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May 8 - 14, 2019

HAMILTON,



INSIDE THE MUSICAL PHENOMENON

See page 15

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Favorite Things

Blues songstress Twyla Birdsong and the Hunter Park gardens



My family moved here from Michigan City, Indiana, when I was 5. Every house we rented was on the east side.

My aunt would always bring us to Hunter Park and her daughter to play in the pool. This is a nice park where kids have room to play. There is a tennis court. My mom used to bring us to play tennis and we would watch her. I've spent many great summers here.

I first learned about the garden because of the Allen Street Market.

They do a lot of wonderful work for the community. One day, my girlfriend invited me to a yoga class there. Not only was it free, but they would give you a \$5 voucher to use Wednesday at the market with the farmers and vendors coming in with fresh produce.

I love how they look out for the community like that.

You can buy something that is "organic" from the store, but if you don't have a hand in it yourself, you usually don't know what's in there.

I still want quality food. It is cheaper to raise it yourself and come to gardens like this. Now I'm a grandmother, so it is even more important to me to have this knowledge and wisdom to pass on to my children to be a more informed consumer.

Being here made me think that nobody seeks to be unhealthy. Everyone wants to feed their children, but when you are low income,

you have to make decisions to feed everybody.

Sometimes when you don't know, you tend to reach for the easy things to do that.

When I got out of the military and saw convenience stores in our neighborhood, the people on welfare and food stamps went to the party store where it cost more. There, you'll spend all your stamps to feed your family and will become unhealthy.

So that's why having a neighborhood garden is good because they don't have to ship it in from a long distance with pesticides and preservatives in.

Instead, the community can come and pick produce here. When I was in the yoga program, I used to always pick berries here in the summertime. They have raspberries, blueberries and all kinds of fruits and vegetables.

Whenever I would have anxiety or feel unsure because the world becomes different or changes, I ride through the east side and it would be an anchor and homing beacon for me to bring my spirit back to "It's OK." It calms me to be here. It may not be the prettiest. I lived in the suburbs and prettier places, but this place is home and it feels good.

(This interview was edited and condensed by Dennis Burck. If you have a recommendation for "Favorite Things," please email dennis@lansingcitypulse.com.)

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CityPULSE

**VOL. 18
ISSUE 40**

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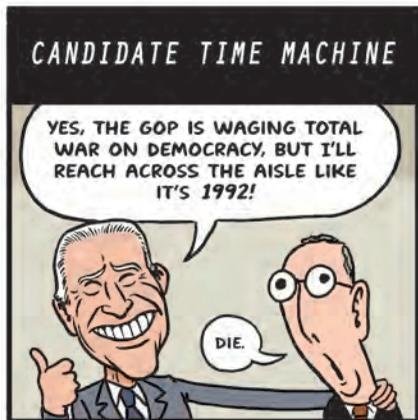
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Italian restaurant Tannin to open on Lansing's east side

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Examining the history of Detroit's illegal numbers game

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MSU's first African-American woman composition grad

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Cover Art

Photo by Joan Marcus

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

FURTHER POST-TRUTH REPUBLICAN TALKING POINTS

1. DEMOCRATS WANT TO ABOLISH ALL WALLS, EVERYWHERE!

MAYBE WE'LL LET YOU KEEP A FEW SUPPORT BEAMS TO HOLD UP YOUR ROOF.

WE JUST HATE WALLS, FOR NO APPARENT REASON!



2. THEY WANT TO CONFISCATE ALL PUPPIES AND KITTENS!

NO MORE CUTE ANIMALS FOR YOU! IT'S ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL TENETS OF SOCIALISM!

IF YOU'D READ MARX AND ENGELS, YOU'D KNOW THIS ALREADY!



3. THEY WANT TO ABORT BABIES AFTER THEY ARE BORN, AND ALSO UP TO THE AGE OF 25!

WHO CARES IF IT MAKES ANY SENSE? WE'RE JUST CARTOONISHLY EVIL, THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT!

THE ONLY THING STANDING IN OUR WAY IS THAT DARNED MEDDLING FOX NEWS CHANNEL!



4. THEY WANT TO FORCE EVERYONE TO WEAR SCRATCHY WOOL UNDERPANTS!

NO REAL REASON FOR THIS ONE.

IT JUST SOUNDS EXTREMELY UNPLEASANT!



5. THEY WANT MANDATORY BEDBUGS IN EVERY HOME!

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UNLIKE BABIES, PUPPIES, AND KITTENS!

AND COWS! DON'T EVEN GET ME STARTED ON COWS!



6. THE REAL COLLUSION IS BETWEEN DEMOCRATS--AND SATAN!!

OF COURSE! HOW ELSE WERE WE GOING TO CONVINCE AMERICANS THAT A GOOD AND DECENT MAN LIKE DONALD TRUMP IS REALLY A CORRUPT, VENAL, SCATTERBRAINED IDIOT?

WE NEEDED EXPERT HELP ON THAT!



TOM TOMORROW ©2019

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Court consolidation advances, savings decline

Despite reduced expectations for cost savings, a plan to consolidate Ingham County's district courts is advancing in the face of growing opposition.

A recent Ingham County fiscal analysis by the controller's office suggests plans to merge district courtrooms in Lansing, East Lansing and Mason into a unified 55th District Court could save, at most, about \$230,000 annually. It's a far cry from estimates that saved local municipalities as much as \$1.5 million when the plan was first introduced.

Despite opposition from several district judges, a few attorneys and the NAACP, support for the initiative, led by mayors Andy Schor of Lansing and Mark Meadows of East Lansing, is propelling the long-sought plan. Savings are savings, they explained to City Pulse, even though they are less than first thought.

"This is all up to the mayors to decide, but I'd like to think that saving taxpayer dollars — and we're still talking about hundreds of thousands of dollars — would still be a good sign," said 55th Circuit Judge Thomas P. Boyd. "We still have a disjointed system that needs improvement. This is still about better service for less money."

State legislation passed last year allows city and county officials to consolidate the 54A, 54B and 55th District courts under a single, county-controlled operating system by Nov. 1. The idea: Save cash by eliminating staffing redundancies and better serve local residents by redrawing some inconvenient judicial boundary lines.

Prior plans included the ambitious construction of a courtroom complex to be shared by Lansing and East Lansing and the eventual retirement of 11 to 14 clerical positions. But the idea was scrapped after officials couldn't hash out a deal to buy a Michigan State University cornfield for the building.

Current plans revolve around "organizational consolidation" without a physical merger. Six or seven jobs could still be cut, but doing so would generate a much smaller savings.

"The issue shifted," Meadows said. "There was much more savings when we were moving in the direction of



Schor

that shared courthouse, but I just don't see how that can work anymore. We couldn't find a plan that seemed to work for everybody. I still think we're willing to move forward, just now more from a public policy standpoint."

Rather than focusing exclusively on the bottom line, Meadows is looking at a bigger picture of overall efficiencies through the reorganization of regional caseloads. But the comparatively watered-down savings still isn't enough to convince some that the plans are worth the effort.

The new "Consolidated District

"Saving taxpayer dollars — and we're still talking about hundreds of thousands of dollars — would still be a good sign."

— Judge Thomas P. Boyd,
55th District Court

Court Preliminary Fiscal Analysis" from the county controller's office was posted to the news website eastlansing-info.org after it was obtained under the Freedom of Information Act. It estimates that the city of Lansing would receive the largest financial benefit from consolidation, with an expected annual cost savings of \$93,000 to \$130,000. Ingham County could curb annual costs by \$42,000 to \$58,000 and East Lansing stands to save \$30,000 to \$42,000 annually, the report said.



Meadows

District judges Andrea Larkin and Richard Ball in East Lansing have expressed doubt about the potential savings and have also spoken out against a perceived lack of local control should a new chief judge be assigned over their courtrooms.

Neither could be reached for comment for this story.

Several attorneys on the board of the Friends of Ingham County Veterans Treatment Court also recently wrote the East Lansing City Council to oppose the merger.

"I just don't want to start jeopardizing things by changing things," the group's president, attorney Larry Salstrom, said. "I think we're doing a superb job. I don't think anyone is saying they'd eliminate these courts but I just don't see any type of clear gain to justify this chaotic, reshuffling of our local judicial system."

Recent feedback surveys from those who used the courtrooms also included rave reviews. Those who left satisfied with the existing level of service ranged from 77% in Lansing to 87% in Mason.

Meadows dismissed the notion that East Lansing's specialty courts for veterans and those struggling with substance abuse would be jeopardized through consolidation. The idea is "entirely delusional," he said. Boyd also expected specialty courts — regardless who could eventually become chief judge — to continue as usual.

See Courts, Page 6



Simply Smitten Boutique
257 S. Bridge St., Dimondale

A carved limestone panel detailing the history of this grand building may be found high in the upper wall of the front elevation. Along with the 1897 construction date, the faint lettering reads, "In memory of our heroes 1861-1865," adding that the building was erected by the local Grand Army of the Republic post and its auxiliary, the Woman's Relief Corps.

The national GAR was formed by veterans of the American Civil War, engaging in political advocacy in support of soldiers' pensions and the creation of a national Memorial Day holiday. This building was occupied by Post #107, named for veteran Tim Lewis, which was mustered in 1883 and disbanded in 1936. The last GAR post, located in Duluth, Minnesota, dissolved in 1956 following the death of its last surviving member.

This Italianate structure is clad in multicolored brick, frequently found in Victorian-era buildings. Window hoods cap the upper level openings, then continue a short distance down the window jamb to rest on a decorative string course encircling the building. Varied colors reinforce the masonry details, from the corbelled bracketing to the diamond patterns formed with contrasting header bricks, which continue around the building's sides as a simpler cross shape.

— Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

"Eye Candy of the Week" is our look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates each with Eyesore of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call Berl Schwartz at 999-5061.

Sheriff lobbies for increased mental health funding

Senate committee approves \$2.2 million measure

Ingham County Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth contends additional state funding will be needed to provide a growing number of inmates with access to adequate mental health treatment behind bars.

Without it, dozens of inmates at Ingham County's jail will essentially be forced to get sicker and sicker, he said.

"This isn't about money, although money is a component to this issue," Wriggelsworth added. "The problem is the limited resources that we're able to give people over here. As these folks wait for treatment, they're only get sicker and sicker, and it ends up taking more resources to finally get them some rehabilitation when they get it."

Every year, about a dozen Ingham County inmates are found to be mentally incompetent to stand trial for their crimes, Wriggelsworth said. At that point, they're typically shuffled off to a state forensic center for treatment. And here's the hiccup: Limited space usually

forces those inmates to wait an average of 10 months inside the jail.

Statewide, on any given day, about 115 defendants are usually waiting behind bars or while released on bond for treatment availability. That waitlist often strains local jails that are sometimes forced to provide behavioral health services to them in the meantime. And jails, notably, aren't always the best place to address a mental illness.

"This is a major community health and safety issue we're experiencing not only here in Ingham County, but in all 83 counties in Michigan," Wriggelsworth said. "With limited access to treatment facilities, inmates incompetent to stand trial wait months on end in jail while their cases stall and go nowhere."

During that time, those inadequately treated mental illnesses are left in jail. It's unfair to the defendant, the victims and the jailers that are forced to float the bill for their extended stay, Wriggelsworth said. And at a daily cost of \$85, those inmates can cost the county about \$25,000 each during their extended stay.



Wriggelsworth

But hope is on the horizon. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer proposed an additional \$2.2 million in funding this year for the state's forensic centers — spelling an increase of about a dozen full-time employees to help streamline access to treatment. And the proposal is already gaining traction, said State Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr., D-East Lansing.

"This is a pervasive issue across the nation, and Michigan is no exception," Hertel said. "Without adequate funding for mental health facilities, jails have become some of the country's largest treatment centers, but they're not equipped

to provide proper care. This issue will only continue to grow until we invest in its solution."

Wriggelsworth recently testified before the Senate Appropriations Committee to lobby for increased mental health funding and ensure that Whitmer's proposed allocation remains within the state's next fiscal budget. The committee approved it Tuesday and sent it to the Committee of the Whole to be scheduled for full Senate consideration.

Hertel said the mental health "crisis" is a direct result of how the state has prioritized mental health in previous budgets. Without that infusion of funding, the problem will only grow worse across the state, he said.

"Opening up another wing at the forensic psychiatry center will move people out of jails faster and get them out of treatment and back into society," Hertel added. "Jails aren't the proper place to provide comprehensive mental health treatment. It's just cruel to keep people in places where they aren't getting proper treatment."

— KYLE KAMINSKI
kyle@lansingcitypulse.com

Courts

from page 5

"The judicial branch is an independent arm of our government," Meadows added. "This system is supposed to be separate. That's how it was designed. We don't need to have local control in our courts. That's the point."

While savings might not be as much as expected, an overhaul in caseload organization could still potentially save Lansing and Meridian Township residents an inconvenient drive to Mason to handle their courtroom business, officials explained. And even a few bucks saved on court expenses can help

support other government functions.

"Any savings we can use for other services is a positive," Schor added. "It's just better government for so many people who literally have to drive right past a courtroom on their way out to Mason. If we can help unify those areas, that's convenience for a lot of people. One centralized entity is also going to be much more efficient."

Consolidation would also shift the eight district court judges into county-wide elections. Lansing District Judge Hugh Clarke has argued the out-county, electoral tilt would make it more difficult to elect a person of color to adequately represent minority demographics in cities like East Lansing and Lansing.

"There's no real savings. There's no unified complex. Everyone keeps coming up with ideas, but this just isn't necessary," Clarke added when reached last week. "If it's about being convenient for citizens, just let the judges get together and discuss a plan to address the issue. We need to ask them to step aside and let us do this."

The Lansing branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People also publicly criticized consolidation plans this week because

of the "potential to jeopardize diversity on our court benches."

The track record of a diverse array of Ingham County judicial officials elected since 1980, however, have largely been used to diffuse those arguments. For example, 55th District Chief Judge Donald Allen, African American, has been elected twice after an initial gubernatorial appointment in 2008.

And while all employees would retain their jobs through consolidation, Clarke has also voiced concern about soon-to-be frozen pay rates for the comparatively higher-paid court staff in Lansing and East Lansing.

The county's fiscal analysis suggests that under a unified employment system, all courtroom employees would eventually need to shift to a unified pay structure. Staff in Lansing or East Lansing would essentially be denied wage increases until their lower-paid counterparts who work in Mason are able to catch up to the salary scheme.

"They're trying to pound a 6-inch round peg into a square, 1-inch whole. That's all this is," Clarke added. "There's no reason to do it. It's not about savings or convenience. It's not about anything that really matters."

Argued Meadows: "This doesn't hurt

anybody. It just means they cannot rely on a raise next year unless everybody else is caught up with them. This just helps everyone else. It doesn't directly hurt anyone."

District court administrators in both Lansing and East Lansing did not return calls for this story.

