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See page 13

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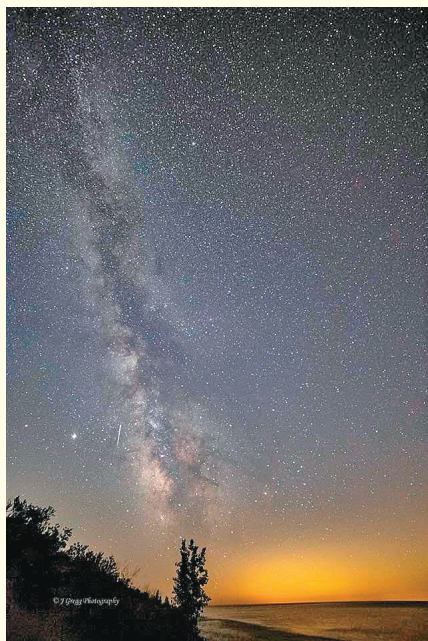
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Meet the (Partial) Cast of...
"HOW DID WE GET HERE?"

DISINFORMATION ENABLERS

HOW DARE YOU SUGGEST FOX IS NOT JOURNALISM?



"CONTRARIAN" THOUGHT LEADERS

COLLEGE KIDS PROTESTING FASCISTS ARE THE REAL AUTHORITARIANS!


I CAN HAZ SIX-FIGURE PAYCHECK?



VIRTUOUS VALORIZERS

HARK! A DECENT AND NOBLE TRUMP SUPPORTER IN AN ALL-AMERICAN WAFFLE HUT.

SAVE THE WHITES!



COUP POOH-POOHERS

WE MUST BE EXTREMELY VIGILANT ABOUT THE DANGERS OF...

...ALARMISM!




ZERO-ACCOUNTABILITY DOORMATS

TIME TO FORGIVE AND FORGET IN THE NAME OF UNITY!



REPUBLICAN REVERSALISTS

WE'RE THE REAL VICTIMS HERE!



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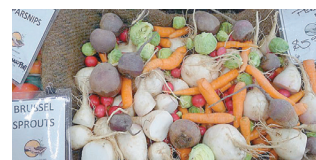
A bigger hill comes to Ranney Park

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MLK Day celebrations around town

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Flash in the Pan: Roots Rock

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Photo by Kyle Kaminski

**Cover
Art**

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CITY PULSE
on the
AIR

**NOW AT 10:00 A.M.
SUNDAYS** on

**WDBM
IMPACT**
88.9FM

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

THE WORLD'S GREATEST DEMOCRACY
(TERMS AND CONDITIONS MAY APPLY)

NO ONE COULD HAVE FORESEEN IT

HOW COULD POLICE POSSIBLY HAVE PREPARED FOR AN ANGRY MOB THAT HAD BEEN OPENLY PLOTTING TO STORM THE CAPITOL FOR WEEKS?

IT'S NOT AS IF THERE ARE ANY RECENT EXAMPLES OF PROTESTS BEING MET WITH AN OVERWHELMING SHOW OF FORCE!

I CERTAINLY CAN'T THINK OF ONE!



THE INSURRECTION OF THE BRAIN GENIUSES

HEY EVERYONE! HERE WE ARE, LIVESTREAMING WITH OUR FACES FULLY EXPOSED WHILE WE COMMIT FELONIES IN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL!

HERE'S MY I.D. IN CASE ANYONE NEEDS TO FIND ME!

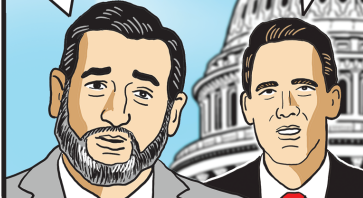


THE UNFAIRNESS OF IT ALL

DEMOCRATS WHO WANT US TO RESIGN FOR ENCOURAGING SEDITION SHOULD STOP BEING SO DIVISIVE!

HOW TRUE, SENATOR HAWLEY! WE'LL NEVER HEAL AS A NATION IF THE LEFT INSISTS ON HOLDING PEOPLE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE WORDS THEY HAPPEN TO SAY!

CANCELING MY BOOK CONTRACT IS THE REAL THREAT TO DEMOCRACY!

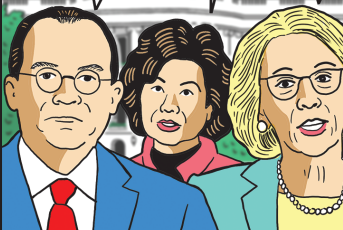


PROFILES IN COURAGE

WITH TWO WEEKS LEFT IN THIS ADMINISTRATION, WE ARE ALL RESIGNING AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE!

