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UP NEXT: IMMIGRANTS ARE SCARY!



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4 PAGES


EDUCATORS ARE BEING HARASSED FOR TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY.

The Civil War



AND YET...

THE PROBLEM WITH YOU KIDS TODAY IS THAT YOU'RE NOT OPEN TO OTHER POINTS OF VIEW!



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PAGE 16

MSU vocal music alumnus achieves dreams at the Met



PAGE 30

The Dangling Particles to release new LP Friday



PAGE 34

Beloved BBQ restaurant announces financial turmoil

Cover photo by Bill Castanier

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

SPARKY, I'VE BEEN GOING THROUGH MY ARCHIVE LOOKING FOR OLD CARTOONS I MIGHT BE ABLE TO RUN AGAIN IN CASE I NEED TO TAKE TIME OFF--AND THERE JUST AREN'T THAT MANY!



ALMOST EVERY CARTOON I'VE EVER DONE WAS ROOTED IN THE MOMENT IN WHICH IT WAS WRITTEN, WITH REFERENCES TO SPECIFIC POLITICIANS AND EVENTS! I NEED TO REMEMBER TO WRITE SOME **EVERGREENS** OCCASIONALLY!

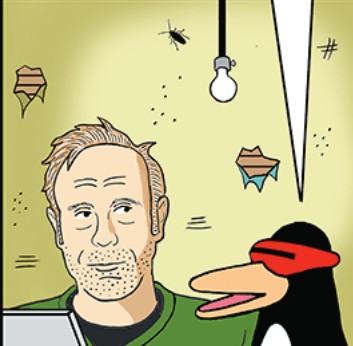


WELL, I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU COULD EVEN DO THAT, IN A TIMELY POLITICAL CARTOON LIKE THIS, WHICH REMINDS ME, DID YOU SEE THE LATEST **NEWS STORY**?


THE ONE ABOUT THE THING THE PROMINENT POLITICIAN DID, THAT EVERYONE IS **TALKING** ABOUT?



THAT'S THE ONE! I HAVE TO SAY, I AM OUTRAGED AND APPALLED BY THE THING THE POLITICIAN DID, AND/OR THE WAYS IN WHICH PEOPLE HAVE **RESPONDED**!



WELL, YOU **ARE** KNOWN FOR YOUR STRONG OPINIONS ABOUT EVENTS SUCH AS THIS, WHICH ARE OCCURRING IN THIS CURRENT YEAR IN WHICH WE AND OUR READERS OBVIOUSLY ALL RESIDE!



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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

'Trauma' — personal and professional — lead Siemon to an early out

Carol Siemon told voters in Ingham County in 2016 that she wanted to bring a new way of seeking justice through prosecution. They rewarded her with a four-year term as Ingham County prosecutor, and in doing so made her the first woman elected to the post. She was reelected in 2020.

But halfway through the second term, Siemon, 66, is retiring, effective Dec. 30, ending a combined 17 years working in the Prosecutor's Office. In a sit-down interview with City Pulse over the holiday weekend, she explained that her decision to retire early was based on many factors, including her age and having the resources from vested pensions for years in various government positions.

She also cited two years of personal trauma, including the deaths of her brother and friends as well as the trauma of dealing with crime and survivors.

"Any of us who deal with this trauma day in and day out — you as a journalist, police and EMS, and the Prosecutor's Office — and I mean everyone in the Prosecutor's Office — take on that trauma vicariously," she said. "That's a tough thing to keep doing."

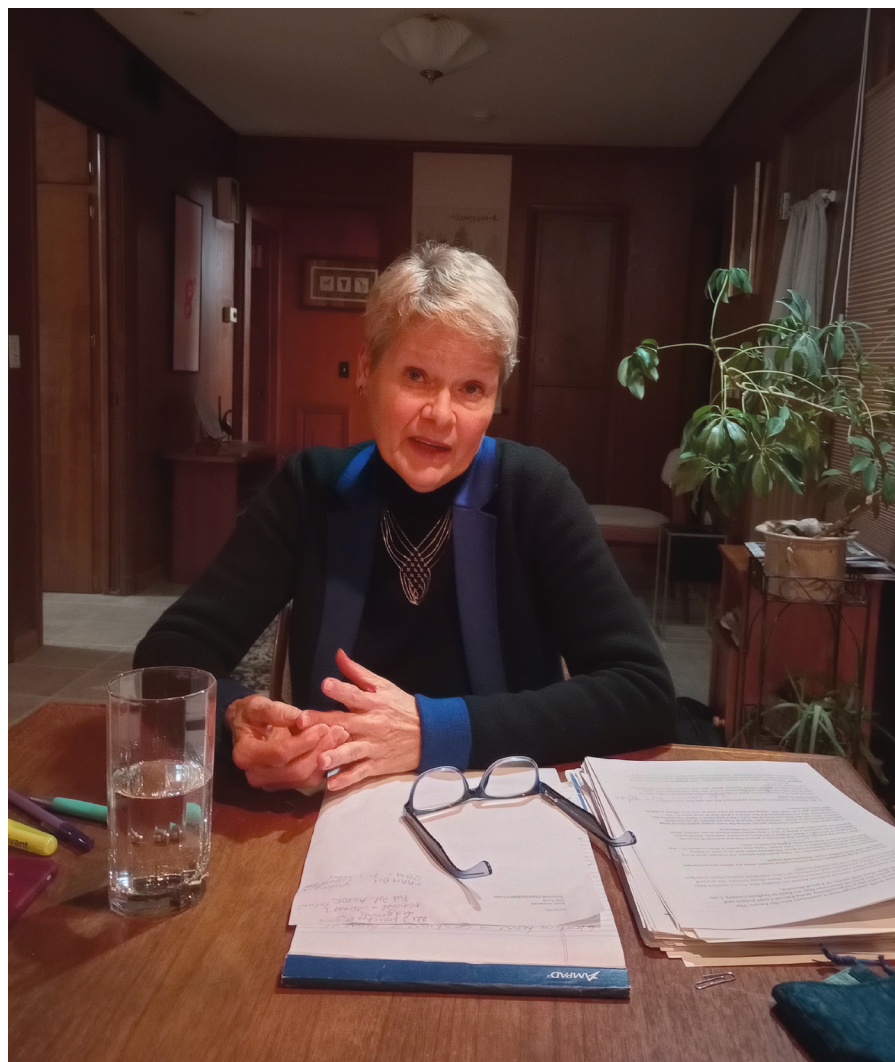
Most important in her timing, however, was the belief that the office was stable and could navigate her retirement.

She took the helm after a tumultuous few years. Former Ingham County Prosecutor Stuart Dunning III left the office in disgrace, caught up in a scandal involving sex workers. Current Gov. Gretchen Whitmer was tapped as an interim prosecutor in 2016 and served six months to complete his term.

"Transitions are hard enough as it is," she said. "I wanted to make this one go as smoothly as possible."

What her life in retirement will look like is uncertain, other than she would like to spend more time traveling and visiting friends. She said she will remain active in social justice work in the community.

That began with working with the assistant prosecutors in her office and helping to reframe the conversations



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Ingham County Prosecutor Carol Siemon in her home office. In an exclusive interview, Siemon explains her decision to leave office two years early.

that happen in what is known as "case review." Assistants present their cases, and decisions are made on what charges should be issued. Siemon said those meetings generally evaluated only the instant case in front of the prosecutor, but didn't take into account other factors that can influence crime.

"We started having more nuanced conversations," she said. "It wasn't just a 'let's charge this.'"

Siemon said at first those conversations were stilted and uncomfortable. But as the staff in the department came to understand what she was doing and how she was getting there, it

became easier.

"They weren't walking around terrified that if they made a mistake they were going to be fired," she said. "I believe when you make a mistake, you correct it, you own it, and you don't do it again. I wanted that there for the staff." While her relationship with the prosecutorial staff improved, she ran headlong into resistance from law enforcement as she attempted to implement changes to address racial inequities in the justice system.

She faced backlash from local law enforcement over her decision to strictly limit issuing charges for people who committed crimes with a gun.

Michigan makes it an additional felony to be in possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime. A person convicted under that law faced a minimum of two years in prison, on top of their other sentences.

Data from Ingham County found that 80 percent of the people charged with the add-on two-year felony were Black. And Siemon labeled it "overtly racist" at the time.

But Ingham County Sheriff Scott Wrigglesworth and 22 other officials across the county, including Mayor Andy Schor, criticized Siemon for the policy and asked her to "reconsider it."

Siemon said it was "bullying." She said Wrigglesworth could have come to her with his concerns first. "They can be frustrated. They can express their disapproval with my policies. But there are more effective ways to do it."

She said that despite the 1-year-old policy, there are still racial disparities in relation to various crime charges, such as the discovery of drugs or weapons as the result of a traffic stop, which she also clamped down on. "It's not really clear why that is. We need to dig into it a bit deeper."

Addressing racial inequity was something she regularly used the office for.

"I try to share information with them, and vice versa," she said. "I share with them studies. But, frankly, they tell me, 'I'm not going to read that.'"

"They kept saying they were going to rely on their experiences," said Siemon. "But you can't rely on the experiences as data that got us into this problem in the first place. Because we know we all have implicit biases that helped inform that experience."

Ingham County Circuit Judge Rosemarie Aquilina was a frequent critic of Siemon's plea bargains. She made headlines this month for calling for Siemon to resign.

Aquilina believed that Siemon's plea deals were endangering the community. Siemon countered that the real concern was that the Prosecutor's Office had dramatically reduced the number



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Trauma

from page 5

of habitual-offender charges brought in cases. Data Siemon was working with found that the habitual-offender charges were being applied more regularly to people of color.

Conflict with law enforcement is not new territory for progressive prosecutors across the country. But Siemon did find herself facing a catastrophic public health crisis that no one planned for: COVID-19.

“We still don’t know all the systems that were broken during the pandemic,” she said. “We have a pretty good understanding of the virus and the health impacts, but not on the systems. I don’t know if we ever will. What COVID did was take fractured areas in society and fracture them even more.”

She noted that the George Floyd murder early in the pandemic drew stark comparisons. “I couldn’t help but notice, and I think most people couldn’t help but notice, that the lockdown protests were mostly white people carrying semi-automatic rifles. But Black men were being shot to death for having a gun.”

But it hasn’t been all front-facing conflict for Siemon.

She walked into office just weeks before Donald Trump was sworn in as president. His anti-immigrant rhetoric on the campaign trail had raised fears in the immigrant community on multiple levels.

“We are a hub city for immigrants coming to this country,” she said. “But we needed to put in place systems to make sure that any immigrant who was a victim or was in court for another reason, was not going to get grabbed up by ICE or other law enforcement. It was a really worrying time.”

Behind the scenes she has worked to address tracking of hate crimes, including those related to the LGBTQ community. Michigan’s hate crime law does not cover crime motivated against a person based on gender identity or sexual orientation. An early-on experience in the office led her to implement a preferred pronoun option for survivors of crime. A young transgender woman was misgendered by law enforcement, and then again by the Prosecutor’s Office when it called her for a preliminary hearing. The woman never showed up for court and the accused had the charges dropped.

“That was a really unfortunate situation that could have been prevented,” she said.

She pointed out her connection with Advance Peace, noting violence interruption was an important tool. All of the Advance Peace locations were similar in demographics to Lansing. But like many of the policy ideas she wanted to move forward, it required moving pieces into place for the next prosecutor to build on.

“I won’t get to see those implemented, but I am excited to see what I think will be really good results,” she said.

Under her tenure, the Prosecutor’s Office got grant dollars from the Department of Justice and the office of Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel to fund DNA testing on rape kits. That, she said, has led to convictions of old rapes.

“It also showed us that some people who sexually assault do it again,” she said. “Just like they found in Detroit, and across the nation, we were finding cases linked by DNA.”

She said the grant funding also paid for investigators to spend time with victims from years before, encouraging them to pursue criminal prosecution.

“I am really proud of that,” she said. “I am really proud of those investigators and the work they did and continue to do.”

— TODD HEYWOOD

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'Tis the season to be generous ... to City Pulse

By **BERL SCHWARTZ**

As I look back on 2022, I see a difficult year of adjustment in our operations, but a rewarding year based on the feedback of readers.



BERL SCHWARTZ

Internally, turnover complicated life, but as we approach a new year, we have largely stabilized staffing. One of the givens of a small newspaper with big aspirations is that talented journalists will pass through.

We filled one hole this month with the addition of Nicole Noechel, a recent grad of the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland, whose family lives in Okemos. Nicole is our events editor as well as a deputy to me on the production side. She edits the Out on the Town section, to which you can contribute online at <https://www.lansingcitypulse.com/calendar/#/>. But if you want to pitch an idea for a story or highlight (those briefs we run in the calendar section), email her as far in advance as possible at nicole@lansingcitypulse.com or call her (517) 999-5066.

On the freelance front, we are very pleased to have attracted two new regulars: Lucas Henkel, who writes our weekly marijuana column, Lansterdam in Review, and Lizzy Ferguson, who contributes both The Dish and New in Town. We look forward to long and rewarding relationships with both.

I am excited to announce that Joan Nelson, who retired last summer as the founding director of the Allen Neighborhood Center, will join us as a monthly columnist. We look forward to her views on urban matters and other issues.

We are pleased as well that Kyle Melinn and Dedria Humphries Barker will continue to contribute their columns. Back, too, is Rich Tupica's Turn It Down weekly music column, which is paired with a vastly improved Live and Local listing of upcoming performances. Todd Heywood, whose encyclopedic knowledge of the Lansing area gained from three decades of coverage for various news organizations is an invaluable resource, continues as a staff member. Mary Cusack continues as a theater reviewer, and on the food front, we're pleased that Gaby Lawrence and Bryan Beverly are staying on as our She Ate/He Ate restaurant reviewers. Bill Castanier will continue to share his vast knowledge of books and local history. And what would City Pulse be without the contributions on almost all fronts of Lawrence Cosentino? He will be continuing as well.