Schor said he hopes to bring a proposal to consolidate the 54A District Court with Ingham County — with or without East Lansing on board — to the Lansing City Council before October. City Council members in East Lansing and the Ingham County Board of Commissioners will also have the final say before consolidation can take place.

"That report doesn't show the savings that was anticipated, that's true, but we do still see an operational efficiency by putting this all under one organization," added County Board Chairman Bryan Crenshaw. "I think what's driving us right now is the efficiency in operations. We can save time and energy in our judicial system."

— KYLE KAMINSKI
kyle@lansingcitypulse.com

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF INGHAM
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
File No. 19-497-DE

Estate of Steven Michael Miller, Deceased. Date of birth: 09-23-1974.

TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Steven Michael Miller, died on or after 3/22/2019. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Freddie Michael Miller, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, MI 48933 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

April 15, 2019
Freddie Michael Miller
7983 Knox Road
Portland, MI 48875

CP#19-139

Running till he can't

Hertel plans court fight if necessary to stay on ballot in face of redistricting verdict

The popular opinion in town is that if Michigan must hold court-ordered special state Senate elections in 2020, East Lansing Democrat Curtis Hertel Jr. will be ineligible to run for his seat.

That's not how Hertel intends to let it go down, though.

If the federal appellate court decision on gerrymandered legislative and congressional districts stands, Hertel said he would file to run again in the 23rd Senate District seat in 2020 on the grounds that he was only allowed to serve a half of his second term. Hertel was just reelected last year.

If another perspective candidate would like to sue him over his constitutional interpretation, they can feel free to do it.

But Hertel is prepared to go to state Supreme Court to defend his position.

"If the district opened and my term is cut short, I'm running until the highest court tells me I can't," Hertel said. "After speaking with attorney, I believe firmly the Michigan Constitution is on my side."

Under the state's term-limit law, Michigan's Constitution reads: "No person shall be elected to the office of state senate more than two times." Hertel was elected in 2014 and, again, in 2018.

However, if the federal appellate court decision on gerrymandered legislative and congressional districts stands, Hertel said his second term would, effectively, be cut in half, which activates a second part of the Constitution.

"Any person appointed or elected to fill a vacancy in the house of representatives or the state senate for a period greater than one half of a term of such office, shall be considered to have been elected to serve one time in that office for the purposes of this section," it reads.

In this case, Hertel and, presumably, the other seven two-term senators will have served exactly half of a term, not more than one term, making this period between noon Jan. 1, 2019, and midnight Dec. 31 2020, less than a full term.



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

"An abrogated term is not a full term and creates a vacancy I am eligible to run for," Hertel said.

Under this theory, it's possible to argue that if Hertel, or any other senator, serves two abrogated two-year terms that they could run again in 2022, but Hertel didn't go there when asked.

Legislative Republicans are hoping to convince the U.S. Supreme Court to either pause or kill the appellate court decision ruling that the 2011-approved legislative and congressional maps were gerrymandered and must be redrawn by Aug. 1.

According to an attorney who specializes in constitutional and civil rights litigation, the U.S. Supreme Court must consider Michigan's gerrymandering appeal, but it likely won't do so until after it rules on pending cases in Maryland and North Carolina.

Sam Bagenstos, a University of Michigan law professor, said the lawmakers' appeal of the League of Women Voters' case is a direct appeal, which means the Supreme Court doesn't have discretion to decide whether to consider the case.

"It doesn't mean that they have to hear oral arguments on the case," he said. "They could issue an order affirming the lower court's decision; they could issue an opinion reversing or they could do something else in between, but they can't just sidestep the case the way they can with most stuff on their docket," he said.

On April 25, a three-judge Court of Appeals panel ruled that special elections would need to be held in 2020 in congressional, state Senate and House districts because current maps drawn by Republicans represent a political gerrymander "of historical proportions."

Republican lawmakers, including House Speaker Lee Chatfield, R-Levering, filed a notice of intent April 30 to appeal the ruling.

They are expected to ask the Supreme Court to stay the lower court's ruling to allow that appeal process to move forward.

Bagenstos, who ran unsuccessfully for Michigan Supreme Court justice in November, wouldn't speculate on how the U.S. Supreme Court might rule, but he noted that arguments likely will be addressed to target the court's newest justice, Brett Kavanaugh, who was

confirmed in 2018 to replace Justice Anthony Kennedy who retired.

Kennedy oftentimes was the swing vote to break a tie between liberal justices who want to apply some scrutiny to gerrymandering and conservatives who believe the issue isn't appropriate for federal court review.

But if those efforts fail, Hertel wants

to make it clear now that he fully intends to file to run again in the 23rd Senate District and that he will "until the highest court tells me I can't."

So, in short, Hertel quipped, "I'm not dead, yet."

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

CITY OF EAST LANSING NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 1457

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 26-56 OF DIVISION 2 - DISORDERLY CONDUCT - OF ARTICLE II - OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC PEACE AND ORDER - OF CHAPTER 26 - OFFENSES - OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING TO AMEND THE PROVISIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE USE AND POSSESSION OF MARIHUANA.

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

Section 26-56 of Chapter 26 of the Code of the City of East Lansing is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 26-56. - Use and possession of marihuana.

(a) No person under the age of 21 shall consume or have in his/her possession or under his/her control, marihuana or cannabis as defined by MCL 333.7106 unless pursuant to a valid prescription filled by a pharmacy certified pursuant to MCL 333.7335-MCL 333.7336, or unless that person is a qualifying patient who has been issued and possesses a registry identification card for the medical use of marihuana in accordance with Initiated Law 1 of 2008

(b) No person shall transfer marihuana or marihuana accessories to a person under the age of 21 unless pursuant to a valid prescription filled by a pharmacy certified pursuant to MCL 333.7335-MCL 333.7336, or unless that person is a qualifying patient who has been issued and possesses a registry identification card for the medical use of marihuana in accordance with Initiated Law 1 of 2008.

(c) No person shall consume marihuana in a public place or smoke marihuana where prohibited by the person who owns, occupies or manages the property, except for purposes of this subdivision, a public place does not include an area designated for consumption within a municipality that has authorized consumption in designated areas that are not accessible to persons under 21 years of age.

(d) No person shall cultivate marihuana plants if the plants are visible from a public place without the use of binoculars, aircraft, or other optical aids or outside of an enclosed area equipped with locks or other functioning security devices that restrict access to the area.

(e) No person shall smoke marihuana within a vehicle upon a public way.

(f) No person shall possess marihuana accessories or possess or consume marihuana on the grounds of a public or private school where children attend classes in preschool programs, kindergarten programs, or grades 1 through 12, or in a school bus.

(g) No person shall possess more than 2.5 ounces of marihuana within a person's place of residence unless the excess marihuana is stored in a container or area equipped with locks or other functioning security devices that restrict access to the contents of the container or area.

(h) A person who violates subsection (a) (b) (c) (d) or (g) of this section shall be responsible for a civil infraction and shall be punished by one or more of the following:

(1) A fine of not more than \$25.00 plus costs to be assessed by the court;

(2) Service to the community for not more than 30 days;

(3) Substance abuse screening and/or attendance and completion of a program of "substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation services" or "substance abuse prevention services" as defined in section 6107 of the Michigan Public Health Code (MCL 333.6107), as ordered by the court."

(i) A person who violates subsection (e) or (f) of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by one or more of the following:

(1) A fine of not more than \$100.00 plus costs to be assessed by the court;

(2) Jail for not more than 90 days;

(3) Service to the community for not more than 90 days;

(4) Substance abuse screening and/or attendance and completion of a program of "substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation services" or "substance abuse prevention services" as defined in section 6107 of the Michigan Public Health Code (MCL 333.6107), as ordered by the judge or district court magistrate.

(j) A person sentenced to perform service to the community under this section shall not receive compensation for such service, and shall reimburse the state or city for the cost of supervision incurred by the state or city as a result of the person's activities in that service.

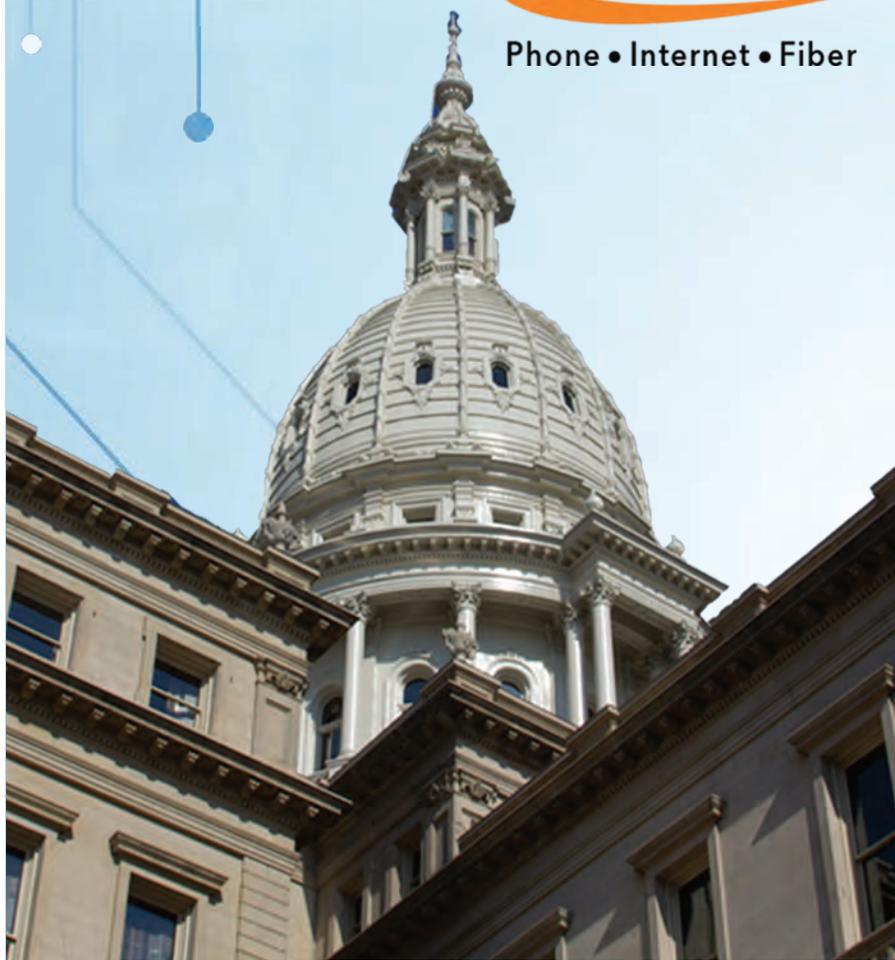
(k) The provisions of this section restricting the possession of marihuana or any derivative, compound, preparation, or mixture shall not apply to common carriers or warehousemen or their employees engaged in the lawful transportation or storage of such drugs, or to public officers or employees while engaged in the performance of their official duties nor to temporary incidental possession on the part of employees or agents of persons lawfully entitled to possession.

(l) A patient and a patient's primary caregiver may assert the medical purpose for using marihuana as a defense to any prosecution involving marihuana under this ordinance and such defense shall be presumed valid where the evidence meets the requirements of MCL 333.26428(a)(1), (2), and (3).

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#19-137

ACCELERATING MID-MICHIGAN BUSINESS SINCE 1992



The age of Idiocracy

Trump is a symptom, not the disease,
and defeating him is only the first step

The dirty little secret about American politics is that the average voter knows next to nothing about their government or the policies it enacts, which means half of voters know less than that.

That doesn't mean they're idiots. They're just normal folks with normal jobs and normal families who have neither the time nor the inclination to fixate on this stuff, which might be better for their mental health.

Nor is that a partisan snipe. It's true that Donald Trump is president because of low-information voters — specifically, poorly educated whites who backed him by a 2-1 margin, driven by anxiety over changing cultural norms and, yes, racism. But the Democrats have their share of low-information voters, too, many of whom are minorities who might be drawn to Trump's brand of authoritarianism were they not its targets. Indeed, while Democrats have been luring disaffected college-educated whites from the Republicans during the Trump era, 47 percent of Democratic primary voters in 2016 hadn't completed a bachelor's degree. These voters tend to live in the South, where Democrats have less power, and are less traditionally liberal. Interestingly, according to a recent New York Times analysis of survey data, only about a quarter of Democrats are progressive activists, and only about 10 percent would be considered democratic socialists. In other words, Twitter is not real life.

But that gets at the asymmetry between the parties: The Democrats' activists and doctrinaire liberals are, for the most part, college-educated people who care about and agitate for policy as a means to effect social change, even if the rank of file aren't. They drive the conversation about where the party is headed.

Republican activists — the ones on the front lines — aren't as interested in policy, at least not any policy grounded in empiricism. Over the last two decades, and particularly since the tea

party emerged in 2009 and was then handed the bullhorn of social media, what was left of the GOP's diminishing intellectual class has beaten into submission by the kind of revanchist, often conspiratorial, increasingly nativist, proudly ignorant know-nothingism both embodied and empowered by the likes of Fox News' primetime lineup.

The inmates took over the asylum. Or better put: The dunces took over the classroom. So now you have a party in which more than 90 percent of its voters support a man who can't make it through a policy paper unless it has pretty pictures, who, despite having access to the largest trove of intelligence in the world, prefers to obsess over cable television news, and who spent his weekend retweeting white supremacists to argue that private social-media companies should be legally obligated to offer a platform to fringe conspiracy sites. That's a position, by the way, that not long ago would have been heretical to the GOP,

“Defeating Trump, as necessary as it is, will only be the first step in a long, intensive and uncertain battle.”

as would Trump's embrace of tariffs and his willingness to play footsie with foreign dictators.

As the college educated abandon the Republican Party, this dynamic will become more pronounced. Ideological consistency and intellectual rigor will become irrelevant, replaced by the atavistic urges and authoritarian fealties intrinsic to right-wing populism. Internal critiques will be sidelined; party leaders, should they wish to remain party leaders, will get in line.

This is already happening. To cite the most obvious example: A few years ago, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina warned that nominating Trump would destroy the GOP. Graham is now Trump's biggest handmaiden, using his chairmanship of the Senate Judiciary Committee to amplify the president's deep-state conspiracies.

I've written that Trump is a cancer corrupting the body politic, and this is what I mean: Cancer is the uncon-



JEFFERY C. BILLMAN

INFORMED DISSENT

Billman

from page 8

trolled growth of abnormal cells that eventually overwhelm bodily defense mechanisms. Trump came to power on the wave of an abnormal growth that overwhelmed our democracy's defenses. A healthier democracy would have fought it off. But, after the Great Recession and decades of pointless wars, our democracy was weak, and the Trump cancer grew to the point where it now threatens the whole body.

But here's where the analogy breaks down: While Trump is a product of this cancer, and he expedited its spread, he wasn't its cause. Excising him in 2020 won't close Pandora's box.