DECENT PEOPLE SUCH AS OURSELVES MUST DRAW THE LINE SOMEWHERE!

NOT ALL HEROES WEAR CAPES!



THIS IS NOT WHO WE ARE

CONSPIRACY-ADDLED WHITE SUPREMACISTS INCITED TO VIOLENCE BY A DERANGED PRESIDENT WHO HAS NO RESPECT FOR LAWS OR DECENCY? THAT IS NOT THE AMERICA I KNOW!

ALSO, I JUST WOKE UP FROM A FIVE YEAR COMA. DID I MISS ANYTHING?



THE BAFFLED KING

THE WHITE-HAIRED GUY BETRAYED ME, DEMOCRATS WANT TO IMPEACH ME AGAIN, AND WORST OF ALL, TWITTER PERMANENTLY BANNED ME!

HOW CAN THIS BE HAPPENING? DOESN'T ANYONE REMEMBER THE BOAT PARADES??!

HEY, WHERE DID EVERYBODY GO?

HELLOOO?



Tom Tomorrow © 2021... www.thismodernworld.com... twitter.com/tomtomorrow

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Only the beginning

No quarter. No compromise. No mercy.

We're still seething, and we're in no mood for whataboutism, gaslighting and deflection. As President-elect Biden said last week while the U.S. Capitol was under assault, "Enough is enough is enough." We will never be able to erase from our minds the grotesque images of the traitorous swine that invaded and desecrated our nation's Capitol, taking the life of a police officer and injuring scores more. Each and every one of the perpetrators, including those who aided and abetted their heinous acts, can never be forgotten or forgiven. Justice demands that they be held accountable in every way possible. History must remember them as the traitors they so clearly are.

One might surmise that the insurrectionists are now chastened by their failure, or deterred by the idea that they might, like some of their co-conspirators, get arrested, prosecuted and imprisoned. This fails to comprehend the depths of their madness and mental defects. If anything they've been emboldened. They're not angry about what happened; they're exuberant. They feel empowered. Ushered out without incident or arrest, they left the Capitol building feeling like a world champion boxer looking for his next fight. And they continue to believe that liberal America stole the election, that Dear Leader is under attack, and that the (white) American way of life is at stake. The chances that they will just crawl back under their rocks and simmer down are zip, zero and zilch.

Here at home, Michigan's traitorous triumvirate of Republican U.S. Reps. Tim Walberg, Jack Bergman and Lisa McClain, all of whom voted against the Electoral College certification mere hours after the attempted putsch was put down, are unapologetic secessionists and should be charged as such. Their too-little, too-late condemnation of the very violence they incited is as empty as their integrity. They should but won't resign their positions. That's why they should be expelled from Congress using the procedures outlined in Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution. After the Civil War broke out, 14 senators and three representatives were expelled from Congress for supporting the Confederacy. We see little meaningful difference between the circumstances then and now.

Make no mistake, we are a nation at war — with ourselves. And lest we forget: The Civil War may have ended slavery in America, but it didn't end the subjugation and persecution of Black citizens. It merely transformed the institutions of slavery into a



The CP Edit

Opinion

social and economic system explicitly designed to enforce the continued subservience of Black people to their white masters. Post-war America accepted the establishment and perpetuation of a system so thoroughly racist that 150 years later Black Americans are still suffering its aftereffects. It's no coincidence that many of the insurrectionists are avowed racists and anti-Semites. They fly the Confederate flag and feel perfectly at home in the warm embrace of Trump and a Republican Party that welcomes them in a cynical and craven attempt to leverage their hatred and discontent for political advantage.

We recall this history as a warning against appeasement in any form. Already we're hearing calls to delay impeachment by 100 days, which is merely a stalling tactic intended to blunt calls for the president's immediate removal and move the nation toward unity and healing. We're not ready for unity and healing.

Let's be clear: There can be no reconciliation until justice is served. This is neither the time nor the place to give hatred and sedition an inch of accommodation or its purveyors an ounce of compassion. We mustn't make the mistake of failing to identify and take strong measures to counteract the greatest danger to our republic since the Civil War.

Notwithstanding the indictments and convictions

we expect to see in the coming months, where do we as a nation go from here? It may be inevitable that the current crop of Trumpsters will double down on their grievance narrative about stolen elections, which will almost certainly be stoked even further by craven Republicans looking to harness their anger and discontent to advance their own political fortunes.

How do we convince millions of our fellow citizens that the stories they were told were false? How will they react to the likely indictment of Trump and the various members of his crime syndicate, presuming he doesn't pardon them all in the next week? Should we be preparing for an extended national conflict that will continue to tear at the very foundations of our republic for years to come?