The Edit, City Pulse's editorial, which appears almost weekly, will benefit from

a first-ever editorial board that is taking shape. Our goal for The Edit (which appears this week) is for it to expand to every week in the new year.

On the business front, we lost our house mother, office manager Suzi Smith, to retirement. But we gained Kamara Miller Drane, who can help you with public and legal notices and payments and can direct you to the right person for advertising. She is at kamara@lansingcitypulse.com and (517) 999-6704. She joins Lee Purdy in the business office, whose sales efforts at City Pulse for five years have made him an invaluable team member.

An area of business that is challenging is getting papers into your hands. Our circulation was 16,000 before the pandemic, and we have bounced back to

14,300. The demand is there for much more. We are grateful to all our 300 distributors. Thanks to them, we have surpassed the daily Lansing State Journal in circulation. And if Kroger and Whole Foods would reverse their decisions to ban free publications, which cost us nearly 4,000 papers a week, we'd rival the Journal's Sunday numbers. We're grateful that Fresh Thyme — our biggest pickup point — has not followed suit.

The snowy November weather reminds me to give a shout-out to our delivery drivers: Dave Fisher (still going strong at 81), Curt Louck, Sarah Moore and our most recent addition, Cindy Heistand, the former distribution manager of Wheeler Dealer. Cindy is a retiree who wanted something to keep her active, and we're

glad she picked City Pulse. We can use one more driver.

Local journalism is more important than ever as we adjust to an evolving media landscape. We at City Pulse appreciate every cent that readers contribute to help us bring you enterprising stories. Inflation has hit us as hard as everyone else, particularly the costs of paper and gas to deliver the paper. Your gifts really do make a difference. Thus, if you still have it, please use the donation envelope that was in every copy of last week's paper. Otherwise, please mail us a check made out to City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912, go online to www.lansingcitypulse.org/support-us or call (517) 999-6704 to contribute by credit card.

Thanks for reading City Pulse and have a wonderful holiday season.

(Berl Schwartz is the editor and publisher of City Pulse.)

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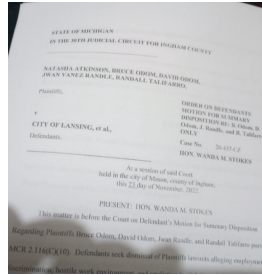
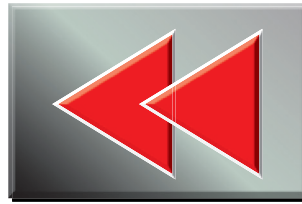
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REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

BY BERL SCHWARTZ AND NICOLE NOECHEL



Ingham County Circuit Judge Wanda Stokes has dismissed lawsuits by six current or former city of Lansing employees alleging racial discrimination and ordered the plaintiffs to pay the city's legal fees. Stokes said they failed "to provide sufficient facts to support a prima facie case of discrimination based upon their race, that they were subject to a hostile work environment, or suffered any adverse employment action." The six included former Lansing Fire Chief Randy Talifarro. Stokes dismissed the cases "with prejudice," meaning they cannot be brought to court again. For more details, see www.lansingcitypulse.com.

After five months, the 2-mile

stretch of Interstate 496 in Lansing that was shut down for construction has reopened, returning drivers (mostly) to their standard commutes. The construction was part of an \$82 million statewide infrastructure project that was set to finish in October. During the closure, eastbound and westbound drivers were rerouted to Malcolm X and St. Joseph streets. Some exits awaiting light poles will remain closed until mid-December, as will the Capitol Avenue bridge, which needs replacements for deteriorating steam ducts.



Following the recent construction of Downtown Lansing Inc.'s seasonal Kringle Holiday Market in Reutter Park, homeless advocacy groups are fighting for more accommodation.

The park is home to a portion of the city's homeless population, who can often be found sleeping on warm grates from the city's steam system during winter. The groups met with city officials and Downtown Lansing Inc. Executive Director Cathleen Edgerly Tuesday to discuss demands. They hope homeless parkgoers will be able to use the market's sheds and heaters both during and after event hours, among other requests.

Two sets of triplets were born six days apart at E.W. Sparrow Hospital in September, an exceedingly rare occurrence. The first set of triplets was



born on Sept. 8, and the second on Sept. 14. Sparrow spokesperson Corey Alexander told the Lansing State Journal that the hospital typically only delivers a set of triplets every two to three years, so to have two sets born within a week is "amazing." According to Michigan Department of Health and Human Services data, only .03% of live births in Michigan in both 2020 and 2019 were triplets.



2409 Dunlap St., Lansing

This 1955 home has seen better times. Its front porch roof is falling down. The front door is boarded up. Weathered lumber is piled up in the backyard. An old hot tub occupies the back porch. The home certainly looks like many that have been featured in Eyesore in the past that were red-tagged. This one did not have any evidence of a red tag on the windows, and city of Lansing records show no red tagging had been ordered for the property. In fact, the property was sold by the Ingham County Land Bank in September to Maria Sotelo. The county took possession in February's property tax foreclosure sale. Since the home was purchased, it has been cited twice for trash and cleared, according to city records.

"Eyesore of the Week" is our weekly look at some of the seedier properties in Lansing. It rotates with Eye Candy of the Week and Eye for Design. Have a suggestion? Email eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call in a nomination at 517-999-5061.

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In 2007 I started All Star Mechanical after working for two of the largest companies in Lansing, and a short stint working for a smaller company. I knew that we weren't providing the type of service that people assumed we were, and I figured if they were able to stay in business by providing less, than certainly, I could be successful by doing more. There were many who said I was crazy to open a business during the financial crisis the country was in.

I thought I knew everything I needed to know. It turns out, I had a lot to learn, and I embraced the opportunities presented to me to live up to the name I chose for this business. What I didn't realize is that it wasn't just what I needed to learn, but so much more that I needed to unlearn. And in a way, it was the unlearning that was the most important aspect of what I needed to separate myself from the rest of the industry. I didn't know it at the time, but this would be a critical part of my own personal growth, and it would be a stepping stone to becoming the company we are today from a wider perspective. Being a company with a conscience started with HVAC, and now encompasses our philosophy as a business that treats people the way they desire to be treated. Not just our customers, but our staff. Everyone on our staff is making a living wage, and more than I ever made working for someone else.

The systemic problems we see as a nation aren't limited to government, policing, healthcare, or education, they are all intertwined.

For my entire existence, I've only known what I was taught through formal education, but also in any job that I've held, including HVAC. I thought I was the greatest thing since sliced bread. Come to find out, I was maybe a slightly above average heating and cooling guy. It wasn't because I wasn't trying to be the best, but because what I knew was wrong. I was taught the status quo of HVAC and could never be the best until I learned the things required to truly be successful. It fits with the American way. Too many people believe they are great, but it is based on false information. It takes a commitment to trust new information, and that can be scary when you are a small business. The status quo will get you by, but it is much more rewarding to find out how much better you can be, by seeing the results of having integrity, and how much of a difference you can make in the comfort, and energy consumption in the homes we work in. The industry is wasteful, and even though the manufacturers have created products that are incredibly efficient, we have not done enough to assure that each home is actually achieving the efficiency that the equipment is designed to be. Most homes in our area are not operating at, or even close to peak efficiency. I know we all want to believe what we are told, and it is hard to know when something isn't true, but just like our history classes, and for me specifically, I learned that my education was not accurate, and it can happen in any industry. Just because something works, doesn't mean it is working as good as it can. Nearly every example of progress in society has been slow, and progress is progress, but evidence shows that we still have a lot of work to do, there are just too many willing to accept things the way they are, so silence is just easier than because it doesn't require any effort. In HVAC, people end up paying a little more in energy, and even repairs, and ultimately shortened lifespan, which is metaphorically accurate to the rest of society. Silence is apathy and apathy is lethal.

In my growth, I've learned to incorporate work practices that I didn't even know about because the businesses that I worked for didn't practice them at all. Some of these things are critical in how the system works, and how long the system lasts.

By instituting these practices into our everyday operations, it's continuously proving to be the difference between saying we have your best interests in mind, and ACTUALLY HAVING YOUR BEST INTERESTS IN MIND.

The issues we see plaguing our society are not just similar, they are one and the same. People can say they care, but their perspective of caring depends on what they were taught.

- We are taught to pledge allegiance to the flag, even when the promise of liberty and justice fall short for so many.
- We are told that police are here to protect and serve. We've been conditioned to accept that police brutality is often times necessary. There are very limited scenarios that fit that narrative.
- We've been told that our past leaders were virtuous. Do virtuous people enslave other people?
- We are told that symbols that represent traitors shouldn't be removed from public spaces, even though they represent a time when people were treated inhumanely.
- We are told that white supremacy is not a real issue, that it's reserved for the fringe of society, even though the constitution was written by white men, for white men, and even though we are barely a generation removed from people being lynched because of the color of their skin.
- We are told that being gay, trans, or any other identifier is a choice, even though science tells us otherwise, and nature proves it in other species.
- We ignore disabled people who just want to be able to enjoy the same convenience that able bodied people expect.
- We fight wars that have no end and reject taking care of those young people who come back injured after being convinced they were patriotic for fighting in them, and tell anyone who opposes these wars that THAT is unpatriotic.
- We turn away from people who are homeless, as if they don't even exist, while allowing landlords to prey on the poorest among us.
- We renege on promises after committing genocide on Native people. We renege on restitution after forcing African people to provide unpaid labor, rip away their babies and sell them, torture, rape, and murder them to create fear if they disobey. We forgave ourself of those debts at their expense.
- We don't pay our debt (see last point), and then ridicule those suffocating from inflated student loans that prey on young people who were told that college was necessary and yet there will never be enough jobs that pay a salary that will make it possible to pay back without struggling for years and years.

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I could go on, but it doesn't have to be this way. Businesses can and should pay a living wage. There are those who hoard wealth and pay little or nothing in taxes. We know this because they continue to have record profits while also raising prices for things we use every day. Healthcare should be available to everyone. Education should include the worst parts of our history, as well as the best parts. Everyone deserves to have a work/life balance. Our mental health hangs in the balance of all of this. An educated and healthy society is more important than any amount of wealth.

I believe that I've learned how to run an HVAC business on principles that are honorable, and truly provide the service you should expect, without lip service, gimmicks, or deceptive marketing tactics. More than anything, I want to do what is right, both inside and outside of business. I'm not wealthy, I just make an honest dollar for the expertise we provide. I believe we are the type of business you'd write to your mother about.

Carol Siemon's decision to step down as Ingham County's prosecuting attorney with two years left on her four-year term in office is a disheartening way to end the year. We would vastly prefer she continue the good work she started when first elected to the post in 2016. But we respect her choice to pursue whatever path is best for her and wish her well.

Throughout her tenure, Siemon has championed reforms that directly address the racial disparities in our criminal justice system. She's also been one of those public servants who resolutely stand behind their principles and do exactly what they say they are going to do. In a 2021 editorial, we praised Siemon for reminding us that a few carefully considered actions always speak louder than the thousands of empty words uttered by so many of her peers in public service.

Siemon is unapologetic about the changes she drove in the Prosecutor's Office. She showed boatloads of moxie when she didn't back down in the face of withering public criticisms from a cadre of out-county law enforcement officials led by Ingham County Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth, with support from several other local politicians looking to pander to the "tough on crime" crowd.

For her efforts — and her troubles — Siemon was honored in May as Peacemaker of the Year by the Lansing Area Peace Education Center. The group cited her efforts "to bring fairness in charging and sentencing criminal defendants (and) worked to ensure that all members of the community, especially those who are disadvantaged, receive fair justice." Siemon's unflagging determination to rebalance the scales of justice in Ingham County will be her legacy.

There was a time when we were a bit chafed by Siemon's dogged defiance of Michigan's mandatory life sentence for capital murder. We argued that she was overstepping her bounds and suggested she should instead get together with like-minded prosecutors and advocates around the state to campaign for change. We still think that's a good idea. In the end, despite our disagreement with some of her policies, Siemon's integrity, grit and fierce adherence to her core principles won us over.

Her unexpected resignation means a new prosecutor will be named to replace her through next year and the post will be on the November 2023 ballot to elect someone to serve out the remaining year of her term.

Who replaces her till the election will be up to the judges in the 30th District

Circuit Court, including Rosemarie Aquilina. Judge Aquilina is one of the public officials who repeatedly chastised Siemon for her tendency to seek lighter punishments for certain criminal defendants. We were disappointed by Aquilina's harsh public commentary mostly because it was aimed at another strong, progressive woman — the first elected female Ingham County prosecutor — a colleague and peer who, like the judge, has worked hard to bring fairness, justice and equity to our criminal justice system and to ensure that victims are heard.

Given her strong advocacy for empowering other women, it seems just a bit out of character for Aquilina and makes us wonder if the judge's strong words are part of a broader agenda. Coupled with her slightly bizarre publicity stunt offering to serve as the next president of Michigan State University — a job for which she has no readily apparent qualifications — we think Aquilina's public relations machine may be ramping up for something bigger, perhaps a run for elected office or a national TV talk show.

And, we would be remiss to ignore the whiff of hypocrisy in Aquilina attacking another public official for overstepping her legal bounds, given the criticisms leveled against the judge for her extrajudicial comments from the bench during the sentencing of notorious sex offender Larry Nassar. Many cheered her "death sentence" statement — surely it was healing to Nassar's victims to hear those words out loud — but it came at the risk of giving Nassar an issue to appeal his conviction.