That ship has sailed, and thinking otherwise is dangerous.

I have several issues with Joe Biden's recently declared bid for the Democratic presidential nomination. His premise that Trump is merely an aberration is a big one. Trump isn't. Rather, he's the culmination of a half-century of calculated cyni-

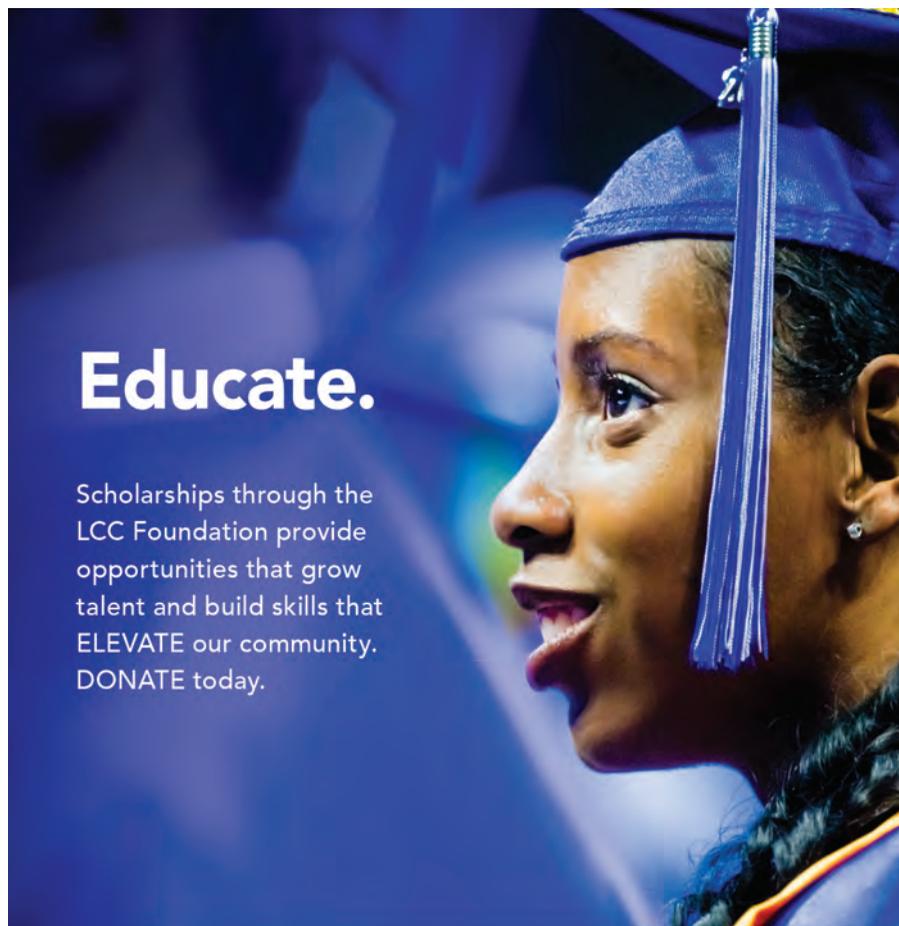
cism, dating back to Richard Nixon's Southern strategy, that stoked racial resentment for votes, and three decades of Fox News and talk-radio propaganda that laid the groundwork for an army of angry, aggrieved white men who think they're the victims of political correctness, diversity and cultural evolution.

That's the real cancer. Defeating Trump, as necessary as it is, will only be the first step in a long, intensive and uncertain battle against the disease.

And the cure isn't a revival of the anti-Trump status quo. That ship has sailed, too — another strike against Biden. A generation of foreign policy disasters, crushing economic inequality and a decimation of trust in American institutions has seen to that. The old way has failed, and its broken promises, I fear, will prove impotent in stopping the Trump malignancy or whatever succeeds it.

What the new course will look like is the fundamental question animating the Democratic primary. I'll jump into those very murky waters next week.

(Jeffrey Billman is the editor of INDY Week, in Durham, North Carolina.)



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STATE OF MICHIGAN OFFICE OF THE INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER

In the Matter of: Marshall Tile Drain

NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DETERMINATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to you as a person liable for an assessment that the Board of Determination, composed of Paulette Hatchett, Helen Le Blanc, Cheryl Risner and Dennis Williams (Alternate), will meet on **Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Aurelius Township Hall, 1939 S. Aurelius Road, Mason, Michigan, 48854** to hear all interested persons and evidence and to determine whether the actions prayed for in a Petition dated July 30, 2018 for the cleaning out, relocating, widening, deepening, straightening, tiling, extending, improving, providing structures, mechanical devices and pumping equipment, adding branches and a relief drain and/or relocating along a highway to the drain known and designated as the Marshall Tile Drain, is necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare of Aurelius Township, in accordance with Sections 72 and 191 of Act No. 40, PA 1956, as amended, and for the protection of the public health of said Aurelius Township, and further, to determine whether it is necessary to add lands to and/or delete lands from the Marshall Tile Drain Drainage District pursuant to Section 197 of Act No. 40, PA 1956, as amended.

Proceedings conducted at this public hearing will be subject to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, and you are further notified that information regarding this meeting may be obtained from the Ingham County Drain Commissioner. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Ingham County Drain Commissioner at the number noted below (voice) or through the Michigan Relay Center at 711 (TTY) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. Minutes of the meeting will be on file in the following office: Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that persons aggrieved by the decisions of the Board of Determination may seek judicial review in the Circuit Court for the County of Ingham within ten (10) days of the determination. If the actions prayed for in the Petition are determined to be necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare, a special assessment may be levied against properties that benefit from the project. A landowner or party of interest to property to be assessed, or their agent, may appear in person to comment on the necessity of the project.

Dated: April 26, 2019

Patrick E. Lindemann
Ingham County Drain Commissioner
Phone: (517) 676-8395

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MSU class aids fight against combat veteran suicide

By DENNIS BURCK

The first few weeks of class for Combat Veteran Certificate students didn't involve running out and buying textbooks. It involved writing a farewell letter to family, receiving a pair of green dog tags and several packets of ready-to-eat military rations.

This is part of MSU's new immersion style course on how to treat combat veterans for PTSD and combat trauma. Last year, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs released a study of veteran suicides from 2005 to 2016. It found that on average approximately 6,132 veterans and 1,387 service members die each year from this cause. That's nearly 20 lives lost per day.

This means veteran suicides surpass the total 6,951 military combat deaths in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan from 2001 to 2018 in one year.

Tina Blaschke-Thompson, a senior clinical instructor of the MSU Combat Veteran Certificate courses, speaks from experience. Her husband Kevin Thompson, a former marine who served for seven years, struggled with PTSD and depression after returning home from the Iraq War.

She noticed that nothing in her over 10 years of experience working in social work prepared her for this.

"By not digging deep into that combat trauma to develop a thorough understanding of what that looks like, social workers won't be prepared to help a veteran ever work through it," Blaschke-Thompson said. "That's what we experienced through my husband meeting helpers who had no idea what he went through."

Right off the bat was one faux pas after another with Thompson's social workers, Blaschke-Thompson recalls. One called Thompson a "soldier," a designation from the Army instead of the Marines.

A slip such as this shows a cultural gap between the people treating these service people and the service people themselves, Blaschke-Thompson said.

The Department of Veteran Affairs is the largest single employer of social workers in the U.S., but many of them do not specialize in combat trauma, Blaschke-Thompson said.

"Military social work is very broad. The combat piece is just a really small piece of what they cover," she

said. "Through my experience with my husband, his combat experience is what was especially traumatic."

Seeing a void in treatment, she contacted Glenn Stutzky, a fellow senior clinical instructor of social work at MSU. The pair looked into the topic and found there were little to no dedicated courses or programs on combat trauma for social workers in the U.S.

Another disconnect the instructors found was between service people and medical providers.

"The predominant diagnosis for people coming back from war who are having difficulties, especially if it looks like it has an emotional element, is PTSD," Stutzky said.

PTSD is predominantly a stress and anxiety disorder well researched with treatment methods since the Vietnam War, he added.

"Tina and I were looking at this wondering, 'Why are suicide rates still so stable?' Seven thousand people a year is not a small amount when you are talking about how less than 1% of the population are those actually serving in the military."

They came across developing



Evers

research on the concept of treating "moral injury," making it a prime focus in the fight against veteran depression.

Psychiatrist Jonathan Shay coined the term working with Vietnam veterans, defining it as "betrayal of what is right by someone who holds legitimate authority in a high stakes situation."

Stutzky said, "They have seen, smelled and heard things where it violates their deepest identity as who they are in their moral heart. It is a



Dennis Burck/City Pulse

MSU's Combat Veteran Certificate course gives students a pair of green dog tags.

wound and an injury just as real as anything else."

Part of the confusion on behalf of social work is a Venn diagram effect, where PTSD and a "moral injury" — the injury done to one's conscious, or moral, compass — see some overlapping symptoms.

"What we are doing by more clearly defining moral injury is to tease it out because it needs a different approach for healing," Stutzky said.

In summer 2018, SW 491: Embracing the Stories of War, the first of a series of three veteran-focused social work classes were offered. Stutzky and Blaschke-Thompson decided to teach it through immersion and narrative, bringing in real combat veterans and artifacts to tell their stories.

Stutzky looks at this similar to a trainee entering the medical world testing on cadavers. "You need a certain amount of exposure to develop what you need to handle a specific situation," he said.

There are many accounts of social workers recoiling to stories of war from their clients, which has a chilling effect on the effectiveness of therapy, he added.

Part of the solution is Stutzky and Blaschke-Thompson opening up a no-credit version of the class for human service professionals desiring to earn the newfound certification. It is \$500 a class plus the cost of learning materials. All three courses are required for full certification.

The most intensive part of the

immersive course came from the two days students had to spend in "combat."

In simulated combat, students had to seclude themselves from friends, family, the Internet and all meals, except military rations, for two days. One student even carried a baseball bat with her at all times to mimic the weight of a rifle.

Joel Evers, an inaugural graduate of the certification, hiked five miles into the woods with a 90 lb. rucksack, slept outside for two days and listened to a veteran-approved playlist of music that servicemen listened to while at war.

"It was more than walking in their shoes, it was building empathy. I can't imagine doing what they had to do in that setting. It gave us only a glimpse of what it could've been like for them," Evers said.

The first group of eight students graduated with a Combat Veterans Certificate last May. Each one plans to work with veterans directly in the field post-graduation, according to Blaschke-Thompson.

In 2018, Blaschke-Thompson and Stutzky received a Council of Social Work Education award for Innovative Teaching in Social Work for SW491: Embracing the Stories of War

"As civilians, we hold some responsibility for what goes on. We elected the officials who sent them to war," Evers said. "With that being said, we are responsible for who they are, what they did and the consequences when they get home."

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ARTS & CULTURE

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Mahler, McDonald loom large in symphony's '19-20 season

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The soprano splendor of Broadway and screen star Audra McDonald and the transcendent grandeur of Gustav Mahler's "Resurrection" Symphony will make mighty tentpoles for the 90th Lansing Symphony season gala, to be announced to subscribers after Friday's 2018-19 season finale.

"We wanted to do something really special for the 90th season, something that might have even broader appeal than straight classical music," Lansing Symphony maestro Timothy Muffitt said.

McDonald has received six Tony Awards, more than any performer, and is the only person to win all four acting categories. She'll join the home team Sept. 21 for a romp through the Great American Songbook, preceded by an orchestral warm-up of symphonic dances by



Courtesy photo

Mahler is a late-romantic composer known for creating symphonies reflecting Christian themes.

energetic California composer Bruce Stark.

McDonald's supple, muscular pipes and sharp sense of humor spark instant rapport with audiences, whether the venue is Broadway, the White House (where President Barack Obama bestowed a National Medal of Arts upon her), Lincoln Center or a gig with the Lansing Symphony.

"Audra is magic," Muffitt said. "No one does what she does. She seemed like the perfect fit, as one of America's great artists and musicians."

On Nov. 2, the orchestra will go in a completely different direction, devoting an entire evening to Mahler's gargantuan Second Symphony, also known as the "Resurrection" Symphony.

The rare feat will require all of MSU's choral forces, vocal soloists, augmented strings and major orchestral reinforcements.

"There's a very large contingent of offstage brass players — and a pretty large contingent of onstage brass players," Muffitt said. "It's very exciting to mount something like this."

Anytime Mahler's Second is performed, it's a major cultural event.

"You're just walking into a new world," Muffitt said. "There's something almost visual about this music. Unlike a Brahms symphony, which seems to exist in the realm of pure music, Mahler has roots that are somehow in daily life — it seems to spring from an earthly experience and goes upward from there."

The classical connoisseur's night of the year, and Muffitt's favorite set list, is a tight braid of centuries-spanning artistry Oct. 11, from Mozart ("Prague" Symphony) to Prokofiev ("Classical" Symphony) and Stravinsky ("Pulcinella" Suite).

Muffitt considers "Pulcinella," with its many extended and exquisite solos, a chance to highlight some of the orchestra's talented principals, concerto style. Muffitt has been eager to do "Pulcinella," the pungent fruit of Stravinsky's neo-classical period, for years. To further refine the program, he paired it with another great 20th-century neo-classical work, by



Courtesy photo

McDonald, 48, is an American actress and singer performing with the symphony Sept. 21

Prokofiev, and added a dose of the real deal, from Mozart.

Each year, Muffitt likes to feature one of the symphony's principals as a soloist. The Jan. 18 concert will feature a little-heard clarinet concerto by Jean Françaix, with Lansing Symphony principal clarinetist Guy Yehuda doing solo honors.

When Yehuda suggested the fairly obscure Francaix concerto, Muffitt built a "colorful and spirited" French program around it — Paul Dukas' "Sorcerer's Apprentice," Ravel's "Mother Goose Suite" and Gershwin's "An American in Paris."

"Guy is a beautiful musician with a lot of personality," Muffitt said.

The season will close May 8, 2020, with one of the most lyrical and noble of symphonies, Brahms' Second, and a solo appearance by a pianist from Kalamazoo's Gilmore Keyboard Festival.

The season, as announced, looks a bit short on newer music, but it's not.

It's just that Muffitt doesn't know what it will be yet. Next season, for the first time, the Lansing Symphony will host a composer in residence for three years, from fall 2019 to spring 2022. Symphony donors Sam and Mary Austin are the principal supporters of the initiative, which has given the maestro a whole new way to be excited.

"We've always had a commitment to nurturing new music, but this is a whole different ballgame," Muffitt said. "This person will be integrated with the orchestra and the community for an extended period of time."

The last concert of the 2019-2020 season, and the two subsequent season openers and closers, will each include a piece of music by the composer-in-residence.

The job comes with several duties, including writing a 10 to 20-minute piece the orchestra will premiere some time during the composer's tenure.