The greatest responsibility to fix what's broken belongs to the people who did the breaking: the Republican Party. It is now incumbent upon them to clean up their own house, to ostracize those who continue to parrot Trumpian lies, to recruit and support moderate candidates against right-wing kooks, and to humbly admit to the American people that they were wrong. The tenor of their approach to the Biden administration — whether as obstructionists or bipartisan collaborators — will tell us much about where they are headed. We're happy to applaud Republicans like Congressman-elect Peter Meijer from Grand Rapids, who called out his GOP colleagues for misleading people about the election. Party leaders from top to bottom should emulate his approach.

Perhaps our best hope, though, is to ensure that the next generation of Americans learns the truth about our nation's shameful legacy of racism, that they read about the time when a horde of violent, racist traitors tried and failed to overthrow our government at the behest of the president of the United States. That they learn how the perpetrators were held accountable — including the president — and how Americans learned important lessons: That violence is never the answer. That those who conspire to destroy our democratic republic will never succeed. And that those who try will pay a heavy price.

We are, of course, avowed liberals who believe in peace and justice to the depth of our souls. But there can be no peace without justice.

No quarter. No compromise. No mercy.

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

LETTERS to the editor

Walberg must go

Tim Walberg [8th Congressional District representative] must resign effective immediately. With his actions and words on Wednesday and Thursday, he declared his outright support for the insurrectionists who invaded the Capitol and desecrated the halls of Congress. Walberg is no longer fit to represent mid-Michigan. He epitomizes all that people hate about politicians with his cynical pandering to those who would undermine the November election and victory by Joe Biden. It was bad enough for him to announce earlier in the week that he would support the coup attempt in Congress to overturn the election results. But for Walberg to continue his feckless crusade after the armed uprising, sedition that was provoked by the very president whose favor he still seeks to curry, only confirmed the depths of his corruption. The members of my family who served to defend American democracy would be aghast at Walberg's actions. Fewer than 10 years after immigrating to Michigan in the 1850s, my family fought in the Civil War to preserve the Union and end slavery. In World War II, other relatives gave their lives to defeat the fascists. In 2021, Walberg dishonors their sacrifice with his craven catering to the racists and thugs who have been assaulting American democracy. If he has any shame, Walberg will apologize to all the residents of mid-Michigan and tender his resignation.

Randy Dykhuis
Lansing

Republicans are irresponsible

Republicans are no longer good for the republic.

They can no longer claim fringe elements or Antifa bogeyman are responsible for the indiscretions they stoked, incited and facilitated. From storming the state Capitol in Lansing; plotting the abduction of elected officials and onto ransacking the parliamentarian's office in our nation's Capitol, these assaults on our foundational symbols are seditious acts of terrorists fed propaganda by the Republican Party, its operatives and its supporting media outlets. The Republican Party is the party of sedition, disenfranchisement and,

Have something to say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages?

Now you have two ways to sound off:

1.) Write a letter to the editor:

- E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
- Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
- Fax: (517) 371-5800
- At lansingcitypulse.com

2.) Write a guest column:

Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5061

(Please include your name, address and telephone number so we can reach you. Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. City Pulse reserves the right to edit letters and columns.)

as nooses and Nazi flags indicated, white supremacists and fascists.

There is no distancing or "both parties are the same." Knowing a good Republican doesn't absolve them from the support of those who incited these actions. If they are persons of good conscience and intent, they too will walk away from the rotting apple that is the Grand Ole Party.

The Republican Party, its members and its affiliates have attacked our nation. Embracing a path for their rehabilitation and sudden act of conscience is to ignore their commitment to disenfranchising voters in multiple states. Their propagation of unsubstantiated falsehoods directly led to violence in our nation's Capitol building and a violation of the sanctity of the election process. We no longer can claim a tradition of peaceful transition of power.

There is no walking back for all of the intentional and cynical actions of the Republicans to stoke this furor. Republicans are against the republic. There is no longer a chance for the poison that feeds its roots to be removed. No longer will the "R" simply be red — it should

become scarlet as a reminder for all citizens that the party of Trump attempted to erode our nation's foundation and whittle away with innuendo, misdirection and cynical opportunism a belief in the process.

Jeff Croff
Lansing

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF INGHAM NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate File No. 21-4-DE

Estate of Raymond E. Mizga. Date of birth: 12/21/1931.

TO ALL CREDITORS: Notice to Creditors of Raymond E. Mizga, and the Raymond E. Mizga and Virginia Mizga Revocable Living Trust Agreement, File No. 21-4-DE.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Raymond E. Mizga, died 12/22/2020. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Julie Mizga-Karr, personal representative, or to both the probate court at Ingham County Probate, 313 W. Kalamazoo, Lansing, MI 48933 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 1/5/2021

Julie Mizga-Karr
1016 E. Greenlawn Ave., Apt. 4
Lansing, MI 48910
517-374-0997

CP#21-002

Security tightening as Capitol hopes for the best

The state Capitol is going to feel a lot different in the coming days, and it starts with a 6-foot-high fence around the front.

