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March 15-21, 2023

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HOW LANSING MATTERS IN UKRAINE

Ody Norkin on his latest trip delivering help from here

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I imagine someone from the past probably thought that in 2023 we'd have become a more accepting, more understanding and more compassionate nation. Logic would seem to dictate that the more we know, the better off we are. I'm afraid there's too much information out there and not enough knowledge. Information ≠ knowledge. Knowledge > Information.

It's Women's History Month, and we just had International Women's Day, and I know that nearly anyone who celebrates either of those won't mind if I deviate, even though Pride Month is still a few months away. I spent February speaking my opinions about why Black History Month is necessary, and actually probably not enough. I had intended on doing the same this month, but the attacks on the LGBTQIA+ and drag communities have been increasingly alarming. There is new legislation and proposed legislation in several states that seek to criminalize drag, take away gender-affirming care for trans youth and erase any mention of the queer community in schools and books.

As a cis, white man, I have been in the most privileged position in the constructs of our society my entire life. I've never questioned my own identity, but that just means that I never had to worry about how people might treat me. I have always been accepted because I fit neatly into the accepted categories.

We are going backwards. There are those who wish to vilify or erase anyone who doesn't identify with either one of the two boxes that fit in their comfort zone. This emboldened bigotry towards the LGBTQIA+ community goes along with the rise of antisemitism, white supremacy and Christian nationalism. It is frightening, and it breaks my heart that we have so many people who claim how great this country is — but can't just let people be who they are.

I'm not here to give a science lesson, but it is clear that we as a species are in denial. We have resorted to tribalism instead of intellectualism. What I'm witnessing is people who use their religion and their tradition as a compass for public policy, and those policies will literally kill people. What happened to the separation of church and state?

Oppression is violence. Suppression is violence. Henry Ward Beecher said, "Liberty is the soul's right to breathe, and when it cannot take a long breath, laws are girdled too tight."

Those of us rooted in reality and science know that people are all unique. There are no two of us alike. Sexuality is a huge spectrum, and a person's gender identity is not a choice for the legislature. There are not just two boxes we all fit in. Each of us deserves the same acceptance, free from persecution, free to love whom we choose and live authentically.

The argument I often hear is that those of us on the left want to push our agenda onto those on the right. It's hypocrisy at its finest, and it's a false narrative. It seems to me that I just want to not deny someone's existence, and they are looking to control everyone's existence. Being part of the LGTBQIA+ community is not an agenda — you don't catch it, you don't need to protect children from it. It's not about you and how you feel about it. It doesn't affect your marriage, how you live your life or what you do in your own bedroom.

We have to protect all communities, especially the ones under attack. #PRIDE #BlackLivesMatter #WomensRights #ProtectTransKids #LGBTQIA

We might all reflect on this a bit differently and, honestly, maybe find more than one meaning for this lyric, but like so much of the past, it is relevant today: "Freedom is just another word for nothing left to lose."



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Cider bar offers brews, fresh-baked confections and more



PAGE 15

New biography details Chuck Berry's highs and lows



PAGE 21

Old Bag of Nails doesn't live up to the hype

Cover photo courtesy of Ody Norkin

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IRAQ WAR MEMORIES
on the 20th Anniversary of the Invasion

MASSIVE PROTESTS THAT WERE LARGELY IGNORED

Beltway Blowhole

WAR IMMINENT

Millions gather in streets around the world for some reason

PHIL DONAHUE LOSING HIS TALK SHOW ON MSNBC FOR OPPOSING THE WAR

THE RELENTLESS JINGOISM

SO... 400,000 DEAD IRAQIS LATER, AT LEAST THE PEOPLE WHO GOT IT ALL WRONG HAVE BEEN OSTRACIZED FROM PUBLIC LIFE, RIGHT?

JOINING US TONIGHT, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE GEORGE W. BUSH ADMINISTRATION!

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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OKAY, YOU'VE SEEN VIDEOS **PURPORTING** TO SHOW THE VIOLENCE AND CHAOS OF JANUARY 6TH--BUT WHAT ABOUT ALL THE FOOTAGE THAT **DOESN'T** SHOW THOSE THINGS?

FOR INSTANCE HERE'S A SHOT OF AN EMPTY SENATE CORRIDOR ON THAT DAY! CERTAINLY DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THERE'S A RIOT HAPPENING IN THAT SPECIFIC LOCATION, AT THE PRECISE MOMENT THIS WAS RECORDED--NOW **DOES** IT?

MY STAFF HAS ALSO UNCOVERED THIS EXCLUSIVE IMAGE OF THE CAPITOL **DOME**, TAKEN ON THAT SAME UNREMARKABLE DAY! CAN'T YOU JUST **IMAGINE** THE WELL-INTENTIONED, CIVIC-MINDED ELECTION ENTHUSIASTS GATHERED PEACEFULLY BELOW? I KNOW I CAN!

WERE THE ALLEGED RIOTERS ACTUALLY JUST INNOCENT PATRIOTS WHO **REVERED** THE CAPITOL? WERE OFFICES RANSACKED AND FECES SMEARED IN HALLWAYS BY **ANTIFA** AND THE **DEEP STATE**? IS THE CONCEPT OF TRUTH ITSELF ULTIMATELY **UNKNOWNABLE**?

I AM JUST ASKING THE **QUESTIONS!**

YOU SEE, I DON'T HAVE TO PROVIDE ANY SORT OF PLAUSIBLE ALTERNATE NARRATIVE! I JUST HAVE TO RAISE ENOUGH DOUBT IN YOUR MIND THAT YOU DON'T KNOW **WHAT** TO BELIEVE!

AREN'T I JUST A **SCAMP**? TEE HEE HA HA HA HEE HEE!

COMING UP NEXT: ARE THOSE STORIES ABOUT MY PRIVATE TEXTS, WHICH SUPPOSEDLY REVEAL THAT I WAS LYING TO VIEWERS ABOUT JANUARY 6TH, A **FAKE NEWS DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN FUNDED BY GEORGE SOROS**?

JUST ANOTHER QUESTION, BEING ASKED, BY ME.

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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

The rise and fall of a wannabe marijuana magnate

Rehbel Industries collapses under \$12.5 million of debt, ends up in receivership

Michael Doherty stood on the roof of Lansing's iconic John Bean building, a 460,000 square-foot brick fortress on South Cedar Street, in July 2020. A global pandemic had shut down much of the country and was killing Americans across the country. But the flamboyant Doherty was excited to share his plans to create the "Jack Daniels" brand of marijuana.

"It was mission impossible to take on a project this size, but I knew it would be an awesome business move if I could actually pull it all off," he declared. "This building used to be a real powerhouse back in the day, and a big part of this is bringing it back up to its former glory."

To back up his braggadocio, he had slapped Rehbel branding everywhere he could in the city. The Rehbel billboard became a part of the visual landscape of Lansing. But those billboards are gone now. Some were replaced by billboards advertising God.

Nearly three years later, Doherty, 44, no longer controls the operations he had hoped would generate an iconic brand of marijuana. The financial collapse of his business and its takeover by creditors is detailed in thousands of pages of court filings in Ingham County 30th Circuit Court, all of which escaped public attention until now.

In March 2022, two creditors, the Jonathan and Mary Kay Borisch Family Foundation and JLB Monarch Holdings LLC, sought an emergency order to place in receivership Doherty's businesses, MD Industries and Rehbel Industries, both limited liability companies. The foundation is a charitable organization in Grand Rapids. Jonathan Borisch is listed with the state as the agent for JLB Monarch Holdings, a limited liability company.

The next day, Judge Joyce Draganchuk issued the emergency order.

A receivership appoints a receiver, a neutral third party, to take control of a



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

In better days: Michael Doherty atop the John Bean Building 2020.

business, distribute assets and income and dispose of property to address financially struggling operations in the state. The Michigan Appeals Court has called the appointment of a receivership "a harsh remedy which should only be resorted to in extreme cases."

Court records show Doherty signed promissory notes adding up to \$10,527,968.18 with the original creditors. Additionally, Lansing-based Access BIDCO, a business and industrial development company, and Nicholas Freund Building LLC, a Royal Oak construction management firm, were allowed to intervene as creditors as well, raising the debt level by another \$2 million.

All four lenders argued that Doherty and his businesses failed to meet the requirements of their loan agreements by failing to make payments on time. Both Monarch and the foundation argued there was a further violation of the agreement because property taxes had not been paid on time.

Ingham County property tax records show that MD Industries owes \$110,260.62 for the Bean Building, 1305 S. Cedar, from 2021. Another \$14,268.75 is overdue on the property for winter

2022 taxes, according to the City of Lansing property database.

Doherty's financial woes are only the latest in a shifting marijuana market in Michigan. Two weeks ago, Delta Township-based Green Peak Industries, which operates the Skymint brand, was placed into receivership when creditors said the company owed \$127 million. Green Peak executives, in a statement to the Lansing State Journal, said the financial woes were the result of a price collapse in the marijuana market.

Doherty did not respond to inquiries.

But in a 614-page handwritten document filed in Circuit Court this month, he argued the creditors and receiver worked in tandem to usurp his businesses. He called it a "hostile takeover." The screed is filled with printed copies of internet definitions, Wikipedia pages, movie quotes, biblical quotes, and more. In the filing, he assailed the character of the creditors, accusing them of owning too much property, not understanding the marijuana business and of personal failings in marital relationships.

In the pleadings, he admitted that he failed to pay loan payments on time and put off tax payments. In his defense,

Doherty argued that loan repayments were previously allowed to be paid late and that it was "no big deal."

He claimed a business turnaround expert brought in by the foundation advised he put off till August a property tax payment payment that had been due in February. That delayed payment, he said, is what sent the foundation and Monarch to court seeking the receivership.

"This was a hostile takeover," he wrote. "That was the whole plan from the beginning."

Lawyers involved in the case did not respond to inquiries seeking comment. None have filed an answer yet to Doherty's brief.

The pot grower was originally represented by Foster Swift, a law firm with offices in Lansing. But in September 2022, just six months into proceedings, the law firm requested the court to end the firm's representation of Doherty, stating he had "substantially failed to fulfill obligation to the lawyer regarding the lawyer's services." The law firm argued that continued representation of Doherty would result in an undue financial burden to the firm. There had been, according to the filing, "a complete breakdown of the attorney-client relationship." The court granted the withdrawal.

A second attorney, Phillip Hamilton, who is based in Kalamazoo, also cited a breakdown of the attorney-client relationship when seeking a February 2023 order from Draganchuk to remove himself from representing Doherty. That order was also granted, and Doherty was notified by the court in writing and in person that in acting to remove attorneys from the case, he could not argue on behalf of MD Industries or Rehbel Industries, only for himself.

He now represents himself in the proceedings.

The court-appointed receiver in the case, John Polderman of Simon PLLC, a Troy, Michigan-based firm, has from the beginning faced significant hurdles in attempting to return the business to financial stability. First among them

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Magnate

from page 5

was the deeply intertwined nature of Doherty's business entities, such that they were not distinctly separated. Rehbel ostensibly operated the marijuana business, while MD Industries oversaw the payments for buildings and creditors and the purchase of equipment. Polderman discovered that while Rehbel was, on paper, renting 100,000 square feet from MD Industries LLC for marijuana growing operations, there were no payments being made.

On May 31, 2022, Polderman alleged Doherty had sold a packaging machine valued at \$190,000. Doherty admitted he had sold the machine for \$60,000 and had not remitted the money to any of the business accounts. He argued that the receivership covered only MD Industries, not Rehbel, which owned the equipment. By early June, Rehbel was added to the receivership and the money was submitted to the accounts, according to court records. Doherty dodged a civil contempt finding by agreement with Polderman.

In addition, Doherty argued Polderman's financial valuation of the business was far lower than reality. Doherty claimed that a previous assessment, conducted by an industry expert, valued the business and assets at \$30 million in 2020, not Polderman's \$8 million. Polderman and lawyers representing the creditors argued the valuation provided by Doherty had been manipulated by selective provisions of information to the evaluator. They cited an unnamed employee for providing the information that bore that out. Draganchuk accepted the \$8 million valuation and rejected Doherty's.

But the motorcycle-riding entrepreneur continued to resist cooperation with Polderman and regularly violated requirements that clients represented by attorneys not communicate with the attorneys on the opposite side.

Attempts to move toward the renewal of the three growing licenses issued by the state to Rehbel Industries ran into the wall of the Lansing Building Safety Department. City numerous violations, inspectors refused to issue a certificate of occupancy, which prevented the city from

approving a renewal of the licenses with the state.

Polderman sought and received an order on Nov. 30, 2022, requiring the city to issue a "punch list" of repairs required to be completed before a certificate of occupancy could be issued. The order further prohibited the city from intervening or stopping the license renewals. The court-ordered list was three pages long and included repairing electrical and plumbing issues. It also noted that while the work was being completed the building should remain unoccupied by anyone except contractors improving the building.

City records show the Bean Building has 72 open building issues.

Court orders show that Monarch and the foundation took control of business operations and the Bean Building, where the marijuana business is conducted.

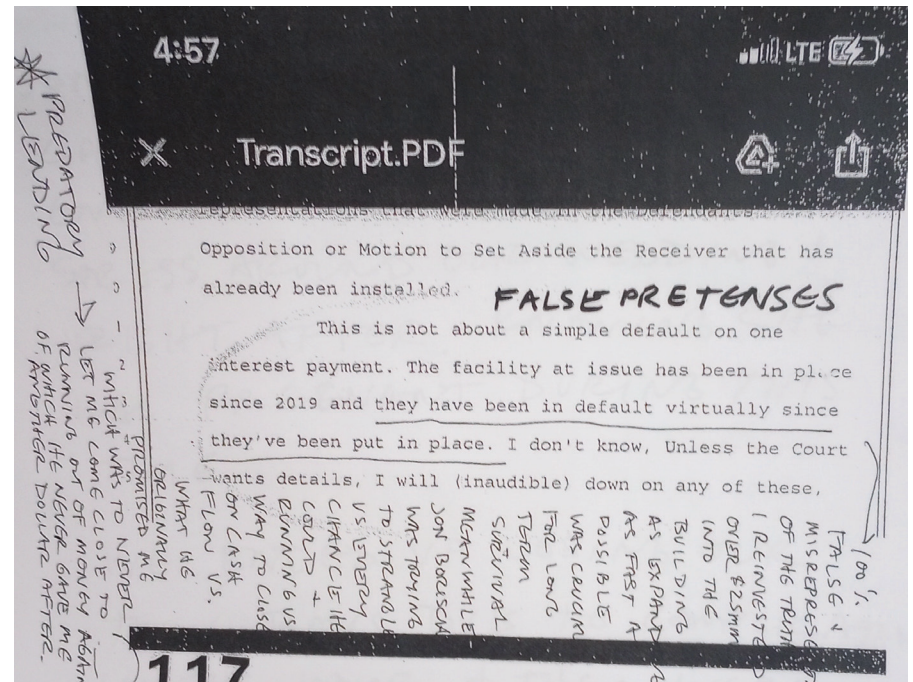
A Grand Rapids real estate firm lists the Bean Building for sale for \$7.75 million.