The community will get a rare chance to follow a composer, up close, in real time.

"This also puts us on the map, by doing work that is highly significant to the music world in this country," Muffitt said.

The symphony's executive director, Courtney Millbrook, said the applications have been "overwhelming."

Rounding out the 2019-20 season, three pops concerts are planned: a holiday concert Dec. 22, a night of movie music Feb. 15 and an ABBA extravaganza March 28.

The Chamber Music Series starts with an ensemble anchored by horn player Corbin Wagner Sept. 29 and continues with the group Quartal Harmony (string quartet plus flute) Oct. 20 and piano quartets by Fauré and Dvorák March 1.

The Lansing Symphony Jazz Band will hold two concerts, Nov. 24 and April 16. LSO musicians will pop up in the community at several scheduled events, including two stops at the downtown Capital Area District Library Oct. 17 and Feb. 9 and the Broad Museum ArtLab Nov. 17 and March 8.

Jordyn Davis fights for her dreams in music

She's the first African-American woman to earn a bachelor's degree in composition from MSU

By **AUDREY MATUSZ**

To listen to one of Jordyn Davis' original compositions is to take a day trip through the mountain ranges of personal growth, when the blazing sun and shadowy moonlight illuminate the forces of life-altering change. Her journey to rediscovering her deepest passion involved years of being told she could never be a professional musician.

"Before I came to MSU, I had people tell me, 'Music isn't a thing you can do,'" said Davis, a jazz bassist and composer. "Eighteen-year-old me was such a nervous and shy individual who really wanted to be involved with music and have my voice heard, but at the time, I felt like I needed to focus on what I thought I should be doing."

After being told that the bass wasn't a "real instrument" and that she was unfit for the MSU College of Music, she con-

tinued to fight to make a place for herself. On Sunday, Davis became the first African-American woman to receive a bachelor of music degree in composition in the history of the College of Music. She is also the first person to graduate with a B.M. in composition and jazz studies at the same time.

Davis, 24, grew up in Westland, where she could have taken the path paved by the line of military brats in her family. All throughout middle school and high school, Davis was the only bass player in the school band. Growing up, although she couldn't afford formal music lessons, she developed a breadth of musical interests and started a music blog. She played electric bass in a rock band her senior year, but she had to quit when she moved to East Lansing to study environmental engineering at MSU.

Toward the end of her sophomore year, Davis went on an alternative spring break trip. She bonded with her fellow travelers through jam sessions where she performed original songs. The once closeted lyricist was empowered by the positive feedback she received and



Courtesy photo

Davis next to her upright bass in her signature black, wide brim hat.

began the process of rerouting her academic plans.

"I had always dreamed of being a composer and scoring films, but I didn't know there were resources for me to do those things at MSU," Davis said.

As a beginner, Davis said composition Professor Mark Sullivan was fundamental in her development as a songwriter. Sullivan encouraged her to audition for the College of Music. However, considering she had never taken formal bass lessons before MSU, the audition didn't go well. Davis broke the news to Sullivan, who introduced her to Rodney Whitaker, the director of jazz studies and a renowned bass player.

Davis said Whitaker instantly recruited her, and she started taking lessons with him in fall 2016. While feeling one step closer to her dream, jumping into one of the most competitive jazz programs in the country was "devastating."

"It was easy to get caught up in comparing myself and being insecure of my knowledge and understanding of this music," Davis said.

She added that she was also one of the few people "running their own business," referring to the band she formed at MSU, called Compotheway, "while working three jobs and paying to support themselves in school."

If there is anything to know about Davis, it's that she is willing to sacrifice just about any luxury and even essentials, such as sleep, to accomplish her goals. Her unwavering desire to master the bass and also get a degree in composition stunned the dean of the music college. After studying jazz for three months, she presented the college administrators with a three-year course schedule that fulfilled the requirements for a B.M. in composition and jazz stud-

ies.

Music College adviser Talitha Trout said students have always been discouraged from combining the two majors due to the heavy workload. She said Davis was unique in her ability to start the necessary conversations between the two departments and asking the right questions.

"One thing about Jordyn is she is not just smart or talented. She cares about other people and how her music affects people," Trout said.

Trout added that Davis was instrumental in mentoring fellow jazz students, especially women, who are the minority in the program.

In 2017, Davis released the debut EP, "Connections," for her neo-soul band, which she described as the "purest form of my expression." In 2018, she gave a TED Talk at MSU about how the project helped her foster meaningful connections with people.

The musician's lifetime goal is to start a nonprofit that allows young girls to study music and prepare for jobs in the music industry while also teaching them their responsibility to the environment.

In the fall, she will return to MSU to get her master's in jazz studies while serving as a graduate assistant to the department. For the next two years, Davis plans to focus on improving her playing and developing Compotheway.

"In one of my songs I say, 'I'm dying if I'm not changing,'" Davis said as she reflected on her six years at MSU. "My family, people who have pushed me and the people who have made me feel the worst about myself have helped me become the best version of myself at this point. I'm thankful for all of it."

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Joan Marcus

George Washington (Carvens Lissaint, at right) makes Alexander Hamilton (Austin Scott) his right-hand man in the touring production of "Hamilton."

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Whether you go to see "Hamilton" at the Wharton Center this month or not is a private matter between you and your accountant.

To put it in the proper idiom: The Broadway money machine about the men on the money will soon be rhyming and dancing in Lansing, with a mission that's historic and a vision that's euphoric. The only pollution in this revolution is that access to "Hamilton" is so exclusive its message of inclusion is sometimes elusive.

When the founders are in the house, you'd better favor beans over meat for weeks, savor every beat and soak up every syllable they speak, because it'll take two paychecks for you and your sweetie to settle your meat in those seats.

OK, that's out of my system.

"Hamilton," which opens Tuesday

at the Wharton Center for a nearly three-week run, is a treasury drain, to be sure, but it's also a cultural phenomenon without parallel. Any show that has 8-year-olds singing about the American Revolution and gets glowing notices from Barack Obama and Dick Cheney is worth a closer look, and we can do that here for free.

I talked to some local "Hamilton" fans with pretty strong cred in theater, music, history and African-American studies and see why they think "Hamilton" is worth parting with so many Washingtons.

'Door opener'

Early in "Hamilton," the outgunned, outmanned American colonists get the word from General George Washington: "Guns and horses giddy up! I decide to divvy up my forces; they're skittish as the British cut the city up."

The spectacle of a black George Washington spitting brisk hip-hop orders from between his wooden teeth administered an almost chiropractic

Paying homage to the verbal virtuosity of the founding fathers by turning them into rappers ties both ends of American history into a wild, beautiful bow.

crack to American culture when "Hamilton" started its run at New York's Public Theater in early 2015.

Since then, the public's thirst for Lin-Manuel Miranda's "story about America then, told by America now"

has been almost impossible to slake. A Chicago production launched in 2016, even though it's rare for a second standing production of a Broadway show to run concurrently with the original. The national tour hitting the Wharton Center this month launched in San Francisco in early 2017, years ahead of the usual timetable for Broadway tours.

Now nearly every student in the nation gets a "Hamilton" unit in history class. Emily Conroy-Krutz, a historian of 18th and 19th-century America and an assistant professor at MSU, plans on taking her daughter, who is in third grade, to see it for the second time when it comes to Wharton.

"She and her friends love to sing the music together and talk about their favorite songs," Conroy-Kurtz said. "We

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left the theater and she's asking me all these questions about the Revolution. She's engaged in a way I never could have imagined. It's amazing."

The show about the founding has its own founding myth. On May 12, 2009, Lin-Manuel Miranda performed at the White House, with President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama in the front row, as part of "An Evening of Poetry, Music and the Spoken Word."

Miranda was expected to sing a song from his musical "In the Heights," but he switched it up and made an announcement so audacious it drew laughter.

"I'm actually working on a hip-hop album — a concept album — about the life of someone who embodies hip-hop: Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton," he announced.

In a stunning YouTube video, Miranda put this preposterous idea in practice, rapping the opening number of "Hamilton," with Obama nodding along and Michelle Obama snapping her fingers. You can hear the laughter gradually die down as Miranda carefully and urgently spits each word, forehead veins bulging.

The video has gotten nearly 7 million views by now.

When it was posted, students in Conroy-Krutz's Revolutionary America class at MSU were struggling with an assignment to find a contemporary discussion of the Revolution and write a term paper about it.

"I got 10 papers on 'The Patriot,'" Conroy-Krutz said, referring to a 2000



Conroy-Krutz

Mel Gibson movie she said teachers have to "teach against" and "debunk."

A student alerted Conroy-Krutz to Miranda's YouTube video and they all had a good laugh about how crazy the idea was.

"Here we are, a few years later, and it's taken over everything," Conroy-Krutz said.

Non-stop

Historians have pointed out plenty of simplifications, distortions and omissions in "Hamilton," but many



Joan Marcus

Bryson Bruce (center) doubles as Thomas Jefferson and the Marquis de Lafayette in the touring production of "Hamilton."

high-profile scholars of the period, beginning with Hamilton biographer (and "Hamilton" consultant) Ron Chernow, have given it a seal of approval.

"Miranda did his work," Conroy-Kurtz said. "He read extensively."

"The 10 Duel Commandments," a song about the rules of dueling, comes straight from the work of Yale historian Joanne Freeman. Freeman said her "jaw hit the floor" when she first heard the song and she recognized words from a document she found years before, at the bottom of a box in the New York Historical Society.

"I can detail a lot of things that are not discussed or included in the play, or that are outright wrong with it, but it is important to remember that this is a hip-hop musical," Freeman said in an interview published in YaleNews. The discussion begins, she said, when her students ask her: "What really happened?"

If Conroy-Krutz has any misgivings about the show, they center on the main character.

"Hamilton is not a figure I would choose to celebrate," she said. "It's possible to come out of the show with a sense of him as much more democratically inclined than he was."

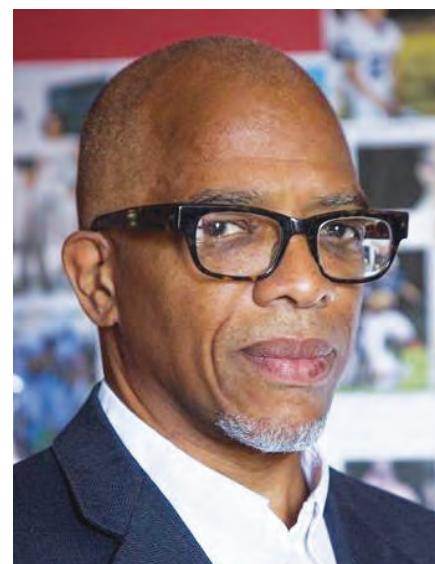
In the classroom, Conroy-Kurtz and her students cite the song "Non-Stop," in which Hamilton is credited with talking for six straight hours at the Constitutional Convention ("in what is surely the most un-Tweetable freestyle of all time," Miranda told a graduating class at the University of Pennsylvania in 2016).

"What he was talking about in those six hours was creating an unbelievably

centralized government that would look a great deal like a monarchy," Conroy-Kurtz said. "You have folks who certainly don't share his politics now, celebrating him as their favorite founding father, and that's interesting."

Skill with a quill

Jeff Wray, an MSU English Professor, teaches courses in black film, African American literature and culture. He believes that the power of the word — described as "skill with a quill" in the



Wray

show — is the most potent arrow in "Hamilton's" quiver.

Nearly every line in the show pops with internal rhymes, galloping nouns and double dipping verbs.

"Let's take a stand with the stamina God has granted us," Hamilton proclaims.

"It's hard to have intercourse over four sets of corsets," Aaron Burr

laments.

"Wait till I sally in on a stallion with the first black battalion," abolitionist John Laurens boasts.

Paying homage to the verbal virtuosity of the founding fathers by turning them into rappers ties both ends of American history into a wild, beautiful bow.

"Even folks I know that are really into hip-hop and might say 'Hamilton' isn't 'real' hip-hop, admire the density of the wordplay," Wray said. "Whether you're talking about Shakespeare, the Bible, James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, Run DMC, the love of words is the connection a lot of folks really respond to."

Besides, the soaring melodies and languid set piece numbers heard in traditional Broadway shows could never have packed as much character development, history and political debate into your head as "Hamilton's" rapid-fire rhymes. Rodney Whitaker, director of jazz studies at MSU, saw the touring version of "Hamilton" in Phoenix last year.

"It was powerful," he said. "It was time to bring that story to life, and it was brilliant to use rap to do it. Otherwise, to get all the words they needed to get in, it would have taken six or seven hours."

The show's blend of hip-hop and history reminded Whitaker of a similar convergence in the 1990s, when hip-hop artists sampled jazz tracks and hip-hop elements made their way into jazz.

"Being a jazz musician, I was such a purist in my youth, if you had asked me about that, I might have looked

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askance at it," Whitaker said. "But I've since met a lot of people who found jazz through Digable Planets, Us3 and one of those groups."

Similarly, Whitaker thinks the appeal of rap is bringing a new generation of kids — and adults — to study the founding period more closely.

"It made me go back and read some of 'The Federalist Papers' and some of the other things that are cited," Whitaker said. "It's a genius way to bring a new audience of people to something this



Whitaker

important."

Owning it

The bold stroke that makes Jeff Wray giddiest about "Hamilton" is perhaps the show's most celebrated feature — its diverse casting.

"He's saying, 'This is how I'm casting it and I don't give a damn, there you go,'" Wray said. "This story that is over 200 years old — this is how we own it, how we make it contemporary, how we make it now."

The big flip of casting actors of color as the Founding Fathers, most of whom were slave owners, doesn't sit well with everyone. In an essay called "Black Actors Dress Up Like Slave Traders — and it's not Halloween," virtuosic African-American poet and nov-

elist Ishmael Reed asked a provocative question: "Can you imagine Jewish actors in Berlin's theaters taking roles of Goering? Goebbels? Eichmann? Hitler?"

Other historians object that under the skin, "Hamilton" still serves up a "great white men" take on history. Lyra D. Monteiro, a professor of history and African-American studies at Rutgers University, criticized the show's "erasure of the black past" in a 2018 essay.

"Despite the proliferation of black and brown bodies on stage, not a single enslaved or free person of color exists as a character in the play," Monteiro wrote.

"It's an interesting take," Wray said. "But I don't think Miranda was interested in shifting our gaze to the corners of the room. He wanted it fully on the main players. He wanted to subvert and play with the iconic figures. George Washington — yeah, we're going to make him a black man, and just keep on going."

Wray does admit that the scrappy Hamilton of the play is a partial fabrication.

"One of the main critiques you hear is that he makes Hamilton this very down, immigrant figure," Wray said. "History doesn't offer that kind of evidence. He was brilliant, and a social climber, but as one of my friends said, 'Was he really down with the black and the brown?'"

Conroy-Krutz is comfortable with the show's liberties, if only because they encourage further study.