The protective barrier will be built Friday as a preemptive move against any potential destruction stemming from protests presumed to be coming to Lansing next week in advance of President-elect Joe Biden's swearing-in.

The FBI sounded the alarm that all 50 state Capitols could expect destructive demonstrations similar to what went down at the nation's Capitol last week, and nobody is taking any chances.

A big pile of plywood is being brought in just in case a window is broken and needs to be covered up immediately. The plan — for now — is not to preemptively board up windows, but that could change.

The theme for now is to plan for the worst and hope for the best when it comes to protecting the state Capitol — outside and inside.

Retired Michigan National Guard Brigadier General Michael McDaniel, the associate dean of Western Michigan University's Cooley Law School, told "Michigan's Big Show" the siege of the Capitol last week was seen as a win by those involved. They'll "certainly" be willing and wanting to try it again.

"Once you sort of permit or recognize or normalize political violence, it doesn't go away," he said.

Clearly, the Capitol folks are starting to take the matter much more seriously by their abrupt decision to ban the open carrying of guns at the Capitol on Monday.

After putting off a similar proposal for three months at the end of 2021, the Capitol Commission not only approved the ban, they did it at a hastily called meeting this past Monday, a full week before they were scheduled to get together.

Attorney General Dana Nessel and numerous Democratic legislators doesn't think the move goes far enough. Nessel said she's afraid someone will need to be killed in a hail of gunfire before a full firearms ban is implemented at the Capitol.



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

That may or may not be. Republican legislators aren't in a hurry to institute stricter gun control measures that they'll need to justify to their conservative constituents. They also don't want to create a logjam getting into the building once COVID-19 isn't as much of a thing.

Making lobbyists, journalists, guests and staffers stand behind a parade of school kids in line at a metal detector is something legislative leaders are trying to avoid.

Logistically, the Capitol Commission felt they couldn't have banned all weapons immediately anyway.

In the shadow of these feared violent protests, they couldn't have put in the metal detectors soon enough to make a difference if the FBI's concerns of violent protests at all 50 state Capitols prior to Jan. 20 comes to pass.

What else you can expect at the Capitol area the next couple weeks? A lot more police officers and fewer state employees.

At the Attorney General's Office, employees who still need to show up at their Capitol Complex offices are being asked not to show up on specific days next week out of fear of the protests.

Michigan State Police spokesperson Shanon Banner said that security enhancements include both seen and unseen measures and that the MSP are aware of the online promotion of upcoming marches on state Capitols.

"In general, we don't publicly discuss security measures so as not to provide an advantage to agitators, but I can confirm that out of an abundance of caution, we have already increased visible MSP presence at the Capitol, and these resources will remain in place for at least the next couple of weeks," Banner said.

The security planning is fluid, she said, and adjustments are being made as needed from day to day. According to Banner, the MSP is in communication with both federal officials and law enforcement in other states, with more information foreshadowed to be shared on either Thursday or Friday.

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

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS



By KYLE KAMINSKI

Poor People's Campaign demands action

A 100-car caravan organized by the Michigan and Metro-Lansing Poor People's Campaign rolled through Lansing on Monday, advocating affordable and healthy housing, homelessness prevention, juvenile justice reforms and clean water restoration. The event was part of a nationwide movement which sponsors "Moral Mondays" to continue work started by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.



Editor's note

Eyesore of the Week has not been weekly in quite a while. And now it is just not going to be whatsoever, at least for a while. Which means even less regularly than it has already been appearing.

That's not because things are insufficiently ugly. It just feels increasingly uncomfortable to spotlight a rundown building in a time when some folks are really struggling. So we're going to err on the side of sparing anyone embarrassment for the time being.

"Eyesore of the Week" is not dead. And just when you least expect it, it could be on your block. But, for now, it's going to hibernate.

Have a lovely winter.

P.S.: If you really cannot resist, send your eyesore nominations to eyesore@lansingcitypulse.com.

Lansing's first homicide of 2021

Troy Lee Jenks, 36, of Lansing, faces a murder charge after Lansing Police Department officers said he stabbed and killed a 37-year-old man. Cops were reportedly called to the 3300 block of Young Avenue where they found Darrell Leon Gains, 37, of Lansing, injured in the front yard. He died in the hospital. Lansing police also found a 33-year-old man dead in a tent at a homeless encampment. Other guests suspect the man died of an overdose, and authorities are awaiting results of an autopsy before releasing details.

