerald R. Ford, to "The All American," by Susie Finkbeiner, about a young girl chasing her dream to become a professional women's baseball player amid the "Red Scare" of the 1950s.

The 2024 list is eclectic, as is the norm, offering uplifting stories like Lansing author Erin Bartels' "Everything is Just Beginning," which takes a tender look at two young musicians who dream of becoming rock 'n' roll stars and more than best friends.

The list also includes "Girls and Their Monsters," the grim behind-the-curtain story of Lansing's Morlok quadruplets. Author Audrey Farley plumbed the depths of history to write about the life of abuse and control inflicted on the young girls.

Although not a Michigander, Ann Patchett wrote a fictional account of a family learning about their mother's summer fling with a movie star whose career was on the way up. The novel, "Tom Lake," is set in Michigan's cherry country during the COVID lockdown.

A startlingly beautiful and haunting coffee-table-style book, "Making Art in Prison: Survival and Resistance," by Janie Paul, showcases prison artists and their work, upending the stereotypes of those living in prison and helping bring humanity to those who are incarcerated.

Detroit restaurateur Curtis Chin's



**MICHIGAN
NOTABLE
BOOKS**



Courtesy of the Library of Michigan

This year's Michigan Notable Books list is eclectic, ranging from a White Stripes lyric guide and a biography of President Gerald R. Ford to fictional tales of young love between musicians and a mother's recounting of a long-lost love affair.

new memoir, "Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant," takes readers behind the scenes of the restaurant business and his life as a gay Chinese chef. Chin recounts his experience growing up as an ABC, or American-born Chinese, in 1980s Detroit and working at his family's restaurant, where a mayor, a drag queen and a suburban couple could all be sitting side by side eating sweet and sour pork.

Two books by Indigenous authors were selected for the list, including "The Rediscovery of America: Native Peoples and the Unmaking of U.S. History," by National Book Award winner Ned Blackhawk, and "Warrior Girl Unearthed," by Angeline Boulley, a fictional account of grave robbing and the

repatriation of Indigenous funerary artifacts.

Another book that immediately caught the attention of the selection committee, which consists of librarians from across the state (full disclosure: the author of this article has served on the committee for more than 10 years), is Frank Uhle's "Cinema Ann Arbor: How Campus Rebels Forged a Singular Film Culture," which was also a finalist for a major national design award. Uhle's book details the history of the student film movement at the University of Michigan and how it spilled over into the rest of Ann Arbor, spawning the Ann Arbor Film Festival.

State Librarian Randy Riley often says that the Michigan Notable Books list is meant to make readers look at the vast array of books that don't make the list and discuss books with each other.

"Michigan is truly a mosaic of inspiration for writers. Each Michigan Notable Books selection offers a unique touchpoint into the rich stories and beautiful landscape of our great landscape," he said.

Each spring, the winning authors are honored at a gala at the Library of Michigan, which is set for April 20. The event is open to the public, and more information is available at michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan/public/mnb.

This year's keynote speaker is Stephen Mack Jones, a thriller writer who lives in the Detroit area but grew up in Lansing, attending Sexton High School and getting his advertising degree from Michigan State University. Jones has won two Michigan Notable Book awards for his novels "August Snow" and "Dead of Winter," and his new book, "Deus X," is available at bookstores and libraries across the state.

Other books on this year's Michigan Notable Books list include "A Cold, Hard Prayer," by previous award winner John Smolens; "Dearborn: Stories," by Ghassan Zeineddine; "Enough to Lose," by RS Deeren; "Great Women of Mackinac, 1800-1950," by Melissa Croghan; "In the Upper Country," by Kai Thomas; "Michigan Rocks! A Guide to Geologic Sites in the Great Lakes State," by Paul Brandes; "My Murder," by Katie Williams; "Pulp: A Practical Guide to Cooking with Fruit," by Abra Berens; "Strikers: A Graphic Novel," by Kiel Phegley; and "The White Stripes: Complete Lyrics, 1997-2007," by Jack White.

Night for Notables

April 20
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libraryofmichiganfoundation.com/mnbnightfornotables

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Courtesy Dean Phillips for President

U.S. Rep. Dean Phillips, D-Minn., campaigning in New Hampshire for the Democratic nomination for president. His next stop: Michigan.

Dean who?

The candidate Democrats don't want may be one they need

By **KYLE MELINN**

Ever heard of Dean Phillips? He's that congressman from Minnesota. The one who's challenging President Joe Biden in the Democratic primary. Name ring a bell?

The answer is probably no.

By this time next month, you might.

After the New Hampshire primary wraps up Jan. 23, Phillips told City Pulse his next stop is Michigan, the site of the Feb. 27 presidential primary ... and it might be shortly after the polls close.

"You might be seeing me the next morning," he said.

And once he's here, the 54-year-old former head of his family's distilling business (think Belvedere Vodka) said he'll be spending "a better part of the next month" in the Great Lakes State.

"It's probably the second-most important state in my strategy," Phillips said.

The most important is the state he's in now — New Hampshire. If he gets blown out there, the name "Dean Phillips" will probably evaporate into the ether of American politics.

But it might not. The Democratic Party mixed up its nomination selection process and put South Carolina ahead of Iowa and New Hampshire, traditionally the site of the first two selection contests.

New Hampshire is having its primary first anyway, and Biden's name isn't on the ballot. The president didn't want to give credibility to the New Hampshire contest. Voters will need to write in "Biden" in order for it to count.

Phillips is on TV in the Granite State letting everyone know about it.

"Joe Biden has ordered New Hampshire to step aside. That's not the New Hampshire way," the voice-over on Phillips' ad says.

There are no delegates at play in this primary. It's a "beauty contest" through and through. But Phillips' advisers are secretly hoping for 42% at the polls, according to POLITICO. What if that happens? Could he be the loser, yet come out a winner?

"New Hampshire is going to be the spark," Phillips said. "New Hampshire has an extraordinary history of setting the tone for an entire presidential primary, and I think we will surprise."

Two months ago, he was at 2% in the state's polling. Today he's at 10%, with two weeks to go.

The whole thing seems too preposterous to even be real. Some little-named congressman from Minnesota is going show well against an incumbent Democrat president in a New Hampshire primary?

Well, it's happened before.

In 1968, U.S. Sen. Eugene McCarthy, another Minnesota Democrat, stunned pundits by managing 42% against unpopular President Lyndon Johnson, who received 48% in the New Hampshire primary. Three weeks later, with the Vietnam War weighing down the incumbent, Johnson uttered the infamous phrase that he would "neither seek nor accept" the Democratic nomination.

The Vietnam War was splitting up the Democratic Party in 1968. The war in Palestine is creating divisions today, but not to the degree of dissent Johnson faced, at least yet.

But Phillips says at least two issues are agitating voters: "costs and chaos."

Many Americans are struggling to make ends meet amid inflation. Life is becoming too expensive. Inflation and the rising costs of goods are polling as the top issues for voters this year.



Courtesy Pharyl

In 1968, U.S. Sen. Eugene McCarthy (left), D-Minn., staged what was considered a quixotic run for the Democratic nomination for president against unpopular incumbent Lyndon Johnson (right) — until McCarthy scored a strong second-place finish in the New Hampshire primary. A few weeks later, Johnson dropped out of the race.

Americans also see "chaos" at the southern border, as scores of people — folks not even from Mexico, originally — cross the U.S.-Mexico border illegally in unprecedented numbers.

"People are feeling insecure economically and physically, and that's exactly why I'm doing this," Phillips said in an exclusive phone interview Monday.

That's ONE of the reasons he's doing this. He's say-

ing goodbye to his congressional career. He's admittedly a seemingly impossible longshot.

But, as Phillips sees it, somebody must do it. President Biden was the right candidate in 2020. He's not the right candidate in 2024. His numbers are terrible. Biden's first-term favorability numbers equal those of Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush and Donald Trump, all of whom lost reelection, according to FiveThirtyEight.

Phillips is convinced Trump will beat Biden in a second head-to-head matchup. Biden surely couldn't beat Nikki Haley if she somehow wins the GOP nomination, he added.

Though he didn't bring it up in his interview with City Pulse, Phillips hasn't been shy about pointing to Democrats' unease about Biden's age. A Wall Street Journal poll found that 73% of Democrats say that Biden, who is 80, is too old to run again.

"It is time for the torch to be passed to a new generation of American leaders," Phillips declared when he officially announced his candidacy last September.

It doesn't have to be him. He told HBO host Bill Maher he called Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and asked her to run.

She didn't take the call. Phillips was left with the impression she's waiting for 2028.