Three houses owned by Doherty on Christiancy Street, which borders on the 12-acre Bean Building property, were sold to unidentified buyers, according to court records.

Doherty's personal home at 5 Locust Lane in Lansing was sold to an unidentified buyer. Eaton County property records show the property is owned by Simon PLLC, the firm that Polderman works for. The six-bedroom, six-bath house is in Eaton county overlooking the Grand River. It was previously owned by Saul Anuzis, the former chair of the Michigan Republican Party.

The receivership argued that Doherty was unable to prove his home was not an asset of MD Industries, showing in filings that the costs of the property were on the business's ledger. Doherty argued he had paid for the home out of his own pocket, producing checks in a response. Property records show that when Doherty claims to have purchased the property, ownership was transferred from Anuzis to MD Industries, not Doherty.

(MD Industries sold another property, at 738 E. Kalamazoo St. in Lansing, for to the Okemos-based Cloud Real Estate LLC in 2021, before the receivership began, city property records show, but the sale price was recorded as \$0.00. Doherty had purchased the



An excerpt from one of more than 600 pages that Doherty recently filed in Ingham County Circuit court.

property in 2015, then transferred it to MD Industries in 2018. Doherty raised eyebrows after he bought it when he painted it black, windows and all.)

Buried in the filings is an admission by Doherty that the business took an unexpected \$500,000 hit in 2020 when excessive mercury contamination was found in marijuana plants and in the building. He had to destroy a crop and remediate the mercury.

A former employee filed a complaint with the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration about the mercury contamination in April 2021, according to a spokesperson. No investigation was done because the complaint was not filed "timely" with the agency that oversees workplace safety and "therefore an inspection was not conducted," the spokesperson said.

A spokesperson for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said the agency is reviewing records.

An EPA website on mercury contamination shows a spill or contamination of more than a pound of mercury (equal to about two tablespoons) requires notification to the National Response Center, run by the EPA.

Meanwhile in Draganchuk's court, Doherty filed dozens of additional pages of documents on March 13. Among his motions, he is seeking criminal contempt charges against Lansing City Attorney Jim Smiertka and his deputy, Amanda O'Boyle, as well the receiver, Polderman. He alleged that O'Boyle and Smiertka were in contempt for refusing to release communications with Polderman about the Bean Building. He wants

Draganchuk to recuse herself and find herself in civil contempt for allegedly failing to be impartial in administering his case.

Doherty himself faces an April 4 criminal contempt hearing over what Polderman called "a path of harassment and threats, all in violation of court orders." Polderman asked for the criminal finding after it was discovered Doherty was allegedly texting threatening and harassing messages to his former employees. He added to the claims after Doherty showed up at the title office handling the transfer of the Locust Lane property and demanded to be notified of any title transfer meetings before their occurrence. He followed up with more emails to the title agent, including one with a photo of Doherty's son. In the email, he said the title agent might meet his son at some point.

While receivership is supposed to assist in turning a property and business around while securing a creditor's interest, Doherty argued that Polderman lacked any experience in marijuana growing operations. That lack of experience, he argued, has essentially killed his business.

But Polderman's firm, Simon Law PLLC, is handling receiverships on other marijuana businesses in Michigan, including the sale of a marijuana dispensary in Ann Arbor.

The business, Doherty wrote, is "on life support only due to the court, 50 employees down to 17. The operation is done, and needs to be shut down properly. Cannabis is very complicated to do so."

—TODD HEYWOOD

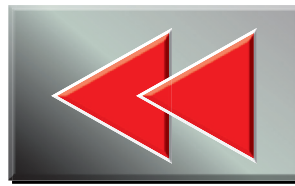
B/23/098 YSI ORTHOPHOSPHATE ANALYZER AND STARTUP SERVICES as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept bids at The City of Lansing, Purchasing Office, 124 W. Michigan Ave. 3rd Floor, Lansing, Michigan 48933 or electronically submitted thru MITN Site (www.Mitn.info) until 2PM local time in effect on MARCH 27, 2023. Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Marilyn Chick at (517) 483-4282, or Marilyn.chick@lansingmi.gov or go to www.mitn.info. The City of Lansing encourages bids from All Vendors Including MBE/WBE Vendors and Lansing-Based Businesses.

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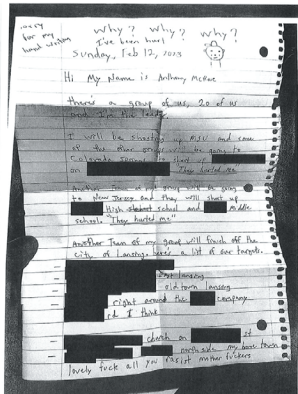
REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

BY NICOLE NOEHEL



MSU Department of Police and Public Safety released a timeline that shows police entered the MSU Union just one minute after gunman Anthony McRae exited. Ingham County 911 received its first-shots-fired call for Berkey Hall at 8:18 p.m., and officers entered the building two minutes later at 8:20. McRae entered the Union at 8:24. Ingham County 911 received its first report of a shooting at the Union at 8:26, the same time McRae left. Officers arrived at the Union at 8:27. The first emergency alert was sent to students at 8:30, with a second at 8:31. Ingham County 911 received a call about a person matching McRae's description at 11:35 p.m. Fourteen minutes later, police approached McRae, and he shot himself. Between 8 p.m. and 1 a.m., police said 911 received about 2,100 calls, the equivalent of two-and-a-half days' worth of calls for the dispatch center. Police also shared a handwritten note found on McRae that stated he was tired of being rejected and an outsider. It claimed he was the leader of a group of 20 individuals that planned shootings at MSU, multiple locations in Lansing, two schools in New Jersey and another in Colorado Springs, Colorado, but investigators said he acted alone and wasn't working with anyone else.



Three high-ranking City of East Lansing employees announced their resignations, bringing the total number of department heads or assistant department heads who have left their posts this year to 10, the Lansing State Journal reported. The departures include Chad Connelly, deputy police chief; Ben Dawson, acting human resources director; and Peter Menser, interim director of planning, building and development. City Clerk Jennifer Shuster, Deputy Clerk Kathryn Gardner and Human Resources Director Shelli Neumann resigned in February, while City Manager George Lahanas; Tom Fehrenbach, planning, building and development director and assistant city manager; senior planner Darcy Schmitt; and Adam Cummins, community and economic development administrator, left in January. Interim City Manager Randy Talifarro told the Journal that the resignations are "a natural thing that happens when there's a change in leadership," but the city's employees continue to work to meet the needs of its residents.

Meridian Township announced the Okemos Road Bridge will open Thursday (March 16) until late March. The final concrete was poured last week. The bridge will host two lanes of southbound and northbound traffic, but temporary lane closures will be required intermittently when the weather is dry so the contractor can complete restoration work. During closures, only one northbound and southbound



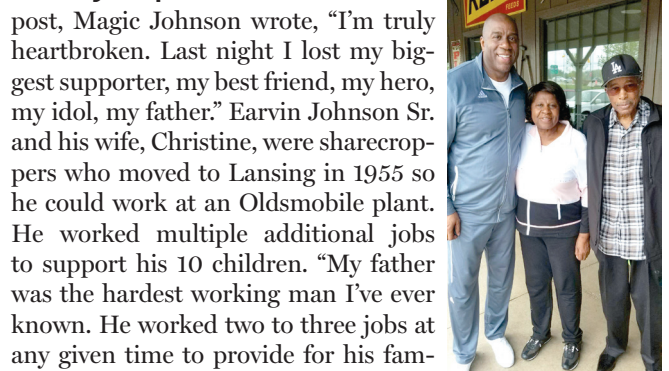
lane will be open. The project is \$184,000 over its \$8.75 million budget, according to the Lansing State Journal, and Kelly Jones, managing director for the Ingham County Road Department, expects lawsuits once it's finished. The bridge was originally slated to open in November but faced months of delays, including a month-long delay at the start of the project due to broadband installation complications.



Marie Howe, supervisor of Bath Charter Township, was charged with misdemeanor assault or assault & battery relating to an incident in August 2022, the Lansing State Journal reported. The alleged victim is Deputy Clerk April Dunham. Howe was ordered by the court to avoid contact with Dunham except when necessary to fulfill job duties. If she's found guilty, Howe could face up to 93 days in jail and/or a \$500 fine. She waived her arraignment, and the court entered a not-guilty plea on her behalf. A pretrial hearing is set for March 24, and jury selection is set for April 11.

Earvin Johnson Sr., father of MSU and NBA basketball icon Magic Johnson, died at age 88 at McLaren Greater Lansing Hospital. In a remembrance post, Magic Johnson wrote, "I'm truly heartbroken. Last night I lost my biggest supporter, my best friend, my hero, my idol, my father." Earvin Johnson Sr. and his wife, Christine, were sharecroppers who moved to Lansing in 1955 so he could work at an Oldsmobile plant. He worked multiple additional jobs to support his 10 children. "My father was the hardest working man I've ever known. He worked two to three jobs at any given time to provide for his family and never made excuses," Johnson wrote. The former basketball player announced the creation of an Earvin Johnson Sr. Scholarship Fund for incoming minority students at MSU in memory of his father's "love for MSU, young people and education."

The Lansing Lugnuts will be under new ownership for its 2023 season, pending approval from Minor League Baseball and the City of Lansing. It's the team's first ownership change in its history. Diamond Baseball Holdings, which owns numerous other minor league baseball teams across the country, will take over ownership from Tom Dickson and Take Me Out to the Ballgame LLC, which purchased the team, then known as the Waterloo Diamonds, in 1994 before moving it to Lansing in 1996. The team will remain in Lansing under general manager Zac Clark and continue to be the High-A affiliate for the Oakland Athletics. Lansing Mayor Andy Schor told the Lansing State Journal that representatives from Diamond Baseball Holdings will present the proposal to the city council Monday (March 20), and he hopes the resolution will be passed before the annual Crosstown Showdown against Michigan State University on April 4.



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CityPULSE

••• READ •••
DEDRIA HUMPHRIES BARKER

the last Wednesday of the month in City Pulse



The Democrat majority in Michigan's Senate and House is making quick progress on gun legislation, which is popularly supported by Michigan citizens. The House has already passed a bill supporting what amounts to universal background checks. Last week, a Senate committee debated the effectiveness of the proposed laws, but those laws will likely make it to the Senate floor quickly for two reasons: The Democrats have the votes and the public supports these laws.

A WDIV/Detroit News survey showed that 87.8% of Michigan citizens support background checks for gun buyers, including nearly 78% of Republican gun owners. What's the argument against this legislation, which the citizens so strongly approve of? Well, it uses licensing as a way of ensuring background checks. It would exempt individuals who had a Federal National Instant Criminal Background Check in the last five days before the purchase. It is a tiny nit to pick, and unlikely to persuade.

More than 74% of those surveyed support extreme risk laws, or what is popularly referred to as "red flag laws." This gives law enforcement the opportunity to temporarily confiscate the guns of individuals at risk of harming themselves or others. Suicide is the cause of 60% of gun deaths. A study by Political Science Professor John Tures of LaGrange College found that red flag laws in other states save more than 7,300 lives in 2020. It appears to be a promising approach that strikes a balance between safety and gun rights.

Another set of bills addresses safe storage. Four-fifths of those surveyed support this approach to gun safety. While Democrat support is higher, a majority of Republicans also support it, including Republican gun owners. Both parties support exempting gun safety items from sales tax.

Make no mistake, there is a serious gun problem in our country and no state is immune, as the Oxford High School and MSU shootings drove home. Particularly worrisome is a study by the Kaiser Family Foundation that compared reasons for children's deaths among "peer" countries, which included Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK. We were the only country where guns were the leading cause of death. The closest behind was Canada, where guns deaths are fifth. When you look at the rate per thousand, the data is equally shocking: The U.S. rate is 5.6 per 100,000, while Canada's is 0.8 per 100,000. That's seven times

as many deaths. The U.S. rate is 56 times higher than in Germany, Netherlands, the UK and Japan. One Republican legislator complained that this data included 19-year-olds, who are not children. A parent grieves no less at the death of a child when they turn 19.

There are other gun safety approaches that are supported by most Michigan citizens, including a 14-day waiting period to purchase, raising the purchase age to 21 and banning the creation of 3-D printed ghost guns. The Democratic majority made the prudent decision to lead with laws that are already on the books of other states and have broad support from both parties. They are becoming adept at finding that spot where good policy meets good politics.

Some Democrats were careful to say that these bills were not the ceiling of efforts to reduce gun violence in our state but a beginning that can be passed and supported by citizens of both parties. They could have included more controversial solutions but wisely decided to offer legislation long overdue that holds great promise. They may eventually reach further, but for the

moment they are demonstrating that they will hold their new power with appropriate restraint.

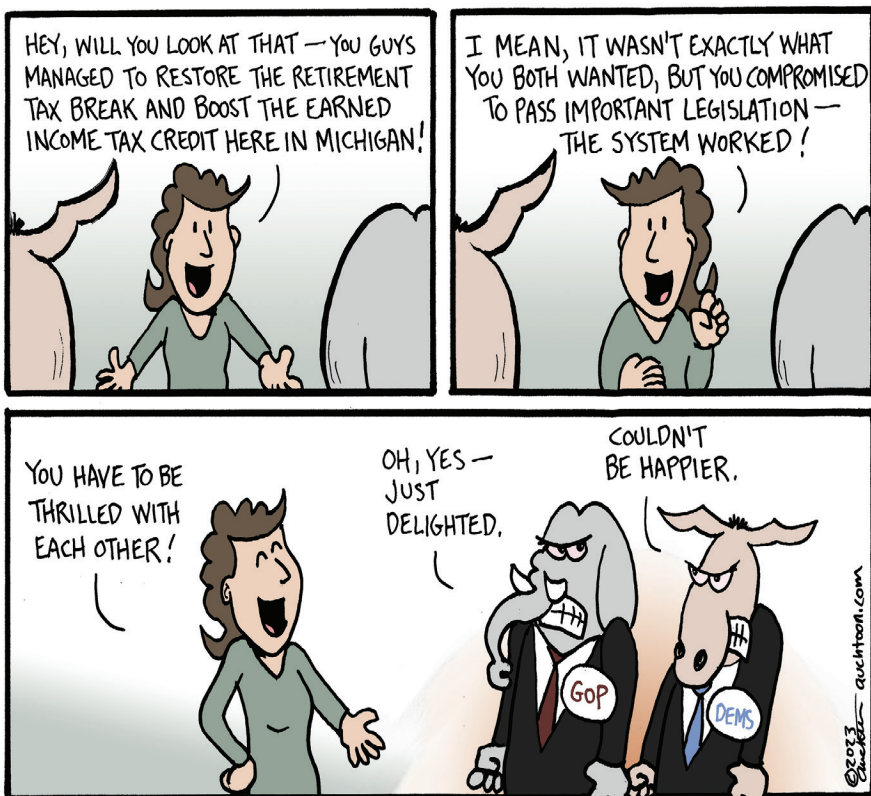
Looming over all this is the question of whether these proposed solutions will be found constitutional by the conservative U.S. Supreme Court. Gun regulation was a non-controversial reality for most of American history. People could not carry guns inside the city limits of Dodge City, and in 1925 West Virginia banned machine guns. No one protested based on Second Amendment rights. It wasn't until the Heller decision in 2008 that the Court ruled that the amendment guaranteed an individual's right to own a gun. Previously, the Court held that the amendment should be interpreted as written, to protect the right of states to a regulated militia. Heller also states that the right to bear arms is not unlimited, including "prohibitions on the possession of firearms by felons and the mentally ill, or laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings, or laws imposing conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms." The modest laws being sent through Michigan's Legislature seem to lie within what the court has defined as constitutional. It's possible the court may change its approach to issues, but under the existing interpretation, they should pass muster.