"The potential downside, if you watch 'Hamilton' and don't engage more deeply, is that you can walk away from the show thinking these elite figures were attuned to questions of diversity and representation, equality and open access," she said. "They weren't."

None of that is a deal breaker, though, even for an incisive student of America's fraught racial history as Wray.

"I like the license they take," he said. "It's open to critique but in the big picture, I'm constantly going, 'Damn. Wow.'"

New lens

Chad Badgero, director of the

Peppermint Creek Theatre Co., is the kind of theater fanatic who goes around listening to Broadway soundtracks all day.

"We've done 'In the Heights' and I'm a fan of Lin-Manuel Miranda anyway, but he's written some great music for 'Hamilton,' Badgero said. "It's not 'Kiss Me, Kate,' it's a language young people can relate to and understand."



Badgero

But Badgero's love for "Hamilton" goes beyond its obvious strokes of music and casting.

He admires the show's deft double casting of several pairs of characters. The same actor (Daveed Diggs in the original cast) plays both the Marquis de Lafayette and Thomas Jefferson. The same actress (Jasmine Cephas-Jones in the original cast) plays both Peggy Schuyler, younger sister of Hamilton's wife, Eliza, and Hamilton's mistress, Maria Reynolds, and so on.

In each case, the double casting highlights some common conflict or character relationship the paired characters have with Hamilton.

"It's not just to tighten the ensemble or give more opportunities for the actors to show their chops," Badgero said. "It comments on the relationship between the two characters and it's done so well."

Lean, smart stagecraft is another lesson Badgero drew from "Hamilton." Deftly deployed bits of timber, ropes and brick suggest the time period with-

out overwhelming the eye or distracting from the spoken word and interpersonal drama.

"They don't truck out 19 different set pieces — 'Oh, now we're at Constitution Hall,'" he said. "They create a world with their bodies and with one little prop. It's abstract in some ways, but it's fast and continually moving. They really trust the audience to go along in a way most productions don't."

The music of "Hamilton" throws several genres into its hip-hop mill, from Britpop to R&B and a hint of traditional Broadway.

"Don't get me wrong — jukebox musicals have a place," Badgero said. (He should talk — he's currently directing the Abba-riffic musical "Mamma Mia" at Okemos High School.) "But 'Hamilton' is new material, a new voice, and a new lens to put on history. Creating work that doesn't exist yet is harder for dramatists and directors but it's what people want."

In a recent video for WKAR tied to "Hamilton," Jeff Wray focused on what he called the "genius of adaptation." He chose two versions of the song "My Favorite Things:" the original, from Broadway's "The Sound of Music," sung by Julie Andrews, and jazz saxophonist John Coltrane's extended, euphoric take, recorded shortly thereafter.

"Both classics, both brilliant," Wray said. "It's something new and different. That's what 'Hamilton' reminds me of. It's a great adaptation, amalgamation, not just a remake."

All of the people I talked to about "Hamilton" for this story have all seen "Hamilton" already, except Wray. (And they all plan to go again.) Until now, Wray has known "Hamilton" only through cast recordings, "The Hamilton Mixtape" and YouTube videos.

Whether he catches up with the tour through East Lansing and Detroit or goes to the Chicago production, he is determined to part with as many Washingtons as necessary to see "Hamilton" in the flesh.

"It's difficult, difficult, difficult, but I'm going to see it this summer, come hell or high water," he said.

Short a ticket? Enter the Ham4Ham Ticket Lottery

By AUDREY MATUSZ

Even musical theater buffs scoff at the astronomical price for one ticket to "Hamilton" — starting around \$130. Thankfully, there is hope for the fiscally conscious with the Ham4Ham online ticket lottery.

"Hamilton" ticket lottery for May 14 performance

Opens: May 12, 11 a.m.
Ends: May 13, 9 a.m.
Hamiltonmusical.com/lottery
1-800-WHARTON

How it works:

For every show, the lottery offers 40 seats for \$10 a pop. The lottery opens two days before the show date at 11 a.m.

and closes at 9 a.m. one day prior to the performance. Participants can sign up online or by downloading the official "Hamilton" app from the Apple store or Google Play. Entries are limited to one per person and each winner can purchase up to two tickets.

It's all in the email.

Winners will be randomly selected and notified through email at the end of the lottery. The email will include a link to purchase a maximum of two tickets with a credit card. But don't get too caught up celebrating because the link expires by 4 p.m. that same day.



How to lose:

Despite the slim to none chance on getting a ticket, it's hard to really lose at this game.

Participants must be over 18 years old to qualify for the raffle. Those

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Rap, EDM dominates Prime Music Festival's 2019 lineup

By **AUDREY MATUSZ**

Time to restock your glitter and bandana collection because the Prime Music Festival is back and hotter than ever. Prime Social Group and MI Entertainment announced this year's lineup Tuesday and say there is more on the way.

The two-day festival, Sept. 20-21 in Adado Riverfront Park, will feature artists covering a range of genres from hip-hop to EDM. The lineup features heavy bass beat makers.

Headlining for the hip-hop portion of the festival is the duo Rae Sremmurd. In 2015, the group became party playlist staples with its chart-topping singles "No Flex Zone" and "No Type"

Prime Music Festival

Friday, Sept. 20 – Saturday, Sept. 21
Adado Riverfront Park
Two-day passes: \$60
Single-day passes: \$30
Tickets available at primemusicfestival.com

from its debut album, "SremmLife." The brothers, Aaquil and Khalif Brown — who often get mistaken

for one person — continued their ascension, releasing club bangers and producing for pop icons such as Kendrick Lamar, Beyoncé and Childish Gambino. Last May, Rae Sremmurd released "SR3MM," a triple-album that includes one collaborative album as well as two EPs that exemplify the severed minds behind the project.

EDM fans will recognize RL Grime on the line-up. The 28-year-old is one

of the biggest names in the industry, having collaborated with Skrillex, Ty Dolla \$ign, Big Sean and Bauuer. The artist founded the label WeDidIt, which last year released a 15-track album, "NOVA," featuring his signature moodiness and 808 drums plus a series of pop and R&B motifs. The electronic artist is spending the summer in a coveted residency at Wynn resort in Las Vegas with occasional shows throughout the U.S.

Another act, Tony Fresh, unofficially got his doctorate in chopping tracks after winning a contest by electronic music label Insomniac in 2013. The acclaim from the award and a series of viral hip-hop remixes resulted in his launching the Dr. Fresch brand and his debut self-titled EP.

This year, Fresh announced a new project, Prescription Records. The label released a nine-track compilation featuring BIJOU, French DJ Tony Romera and more.

The Prime Festival Michigan lineup, so far: DaBaby, Dr Fresch, GG Magree, Kid Quill, Lil Mosey, Mando, Rae Sremmurd, RL Grime, Valee, Whatchmefloat B2B Haundroid, What So Not, Whethan and hosted by Black Magic. Another announcement is expected in June.



Photos by Tyler Church (Above) and Meagan Hall

Live shots from previous Prime Music Festivals.

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Bessie is a sweet spunky senior looking for her retirement home. She's a bit bossy with other dogs so she would do best with easy-going dogs. She has a sweet and goofy personality.

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Carmen is a sweet old gal looking for a nice retirement home. She is a little shy about meeting new people but once she she knows you she is very outgoing.

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Dante is a very sweet happy guy looking for a new home. He loves people and will just lay there in your lap and soak up all of the love and affection.

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Diane would do best in a home with older children that will respect her space. She would do best as an only cat or perhaps with one other easy going cat.

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Peregrine is a very sweet guy looking for an adult only home. hopefully in time with some love and patience he will come out of his shell.

In memory of
Rodica's cats

Unfinished business

Injured pianist Elliott Wuu keeps a year-old date with the Lansing Symphony

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

A couple of years ago, pianist Elliot Wuu, 19-year-old guest soloist in the Lansing Symphony's season finale Friday, casually told his piano teacher he likes to shoot hoops.

"Nothing serious," he assured the teacher.

"Well, stop it," the teacher told him.

Lansing Symphony Orchestra

Elliot Wuu, pianist

7:30 p.m. Friday, May 10
Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall
\$20-55
Lansingsymphony.org
(517) 487-5001

"It's a great way to jam your finger."

He concentrated on swimming instead.

"It's the one sport pianists aren't afraid to

do," Wuu said.

A lot of good that did. Last year, Wuu was named a Gilmore Young Artist at the Gilmore International Keyboard

Festival in Grand Rapids. He took on a lot of gigs, including a scheduled appearance with the Lansing Symphony in May 2018. He stuffed his slate with meaty works by Schubert, Beethoven, Rachmaninoff and Mozart and practiced eight to ten hours a day.

His reward was a blown-out hand. "Unforeseen circumstances" was the official story. Another young hotshot, Llewellyn Sanchez-Werner, stepped in to play the Lansing gig.

A year later, Wuu is back, with some unfinished business to take care of.

"I'm all better now," he said.

His youth will surely be an advantage when playing Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21, a work so familiar it's often pilfered and parodied in pop culture.

"The key is trying to find what's special to me about this piece," Wuu said. "It was such a fun concerto to learn, but finding the little quirks was the most fun for me. He has little places where you can put your own cadenza, where you can put in your own musicality."

Besides, Wuu is simply too young to



Courtesy photo

Wuu returns to Lansing a year after cancelling a performance due to "unforeseen circumstances."

be jaded about anything.

"People say it's easier to play Mozart when you're very young than when you're an adult, and there's some truth to that," Wuu said. "There's an innocence and purity in his music. You just have to have fun with it."

Wuu was born and raised in California and is now in his second year of studies at Juilliard.

He is competitive when he has to be, but he's a music fan at heart. Two pianists familiar to Lansing audiences, Andrew and Daniel Hsu, were close family friends of the Wuus back in the day. Andrew Hsu played the Schumann piano concerto in Lansing in 2014; Daniel Hsu played Beethoven's Third Concerto here in 2016.

Ignorant of their future as Gilmore Young Artists, the Hsus and Wuus even got together and performed for each other as youngsters.

Wuu soaked up a lot of great music in the Bay Area while attending the San Francisco Conservatory, a short walk from Davies Symphony Hall.

Daniil Trifonov's steely take on Rachmaninov's Rhapsody on Theme of Paganini left him "amazed and speechless."

Last year, he saw the legendary

Martha Argerich perform Prokofiev's Third.

"It was sensational, one of the best concerts I've ever seen in my life," he said.

"Seeing these artists pushes me further," he said. "You see the amount of work they put in, but you also see the enjoyment, and that's an inspiration."

Wuu's work ethic borders on masochism. In his sophomore and junior year of high school, he entered six international competitions, making up schoolwork along the way. It was the toughest two years of his young life, but he doesn't regret it.

The grind of piano competitions sounds rough, but it's not the fortissimo Colosseum of blood sport people imagine. Wuu loved the travel and relished every chance to meet and hear his fellow pianists.

The work of two more pianist composers, Dmitri Shostakovich and Sergei Rachmaninov, fill out Friday's concert. Shostakovich's blaring "Festive Overture" was not his finest hour, but it's a rouser. Rachmaninov's Symphonic Dances, his last work, was written in New York, but its soul rests in the church music of Old Russia.

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How one mother ruled Detroit's underground numbers game

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Former journalist, screenwriter and now Baruch College professor Bridgett M. Davis has written the perfect Mother's Day book in honor of Fannie Davis, her mother and big-time numbers runner.

Davis' book "The World According to Fannie Davis: My Mother's Life in the Detroit Numbers" is an insider's look at the fascinating illegal gambling business that was played in inner cities for decades and led directly to today's billion-dollar lottery games.

As the youngest daughter of Fannie Davis and her husband "John T.," Bridgett learned at her mother's knee about the numbers. As she grew older, she was cautioned to never say anything about what her mother did for a living. It was a profession fraught with danger; her mother could be busted by the police or robbed in the all-cash business.

"Our family secret became the paradox of my life," she writes in the book. "I wanted to share with the world her generous nature and keen parenting skills and sharp business know-how. But of course, the bravest, badass part of her life had to be kept hush-hush...So I kept quiet."

Davis kept her promise to her mother all throughout high school, college and well into her adult life until her 10-year-old son asked, "Mom, what was she like?"

"I had done such a great job of keeping her secret, I kept it from the kids," she said. "It was a distinct epiphany. I wanted the children to know who their grandmother was. She was amazing. I started writing the book and it was odd, but exhilarating."

Davis said it wasn't hard to keep her mother's secret. The only struggle was she couldn't brag about her without giving it away. Telling people her mother was in real-estate became a default answer to interested friends and classmates.

Thanks to her mother's occupation, all the Davis children were well-dressed with clothes from the best stores and cars would magically appear in the driveway as gifts.

What makes Davis' book so engaging is she provides a cogent look at race relations in Detroit during the '60s and '70s when de-industrialization caused tens of thousands of good-paying auto-related jobs to evaporate.

Her book also helps dispel some of the racial stereotypes still prevalent about Detroit such as the 1967 riots be-



Author, Bridgett M. Davis

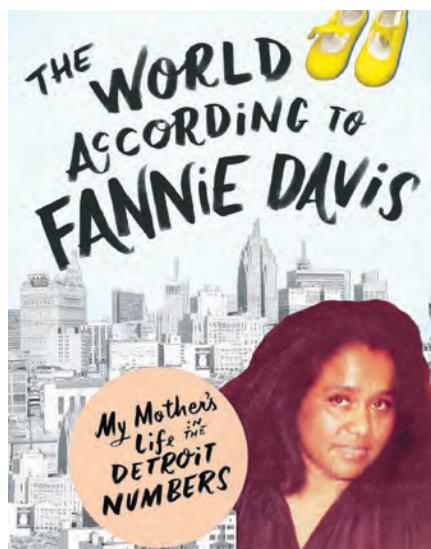
ing the catalyst of white flight

Davis said her thoughts on race were greatly influenced not only by her personal experience, but by the author Thomas Sugrue who in 1996 wrote the seminal book "The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Post-war Detroit" which helped her connect some dots about the city's history.

Davis said, "Numbers in Detroit very quickly became an enterprise everyone participated in. It provided a means to the middle class. Unlike today's lottery, the winnings from numbers circulated in the community."

Davis also provides a boots-on-the-ground history about how the illegal numbers racket continued to flourish for some time after the introduction of the Michigan Lottery in 1972.

In one ironic scene in the book, Davis' mother plays 788 (the family home address) in the first Michigan lottery game, winning \$10,000. Later numbers bosses would use numbers from the official lottery for their own numbers operations. Davis' mother would also layoff bets by buying Michigan lottery tickets hedging the numbers bets



"The World According to Fannie Davis" is the recount of how the illegal numbers game impacted black communities.

against big payoffs.

Interestingly, the numbers racket was not run by only organized crime in Detroit, but rather by entrepreneurial black men and women. It was truly a grass-roots run organization and according to Davis, the profits from her numbers operation helped pay for civil rights activities.