"I, on the other hand, intend to meet the moment, not to preclude anyone else from participating," Phillips said. "I do hold your governor in the highest esteem. I'm disappointed that she and others didn't recognize that this is the moment the country needs other candidates."

Phillips said he hopes to meet Whitmer on the campaign trail. Unless they run into each other at the Senate Biggby, that's probably not likely. Whitmer is "riding with Biden" as a campaign co-chair, after all. He likely won't get a warm reception from many in the Democratic establishment either.

The Michigan Democratic Party sent to Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson only Biden's name as a primary candidate for 2024, even though Phillips and author Marianne Williamson are both running.

All three names were put on the ballot because state law requires all declared candidates "generally advocated by the national news media" to be put on the ballot.

Still, preliminary polling results this week from MIRS News show Phillips' name ID in Michigan being very low.

"Who is this we're talking about?" asked political

See Phillips, Page 13

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Phillips

from page 12

consultant Alexis Wiley, former chief of staff to Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, when asked about Phillips' plans for Michigan.

Democrats across the country have generally distanced themselves from Phillips, Williamson or anyone else who challenges Biden. Any shots fellow Democrats take against Biden only softens him up for Trump in November.

That's the belief, anyway. Phillips doesn't buy it.

"Political parties require you to stand in line, wait your turn, be quiet, follow the leader and do nothing to upset the mechanism, and I'd argue there is no more important time in our history to upset the mechanism," Phillips said.

Upsetting the mechanism would mean to perform well in Michigan, and in-state political observers don't see that happening.

Asked what type of impact he expects Phillips to have on the presidential primary, Grassroots Midwest CEO Adrian Hemond said, "Zero. His name ID is almost nonexistent. He has essentially no infrastructure here. If he gets 5% in our primary, it will be a minor miracle."

The expectation is the sitting president will run away with the Michigan primary. Phillips is a challenge in name only, said Oakland University political science Professor Dave Dulio.

Even if Biden is not capable or unwilling to accept the Democrats' nomination in August, Dulio expects Vice President Kamala Harris would be plugged into the role, not Phillips, unless he manages a large number of delegates ... and even then.

"This is a battle less about ideas and more about incumbency," Dulio said. "It's a battle over who is better positioned to be the president — the person who has already done it once or the person nobody has heard of."

Michigan does have a history of backing mavericks or underdogs in presidential primaries, though. Look at George Wallace over Hubert Humphrey and eventual nominee George McGovern in 1972. Jesse Jackson over Mike Dukakis in 1988. John McCain over George W. Bush in 2000. Bernie Sanders over Hillary Clinton in 2016.

The latter primary upset came after Clinton took Michigan for granted and the Sanders supporters worked hard to gobble up delegates, said Ed Sarpolus of Target-Insyght. Could Biden do the same in 2024?

But pundits who focus on the unlikelihood of a Phillips victory may be missing the point. Again, look at 1968, when Lyndon Johnson's popular rating was about the same as Biden's today: about 40%. Add to that a hypothetical: a strong showing by Phillips as a tool of Democrats' disenchantment with Biden in Michigan at the end of February



Courtesy Dean Phillips for President

Phillips with his wife of five years, Annalise Glick. Phillips, 54, has two daughters from a previous marriage.

— especially if it follows even a decent showing by Phillips in New Hampshire and the national name recognition that will follow. Throw in concern down the ticket from Democrats running in 2024 who behind the scenes are already worried about what Biden's candidacy at the top may cost them.

That would generate a lot of pressure on Biden to make a Johnson-esque declaration in order to help Democrats keep Donald Trump from winning a second term.

Phillips has some history in Michigan. When he worked in distilled spirits and with Talenti Gelato, the nation's third-largest premium ice cream brand, he was in Michigan quite a bit, he said.

He said he used to call on Meijer supermarkets, for example. He said he saw a lot of similarities between Michigan and Minnesota. Both have a lot of lakes. Both have ice fishing. Both have at least one college in the Big Ten.

"You've got much more successful sports teams," he quipped. "We're never known in Minnesota for winning."

It'll take more than a Midwest connection to win the state, though, Sarpolus said. He's going to need at least \$3 million in airtime and Biden to check out after the primaries in South Carolina (Feb. 3) and Nevada (Feb. 6).

He'll need to do it leaning on his own personal fortune.

He said he's spent at least \$2 million of his own money for lawyers to get him on ballots. Right now, he's fighting decisions in North Carolina and Florida to reverse decisions barring him.

He disclosed a net worth of \$64 million in 2018, which makes him one of the wealthiest members of Congress. His 2022 financial disclosure statement with the House was 13 pages long.

A former adviser recently formed a super PAC called Pass the Torch. A progressive watchdog group accused the Phillips campaign and Pass the Torch of illegally coordinating, something the Phillips campaign has denied.

To the extent campaign finance issues are a hurdle in 2024, this could be one.

Another potential hurdle for Phillips, who is Jewish, could be campaigning in Southeast Michigan, which has the highest percentage of Arab American voters in the country. With tensions between Israel, Palestinians and the Muslim world high, how does he plan to relate?

"My message is we're brothers and sisters," Phillips said. "I have great love and affection for the Arab community both here and around the world. I want everyone to know that I intend to be the first Jewish president in American history and the one who helps facilitate, for the first time, the creation of a Palestinian state."

"I think it's time that we stop fighting each other and start fighting for one another," he said.

On other issues, Phillips has voted in the past to ban automatic weapon sales. He doesn't lead with that, though. Instead, he pivots to "having thoughtful conversations on gun control" ... except when it comes to selling weapons to minors.

He said he doesn't believe 18-year-old civilians who aren't allowed to drink alcohol should be allowed to buy a military-grade, semi-automatic long gun with a high-capacity magazine.

Overall, Phillips is considered a moderate Democrat, along the lines of U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin, the Democrat who represents Lansing. They are both members of the aisle-crossing Problem Solvers Caucus in the House.

While talking about issues, Phillips will talk about himself. His father, Artie Pfefer, was killed in the Vietnam War when Dean was 6 months old. Three years later, his mother, DeeDee Cohen, wed Eddie Phillips, who adopted him. His new dad's mother was Pauline Phillips, known to the world as advice columnist Abigail Van Buren, whose syndicated newspaper column was called Dear Abby. And that makes his great-aunt the advice columnist Ann Landers, who in real life was the twin sister of Phillips' famed grandmother.

His grandmother grilled him when he



President Biden is one of three candidates running in the Feb. 27 Michigan Democratic primary election. The others are Phillips and author Marianne Williamson.

was 11 years old whether he was a Republican or a Democrat. When he didn't answer right away ... he was 11 ... she told him he was a Democrat. That was that.

As an adult, Phillips visited the spot in the Pleiku province where his father's helicopter crashed.

Phillips married Annalise Glick in 2019. He and his first wife, Karin Einisman, had two daughters who are now in college. One of his daughters, Pia Phillips, survived Hodgkin lymphoma while in high school. She's been cancer-free for more than five years.

One of his daughters came out as a lesbian recently. Phillips belongs to the LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus in the House.

Phillips has talked openly about all his life experiences in the various podcasts and interviews he's done since becoming a presidential candidate.

Maybe you'll hear more about it — and about him — come Feb. 27. Maybe not.

It's fine to be skeptical.

As Wiley, who has seen her share of political candidates, told City Pulse, "Can I say, 'LOL?' People should do what's in their heart ... Who am I to squash somebody's dreams, even if they won't come true?"

But even if Phillips isn't the Democratic nominee, even if he opens the door to another Democratic nominee, someone who defeats Donald Trump or whoever the Republican nominee is in 2024, Phillips will have considered this run a success.

Phillips is fine being a footnote in history, like fellow Minnesotan Eugene McCarthy. He has a company and a life outside of politics to fall back on after this campaign is over, wherever this journey ends up leading.

"This is not my past," he said. "This will not be my future."

(Email Kyle Melinn of the Capitol news service MIRS at melinnky@gmail.com.)



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Potential game changers for Michigan cannabis in 2024

By CHRIS SILVA

As 2024 kicks into full swing and we pull ourselves away from family and head back to work, it's a good time to look ahead at what the upcoming year has in store. In Michigan, cannabis operators are transitioning from a year that saw the state's industry reach the \$3 billion mark in sales. There has been a retraction in market size across legal cannabis markets in other states, and the Great Lakes State is the only legal market growing at this rate. Retailers and producers have also pushed the average price of an ounce to around \$80 in a nonstop race to the bottom on pricing in order to pick up the remaining market share.