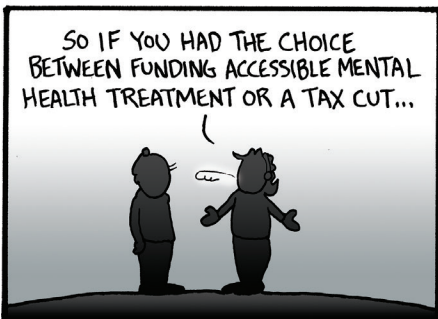
In any case, we hope Aquilina will rediscover her judicial temperament and consider the full scope of the prosecutor's responsibilities during the process of selecting Siemon's successor. While we believe the next county prosecutor should be a strong, progressive advocate for victim's rights and ensuring that survivors are heard, they also need to possess the requisite qualifications for the job. Aquilina's role in the selection process is to consider

the best interests of the people of Ingham County and choose a candidate with the experience to sustain the operational needs of the office. We hope she doesn't use it as a platform to advance her political or professional aspirations, whatever they may be.

Siemon faithfully did her part to bend the arc of history toward justice. For that, and despite our disagreements, we will always consider her tenure a success and hope her replacement carries forward her relentless commitment to solving the still persistent inequities baked into our criminal justice system.

Siemon's work should go on

The CP Edit Opinion



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Black pride resides in education



By **DEDRIA HUMPHRIES BARKER**

For most of the 18 years I was employed at Lansing Community College as a writing/English professor, Brent Knight was the college president. But last week when City Pulse published an update about his retirement, I wondered why. I mean, he's gone.

I said that, even though I had read the article. All the way through. To the end.

I read it because Knight modernized the LCC downtown campus to be what my daughter called "spiffy." He made it easy to feel good about our commuter campus.

I'm proud of that.

Pride in education is a constant in the Black community. Probably because reading and writing were illegal for enslaved Black people and education was the subject of a majorly famous debate between two great Black American influencers, W.E.B. DuBois and Booker T. Washington.

DuBois said the talented 10th of Black youth should go to college; Washington advocated for them to train to do practical things, like plumbing and other learning trades in apprenticeships.

You might be thinking, is it Black History Month? No. That's February. But a few things with Black people happened this fall at our flagship, Michigan State University, that need comment now.

Let's start with Jim Bibbs. Everybody calls him Coach because of his spectacular 30-year career coaching track at MSU. In October, at 95 years old, Coach was given the honor of being 2022 MSU Homecoming grand marshal.

It was duty as light as his sprinters on their feet: He regaled spectators of the Homecoming parade, waved at halftime

and reigned at his President's House reception.

Coach's legacy goes all the way to the top of his sport. In my football mom memoir, "Balls," I recall how at the East Lansing High School football banquet, Bibbs was dressed to impress in his track jacket that was aglitter with "Olympics 2000." That year his protege, Karen Dennis, was head coach of the women's track and field team.

It was natural for Coach to be at the ELHS football banquet. He was also an assistant coach for the ELHS track team under Jeff Smith, who was head track and football coach. Track was ELHS football speed training.

One time I was sitting with Coach at an ELHS football game when a player on the field made a dumb mistake. "That kid," Coach said, "has a million-dollar body and a 10-cent head."

Sound harsh? No. That's genuine. Elite athletes need grounding in reality. Coach told the MSU Today podcast that his best advice to student-athletes

is to "take school seriously because that's the bottom line.

"If you make it (in athletics), school becomes Plan B, but

if you don't make it, school becomes Plan A."

Sports journalist Jemele Hill is one who made it in sports. Well known for her 12 years on camera for the sports network ESPN, that job ended in 2017 after tweeting that Donald Trump was a white supremacist.

The way she talks about the ESPN episode is less important than how she recovered from it. As Bibbs would say, her Plan B became Plan A. Hill, an MSU Journalism School graduate, is now a book author. Her new memoir is titled "Uphill."

Hill, who sums up her background as "Born and raised in Detroit; grew up

at Michigan State," made time to visit her alma mater while in the state a few weeks ago for three book signings in her native Detroit.

While in East Lansing, she sat for an interview with Assistant Professor Christina Myers before an audience of faculty, staff and students and a few other people like me.

In her memoir, Hill defies the storytelling approach that boosts individuals over their group. Instead, her memoir features her mother and grandmother's stories as prominently as her own. She wants readers to know her Black pride.

Black pride is instilled by paying attention to Black people and their accomplishments and by studying the same in school. The efforts to formally establish African American studies in colleges and universities reach back 50-plus years, to the 1960s, when enough young Black college students were enrolled to make the point.

When I was a student at Wayne State University in the 1970s, my friends and I became Afric-centric. I switched my

foreign language study from French to Swahili. My friends changed their European names to African ones. Kwanzaa became a major holiday. We wore Afro hair styles, kente cloth dashikis and mud cloth coats. Respecting our heritage and ancestors was the watchword.



Though MSU has been a tad slow, even among Big Ten universities, in elevating African American studies to an academic department, complete with its own chairperson, faculty, staff and budget, the old-school feeling was alive at their celebration earlier this month.

Libations were offered. Libations is a ceremony of appreciation through words and pouring liquid in tribute.

And in a meeting room, a monument was established to the leaders who kept pushing the idea that MSU African American and African Studies be a permanent, independent, solid entity at the university, with stature as secure as chemistry.

Those ancestors' names are etched on a mirrored wall where students can reflect on their history, and see themselves as the future.

That's Black pride.

(Dedria Humphries Barker is the author of "Mother of Orphans: The True and Curious Story of Irish Alice, A Colored Man's Widow." Her opinion column appears on the last Wednesday of each month.)

OPINION



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Mission Statement

To provide an atmosphere of caring and sensitivity while providing quality service as defined by each family's needs. To provide, on an ongoing basis, a facility of comfort with a sensitive environment. To always be good stewards of our community while providing a leadership role in our efforts.

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Vickers Funeral Homes is a full service, family-owned funeral home. We are committed to helping our families during their time of need. Being locally owned and operated, we are able to provide personal service and accommodate each family and assist them in creating meaningful services. Whether you are looking for a full service with visitation and burial or a simple cremation, we are able to “wrap our arms around you” and walk with you through every step. If you are interested in Pre-Planning, we can meet with you to discuss options and help plan a service for you or your loved ones. We also have experience working with funeral homes in other states including receiving remains into our care or sending them to their final resting place.

Staff

Owner/Manager/Director: Darin R. Vickers - Darin was raised in Leslie and graduated from Leslie High School, Western Michigan University, and Worsham College of Mortuary Science. Darin believes every family is unique and gives one on one attention with care and understanding.

Dug, The Funeral Home Dog – Dug was born in the spring of 2017. He was bred and chosen to be a grief therapy dog based on his temperament and personality. Living with Darin, he is a “dog” most of the time, but when there is a group of people or a service, he is all work. You can follow some of Dug’s adventures on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

Funeral Director: John Montgomery – John is a licensed funeral director in several states. Following in his father’s footsteps, John has been providing funeral care to families for over 50 years. He brings vast experience and knowledge to our families.

Resident Funeral Director: Hannah E. Walker – Hannah grew up in Eaton Rapids and recently graduated from Worsham College of Mortuary Science. She returned to us to complete her resident training with the intention of joining Darin as a fully Licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer. “It’s a great responsibility to care for someone after they have passed, while concurrently caring for those they have left behind. It’s a privilege to be entrusted to do both.”

Executive Assistant: Kim M. Smith - Kim grew up near Ft. Wayne, Indiana and graduated with a degree in Social Work from Ball State University. She has extensive experience serving children and families. Kim joined Darin in 2016 and has been helping serve families with compassion, understanding, and love in her roles as office manager, family care, and continuing care.

Family Care Associates: Don and Judy Vickers – Don and Judy have been helping provide family care during services since Darin’s return to Leslie. Lifelong residents of the Leslie area, they raised their 3 children in Leslie and are still active in the community.

Invitation

We invite you to consider Vickers for your end-of-life arrangements. We have provided services for families in Grand Ledge, St. Johns, Albion, Marshall, Perry, Williamston and even as far as Traverse City and Flint. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, are in need of our services, or would like to preplan funeral arrangements for yourself or a loved one. Although we cannot walk in your shoes, Darin, Hannah and Kim are here to walk beside you.



Dug, the Funeral Home Dog

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A primer on how the Democrats can keep the House and Senate

Michigan Democrats picked a good year to win control of the Michigan House and Senate.

If you're a Democrat, every year might seem like a good year, but starting with a majority in 2023 tees you up in particular.

The new term limits law allows those elected to their first House term to serve for 12 years as opposed to six. Ten of those years will be representing the same legislative districts until the 2031 redistricting process.

Leaders such as Rep. Julie Brixie and Rep. Angela Witwer could serve in the House for six years longer than they had initially planned.

Since it's easier to win a seat with an incumbent than a new candidate, Democrats will be approaching swing seats for at least the next three cycles with a decided advantage.

The dynamics at play give them an opportunity to hold to a majority for a while as long as they don't get too complacent and overplay their hand. In politics, that's easier said than done.

To set this up, Democrats will have control of both Michigan legislative chambers for the first time in 40 years. They will control the gavel in the 2023-24 session with slight 56-54 and 20-18 majorities.

This edge is not a mandate. It's a slim majority they won, in large part because:

— The U.S. Supreme Court's conservative majority overturned *Roe v. Wade*, igniting young women voters to become politically active in numbers that are uncommon for non-presidential years.

— Former President Donald Trump repelled Republican-leaning independents by pushing the election conspiracy nonsense and playing footsie with the Q-anon crowd.

Without those two dynamics, this week's column would be much different.

Really, Democrats should have lost in 2022. President Joe Biden's approval numbers are low. Inflation is high. The economy is on shaky ground. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's disapproval rating is rock solid in the mid 40s. After her emergency COVID restrictions, moving

that number is tough.

Democrats and their supportive interest groups have a laundry list of priorities they want. After 40 years in the minority, how could they not? If they blissfully check off items like the 1983 Democrats did by passing an income tax increase, things could go badly.

The D's lost two Senate recall elections that year, and the Republicans have controlled the majority ever since.

Whitmer has backed off her 45-cent gas tax increase (remember that?). Instead, she's talking tax cuts, not tax increases.

That's a good start. State legislators have billions in leftover money to spend. If that's squandered in a way where voters don't feel its impact, they'll hear about it.

If police funding and working conditions aren't improved to push down crime numbers, Democratic legislators will hear about it.

As much as environmentalists may want the Legislature to pass bills to shut down Line 5 along the Mackinac Straits, doing so likely raise fuel prices for Northern Michiganders and Yoopers. If that happens, Democrats will hear about it.

I'm not saying Democrats need to walk on egg shells. They simply need to be smart.

A majority of voters support moderate gun safety legislation. They support codifying the Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act to include the LGBTQ population. They support school safety.

They can keep the focus on helping working families, seniors, children, education and health care. The issues they take up can focus on solving problems, not scoring points or getting retribution.

As long as the Democrats govern from a sensible middle — something Republicans struggled to do last term — they limit the attacks that'll be hurled at them later. They can gain support from independents.

If they can make relationships and work with Republicans on common goals like economic development, Democrats can prove themselves to be an inclusive, majority party.

If they make this term about paybacks and kowtowing to the hopes and dreams of a passionate progressive base, their time in the majority will be short.

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



KYLE MELINN

Opinion

WORSHIP WITH US THIS

Christmas

CHRISTMAS
EVE

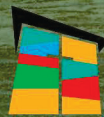
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The Baron scores big MSU grad Brian Major debuts at Met

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Brian Major spent the past month or so walking the hallowed boards of New York's Metropolitan Opera in an electric blue waistcoat embroidered with gold. No big deal, right?

"Honestly, it is just like any other stage," he said. "You have the same obligation, as an artist, to perform to the best of your ability so an audience will enjoy a story." Major, a baritone with a 2019 doctorate in vocal music from MSU, debuted at the Met in a lavish production of Verdi's classic "La Traviata," whose run ended Saturday.

He returns in April to sing in the Met's first production of jazz trumpeter and composer Terence Blanchard's penetrating study of an aging boxer, "Champion."

Major admitted that before rehearsals began, walking into the Met was "like an out-of-body experience." He got lost a few times and had to ask for help. It was hard not to think of all the greats who have sung at the theater since it was founded in 1883, but once rehearsals started, the spell broke.

"You think, 'My God, I'm with so and so, who sang all over the world. How are they going to treat me?'" he said. "Then we're laughing, grabbing lunch and coffee together. I jumped back into my body and really enjoyed the ride, enjoyed being on that stage."

There was plenty to enjoy. This "La Traviata" was meant to stimulate the eye as well as the ear. A revival of director Michael Mayer's 2018 Met production, a luridly lit head trip of electric blues, purples, pinks and golds, framed as the fairy-tale memories of the dead heroine, Violetta.

"It's kind of over the top, but I enjoyed the costumes, especially mine, and it was very satisfying to the eye," Major said.

The singer who plays Baron Douphol, Violetta's indignant protector, usually gets as much critical notice as a pothole on the road to a bigger tragedy — but not with Major filling out the waistcoat.

"Formidable in voice and stature was Brian Major as Baron Douphol," noted the New York Classical Review. Opera News noted Major's "dashing debut as the Baron."

"So many people play the Baron as an elderly man who is not attractive but happens to have enough money to afford



Photo by Jonathan Tichler

Brian Major (in the blue waistcoat, listening to the lady with the bottle) made a vigorous Metropolitan Opera debut in an eye-popping production of Verdi's "La Traviata."

having Violetta on his arm," Major said. "I played it as an attractive, younger man."

Major recalled how the majestic baritone Robert McFerrin, father of jazz singer Bobby McFerrin, was denied the role of Valentin in Charles Gounod's "Faust" at the Met in the 1940s because he was told audiences wouldn't accept a Black Frenchman.

"As an artist, I have to create these characters that are believable," Major said. "But also, the way the world is going now, audiences are becoming more open to diversity. Their imagination is starting to open up and their eyes can see it."

Over the holidays, he'll be studying up for his next role, Ford in Verdi's "Falstaff" at the Maryland Lyric Opera.

That's quite a run of playing jealous rich guys, but Major's entrée to the Met was his anguished, powerful performance as an aging boxer in "Champion" at the Boston Lyric Opera in May.