It seems nearly certain that Michigan will soon have common-sense gun laws. It will be years before we know if they are effective, but for now, we will have met the moment that was thrust upon us in mid-February. We will say that we care about the safety of our citizens and that we respect the Constitution. It's about time.

Gun laws: It's about time

The **CP** Edit

Opinion



On reducing homelessness and poverty

On March 1, City Pulse reported on the recent enforcement against occupied red-tagged properties in Lansing. These events highlight the housing crisis plaguing our community. Individuals and families are not only subjected to inadequate dwellings, but to sky-high rent payments, unattainable tenant requirements, and lack of access to housing assistance. In Ingham County, there are 512 individuals experiencing homelessness each night, according to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, with approximately 6% of these individuals being children.

However, there is hope. The expansions of the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit during the COVID-19 pandemic have proven effective at reducing homelessness and poverty. In fact, the CTC expansion lowered child poverty rates in 2021 by 46%. There is no question that help is needed, and there is no

question that these expansions can provide the assistance necessary to better the lives of our community's most vulnerable people and families. So, why is Congress still questioning if these expansions should be extended?

As a Fellow through RESULTS, an international organization advocating for anti-poverty measures, I urge community members, as well as state and local officials, to support these expansions. Congress must make the choice whether to extend a helping hand or to extend the issue. Your voice and your advocacy have the potential to make the decision for them — to truly make a tangible difference in the lives of those who are so often forgotten while living in plain sight.

Emma Helrigel, East Lansing

(Send letters to the editor to letters@lansingcitypulse.com. Please limit them to 250 words.)

Letter to the editor

Elliott Larsen: A vote that will sit well with the test of time

In today's hyper-partisan world, it's often hard for legislators or members of Congress to see through anything other than their red-or-blue tinted glasses.

Independent thinkers or aggressive moderates who don't fall in line with their political party find themselves like former U.S. Rep. Peter Meijer: primaried out of a job for voting to impeach Donald Trump. Money and name recognition be damned.

Some votes, however, age well with time, regardless of which way the partisan winds have blown in the past.

Forward-thinking political figures can spot them a mile away and take a vote that may not have been popular among ideologues 10 years ago — but looks better 20 years down the line.

One of these votes is expanding the Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act to the LGBTQ community.

Considering this polling, This isn't exactly the same issue, but it's markedly close.

About 20 years ago, Michiganders voted 59% to 41% to define marriage in our state Constitution as the union between one man and one woman.

Michigan wasn't an anomaly. A national Gallup poll from May 2004 had gay marriage tracking, nationally, with 42% support.

Last year, that same poll found 71% of voters supporting gay marriage. That's a marked change.

Republican legislators looking toward the future recognized that. A few voted with the entire Democratic caucus this month in favor of Elliott Larsen Civil Rights expansion.

I'll mention two in particular: Rep. Graham Filler and Rep. Bill G. Schuette.

Once the state representative out of DeWitt, Filler's district was drastically moved to include more of Saginaw County than Gratiot or Clinton counties. Gay rights is not a burning issue in his small town district of Second Amendment-loving farmers.

But as a civil libertarian who believes in individual freedoms, Filler said he wants the Republican Party to move toward arguing for the rights of people.

Filler, 40, said he wants the Republican Party to be the "party of now and

the future." My read is that this means moving away from discrimination against a particular group of folks.

Next, we have Schuette, the 27-year-old son of the former state attorney general and gubernatorial candidate.

Like his father, Schuette is a skilled, upwardly mobile politician. In a few years, Schuette would be a logical choice to run for the politically competitive congressional seat held by U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee.

Schuette has the benefit of time on his side. He can serve in the state House for 11 more years, if he's reelected, before making a jump in his late 30s. After that, could Bill G. make a gubernatorial run? A U.S. Senate run? His dad did.

There's nothing stopping this competitive marathon runner. What he doesn't need is a bad vote from 2022 (that can easily be framed as supporting discrimination) hanging over his head.

To give himself credibility with the religious right, Schuette sponsored a religious liberty amendment to the bill. It didn't pass, but his amendment is on record.

Now, so is his yes vote on Elliott Larsen's expansion.

Some other younger members of the GOP caucus also were yes votes: Rep. Pauline Wendzel, 34, from Southwest Michigan and Matt Bierlein, 39, from the Saginaw area.

Most of the Republican caucus, though, were not yes votes. They've likely heard the tale of former state Rep. Frank Foster, a young rising star at the time, who advocated for Elliott Larsen Civil Rights expansion in 2013 and 2014.

His Republican primary opponent successfully used this issue against Foster in his Up North district. As a result, the state got former state Rep. Lee Chatfield, who is being investigated by the attorney general for various shenanigans.

Foster, now a lobbyist in town, watched the Elliott Larsen vote in the Senate from the gallery a couple of weeks ago. In hindsight, Foster may have been slightly before his time.

But at least he got to see that the time when supporting gay rights as a Republican is of political benefit, not detriment, is here.

(Email Kyle Melinn of the Capitol News Service MIRS at melinnkly@gmail.com.)



KYLE MELINN

Opinion

POLITICS

Phillips Cider Bar & Market brings unique libations to Lansing

By LIZY FERGUSON

While Phillips Orchards & Cider Mill's Lansing outpost opened at the end of December, there's another development to celebrate. Last week, the St. Johns-based

company began offering its boozy beverages at the new Phillips Cider Bar & Market in the Frandor Shopping Center. With 11 cider varieties on tap, there's certainly something to sample that will be brand new to even the most seasoned imbibers.

Phillips Cider Bar & Market

3000 Vine St.,
Lansing
10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sunday-Thursday
10 a.m.-10 p.m.
Friday-Saturday
517-580-7581
phillipsciders.com

According to its website, a cider from Phillips is different from those one might be used to. "We let the apples shine through to provide their pure expression and a naturally gluten-free beverage. Most of our ciders are made in a natural, dry style. We explore combinations of apples with other fruits we also grow like peaches and plums, as well as the bounty of fruit grown in Michigan like cherries, blueberries and cranberries. We also explore other combinations with herbs and hops to create a variety of tastes to excite the palate."

For examples of the company's unique offerings, look no further than its Spiced Piercy cider, which contains Vietnamese cinnamon, cloves, allspice and mace, and its Pride cider, which is infused with hibiscus flower.

Phillips Orchards & Cider Mill is co-owned by Brian Phillips and his husband, Gregg Smyth. Phillips came into his share of ownership through his family, with his ancestor Parmer Phillips settling the farm in 1852. One of the ciders on tap, the 1852 Blend, is made from the apple varieties first planted on the family farm back when Michigan was still the frontier. The orchard, which is an attraction itself and offers a more understated option to the sometimes circus-like Uncle John's Cider Mill, grows 34 varieties of apples.

Sharing this subtle sophistication, Phillips Cider Bar & Market has an elegant but cozy atmosphere, with a long, wooden bar softly illuminated by the amber glow of backlit cider bottles. Its setup welcomes itself to coffee dates and after-work drinks, with menu options including French press coffee; hot, spiced cider; and a variety of baked goods — I understand the Lemon Lavender Cookie is a particular favorite



Lizy Ferguson/City Pulse

Phillips Cider Bar & Market has an elegant but cozy atmosphere, with a long, wooden bar softly illuminated by the amber glow of backlit cider bottles and comfortable seating perfect for coffee dates and after-work drinks.



Lizy Ferguson/City Pulse

In addition to alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages, the cider bar offers savory appetizers and housemade baked goods such as donuts, brownies, cookies and pies.

among customers. The savory options sound just as tempting, with choices like smoked whitefish dip with lemon and capers. Best of all, nearly every item is made in-house.

The bar also offers nonalcoholic cider (both regular and frozen) and a variety of locally made goods that would make perfect gifts. It has even more varieties of its hard cider available for purchase by the bottle as well as the option of purchasing a growler or howler of draft cider to go.

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

A poem from death row

Keith LaMar fights for the freedom to live

By **CHELSEA LAKE ROBERTS**

In 1989, Cleveland native Keith LaMar was imprisoned after fatally shooting a man in the chest during a drug deal that went south. Then, in 1993, his life changed forever when 10 people were killed in an 11-day prison uprising. When the dust cleared, the murders were pinned on LaMar, who was swiftly and summarily convicted by an all-white jury. According to advocates, the trial lacked evidence proving he was guilty, while evidence asserting his innocence was suppressed.

Lamar is scheduled to be executed by the state of Ohio on November 16, 2023, for crimes he says he didn't commit. To bring attention to his case and the plight of others within the carceral system, he worked with artists to create a tender but defiant manifesto, "DIGEST," which is on display through July 9 at the Michigan State University Broad Art Museum.

"DIGEST" is a show in two parts — a series of three videos and a large, interactive sculpture that takes up most of a small room on the first floor of the museum. I watched the videos first, which contain spoken word poetry from LaMar and accompaniment from a host of experienced jazz musicians led by composer and pianist Albert Marquès.

Sitting down to listen, I was immediately captivated by the subtle rhymes and powerful message LaMar shares. His voice is gentle but assertive. He talks about his neighborhood, his grandparents and his philosophical views on life. He says, "Life isn't meant to be fair, it's meant to be lived."

Listening to the poems and music through headphones makes for an intimate experience, but this intimacy is juxtaposed with the location of the exhibit — a hallway in the main area of the museum. I was reminded of the lack of privacy incarcerated people contend with, whether making phone calls, visiting with guests or just going about day-to-day activities.

On full view is the indomitable spirit of LaMar, his words punctuated and given context by the restrained yet thrilling free jazz compositions that accompany his poems. The videos are played side-by-side, so you can watch the musicians and view



Chelsea Lake Roberts/for City Pulse

The dark hole in the center of the sculpture is nearly human-shaped. Inside, a small video of LaMar plays when activated by motion.

LaMar at the same time. Due to meticulous editing, it's as if the poet is in session with the band. LaMar has said that jazz saxophonist John Coltrane's album "A Love Supreme" helped him through some of his darkest hours.

With his shared stories of music, family and growing up, I felt I was truly in conversation with LaMar. I wanted to tell him about Bill Frisell's song "What Do We Do?" from the album *Blue Dream* and how it always seems to have something new to say to me. I predict LaMar's art will stand the test of time as not only a powerful testimony of resistance but as works of deep and singular beauty.

The second part of the exhibition is a sculpture that makes sounds and plays videos as visitors move around it. Designed by artist Mia Pearlman, it's a wonderful companion piece to the videos (which I suggest viewing first). Pearlman molded prison materials such as brick, barbed wire and zip-tie handcuffs to resemble an enormous, organic mass. Is it a stomach or a lump of matter stuck inside an intestinal system? The exhibition's title comes from LaMar's belief that the prison industrial complex is designed to break you down slowly and consume (or digest) you.

Upon walking into the room, you feel that you've happened upon a unique moment in time, as if a tornado has stopped



Chelsea Lake Roberts/for City Pulse

Keith LaMar, the subject and co-creator of "DIGEST," believes the carceral system is designed to break you down slowly and consume you like a digestive system. Artist Mia Pearlman molded prison materials such as brick, barbed wire and zip-tie handcuffs to resemble an enormous, organic mass representing this idea.

and you're being invited to examine it from a safe distance. One part of the structure is made for a visitor to hide inside. Plastered with notes from LaMar's trial printed on black paper, the dark hole in the center of the sculpture is nearly human-shaped. I stepped inside and found a small video of LaMar that was activated by motion. I triggered sounds and other videos as I moved around the sculpture. But when visitors leave the room, the sculpture is silent again.

The sculptural element of "DIGEST" challenges the viewer to act. It makes a trepidatious game out of circling the artwork to see what kind of strange noises you can make. I'll admit that even with the deeply upsetting subject matter, there was some levity in waving my arms and trying to trip the unseen motion detectors to trigger sounds. I felt free to move my body the way I wanted to, again in conversation with the work.

In one of the videos, LaMar reads a poem by Turkish poet Nazim Hikmet. He quotes, "Living must be your whole occupation. ... I mean, you must take living so seriously." How would you live in what could be the last months of your life? Would you send a poem — a love letter to life — from death row? What would freedom mean to you after so many years in

isolation?

The Prison Policy Initiative reports that solitary confinement causes permanent and irreparable harm, citing data that demonstrates that parts of the brain have been shown to shrink when people are without meaningful human contact. Solitary confinement that lasts more than 15 days is regarded by the United Nations as torture — LaMar has been in solitary confinement for more than 20 years. If art is an expression of connection, then this exhibition underscores how technology, music and advocacy can inspire empathy in spite of incredible barriers.

LaMar has been fighting for a full exoneration from his charges since at least 2013. He's written a book, made a documentary and petitioned the governor of Ohio with more than 215,000 signatures, and there's a new petition available online that hopes to add at least 50,000 more.

There are hundreds of thousands of people behind LaMar. His story of wrongful conviction and torture within the prison industrial complex is nothing new, but the energy from his indomitable performances and the Broad's careful curation results in something rare during our times. Dare I say it? Even whisper it? Hope.



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Courtesy

Ody Norkin, (third from left) with members of the Williamston Rotary Club in downtown East Lansing on Monday (March 13) loading medical supplies and firefighting equipment to be driven to Detroit for the next leg of their journey to Ukraine. From left: Keith Creagh, Rick Wiener, Bruce Wigginton, John Bollman, Rich Triemer, Raj Wiener and Linda Triemer.

One ambulance at a time

Ody Norkin spearheads Lansing area response to Ukraine war

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

Early last week, Ody Norkin was busy ferrying boxes of surgical gauze, wound dressings, disinfectant and other medical supplies from the back of his car to a spacious, cluttered office in East Lansing.

The bland music echoing in the lobby of the Marriott hotel complex on a sleepy Monday morning belied the urgency of the need for these supplies, half a world away.

A few days earlier, Norkin was looking at bombed-out buildings and bullet-riddled cars in the streets of Irpin, near the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv.

Norkin, vice president of the Michigan Flyer bus service, went to Kyiv to deliver a fully equipped ambulance to Ukraine — the fourth ambulance he’s shepherded across the border in the past year, with the help of local contacts and a growing network of Lansing-area donors.

Back in East Lansing, he was readying a fresh load of supplies for shipment to the war zone. Some were donated by local hospitals; others were paid for by donations from the Greater Lansing Jewish Federation, other Jewish and non-Jewish groups, foundations and private businesses.