As the market sprints toward maturity, the ultra-competitive nature of cannabis will ensure 2024 is another year full of turmoil as winners and losers are established. There are some interesting developments that are being discussed, though, that could of-



H_Ko/Shutterstock

The Michigan Cannabis Regulatory Agency is looking to establish a cannabis testing facility, which would act as a reference lab to help ensure products' THC levels are accurately represented.

fer some aid to beleaguered cannabis operators.

Federal rescheduling and the SAFER Banking Act

It seems like every year, the cannabis community is ablaze with rumors and predictions that this will indeed

be the year the federal government decides to relent and reschedule cannabis. That being said, this might be the year.

In addition, federal legalization advocates are signaling that this may be the time for the feds to tackle cannabis operators' access to banking. The Secure and Fair Enforcement Regulation (SAFER) Banking Act would shield financial institutions from any governmental liabilities when working with licensed cannabis businesses. In addition, it would allow access to banking for cannabis operators, which, over time, could offer traditional funding for the industry. This move could usher in more access to the market for legacy and former-caregiver-run businesses. It would also address the very real problem many in the industry have when it comes to personal mortgages and other aspects of banking that look at a person's employment.

These two moves would allow

Lansterdam in Review:

Potential 2024 cannabis developments

Michigan operators, which are being taxed at almost 70%, to immediately start writing off a lot of their costs. Both corporate chads and small craft operators would benefit immensely.

Brian Hanna's lab

This could also be the year that the Michigan Cannabis Regulatory Agency, the state office that regulates cannabis, opens its testing facility. This has been a priority for Executive Director Brian Hanna since he was appointed to the position in 2022. The independent facility would act as a reference lab to help ensure the Michigan market stays free of any more THC inflation claims.

Many in the industry believe companies tend to shop around at different labs and ultimately choose the ones that produce test results with higher THC levels. I'm fairly biased on this issue, but I believe a number

See Cannabis, Page 15

INCANNA

EAST LANSING



\$99

15 GRAMS CURED RESIN



\$49

1 OUNCE OF TRIMZ



TOP OF THE TOWN
2023 VOTED #1
BEST CANNABIS
PROVISIONING
CENTER
IN
EAST LANSING



2/\$20

2 GRAM BLUNTS



\$20

2 GRAM DISPOSABLE VAPES



5/\$30

200MG GUMMIES (MULTIPLE BRANDS)

WARNING: USE BY PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING WOMEN, OR BY WOMEN PLANNING TO BECOME PREGNANT, MAY RESULT IN FETAL INJURY, PRETERM BIRTH, LOW BIRTH WEIGHT, OR DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS FOR THE CHILD.

REC + MED

1234 E GRAND RIVER AVE

FOR REGISTERED PATIENTS ONLY OR FOR USE BY INDIVIDUALS 21+ YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER FOR ADULT USE. KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN. IT IS ILLEGAL TO DRIVE A MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF MARIJUANA. ACTUAL VALUE OF THC AND CBD MAY VARY FROM REPORTED VALUE BY 10%.

Cannabis

from page 14

of labs in Michigan partake in this practice. I've advocated strongly for a state-run reference lab, and I believe it would go a long way in improving both the climate of the testing industry and consumer confidence in testing.

This issue is plaguing the cannabis industry nationwide. Those who are in the know have an underlying belief that many, if not most, of the most successful testing labs are regularly inflating THC test results. This is a detriment to the industry and cannabis culture at large. It's nefarious to lie to consumers, but what's almost more harmful is how the practice has galvanized the THC-percentage arms race being fought by mid-producers and craft operators alike. Inflated-THC flower competes for the same market space as flower tested

by more virtuous operators. After companies selling this inflated flower obtain a large enough market share, it makes competing against them almost impossible at today's margins and with consumer perceptions around the value of high-THC products.

There used to be real hallmarks — like taste, smell and bud structure — when it came to determining quality in cannabis. Today, most consumers and purchasing managers ask two questions: "How much?" and "What does it test at?" The Wild West nature of the testing industry is making this worse.

While I'm not sure whether this reference lab could actually dissuade potentially nefarious testing labs or what the impact on the market would be, it would be an amazing first step, and I couldn't be more proud of the state for pushing to establish this indicator of transparency in our growing industry.

Eagle Township, Clinton County Board Meeting Synopsis

December 21, 2023, at 6 pm - Present: Supervisor Stroud, Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Trustee Strahle, Treasurer C. Hoppes, Trustee M. Hoppes and 28 citizens.

Board Actions:

- 1) Approved appointment of Stephen Colby to the Abrahms Airport Advisory Board.
- 2) Approved bills for December as presented.
- 3) Adopted Ordinance 02-2023 to Amend Ordinance 01-2023 Confirming the Planning Commission and Its Zoning Power.
- 4) Adopted Resolution 12-21-2023-01 for an Interim Zoning Ordinance.
- 5) Adopted Ordinance 04-2023 Ordinance Enacting a Moratorium on the Issuance of any Zoning Approvals during the Transition Period from Clinton County Zoning to Eagle Township Zoning.
- 6) Approved referring MEDC response to resolution to terminate NDA to the attorney.
- 7) Approved increasing Regulatory Taking of Private Property liability coverage from \$100,000 to \$250,000 for a cost of \$3,000 for Zoning Administration.
- 8) Approved making Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals members employees of Eagle Township.
- 9) Approved moving forward with Public Engagement for Master Planning date of February 22, 2024 and mailing of marketing materials.
- 10) Approved reappointing John Clark to the Looking Glass Regional Fire Authority Board.
- 11) Approved placing letter from Mr. Grandstaff on file without further action.
- 12) Approved appointment of Trustee M. Hoppes as ex-officio member on Eagle Township Planning Commission.
- 13) Approved requesting Planning Commission to make a recommendation to the Supervisor to fill the open Planning Commission seat per the Planning Enabling Act.
- 14) Adopted Resolution 12-21-2023-02 to Establish 2024 Meeting Schedule.
- 15) Adopted Resolution 12-21-2023-03 to Amend Poverty Exemption Policy.
- 16) Approved training for 2024 for board members and their deputies.
- 17) Approved purchase of books from MTA for the Planning Commission.
- 18) Approved wording change on future agendas to allow Citizen Comments on any item.
- 19) Approved December 13, 2023, Special Meeting minutes.
- 20) Approved purchase of cemetery flags and medallions for veteran graves.
- 21) Approved purchase of ApexSketch V7 Pro software for the Supervisor for Board of Review.

A complete copy of the minutes is available by contacting Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Clerk. Next regular meeting of the Eagle Township Board is January 18, 2024, at 6 pm at Eagle Township Hall, 14318 Michigan St, Eagle, MI. See www.eagletownship.org for latest updates.

Prepared by: Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Eagle Township Clerk
 Approved by: Troy Stroud, Eagle Township Supervisor

CP#24-355



TRAVELOGUE - YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK AND ALONG ROUTE 395 - NEVADA/CALIFORNIA

Friday, January 12th 7:00pm
 Foster Community Center
 Room 213, North Foster Ave., Lansing

Presented by
 award winning Photographer
 Bob Sheap

This show (with animated images, music, and narration) covers all aspects of Yosemite National Park - its history, landscapes, and wildlife. While the surrounding area covers Reno, Lake Tahoe, Carson City, Virginia City, Mono Lake, Bodie Historic State Park, and the Bristlecone Pine trees in the White Mountains.

Admission is \$2. Show up early and get a good seat and a bag of popcorn.

Informational meeting (in-person)

RENTAL RESTRICTION OVERLAY DISTRICTS IN EAST LANSING



Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024, 6 p.m.

East Lansing Hannah Community Center,
 819 Abbot Road



Meeting will be recorded.

Staff from the Planning Department, Executive Office, and City Attorney's Office will present about Rental Restriction Overlay Districts. We will cover what RROs are, how and where they have been used in the City and when they were adopted, and discuss the process to establish an Overlay as required by East Lansing's zoning ordinance. We'll also discuss the different types of Rental License, exceptions that do not require a rental license, and still have time for questions and discussion.

Please join us at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024 for this important and timely conversation.

TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

BACK TO THE FRONTIER



Photo by John Mark Hanson

Frontier Ruckus, which cut its teeth at Michigan State University, returns with "On the Northline," its first album since 2017.

Q&A with Matthew Milia of Frontier Ruckus

Frontier Ruckus is known for painting vivid, poetic soundscapes that nostalgically mirror life in Michigan and beyond, and the band's forthcoming album, "On the Northline," once again delivers. Out Feb. 16, the new double LP is the band's sixth full-length outing and comes on the heels of a few significant life changes for singer-songwriter Matthew Milia. He chatted with City Pulse about the new record and what he's been up to over the last few years.