Cash needed for socially distancing

The city of East Lansing in partnership with the Michigan Economic Development Corp. is trying to raise \$50,000 by Feb. 10 to launch several permanent and temporary public spaces — including a new market space, enhanced outdoor seating options, light installations and artwork. The project is designed to use matching grants to assist businesses in "reshaping how people live, work and play" in a socially distanced downtown East Lansing while providing new ways for residents to gather safely. Donations are accepted online at patronicity.com/placeproject.

Sharpshooters close East Lansing parks for deer cull

Several parks in East Lansing are closing on intermittent weekdays through March 1 as sharpshooters with the U.S. Agriculture Department work to kill off an overabundance of deer. When closed, park entrances will be barricaded and signs will be posted. It will be illegal for anyone to enter or remain in the parks during those closures, city officials said.

Man charged in bomb threat

Michael Varrone, 48, of Charlotte faces felony terrorism charges after authorities said he made a threaten-

ing phone call on Thursday claiming there was a bomb in the Michigan Capitol building. Authorities quickly determined the threat was false but also connected Varrone with recent death threats made against state Rep. Cynthia Johnson. Varrone was lodged at the lock-up beneath Lansing City Hall and could face up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

Whitmer praises gun ban

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer applauded the Michigan Capitol Commission for banning the open carry of guns in the Capitol. Those discussions were reignited this month following an armed protest at the Capitol last April and the armed insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

Direct flights to Cancun

Want to get away from it all? Apple Leisure Group announced this week that direct flights from the Capital Region International Airport to Cancun and Riviera Maya will resume in February and continue through April 4 — with enhanced social distance precautions, of course.

City Hall by appointment only

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor signed an executive order closing City Hall and other city-owned buildings to the general public due to COVID-19. Until further notice, you must make an appointment to gain access.

Internal auditor returns

Former Internal Auditor Eric Brewer is returning to a temporary version of his old job with the city of Lansing after he resigned from the post last year for personal reasons. Since Brewer left, city officials have struggled to find a replacement — at least twice offering the job to candidates that rejected the offer in recent months. Brewer's new temporary contract ex-

tends only through June while city officials look to finalize a permanent replacement within the next month.

Council panels streamlined

Newly reelected City Council President Peter Spadafore is tinkering with the committee structure for the Lansing City Council, this week combining the Committee on Public Service and on General Services into a new Committee on City Operations. Spadafore also eliminated the mostly defunct Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, shifting any regional future work from that three-person committee to the full Council on the existing Committee of the Whole.

Mayor, others give up raises

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor and a dozen department directors have declined annual raises this year in recognition of the economic impact that COVID-19 has had. With the failure of the federal government to provide recovery funds to cities, Lansing will face more budget struggles that can only be solved by reducing expenses, said Schor, who will lose out on a \$2,800 raise in 2021. His salary is about \$137,000. Additionally, Teamsters Local 243 also agreed to keep wages flat through the end of 2021.

Mail-in tax scam

State officials warned this week of an aggressive scam making its rounds through the U.S. Postal Service. In the scheme, taxpayers receive a letter about an overdue tax bill that must be resolved, threatening to seize property, bank accounts, wages and more if left unsettled. The state Treasury Department corresponds in writing only through official state letterhead. Those who received a letter or who have questions about their debts are asked to call 517-636-5265.

Greater Lansing escapes holiday spike in COVID-19 cases

Health officer remains hopeful as hospitals track fewer patients

Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail said Greater Lansing — and much of Michigan — has largely escaped any anticipated surge in COVID-19 cases tied to gatherings over the recent holiday season as the number of patients hospitalized with the virus continues to “taper down.”

“We had a slight uptick in cases, but we didn’t see any huge surge,” Vail told reporters Tuesday. “Twelve days have passed and, at this point, I do think that we’re safely outside the window of where we’d expect Christmas gatherings to cause a big surge in cases.”

Local hospitals are also reporting a reduction in the number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 in Greater Lansing compared to last month. This week, only 109 people were in the hospital in Ingham County — down from an average of about 140 people though late December.

“Those are starting to taper down just gradually,” Vail added.

Eleven of the 109 hospitalized COVID-19 patients were in the intensive care unit this week.

Health officials in Greater Lansing

— including Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties — tracked about 900 new coronavirus cases and 44 deaths over the last seven days. Those increases are relatively consistent with state-wide figures, which show more than 525,000 COVID-19 cases and at least 13,500 virus-related deaths detected in Michigan since the pandemic hit in March.

“I’d like to think we had some impact. There were safe gatherings and there were lots of people that simply didn’t spend Christmas with their families rather than have gatherings,” Vail added.