Three actors play the title character, Emile Griffith. Major was a last-minute replacement to play "old" Emile, suffering from dementia and wracked with guilt over putting an opponent into a coma years before, all while struggling with his identity as a gay man.

Major learned the huge role, full of technical and emotional challenges, in four days by rolling with the quick deadline and tapping directly into his psyche.

"One of my biggest fears in life is being

lost in my own thoughts, dementia, not being able to tell people what I'm feeling, not being able to be present," he said. "That drove me to dig deeper."

The experience went beyond summoning up anger, tears or joy for an ordinary performance.

"I let myself go — ugly crying, as they say," he said. "My wife told me, 'You were no longer there.'"

Word spread that representatives from the Metropolitan Opera were coming to scout talent for the Met's upcoming production of "Champion."

"I thought, 'OK, if they come, they come,'" Major said. "I'm not going to ask where they are, I'm not going to try to sing to them or do anything differently."

Major got a call from the Met the following Monday.

"You hear these stories of being at the right place at the right time," he said. "For so long, I've wanted that to happen, and you always think, 'This is it,' but you don't know. You just have to be present, remove yourself from the situation and just do what you are supposed to do, to the best of your ability, and it will be rewarded. And here I am."

Major grew up in Asbury Park, New Jersey. He played trumpet and sang in the high chorus, but he didn't commit to singing until he heard a widely-acclaimed 1997 CD of Handel arias by powerhouse Welsh bass-baritone Bryn Terfel.



Courtesy photo

"Excuse me, sir, how do you get to the Met?" MSU vocal music alumnus Brian Major says hard work prepared him for the fateful call.

"To me, classical music sounded the same, but when I heard his voice — the timbre, the expression, the nuance — it was totally different," Major said. "It was something I couldn't do on the trumpet. I was hooked."

Major met his wife, soprano Michelle Johnson, while studying for a master's degree at Boston University. They have a 7-year-old daughter, Liza.

With a growing family, Major worked in customer service, hustling for singing gigs on the side, when he learned in 2016 that a friend of his, baritone Mark Rucker, was teaching at MSU. Rucker told him a graduate assistantship was available at MSU, "but you have to make your decision by Monday." It was a Sunday.

"I didn't realize that the universe was preparing me for bigger and better places," he said about his quick decision to apply.

At MSU, Major played the Count in Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro" and the title role in Puccini's "Gianni Schicchi." He taught a voice class for non-music majors.

"The operas were great and the teachers were fascinating," he said. They also went the extra mile to support his career. When Major snagged a juicy six-week gig in another city, three professors filled in to help teach his class, each guest instructor teaching two weeks.

"So many people would have said 'no,'" Major said. "They saw something and allowed me to pursue my dream."

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Heritage Hall:

Elijah E. Myers, Harriet Tenney and the 21st century



Bill Castanier

Heritage Hall, the Capitol's new entrance and exhibit space, was created to preserve and teach the history of the building and the state at large. The site opened in the summer of 2022, with its formal grand opening Tuesday.

Go deep. That was the answer to decades of hand-wringing and consternation regarding the construction of Heritage Hall, an addition to Michigan's historic, Neoclassical State Capitol.

There was always a concern that an addition to the 143-year-old Capitol would detract from its beauty. The answer to that conundrum was to dig down two stories and bury the student orientation rooms and legislative meeting rooms below ground on the building's north side.

"From the beginning, the goal was to make the new structure as unobtrusive as possible so as not to detract from the historic building," said former State Rep. Joan Bauer, a member of the Capitol Commission, which oversaw the construction plans.

Bauer, who visits other state capitols as a hobby, said, "Many of the capitols have beautiful orientation and exhibit spaces."

Now, the more than 115,000 students who take field trips to the Capitol as part of their history curriculums will have access to two orientation rooms and striking, interpretive historic displays laying out the history of the Capitol and the citizens who worked there. In addition, new bus drop-off locations will make the whole experience safer and more convenient.

The above-ground space west of the Capitol was previously used for parking. In the '80s, it was the site of a series of interconnected double-wide trailers that served as hearing rooms.

Heritage Hall, which was officially dedicated Tues-

day, occupies 40,000 square feet and cost \$40 million to build. Construction began in 2019, but COVID-19 delayed completion until this past summer.

Valerie Marvin, State Capitol historian and archivist, said 80 percent of the work on the Capitol was completed by Michigan-based companies.

"For the first time in 100 years, the Capitol is surrounded by lush green lawn providing the perfect and original setting for Michigan's most important public structure," Marvin said.

In this essay, historian David Siwik, who teaches Michigan history at Lansing Community College, takes a long look at the Capitol's past and its role in preserving and teaching the state's rich history.

—BILL CASTANIER



Courtesy photo

David Siwik is a professor of history at Lansing Community College. He researches local and Michigan history as well as American and British history, focusing on the late-19th and early-20th centuries.

By DAVID CHRISTOPHER SIWIK

Heritage Hall, the new entrance and exhibit space of the Michigan State Capitol Building, opened to the public in the summer of 2022, with its formal grand opening Tuesday. The conceptualization, construction and opening are great achievements that illustrate the commitment the Legislature and the people of Michigan have to keeping the Capitol as a place where the government performs its constitutionally mandated functions, and the history of not only the building, but much of Michigan itself is preserved. These are, and have been from the building's beginning, the chief functions of the Capitol that now will be shared with Heritage Hall, a fas-

cinating and important space.

In Michigan, like much of the rest of the United States, the idea of historical preservation has long been contested. Perhaps this is the result of a nation having to invent itself, being born of war and revolution, both upending phenomena prone to ushering in novel ways of living and governance. Even now, with many historic preservation efforts underway and having been successfully completed, Americans still grapple with what should be "saved" and what should be "let go." Oftentimes, the decision to preserve or allow to perish comes down to values and what a group of people perceives to be important.

A notable moment in which the State

of Michigan and its citizens publicly acknowledged and recognized the need to preserve the history of the state came in 1874, with the establishment of the Pioneer Society of the State of Michigan. In 1876, the Pioneer Society created a governing committee charged with the acquisition, creation and publication of historical literature related to the so-called pioneering generation. These were the first generation of folks who moved to Michigan beginning in the 1820s, and by the 1870s, they were growing old. The realization of the coming passing of the generations initiated a concerted and well-organized effort

See Heritage Hall, Page 19

A look inside the Capitol's Heritage Hall

By **BILL CASTANIER**

The new Heritage Hall provides extensive space for displaying important artifacts relating to the Capitol. Through these pieces of memorabilia, the history of the state comes alive. Prior to the new addition, many of these items had never been on exhibit. As time moves on, their importance in telling the story of the Capitol will only increase.

New space in Heritage Hall provides for the proper care and storage of historical artifacts such as the green polka dot bow tie favored by Governor G. Mennen Williams. Williams, Michigan's 41st governor who served from 1949-1960, not only wore his signature bow tie with pride — he would give replicas as gifts. The Governor was seldom seen without his bow tie. The tie in the exhibit is one he presented as a gift to a non-profit organization hosting a fundraiser.

Frank Fitzgerald, Michigan's 34th and 36th governor, used the brown leather tear-off calendar featured in the exhibit to keep his daily schedule. The calendar was a personally monogrammed gift from Continental Distilling Corp. and was recently discovered at a local antique festival. Fitzgerald, from Grand Ledge, was one of only two Michigan governors who served non-consecutive terms. He died in office in 1939, shortly after winning his second term. The 1939 calendar shows an appointment he was unable to keep due to illness.

Valerie Marvin, state Capitol historian and archivist, said many of the exhibited items are gifts from residents and former legislators and staff. She said that portions of the exhibits will be switched out every year so visitors can experience a broad variety of artifacts in the collection.



Bill Castanier

This original hand-painted safe door was discovered in storage and was restored to its original grandeur. There were numerous safes in the Capitol used to store important documents when the building opened in 1879.



Bill Castanier

The mold used to manufacture hinges for the doors in the Capitol during its 1987-1992 restoration was saved after the manufacturer ceased business. The iconic hinges display the state coat of arms throughout the building.



Bill Castanier

One of about two dozen desks purchased in 1878 and used in state offices for many years. Currently, the desk is used to display typical 19th-century office paraphernalia such as an ink well, a leather-bound ledger and a cabinet card featuring the Michigan Senate.



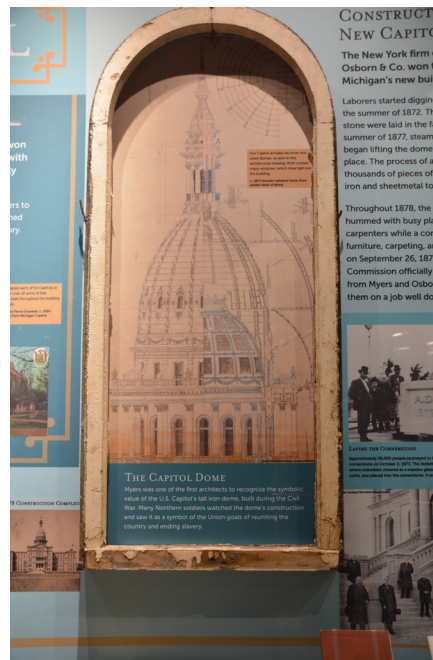
Bill Castanier

The striking architecture of the Capitol was often incorporated into the corporate logos and letterheads of Lansing-area businesses. This late 19th-century bond from the Ingham County Savings Bank is one example of how the Capitol became part of its brand and promotion.



Bill Castanier

A panoramic photo — to which Capitol Historian Valerie Marvin gestures — depicts a massive 1916 gathering of the American Legion Boys State on the Capitol steps. The photo was a gift from a local collector and shows the delegates in a variety of fun poses as they represent their local communities.



Bill Castanier

An architectural drawing of the Capitol dome. Two of the actual modillions are on display so visitors can get a close-up look at some of the roofline's architectural embellishments. Nearby is one of the original window frames from the Capitol dome, which was salvaged during an earlier project.

Heritage Hall

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to preserve their stories, in their own words, before it was too late. The society interviewed men and women from all walks of life and also asked the interviewees to donate significant personal effects. A good example of this is in the papers of Lucius Lyon, one of the land surveyors of Michigan when it was part of the Northwest Territory.

In Michigan, the Civil War, lasting from 1861-1865, delayed the construction of a proper Capitol. In March 1871, Gov. Henry P. Baldwin convinced the Legislature to appropriate money for a new building. The Legislature solicited bids for a new Capitol to be constructed in Lansing, itself only having been founded in 1847. Springfield, Illinois-born architect Elijah E. Myers submitted his bid, titled "Tuebor," Latin for "I will defend," which was also incorporated into the state coat of arms and the state seal. Michigan awarded Myers the contract, and construction commenced in 1872, with most of the work finished by the autumn of 1878. The building officially opened to the public and the Legislature alike on Jan. 1, 1879. It cost \$1.2 million, roughly the equivalent of \$47 million in 2022, a considerable sum at the time.

Historic preservation and the display of history in a demonstration encouraging the public to become engaged with the past has always been an essential element of the building's design and usage. Myers included two key features into the building for this purpose: space on the first floor for a display of historical artifacts, and the building itself, resembling the U.S. Capitol with the dome as the most prominent feature. Construction of the U.S. Capitol dome continued through the Civil War at President Lincoln's insistence, thereby becoming symbolic of the preservation of the Union and freedom. The inclusion of a dome on Michigan's Capitol and elements taken from the U.S. Capitol architecture, therefore, symbolize the same.

One of the most prominent features of Heritage Hall is a large display window one immediately notices on the left side of the building upon entrance. One of the dozens of Civil War regimental flags is visible on the other side of the glass. It is with that very flag, and the dozens of other Civil War regimental flags in the state's possession, that the idea of historic preservation and remembrance began.

On the 4th of July, 1866, Gov. Henry Crapo presided over the Grand Review in Detroit, a somber but celebratory affair in which the veterans of the Civil War paraded their colors for one last time, presenting them to the governor with the command to take care of the flags. Crapo promised to uphold the charge and to forever display them to the public. The purpose was for future generations to see the very flags they carried into battle, some dying while clutching them, to preserve the Union.

When lawmakers and staff begin moving into the building in autumn 1787, the flags were among the thousands of items brought in. Just as Myers' design had called for, a large space was set aside on the first floor to serve as the



Bill Castanier/City Pulse

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer speaks at the dedication of Heritage Hall on Tuesday.

Office of Adjutant General. Within this space, the flags were on display, forming an essential component of the military museum. By 1910, demands for space eliminated the museum and the Adjutant General's Office space in the Capitol altogether, the latter being moved to another office building. According to Capitol historian and curator Valerie Marvin, the flags were relocated to display cases in the Capitol Rotunda specially commissioned by the State Board of Auditors, where they stayed until 1990. The Michigan Capitol, therefore, from its inception, was one of the United States' first Civil War museums.

Harriet Tenney must be acknowledged as equally instrumental in the idea of using the Capitol as a repository and display of some of the state's history. The State of Michigan appointed Tenney as state librarian in 1869. She was also involved in the Ladies Aid Society and Lansing Woman's Club. Tenney, according to Marvin, acquired "curios, relics, and geological specimens" even before the Capitol was finished. These items first ended up in the old State Office Block (a building that stood a short distance away) and were moved into the new Capitol.

Marvin explains that it was the Pioneer Society that proved essential in the utilization of space for historical interpretation. Under Tenney's leadership, the State Library of Michigan grew into an expansive book repository that could be used by lawmakers to research a variety of subjects pertinent to legislation. By the 1920s, Tenney and others had not only created a substantial library; they also curated the Pioneer Society rooms on the fourth floor. The work of historical preservation being conducted by Marvin, Matt VanAcker and other state historians and supported by the recently created Michigan Capitol Commission is comparable to the very first such efforts.