Humanitarian aid for Ukraine

Donate online at:

Greater Lansing Jewish Federation website
www.jewishfederationlansing.org
Michigan Institute for Contemporary Arts website
www.micharts.org

By check:

Williamston Rotary Foundation,
Rotary Club of East Lansing
Foundation, Rotary Club of Lansing Foundation

A year into the brutal conflict, Norkin is still learning the ropes. One wall was piled with boxes of personal protective equipment, mostly gowns and masks.

Those boxes would not go. “The folks on the ground in Ukraine told us, ‘Don’t bother. We’re in a war zone,’” Norkin said. “They don’t need gowns and masks. They need burn care, wound care, surgical equipment, disinfectant, anything to do with open wounds.”

Coiled between the stacks of boxes were a length of rubber hosing and a hydraulic jack, donated by a local fire department, used to rescue people pinned by steel and concrete in bombed-out buildings.

Those were going.

From a week to a year

A year ago, people told Ody Norkin it would be a fool’s errand to bring an ambulance into Ukraine, even if he succeeded. Russian troops had already occupied the port city of Kherson on March 2. The war would be over by the time he found a vehicle, purchased it and cleared all the bureaucratic and logistical hurdles, he was told.

Privately, Norkin feared they were right — that Odessa might fall within the week.

“I pictured myself returning to East Lansing and saying, ‘Well, I tried,’” he said.

Risk was a more obvious argument against going into a war zone, but Norkin hates hero talk.

Fortunately, Okemos attorney David Mittleman, a donor and facilitator who has worked closely with Norkin on getting humanitarian aid to Ukraine, was

On the cover:

Ody Norkin outside bombed-out homes in Irpin, near Kyiv.

Ukraine

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glad to talk about that.

"We'll never know the full extent, because we'll never pry it all out of him," David Mittleman said. "People told him it's too dangerous — and it's still dangerous — but that doesn't slow him down. Ody has put his life on the line."

Giving a speech about how and why he just had to try, no matter what, isn't Norkin's style.



Courtesy

Norkin (right) with an 88-year-old man he identified as Yechiel, whom he said was benefitting from a milk substitute donated by Sparrow Health System. Norkin said Yechiel, who had no family, was living in the attic of a synagogue in Chirniivtsi, Ukraine, near the Romanian border. He said Yechiel was born in Ukraine, then deported "as a Jew" by the Romanian army in 1941 to eastern Russia. He returned after World War II in 1946, but the Communists deported him again, this time to Uzbekistan, "because his family originally had money." He returned in 1991 and lived alone until his house burned in the war last year.

"It comes to him naturally, with his passion about what happened to his grandparents, to do what he could do," Mittleman said. "I consider him a humble hero."

Norkin's grandparents, Sara and Moshe Norkin, were murdered in a massacre in Odessa in 1941.

"There's no gravesite, no record,"

Norkin, 68, said. "Just 140,000 victims. No information on who, when, where, why, other than it was a reprisal by the Romanian army, who were on Hitler's side."

Norkin came to the United States in 1978 after serving in the Israeli Army during the 1973 war. His father, Aaron, a graduate of Odessa Technical School, was arrested by the Russians for being a member of a Zionist Youth Group. He later escaped to British Mandate Palestine, arriving by 1927. Norkin's grandparents were murdered in Crimea in 1941, while other family members were deported to Siberia.

Looking out from his hotel room in Kyiv two weeks ago, Norkin gazed at narrow, tree-lined streets his father likely knew from his many visits to the capital from Odessa.

It was Norkin's fifth trip to Ukraine since the war began, and the first time he visited the Ukrainian capital.

The one-year anniversary of the Russian invasion was a grim milestone, but it provided an opportunity for much of the world to marvel at the resilience of Ukraine in the face of the Russian onslaught.

Parked in the street below Norkin's room were a dozen vehicles belonging to the

entourage of Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, who was making a surprise visit to Kyiv to mark the anniversary. Less than a week before, President Joe Biden slipped into Kyiv to meet with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and announce a half-billion dollars in aid.

When the ambulance was safely in



Courtesy

Norkin (right) turning over the third of four ambulances he has delivered to Ukraine so far that contributions in the Greater Lansing area have made possible.



Courtesy

Norkin near a bullet-ridden car in Irpin, Ukraine, on his latest trip. "People were trying to escape," Norkin said, "and they just take a Kalashnikov and spray them with bullets. I'm there a year later, and I see more than 100 cars like that in one lot. I can't tell you how many victims there must have been."

Ukrainian hands, Norkin took time to visit the city of Irpin, about five miles from Kyiv, the scene of fierce urban fighting in February and March 2022. Russian forces captured half of Irpin by mid-March; Ukrainian forces recaptured the city March 28.

He saw bombed-out apartment buildings that were still inhabited.

"These were hardly military targets," Norkin said. "T-62 shells going into the windows."

What struck him most dramatically was the sight of a bullet-riddled vehicle in the street and many more stacked in a nearby lot.

"People were trying to escape, and they just take a Kalashnikov and spray them with bullets," he said. "I'm there a year later, and I see more than 100 cars like that in one lot. I can't tell you how many victims there must have been."

Hell of a buy

Ody Norkin hates hero talk, but he can't resist crowing about his deal-making skills.

"We've collected \$150,000 to donate five vehicles," he said. "I buy a new bus for \$600,000. CATA SpecTrans — that's a quarter of a million. This is a different ballgame."

Norkin and a trusted colleague, Marco Katz of the Zionist Federation in Romania, have a system by now. First they comb the Internet for deals. When they find a good prospect, Norkin wires the money to Katz, who buys it and brings it to a border city in Romania for delivery.

It's not a cakewalk.

"To transfer title to a vehicle in Romania takes three to four weeks," Norkin said. "People here complain about standing two hours in line in Frandor. You don't know what you're talking about!"

It took a phone call to an influential friend of Mittleman's, U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin, to grease the skids and streamline the registration process to three days.

"Mittleman isn't just a contributor," Norkin said. "He called Slotkin and said, 'Help Ody out.' I don't have his clout."

"Her staff was able to handle the necessary paperwork quickly, and the clock was ticking," Mittleman said.

Slotkin insisted that Norkin call her when he got to the border.

"I said I didn't want to bother her," Norkin said. "She said, 'No, I want you to call me.' Who does that?"

The 2017 Renault Norkin and Katz delivered to Kyiv two weeks ago, with 123,000 kilometers on the odometer, was purchased from a dealer in Romania. Norkin called it a "hell of a buy" at \$17,000 plus about \$6,000 in new tires, batteries and equipment.

"You learn," Norkin said. "Our third ambulance was not a good one. We bought it in Torino, Italy, at an auction and had a lot of issues with it."

They fitted out the Renault with a vital signs monitor, purchased in Tennessee for \$1,000, and a defibrillator that cost \$700, upgrading it from a transportation class vehicle to a trauma grade, or type C, ambulance.

"We left them with ambulance jackets and everything — a fully equipped vehicle," Norkin said.

There was a delay when the ambulance popped a tire on the damaged metal lining of a drainage channel in a Kyiv street.

"The roads are for shit," Norkin said.

They fixed the tire and delivered the ambulance to Chabad House in Kyiv, where Kyiv's chief rabbi, Rabbi Moshe Azman, thanked Rabbi Hendel Weingarten of East Lansing and the other donors for "the ambulance, food and equipment that will save the lives of people."

The deal was so sweet Norkin still had \$10,000 in earmarked donations to spare. He opted to spend it on a second vehicle, a transport van.

Vans can be lifelines in a city where any neighborhood can quickly become a war zone. A year ago, when the fighting was at its height in Irpin, Rabbi Azman "stacked people in his Chevrolet," Norkin said, to get them out.

Norkin selected a Ford Transit with three seats in back and three in front

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from a flea market, but there was a problem.

“We didn’t catch the fact that the differential was shot,” he said.

Norkin, the humble humanitarian of few words, suddenly gave way to another Norkin, the voluble, vehicle-savvy Michigan Flyer exec.

“You’re buying used vehicles and they want to rip you off,” he complained. “How do you find out that the gear inside the differential has had it? You have to open it up. When we drove it as a test drive around the block in Bucharest, we didn’t hear it.”

The repairs cost another \$2,000 and a delay of eight days.

Fortunately, the Transit cost less than \$7,000.

“I’m still proud we got in under \$10,000,” Norkin said. “We’re still under budget, with both vehicles and all expenses, and we did it under three weeks.”

Despite an 18-hour drive from the Romanian border town of Suceava to Kyiv, with an overnight stop at Ukrainian city of Chernivtsi, the delivery went smoothly.

It was a less nerve-wracking trip than the first time Norkin and Katz delivered an ambulance to Ukraine, in March 2022, when they were stopped 21 times on the way to their destination, Odessa.

“It’s a four-hour Google drive,” he said. “It took us all night.”

In the jittery first weeks of the war, soldiers behind sandbags, pointing rifles, waited at each checkpoint.

Norkin and Katz turned the car lights on inside and off outside, pulled up slowly, rolled down the window and called out to the guards: “no video, no video,” reassuring them they were not taking pictures with their phones.

“If they find a photo of the checkpoint on your phone, that’s it for you,” Norkin said.

As Norkin and Katz handed over their documents and phones, rockets whizzed overhead.

“I learned from that, that we’re the wrong people to be driving through war zones,” Norkin said. “We don’t speak the language. We’re foreigners. We could be Russian saboteurs in the guise of American do-gooders.”

The next time they delivered an ambulance, they met a driver half way to the destination of Dnipro in Ukraine, stopped short of the areas where missiles were deployed, and handed the vehicle to a local driver, known to them through photographs.

‘It wasn’t for babies’

Last Wednesday, retired Lansing-area attorney Raj Wiener was busy rounding up six volunteers and a renting a truck to transfer the medical supplies stacked in the Michigan Flyer offices to a shipping container in Detroit the following Monday.

Inspired by Norkin’s bold trip to Odessa in March 2022, Wiener, former director of the Michigan Public Health Department, went into action. She beat the bushes for surgical and other supplies, drawing on her connections in the health care field and the Williamston Rotary Club.

Many of the supplies were donated by Michigan medical centers, in-



Courtesy

Alexander Rodinsky, director of the Jewish Medical Center in Dnipro, in eastern Ukraine, and staff members. Said Norkin: “Dr. Rodinsky is thanking our community for this ambulance gift,” which was the second ambulance donated to the center. “His staff are next to boxes of supplies we shipped.” Norkin said the center serves civilian and military victims. “Amazing to me to see all these women that supposedly were to be evacuated.”

cluding Traverse City-based Munson Healthcare and Sparrow Health System. The East Lansing Rotary Club donated \$9,000 from a grant it received from the Rotary district foundation to pay for shipping. Rotary members brought winter clothes and other supplies to fill out the container.

“We all have our piece of the puzzle to play,” Wiener said. “If it matches a need, you contribute. I just started calling hospitals and everybody I knew to give us medical supplies they might be discarding, or might be about to expire, and might be wasted here.”

She called local fire departments to solicit desperately needed rescue equipment.

When she won \$500 at a Rotary drawing, she took it as a sign and put it toward a \$3,000 grant application from the Williamston Rotary Foundation.

The money was funneled through a Rotary-to-Rotary transaction with the Rotary Club in Dnipro, Ukraine.

At a Zoom meeting in early 2023, Wiener asked her Ukrainian counterparts what they needed.

“It was mostly stuff the military would use in the field,” she said. “But that stuff was sent to the front, and the hospitals didn’t have wound care, burn care.”

Students at the MSU Veterinary Clinic and Saginaw Valley University nursing school found usable items to contribute.

If a needed item is not on hand, Wiener uses cash donations to buy the supplies in Romania, Poland, “wherever we can get the best price.”

On one trip, Norkin brought along a supply of the thyroid medication Synthroid, a daily necessity for people exposed to radiation from the 1986 disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear plant. On his most recent trip, he brought along a 150-pound flat of Similac infant formula.

“Air France was pretty pissed about it,” Norkin said. (The package was well above the 70-pound-per-piece limit.)

“It wasn’t for babies,” Wiener said. “It was for elderly people who can’t be evacuated and have no food.”

Beginning with Norkin’s first trip,



Courtesy

Norkin (left) and Marco Katz (right), of the Zionist Federation of Romania, who works with Norkin to find ambulances in Europe to buy and donate. Pictured with them giving the peace sign is a man Norkin identified as Alexander, bodyguard for Ukraine’s chief rabbi. He said Alexander drove him and Katz for eight hours to return to Romania via a border crossing that can have as many as 700 trucks awaiting inspection.

an informal network of donors and supporters has grown.

“It started with Ody just going there,” Amy Shapiro, director of the Greater Lansing Jewish Federation, said.

“A rabbi from Odessa contacted Rabbi Weingarten, who is on our board, and the rabbi contacted me and said, ‘What can we do?’”

Shapiro put up a website and did mailings.

“The donations just flowed in,” she said. “We raised money for two ambulances last fiscal year and two this fiscal year.”

As the war grinds on, local support is spreading well beyond the Jewish community.

“We have a tiny Jewish community, and people gave so much it was shocking, and we can only ask so much of a small group of people,” Shapiro said.

Terry Terry, owner of Urban Beat, hosted a benefit concert for Ukraine this month with soprano Rachael Gates.

The sold-out concert drew more than 100 people and raised about \$5,000.

Gates sang with the Unity Trio, a string string group, and musician Mykola Deychakiwsky played the bandura (the Ukrainian lute-zither) as listeners enjoyed Ukrainian food and sipped Ukrainian vodka.

It was the latest of five fundraisers for Ukraine at Urban Beat, and by far the most successful.

Orkin told the audience about his latest trip.

“I’ve never seen \$1,800 cash in a glass bowl like that,” Norkin said.

“Word is spreading,” Terry said. “Ody has done so much. To drive an ambulance to the Ukraine is just amazing. We want to do more benefit concerts, so stay tuned.”

Ominous undertow

Many of the donors who are helping Ukraine stand against Russia feel the



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The sky is falling on Skymint

By LUCAS HENKEL

Dimondale-based Green Peak Industries, the parent company of Skymint, once one of the largest cannabis companies in Michigan, is allegedly more than \$127 million in debt to Canadian investment firm Tropics LP. It's now under the control of a receiver and at risk of losing possession of its assets, including Skymint's three indoor grow operations in Dimondale and Lansing and 24 cannabis dispensaries throughout Michigan.

According to a lawsuit filed in Ingham County Circuit Court earlier this month, Tropics LP issued Green Peak a \$70 million senior secured term loan in September 2021 to acquire 3Fifteen Cannabis and its 12 dispensaries. One of 3Fifteen's major shareholders, Merida Capital Holdings, also provided Green Peak with an \$8 million equity investment for the acquisition.

Green Peak agreed to repay Tropics LP in full by September 2025 at an interest rate of 12.5%, compounded monthly, and maintain a minimum cash balance of \$7.5 million. It failed to fulfill these requirements and other loan obligations, and it also owes back rent and taxes at multiple Skymint locations.