It's been quite some time since the last Frontier Ruckus album. When did you pen the "On the Northline" songs?

Matthew Milia: They've been around for a good while. Songs like "Magdalene," "Everywhere but Beside You" and "Swore I Had a Friend" date back to before I even met my now-wife in 2017. You can tell those songs because they're still marked by a certain melancholy and plaintive lonesomeness, which some might categorize as classic Frontier Ruckus. Then I wrote songs like "Mercury Sable" and "First Song for Lauren" while falling in love with my wife, Lauren. They're marked by ecstatic bliss and disbelief with my good fortune. I love the

tension on the record between those two batches of songs and the eras in my life they represent.

How was this produced? Did you work with a producer?

We recorded it in Ben Collins' home studio in Ypsilanti during the pandemic. I also recorded the two solo albums I was focusing on in recent years: "Keego Harbor" and "Alone at St. Hugo." Working with Ben is just so effortless and fun — very DIY and intimate. We recorded to an old Tascam 388 reel-to-reel, which effectively broke down throughout the recording, so if you listen closely to certain guitar tracks, you can hear the warble get increasingly more pronounced.

Did you explore any new terrain on this new record? How does it compare to your previous record?

We recorded the last Frontier Ruckus album, 2017's "Enter the Kingdom," in Nashville, Tennessee, with ex-Wilco and Uncle Tupelo drummer Ken Coomer. I really love the way that record turned out, but it definitely has a slightly tamer, slicker sound. "On the Northline," to us, feels like a return to the core Frontier Ruckus DNA of "The Orion Songbook" or "Deadmails and Nightfalls," back when we didn't quite

know what we were doing, but everything had an undeniable rawness and intensity. We'd also been going more into a power-pop direction on recent albums, which I indulged to the max on my solo albums. However, this time, we limited ourselves to the basics: acoustic guitar, banjo, melodica, musical saw and trumpet. No 12-string guitars this time around.

When you're not playing music, what are you up to?

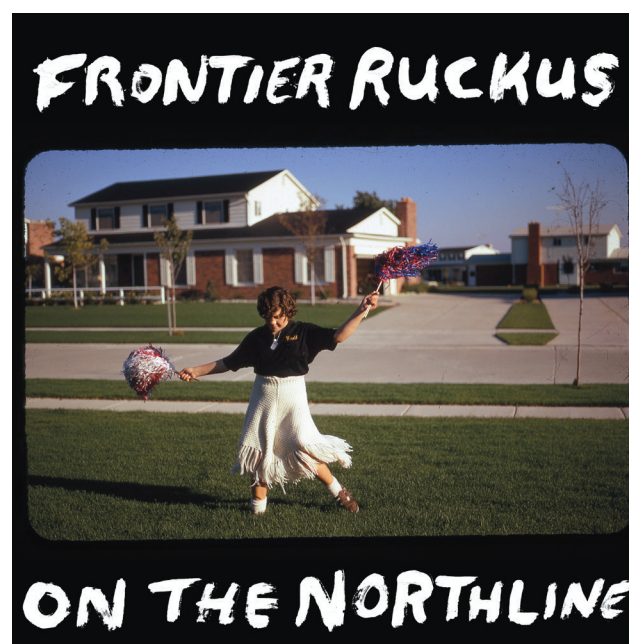
My dirty little secret is that I've been swiftly climbing the rungs of make fill entire column since 2019. So, I spend most of my time writing Cadillac commercials or shooting them in Los Angeles when I'm not home in Detroit. My wife and I have a 10-month-old boy named Sammy, who's the light of our lives. So, life is splendidly domestic. We bought an old Tudor home from 1937 in a historic neighborhood, so I like to putz around the house and pretend to be useful. I've also been writing more songs on the piano now that we've hauled in my wife's childhood upright.

Who plays on the new album? What was the songwriting process?

Davey Jones on banjo; Zachary Nichols on trumpet, musical saw, melodica, and other keyed instruments; and myself constitute Frontier Ruckus proper. We brought in Connor Dodson on drums, who did several tours with us as a bass player, and Evan Eklund on bass, who also sings some killer high harmonies. My go-to steel guitarist, Pete Ballard, appears on a song, too. The process was more or less unchanged: I wrote the songs and sent everyone rough demos with chord charts, and they showed up with an idea of how they wanted their parts to go. The only song I didn't write was Zach's amazing instrumental, "Wherefore." Zach's had an instrumental on the last three albums.

Along with streaming, will there be some physical copies of the new record?

Yep! Deluxe double vinyl, cassette tape and CD. All the things. We used Kickstarter this time to organize a bunch of fun bundles and hopefully let our supporters know how directly their support keeps this old machine running. We have an album release show in Ferndale at the Loving Touch on Feb. 17 and Traverse City on Feb. 24. I believe the Lansing



Courtesy photo

and Grand Rapids shows will be later in the spring.

Have any last words for your old-school Lansing fanbase?

We rate this album among our best and send it out to all the Lansing folks who used to pack out Mac's Bar with us. We're honored to keep writing songs and making records and for folks still to be listening.

For more information on Frontier Ruckus, visit frontierruckus.com.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Friday, Jan. 12: The Ten Pound Fiddle concert series delivers authentic goods once again. For those looking for true blues, **Cedric Watson** and **Corey Harris** perform the real deal 7:30 p.m. Friday at University United Methodist Church (1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing).

Saturday, Jan. 13: If you can't afford tickets to see Phish at the Sphere in Las Vegas, at least there's this! **Kids Under the Carpet**, a Phish tribute act, performs 8 p.m. Saturday at **Mac's Bar** (2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing). The opener is Jay Cotter.

Sunday, Feb. 4: Anees Mokhiber, best known as simply **anees**, first hit it big last year with the chart topper "Sun and Moon." Since then, the breakthrough pop video has racked up 13 million views on YouTube. Check out the dynamic genre bender's headlining show early next month at **Grewal Hall at 224** (224 S. Washington Square, Lansing).

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Welcome to '24" -- the year with things in common.

by Matt Jones
© 2024 Matt Jones

ACROSS

- Roast battle hosts, for short
- Bumble profile maintainers?
- Flight seat option
- "___ y Plata" (Montana motto)
- Actress Mitra of "The Practice"
- National prefix
- Lead character of "24"
- Feeling regret
- Early Peruvian
- Nursery rhyme pie fillers ("four and twenty", they say)
- Connect with
- Barely achieve
- Rowboat implement
- George Burns title role
- Impersonated
- Spot for a soak
- Big name in circuses
- Loads
- Ratio that's often 24 for film cameras
- Like some salad dressings
- Stracciatella, e.g.
- "77" former NBAer Manute
- "___ the Walrus" (1967 Beatles tune)
- Uno plus uno
- Talk trash about
- Removes names from pictures, on some social media platforms
- To the letter
- Units where 24 = 100%
- Poodle plauger
- Remain patient

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13			14				15		16		
17			18						19		
20				21				22			
23			24		25						
26			27	28		29			30	31	32
		33	34			35			36		
37	38						39	40	41		
42						43					
44			45	46	47	48			49	50	51
			52				53		54	55	
56	57	58					59		60		
61					62				63		
64					65					66	
67						68					69

- The NBA sets it at 24
- Penny-pincher
- Vietnamese capital
- Burns downvote?
- Planetarium display
- ___ baby (one who's famous via family connections)
- Pre-album drops
- Make Kool-Aid
- Give for a bit
- Rowing machine units
- Took a curved path
- "WandaVision" actress Dennings
- Pond fish
- Fairy tale meanie
- Come-___ (enticements)
- Was the odd one out
- "___ de Replay" (Rihanna's first single)
- Joining word
- Actress Adams
- Sister of Chris and Stewie
- Division for "Hamlet" or "Hamilton"
- Keyless car key
- Duran Duran hit of 1982
- Former Viacom chairman Sumner
- ___-pitch softball
- Reduce
- Comic book artists
- ___ standstill
- Swampland
- Polar covering
- They may never have been higher
- Part that the ointment Bag Balm was designed for
- Depeche Mode lead singer David
- Short-lived gridiron org. revived in 2020
- Legs, in film noir monologues
- "In memoriam" piece
- Simpson who got into crosswords around 2008
- Word before "Hammer time!"
- A.F.L. merger partner

DOWN

- Mint-garnished cocktail
- They surround brains
- Goal-oriented item?
- Royal sphere
- Obsessive whale hunter of fiction
- Biffed it
- Creep around
- "He's right. Ain't no rule that says a dog can't play basketball" movie
- Arctic First Nations resident