One of the more remarkable aspects of Heritage Hall is how smoothly it integrates into these earlier usages of the Capitol. The displays have an abundance of artifacts, some long held by the state without an appropriate place to display before the opening of Heritage Hall, others discovered or acquired more recently. This includes a mock office appearing as one would have looked in 1879 when the building opened, replete with a desk pur-

chased from furniture maker Kappes and Eggers in Chicago, the firm from which, according to Marvin, the state purchased the original walnut desks for the House Chamber. Other items from that era are also on display, as are seemingly random items discovered during recent renovation work, including an old Campbell's soup can and, curiously enough, a cattle bone.

The design of Heritage Hall is one of its most endearing qualities, and I suspect it will also become one of its most enduring. The underground placement allowed for a restoration of some of the original landscape design of the west Capitol Lawn, long neglected and eventually turned into a parking lot with a parking ramp underneath the side abutting Walnut Street. Going off of a much smaller underground structure built in the 20th century to house maintenance vehicles, the Capitol Commission dug down and in, rather than building out and up.

This yielded the unique ability to juxtapose one structure built 150 years ago with an early-21st-century construction while nearly entirely concealing the now-conjoined structures built so far apart from one another. The effect is appreciated when peering up through the ceiling light to the Capitol Dome, seemingly appearing out of nowhere bisecting the west and north wings, and when ascending the stairs on the far south wall of the room, up two flights' worth, and through the doors into a building from many generations ago. It is as if one is opening the doors of time itself. Walking through the building above, one is treated with a rich collection of fine art, mostly in the form of portraits of governors and other key people who contributed to Michigan's existence.

Little remains of Elijah E. Myers' prolific works, once found in dozens of cities and towns across the United States. In Michigan alone, Myers had several commissions, many long since demolished. In the Mid-Michigan region, in addition to the Capitol, Myers designed the original Lansing Central High School and the Central United Methodist Church (both on Capitol Avenue), the President's House at Michigan State University in East Lansing and the Carnegie District Library in Howell. Central United Methodist

still stands at the northwest corner of Ottawa and Capitol avenues, as does the Howell Carnegie Library on Grand River Avenue in downtown Howell. Michigan State University demolished the President's House in the 1940s, and old Central High School fell to the wrecking ball in 2006.

Old Central High School lost nearly all of its original architectural ornamentations and designs when the structure was dramatically remodeled and expanded in the early 1900s. By then, Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie movement and other prominent early-modernist architectural styles had caused much of the public to disdain, if not outright despise, Victorian architecture. Remodels such as what Old Central High school underwent seemed to deliver a final vote on what the new generation thought regarding the tastes of their parents and grandparents. By the time the wrecking ball took down the building in 2006, only with much of the building's bricks lying in a pile of rubble did some of Myers' original Second Empire style design elements reappear, peeking out of an obscurity bestowed upon them 100 years earlier, now being revealed for one final moment before disappearing forever outside of photos and postcards.

Hatred of Victorian-era architecture coincided with outright neglect. By the 1960s and '70s, Michigan lawmakers dreamed of the day the "joyless classical monument," as author Wayne Andrews described the Capitol in his 1967 book "Architecture in Michigan," could be abandoned once and for all for a new, modern structure. If there is a silver lining to the cloud of early-1980s state budget shortfalls, it may be the abandonment of those plans. Focus instead turned to preserving the existing structure. The state's financial situation improved by the late 1980s, as did political support for restoration rather than replacement.

When the Capitol Restoration Project of 1989-1992 began, the state moved the flags out of the Rotunda, the first time since 1879 that they had not been in the building. Through all of the damage caused by neglect, splitting of floors and the wear-and-tear of a building over 100 years old, the regimental battle flags remained in the same display cases, standing guard for 90 years. Inadvertently and somewhat ignorantly, they were left to slowly fade and deteriorate by the forces of nature, including UV light and humidity. To save them, the flags were moved to the then-newly-opened State Historical Museum, where a special space was set up to house them.

It is a fitting end to the latest era of efforts within the Capitol to preserve and display the state's history that one of the first displays in Heritage Hall is devoted to the conservation of one of the beloved and priceless flags. Heritage Hall stands amid an effort, now 150 years old, to mark the treasure of Michigan's past, the stories of its people and the effects they have left behind, displayed in a magnificent structure embodying all that Michiganders have done through the years — creations, accomplishment and decisions that endure by becoming part of the memory of the past. It is a memory now handed down to those who would otherwise never receive the knowledge.



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Hunt for affordable treasures at Gemstone Hideaway Hut



Lizy Ferguson

Cheri Smith, crystal enthusiast and owner of Gemstone Hideaway Hut, 1410 E. Kalamazoo St. in Lansing.

By LIZY FERGUSON

An almost-lifelong resident of Lansing, Cheri Smith, owner of Gemstone Hideaway Hut, thinks her aversion to the Michigan cold is due to her Texas birthplace. Still, it doesn't keep her down.

"This is truly like a dream every single day, being able to be around the gemstones," Smith said.

Having had an interest in gemstones and crystals for as long as she can remember, Smith's avid collecting turned into selling on Facebook Marketplace, which turned into crafting wire-wrapped necklaces from her beautiful and varied stock, which turned into vending at flea markets and craft shows. And yet, she found there was a demand for more.

"After a while, people were asking where they could come and look at my items when I wasn't at a show," she said. "So, I started looking into getting a storefront."

The space this search led her to, just east of Hunter Park on Kalamazoo Street, was formerly a dispensary (shocker!) and then rented by a church. Cheri and her family put some serious love and care into renovating the space, developing the clean, orderly and inviting atmosphere it now possesses. It opened for business in late September.

The store has two floors, approximately 1,000 square feet each. The first floor is a showroom with a dizzying variety of gemstones and crystals, arranged in a pleasing way that leads the eye seamlessly from one stunning, Earth-crafted wonder to the next, found both in their more natural states and chiseled into pillars and figurines.

There are sage bundles, locally made Divine Lotus tea blends, incense, candles, Cheri's handmade jewelry, tarot cards and more.

Speaking of tarot, a card reader holds court on the second floor one day per week, occasionally sharing the space with an aura reader and a Reiki practitioner who are both available for appointments. These can be made on the store's website, through its Facebook, or by phone.

Apart from being able to spend her days ensconced in her hobby, Smith loves sharing her enthusiasm with others.

"I love helping customers pick out gifts for loved ones or just talking with customers that love gemstones as much as I do," she effused.

Gemstone Hideaway Hut

1410 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing
Monday: noon-7 p.m.
Tuesday-Saturday: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Sunday: noon-5 p.m.
517-619-4395

Smith wants to make her passion as accessible as possible.

She reports that customers tell her she has the best prices around and explains "If I get a good deal, I give a good deal. I want my customers to leave with money in their pockets."

While at first, she struggled to answer my question if she has a favorite gemstone or crystal, after a pause, she walked over to a beautiful sphere of stone, swirling with shades of green and crystalized white, looking like a first cousin to our planet.

"Moss agate," Smith sighed. "You'll never see two that are similar to each other. It's just amazing what the Earth gives us."



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Lizy Ferguson

Gemstone Hideaway Hut is a spiritual treasure trove, selling everything from gems and crystals to teas, incense, candles and tarot cards.

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Outta This Ozone

Reviewing Ascend Wellness' in-house products

By LUCAS HENKEL

Ascend Wellness Holdings believes that cannabis should be accessible to everyone, regardless of their budget. Its goal is to provide a great retail experience, trusted products for every demographic of stoner and exclusive brand partnerships with companies like Lowell Smokes, Flower by Edie Parker, 1906, Wynk and AiroPro, just to name a few. However, this does not mean that you should pass up its in-house brands, Simply Herb, Ozone or Ozone Reserve. AWH's Ozone brand has something for everyone, from edibles to concentrates. If you're looking for something to take you into the next orbit, read on!

The Soap

The Soap is one of my favorite strains, and Ozone's version is no exception. This Sativa hybrid is a cross of Animal Mints and Kush Mints. These strains are heavy in linalool, the terpene most commonly found in lavender. According to some studies, strains with high amounts of linalool can help aid consumers suffering from anxiety and stress. In addition

to the comforting lavender scent, The Soap's pine notes are pleasant and energizing. If you're looking for a solid daytime weed without the jitters typically associated with Sativa strains, consider grabbing an eighth of The Soap.

Dosilato live resin concentrate

Another lavender-scented strain, this hybrid is great to dab after a long day at work. Dosilato provides a gentle body high that helps clear the mind of any silliness that may have occurred earlier in the day. Dosilato is the child of Do-Si-Dos, an intensely relaxing Indica-dominant strain, and Gelato 41, a hybrid that is known for its giggly and euphoric effects. The live resin itself is a delicious amber-gold color that resembles the texture of wet sand. In my opinion, it is too wet to add to blunts or bowls, but it is the perfect consistency for nectar collectors and dab rigs.

SFV OG live resin cartridge

Live resin cartridges are a great solution for folks that enjoy the convenience of vaping

but need something more potent than distillate. This is where Ozone's live resin cartridges come into the picture: these half-gram cartridges are packed with potent and terpy concentrate. A couple of puffs from one of these bad boys had me absolutely soaring. The folks at Ozone hooked me up with their SFV OG, which is known for its energizing body high, and it was the perfect fuel for shovel-saken snow off of my porch.

Blue Dream x Apple Fritter-infused joint

Ozone's infused joints feature a tasty combination of cannabis flower and distillate. These pre-rolls are packed well and smoke even better (a rare find nowadays). This particular combo, Blue Dream and Apple Fritter, provides a nice head buzz. I felt calm but was still able to center myself, strategize and dominate at Magic the Gathering and other tabletop games that I played with friends while sharing this tasty toke.



Ozone Green Apple gummies, 100 milligrams

There are not nearly enough green apple-flavored edibles on the market. Thankfully, Ozone has my back with its sweet and chewy gummy cubes. Each tin contains 10 sugar-coated 10-milligram pieces, about 100 milligrams per tin, and comes in four different flavors: the aforementioned green apple, passion fruit, blood orange and strawberry. All of the gummies are vegan, gluten-free and naturally flavored using actual fruit. I typically eat edibles as a sleep aid,

but I was so excited about these green apple gummies that I ate two in the middle of the day. Not only were they tasty, the body high was relaxing but not couch-lock-inducing.

If you're interested in picking up some of the products mentioned in this article or are interested in seeing what else Ozone has to offer, check out Ascend Cannabis at 1415 Michigan Ave. in East Lansing. Shop hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day for in-store and curbside shopping as well as delivery. For a full list of deals and menu options, check them out online at letsascend.com.



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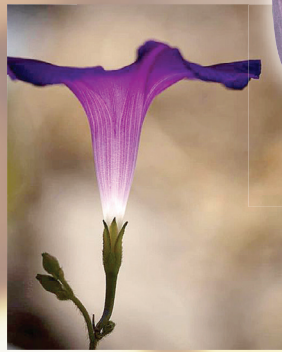
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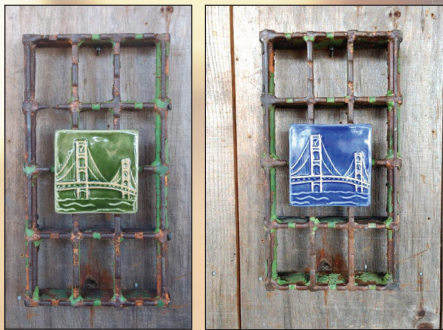
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Detroit author captures high-profile assassinations in unique light

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Robert Morris has been caught up in the Kennedy mystique since he was a little boy in Detroit. His father, Ken Morris, a top official at the United Auto Workers, would drag his sons to all kinds of political events. At a 1960 campaign event in Detroit, Morris, who was 8, found himself posing for a photograph with presidential candidate John F. Kennedy, his father and another UAW official.

Morris said that within the family, that iconic photograph is known as “the picture.”

Now, more than 60 years later, Morris has published “Secret Service Journals: Assassination and Redemption in 1960s Detroit,” a political thriller that revolves around the assassinations of John and Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. and the possible ties to the death of former UAW President Walter Reuther.

Reuther and his spouse, May, died in a plane crash in 1970. At the time, there was some suspicion that the crash may not have been an accident, Morris said. Reuther had previously survived two assassination attempts.

Morris’ book begins with the activities of the Secret Service as seen through the eyes of young agent Bill Simpson, who is assigned to Detroit and works mostly on rooting out counterfeiters. Simpson is rotated to White House detail for six months, where he meets President Kennedy.

Later, Simpson finds himself on the

security detail for a presidential visit to Chicago. An anonymous tip from a man named “Lee” reveals a plot to kill the president as he makes his way to downtown Chicago from the airport.

Simpson finds himself embroiled in internal Secret Service politics and potential corruption, something that sounds a bit like contemporary politics.

The book moves into the many conspiracy theories and coincidences that still are debated today about the Kennedy brothers, Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X.

To that mix, Morris, who has had a lifelong interest in union activities, added Reuther’s death.

Following the publication of his last book, “Built in Detroit,” about the early days of the UAW, Morris said he began looking for a topic for his next book.

“I originally wanted to write about Harry Bennett, the enforcer for Henry Ford, but someone beat me,” he said.

Morris then discovered the conspiracy theory that Reuther may have been assassinated.

“I looked into it, but there was nothing there, but maybe I could do something tying Reuther’s death into a bigger plot,” he said. “The only thing I knew when I started the book was it had to be in the Detroit area. I lived there my entire life.”

In retelling the story of Detroit in the 1960s, Morris has captured the sights and sounds with a near-perfect pitch.

One scene, for instance, has Simpson



Robert Morris, 8, in 1960 with presidential candidate John F. Kennedy, his father, Ken (left), and another United Auto Workers official. Kennedy’s 1963 assassination is part of the plot of Morris’ book “Secret Service Journals: Assassination and Redemption in 1960s Detroit.”

and a friend going to the folk club The Chess Mate in downtown Detroit to see Joni Mitchell and her husband, Chuck, perform.

One of Morris’ goals in writing this book was to paint the labor movement in a positive light.

“They did a lot of charitable stuff behind the scenes,” he said.