In related news ...

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced Tuesday that a flood of new coronavirus vaccine doses were headed out to states — including Michigan — over the next few weeks. The distribution plan will depend heavily on the size of each state’s senior citizen population and how efficiently each state government is getting those doses out to the public.

State data shows that Michigan has distributed nearly 830,000 doses of the vaccine to local health departments, hospital systems and pharmacies that are working at long-term care facilities. Those providers have only

CORONAVIRUS IN MICHIGAN					
BY THE NUMBERS...					
MICHIGAN					
	1/5/21	1/12/21	WEEKLY CHANGE		
CASES	504,410	525,612	^4%		
DEATHS	12,867	13,501	^5%		
GREATER LANSING			EATON CO.		
	1/5/21	1/12/21	WEEKLY CHANGE		
CASES	21,275	22,210	^4%		
DEATHS	335	379	^13%		
INGHAM CO.			CLINTON CO.		
	1/5/21	1/12/21	WEEKLY CHANGE		
CASES	12,753	13,292	^4%		
DEATHS	191	219	^15%		
CASES	4,628	4,875	^5%		
DEATHS	100	111	^11%		
CASES	3,895	4,043	^4%		
DEATHS	44	49	^11%		

injected about 233,000 doses as of Sunday afternoon.

The state Department of Health and Human Services released guidance last week that encourages all school districts to offer in-person learning options by March 1 or sooner. Accordingly, vaccinations of teachers and other school staff also started this week.

Republican state lawmakers announced plans for statewide “Dine-In

Day” on Saturday, Jan. 16, to coincide with the Jan. 15 expiration of current pandemic orders that prohibit inside dining. Vail said that she and other health officials don’t know whether the prohibition will be extended. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has suggested that those restrictions could be relaxed as case totals decline.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

**ABANDONED VEHICLE SALE
CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN**

Sealed bids marked **S/21/047, ABANDONED VEHICLES** will be accepted at the City of Lansing Purchasing Office, 124 W Michigan Ave 8th floor, Lansing Mi. 48933 until but no later than, **1:00 PM, local time in effect WED. JAN. 27, 2021**
Questions regarding this sale may be directed to Stephanie Robinson Buyer, at (517) 483-4128 or email: stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov

Vehicles may be inspected **WED. JAN. 27, 2021**, as follows:
SHROYER'S, 2740 Eaton Rapids Rd., Lansing, MI 48911 8:30 AM
SWIFT TOWING, 2347 N. Cedar, Holt, MI 48842 9:30 AM
PJ'S , 1425 Rensen, Lansing, MI 48910 10:00 AM
NORTHSIDE TOWING, 226 Russell, Lansing, MI 48906 10:45 AM
H&H MOBILE TOWING, 1500 Haslett Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823 11:30 AM

NORTHSIDE TOWING

YEAR	MAKE
2007	DODGE
2010	CHEV
2006	HONDA
2007	FORD
1998	FORD
2012	CHEC
2012	DODGE
2008	DODGE
2017	MOPED
1997	FORD
2013	CHEV
2012	CHEV
2002	HONDA
2012	GMC

PJ TOWING

YEAR	MAKE
1997	GMC
2004	CHRYSLER
2003	JEEP
2004	GMC
2004	FORD
2006	VW

SWIFT TOWING

YEAR	MAKE
2005	HONDA
2007	CHEV
2011	DODGE

H&H MOBILE

YEAR	MAKE
2008	LINC
2015	AUDI
2014	LINC

SHROYERS TOWING

YEAR	MAKE
2005	CHRYSLER
2001	MITSI
2004	LEXUS
2009	CHEV
2009	CHEV
1998	FORD
2014	FORD
1998	HONDA
2015	MOPED
2006	CHRYSLER
2007	CHRYSLER
2012	CHEV
2014	BUICK
2012	HYUN
2008	CHEV
2012	CHRYSLER
2015	MERCE
2007	BMW

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Keep off, for now

Extra dirt from drain project beefs up Ranney Park sledding hill

The biggest “whee” temptation in Lansing is the volcano-like cone thrusting into the sky at the north end of East Lansing’s Ranney Park, next to the Frandor Shopping Center.

Despite the warning fence at the bottom of the hill, and grumbling earth-movers churning the foothills into mud by day, the lure of gravity is irresistible. Hundreds of tracks crisscross the snow.

But the bulldozers aren’t there to catch you.

Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann is urging people to stay off the hill, and stay out of the park, hoping that the prospect of a sledding hill nearly twice as high next winter, with safety features and better access, will make it worth the wait.

A fast and bulbous new hill is only the cherry on top of a mammoth infrastructure parfait that’s taken more than 20 years to get this close to completion — the \$34.8 million Montgomery Drain project, the most significant and extensive overhaul of storm water drains in Ingham County history.