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Answers on page 20

SUDOKU

Advanced

	5	3						
		4				2	8	
					6	9		
7		9						
3		1	5	8				9
			1			6		
			3		4	7		1
			6		1			3

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsky

January 10-16, 2024

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Why do birds sing? They must be expressing their joy at being alive, right? And in some cases, they are trying to impress and attract potential mates. Ornithologists tell us that birds are also staking out their turf by chirping their melodies. Flaunting their vigor is a sign to other birds of how strong and commanding they are. In accordance with astrological omens, I invite you Aries humans to sing more than ever before in 2024. Like birds, you have a mandate to boost your joie de vivre and wield more authority. Here are 10 reasons why singing is good for your health: tinyurl.com/HealthySinging.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Which zodiac sign is most likely to have a green thumb? Who would most astrologers regard as the best gardener? Who would I call on if I wanted advice on when to harvest peaches, how to love and care for roses as they grow or how to discern which weeds might be helpful and useful? The answer, according to my survey, is Taurus. And I believe you Bulls will be even more fecund than usual around plants in 2024. Even further, I expect you to be extra fertile and creative in every area of your life. I hereby dub you Maestro of the Magic of Germination and Growth.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Research I've found suggests that 70% of us have experienced at least one traumatic event in our lives. But I suspect the percentage is higher. For starters, everyone has experienced the dicey expulsion from the warm, nurturing womb. That's usually not a low-stress event. The good news, Gemini, is that now and then, there come phases when we have more power than usual to heal from our traumas. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, the coming months will be one of those curative times for you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): At their best, Libras foster vibrant harmony that energizes social situations. At their best, Scorpios stimulate the talents and beauty of those they engage with. Generous Leos and Sagittarians inspire enthusiasm in others by expressing their innate radiance. Many of us may get contact highs from visionary, deep-feeling Pisceans. In 2024, Cancerian, I believe you can call on all these modes as you brighten and nurture the people in your sphere — even if you have no Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Leo or Pisces influences in your astrological chart.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Here are my wishes for you in 2024. 1. I hope you will rigorously study historical patterns in your life story. I hope you will gather robust insights into the rhythms and themes of your amazing journey. 2. You will see clearly what parts of your past are worth keeping and which are better outgrown and left behind. 3. You will come to a new appreciation of the heroic quest you have been on. You will feel excited about how much further your quest can go. 4. You will feel gratitude for the deep inner sources that have been guiding you all these years. 5. You will be pleased to realize how much you have grown and ripened.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Virgo author Eduardo Galeano mourned how our institutions condition us to divorce our minds from our hearts and our bodies from our souls. Even sadder, many of us deal with these daunting schisms by becoming numb to them. The good news, Virgo, is that I expect 2024 to be one of the best times ever for you to foster reconciliation between the split-off parts of yourself. Let's call this the Year of Unification. May you be inspired to create both subtle and spectacular fusions of your fragmented parts. Visualize your thoughts and feelings weaving together in elegant harmony. Imagine your material and spiritual needs finding common sources of nourishment.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): According to ancient Greek myth, the half-divine hero Heracles consulted the Oracle of Delphi for guidance. He was assigned to perform 12 daunting feats, most of which modern people would regard as unethical, like killing and stealing. There was one labor that encouraged

integrity, though. Heracles had to clean the stables where over a thousand divine cattle lived. The place hadn't been scrubbed in 30 years! As I meditated on your hero's journey in the coming months, Libra, I concluded that you'd be wise to begin with a less grandiose version of Heracles' work in the stables. Have fun as you cheerfully tidy up everything in your life! By doing so, you will earn the power to experience many deep and colorful adventures in the coming months.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): I will name two taboos I think you should break in 2024. The first is the theory that you must hurt or suppress yourself to help others. The second is that you must hurt or suppress others to benefit yourself. Please scour away any delusion you might have that those two strategies could genuinely serve you. In their place, substitute these hypotheses: 1. Being good to yourself is the best way to prepare for helping others. 2. Being good to others is the best way to benefit yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "Doubt has killed more dreams than failure ever will," says Sagittarian author Suzy Kassem. Many of us have had the experience of avoiding a quest for success because we are too afraid of being defeated or demoralized. "Loss aversion" is a well-known psychological concept that applies when we are so anxious about potential loss that we don't pursue the possible gain. In my astrological estimation, you Centaurs should be especially on guard against this inhibiting factor in 2024. I am confident you can rise above it, but to do so, you must be alert for its temptation — and eager to summon new reserves of courage.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In 2024, I predict you will be blessed with elegant and educational expansion — but also challenged by the possibility of excessive, messy expansion. Soulful magnificence could vie for your attention with exorbitant extravagance. Even as you are offered valuable novelties that enhance your sacred and practical quests, you may be tempted with lesser inducements you don't really need. For optimal results, Capricorn, I urge you to avoid getting distracted by irrelevant goodies. Usher your fate away from pretty baubles and toward felicitous beauty.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Some people feel that "wealth" refers primarily to financial resources. If you're wealthy, it means you have a lot of money, luxurious possessions and lavish opportunities to travel. But wealth can also be measured in other ways. Do you have an abundance of love in your life? Have you enjoyed many soulful adventures? Does your emotional intelligence provide rich support for your heady intelligence? I bring this up, Aquarius, because I believe 2024 will be a time when your wealth will increase. The question for you to ruminate on: How do you define wealth?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "No one can build you the bridge on which you, and only you, must cross the river of life," said philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche. Here's my response to that bold declaration: It's utterly WRONG! No one in the history of the world has ever built anything solely by their own efforts, let alone a bridge to cross the river of life. Even if you are holed up in your studio working on a novel, painting or invention, you are absolutely dependent on the efforts of many people to provide you with food, water, electricity, clothes, furniture and all the other goodies that keep you functioning. It's also unlikely that anyone could create anything of value without having received a whole lot of love and support from other humans. Sorry for the rant, Pisces. It's a preface for my very positive prediction: In 2024, you will have substantial help in building your bridge across the river of life.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Brezsky's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com. Deadline is 4 p.m. Wednesday for the upcoming Wednesday edition. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Nicole at (517) 999-5066.

Wednesday, Jan. 10

Acting & Glee Music Class for Kids - Ages 5-12. 4:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Adult Sew Fun - Get comfortable "driving" the sewing machine in this beginning class focusing on machine sewing skills and techniques. 6 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Allen Farmers Market - 3-6:30 p.m. 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-999-3911. allenneighborhood-center.org/market.

Battle of the Books Kickoff - Learn more about Battle of the Books, including discussions of this year's book list, an overview of the program and a Q&A. Registration req. 6:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Beginning Hustle Dance Class - Registration req. 7 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. 517-364-8888. sparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club.

Deer & Elk at the Graduate Rock Bar - 8 p.m. 133 Evergreen Ave., East Lansing. 517-348-0900. facebook.com/graduaterockbar.

"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall Food Court. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

Improv Acting Class - 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Jazz Dance Class - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Junior Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp - Ten-week program. Ages 7-12. 6-8 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. lansingrollerderby.com.

Karaoke with The BIG Man Genesis - 9 p.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

MASH — REACH Open Studio - Use REACH's space and tools for your creative endeavors. Bring your own supplies, as available materials vary from time to time. 6 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Michigan Agri-Business Association Winter Convention - This conference features nearly 100

speakers and an improved trade show, all geared to give you the insight you need for success in the year ahead! 8 a.m. DoubleTree by Hilton, 111 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. maba.swoogo.com/2024-winter-conference/agenda.

Mindfulness Meditation in the Thich Nhat Hanh tradition - All are welcome to join our weekly practice! 7-9 p.m. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. MLK Jr. Blvd., Lansing. lmc.info.

Mid-Michigan Photography Club Annual Clinic and Open House - Sessions on camera and exposure basics, processing, equipment and composition. Bring your camera and your questions. 6 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. mmphotoclub.net.

Movers & Readers Storytime - Enjoy songs, rhymes and stories with Miss Lindsay. Ages 0-3. 10:30 a.m. Mason City Hall, 201 W. Ash St., Mason. 517-676-9088. cadl.org/about/our-locations/mason.

Tap II Class - 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Unwrapping the Self Ritual - A unique new-moon ritual of self-discovery. Take a journey through the underworld and return refreshed and ready to be your best self in 2024! 6 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

Walk-in Wednesday: Paper Collage Bird Craft - Registration encouraged. 4:30-6 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Thursday, Jan. 11

"A Course in Miracles," Facilitated by Lisa Schmidt - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

Acting 101 Class - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Acting Ensemble Class - 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Beginning American Style Foxtrot Dance Class - Registration req. 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. 517-364-8888. sparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club.