Davis doesn't duck the illegality of numbers running and in one section writes about the 1961 gambling bust at the Hotel Gotham which was the major hotel in Detroit for blacks to stay during the Jim Crow era.

In her epilogue, Davis gives long-awaited thanks to her mother who died in 1992 for passing on to her not only love, but an inheritance (of property) which her mother bought through her job as a numbers runner. She writes, "This is unavailable to most African-American who are five times less likely to inherit wealth than white

Americans."

Regular lottery players will appreciate Davis' description of the mythology that surrounds betting the numbers. You'll learn about fancy numbers (like 313), boxing numbers (playing all variations) and the significance of dreams when playing numbers (and the legal lottery).

Davis regularly plays the New York Daily Number Lottery and she writes, "I have a deep visceral connection to them (the players)."

The only regret Davis has is not talking with her mother about her life and career in the numbers business. This book makes up for that.

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CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Active Senior Exercise - 9:15-10:15 a.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Engaging English Language Learners in Science - Two-day workshop. 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The Library of Michigan, 702 W. Kalamazoo, Lansing.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Nonfiction Book Club - 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Wednesday Morning Book Discussions - "Diary of Anne Frank" 10-11 a.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

EVENTS

2019 Small Chamber Summit - Network with like-sized Chamber Executives and hear about new industry trends and tools. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Michigan Chamber of Commerce, 600 S. Walnut, Lansing.

Allen Farmers Market - 3-6:30 p.m. 1611/1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-999-3911. allenneighborhoodcenter.org/market

CCBS Spring Migration Walks - 7-9 a.m. Capital City Bird Sanctuary, 6001 Delta River Dr., Lansing. michiganaudubon.org.

Current Events - News junkies welcome! 1-2:45 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

GL Recycle & Compost Hours: 3-7 p.m. Grand Ledge. onedatatownship.org.

Governor's Award of Excellence - 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Eagle Eye Golf Club, 15500 Chandler Road, Bath.

Lansing Park Board Meeting - 2019 6:30-9 p.m. Foster Community Center, 200 North Foster, Lansing. www.lansingmi.gov.

Lunch and Chat - Want to meet other marketers in the area? 12 p.m. Lansing Brewing Company, 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing.

MI Celebrates Angels 12-5 p.m. Breslin Student Events Center, 534 Birch Rd, East Lansing. 517-432-1989.

Senior Discovery Group - 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E Kalamazoo, Lansing. 517-367-2468.

ARTS

Clay on the Pottery Wheel - Spring B - 6:30-8 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

Thursday, May 9

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Beginning Ukulele - 1-2 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Hands, Feet & Balance - Learn fundamental exercises for balance and flexibility. 1-2 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

ChEMS Department Research Forum 2019 - 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Huntington Club at Spartan Stadium, 325 W Shaw Ln, East Lansing.

Stretch, Flex & Balance II - Improve posture, balance and flexibility! 10:45-11:45 a.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Wild Walkers Club - Instructor led. 9:45-10:45 a.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Lansing Horror Book Club Meeting -



Michigan Global Roots Music Festival

The fifth annual Michigan Global Roots Festival pulls into the MSU Broad Art Lab to showcase music, instruments and artists from around

Music Festival
Saturday 1 to 3 p.m.,
MSU Broad Art Lab,
565 E. Grand River
Ave., East Lansing, MI
broadmuseum.msu.edu/

The lineup features Michigan guitarist Elden Kelly with Rhode Island accordionist Cory Pesaturo alongside Boston's jazz sax icon Tucker Antell. Also performing is Lansing's Lebanese, Brazilian maestro Igor

Houwat, sharing Arabic oud traditions, hammered dulcimer player Doug Berch and percussionist Carolyn Koebel, accompanying several acts.

Houwat is a graduate from the MSU College of Music and now works as communications coordinator for MSU College of Natural Science's DOE Plant Research Laboratory. His oud musicianship led him to tour the world.

Festival founder Carolyn Koebel said she wanted to create something accessible to children and adults. Without a stage, the Broad Art Lab space provides a fluid space between the audience and performers to fall into the trances of world rhythms.

May's book Hellbound Heart. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Blue Owl Coffee, 1149 S Washington, Lansing. 517-575-6836.

EVENTS

Christian Women Business Organization is a proactive networking community! 11:30 a.m. Grille in the Ville, 115 E Grand River Ave, Fowlerville.

Clinton County Open Food Distribution - 8-10 a.m. Bath Community Center, 5959 Park Lake Rd, Bath. bathtownship.us.

Country Line Dancing & Lessons at VFW Post #7309 - 7-9 p.m. Mason VFW

Post #7309, 1243 Hull Rd., Mason. business.masonchamber.org.

Duplicate Bridge - 4:30-8 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Freud's Last Session - 7-9 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

Friends of East Lansing Seniors Program - 9-11 a.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

JVM User Group Meeting - Join us to talk
See Out on the town, Page 25

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8 >> ASTRONOMY ON TAP: BLACK HOLE PICTURE AND GAMMA RAYS

ASTRONOMY ON TAP



Dr. Devin Silvia and PhD student Kristen Dage of MSU will explain the science leading up to the first picture of a black hole in human history as well as how astronomers use gamma rays to search the high energy universe

7:30 to 10:30 p.m., donations accepted

The Loft

414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

(517) 913-0103

www.facebook.com/AoTLansing

THURSDAY MAY 9 >> MUSIC AT THE MANSION: MARY MCGUIRE



Folk singer Mary McGuire brings her genre bending tunes to the Turner-Dodge House for an intimate acoustic unplugged concert. The Detroit Music Award winning artist draws inspiration from her former homes of Detroit, Boston, Martha's Vineyard and Mackinac Island.

7 to 10 p.m., \$10

Turner-Dodge House & Heritage Center

100 E. North St., Lansing, MI (517) 483-4220

marymcguiremusic.com

Jonesin' Crossword

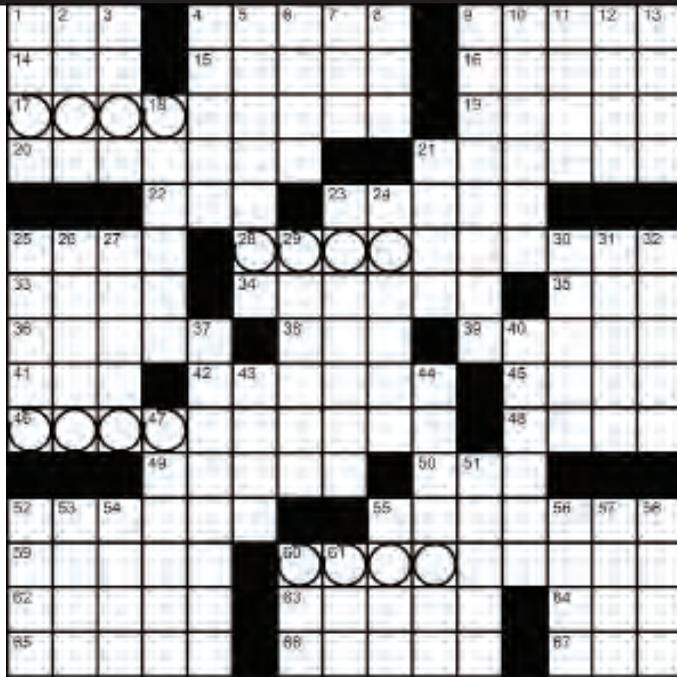
By Matt Jones

"Two From the Top"—same two, different order.

Matt Jones

Across

- 1 One of Cher's friends in "Clueless"
- 4 Thrown tomato sound
- 9 Went idle
- 14 Summertime coolers, casually
- 15 Contemporary of Shelley and Byron
- 16 Justice Kagan
- 17 Hit 2019 puzzle game
- 19 Huck Finn's creator
- 20 Cheese slices from Kraft
- 21 Marcos with many shoes
- 22 Key near the space bar
- 23 Lies low
- 25 Mid-May honorees
- 28 Discovery/TLC reality show (1998-2007) following expecting couples
- 33 Horseshoe trajectories
- 34 "Sharp as a tack," for example
- 35 Red or Dead, but not Redemption
- 36 MTV cartoon with the fictional show "Sick, Sad World"
- 38 Pot top
- 39 "Taking a Chance on Love" singer Waters
- 41 Singer of 60-Across, slangily
- 42 Tiny footwarmer
- 45 Altered mortgage, for short
- 46 "Voulez-Vous" and "Waterloo," for two
- 48 Smooth (the way)
- 49 Take ___ of faith



- 50 It's about 907,000 grams
- 52 Celebratory outburst
- 55 People in the red
- 59 Common Daily Double gesture (and bet) from "Jeopardy!" whiz James Holzhauer
- 60 Lyric that follows "We're poor little lambs who have lost our way"
- 62 Photographer Arbus
- 63 British-based relief organization
- 64 Exercise machine unit
- 65 Karaoke performances
- 66 Anthem competitor
- 67 "Of course"
- Down**
- 1 Browser indicators
- 2 Berry from palms
- 3 Library catalog no.
- 4 Prowess
- 5 Madrid money, once
- 6 Poppables snackmaker
- 7 Get from ___ B
- 8 Nashville sch.
- 9 "I'll need time to think about it"
- 10 Mariners' div.
- 11 Ardor
- 12 Kids' author Blyton
- 13 Fictional agent Scully
- 18 1992 Wimbledon winner
- 21 Pastoral verse
- 23 Overdo a scene
- 24 Footnote word that's usually abbreviated
- 25 Tyler Perry title character
- 26 Toothbrush brand
- 27 "Limited time only" fast-food sandwich
- 29 Ginkgo ___
- 30 "Straight Outta Compton" costar ___ Jackson Jr.
- 31 Nautical hazards
- 32 Singer of 60-Across, slangily
- 37 Large mollusks
- 40 Starbucks size launched in 2011
- 43 Margarine, quaintly
- 44 One-named guitarist of infomercial fame
- 47 Expressing delight
- 51 "Dreams From My Father" author
- 52 Big rolls of money
- 53 Mishmash
- 54 "The Good Earth" heroine
- 55 Slightly off
- 56 Do as told
- 57 Very hard to find
- 58 Goes limp
- 60 Drag show accessory
- 61 Wood-chopping tool

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Answers Page 26

SUDOKU

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

Intermediate

TO PLAY

Fill in the grid so that every row, column, and outlined 3-by-3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 exactly once. No guessing is required. The solution is unique.

Answers on page 26

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

May 8 - May 14, 2019

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Time to shake things up! In the next three weeks, I invite you to try at least three of the following experiments. 1. See unusual sights in familiar situations. 2. Seek out new music that both calms you and excites you. 3. Get an inspiring statue or image of a favorite deity or hero. 4. Ask for a message from the person you will be three years from now. 5. Use your hands and tongue in ways you don't usually use them. 6. Go in quest of a cathartic release that purges frustration and rouses holy passion. 7. Locate the sweet spot where deep feeling and deep thinking overlap.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): According to science writer Sarah Zielinski in Smithsonian magazine, fireflies produce the most efficient light on planet Earth. Nearly 100 percent of the energy produced by the chemical reaction inside the insect's body is emitted as a brilliant glow. With that in mind, I propose that you regard the firefly as your spirit creature in the coming weeks. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you, too, will be a dynamic and proficient generator of luminosity. For best results, don't tone down your brilliance, even if it illuminates shadows people are trying to hide.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Here's a message from author Susan J. Elliott: "This is not your week to run the Universe. Next week is not looking so good either." Now here's a message from me: Elliott's revelation is very good news! Since you won't have to worry about trying to manage and fine-tune the Universe, you can focus all your efforts on your own self-care. And the coming weeks will be a favorable time to do just that. You're due to dramatically upgrade your understanding of what you need to feel healthy and happy, and then take the appropriate measures to put your new insights into action.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The next three weeks will be an excellent time to serve as your own visionary prophet and dynamic fortune-teller. The predictions and conjectures you make about your future destiny will have an 85-percent likelihood of being accurate. They will also be relatively free of fear and worries. So I urge you to give your imagination permission to engage in fun fantasies about what's ahead for you. Be daringly optimistic and exuberantly hopeful and brazenly self-celebratory.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Leo poet Stanley Kunitz told his students, "You must be very careful not to deprive the poem of its wild origin." That's useful advice for anyone who spawns anything, not just poets. There's something unruly and unpredictable about every creative idea or fresh perspective that rises up in us. Do you remember when you first felt the urge to look for a new job or move to a new city or search for a new kind of relationship? Wildness was there at the inception. And you needed to stay in touch with the wildness so as to follow through with practical action. That's what I encourage you to do now. Reconnect with the wild origins of the important changes you're nurturing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): I have no complaints about the measures you've taken recently to push past unnecessary limits and to break outworn taboos. In fact, I celebrate them. Keep going! You'll be better off without those decaying constraints. Soon you'll begin using all the energy you have liberated and the spaciousness you have made available. But I do have one concern: I wonder if part of you is worried that you have been too bold and have gone too far. To that part of you I say: No! You haven't been too bold. You haven't gone too far.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "Dreamt of a past that frees its prisoners." So wrote Meena Alexander in her poem "Question Time." I'd love for you to have that experience in the coming weeks. I'd love for you to be released from the karma of your history so that you no longer have to repeat old patterns

or feel weighed down by what happened to you once upon a time. I'd love for you to no longer have to answer to decayed traditions and outmoded commitments and lost causes. I'd love for you to escape the pull of memories that tend to drag you back toward things that can't be changed and don't matter any more.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "Desire is a profoundly upsetting force," writes author Elspeth Probyn. "It may totally rearrange what we think we want. Desire skews plans and sets forth unthought-of possibilities." In my opinion, Probyn's statements are half-true. The other half of the truth is that desire can also be a profoundly healing and rejuvenating force, and for the same reasons: it rearranges what we think we want, alters plans, and unleashes unthought-of possibilities. How does all this relate to you? From what I can tell, you are now on the cusp of desire's two overlapping powers. What happens next could be upsetting or healing, disorienting or rejuvenating. If you'd like to emphasize the healing and rejuvenating, I suggest you treat desire as a sacred gift and a blessing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "So much of what we learn about love is taught by people who were really loved us." My Sagittarian friend Ellen made that sad observation. Is it true for you? Ellen added the following thoughts: so much of what we learn about love is taught by people who were too narcissistic or wounded to be able to love very well; and by people who didn't have many listening skills and therefore didn't know enough about us to love us for who we really are; and by people who love themselves poorly and so of course find it hard to love anyone else. Is any of this applicable to what you have experienced, Sagittarius? If so, here's an antidote that I think you'll find effective during the next seven weeks: identify the people who have loved you well and the people who might love you well in the future—and then vow to learn all you can from them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Capricorn fantasy novelist Laini Taylor creates imaginary worlds where heroines use magic and wiles to follow their bliss while wrangling with gods and rascals. In describing her writing process, she says, "Like a magpie, I am a scavenger of shiny things: fairy tales, dead languages, weird folk beliefs, and fascinating religions." She adds, "I have plundered tidbits of history and lore to build something new, using only the parts that light my mind on fire." I encourage you to adopt her strategies for your own use in the coming weeks. Be alert for gleaming goodies and tricky delicacies and alluring treats. Use them to create new experiences that thrill your imagination. I believe the coming weeks will be an excellent time to use your magic and wiles to follow your bliss while wrangling with gods and rascals.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "I was always asking for the specific thing that wasn't mine," wrote poet Joanne Kyger. "I wanted a haven that wasn't my own." If there is any part of you that resonates with that defeatist perspective, Aquarius, now is an excellent time to begin outgrowing or transforming it. I guarantee you that you'll have the potency you need to retrain yourself: so that you will more and more ask for specific things that can potentially be yours; so that you will more and more want a haven that can be your own.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): I'm not a fan of nagging. I don't like to be nagged and I scrupulously avoid nagging others. And yet now I will break my own rules so as to provide you with your most accurate and helpful horoscope. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you aren't likely to get what you truly need and deserve in the coming days unless you engage in some polite, diplomatic nagging. So see what you can do to employ nagging as a graceful, even charming art. For best results, infuse it with humor and playfulness.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsy'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.