The landlord of Skymint's leased cultivation facility in Dimondale is attempting to evict the company, saying it owes more than \$1 million in rent, and it has also failed to pay back rent at its facility on East Jolly Road in Lansing.

Merida Capital Holdings also sued Green Peak, alleging misrepresentation of financials and mismanagement in Oakland County Circuit Court. Court filings report that Green Peak's daily sales revenue has dropped from \$356,953 in April of 2022 to only



Courtesy of Leafly

Green Peak Industries, the parent company of Skymint, once one of the largest cannabis companies in Michigan, is allegedly more than \$127 million in debt to Canadian investment firm Tropics LP and owes back rent and taxes at multiple Skymint locations. It could lose possession of its assets, including Skymint's three indoor grow operations and 24 cannabis dispensaries.

\$184,579 this past January.

On March 3, Ingham County Chief Circuit Judge Joyce Draganchuk appointed Gene Kohut, a partner at Detroit-based business advisory firm Trust Street Advisors, as a receiver for Green Peak. A court-appointed receivership assists lenders in recovering funds if a borrower defaults on a loan and can help troubled companies avoid bankruptcy. Since cannabis is still classified as a Schedule 1 drug under the federal Controlled Substances Act, cannabis companies cannot file for bankruptcy like other companies looking for financial relief.

Between the back rent, loans and unpaid taxes, only time will tell what will happen to Skymint and its almost 600

employees throughout the state.

Bong's the word

One of my coworkers broke her favorite bong of more than 20 years this week. After we mourned her loss, I helped her do some research on what kind of bong to get next.

Bongs are not only a staple of stoner culture; they're also pretty easy to use despite their intimidating appearance. Although they come in different shapes, sizes and colors, the basic design elements are universal: a long mouthpiece, a chamber for water, a bowl to hold the weed and a downstem that connects the bowl to the main chamber.

One of the most iconic bong designs is the beaker. With its conical shape, it looks like a piece of lab equipment. The heavy bottom adds stability, making it great for daily use. The wider the base, the more smoke will be generated. My favorite bong has a beaker shape and features art from the late artist and activist Keith Haring. I love its size and its weight in my hands. I've had it for more than two years, and it hasn't let me down yet.

A straight-tube bong is pretty self-explanatory: it's literally a straight tube with a downstem that's submerged in water. Smoke isn't able to gather in the water chamber like in the beaker bong, so hits are much more direct and, sometimes, more intense. Because of its simplistic design, it's also pretty easy to clean.

Recyclers, or multi-chamber bongs, deliver a super smooth hit due to their built-in filtration systems. The smoke passes through a percolator and a water chamber before being inhaled through the mouthpiece. The result is a smooth, tasty smoking experience. Many high-end dab rigs feature a recycler compo-

Lansterdam
in Review:
Bongs



Courtesy of Smokea

Beakers are one of the most iconic bong designs. Their heavy bottoms add stability, making them great for daily use.

ment for an extra layer of filtration.

Zig-zag bongs (sometimes called "zongs") are known for their unique shape. Because of the sharp angles, water isn't able to rise through the chambers of the bong, so there's virtually no chance of getting bong water in your mouth (which is unpleasant, trust me).

No matter its shape or size, a bong is a must-have for any stoner regardless of experience level. With 420 just a little over a month away, now's a great time to head to your favorite local smoke shop and see what deals it may have.

Ukraine

from page 13

ominous undertow of history.

"Ukraine, Poland — they've been taken over by bigger powers, centuries of suffering we can't even imagine," Amy Shapiro said.

Shapiro joined the Greater Lansing Federation board eight years ago. She felt like she was "watching a World War II film" when guest speakers came to talk about rescuing Jews from Ukraine, in the wake of Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea and incursion into Ukraine's eastern Donbas region.

"I didn't expect to see a bunch of Jews having a meeting in the United

States, figuring out how to get Jews out of Europe," Shapiro said. "That felt like history to me. I didn't think that would ever happen again."

Raj Wiener has no personal contacts or family in Ukraine, but she believes strongly in supporting democracies around the world and fighting the march of authoritarian regimes.

"We need to let our policymakers know that we want them to support the people of Ukraine," she said. "One way of doing that is to weave a strong network of people providing a humanitarian response."

Americans are largely insulated from the horrors of war. Traveling through Romania and Ukraine, Norkin stumbled over them everywhere.

On his most recent trip, Norkin met the owner of a family-owned

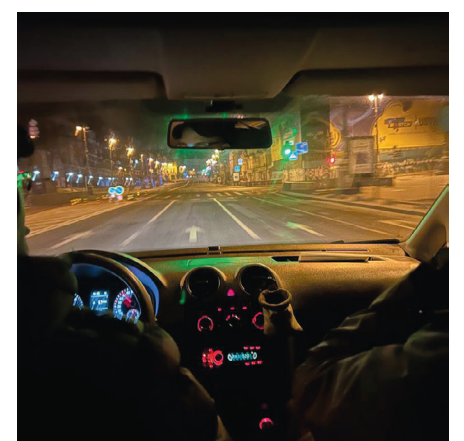
restaurant in the Romanian border town of Suceava where the counter-tops were piled with luscious looking confections.

The bakery owner told Norkin that his grandfather was a Romanian soldier in World War II.

While walking to Suceava in 1941, the soldier noticed three train cars, stuck on the tracks, with no locomotive in sight. He heard voices coming from inside the cars.

When he broke the locks, dozens of people — Jews destined for Auschwitz, somehow separated from the rest of the train and left for dead — tumbled out of the three cars and opened their mouths to catch the rain.

"Such a story you run into," Norkin said. "Out of nowhere."



Courtesy,

On the eight-hour drive back to Romania from Kyiv "with zero traffic due to overnight military curfews," Norkin said. The driver was the bodyguard to Ukraine's chief rabbi.

The life and times of 'the father of rock 'n' roll'

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Although legendary guitarist and lyricist Chuck Berry is purported to be in rock 'n' roll heaven, it's likely he's still duck-walking in purgatory.

A new biography, "Chuck Berry: An American Life," by RJ Smith, tells the story of his rich career and frequent attempts to avoid the long arm of the law.

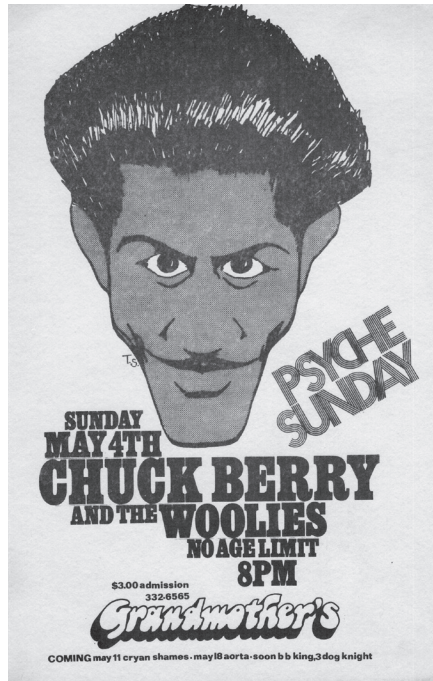
Berry didn't emerge but rather exploded into stardom with his 1955 hit, "Maybellene," which became a fixture on nascent rock stages across the country.

During his prime, he played numerous shows in Lansing and across Michigan. In 1958, he appeared at the Lansing Civic Center as part of concert promoter Alan Freed's "Big Beat Show" tour alongside Buddy Holly, Jerry Lee Lewis and many other greats.

Some 10 years later, on Aug. 12, 1968, a tour brought him to The Dells, a roadhouse on Lake Lansing that was reinventing itself as a concert venue. It was there he met a local group, The Woolies, that was on the fringes of stardom itself until the vagaries of the industry relegated it to record store dustbins.

That fateful night, the band was in the audience to watch Berry. He showed up as usual, carrying only his Fender guitar. As he traveled, he would rely on venues to provide a backup band and two Fender Dual Showman Reverb speakers. He started out with a local psychedelic band, The Scarecrows, but didn't like them and asked The Woolies to fill in. He ended up keeping them around for his several-night gig.

(Writer's note: I was at The Dells on what was a quiet Tuesday night until Berry took the stage. I was sitting at the center table in the first row with a couple of buddies who sold the venue State News advertisement slots. It was so fantastic that we would go back several times that



Courtesy photo

Lansing-based band The Woolies toured across the Midwest with legendary guitarist and lyricist Chuck Berry during his heyday. The group provided hometown backup for Berry at the now-defunct venue Grandmother's in Lansing in 1969.

week. Hearing Berry on a tinny transistor was one thing, but seeing and hearing him in person was a whole other level. And when he kicked back and did his duck walk across the stage? Well, it was surreal.)

The Woolies would later play two concerts with Berry at Grandmother's in Lansing, now the site of a rental behemoth on Michigan Avenue, and other gigs across Michigan and the Midwest at the Fox Theatre, the Grande Ballroom, the Michigan State Fairgrounds and even an open-air concert at Wrigley Field in Chicago.

The Woolies' keyboardist and harpist,



Courtesy photo

Berry does his iconic duck walk while performing with The Woolies.

Bob Baldori, said the band made more than 100 appearances with Berry. In 1971, the artist visited Baldori's southside Lansing Sound recording studio to lay down some tracks.

For Baldori, playing with and becoming a personal friend of Berry are major highlights of his life. When Berry died in 2017, Baldori delivered one of the many eulogies at his funeral.

Smith interviewed 100 musicians and industry executives for the book, including Baldori, who appears on a couple of pages.

When Smith writes about Berry's music, his words glow, but he also details the many lurid scandals and run-ins with the law that followed Berry like a cartoon rain cloud, including the infamous women's bathroom recordings he was purported to have made at his nightclub in St. Louis.

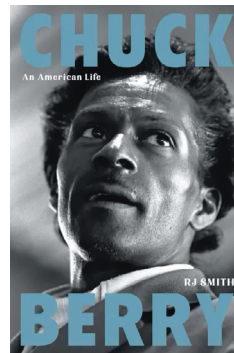
"Berry could be ornery and demanding. He wanted his cash upfront. He'd been

Beatles, The Beach Boys and even Gerry and the Pacemakers.

Perhaps the ultimate irony was the success of Berry's cover of Dave Bartholomew's "My Ding-a-Ling," which climbed to No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart in 1972.

Much of Berry's musical success was due to his often-suggestive lyrics, which were a perfect partner to the sexual freedom sought by his fans, Smith said.

Reflecting on the more than 50 years he worked and traveled with Berry, Baldori said, "He was a real genius and had a preternatural feel for rhythm, improvisation and syncopation. He may not have invented rock 'n' roll, but he polished it and popularized it."



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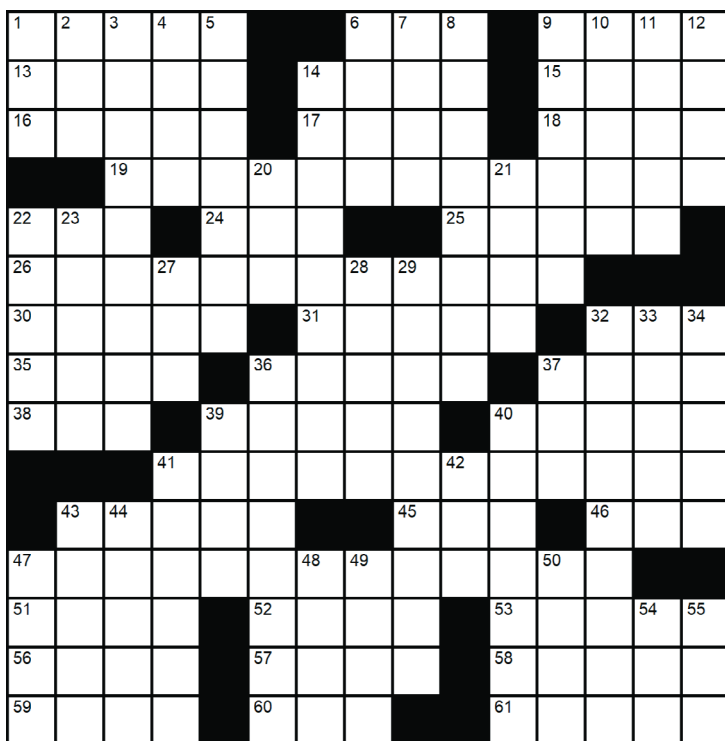
By Matt Jones

"An Existential Puzzle" -- if you don't think, therefore...

by Matt Jones
© 2023 Matt Jones

ACROSS

- 1. Parody
- 6. Plunder
- 9. Word in some hotel names
- 13. Comic-Con topic
- 14. "King of the ___"
- 15. "Get going!"
- 16. Unforgiving
- 17. Antioxidant berry
- 18. "Pitch Perfect" actress ___ Mae Lee
- 19. Prevent using "solar" as a word?
- 22. United hub on the West Coast
- 24. Stand-up device in some bars, for short
- 25. "Everybody ___" (REM hit)
- 26. Place of higher learning to study bequeathments?
- 30. Decorative woodwork
- 31. Bohr who won a Nobel
- 32. 9-9, e.g.
- 35. Mossy fuel
- 36. Like a lot of gum
- 37. Chap
- 38. Commit a blunder
- 39. Cut gemstone feature
- 40. Word after Hello or Carpet in brand names
- 41. U.K. intelligence service's satellite branch in Florida?
- 43. Actress Julianne of "Dear Evan Hansen"
- 45. P-shaped Greek letter
- 46. East Indian lentil stew
- 47. Poetic structure that can only be written in pen?



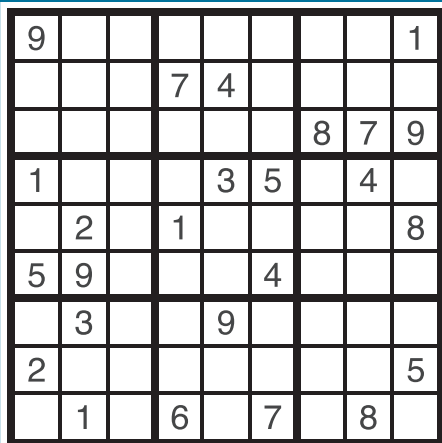
- 51. "Der ___" (German for "The Old One", TV detective show since 1977)
 - 52. "Field of Dreams" state
 - 53. Rodeo rope
 - 56. Snow day transport
 - 57. Scottish family group
 - 58. Like some expectations
 - 59. Responsibilities, metaphorically
 - 60. "Grand" ice cream inventor Joseph
 - 61. "if ___ Street Could Talk"
- DOWN
- 1. Texting format initials
 - 2. NBA coach Riley
 - 3. Sneaky but strategic "The Price Is Right" bid
 - 4. Shrek, notably
 - 5. Bookstore section
 - 6. Uncle in "Napoleon Dynamite"
 - 7. Angela Merkel's successor Scholz
 - 8. With a carefree attitude
 - 9. Remain stuck
 - 10. "I Only ___ the Ones I Love" (Jeffrey Ross book)
 - 11. Without
 - 12. Hardcore follower
 - 14. Solo instrument in many Blues Traveler songs
 - 20. Abbr. used for brevity
 - 21. What Os may symbolize
 - 22. Dating app motion
 - 23. More luxurious
 - 27. Back muscle, casually
 - 28. Like notebook paper
 - 29. Leno's longtime late-night rival
 - 32. "Euphoria," "Pretty Little Liars," or "Degraasi," e.g.
 - 33. App full of pix

- 34. Kind of alcohol used as biofuel
- 36. Tried to get along
- 37. "Despicable Me" main character
- 39. Kindle tablet
- 40. Reflexology specialty
- 41. Speedy two-wheelers
- 42. Guevara on countless posters
- 43. "The Fifth Element" actress Jovovich
- 44. Eight-member band
- 47. Shindig
- 48. "Truth be ___"
- 49. Type of "out of office" message
- 50. "___ Kleine Nachtmusik"
- 54. ___ Aviv University
- 55. Took the bait?