The book follows Simpson through his short-lived career in the Secret Service, his being framed that garners him prison time and his job at the Ford tractor plant in Birmingham, which

is described as “the country club” for UAW jobs. Morris knows that aspect well, since he worked at the complex as a “picker, packer, checker,” providing parts to dealerships across the United States.

It’s from his job at Ford, following the death of Reuther, that Simpson is recruited into the top UAW echelons to investigate.

From there, Simpson is pulled into the maelstrom of public corruption and shadowy characters who will do anything to stop the investigation. As the book ramps up its thrill quotient, it becomes obvious that someone will be added to the list of assassination conspiracy suspects, and Simpson will do anything to keep his name off that list.


In his research, Morris met with Paul Schrade, a UAW official who was with Bobby Kennedy when he was assassinated. Morris said his conversation with Schrade was enlightening. Schrade, who recently died at age 96, consistently believed that there was more than one shooter.

“About sixty percent of material in the book pertaining to Schrade is verbatim,” he said.

Despite thousands of books, both fiction and non-fiction, about the assassination plots, Morris, through his crafty addition of a low-level Secret Service agent and the ties to Reuther, has added a notable work to the genre. As readers delve into the book, they will likely find themselves nodding in agreement and whispering to themselves “I can see that happening.”



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OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com.
Deadline is 4 p.m. Wednesday for the upcoming Wednesday edition. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Hannah at (517) 999-6704.

Wednesday, Nov. 30

50 over Fitness - The Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Meridian Township Central Park Pavilion (Old Farmers Market) 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. 517-853-4600. meridian50plus.com.

Beginning Ukulele for the Family - 6 p.m. Registration req. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Delhi Township Tree Lighting - 6:30-7:45 p.m. Veterans Memorial Gardens, 2074 N. Aurelius Road, Holt. delhitownshipmi.gov.

Harry Connick, Jr. - 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

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

Music from Around the World - 7:30 p.m. MSU College of Music, 333 W. Circle Drive, Room 210, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

New Art Exhibit Showcases Powerful Array of Artistic Techniques and Images - "Dreaming Between the Lines," a new exhibit by Williamston-based artist Bobbi Kilty. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073. thepeopleschurch.com.

Zaha Hadid Design: Untold - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Thursday, Dec. 1

"A Course in Miracles," a Group Discussion on ZOOM - 7 p.m. Meeting ID: 177 417 886 Pass-code: 601744. unitylansing.org.

A Night of Sushi with Chef Stu (a.k.a. Stushi) - 6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com

A Very Williamston Christmas - Hot cocoa, light parades and romance factor large in this parody of everyone's guilty pleasure: the holiday movie. 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

Capital Area Audubon Society December Meeting - Learn about wild rice research at MSU Fisheries. 7 p.m. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing.

Elene Kobulashvili, piano DMA - 6 p.m. MSU College of Music, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Ethan Hicks, clarinet DMA - 8 p.m. MSU College of Music, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Ladies Silver Blades Skating Club - Join other adult women for fun, exercise, friendship and skating practice. 9:30-11:20 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. ladiessilverblades.org.

MSU Theater Presents: MSU UNSCRIPTED - Every performance will be completely different, with a mix of classic and new improv games. 7:30 p.m. Studio 60 Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

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Stitch 'n Bitch - Come hang out with some fellow stitching witches! 5-8 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. manifestlansing.com.

Symphony Band - 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Wonderland of Lights - Thousands of lights create an extraordinary holiday display! 5-8 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-483-4222. potterparkzoo.org.

Zaha Hadid Design: Untold - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Friday, Dec. 2

50 over Fitness - The Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Meridian Township Central Park Pavilion (Old Farmers Market) 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. 517-853-4600. meridian50plus.com.

A Very Williamston Christmas - Hot cocoa, light parades and romance factor large in this parody of everyone's guilty pleasure: the holiday movie. 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

The Dangling Particles - 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com

Full Cord (presented by Ten Pound Fiddle) - 7:30 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. 517-337-7744. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Jeffrey Alardyce/Chang Li, saxophone DMA - 8 p.m. MSU College of Music, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Michigan State Men's Hockey vs. Minnesota Gophers - Munn Ice Arena, 509 Birch Road, East Lansing.

Mosaic and Chamber Choir - 8 p.m. Alumni Memorial Chapel, 636 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu

MSU Theater Presents: MSU UNSCRIPTED - Every performance will be completely different, with a mix of classic and new improv games. 8 p.m. Studio 60 Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

New Art Exhibit Showcases Powerful Array of Artistic Techniques and Images - "Dreaming Between the Lines," 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073. thepeopleschurch.com.

Pengyu Yang, voice DMA Recital - 6 p.m. MSU College of Music, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Pre-Parade Party "Gingerbread Houses" - 5 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

TGIF Dinner & Dance - 7 p.m.-midnight. Hawk Hollow Banquet Center, 15101 Chandler Road, Bath. 734-604-5095. tgifdance.com/calendar.

"MSU UnScripted"

7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1

8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2

2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3

2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4

Studio 60 Theatre, MSU Auditorium, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing

Don't miss "MSU UnScripted," MSU Department of Theatre's improv comedy showcase taking place this weekend.

No two shows will be the same. Twenty-six student performers have been separated into five different teams, with each team performing twice during the five-show run. The night of comedy will feature a mix of classic and new improv games, with performances made up on the spot, inspired by audience suggestions.

"One of my favorite principles of improvisation is the idea that there are no mistakes, only opportunities to explore a new idea," said Sarah Hendrickson, director of the MSU Theatre Department's improvisation and acting faculty. "Improv comedians are constantly looking at given circumstances with a new perspective and working as an ensemble to achieve a common goal. We strive, in the Department of Theatre, to help students push the boundaries of discovery to become artists and find the humor in things whenever possible."

Tickets are \$23.50 for general admission, \$21.50 for seniors, MSU faculty and staff and \$13.50 for students. Tickets are available at whartoncenter.com, at the Wharton Center box office or by calling 1-800-WHARTON.



Wonderland of Lights - Thousands of lights create an extraordinary holiday display! 5-8 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-483-4222. potterparkzoo.org.

Zaha Hadid Design: Untold - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Saturday, Nov. 3

15th Annual Scrooge Scramble 5K - Registration req. 9 a.m. Old Town Commercial Association, 1232 Turner St., Lansing. 517-485-4283.

A Very Williamston Christmas - Hot cocoa, light parades and romance factor large in this parody of everyone's guilty pleasure: the holiday movie. 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

Alton Brown - 8 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

Contra and Square Dance - Vaccination cards and masks are required for Fall dances. 7 p.m. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. 517-614-5858.

Family Day: Transform the Everyday - Make creative connections with our exhibitions through free, hands-on, interactive family fun. 11 a.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Generations Community Theater Presents "A Christmas Carol" - 7 p.m. Virginia Schlichter Auditorium at the Mason Area Historical Museum, 200 E. Oak St., Mason.

Holiday Art/Craft/Farmers Market - Featuring 60+ artists, crafters, farmers, growers, bakers, and value-added food producers. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Southside Community Center, 5815 Wise Road, Lansing.

Holiday Mini Photo Shoot Present Making - Registration req. 12 p.m. Mother & Earth Baby Boutique, 100 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Lansing.

Ian Graves, tuba DMA - 2 p.m. MSU College of Music, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Lansing City Futsal vs. Mitwest Detroit - 6:30 p.m. Lansing City Arena, 904 Elmwood Road, Lansing. lansingfutsal.com.

Metropolitan Opera Laffont District Competition 2022 - 10 a.m. MSU College of Music, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

MIARNG Aviation Retirement Dinner 2022 - 6-11:30 p.m. Royal Scot Golf & Bowl, 4772 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. grandledgeguard.ticketleap.com.

Michigan State Men's Hockey vs. Minnesota Gophers - Munn Ice Arena, 509 Birch Road, East Lansing.

See Events, Page 31



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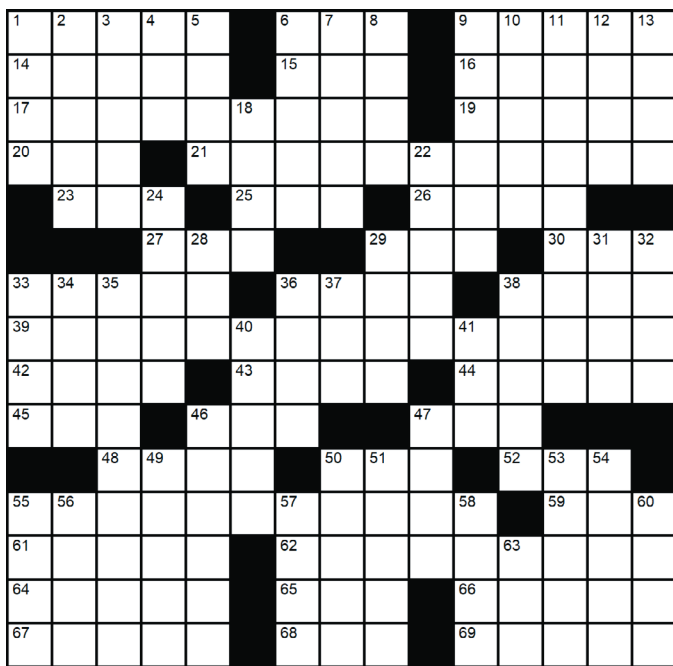
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Bird is the Word"--who knows where it'll end up.
by Matt Jones
© 2022 Matt Jones

ACROSS

1. Rubbed out, gangster-style
6. Feasted
9. Laundry issue
14. Island near 11-Down
15. Bit of a beverage
16. "Why am ___?"
17. Tiny solution for cleaning up (like an understaffed moderation team)
19. Original "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" host
20. Lyrical poem
21. Symbol of clumsiness (like announcing, then canceling, an \$8/month verification system)
23. Royal sphere
25. Mine contents
26. EGOT winner Moreno
27. Wood for wine barrels
29. Wanna-___ (imitators)
30. Packers' org.
33. Official imprint
36. Shipping units?
38. "Gotcha"
39. Use unfair tactics (like suspending accounts from just one side of the political spectrum)
42. Paleozoic, et al.
43. "A Death in the Family" Pulitzer winner
44. Centrifuge inserts
45. Place to study
46. Turn purple, perhaps
47. Shriner's cap
48. Days long past
50. Fla. NBA team, on a scoreboard
52. Baryshnikov's former co.
55. Evoking both happy and sad feelings (like



- | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| a social network that's provided both joy and frustration) | ringbearer | 33. Tool building |
| 59. Wonderment sounds | 3. Less in number | 34. Radial, e.g. |
| 61. Skips | 4. Summer, in Paris | 35. Whenever |
| 62. U.K. "Love Is All Around" band which lost 40% of its members in 2022 (like a certain website that's apparently hemorrhaging users) | 5. Bench press muscle, briefly | 36. Old Venetian VIP |
| 64. Handles | 6. Fur-trading tycoon John Jacob | 37. Wowed feeling |
| 65. Acting instructor Hagen | 7. Spine feature | 38. Island famous for its nightlife |
| 66. Background distraction | 8. Fencing sword | 40. Jacket over a shirt, e.g. |
| 67. Nail file stuff | 9. Marina of "Star Trek: The Next Generation" | 41. Mother of Abel |
| 68. Spill cleaner | 10. Taking things badly? | 46. Elegantly clad |
| 69. Message that can be seen hidden in order in the five longest answers (which might not be seen anymore if its platform implodes) | 11. Greece/Turkey separator | 47. Got off the ground |
| | 12. Pleasant feeling, in reggae songs | 49. Weasel's aquatic relative |
| | 13. Fledgling's place | 50. Give credit for |
| | 18. Moon of Endor dweller | 51. Draw upon again |
| | 22. "___ Off the Boat" | 53. Stardust alter ego |
| | 24. Really fails | 54. The ones nearby |
| | 28. Long-armed animal | 55. Femur, for one |
| | 29. Computer memory unit | 56. Mosque figure |
| | 31. Dipped, like stocks | 57. Done laps in the pool |
| | 32. "___ Make a Deal" | 58. Sidewalk sale pop-up |
| | | 60. Don't delete |
| | | 63. Part of a car rescue |

DOWN

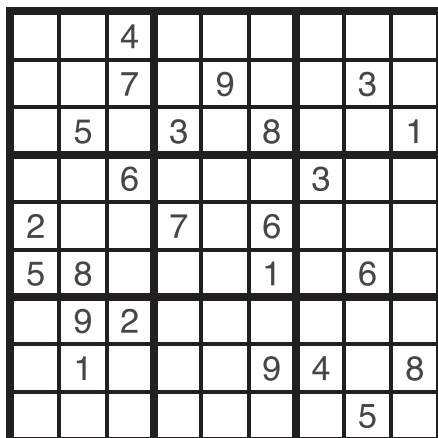
1. Eight, for starters
2. "Lord of the Rings"

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Answers on page 32

SUDOKU

Intermediate



Fun By The Numbers

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

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

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

Nov. 30- Dec. 6, 2022

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Aries filmmaker Andrei Tarkovsky wrote, "To be free, you simply have to be so, without asking permission. You must have your own hypothesis about what you are called to do, and follow it, not giving in to circumstances or complying with them. But that sort of freedom demands powerful inner resources, a high degree of self-awareness, and a consciousness of your responsibility to yourself and therefore to other people." That last element is where some freedom-seekers falter. They neglect their obligation to care for and serve their fellow humans. I want to make sure you don't do that, Aries, as you launch a new phase of your liberation process. Authentic freedom is conscientious.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The term "neurodiversity" refers to the fact that the human brain functions in a wide variety of ways. There are not just a few versions of mental health and learning styles that are better than all the others. Taurus musician David Byrne believes he is neurodiverse because he is on the autism spectrum. That's an advantage, he feels, giving him the power to focus with extra intensity on his creative pursuits. I consider myself neurodiverse because my life in the imaginal realm is just as important to me as my life in the material world. I suspect that most of us are neurodiverse in some sense—deviating from "normal" mental functioning. What about you, Taurus? The coming months will be an excellent time to explore and celebrate your own neurodiversity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Poet Jane Hirshfield says that Zen Buddhism is built on three principles: 1. Everything changes. 2. Everything is connected. 3. Pay attention. Even if you are not a Zen practitioner, Gemini, I hope you will focus on the last two precepts in the coming weeks. If I had to summarize the formula that will bring you the most interesting experiences and feelings, it would be, "Pay attention to how everything is connected." I hope you will intensify your intention to see how all the apparent fragments are interwoven. Here's my secret agenda: I think it will help you register the truth that your life has a higher purpose than you're usually aware of—and that the whole world is conspiring to help you fulfill that purpose.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Author Flannery O'Connor wrote, "You have to cherish the world at the same time that you struggle to endure it." I will add a further thought: "You have to cherish the world at the same time that you struggle to endure it and strive to transform it into a better place." Let's make this one of your inspirational meditations in the coming months, Cancerian. I suspect you will have more power than usual to transform the world into a better place. Get started! (PS: Doing so will enhance your ability to endure and cherish.)