TURN IT DOWN!

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

Friday, May 10

MR. DENTON ON DOOMSDAY AT MAC'S BAR



Mr. Denton on Doomsday

DBoz Photography



2014's "Origami Trail" CD

Local experimental rock outfit hosts celebration, announces new LP

Friday, May 10 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$12, \$10 adv., 8 p.m.

Local alt-rock band Mr. Denton on Doomsday hosts a birthday celebration for Brian Alspaugh, its lead singer and guitarist, Friday at Mac's Bar. Also performing at the all-ages evening of locally-made music are Jenn's Apartment, Odds Fish and Something Involving A Monkey. Since its 2007 genesis, Alspaugh has led Mr. Denton on Doomsday through multiple tours and recording sessions, including its 2009 debut full-length, "The Mouse Circus." The 12-song album, which delved into politics and personal conflicts, includes the band's breakout single "Karo," which scored airplay on more than 400 internet radio stations.

The band—which also comprises Josie

Taylor (vocals), Ben Martin (drums) and Matt Bush (bass)—issued its latest release in 2014, the "Origami Trail" LP, which is available on iTunes, Amazon, Spotify, Beats and local record shops.

"We have supported that album with four national tours from ocean to ocean, including performances at The Whisky A Go-Go and at Common Ground," Alspaugh said. "We have performed from New York to California and plenty in between."

Over the years, Mr. Denton has opened shows for the likes of Otep, Nonpoint, The Misfits, Candlebox and Three Days Grace, among others. But now, the band is focused on wrapping up its upcoming third LP—its first in five years. The new track list includes "Fail in Reverse," the introspective first single off the forthcoming 10-song

album.

"We are currently recording our follow-up, 'The Infinite Staircase,' at Elm Street Recordings here in Lansing," Alspaugh said. "Josie and I just got home from another day of tracking vocals. We have the music down and hope to have the album ready for a summer release. We'll be supporting the new album with a 2019 east coast tour and more to follow."

Mining influences spanning from King Crimson and Queens of the Stone Age to the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Incubus, Mr. Denton has always prided itself on exploring new sounds and ponderous, offbeat lyrical themes. From metal to funk and alternative rock to pop, nothing is off limits. The new disc will be no different, according to Alspaugh, who admits "Seriously Odd.

Oddly Serious" is the band's motto while in the studio and onstage.

"I believe as songwriters we are constantly pushing ourselves to never be content," Alspaugh said. "That may lead to us falling on our faces, however we'd rather have taken the risk than played it safe."

"We are constantly trying to experiment, evolve and satisfy our own curiosity," he added. "The idea behind 'The Infinite Staircase' is that everything in life travels in circles—in nature, in space and in our lives—we will be at this same point again. But if we can be aware of our position in the circle, we can climb the staircase instead of walking in circles, or digging a trench into the ground."



Upcoming show? Contact
Suzi@lansingcitypulse.com

DESTINATION	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Disney Trivia 10PM	Free Metal Show 9PM	Black Mass 9PM	Hordes/Jonestown Grows 9PM
Classic Pub & Grill, 16219 Old US 27	DJ Trivia 8PM		Keegan Jacko 8PM	Whiskey Diski & The Barrel Boys 8PM
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Road				Full Circle Band 9PM
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Johnny Aimerier	Karaoke, 9PM	Karaoke, 9PM	Karaoke 9PM
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Good Cookies Band 8PM	Jeff Shoup & Friends 8:30PM	Smooth Daddy 9:30PM	Smooth Daddy 9:30PM
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.		Karaoke Kraze	Star Farm	Roux
Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee	Trivia with Sporele 9 PM		Be Kind Rewind 8PM	Nadim Azzam 8PM
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Veer Union 10th Anniversary 8PM	Neil Hilborn 7PM	Mark Battles 8PM
Macs Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.			Mr. Denton 8PM	Blank Mirror 8PM
Unicorn, 327 Cesar E. Chavez, Lansing			Time 2 Play 9PM	From Big Sur 9PM
UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St.	Margherita Fava Trio 7PM			

From Page 22

technology. 6:30-8 p.m. Vertafore Sircon, 1500 Abbot Rd., East Lansing.

Lansing Economic Club: La June Montgomery Tabron - 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Kellogg Center, 219 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing.

Mah Jongg - Chinese and American versions played. 1-3 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing.cityofeastlansing.com.

May 2019 Economic Club - 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Kellogg Center, 219 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing. lansingchamber.org.

May Crowning Mass & Dinner - 6-9 p.m. St Gerard Catholic Church, 4437 W. Willow Hwy., Lansing.

MSU Broad Executive MBA Faculty Speaker Series - 5-8 p.m. James B. Henry Center for Executive Development, 3535 Forest Rd, Lansing.

New Releases - The World Premiere of New Releases by Joseph Zettelmaier. 8-10 p.m. 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. michigan.org.

Pickleball - 12:30-2 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Your Funeral Box - What should you have ready for your funeral or memorial service to help your loved ones? 1-2:30 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Rd, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

MUSIC

Music at the Mansion - Mary McGuire. 7-10 p.m. Turner-Dodge House & Heritage Center, 100 E.North St., Lansing.



MOTHER'S DAY IS MAY 12!

Find the perfect little (or big!) something for Mom at Jean Jean.

Gifts of jewels and chocolate starting at \$10. Gift wrapping, cards, and good vibes included. Open 10am-6pm May 9, 10, + 11.



JEANJEANVINTAGE.COM

ARTS

Spring Flowers in Watercolor - 1-4 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Teen Open Studio: Community Art Projects - Spring - 3-6 p.m. Reach Studio, 1804 S Washington, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

Friday, May 10

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Active Senior Exercise - 9:15-10:15 a.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Beginner Meditation - 1-2:15 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Cannabis and Cars: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. James B. Henry Center for Executive Development, 3535 Forest Rd., Lansing.

Continuing Meditation - 2:30-3:30 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Life Stories - Participatory class, 1-3:15 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Zumba - 10-11 a.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

EVENTS

2019 Excellence Awards - a celebration of local high school musical theatre productions! 7-9 p.m. Charlotte Performing Arts Center, 378 State St, Charlotte. 517-541-5690.

Dancing With the Local Stars - Please join Care Free Medical for their annual Dancing With the Local Stars. 6-9:30 p.m. Crowne Plaza, 925 S Creyts Rd, Lansing. www.brownpapertickets.com.

DDA Board Meeting - 7-8 a.m. City Hall, 200 S Main St, Eaton Rapids. cityofeatonrapids.com.

Educator Workforce Job Fair - Looking for an education-related job? Have a vacancy to fill in your school or district? 1-5 p.m. LCC West, 5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing.

Euchre - 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing cityofeastlansing.com.

Fahrenheit 451 - 7-9 p.m. All-of-Us Express Children's Theatre, 819 Abbot Rd, East Lansing.

Freud's Last Session - 8-10 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

Growth Charts by Megan Hildebrandt Reception & Artist Talk - 5:30-8 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 119 N Washington Sq, Ste 101, Lansing. 517-374-6400. lansingartgallery.org.

Holt Farmers Market Mini-Market - 2-6 p.m. 2150 Cedar St, Holt. delhitownship.com.

Mother's Day Brunch & Tea - 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 Okemos Rd, Okemos. meridian.mi.us.

New Releases - The World Premiere of New Releases by Joseph Zettelmaier. 8 p.m. 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. michigan.org.

Teen Lock-In - Have you ever wanted to party all night in the library? Games, food, movies provided. 8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. grandledge.lib.mi.u

TGIF Dance Party - 7:15-7:45 pm - learn to dance. 7 p.m.-12 a.m. Hawk Hollow, 15101 Chandler Rd., Bath. 734-604-5095. tgifdance.com.

MUSIC

MasterWorks 05: Symphonic Dances - 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E Shaw Ln, East Lansing. 517-353-1982. lansingsymphony.org.

Mighty Uke Day - Featuring concerts, workshops, group strums, open mics, children's Old Town Lansing, Lansing. lansingmi.gov.

Violin and Piano Concert - featuring the Diazhao Duo - 5:30 p.m. 1300 FRIB Laboratory, 640 S. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-355-9672. frib.msu.edu.

ARTS

Stained Glass Panels - 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com

Teen Open Studio: Portfolio - Spring - 3-6 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

Saturday, May 11

SPONSORED

Say Yes to Michigan Day

Free, family friendly event that celebrates the real stories of Michigan. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Michigan History Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-335-2573. michigan.gov.

To purchase an enhance listing like this, please contact Suzi Smith, (517) 999-6704 or suzi@lansingcitypulse.com

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

2019 Backyard Bird Habitat Workshop - 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Michigan Audubon, 2310 Science Parkway, Suite 200, Okemos.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

See Out on the town, Page 26

FRIDAY MAY 10 — SUNDAY MAY 12 >> MIGHTY UKE DAY 9



The ninth annual Mighty Uke Day takes over greater Lansing with workshops, concerts and a visit from the world's biggest playable ukulele. Headlining the festival are The Naked Waiters and Danielle Ate the Sandwich. A silent auction of ukulele parts will benefit Music is the Foundation, a nonprofit benefiting local music programs.

Friday, May 10 Noon to Sunday, May 12, 3 p.m. Old Town

1213 Turner St., Lansing
(517) 896-4025
www.mightyukeday.com

May 9 - June 9, 2019

WORLD PREMIERE

A video store on the brink of closing.
A mysterious woman looking for a video never rented before.
An intrepid clerk looking to solve the mystery of this woman.
A warm comedy that will tickle your funny bone and touch your heart.
(Contains adult language)

Directed by Paige Conway

Pay-What-You-Can Preview

Thurs., May 9 @ 8PM

\$19 Previews

May 10 @ 8PM

May 11 @ 8PM

May 12 @ 2PM



By JOSEPH ZETTELMAIER

Williamston Theatre
122 S Putnam St., Williamston
517-655-7469
www.williamstontheatre.org

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From Page 25

A Children's Home Story-Telling Brunch - 10 a.m.-12 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S Washington Ave, Lansing.

EVENTS

Adopt A River 2019 - Bring your own gloves for clean-up. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116.

Carthage and Cars: OWL in The Era Of Legalized Marijuana - (517) 399-4444 - 4:30 p.m. James B. Hartung Center, 355 Forest Rd., Lansing.

Cup & Saucer Salad Luncheon - All proceeds to Haven House. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Okemos Masonic Center, 2175 Hamilton, Okemos. 517-655-1331.

Environmental Stewardship Work Day - Volunteer for natural area work days. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Fahrenheit 451 - 7-9 p.m. All-of-Us Express Children's Theatre, 819 Abbot Rd, East Lansing.

Forget-Me-Not Bake Sale/Fundraiser - 9 a.m.-3 p.m. ACE Hardware, 1035 S Clinton St., Grand Ledge.

Freud's Last Session - 8-10 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

Garden Club Saturday Meeting - 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. grandledge.lib.mi.us.

GL Recycle & Compost Hours: 8 am - 4 pm - Grand Ledge. oneidatowship.org.

Kids in the Kitchen - Junior League of

Lansing hosts its Annual Kids in the Kitchen event 1-3 p.m. Riddle Elementary School, 221 Huron St, Lansing.

Metal Modification - 10 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Native Michigan Plant Sale - 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Holt Farmers Market, 2150 Cedar St, Holt. wildoneslansing.org.

Neogen 5K to benefit the Herbert-Herman Cancer Center - 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Oak Park, 610 Leshar Place, Lansing. runsignup.com.

New Releases - The World Premiere of New Releases by Joseph Zettelmaier. 8 p.m. 122 S. Putnam Street, Williamston. www.michigan.org.

Recycling Drive - Greater Laingsburg Recyclers 651-2005 or 651-6437 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Downtown, Laingsburg. laingsburg.us.

Spring Bird Walks with CAAS! - Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mt. Hope parking lot . 8-10 a.m. Lansing.

St. Johns Plein Air Event - 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 215 N. Clinton, St. Johns.

Woodland Fairy and Gnome Party - 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos. 517-349-3866. meridian.mi.us.

MUSIC

Annual Mid-Michigan Shape Note Singing - 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Faith Lutheran Church, 4515 Dobie Rd, Okemos. 517-349-0620. fasolamichigan.org.

Mighty Uke Day - Celebration of the diminutive dynamic ukulele. Old Town Lansing, Lansing. lansingmi.gov.

Nashville Songwriters Association Chapter Meeting - 1-4 p.m. MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Rd, East Lansing. 517-643-0756. nashvillesongwriters.com.

ARTS

Williamston Pop Up Art & Craft Show - 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Keller's Plaza, 100 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston.

Sunday, May 12

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Juggling - Learn how to juggle! Sundays 2-4 p.m. at the Orchard Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing 2-4 p.m.

EVENTS

Freud's Last Session - 2-4 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

Mother's Day at the Zoo- Mothers Get FREE Admission - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing. 517-483-4222. potterparkzoo.org.

Mother's Day Brunch and Dinner Show - presents "Yes Honey, we are all Queens!!!" 4230 Charlar Drive, Holt. michigan.org.

Mother's Day Ham Dinner - Mother's Day Ham Dinner 12-2 p.m. Grand Ledge Masonic Temple, 200 W. River St., Grand Ledge.

New Releases - The World Premiere of New Releases by Joseph Zettelmaier. 2 p.m. 122 S. Putnam Street, Williamston. michigan.org.