Crafty Vibes - Bring your knitting, crochet or any other portable craft project and immerse

True Blues: Cedric Watson and Corey Harris

Friday, Jan. 12
7:30 p.m.

University United Methodist Church
1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing



Two masters of the blues, Cedric Watson and Corey Harris, will share the stage at East Lansing's University United Methodist Church 7:30 p.m. Friday (Jan. 12) at a concert hosted by the Ten Pound Fiddle.

Watson, a four-time Grammy nominee, is a fiddler, accordionist, singer and songwriter. He specializes in French music, having performed in 17 countries and on seven albums with various groups, including his band, Bijou Creole. "Watson's albums are a tapestry of pulsing rhythms and Creole poetry, and his unforgettable live performances are at once progressive and nostalgic," his website reads.

According to the Ten Pound Fiddle website, Harris "has earned critical acclaim as one of the few modern-day bluesmen able to channel the raw, direct emotion of acoustic Delta blues without coming off as an authenticity-obsessed historian. Along with Keb' Mo' and Alvin Youngblood Hart, Harris raised the flag of acoustic guitar blues in the mid-1990s." The guitarist, vocalist, songwriter and bandleader has played shows across the globe and mixes a variety of influences in his songs, from traditional blues to reggae, soul, rock and West African music.

"It's a special combination," Ten Pound Fiddle booking manager Sally Potter said of the performers. "These are two incredibly well-known blues artists. They're going to share the stage and play on each other's stuff and tell some stories. They play acoustic blues, which is quieter and a lot more lyrical. It's in the blues genre, but there are still stories to be told within the songs."

Tickets are \$25 for the public, \$20 for Fiddle members and \$5 for students. They can be purchased at tenpoundfiddle.org or at the box office an hour prior to the show.

yourself in an evening of creativity, conversation and community. 5 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

Game Night with Hoptite Games - 7 p.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

Jazz/Hip Hop II class - Ages 9-13. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Karaoke Thursday - 8 p.m.-midnight. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. greendoorlive.com.

Ladies Silver Blades Skating Club - Join other adult women for fun, exercise, friendship and skating practice. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. ladiessilverblades.org.

Laingsburg Farmers Market - 5-8 p.m. First Congregational Church of Laingsburg, 401 E. Grand River Road, Laingsburg. 517-295-8128. laingsburg-business.org/farmers-market-1.

Max Gage Trio and Open Jam - Join us for a night of jazz with the Max Gage Trio. Stick around after the show for an open jam session. 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Opening reception: "Layers," by Robert Park - This

exhibition is a journey through the layers that shape our world. It's a visual tapestry of colors, shapes and textures. Please join us to meet the artist and view the exhibition. 4-7 p.m. Struk Studio, 2916 Turner St., Lansing. struk.studio.

Ruhala Broadway Ensemble - Learn to excel equally in singing, acting and dance. 5:30 p.m. 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly - Weight-loss support group. Weigh-in 5:30 p.m., meeting 6-7 p.m. Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St., Haslett. 800-932-8677. facebook.com/HaslettTops.

Friday, Jan. 12

Deacon Earl at the Peanut Barrel - 8 p.m. 521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-351-0608. peanutbarrel.com.

"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall Food Court. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

LSO MasterWorks 3: Mozart and Bizet - 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. lansingsymphony.org.

Live & Local

CityPULSE

Red Cedar Spirits

2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing

FRIDAY NIGHT JAMS
Mike Eyia, Hank Horton,
Mike Daniels and Dave Huber
Friday, Jan. 19, 7-10 p.m.

SUNDAY JAZZ
Randy Napoleon Trio
Every Sunday, 6-9 p.m.

Events

from page 18

Mark Collins at Harrison Roadhouse - 6 p.m. 720 E. Michigan Ave., East Lansing. 517-337-0200. harrisonroadhouse.com.

Parkour at ALIVE - A basic introduction to parkour as imagined through stories. You and your little one will learn how to safely maneuver everyday obstacles using the whole body. Ages 2-6. 10 a.m. ALIVE, 800 W. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte. 517-541-5800. myalive.com.

Soulstice - 8:30 p.m. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. greendoorlive.com.

Storytime for Tots — Four-Week Class - Bring your littles to hear a short children's story, followed by art-making and exploration. 10 a.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

True Blues: Cedric Watson and Corey Harris - 7:30 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org

Wacousta-DeWitt Masonic Lodge Fundraiser Fish Fry - Limited seating available. Bake sale on main floor. 4:30-6:30 p.m. or until food runs out. 9030 W. Herbison Road, Grand Ledge. wacousta.net/home.

Walter Blanding presents Cypress & the music of Jackie McClean - The mission of Cypress is to honor the aural tradition of jazz while creating something new and previously unheard. 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Water, Water, Everywhere! - Children ages 2-4 and their caregivers can explore science through hands-on, inquisitive learning in a responsive, playful, exploratory environment. 10 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Saturday, Jan. 13

Comedy Through the Looking Glass - Featuring Michigan comedians Andrew Yang, Alex Bozinovic and Sam Rager. 8:30 p.m. Looking Glass Brewing Co, 115 N. Bridge St., DeWitt. 517-668-6004. lookingglassbrewingcompany.com.

Curious Chemists - Children ages 5-9 explore scientific concepts through interactive experimentation, challenges, artistic expression and play. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Geech - 8:30 p.m. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. greendoorlive.com.

Intermediate Ballet class - 11 a.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Knights of Columbus 19th annual Wild Game Dinner - Tickets available at Council #788, 5300 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. At least 30 gun giveaways throughout the event. 4:30 p.m. St. Gerard Catholic Church, 4437 W. Willow Hwy., Lansing. 517-285-3029.

Live Music with Mix Pack at LBC - 7 p.m. Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. paintyourpoison.com.

Sunday, Jan. 14

Beale Street Bound fundraiser - Live blues with Kev Nichols, Lexie Blue and the Lansing Blues All Stars. Doors 3 p.m., music 4 p.m. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. greendoorlive.com.

GLAD Drum Circle - All ages and experience levels welcome. 2-4 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-803-2392. facebook.com/GreaterLansingAreaDrummers.

"How to Be a Messenger of Peace in this World," with Dan & Carol Maynard - 9:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 269-762-3189. unitylansing.org.

Introduction to "A Course in Miracles," with Carol and Dan Maynard - This workshop aims to guide participants on a journey of understanding their minds and discovering lasting peace. Noon. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 269-762-3189. unitylansing.org.

JUGGLERS AND WOULD-BE JUGGLERS - Jugglers meet at the Orchard Street Pump House at 2 p.m. Sundays. 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. mikemarhanka@gmail.com.

Junior Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp - Ten-week program. Ages 7-12. 3-5 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. lansingrollerderby.com.

Red Cedar Quaker Friends Worship - 10:30 a.m. 1400 Turner St., Lansing. redcedarfriends.org/join-us-for-worship.

Sunday Brunch - Visit lookingglassbrewingcompany.com for menu. Noon-5 p.m. Looking Glass Brewing Co., 115 N. Bridge St., Dewitt. 517-668-6004.

Monday, Jan. 15

Ballet II for kids - Ages 9-13. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Burger Night - Choice of hamburger, cheeseburger or olive burger, plus fries. Dine in or take out. \$8. 5-7 p.m. Columbus Hall, 5300 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-321-2209.

"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall Food Court. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

Graphic Novel Book Club - Hang out with friends, chat about the book, have a snack and do a book-related activity or craft. Grades 3-6. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Improv Acting Class - 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Jazz Dance Class - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Ruhala Broadway Ensemble - Learn to excel equally in singing, acting and dance. 5:30 p.m. 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Tuesday, Jan. 16

Acrylic Painting Basics — Eight-Week Class - Explore fundamental skills like color mixing, theory, texture, expression and style, with each class building on the last. 6 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Acting 101 Class - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Acting Ensemble Class - 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Adult Clay (A) - Explore or hone skills in wheel throwing, hand-building and glazing. Work at your pace on diverse ceramic projects. 6 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Beginners' Clay — Eight-Week Class - Use pinching, texturing, rolling and sculpting to create cool things. 4:30 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

See Events, Page 20

Registering now! Session 2 starts January 22nd.