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Answers on page 19

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

March 15-21, 2023

ARIES (March 21-April 19): If we were to choose one person to illustrate the symbolic power of astrology, it might be Aries financier and investment banker J.P. Morgan (1837-1913). His astrological chart strongly suggested he would be one of the richest people of his era. The sun, Mercury, Pluto and Venus were in Aries in his astrological house of finances. Those four heavenly bodies were trine to Jupiter and Mars in Leo in the house of work. Further, the sun, Mercury, Pluto and Venus formed a virtuoso "finger of God" aspect with Saturn in Scorpio and the moon in Virgo. Anyway, Aries, the financial omens for you right now aren't as favorable as they always were for J.P. Morgan — but they are pretty auspicious. Venus, Uranus and the north node of the moon are in your house of finances, to be joined for a bit by the moon itself in the coming days. My advice: Trust your intuition about money. Seek inspiration about your finances.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "The only thing new in the world," said former U.S. President Harry Truman, "is the history you don't know." Luckily for all of us, researchers have been growing increasingly skilled in unearthing buried stories. Three examples: 1. Before the U.S. Civil War, six Black Americans escaped slavery and became millionaires. (Check out the book "Black Fortunes" by Shomari Wills.) 2. Over 10,000 women secretly worked as codebreakers in World War II, shortening the war and saving many lives. 3. Four Black, woman mathematicians played a major role in NASA's early efforts to launch people into space. Dear Taurus, I invite you to enjoy this kind of work in the coming weeks. It's an excellent time to dig up the history you don't know — about yourself, your family and the important figures in your life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Since you're at the height of the party hearty season, I'll offer two bits of advice about how to collect the greatest benefits. First, ex-basketball star Dennis Rodman says that mental preparation is the key to effective partying. He suggests we visualize the pleasurable events we want to experience. We should meditate on how much alcohol and drugs we will imbibe, how uninhibited we'll allow ourselves to be and how close we can get to vomiting from intoxication without actually vomiting. But wait! Here's an alternative approach to partying, adapted from Sufi poet Rumi: "The golden hour has secrets to reveal. Be alert for merriment. Be greedy for glee. With your antic companions, explore the frontiers of conviviality. Go in quest of jubilation's mysterious blessings. Be bold. Revere revelry."

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you've been holding yourself back or keeping your expectations low, please STOP! According to my analysis, you have a mandate to unleash your full glory and your highest competence. I invite you to choose as your motto whichever of the following inspires you most: raise the bar, up your game, boost your standards, pump up the volume, vault to a higher octave, climb to the next rung on the ladder, make the quantum leap and put your ass and assets on the line.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): According to an ad I saw for a luxury automobile, you should enjoy the following adventures in the course of your lifetime: Ride the rapids on the Snake River in Idaho, stand on the Great Wall of China, see an opera at La Scala in Milan, watch the sunrise over the ruins of Machu Picchu, go paragliding over Japan's Asagiri highland plateau with Mount Fuji in view and visit the pink flamingos, black bulls and white horses in France's Camargue Regional Natural Park. The coming weeks would be a favorable time for you to seek experiences like those, Leo. If that's not possible, do the next best things. Like what? Get your mind blown and your heart thrilled closer to home by a holy sanctuary, natural wonder, marvelous work of art — or all the above.

VRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's an excellent time to shed the dull, draining parts of your life story. I urge

you to bid a crisp goodbye to your burdensome memories. If there are pesky ghosts hanging around from the ancient past, buy them a one-way ticket to a place far away from you. It's OK to feel poignant. It's OK to entertain any sadness and regret that well up within you. Allowing yourself to fully experience these feelings will help you be as bold and decisive as you need to be to graduate from the old days and old ways.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your higher self has authorized you to become impatient with the evolution of togetherness. You have God's permission to feel a modicum of dissatisfaction with your collaborative ventures — and wish they might be richer and more captivating than they are now. Here's the cosmic plan: This creative irritation will motivate you to implement enhancements. You will take imaginative action to boost the energy and synergy of your alliances. Hungry for more engaging intimacy, you will do what's required to foster greater closeness and mutual empathy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Scorpio poet Richard Jackson writes, "The world is a nest of absences. Every once in a while, someone comes along to fill the gaps." I will add a crucial caveat to his statement: No one person can fill all the gaps. At best, a beloved ally may fill one or two. It's just not possible for anyone to be a shining savior who fixes every single absence. If we are delusional enough to believe there is such a hero, we will distort or miss the partial grace they can actually provide. So, here's my advice, Scorpio: Celebrate and reward a redeemer who has the power to fill one or two of your gaps.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Poet E. E. Cummings wrote, "May my mind stroll about hungry and fearless and thirsty and supple." That's what I hope and predict for you during the next three weeks. The astrological omens suggest you will be at the height of your powers of playful exploration. Several long-term rhythms are converging to make you extra flexible and resilient and creative as you seek the resources and influences that your soul delights in. Here's your secret code phrase: higher love.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Let's hypothesize that there are two ways to further your relaxation: either in healthy or not-so-healthy ways, by seeking experiences that promote your long-term well-being or by indulging in temporary fixes that sap your vitality. I will ask you to meditate on this question. Then I will encourage you to spend the next three weeks avoiding and shedding any relaxation strategies that diminish you as you focus on and celebrate the relaxation methods that uplift, inspire and motivate you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Please don't expect people to guess what you need. Don't assume they have telepathic powers that enable them to tune into your thoughts and feelings. Instead, be specific and straightforward as you precisely name your desires. For example, say or write to an intense ally, "I want to explore ticklish areas with you between 7 and 9 on Friday night." Or approach a person with whom you need to forge a compromise and spell out the circumstances under which you will feel most open-minded and open-hearted. PS: Don't you dare hide your truth or lie about what you consider meaningful.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Piscean writer Jack Kerouac feared he had meager power to capture the wonderful things that came his way. He compared his frustration with "finding a river of gold when I haven't even got a cup to save a cupful. All I've got is a thimble." Most of us have felt that way. That's the bad news. The good news, Pisces, is that in the coming weeks, you will have extra skill at gathering the goodness and blessings flowing in your vicinity. I suspect you will have the equivalent of three buckets to collect the liquid gold.

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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

St. Patrick's Day events

Thursday, March 16

From Ireland, Karan Casey Trio - 7:30 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. 517-337-7744. tenpoundfiddle.org.

I Knock at the Door, by Sean O'Casey - A story of a family being held together by a loving and strong mother while class and religious turmoil threaten to pull them apart. Featuring Irish music. 8 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. 517-483-1122. lcc.edu/showinfo.

Pinter Whitnick & Alex Mendenall - We'll be playing a whole night of Irish tunes for St. Patrick's Eve! Join Pinter Whitnick with Matthew Shannon for a special trio performance. 8-11 p.m. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-485-5287. moriartyspublansing.com.

Christan O'Rourke and Zig Zeitler - 7 p.m. Christ United Church, 1000 W. Webb Road, DeWitt. 517-669-9308. christuniteddewitt.com.

Friday, March 17

I Knock at the Door, by Sean O'Casey - A story of a family being held together by a loving and strong mother while class and religious turmoil threaten to pull them apart. Featuring Irish music. 8 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. 517-483-1122. lcc.edu/showinfo.

St. Patrick's Day with Ben Traverse Band - 7 p.m. Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. 517-371-2600. lansingbrewing-company.com.

Saturday, March 18

I Knock at the Door, by Sean O'Casey - A story of a family being held together by a loving and strong mother while class and religious turmoil threaten to pull them apart. Featuring Irish music. 8 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. 517-483-1122. lcc.edu/showinfo.

Wednesday, March 15

"A Course of Love" with Lucille Olson - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unityansing.org.

After-School Enrichment Time - Kids can get their homework done, use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

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

Art and Astrophotography Painting Workshop - Make a masterpiece using a space photo from our Observing with NASA exhibit as a reference! Snacks and supplies provided. Ages 16+. 5:30 p.m. MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-355-2370. museum.msu.edu.

Art Scholarship Alert Exhibition - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

Beetlejuice - 7:30 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whar-toncenter.com.

"Blind Spot: Stephanie Syjuco" - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Bookend Gallery Display by Lansing Women's Artist Collective - Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Code Club! - Learn to make websites, apps, animations and more! No coding experience necessary. Grades 3+. Register at hq.girlswhocode.com using club code MI45609. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. glad.org.

Diabetes Support Group - 6:30-7:30 p.m. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. 517-220-4944.

"DIEGEST" - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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

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

Gun Violence in Michigan and the Legislative Response - Discussing research on what works to reduce gun deaths and what the Michigan Legislature is proposing. 7-8:30 p.m. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 313-782-3753. lwlansing.org.

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.

Open Mic Hosted by Rick Hansel - Family-friendly, welcomes singers and musicians. No cover! 6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Punk Art Meetup - All ages, mediums (even digital!) and skill levels welcome. We bring basic craft supplies, but feel free to bring your own! No paints allowed. Kids allowed until 8 p.m. 6-11 p.m. The Avenue, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-999-7549. avenuecafelansing.com.

Ralph Votapek - Presenting a variety of works for solo piano. 7:30 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.


"Reflections in Watercolor" - 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Hannah Community Center Public Art Gallery, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-333-2580, ext. 0. cityofeastlansing.com/353/public-art-gallery.

Richard Benvenuto High School Poetry Competition Winners' Reading - An in-person reading of winners' entries with a reception to follow in the LookOut Gallery. 7:30 p.m. RCAF Theater, Snyder Hall, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. 517-355-0210. rcah.msu.edu.

Karan Casey Trio

Thursday, March 16
7:30 p.m.

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



Irish singer-songwriter Karan Casey's U.S. tour lands in East Lansing Thursday, where she will perform songs from her new album, "Nine Apples of Gold," which is themed around the telling of Irish women's stories and draws "inspiration from a wide range of sources, from the personal to the historical and political, touching on themes of family, loss, love, the empowerment of women and Irish revolutionary struggle."

Apart from releasing 12 eclectic solo albums, being a founding member of the Celtic band Solas and performing with James Taylor, Maura O'Connell, the Boston Pops Orchestra and many other greats, Casey also works to advocate for fair gender balance in Irish traditional and folk music through her spearheading of the FairPlé campaign. Her passion for feminism can be heard on her new album, which "gives voice to the notion that songs can sing what we cannot say."

The concert, featuring Sheila Falls on fiddle and Matt Heaton on guitar, comes just in time for St. Patrick's Day and Women's History Month. Tickets are \$20 for the public, \$18 for Ten Pound Fiddle members and \$5 for students and can be purchased at tenpoundfiddle.org.

Thursday, March 16

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

Absolute Music Chamber Series - Rawlins Trio - Ioana Galu, violin; Sonja Kraus, cello; Susan Keith Gray, piano. 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Annual Awards Dinner 2023 - Please join the Mason Area Chamber of Commerce in recognizing our 2023 award recipients. Includes social hour, cash bar and dinner buffet. RSVP by March 10. 5:30 p.m. Eldorado Golf Course Banquet Center, 3750 W. Howell Road, Mason. 517-676-1046. masonchamber.org.

Art Scholarship Alert Exhibition - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

Beetlejuice - 7:30 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whar-toncenter.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. ladiessilverblades.org.

LIBRARY BOARD - 7 p.m. City Hall, 114 S. Woodhull Road, Laingsburg. laingsburg.us.

LSO "Night of Percussion" - From Steve Riech's "Clapping Music" to more recent works from Michigan composers and beyond, expect a program of excitement, variety and beauty. 7:30 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-487-5001. lansingsymphony.org.

Movers & Readers Storytime - Lively activities and stories for young children and their caregivers. 10:30 a.m. CADL - Mason Library, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. 517-676-9088. cadl.org/about/our-locations/mason.

See Events, Page 19

Meranda's Cleaning, Where Excellence is Our Habit

What Do We Clean?
- Homes, Rentals, New Construction, and Offices

How Often?
- Weekly, Biweekly, Monthly or a one time Deep Clean

Hello, we are a new cleaning company who offer many forms of cleaning. We have 6 years of experience and would love to work for you. Please email us for a free estimate at any time.

We've been proud cleaners of City Pulse since last year!

Email us anytime at Merandascleaning@yahoo.com



Live & Local CityPULSE

The Avenue

2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Dirt Room, Bicycle Thief
 Sat., March 18, 9 p.m.

Christ United Church

1000 W. Webb Road, DeWitt
Susan O'Rourke and Zig Zeitler
 Thurs., March 16, 7 p.m.

Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids
Jamison Livingston
 Fri., March 17, 7 p.m.

Russ Holcomb

Sat., March 18, 5 p.m.
PRIM

Sat., March 18, 10 p.m.

The Exchange

314 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
The Knock Offs
 Fri., March 17, and Sat., March 18, 9 p.m.

The Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Johnny Stix & the Outsiders
 Fri., March 17, 8:30 p.m.
Atomic Annie
 Sat., March 18, 8:30 p.m.

Lansing Brewing Co.

518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing
Ben Traverse Band
 Fri., March 17, 7 p.m.

Mac's Bar

2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Parted Waters, Sam Shassia
 Thurs., March 16, 8 p.m.

The Goddamn Gallows

Fri., March 17, 7 p.m.
Seaholm, Final Boss Fight, Tournament
 Sat., March 18, 8 p.m.

Moriarty's Pub

802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Pinter Whitnick & Matthew Shannon, Alex Mendenhall
 Thurs., March 16, 8 p.m.

University United Methodist Church

1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing
Karan Casey Trio
 Thurs., March 16, 7:30 p.m.

UrbanBeat

1213 Turner Road, Lansing
Absolute Music Chamber Series – Rawlins Piano Trio

Thurs., March 16, 7 p.m.

Time2Play

Fri., March 17, 8 p.m.

Ritmo Project

Sat., March 18, 8 p.m.

Williamston Roadhouse

3700 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston
The Other Buzzard Brother

Wed., March 15, 7 p.m.

Velocity Shift

Sat., March 18, 7 p.m.



TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

CULT STATUS



Courtesy photo

Lansing's The Goddamn Gallows will play its old stomping ground, Mac's Bar, Friday (March 17) before hitting the road with Hank Williams IV.

The Goddamn Gallows returns to Mac's Bar on St. Patty's Day

For almost 20 years, The Goddamn Gallows has continued to reinvent itself both on record and onstage.