MUSIC

Mighty Uke Day - Celebration of the diminutive dynamic ukulele. Old Town Lansing, Lansing. lansingmi.gov.

Monday, May 13

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

4 Ever Young Drumming - 3-4 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Rd, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Tai Chi Yang Style 24 - 1-2 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com

Active Senior Exercise - 9:15-10:15 a.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Seminar Series: Intermediate Birding - 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Michigan Audubon, 2310 Science Parkway, #200, Okemos. michiganaudubon.org

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Spanish Literature - Read literature from Spanish-speaking countries. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

EVENTS

Kids Healthy Michigan LANSING Community Forum - Join the conversation! 12:30-2 p.m. American Cancer Society, 1755 Abbey Road, East Lansing.

Mason Chess & Backgammon Club - 6-8 p.m. Bestsellers Books and Coffee, 360 S. Jefferson St, Mason.business.masonchamber.org.

Scrabble - 2-4:30 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

See Out on the town, Page 27



SAVE THE DATE: MAY 12, 2019 • 3 P.M.

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SATURDAY MAY 11 >> JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LANSING HOSTS KIDS IN THE KITCHEN



The Junior League of Lansing invites greater Lansing families for an afternoon focusing on healthy food alternatives and food assistance to empower children to eat better in the community. The group will also engage children and families in wellness activities they can use every day at home or school including, gardening, yoga, smart shopping and an exercise routine.

1 to 3 p.m.
Riddle Elementary School
221 Huron St., Lansing (517) 755-1720
jllansing.org.milb.com/lansing

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

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

From Pg. 23

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SATURDAY MAY 11 >> AMERICAN FIFTH SPIRITS 4TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY



American Fifth Spirits will celebrate its fourth anniversary with an outdoor party at Cooley Law School Stadium. For the event, American Fifth will feature a limited release of Batch 100 five-grain whiskey, the 100th batch ever produced at the distillery. Also, beer aged in American Fifth whiskey barrels will be featured by nine local craft breweries and cideries. Tickets include four tasting samples.

3 to 7 p.m., \$20
Cooley Law School Stadium
505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI (517) 999-2631
americanfifthspirits.com

From Page 26

Tuesday, May 14

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Beginning Birding - A Prime Time favorite is back! 9-10:30 a.m. Abbot Road Park, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Carefree Composting - Learn about kitchen and home garden composting methods. 6-7:30 p.m. 800 W. Barnes Ave., Lansing.

Stretch, Flex & Balance II - 10:45-11:45 a.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Read Aloud Group - 9-10:30 a.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

EVENTS

Coffee with a Cop - Join Chief Ken Plaga

for an hour of Q&A. 10-11 a.m. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 Okemos Rd, Okemos. 517-706-5045.

Death Cafe - Death is part of life, and when we talk about it, we help normalize it. 12-1:30 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Hamilton - 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E Shaw Ln, East Lansing. 517-353-1982.

Lean Coffee Coffee - Welcome to a new experiment! 8 a.m. Dewpoint Inc, 300 S Washington Square #200, Lansing.

Line Dancing - No partner needed. 1-2 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

LOVE Lansing Celebration 2019 - 5:30-8 p.m. South Washington Office Complex, 2500 S. Washington Avenue, Lansing.

Michigan 4-H/FFA Meats Judging Contest - 8 a.m.-5 p.m. MSU Meat Laboratory, 474 S. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. canr.msu.edu.

Pickleball - 12:30-2:30 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

ARTS

Chinese Brush Painting - It's spring! 1-3 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

'New' Italian eatery comes to Lansing's east side

By DENNIS BURCK

For nearly 100 years, Lansing's east side Italian cuisine was defined by Emil's on Michigan Avenue. The restaurant closed in 2015.

But the long wait for freshly made pasta will be over soon as former Okemos mainstay Tannin moves in — blocks away from the old Emil's site — in the former Tabooli and Kentucky Fried Chicken drive-thru restaurant.

Philadelphia native and owner Chris Roelofs never went to Emil's, but he brings a lifetime knowledge of Philadelphia's storied small Italian eateries to Lansing.

"There are not a lot of those around here I found, which is why I did this," Roelofs said. "I would always enjoy going over to these hole-in-the-wall places in Philly. We want to replicate that with a modern understanding of food."

Tannin opened in 2013 as a high-end Italian fusion restaurant with an exquisite wine list.

"We did well as a high-end restaurant, but it didn't always sit well that we were inaccessible to some people," Roelofs said.

"It is nice being a place for special occasions, but it is also nice being a place for other times as well. We originally had made an effort to be a more eccentric foodie destination. We will

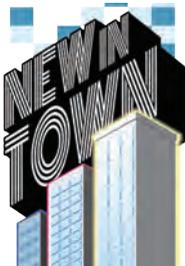
still do that, but that is not going to be the driving mission. Our mission is real Italian food made well."

Head chef Nick Fila traded his chef's knife for a hammer the past seven months, renovating the inside to be up to snuff for fine dining.

"There is an awesome community of chefs that will be working here and we can't wait to join it. It drives people down here. As long as people are coming to one, it is good for everybody because they will try us at some point too," Fila said.

Tannin

Opens May 15
11 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
1620 E. Michigan
Ave., Lansing
(517) 575-6840
www.facebook.com/
TanninofOkemos



Fila and Roelofs are trying to network with Lansing growers to stock the finest produce available. Having the Allen Neighborhood Center's farms and produce a block away will be an asset, Roelofs said.

Wines and craft cocktails will also be featured.

"Drinking the right glass of wine with your meal will, in fact, make your food taste even better," Roelofs said.



Dennis Burck/City Pulse

Owner Chris Roelofs in front of his storefront.

Tannin will mostly feature smaller producers in Italy and France.

Roelofs recommends Italian and French wines for most meals because they are lighter and more subtle. Their acidity pairs nicely with richer dishes and cuts the fat, revealing all the hidden flavors.

The last few months have been long without seeing customers.

"For me, it is exciting to have a kitchen up and running again where I will come in and Nick will be able to

experiment with something," Roelofs said.

The restaurant is looking to employ 15, depending on the launch. A grand opening is planned in the future.

"I am a people person, and a restaurant is a very friendly and almost familial environment when it is running well," Roelofs said.

"We are trying to bring a slightly different cuisine to the neighborhood and see what people think about it."

The Dish: Chef Gong's Mapo Tofu

By DENNIS BURCK

My first bowl of Mapo Tofu came when traveling through Meishan in China's southern Sichuan province. Before lunch, I climbed up a mountain trail to see the 230-foot Leshan Giant Buddha, carved out of a sandstone cliff between 700 and 800 AD. My shoes were worn, my calves were on fire, and I was hungry.

Chef Gong

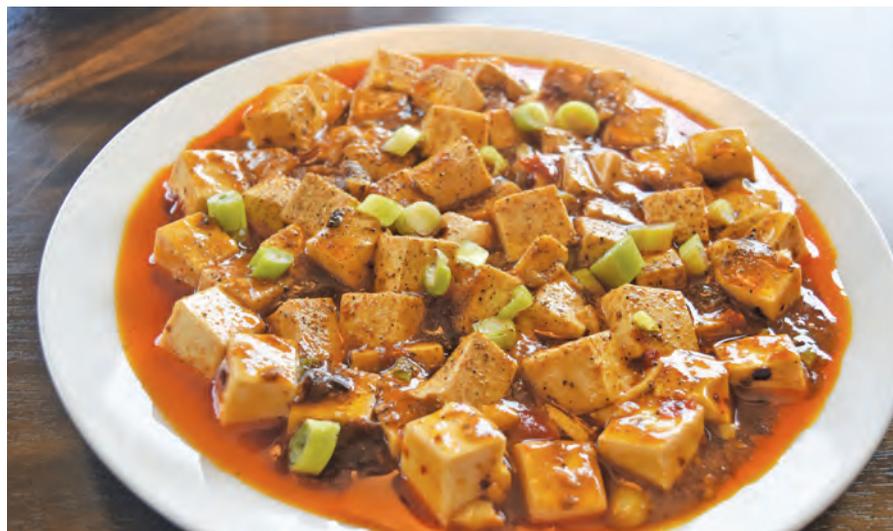
521 N. Clippert St.
Lansing
(517) 708-0616
www.facebook.com/
chefgong

After a ride in a motorized rickshaw, I arrived in Meishan, finding a restaurant on the street set inside a small garage. I'd heard about this quintessential Sichuan dish from fellow travelers and figured to give it

a shot. The folklore around the name of the dish comes from the inventor, a pockmarked grandma. "Ma" is for pockmarked and "po" is for grandma.

The dish came to me in a plastic bowl, steaming with aromatic chili oil, garlic, chives and small black beans. It cost a grand total of 15 RMB, or \$2, for a bowl. It was unforgettable.

The spicy chili oil coating made it feel velvety yet it was firm and rich at the center. After another bite, a lemony black pepper taste rose to the top. Later, a tingle. Then a faint numbness. What I was being introduced to was something foreign to most westerners.



Dennis Burck/City Pulse

Chef Gong's Mapo Tofu

See Dish, Page 29

Dish

from page 28

Sichuan peppercorn was the culprit. It literally causes confusion in your nerve endings from the chemical hydroxy alpha sanshool, making your mouth tingle and go slightly numb.

The result with the spicy Mapo Tofu is your tongue becoming a battlefield with chili peppers activating the spice receptors simultaneous to Sichuan peppercorn numbing them. It was like being exposed to a new dimension of food.

When I saw it on the Chef Gong menu in Lansing, I knew I had to try it to see if the dish could compare to what I had almost 7,000 miles away.

Chef Gong is markedly more high class than a street food garage in Meis-

han, with fancy paper cut lanterns above each table and ornately decorated Beijing hot pots.

Opened in summer 2018, Chef Gong specializes in northeastern Dongbei and southern Sichuan cuisine. Here, Mapo Tofu is \$13 a plate and it is worth every extra penny.

At first bite, I was transported back to that garage when I first felt my tongue tingling. The chili oil was silky, tofu was like velvet and the chives and beans provided a necessary texture crunch to the dish.

The server said he was surprised to see me stay for lunch and told me a lot of Americans walk out of the restaurant because they are expecting a cheap lunch or buffet to go. What a shame.

At least that's more Mapo Tofu for me.



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Okemos • 1937 W Grand River Ave • (517) 347-0443
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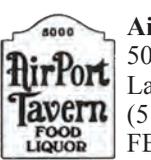
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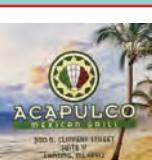
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A sommelier's guide to independent wine labels

By **JUSTIN KING**

Selecting wines for dinner from a retail wine department can be a daunting task. There are at least 10,000 different wines sold by distributors in Michigan. In the Lansing area, there are 15 distributors that sell wine.

There is no easy narrative as to what makes “good” wine. This, among other reasons, is what drives corporate wine sets to work more closely with larger distributors which house big corporate brands. The relationships are easier to maintain this way, certainly. And the sets are generally more straightforward, with a lot of popular labels and the nondescript-but-omnipresent red blends.

This leaves many small producers on the outside looking in. Generally, those wines are sold by savvy wine consultants at independent retailers — who carry a real passion for championing small wines labels.

Most certainly off the radar comes

one of my favorite rosés of this past year: San Silvestro’s Monferrato Chiretetto. It sounds like a mouthful, but it’s summed up succinctly by calling this wine pretty, fresh and dry. It’s practically begging for strawberries and a front porch to join it for a warm spring day. The 2018 vintage should cost about \$15 retail; I’d honestly buy it for \$20.

Monferrato is a small village located in the region of Piedmont, Italy. Chiretetto — pronounced with a hard “k” sound at the beginning — is a lighter, paler version of rosé that is made throughout northern Italy. This bottling is made entirely from the barbera grape.

Heading south to Tuscany, many store shelves and corporate wine lists focus on Chianti and Chianti Classico for their Italian selections. Occasionally, you may see Brunello di Montalcino out in the wild as well but they can get more pricey in comparison.

Enzo Tiezzi’s “Poggio Cerrino” Rosso di Montalcino (\$25) is a great entry point to the small region. Make no mistake — this wine is for Italian and

earthy wine lovers. This is not a wine that’s going to pull Meiomi pinot noir fans over to the Italian section. It’s a funky, 100 percent sangiovese bottling that is full-bodied with heaping amounts of ripe cherries, jammy raspberries and smoky flavors.

And I know, I know ... it might be weird to say this wine smells like a forest. But it does.

Moving on to a white wine, it’s incorrect to surmise that there’s anything obscure about the chardonnay grape. It’s a workhorse grape that much of American wine consumption has been built on. Chardonnay comprises some of the most prestigious and famous vineyards (e.g., Montrachet and Corton-Charlemagne in France).

Every time you walk into a “big box” retailer, you’re going to see probably 75 to 100 chardonnay options. It’s overkill, but people are still buying it.

One of my favorite places in the world for chardonnay is Australia, specifically Margaret River. Far away from the bustling cities of Sydney and Melbourne, Margaret River is in coastal Western Australia, amidst generally warm temperatures and maritime winds.

Robert Oatley’s 2015 chardonnay is an outright steal at about \$18. It doesn’t possess fat fruit or opulence. It’s a refreshing wine and, honestly, it’s kind of hard to say that about chardonnay. Most of the time. I love this wine for its combination of flavors that hint at granny smith apples, peaches and lime.

If your local independent retailer



Justin King/City Pulse

Enzo Tiezzi’s “Poggio Cerrino” Rosso di Montalcino is crafted in the province of Siena, Tuscany, Italy.

does not carry these wines, beg them to. They are highly compelling for a low cost.

If you ask for some recommendations similar to the aforementioned wines at local outlets like Vine & Brew, Dusty’s Cellar, Tom’s Party Store or Horrocks, you’re bound to get some good options.

Justin King is an Advanced Sommelier through the Court of Master Sommeliers and was named Wine & Spirits Magazine 2017 Best New Sommelier. He is owner of Bridge Street Social in DeWitt, a wine and cocktails-focused restaurant, as well as Bar Mitena, set to open this year on Lansing’s east side.





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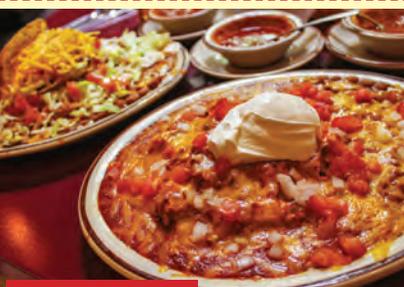
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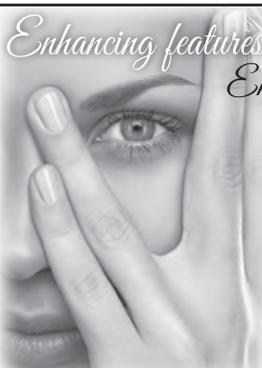
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