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Many sports journalists will tell you that while they may root for their favorite teams, they also "root for the story." They want a compelling tale to tell. They yearn for dramatic plot twists that reveal entertaining details about interesting characters performing unique feats. That's how I'm going to be in the coming months Leo, at least in relation to you. I hope to see you engaged in epic sagas, creating yourself with verve as you weave your way through fun challenges and intriguing adventures. I predict my hope will be realized.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Venus is too hot and dry for humans to live on. But if travelers from Earth could figure out a way to feel comfortable there, they would enjoy a marvelous perk. The planet rotates very slowly. One complete day and night lasts for 243 Earth days and nights. That means you and a special friend could take a romantic stroll toward the sunset for as long as you wanted, and never see the sun go down. I invite you to dream up equally lyrical adventures in togetherness here on Earth during the coming

months, Virgo. Your intimate alliances will thrive as you get imaginative and creative about nurturing togetherness.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): As far as I'm concerned, Libran Buddhist monk and author Thích Nhất Hạnh was one of the finest humans who ever lived. "Where do you seek the spiritual?" he asked. His answer: "You seek the spiritual in every ordinary thing that you do every day. Sweeping the floor, watering the vegetables, and washing the dishes become sacred if mindfulness is there." In the coming weeks, Libra, you will have exceptional power to live like this: to regard every event, however mundane or routine, as an opportunity to express your soulful love and gratitude for the privilege of being alive. Act as if the whole world is your precious sanctuary.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A reader named Elisa Jean tells me, "We Scorpio allies admire how Scorpios can be so solicitous and welcoming: the best party hosts. They know how to foster social situations that bring out the best in everyone and provide convivial entertainment. Yet Scorpios also know everyone's secrets. They are connoisseurs of the skeletons in the closets. So they have the power to spawn discordant commotions and wreak havoc on people's reputations. But they rarely do. Instead, they keep the secrets. They use their covert knowledge to weave deep connections." Everything Ella Jean described will be your specialties in the coming weeks, Scorpio.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Of all the signs in the zodiac, you Sagittarians are least likely to stay in one location for extended periods. Many of you enjoy the need to move around from place to place. Doing so may be crucial in satisfying your quest for ever-fresh knowledge and stimulation. You understand that it's risky to get too fixed in your habits and too dogmatic in your beliefs. So you feel an imperative to keep disrupting routines before they become deadening. When you are successful in this endeavor, it's often due to a special talent you have: your capacity for creating an inner sense of home that enables you to feel stable and grounded as you ramble free. I believe this superpower will be extra strong during the coming months.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Capricorn author Edgar Allan Poe made this mysterious statement: "We can, at any time, double the true beauty of an actual landscape by half closing our eyes as we look at it." What did he mean? He was referring to how crucial it is to see life "through the veil of the soul." Merely using our physical vision gives us only half the story. To be receptive to the full glory of the world, our deepest self must also participate in the vision. Of course, this is always true. But it's even more extra especially true than usual for you right now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Aquarian theologian Henri Nouwen wrote, "I have discovered that the gifts of life are often hidden in the places that hurt most." Yikes! Really? I don't like that idea. But I will say this: If Nouwen's theory has a grain of truth, you will capitalize on that fact in the coming weeks. Amazingly enough, a wound or pain you experienced in the past could reveal a redemptive possibility that inspires and heals you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Piscean novelist Viet Thanh Nguyen says it's wise to talk to yourself. No other conversational partner is more fascinating. No one else listens as well. I offer you his advice in the hope of encouraging you to upgrade the intensity and frequency of your dialogs with yourself. It's an excellent astrological time to go deeper with the questions you pose and to be braver in formulating your responses. Make the coming weeks be the time when you find out much more about what you truly think and feel.

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

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Trivia Thursday

Thur., Dec. 1, Sign-up 8:30 p.m.

False Harbor with Ten Peso Version and Spencer Chesnut

Fri., Dec. 2, 9 p.m.

Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids

Deacon Earl

Fri., Dec. 2, 7 p.m.

DJ E-Nyce

Sat., Dec. 3, 7 p.m.

The Exchange

314 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

JP & The Energy

Fri., Dec. 2, 9:30 p.m.

The Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

Be Kind Rewind

Fri., Dec. 2, 8:30 p.m.

Soulstice

Sat., Dec. 3, 8:30 p.m.

Horrocks Farm Market

7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing

Frog & the Beeftones

Sat., Dec. 3, 3 p.m.

The Junction

410 S. Clippert St., Lansing

Twiztid/Blaze/ABK "The Certified Psychos Tour"

Sun., Dec. 4, 6 p.m.

The Studio at 414

410 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

Phil Denny & Friends Christmas Collective

Sat., Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m.

University United Methodist Church

Full Cord

1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing

Full Cord

Fri., Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m.

UrbanBeat

1213 Turner Road, Lansing

The Dangling Participles

Fri., Dec. 2, 7 p.m.

Max Gage Trio and Randy Napoleon

Sat., Dec. 3, 7 p.m.



TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

THE DANGLING PARTICLES OFFER
UP 'ONE MORE DROP'



Lansing folk outfit releases second LP

Fresh off its win in City Pulse's Top of the Town contest for Best Folk Artist/Band, The Dangling Participles will release its sophomore album, "One More Drop," Friday, Dec. 2, at UrbanBeat in Old Town.

Band members Austin Kaufmann (guitars, harmonica, vocals) and Tamiko Rothhorn (cornet, ukulele, vocals) caught up with City Pulse about what they — and fellow members Tim Patterson (bass, piano, vocals) and Dan Moreno (drums) — have been up to.

How would you describe the band's sound to someone who's never heard you?

Austin Kaufmann: The core of our identity and sound is less about genre and more about the dynamic of our alternating male and female lead vocals, our duets and harmonies. We're not virtuosos on our instruments, but Tamiko especially has some serious pipes, and our vocals are special. Throw Tim's third vocal part in there, and it's goosebumps.

Tamiko Rothhorn: I usually tell people that we have an Americana-folk-jazzy-blues-pop-soulful sound. As Austin mentioned, our songwriting and arrangement style is eclectic, and so is our choice of covers, ranging from Adele to Of Monsters and Men to Brandi Carlile, Johnny Cash and Janis Joplin, to name a few. Austin and I play off of each other's energy, and people consistently comment on how our on-stage connection makes us a fun group to watch.

Are there any songwriting processes the band tends to follow?

Tamiko: When gathering ideas for songs, I'll hear something on the radio, a quote or passage from a book I am reading or a horoscope from City Pulse. The song "Moon Garden" was

inspired by a City Pulse horoscope. Other ideas come from personal experiences that move me. I have about 200 to 300 recordings of lyrical snippets, melodies and chord progressions that I record on my cell phone whenever something strikes me as a potential nugget of song gold.

Then, I'll get a big burst of inspiration, usually do some freewriting, free-jamming on the inspiration or topic and put the song together. Austin and I bring our song ideas to the rest of the band and then work together on arranging harmonies, instrumentation and some lyrical edits. Usually, the more we play a song, the more ideas we come up with.

Austin: For our 2018 album "Present," I wrote most of the songs, but these days, Tamiko and I share the songwriting pretty equally. On "One More Drop," the songwriting is split exactly evenly.

What lyrical themes do you touch on in "One More Drop"?

Tamiko: As I previously mentioned, sometimes I find inspiration for lyrics based on books or quotes. "Poetry in a Bottle" was inspired by a Robert Louis Stevenson quote I saw while visiting a wine cellar in France: "Wine is Bottled Poetry." The imagery in this song plays with the love of words and flavors — sipping both with a love sitting across from you.

Austin: Often, [songwriting is] a cathartic thing. For example, I wrote "Where It Gets Exciting" as a personal response to the Black Lives Matter events I participated in back in 2020. Specifically, the song quotes John Lewis: "Speak up, speak out, get in the way. Get in good trouble." And I wrote it to remind myself not to fall back into the kind of complacency my white privilege affords me, even if it means — especially if it means — pushing me out of my comfort zone.

The Dangling Participles

UrbanBeat
Friday, Dec. 2
\$10, \$5 students
Doors 5 p.m., 7 p.m. show
thedanglingparticiples.com

Events

from page 26

MSU Theater Presents: MSU UNSCRIPTED - Every performance will be completely different, with a mix of classic and new improv games. 8 p.m. Studio 60 Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

New Art Exhibit Showcases Powerful Array of Artistic Techniques and Images - "Dreaming Between the Lines." 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073. thepeopleschurch.com.

Paige Heidrich, voice DMA - 6 p.m. MSU College of Music, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Phil Denny & Friends Christmas Collective: 10yr Anniversary - 7:30 p.m. The Studio at 414, 410 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. phildenny.com.

Winterfest parade & activities - 3 p.m. Downtown Laingsburg. laingsburgbusiness.org.

Yiwen Zhang, violin DMA - 6 p.m. MSU College of Music, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Zaha Hadid Design: Untold - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Sunday, Dec. 4

Drum Circle with Greater Lansing Area Drummers (GLAD) - 1 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. manifestlansing.com.

Saint Lucia/Christmas Celebration - Please bring a dish to pass. \$2 per person, children 5 and under free. 2-5 p.m. Bretton Woods Covenant Church, 925 Bretton Road, Lansing. 517-482-8357.

Generations Community Theater Presents "A Christmas Carol" - 2 p.m. Virginia Schlichter Auditorium at the Mason Area Historical Museum, 200 E. Oak St., Mason.

Main Stage Comedy & Burlesque - 7:30-10 p.m. Omar's Show Bar, 316 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

MSU Theater Presents: MSU UNSCRIPTED - Every performance will be completely different, with a mix of classic and new improv games. 8 p.m. Studio 60 Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

New Art Exhibit Showcases Powerful Array of Artistic Techniques and Images - "Dreaming Between the Lines." 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073. thepeopleschurch.com.

SpARTan Wellness - It's getting cold outside, so treat yourself to a warm beverage in a mug that you personalized! Registration req. 2 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Twiztid/Blaze/ABK "The Certified Psychos Tour" - 6 p.m. The Junction, 410 S. Clippert St., Lansing. certifiedpsychos.com.

Wen-Yi Lo/Qian Tang, violin DMA - Noon. MSU College of Music, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Wind Symphony with Spartan Youth Wind Symphony - 3 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

Wonderland of Lights - Thousands of lights create an extraordinary holiday display! 5-8 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-483-4222. potterparkzoo.org.

Ye Bai/Bochi Zhang/Xinyu Zhu, viola DMA - 2 p.m. MSU College of Music, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Zaha Hadid Design: Untold - 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. Eli &

Alton Brown Live

8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3
Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center,
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing



Food Network personality Alton Brown will take his "Alton Brown Live: Beyond the Eats — The Holiday Variant" tour to the Wharton Center on Saturday evening.

According to the tour's website, "Audiences can expect more cooking, more comedy, more music and more potentially dangerous science stuff with a sprinkle of seasonal spices. Prepare for an evening unlike any other, and if Brown calls for volunteers...think twice."

Brown has made a career from cooking and entertaining, hosting the Food Network's "Cutthroat Kitchen," Netflix's "Iron Chef" reboot, "Iron Chef: Quest for an Iron Legend" and serving as the culinary commentator on "Iron Chef America." He is best known as the creator, writer and host of "Good Eats," "Good Eats: Reloaded" and "Good Eats: The Return."

Tickets start at \$30 and can be purchased on the Wharton Center website, at the Wharton Center box office or by calling 1-800-WHARTON. There is also a VIP package for \$140, which includes a pre-show Q&A session and first access to tour merchandise.

Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Monday, Dec. 5

50 over Fitness - The Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Meridian Township Central Park Pavilion (Old Farmers Market) 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. 517-853-4600. meridian50plus.com.

Beauty of Brahms - West Circle Series - 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Book Discussion Group - CADL Mason Library - "The Personal Librarian." 1 p.m. Mason City Hall, Maple Room, 201 W. Ash St., Mason. cadl.org.

See Events, Page 32

East Lansing
WINTER FEST

SATURDAY,
DEC. 10

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

East Lansing Hannah Community Center

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Ice Carving
WINTER FARMERS MARKET
Craft Activities S'MORES
ROYALE BATTLEFIELD NERF GAMES
Bounce House Photo Booth

Find out more at
[cityofeastlansing.com/winterfest.](http://cityofeastlansing.com/winterfest)

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DECEMBER 2-4
DECEMBER 9-11
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FROM 6-9PM
FREE EVENT - *DRIVE THRU ONLY*
FOR MORE INFO CALL 517-483-4277

Events

from page 31

Fiber Circle at Charlotte Community Library - Social gathering for knitters, crocheters and stitchers of all ages and skill levels. 6 p.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

Finance Committee - 6 p.m. Laingsburg City Hall, 114 Woodhull St., Laingsburg. laingsburg.us.