The group, formed in Lansing in 2004, continuously teeters between rockabilly, psychobilly, punk rock, bluegrass and metal — all while sounding like a tight, cohesive unit. It accents visceral vocals and grimy guitars with primal percussion and upright bass, then douses it with a rustic wave of washboard, accordion, mandolin and banjo. That menacing sound will return to its old stomping ground of Mac's Bar for a St. Patrick's Day show Friday (March 17).

Since its genesis, the always-hustling band has earned a cult following worldwide. And it's a fanbase that's still growing, thanks to an endless tour cycle that, early on, found the group spending nights in abandoned buildings, shifty squatter camps, storage units and shoebox apartments. But along the way, it never stopped recording, producing a stack of acclaimed albums. Some call it "hobo-core." Some call it "Americana punk." Regardless of labels, it's really just hauntingly good songwriting that's morphed into Lansing-made rock 'n' roll folklore.

Today, the members live in different parts of the country, but City Pulse caught up with Mikey Classic (guitar and vocals). Here's what he had to say.

It looks like this is another busy year for The Goddamn Gallows, am I correct?

Mikey Classic: We're recording and touring. Our new stuff sounds a lot like us in 2009 (laughs). But since our inception in 2004, we've constantly been evolving our sound, with each album blending more and more underground noise. We put some newly recorded stuff on our

website (the 666 series) if anyone wants a sneak peek. We're also hoping to have a new album by the end of the year, and we'll plan one hell of a 20th-anniversary tour with it.

Who are you touring with this year?

We're getting ready for a tour with Hank Williams' great-grandson's band, IV and the Strange Band. We hit the road with them right after our show at the new Mac's Bar.

You're living in Chicago nowadays.

Do you have any remaining connections to Lansing?

My folks still live in town, so I visit every now and then. I do run into Mac's Bar's

old bartender Anna Capps quite frequently in Chicago. Of course, The Goddamn Gallows' drummer, Baby Genius, still lives in Lansing. **Is anything in particular inspiring you lyrically right now? I know "Let's Join a Cult" is a newer single.**

Road stories, struggling to get by and joining various cults. Everyone is in some kind of cult, whether it's the church, a music scene, politics or Heaven's Gate. There's always something. Join the cult of The Goddamn Gallows! We're taking auditions at Mac's Bar on St. Patrick's Day.

Since the band started, what would you say is your most memorable show?

Oof! Tough one. We've been road dogs, constantly on the road for almost 20 years. But if I were to pick a memory, I would have to pick playing at Resurrection Fest in Spain in 2016. Iron Maiden was the headliner — we were eating dinner with the Melvins and all looked up at each other when we heard Bruce Dickinson doing his vocal warmups backstage. That was a pretty epic moment.

The Goddamn Gallows

Friday, March 17
 Mac's Bar
 2700 E. Michigan Ave.,
 Lansing
 7 p.m. doors
 21+, \$15
thegoddamngallows.com

Events

from page 17

PARTED WATERS - 8 p.m. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-484-6795. macsbar.com.

"Reflections in Watercolor" - 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Hannah Community Center Public Art Gallery, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-333-2580, ext. 0. cityofeastlansing.com/353/public-art-gallery.

Violin Masterclass with Kyung Sun Lee - 4 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Weather Watcher - Ages 2-4. 10 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Friday, March 17

After-School Enrichment Time - Kids can get their homework done, use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

Art Scholarship Alert Exhibition - 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

Beetlejuice - 8 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

Beginning West Coast Swing Group Dance Class - Wear casual clothing and smooth-soled shoes. Singles or couples welcome. Seven-week class. 7 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. 517-364-8888. sparrow.org.

"Blind Spot: Stephanie Syjuco" - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle

Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Bookend Gallery Display by Lansing Women's Artist Collective - Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

CADL Adventurer's Club - Tabletop Games - Play a new RPG led by library staff and meet players from your community! 6:15-8 p.m. CADL - Mason Library, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. 517-676-9088. cadl.org/about/our-locations/mason.

"DIEGEST" - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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

Friday Fish Fry - Fried fish (3 pieces), fries, coleslaw and a dinner roll. 4:30-7:30 p.m. VFW Post 701, 123 N. Rosemary St., Lansing. 517-485-1656. vfw701.org.

THE GODDAMN GALLOWES - 7 p.m. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-484-6795. macsbar.com.

Kara Morales Author Visit - She will share her book "Kaydee," which will be available for sale. Learn about writing, illustrating, and more! 5:30 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

Mason Knights of Columbus Dine-in Fish Fry - Three fried or baked pieces of cod, shrimp, fries or baked potato, mac and cheese, coleslaw, green beans, dinner roll and a dessert. Takeout available. 4:30-7 p.m. 1010 S. Lansing St., Mason. masonknights.org.

"Reflections in Watercolor" - 6 a.m.-9 p.m.

Hannah Community Center Public Art Gallery, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-333-2580, ext. 0. cityofeastlansing.com/353/public-art-gallery.

San Juan Diego Council #15417 Knights of Columbus Fish Fry - Fried cod, steak fries, coleslaw, baked potato, mac and cheese, roll and butter, coffee. Desserts and beverages for purchase. 5-7 p.m. Cristo Rey Church, 201 W. Miller Road, Lansing. 517-394-4639. cristoreychurch.org.

Time2Play - 8 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Travelogue - South Africa and Botswana - Join Joe Bickham on a photographic tour of the Okavango Delta, with daily safari tours and plenty of cultural experiences. 7 p.m. Foster Community Center room 213, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. 517-483-4233.

Weather Watcher - Ages 2-4. 10 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Saturday, March 18

The 12 Teachings of Earth School with the Rev. Jim White - Four-week class. 10:30 a.m. Meeting ID: 177 417 886 Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

Art Scholarship Alert Exhibition - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

Babysitting & CPR Workshop - Learn emergency procedures, diapering, pediatric CPR, rescue breathing, Heimlich and basic first aid. Registration req. 10 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Beetlejuice - 2 and 8 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

"Blind Spot: Stephanie Syjuco" - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Board Game Saturdays - Free fun for the whole family! 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

Bookend Gallery Display by Lansing Women's Artist Collective - Noon-2 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Cabin Fever Breakout Bazaar - Arts & crafts, jams & jellies, jewelry, estate items, collectibles and much more. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. St. John's Lutheran Church, 511 E. Sturgis St., St. Johns. 989-224-6796. stjohns1869.org.

Contra & Square Dance - All dances taught - no partner needed. Wear loose clothes and comfortable shoes. 7 p.m. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. 517-614-5858.

tenpoundfiddle.org.

"DIEGEST" - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Dino Adventure - Ages 5-11. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Learn to Solder/Coding - Ages 10-13. 10 a.m.-noon. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Musical Jubilee - Drum circle 2-3 and 4-5 p.m. Jazz and soul vocals with Evangeline 3-4 p.m. Silent auction and school/art supply and backpack drive for Refugee Development Center. 2-5 p.m. Absolute Gallery, 307 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Lansing. 517-482-8845. absolutegallery.com.

"Reflections in Watercolor" - 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Hannah Community Center Public Art Gallery, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-333-2580, ext. 0. cityofeastlansing.com/353/public-art-gallery.

Ritmo Project - 8 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Sauerkraut Dinner and Dance - Sauerkraut, roast pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, spätzle, applesauce, bread and butter and black forest cake. 5-6:30 p.m. Liederkrantz Club Lansing, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-882-6330. facebook.com/lansingliederkrantzclub.

SEAHOLM - 8 p.m. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-484-6795. macsbar.com.

Sunday, March 19

AI Visual Art Workshop - Join us as we explore text-to-image generative AI, learning how to use the algorithms and grappling with the future implications of this technology. 1 p.m. MSU Main Library Digital Scholarship Lab, 366 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-355-2370. museum.msu.edu.

Beetlejuice - 1 and 6:30 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

"Blind Spot: Stephanie Syjuco" - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Bottle and Can Collection for Eastern Ingham Farmers Market - 11 a.m.-1 p.m. McCormick Park, 123 High St., Williamston. 517-618-1630. easterninghamfarmersmarket.org.

"DIEGEST" - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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.

See Events, Page 20

WHARTON

IMANI WINDS
MAR 25, 8PM

"dazzling" —*The Washington Post*

The ensemble has titled the evening "Black and Brown," showcasing works all by composers of color, including Paquito D'Rivera's *Aires Tropicales*, Reena Esmail's acclaimed *The Light is the Same.*, and a work by Wayne Shorter, celebrating his legacy in honor of his recent passing.

WHARTONCENTER.COM 1.800.WHARTON

CROSSWORD SOLUTION
From Pg. 16

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SUDOKU SOLUTION
From Pg. 16

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

Events

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

LEGO Club - We bring LEGOs, you bring creativity! Accept our building challenge or use your imagination. You may bring a LEGO show and tell. 4:30 p.m. CADL - Mason Library, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. 517-676-9088. cadl.org/about/our-locations/mason.

LSO: Piano Trio - 3 p.m. First Presbyterian Church of Lansing, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. 517-487-5001. lansingsymphony.org.

"Reflections in Watercolor" - Noon-8 p.m. Hannah Community Center Public Art Gallery, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-333-2580, ext. 0. cityofeastlansing.com/353/public-art-gallery.

Religious Sounds Bus Tour - Travel to nearby religious spaces to experience religious sounds shared by community members. 2 p.m. Meet at MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-355-2370. museum.msu.edu.

SpARtan Wellness: PLAY WITH CLAY - Feel free to bring your own supplies. Registration req. 2 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

The Spirit in Spirituality - Explore spiritual guidance with Kathryn Kris. 9:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

Unity's Monthly Euchre and Games! - Bring your favorite board games and potluck snack foods and organize a euchre table. Noon-2 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

Woldumar Folk & Bluegrass Jam & Performances - Featuring Cedar Creek Bluegrass; Pretty Shaky String Band; and McKeever, Dowling and Davis Trio. 2 p.m. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. 517-322-0030. woldumar.org.

Monday, March 20

After-School Enrichment Time - Kids can get their homework done, use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

Bookend Gallery Display by Lansing Women's Artist Collective - Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

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

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

Jump Into Reading - Stories, songs, activities and therapy dogs. Intended for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. 11 a.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

Rest With Music - Take an hour out of your month to listen to and simply rest with music. Registration req. Noon. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. 517-353-2596. health4u.msu.edu.

"Reflections in Watercolor" - 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Hannah Community Center Public Art Gallery, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-333-2580, ext. 0. cityofeastlansing.com/353/public-art-gallery.

Tuesday, March 21

Bookend Gallery Display by Lansing Women's Artist Collective - Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Crazy Sock Day: Fashion Show - Displaying our crazy sock designs and showcasing the unique ways we support World Down Syndrome Day! 5 p.m. MSU Main Library Makerspace Flex Space, 366 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-0901. lib.msu.edu.

Crazy Sock Day: Make Your Own Socks! - Decorate socks to show your support for World Down Syndrome Day! We will provide socks and decorating materials. 3-5 p.m. MSU Main Library Makerspace Flex Space, 366 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-0901. lib.msu.edu.

Holt Public Schools "Band Aid" Fundraiser - Spaghetti dinner, 50/50 raffle and performances by Holt band students. Proceeds benefit all band students in grades 6-12. 5:30-8 p.m. Holt High School, 5885 Holt Road, Holt. holtbandboosters.com.

Next Steps Ukulele Workshop - Learn a variety of techniques that will expand your skills and make you a better player. Loaner instruments available. Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area

F45 Training Open House

Saturday, March 18, 8:30 a.m.-noon
Sunday, March 19, 9 a.m.-noon

2650 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing



This weekend, F45 Training's East Lansing location will hold free morning workout classes as part of a fundraiser for the Jason Kinzler Family First Foundation, which provides financial assistance to families with minor children that have unexpectedly lost a parent or primary caregiver.

Saturday morning, there are three hour-long NOHO classes at 8:30, 9:45 and 11 a.m., offering a combination of resistance, bodyweight, functional, agility and plyometric movements for a hybrid, full-body workout. Sunday morning, there are three 45-minute Mkatz classes at 9, 10 and 11 a.m., helping build lean muscle mass by utilizing different angles, timing and tempos than standard compound lifting.

Attendees can support the foundation through a silent auction, by purchasing shirts or headbands at the studio or by donating directly.

Sign up for classes through Mindbody, the F45 Training app or the studio's website, f45training.com/eastlansing. Act fast — space may fill up.

District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

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.

"Reflections in Watercolor" - 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Hannah Community Center Public Art Gallery, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-333-2580, ext. 0. cityofeastlansing.com/353/public-art-gallery.

Rosie the Riveter Day - Celebrate women from across Michigan in manufacturing and skilled trades, culminating in a photo on the Capitol steps. 3 p.m. Heritage Hall, 323 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. 517-939-9910. camconline.org.

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

Wednesday, March 22

"A Course of Love" with Lucille Olson - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

After-School Enrichment Time - Kids can get their homework done, use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

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

Art Scholarship Alert Exhibition - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

"Blind Spot: Stephanie Syjuco" - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Bookend Gallery Display by Lansing Women's Artist Collective - Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

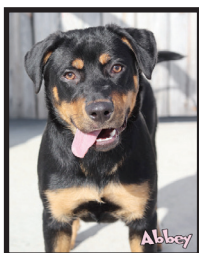
Career Quest - Career panels with current or former practitioners in health & wellness, business,

See Events, Page 23

Ingham County Animal Shelter

To adopt one of these pets, visit the ICAS at 600 Buhl St., Mason, call (517) 676-8370 to make an appt. or go to ac.ingham.org.

Adopt a pet on this page and Soldan's will thank you with a \$10 gift certificate. Contact (517) 999-5061 after you adopt.



Abbey is a cute little rottweiler/shepherd mix who came to the shelter as a stray. She is friendly, outgoing, and eager to please. She will need a tolerant dog friend who can help her with her dog manners (she likes to jump to say hello). She will also need a family with the time and patience to exercise and train her.



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DeWitt
12286 Old U.S. 27
Charlotte
515 Lansing St.



Quick Silver is a friendly little guy with no sense of personal space. When you open his cage door, he'll put his feet on your shoulder and slowly move into position to give your neck a good hug while doing whatever he can to get as close as possible. If you're looking for an aloof cat, this is NOT your guy!

Sponsored by Schuler Books



Evee is a sweet, scared weimador puppy who was found in a park too scared to walk. She is getting braver every day but will need a quiet home with gentle people. She is a sweet, old soul who will give you all the love and snuggles you could want and will win you over as you watch her confidence grow!

In Memory of Mimi
Sponsored by City Pulse



Rhydon is a sweet, gentle boy who came to the shelter as a stray. He appears to have an old, healed injury to one of his back legs, but it doesn't seem to bother him. He should be fine with dog-savvy kids and seems to like other dogs.

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Anne & Dale Schrader



Root Beer came to the shelter with several other cats when the shelter they were at had to seize a large number of animals. She is initially a reserved little tortoiseshell cat who, with just a little encouragement, will bloom with friendliness and quickly flop on her side and squirm around seeking attention. She would do best in a quiet home.