Steam shovels have already scooped tons of earth from the park. A new, man-made landscape of hills, ponds and connecting trails is clearly visible south of the sledding hill, under a crust of snow and ice. The system will filter tons of pollutants from storm water that drains into the Red Cedar River, while turning the park into a hilly oasis of walkways, benches and cascades of trickling water.

“There are millions of cubic yards of earth we’d have to pay to haul away,” Lindemann said. “Instead of dumping it miles away, we’re dumping it right there.”

The extra height will increase the hill’s scream appeal, but the hill will also be safer, with a “runaway truck lane” to safely decelerate sledders.

But the project isn’t finished and heavy equipment is still in the way.

“With this new snow, people want to sneak onto the site and use it,” Lindemann said. “I sympathize with them. I’d like to go down there and slide down the hill myself, but it’s just not safe. We’re not finished cutting into the earth and piling up the earth.”

Lindemann also wants to protect the



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

The sledding hill at Lansing’s Ranney Park is off limits while earth movers beef it up to nearly twice its current height, using earth left over from the excavation of the Montgomery Drain’s storm water filtration ponds.

work that’s already been done. Fresh mats of straw and grass seed are in place across much of the park..

“People are messing those up,” Lindemann said. “We’re hoping they would germinate right away this spring.”

After more over 20 years of planning, design work and delays — most recently tied to the on-and-off-and-on Red Cedar development south of the park — the Montgomery Drain project is changing the landscape.

The ambitious natural drain system will tackle the most polluting square mile in the county, according to Lindemann, to meet Phase II federal requirements set by the Clean Water Act.

The drain’s service area is an 80-percent impervious, or pavement-encrusted, square mile, including Frandor and its satellite strip malls, Grand River Avenue and Saginaw Street, I-127 and parts of Lake Lansing Road.

Currently, storm water falls on these hard surfaces and flushes straight into the Red Cedar River within minutes, carrying 50,000 to 75,000 pounds of pollution a year.

Tests have shown 80 different pollutants in the Red Cedar River, from arsenic and petroleum, rubber from car tires, asbestos from roof shingles, acids and other inorganic and organic debris.

Lindemann considered building a storm water treatment plant, similar to a sewage treatment plant, to deal with the problem, but he said the plant would cost \$80 million to \$90 million to build and cost millions to run.

The natural system of retention ponds, cascades and filters going into



place at Ranney Park and further south, next to the Red Cedar development, will trap an estimated 95 percent of those pollutants, Lindemann said. The filters will either neutralize the toxins or trap them, so they can be hauled off to a landfill.

In severe floods, the drain will even handle dirty water from other counties as it churns downstream.

The Montgomery Drain is just one of 236 discharges from county storm drains that go into the Red Cedar, but it’s by far the “worst,” Lindemann said.

It’s not just a matter of filtering the water. Slowing it down as it makes its way from the drainage area to the river is key, he said.

While doing some early research on the watershed, Lindemann released a vial of harmless dye into a drain in the Frandor parking lot, got into his car and made the five-minute drive to the river a few blocks away, only to find the dye already in the river.

“If you look at the economic damage, and the damage to public health that happens in these flooding events — that’s because over the years, we have increased the speed at which the water comes off the land and goes into the river,” he said.

Lindemann’s low impact drain features are usually designed to fight gravity. The sledding hill project is a rare exception.

“I hope people can be patient, because they are really going to enjoy this when it’s done,” Lindemann said. The hill is scheduled for reopening by next winter, but the plan is to make it an all-season attraction.

“You can slide down that hill on a piece of cardboard in summer,” Lindemann said.

South of the hill, the “punch list” of uncompleted work in the rest of Ranney Park is getting shorter. Benches, electrical cables for lampposts and other finishes are scheduled for completion in early spring.

It’s a different story north of the park, where major drain work has not yet begun, and will likely snarl traffic on Saginaw and Grand River in summer 2021. Lindemann hopes that part of the job will be done before MSU football re-launches in the fall. The entire drain system is scheduled to be in full flow by 2022.

Tied to the Montgomery Drain project is a major overhaul of the Red Cedar riverbed itself, from Harrison Road to Kalamazoo Street, funded by a \$500,000 grant from the state of Natural Resources Department, scheduled to get underway in June. A stretch of river directly south of Frandor and the Red Cedar development will be narrowed, cleaned up and re-carved as a spawning bed for steelhead, lake and rainbow trout.