Buy tickets now for "Where Am I Going?" – January 20th @7pm
- a new Broadway musical revue about individual choices



Ruhala Holistic
Arts Center

WHOLE BODY WELLNESS THROUGH
PERFORMING & HEALING ARTS



1846 Haslett Rd, East Lansing, Michigan 48823
(517) 337-0464 | ruhalacenter.com

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appetizers, relaxing setting, easy parking.



Bourbon/whiskeys, vodka, gin and brandy
made here in mid-Michigan!

Sunday Jazz and a variety of music every
other Friday. See our schedule in FB.

2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing
Thurs, Fri, Sat: 4 - 11 p.m Sun, Tues, Wed: 4 - 9 p.m
Closed Monday -- call for tours: 517-908-9950

'Mamma Mia!'

Jan. 16-21

7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday

8 p.m. Friday-Saturday
2 p.m. Saturday

1 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday
Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing



The North American tour of the Broadway smash hit "Mamma Mia!" is coming to the Wharton Center Tuesday (Jan. 16) through Jan. 21.

"Set on a Greek island paradise where the sun always shines, a tale of love, friendship and identity is beautifully told through the timeless hits of ABBA," the Wharton Center website reads. "On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to discover the father she's never known brings three men from her mother's past back to the island they last visited decades ago."

The show was adapted into two hit films, the first of which became the highest-grossing live-action musical film of all time upon its release in 2008, and the second of which is the most successful live musical film sequel of all time, according to a Wharton Center press release.

Tickets start at \$39 and can be purchased online at whartoncenter.com, by calling 517-432-2000 or at the Wharton Center Ticket Office. For more information on the production, visit mammamiathetour.com.

p.m. session for ages 3-6 and caregivers, 4 p.m. sessions for ages 7-10 and 11-14. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-346-8094. gladl.org.

Trivia at Lansing Shuffle with DJ Trivia - 7:30-9 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

Virtual QPR Gatekeeper Training for Suicide Prevention - Learn to recognize the warning signs of suicide as well as how to offer hope and get help. 10 a.m. To register, visit eventbrite.com/o/community-mental-health-authority-clinton-easton-ingham-cmha-cei-8564584343.

Walk with Ease program - Participants walk for at least 10 minutes three times per week. We meet Tuesdays at the Lansing Mall food court. 12:30 p.m. 5330 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. tcoa.org/classes/evidence-based-programs/.

YA Book Club - Chat, eat snacks and have book-related fun. Grades 8-12. Registration req. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

Wednesday, Jan. 17

Acting & Glee Music Class for Kids - Ages 5-12. 4:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhala-center.com.

Adult Sew Fun - Get comfortable "driving" the sewing machine in this beginning class focusing on machine sewing skills and techniques. 6 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Allen Farmers Market - 3-6:30 p.m. 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-999-3911. allenneighborhoodcenter.org/market.

Emergency Services - 6 p.m. LSW Emergency Services, 7425 Woodbury Road, Laingsburg. laingsburg.us.

"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall Food Court. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

Grimoire of Wealth Ritual - Transform a book into a Grimoire of Wealth. Infuse your Grimoire with dreams and plans for prosperity as we take a guided journey into your vision of an abundant life. 6 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

Improv Acting Class - 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhala-center.com.

Jazz Dance Class - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhala-center.com.

Junior Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp - Ten-week program. Ages 7-12. 6-8 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing.

lansing/events.

Level I Dance Class - Introduction to theater dance using ballet, tap and jazz. Ages 5-8. 4:45 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhala-center.com.

"Mamma Mia!" - 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. wharton-center.com.

Oh, Shoot Again! Learn to Take and Edit Photos — Eight-Week Class - Learn digital photography and Photoshop skills to enhance your images. 4:30 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Preschool Family Storytime - Join us for stories and literacy-enhancing activities, including songs and rhymes. Ages 1-6. 11 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Preschool Storytime - Enjoy songs, rhymes and stories with Miss Lindsay. Ages 3-6. 10:30 a.m. Mason City Hall, 201 W. Ash St., Mason. 517-676-9088. cadl.org/about/our-locations/mason.

StressBusters: Positive Mental Health for Kids - 3

Events

from page 19

Behind the Scenes of History: 200+ years on Mackinac Island - Join historian Andrew Kercher and examine the historical past and the present of the straits of Mackinac. Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Fundamentals of Drawing — Eight-Week Class - Discover the art of drawing fundamentals: shape, value and space. Geared toward ages 10-13. 4:30 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Intro to Acting/Improv for Kids - Ages 5-12. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhala-center.com.

LAGE Game Night East - 6:30-11 p.m. The Junction, 410 S. Clippert St., Lansing. meetup.com/lansing/events.

LAGE Game Night West - 6:30-11 p.m. Frank's Press Box, 7216 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. meetup.com/

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT, EATON COUNTY, NOTICE TO CREDITORS, Decedent's Estate, File No. 23-59232-DE - Estate of Patrick Richard Dillon, Date of Birth: 09/05/1947. NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Patrick Richard Dillon, died 12/19/2022. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Carol Scherer, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 1045 Independence Blvd., Charlotte, MI, 48813, 517-543-7500, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, 1/10/2024. Attorney Benjamin L. Cwayna, Bar no. 70266, 11973 Sweetwater Drive, Grand Ledge MI 48837, 517-622-1900. Personal representative Carol Scherer, 12794 Iroquois Drive, Grand Ledge MI 48837, 517-627-6002.

CP#23-356

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT, EATON COUNTY, NOTICE TO CREDITORS, Decedent's Estate, File No. 2023-59140-DE - Estate of Theodore Milo Poor Jr., Deceased, Date of Birth: 10/10/1966. NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Theodore Milo Poor Jr., died 06/07/2023. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Lisa Poor, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 1045 Independence Blvd., Charlotte, MI, 48813, 517-543-7500, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, 1/10/2024. The Probate Pro Darren Finding, Bar no. P51530, 414 W. Fifth St., Royal Oak, MI 48067, 248-399-3300. Personal representative Lisa Poor, 522 Pheasant Run, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827, 517-775-2459.

CP#23-357



Winter is coming

Call to schedule your mental health journey today
517-394-3560



THE PULSIFIEDS

2 AKC registered Husky Puppies for free if interested contact; m123davies@gmail.com

Singers wanted for Ingham Festival Chorale. Rehearsals begin Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024, from 2pm-3:30pm, at University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Rd, East Lansing MI 48823. Historical and modern works. \$50 membership fee includes all music. No auditions. Performance is Sunday, Apr. 7, 2024. For more info, call 517-706-9045.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 17

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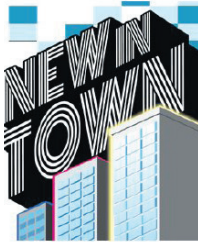
SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 17

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6	7	4	9	1	5	2	8	3
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7	8	9	4	6	2	3	1	5
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El Catrín brings a taste of Baja California cooking to the east side

By TYLER SCHNEIDER



El Catrín Taco Shop

1620 E. Michigan Ave.,
Lansing
11 a.m.-10 p.m. daily
517-318-6839
facebook.com/profile.
php?id=61554681130431

As is the case with many great opportunities, the seeds for what became El Catrín Taco Shop, a new California-style Mexican eatery at 1620 E. Michigan Ave., were sewn after co-owner Marco Escobar came across a post on Facebook Marketplace.

The property was previously occupied by Italian eatery Tannin, which closed its doors in August. Escobar saw its availability as a promising opportunity.

"I called within an hour of them posting it. I said, 'Let's go check it out.' I'd never been to Lansing before that," he said.

It was a quick turnaround for Escobar and his business partner, co-owner Leonard Rios. The pair opened for business on Dec. 22.

Rios, originally from Puerto Rico,

handles much of the business side of things, while Escobar, a native of Mexico's Baja California peninsula, brings the culinary know-how.

"I grew up in two places: San Diego and Tijuana, Mexico. We could cross the border in 30 minutes, so I had a lot of both cultures," Escobar said.

He was working at a taco shop in San Diego when the pandemic hit.

"Everything shut down in California. It was awful. So, I moved from California to Cadillac, Michigan, where I worked as a server for one year," he said.

It was around that time that he first met Rios, who ran a Tex-Mex restaurant in Manistee. About a year ago, Escobar opened his own spot, El Cilantro Taco Shop, in Petoskey.

"It's almost the same thing," he said, pointing at an El Cilantro menu and comparing it to the El Catrín menu. "It works really well over there, so we brought it here."

The California-style Mexican cuisine calls for a more liberal use of guacamole and emphasizes dry burritos, as opposed to enchilada-sauce-smothered wet burritos, with meats marinated for 8 to 10 hours prior to being served.