Holiday Busy Boxes - Pick up one of our take-home holiday craft kits! 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

Meaningful Mondays - Gather to nourish our spiritual selves as we send out love and prayers to the world. 8-9 p.m. Zoom meeting: 838 6857 0593. Password: 182016. 517-641-6201.

"Mirari, the Way of the Marys" with Lucille Olson - Group discussion of the ideas of the book. 1:30 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

New Art Exhibit Showcases Powerful Array of Artistic Techniques and Images - "Dreaming Between the Lines." 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073. thepeopleschurch.com.

Perler Bead Workshop - Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Tuesday, Nov. 6

Board Game Meet Up - Ages 18 and up. 6:30-10:30 p.m. Spare Time Bowling Alley, 3101 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing.

Career Night Open House - 5 p.m. EXIT Realty At Home, 1427 W. Saginaw St., Suite 110, East Lansing. 517-489-2550. exitrealtyathome.com.

Free Tutoring for Youth 12-18 - Registration not necessary but preferred. Ever After Opportunities, Lansing Mall, 5330 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing.

Improv Showcase - 6 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. 517-483-1122. lcc.edu/showinfo.

New Art Exhibit Showcases Powerful Array of Artistic Techniques and Images - "Dreaming Between the Lines." 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073. thepeopleschurch.com.

Planning Commission Meeting - 7 p.m. City Hall, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge. cityofgrandledge.com.

Preschool Family Storytime - Stories and literacy-enhancing activities for ages 1-6. 11 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Preteen Reads Book Club - Registration req. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

Story Hour at Charlotte Community Library - Adults drop off preschool-aged kids and stay in the library while the kids enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Registration req. 10 a.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

VIRIDIS & Campus Choir - 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Wednesday, Dec. 7

50 over Fitness - The Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Meridian Township Central Park Pavilion (Old Farmers Market) 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. 517-853-4600. meridian50plus.com.

It's Elementary! - Discover science in the world around you with experiments, crafts, activities, and more. Registration req. 2:45 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

LBCA Meeting - 7:30 a.m. Pine Hills Golf Course, 6603 Woodbury Road, Laingsburg.

LCC Jazz Band - 7 p.m. Everett High School, 3900 Stabler St., Lansing. lcc.edu.

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

Michigan Young Birders Network Virtual Meeting - 7 p.m. Meeting ID: 946 4329 0865. Passcode: Chickadee.

New Art Exhibit Showcases Powerful Array of Artistic Techniques and Images - "Dreaming Between the Lines." 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073. thepeopleschurch.com.

Night of a Thousand Donuts - Enjoy free coffee and donuts while supplies last! 8 p.m. MSU Main Library, 366 W. Circle Dr, East Lansing, and Gast

Business Library, 648 N. Shaw Lane #50, East Lansing. lib.msu.edu.

Read Across Time Book Group - "Doctor Shivago" by Boris Pasternak (1950s). 11 a.m. Mark's Place, 238 E. Main St., Eaton Rapids.

Tenille Arts, Matt Stell & Dillon Carmichael - 7 p.m. Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. (517) 371-2600. lansingbrewingcompany.com.

Zaha Hadid Design: Untold - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Thursday, Dec. 8

"A Course in Miracles," a Group Discussion on ZOOM - 7 p.m. Meeting ID: 177 417 886 Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

A Very Williamston Christmas - Hot cocoa, light parades and romance factor large in this parody of everyone's guilty pleasure: the holiday movie. 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

Design a Laser Cut Trinket - 3-5 p.m. MSU Make-Central Makerspace, Main Library, 366 W. Circle

Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-0901. lib.msu.edu.

Frog and Toad - 7 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Ladies Silver Blades Skating Club - Join other adult women for fun, exercise, friendship and skating practice. 9:30-11:20 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. ladiesilverblades.org.

New Art Exhibit Showcases Powerful Array of Artistic Techniques and Images - "Dreaming Between the Lines." 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073. thepeopleschurch.com.

Stitch 'n Bitch - Come hang out with some fellow stitching witches! 5-8 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. manifestlansing.com.

Therapy Dogs - 3 p.m. MSU Main Library South Lobby, 366 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-0901. lib.msu.edu.

U-Night Presents House N'Bass - Ages 18+. Doors 8 p.m., show 9 p.m.-2 a.m. The Junction, 410 S. Clippert St., East Lansing. thejunctionmichigan.com.



Sushi Night with chef Stuart Christoff

6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1
UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing
517-331-8440
urbanbeatevents.com

UrbanBeat is hosting a create-your-own sushi event on Thursday night, the kick-off of a new monthly culinary experience featuring celebrity chef Stuart Christoff and mixologist Andrea Valerio.

Tickets are \$85 and include a craft cocktail by Valerio, passed appetizers, two hot and cold Japanese-inspired charcuterie displays and pre-made sushi. Participants will hear a presentation by Christoff on sushi origin and etiquette, as well as a demonstration on choosing ingredients and cooking, cutting and rolling techniques before rolling their own sushi.

Live music from Clique Vocals will cap the evening. Dan and Kelly will perform classic jazz ballads of the 1920s-50s, plus a mix of pop and contemporary.

Christoff, a Grand Rapids native now based in Lansing, is best known for his Asian culinary influence. The chef started out at Maru Sushi in Grand Rapids and has experience cooking at restaurants in Bangkok. He served as the executive chef for Hong Kong Academy International School in Hong Kong until 2020.



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CROSSWORD SOLUTION From Pg. 28

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SUDOKU SOLUTION From Pg. 28

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Take some rice on the wild side

By **ARI LEVAUX**

I met the Wild Ricer behind a ski lodge in the mountains above Lake Tahoe. We were both attending a writing workshop, and we took turns reading our work to each other.

My project was a passionate essay about the evils of Christmas tree farms that I'm embarrassed to even remember. The Wild Ricer, a rugged hunting guide from northern Wisconsin named Nick Vander Puy, introduced me to the verb "ricing" as he read an unforgettable piece about an Ojibwe elder on a lake in northern Minnesota.

Wild rice isn't literally rice, but rather the grain of a large, aquatic grass native to the northern parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin and a similar-sized region across the border with Canada. Other than being a type of grain and elongated in shape, wild rice doesn't resemble the soft, starchy grains after which it's named. It's a rugged food, more interesting than its domesticated counterpart, with a nutty, tea-like flavor and a texture that pushes back when you chew.

After the workshop, wild rice became a window into wild foods in general. Vicariously, I joined the rice hunters in their efforts when I ate it.

Most of the wild rice for sale is actually cultivated in California. This has created a divide within the wild rice community. Vander Puy, not surprisingly, sides passionately with the wild side. He says the paddy-grown stuff isn't comparable to hand-gathered wild rice and laments that the abundance of relatively inexpensive, cultivated rice hurts the market for true

ly wild rice. This is more than enough to convince me to order mine from Midwestern ricers, despite the higher price tag.

When making any wild rice-based dish, the rice itself must first be prepared. It is typically cooked until soft, but one of Nick's more recent pieces inspired me to try a different method. In the story, an Ojibwe elder tells Nick about a rice camp he visited when he was a child.

"A lot of times, you'd think we'd be just out there getting rice. But my mother also liked the bass fishes that live in the rice. So, I had to go out there half the day catching a whole stringer load of smallmouth bass on spinners and a rubber worm. We'd have fish that night, and the next day we'd have rice in the morning because we'd put it in water and it would puff up all night, and we'd eat it."

Hand-gathered wild rice softens much more quickly than paddy-grown, which may need closer to a full day before it's soft enough to chew. However long it takes, soaking wild rice is worth it. The flavor is more subtle than it is when cooked. Chased with sips of the earthy, fragrant soaking water, a bowl of soaked wild rice is about as close as you can come to slurping down a pristine lake in the middle of the forest.

Cooking Wild Rice

Cook time for wild rice varies depending on its provenance, with hand-gathered wild rice cooking much more quickly. It can be cooked on a stovetop or baked. Soaking it first can significantly reduce the cooking time.

Add a cup of wild rice to a pot with a

tight-fitting lid, along with two cups of water or stock, and simmer over medium heat on the stovetop or bake at 350. After about 45 minutes, check on it. If the liquid is nearly gone and the rice remains hard, add more liquid. Keep checking, adding more liquid if and when necessary, until the grains split, curl and bloom like tiny brown and white flowers.

For years, my go-to wild rice dish involved little more than a clove of garlic, pressed and stirred into the hot rice, followed by a tablespoon each of sesame oil and soy sauce. I would stir it around and let the garlic cook and serve with chopped scallions. For such a simple dish, it's profoundly satisfying and was the first thing my wife wanted to eat when she became a mother.

When I have wild mushrooms on-hand, I prepare a wild rice dish that I learned while camping with a team of morel mushroom pickers along Montana's Blackfoot River. Combining wild foods like this, with pinches of smoke, dirt and pine needles, makes for a delicious dish that hits the spot on so many levels.

Morel Camp Wild Rice

This one-pot meal is equally delicious when prepared on the campfire, the stovetop or in the oven.

1 cup cooked wild rice
2 cups mushrooms (a mix of different varieties is ideal)



Photo by Ari Levaux

Wild rice with mixed mushrooms and pomegranate seeds, a one-pot meal that's as unique as it is delicious.

3 tablespoons butter
1 tablespoon olive oil
3 cloves garlic, smashed
¼ cup pine nuts
½ cup grated parmesan or romano cheese
½ lemon
½ cup pomegranate seeds

In a large skillet or wok, combine the butter and olive oil on medium heat. Add pine nuts and the mashed garlic. Toss the nuts just until they start to brown. Don't over-brown.

Add the mushrooms and stir/toss them around. Season with 1/4 teaspoon of fresh ground pepper and a kiss of salt.

When the fungus starts to brown, toss in the cooked rice. Stir it around and add the cheese. Give it a squeeze of lemon and taste, adding more to taste if necessary.

Transfer the fragrant mixture onto a large plate and garnish with pomegranate seeds.

Appetizers

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Capital City BBQ is fighting for its future

By LIZY FERGUSON

Born in the Vietnamese province of Binh Duong, just north of Ho Chi Minh City, Capital City BBQ owner Linh Lee was raised by her grandmother, Doan. Apart from parenting her, Doan also served as Lee's culinary inspiration.

"She taught me that if you cook with no passion, your food is nothing," Lee said.

If you've ever eaten at her restaurant, you know that Lee took this lesson to heart. And that may be the secret ingredient that has inspired a faithful following.

But now, the 7-year-old westside Lansing restaurant that fuses barbecue and Vietnamese cuisine is in danger of closing amid mounting financial struggles.

Lee's money troubles began in late 2019 with the financially abusive actions of a jilted ex, followed closely by the gut punch of COVID-19. She received PPP loans, but it wasn't enough to ameliorate all of the hurdles the business was facing. Inflation, with its attendant soaring food and labor costs, has in many ways felt like a third strike to Lee.

"I had to empty my savings to cover things, and my kids have emptied their sav-

ings as well. I feel so ashamed as a mother. I feel like I've failed the community."

At the age of 16, Lee arrived at the Lansing airport in the middle of winter wearing shorts and sandals. With the help of a sponsor, Lee learned to drive and speak English and made a life for herself, raising four children. In 2008, she assumed ownership of a Boost Mobile cell phone store at the corner of N. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and W. Saginaw Street.

The potency of her memories, though, cooking alongside her grandmother for their family, never dimmed. After a 2011 electrical fire left her facing already expensive repairs, Lee decided to accomplish her dreams and began the long, difficult process of putting a full kitchen into the space. In 2015, Capital City BBQ was born, known for some time as "the place with the amazing food inside a phone store."

While the inspiration for the Vietnamese side of the restaurant's menu is easy enough to understand, Lee also attributes CCBBQ's eponymous cuisine to her heritage; her biological father, an American soldier, was from Texas. In de-

veloping her menu, Lee tried out close to 50 different recipes for her barbecue sauce before arriving at the winner: a delectable, bourbon-inflected sauce lavished upon everything from brisket to smoked salmon. Whether you want a steaming bowl of Lansing's best pho or a full rack of ribs, a side of homemade mac and cheese or a slice of heaven-sent cheesecake, Lee takes catering to cravings seriously. Another Grandma Doan adage: "When you become a chef, you're married to the whole town."

Given Guy Fieri's stamp of approval on a 2017 episode of "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives," Lee has consistently captured the hearts, palates and bellies of Lansing with the help of her team. Apart from the support of her actual family, her small and loyal staff often includes at least one teenager who has inherited the job from an older sibling, and who will in turn pass it down to the next brother or sister in line when it's time to move on. Lee sees these kids as her own, the value she places on family and community being the bedrock of her business.

"I tell them, if I make only one dollar, I'm sharing it with them," she said.

Having focused from the beginning on fostering conversation and connection with her customers, Lee reached out via CCBBQ's Facebook page the week before Thanksgiving to offer her gratitude, but also to let her fans know she is floundering. "With the financial hardship we are currently facing now, if we cannot make it through the holidays, the business will be placed on the market for sale next year," Lee wrote. An outpouring of love from the community followed, with Lee



Lizy Ferguson

Linh Lee struggled to turn a phone store into the popular Capital City BBQ, which is working hard to stay afloat after a series of financial complications.

seeing an immediate uptick in business and receiving gracious gestures of support from fellow business owners, including the restaurant's "BBQ brother," Saddleback. Still, it will take more than short-term signal boosting to keep the business afloat.

Lee's story proves she's a fighter and a survivor but also shows that this strength doesn't just develop and sustain itself in a vacuum. The trajectory of her story has been moved forward, chapter to chapter, by a cast of supporting players. Like her grandmother, like her sponsor, like her children helping her cook, clean and pay bills, Lee needs a hand turning the next page — one in which, hopefully, her only worry will be nailing Doan's fried pork dish, the perfect execution of which has always eluded her. So far.

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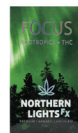
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