In Memory of Rodica's cats.

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING



Lawrence

By **GABRIELLE LAWRENCE**

It was a rainy afternoon when I met a girlfriend for lunch at The Old Bag of Nails Pub. I'd never been there before and was surprised by the extremely limited available parking. Normally, I'm not a parking complainer. When I need to use a

kiosk downtown, I figure it out. (Or I accept the parking ticket and pay the fee.) If I have to park a few blocks away from my destination and walk, I consider it a great opportunity to stretch my legs. My point is, when I hear people complain ad nauseam about the parking in Lansing, I don't buy in.

The parking situation at Old Bag of Nails, though, is its own particular form of hell, especially in the midst of a torrential downpour. It appears that once the small number of spots is full, there are no alternatives. I'm sure the restaurant is banking on its proximity to the new apartments encircling most of the building and a large number of students being within walking distance, but for people driving in, it can be tricky.

For lunch, I chose the All-You-Can-Eat Soup & Salad (\$14). I clarified that this option would allow me to try as many of the soups and salads as I wanted because your girl loves both. I started with the New England Clam Chowder and Spinach Salad in round one. The chowder was unremarkable. If you told me it came from a can, I wouldn't be surprised. It wasn't offensive, but it wasn't special. The Spinach Salad was topped with sliced mushrooms and hard-boiled egg, crumbled bacon and red onion. I welcomed the mushrooms, as I don't frequently see them as a salad topper, but the rest was what you'd expect.

For round two, I ordered the Caesar Salad and Broccoli Cheddar Soup. The Caesar was cloyingly sweet and almost inedible. Unexpectedly, so was the soup.

My friend had the Shrimp Po'boy (\$14), which she hilariously ate with a knife and fork because it was so unwieldy. Her fries were completely unseasoned, and I was happy I hadn't ordered my own because I would've eaten them out of habit and wouldn't have really enjoyed them. It's a good thing the gossip was hot because lunch left us cold.

On a return visit, the entire She Ate family arrived for an early dinner at 4:30 p.m. and put in a fast order for the fried pickle spears as an appetizer. Mr. She Ate was excited to try the spears since we both love fried pickles but normally see pickle chips on menus. Alas, the restaurant was out of pickle spears, so we tried the Jumbo Bavarian Pretzel (\$10) instead. Again, the best description I can give this item is that it was what you would expect. Soft, salty, carb-filled. Mr. She Ate liked the beer cheese dipping sauce, but I turned my attention away from the pretzel and back to teaching my son how to blow the paper off the end of his straw.

For my entrée, I followed the advice of the crowd and tried the Famous Fish & Chips (\$16). If I were to try it again, which I won't, I would have it blackened

Old Bag of Nails is just OK

Fish & Chips restaurant on East Michigan Avenue has given way to a 'you buy, we fry' seafood-and-chicken-wing spot that mirrors others around town, so I've been searching for a new home for a classic version of one of my favorite meals.

The Old Bag of Nails Pub
 210 Cascade Blvd., Lansing
 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday
 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday
 517-826-6266
 oldbagofnails.com



Courtesy photo

With The Claddagh Irish Pub in Eastwood Towne Center and Fish & Chips on East Michigan Avenue both now defunct, The Old Bag of Nails Pub is Lansing's go-to spot for battered cod and steak fries. Try the fish Eddie Style with spicy batter, as the regular version can be a bit bland.



Beverly

By **BRYAN BEVERLY**

When The Claddagh Irish Pub in Eastwood Towne Center closed in 2020, opportunities for authentic fish and chips in Greater Lansing took a major loss outside of some seasonal fare around Lent. The former

Enter The Old Bag of Nails Pub, an Ohio-based chain that recently expanded into Michigan with a spot in the still-developing Red Cedar project. Beautifully constructed and neatly tucked into the rear of the property, the restaurant seems primed for success.

Inside, there's a modern ambiance that seems like it could stand up over time as it doesn't give way to kitsch or cliché. Furthermore, the outdoor seating, including a second-floor patio, beckons Lansing's happy hour crowd once the weather (finally) breaks. The wine list, discounted on Wednesday nights, boasts Woodbridge and Chateau Grand Traverse by the glass and bottles from Italy; New Zealand; and Lodi, California.

The company's 14 Ohio restaurants have a strong concept, and I can see why it's been successful to this point. However, if it wants to gain traction here, it will need to step its game up. My two visits — one takeout, one dine-in — left me with an overall dissatisfied rating.

What's meh

Let's start with the service. The Buffalo Chicken Wrap (\$12) that was ordered with no onion and no tomato instead came with both, chopped and mixed in with the lettuce and chicken. My daughter was forced to swap meals with her mother, and, even then, only half the wrap got eaten.

The accompanying steak fries were OK but nothing special. Such was the case with my double burger (\$12), which was overly greasy and limp and didn't include the "favorite mayo-mustard sauce" that was touted in the description. These handhelds lacked love and attention to detail.

I also ordered the onion rings (\$4), which were (too) thick-cut and heavily breaded, leading to an undercooked onion on the inside.

Lastly, I almost didn't even want to mention the potato skins (\$12) because they were that lackluster. Small and hollowed out too much, I guess since they were an afterthought coming out of the kitchen, they might as well be one here, too. Not the strong start I was anticipating given the rave reviews I'd seen on social media.

What's better

My dine-in visit with a colleague was better, mostly. They had the Fish Tacos (\$14), which looked on point. With blackened cod, bright salsa and crunchy slaw, the three tacos were flavorful and filling.

Given that this was lunch and the fish and chips had three fillets, I ordered the Fish Sandwich (\$13). The Atlantic cod was served Eddie Style with seasoned batter for a nice kick on the back end. The fish was pleasant — crunchy and tasty and served on a hoagie roll with tar-

Unapologetic veg

By **ARI LEVAUX**

I'm confused by veggie burgers, vegan cheese, margarine and all other substitutes for animal products that seek to imitate the very thing the eater wishes to avoid consuming.

Have you ever seen a meat eater attempt to reconfigure a T-bone steak to look like a pile of beans? I'm guessing not. So, why must vegetarians turn beans into burgers? It reinforces the idea that eating meat is somehow more normal.

The food culture on the Indian subcontinent is the opposite. There, it's common to see restaurants proudly display outdoor signage that announces "veg and non-veg" in large type. This delivers the message that veg is normal and non-veg is the alternative. Given that India will soon overtake China as the world's most populous nation, this dietary

preference is fortunate for the Earth and essential for India's food security. Vegetable production is much easier on the climate than meat production, and a vegetable-based diet feeds more people from a given amount of land.

Indian chefs have many tricks for making their food so satisfying, utilizing spices, sauces and lots of chopping. They don't use imitation animal products, yet Anthony Bourdain, as committed a flesh lover as anyone, once said that India is the only place where he could be a vegetarian.

Vegetables are beautiful, delicious and more interesting than most animal products. A meat-free lifestyle is a beautiful thing, so don't apologize, vegetarians! Don't try to play someone else's game with your dry, wannabe sausages. Be proud of your choices



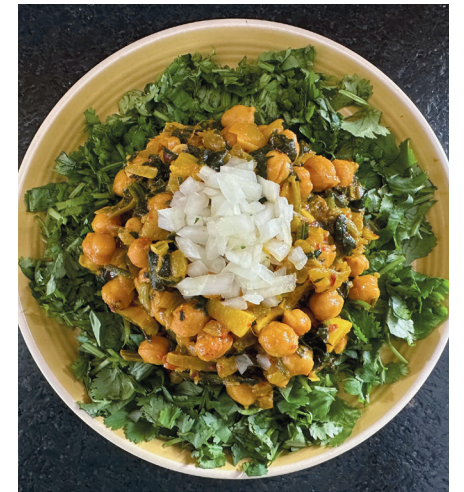
and flaunt your lifestyle.

A vegetarian friend of mine named Matthew has been texting me some of his favorite unapologetic vegetable dishes. He's lucky enough to live near the West Windsor Community Farmers' Market in New Jersey, pound-for-pound one of the nation's best, which gives him access to a year-round diversity of produce and fungus.

Mushrooms deliver meaty satisfaction without trying to be something they're not. They pack a decent amount of protein alongside their dark, rich flavors. Matthew adds fungus to his meals the way I add bacon bits to mine. Each week, he brings home some combination of maitake, oyster, shiitake, black pearl, trumpet, enoki, lion's mane and more.

Here are two of his favorite recipes. First, a simple dish of broiled Brussels sprouts with mushrooms. Next, an Indian-inspired meal of chickpeas with turmeric and lemon.

With so many benefits and a never-ending supply of flavor, why pose as a meat eater? Embrace your lifestyle, vegetarians, and give it a squeeze.



Courtesy of Ari LeVaux

Indian chefs have many tricks for making vegetarian dishes satisfying without resorting to imitation meat. In this Indian-inspired chickpea recipe, the raspy flavor of the turmeric, the piercing bite of the lemon, the herbal aroma of the cilantro and the earthy flavor of the spinach combine for an entrée that's both simple and complex.

See Flash, Page 23



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She Ate

from page 21

or Eddie Style (spicy batter) because this fish was entirely devoid of flavor. The steak fries were much more offensive — the tough texture suggested they'd been prepared hours earlier and then reheated in a microwave. Mr. She Ate had the po'boy, and although he's never met a sandwich he didn't like, he would testify to the fact that this one was just OK.

The babies gobbled up fries and chicken tenders, but they're 5 and 3 years old and don't have much of a palate yet. We finished the meal with the bread pudding (\$6) because I felt we had to. The bread pudding at Soup Spoon Café is my gold standard, but this version left much to be desired. The sauce was sweet but had no other flavor profile. The pudding itself was cold, and I needed it to be warm so the scoop of ice cream could melt on top. At least the vanilla ice cream was good.

He Ate

from page 21

tar sauce on the side. I can never get enough sauce when I order fish, but thankfully, there was a bottle of malt vinegar on the table to rescue me.

Our meals would have likely been home runs had they not come out as we were both on the second bites of our soups. Forced to choose between hot soup and hot food, my entrée was eaten far more tepid than I wanted.

Best bite

The soup, however, was delicious. The New England Clam Chowder (\$6) tasted of the sea, with chunks of potatoes and chopped clams. The base was savory and creamy, reminiscent of scratch-made versions that steep for hours in boiled-over pots across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. There was more love poured into this one cup than my entire prior takeout meal. Hopefully, Old Bag of Nails' newest location is willing to spread that love into other areas sooner rather than later.

Flash

from page 22

Brussels sprouts with mushrooms

This recipe calls for maitake mushrooms, which look like a dense head of curly hair, but any mushrooms will work. Since fancy fungus comes with a high price tag, one frugal trick is to use normal mushrooms like button, cremini or portobello to augment a smaller portion of exotic varieties. The cheaper ones will absorb the flavors of their pric-

ey cousins. Either way, it's going to be cheaper than meat.

- 1 pound mushrooms (fancy, pedestrian or a mix), chopped
- 1 pound Brussels sprouts, trimmed and halved
- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 cloves garlic, minced

Combine all the ingredients in an oven-safe pan and broil for about 15 minutes, stirring often, until the outer leaves of the Brussels sprouts get crispy.

Lemon chickpeas

The raspy flavor of the turmeric, the piercing bite of the lemon, the herbal aroma of the cilantro and the earthy flavor of the spinach combine for a dish that's both simple and complex.

If you're wondering why I added baking soda, it's to soften the chickpeas. This trick works on all beans and can save you hours of simmering if you don't like them crunchy.

- Serves 2
- 1 medium-sized onion, chopped, plus more for garnish
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 teaspoons turmeric
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon ginger, grated
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 4 teaspoons lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon red pepper powder or

- flakes for color and heat
- 1 16-ounce can of chickpeas
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda (optional)
- 2 cups chopped spinach
- 1 bunch chopped cilantro

In a heavy-bottom pan, sauté the onions, garlic and ginger in the oil. When the onions become translucent, add the salt, lemon juice, garlic powder and red pepper and stir everything together. After five minutes, add the chickpeas, including the water in the can. Add the baking soda if you want softer beans. Adjust seasonings to taste as it simmers. When you're satisfied and the liquid is gone, add the spinach and cook until it has melted into the beans. Turn off the heat.

Fill the serving plates with generous heaps of chopped cilantro. Scoop the chickpea mixture on top and garnish with chopped onions.

Appetizers

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TOP 5

DINING GUIDE

THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN GREATER LANSING AS DECIDED BY CITY PULSE READERS

TOP 5 CONEY DOGS

Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2022 Top of the Town contest. Bon appétit!

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Old-timey diner known for Coney dogs and other American staples
300 N. Clippert St., Suite 5, Lansing
517-332-0111
spartysconeyisland.com
7 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Saturday
8 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday
- 2. Olympic Broil**
Fast-food outpost with hefty burgers,

- Coney dogs, wraps and sandwiches
1320 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing
517-485-8584
olympicbroil.com
10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday
- 3. A&W Restaurant**
Fast-food chain serving burgers, chicken, hot dogs and draft root beer
4919 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
517-323-6818
awrestaurants.com
10 a.m.-9:30 p.m. daily
- 4. Zeus' Coney Island**
Casual eatery with Greek dishes, burgers, hot dogs, Reuben sandwiches and more
6525 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing
517-272-7900
grecianisland.com
7 a.m.-4 p.m. daily
- 5. Dan's Coney Island**
Family-run diner featuring homemade breakfast options, Coney dogs, gyros and desserts
5600 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing
517-763-2720
dansconeyisland.com
7 a.m.-3 p.m. daily

Events

from page 20

trades, public service and more. Grades 5-12. Registration req. 12:30-3 p.m. Spring Vale Christian School, 4150 S. M-52, Owosso. 989-725-2391. springvale.us.

Code Club! - Learn to make websites, apps, animations and more! No coding experience necessary. Grades 3+. Register at hq.girlswhocode.com using club code M145609. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

"DIGEST" - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Falstaff by Giuseppe Verdi, Opera Theatre - Sung in Italian with English subtitles. 7 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

"Fill the World with Music" Benefit Concert - Featuring the DeWitt Community Concert Band and the Delta Community Choir. 7 p.m. DeWitt Middle School auditorium, 2957 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt. dewittconcertband.org.

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

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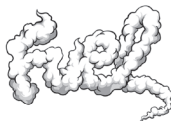
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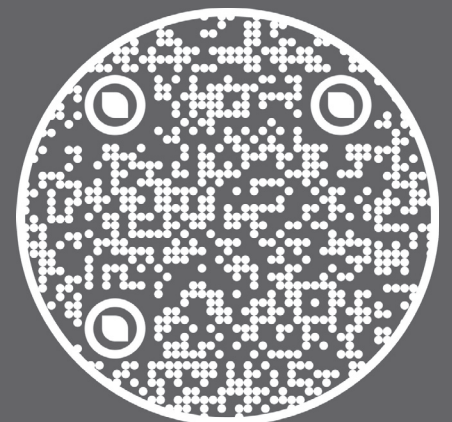
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