"It's not like Chipotle, where they have everything hot and ready. In here, we try to do everything fresh," Escobar said.

One of the most popular menu items thus far has been the quesabirria, a traditional Mexican beef stew served on corn tortillas with melted cheese, cilantro, onion and consommé dip.

"A lot of people know about it because of the Tik Toks," Escobar said. "They'll come in and specifically ask for it."

The restaurant has five employees, but Escobar is looking to hire at least two more as soon as possible to help accommodate the surge in customer traffic the restaurant has seen in its first few weeks and to operate the forthcoming drive-through, which will be open between 8 p.m. and 2 a.m.

In addition to burritos, tacos and other traditional Mexican fare, the restaurant also serves soups, breakfast bowls, loaded fries and homemade horchata. Going forward, the menu will be subject to tweaks and additions as Escobar and his staff continue to settle in and hear feedback from customers. Tres leches cake is in the works, Escobar said, as well as the pos-



Nicole Noechel/City Pulse

El Catrín Taco Shop opened Dec. 22 in the property formerly occupied by Tannin, which closed earlier in the year.

sibility of obtaining a tavern license to serve beer and wine.

The bright color scheme of El Catrín's logo, based off traditional sugar skulls, will also become more prominent in the coming weeks as new wall decor arrives.

"We wanted to do something a little bit different here," Escobar said. "We're excited to have more and more people come out and try it."

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Build your own salad at Bell's

By **CHELSEA LAKE ROBERTS**

Bell's Greek Pizza has been an East Lansing mainstay for what feels like forever. From getting Wednesday night \$1 slices with my dad to devouring Saturday night \$1 slices with my teenage friends — and to taking a little 1 a.m. disco nap in the now-closed M.A.C. Avenue store on the night of my 21st birthday — Bell's has seen me at my worst and truly deserves me at my best. That's why when I'm on my lunch break from being a responsible adult,



I'm now proud to patronize this wonderful establishment in broad daylight.

My latest kick? Build-my-own falafel salads, featuring a small Greek salad and an order of freshly fried, perfectly textured falafel.

First off, this is a steal for a lunch meal, coming in at just over \$10 if you get the smaller portion of falafel or just under \$15 if you get the full order. The Greek salad is simple, but it's always

fresh, crisp and stuffed to the brim. The tiny container literally overflows with lettuce, feta cheese, finely sliced

red onion, green pepper, tomato and unpitted Kalamata olives. These ingredients start to really feel themselves once they're mixed with the Greek dressing, which is heavily herbed and packs a zing.

I know people can be picky about their falafel, but I believe Bell's makes some of the best. They're fried to a very light brown and break apart perfectly in your hand or underneath the side of your fork. There's barely a spot of oil, and the outside doesn't become thickened or shell-like. The taste is nutty and earthy, and the texture is a delight — soft in the middle but not

wet, fitting perfectly with the salad. The tahini the falafel comes with is mild, not overly lemony or garlicky, and it doesn't attempt to compete with the headliner. I like to go back and forth, eating some falafel bites with my hands and dipping them into the sauce before switching to taking bites of falafel with the salad.

At the start of the new year, it's nice to consider your options and get to manifesting your best life. So, given the choice between salad and deep-fried peas, I obviously choose both. My New Year's wish? Many more prosperous years for Bell's Greek Pizza.

Small Greek salad

\$6.50

Falafel

\$3.75 for three or \$7 for six

Bell's Greek Pizza

1135 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing

10 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday-Thursday

10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday

517-332-0858

thebellspizza.com



TOP 5 BUFFETS

Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2023 Top of the Town contest. Bon appétit!

1. Asian Buffet

Relaxed, family-owned buffet with a large selection of Asian bites

4920 Marsh Road, Okemos

517-381-8388

facebook.com/AsianBuffetinOkemos

11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday, Tuesday-Thursday

11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday

2. Hibachi Grill & Sushi Buffet

Unpretentious eatery boasting more than 250 American, Asian and Italian items in its buffet

5837 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing

517-886-9999

hibachigrilllansing.com

11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday

11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday

3. Ohana Sushi and Bar

Family-owned and operated Japanese restaurant offering all-you-can-eat sushi and hibachi, plus a-la-carte dishes

707 Brookside Drive, Lansing

517-993-9988

ohanasushibar.com

11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday

11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday

Noon-11 p.m. Saturday

Noon-10 p.m. Sunday

4. One North Kitchen & Bar

Casual sports bar with a diverse menu and a brunch buffet on Sundays

5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing

517-901-5001

onenorthdining.com

11 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday-Thursday

11 a.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday

10 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday

5. World Buffet & Grill

Straightforward all-you-can-eat buffet featuring familiar Asian and American dishes

5002 W. Saginaw Hwy., Suite 3, Lansing

517-327-6688

11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday

11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

Appetizers

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Caprese frittata a la Cafe Lena



Courtesy of Ari LeVaux

Take your breakfast game to new heights by making a caprese-inspired frittata, complete with potatoes, onions and any other seasonal produce you may have.

By **ARI LEVAUX**

When I lived in Portland, Oregon, in the late 1990s, there was a breakfast spot on Hawthorne Boulevard called Cafe Lena that I used to go to for a dish called BBG Scrambled Eggs.

BBG stands for basil, brie and garlic. In today's world of hybrid recipes and fusion cuisine, most menu readers are too jaded to bat an eye at such an unexpected combination. But at the time, my mind was blown. Decades later, the magic has only grown.

Since I began messing around with it, BBG Scrambled Eggs has become a template for how to accommodate the revolving feast of produce that the seasons provide. After several evolutions of the original dish, the recipe has evolved into a frittata, heavy on potatoes and onions. The next step was to shoehorn the components of caprese, the iconic salad of tomato, basil and mozzarella. This shift started organically when I was out of brie and used mozzarella instead. Since the basil was already there, it only took tomatoes to complete the caprese.

After making a few batches, I remembered the brie and added it back without dropping the mozzarella. The brie — especially the rind,

which I didn't remove — added a distinct fungal flavor to the dish that interacted with the basil to create a musky, exotic, kind of savory flavor that brought me all the way back to where we started, at Cafe Lena, and washed me with feelings of nostalgia for pre-hipster Portland. After 20-some years, the recipe had come full circle, while going somewhere else entirely.



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BBG caprese frittata

This recipe folds recipes and ingredients of European origin into a West Coast context that's about as far away from Europe as you can get without a boat.

Serves two

- 1 large potato, preferably a waxy type like Yukon Gold, grated
- 1 large onion, thinly sliced
- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 6 cloves garlic (five whole cloves, one grated)
- 2 small zucchinis, thinly sliced
- 3 eggs
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 tomato, sliced into quarters, then into thirds
- 1/2 cup cubed mozzarella
- 1/2 cup cubed brie
- 1 cup basil leaves

Heat half of the oil on medium in a non-stick pan — either an omelet pan or a cast iron skillet. Add the potatoes and onions to the hot oil and thoroughly mix. Cover with a tight-fitting lid, which retains the moisture from the onions and steams them, along with the potatoes, into a soft mush. After about 10 minutes, add the whole garlic cloves. After another five minutes, add the zucchini.

If you're incorporating other vegetables, you'll have to figure out when and in which order to add them so they all finish cooking at the same time as the potatoes — or if they should be added in the next step along with the tomatoes, cheese and basil, which we want to cook as little as possible.

When the potatoes, onions, garlic and zucchini — and perhaps other vegetables — are done to perfection,

turn off the heat and let them cool.

Meanwhile, beat the eggs along with the salt and let them sit until the cooked stuff has cooled. Give the eggs a final beating and add the cooked items, stirring them stiffly into the eggs. Add the tomatoes, basil, grated garlic and cubes of cheese and gently fold them in.

Clean the pan and add the remaining 2 tablespoons of oil. Turn the heat to medium. When the pan heats up, splash some water in the oil to see if it sputters. When the water sputters, add the egg mixture and gently spread it evenly about the pan. Put the lid back on to trap as much heat as possible and cook until you smell the bottom start to brown. Don't wait until you smell burning.

With a spatula, gently separate the frittata from wherever it's sticking to the pan. At this point, you should be able to move the frittata around the pan in one piece just by shaking it.

Place a plate over the frittata and gently flip it. Do so over a container positioned to catch any excess oil that might tip out while you're flipping it onto the plate. Then add the oil back into the pan and slide the inverted frittata off the plate and into the pan for just a minute or so to finish cooking the top surface.

Turn the heat off before it totally finishes to prevent overcooking and let it cool on the stove with the lid on.

When cool enough to work with, slide the frittata onto a plate and serve.

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