“Over the years, we’ve blown the banks out, widened the river and ruined the natural state of that river,” Lindemann said. “We have to physically correct our mistakes, starting with the Montgomery Drain. I will continue to look at ways to modify landscaping upstream, on the land, that reduce the rate of flow, to restore some equilibrium that we can live with, and the fish can live with.”

— LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Recreational pot may be ripening in Meridian Township

Sentiment is building among members of the Meridian Township Board of Trustees to allow recreational pot dispensaries.

Next month, the board will discuss allowing a limited number of recreational cannabis retailers, said Supervisor Ron Styka. The plans could see pot shops licensed there

before the end of the year.

“We’ll have a meeting that is just on recreational marijuana and what we’re going to do and how we’re going to do it,” Styka said, noting the board has yet to decide whether to allow recreational pot shops after permitting medical marijuana dispensaries in 2019.

The meeting is scheduled for Feb. 16. It arrives after several medical marijuana enterprises were awarded licenses in recent years but have yet to actually launch any retail locations. Styka said the ongoing market delay has been tied almost entirely to the licensees’ inability to market recreational cannabis at

those locations amid a declining number of medical marijuana patients.

And if the township doesn’t get started on allowing recreational marijuana this year, then the township could miss out on a potentially lucrative industry — including the

See Pot, Page 11

Lansing mayor calls for National Guard for expected election protests

Armed protesters anticipated in Lansing ahead of presidential inauguration

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor requested Tuesday a National Guard presence amid fears of armed and violent protests in capitals nationwide as the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris approaches in Washington.

City Council President Peter Spadafore encouraged Schor in a letter:

“Because we are living in anything but normal times and the jurisdictional quagmire of downtown presents its own challenges, I am asking you to work with the Lansing Police Department, the Michigan State Police, and Ingham County to request from Governor Gretchen Whitmer that the Michigan National Guard be deployed to help ensure that any First Amendment activities remain peaceful and that our residents are safe.”

Schor soon made the request to the governor.

“The request was for the National Guard to assist Lansing Police if a violent disturbance in the downtown area surrounding the Capitol building occurs,” Schor said in a press release. “I am a firm believer in the First Amendment right to protest at our state Capitol but let me be clear: This does not mean that anyone has a right to incite violence or destruction in Lansing’s downtown.”

Schor’s announcement comes after the FBI warned that protests are being planned in capitals in all 50 states as Wednesday’s inauguration approaches. Sunday is seen as likely to be the most active day.

Whitmer would have to formally authorize the deployment. A Whitmer spokesman said the situation was being



Alex Gakos / Shutterstock.com

Armed militia inside the Michigan State Capitol on April 30 during a protest against Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s COVID-19 shutdown orders.

“monitored closely” to ensure “necessary security measures” are in place.

Council members Adam Hussain, Patricia Spitzley, Jeremy Garza and Brandon Betz also said Tuesday they supported having the National Guard.

“Under normal circumstances, I would be very uncomfortable with that,” Spitzley said. “But after what happened at the Capitol, I think we are better off with them.”

Garza offered a similar sentiment: Better safe than sorry for any protests that materialize.

“I would hate to have some serious

call on one side of town while our officers are tied up downtown and then we have fires in different parts of the city,” Garza said.

Ingham County Sheriff Scott Wrigglesworth said he also supports having the Guard.

“We will have a contingent of deputies assisting on Sunday,” Wrigglesworth said.

Southeast Michigan Volunteer Militia Spokesman Michael Lackomar said his group will attend protests in Lansing on Sunday. He also said his group welcomes the National Guard.

“They are often better trained and will have more restricted rules of engagement,” he said.

The size and scope of potential protests in Lansing is difficult to ascertain. Right-wing extremists have found themselves banned from many social media outlets in the last several months. Many have moved to encrypted communications. Even Lackomar, who intends on attending, said he hasn’t been able to gauge how many people will show for protests in the city.

— **TODD HEYWOOD**

Limited supply triggers vaccine struggle in Greater Lansing

The Ingham County Health Department has started offering COVID-19 vaccines to people over 65. But availability still remains relatively limited. Smart distribution plans will be essential.

And local residents shouldn't expect to receive their shots on a first-come, first-serve basis.

On Monday, the ICHD reported that 12,000 county residents had scheduled appointments for the vaccine as far out as Feb. 24. Thousands more are on waiting lists for appointments.

But as of last week, Ingham County had only been allotted 975 doses of vaccine. Next week, it will be 1,950 doses. The Mid-Michigan District Health Department — which covers Clinton, Gratiot and Montcalm counties — received 1,100 doses. All of them have been used, Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail said.

"We are going to have to go through this in a logical, efficient and ethical way," she explained.

The Health Department announced this week that it could vaccinate about 2,000 people each week under current vaccine distribution plans while at least 83,000 residents are actually eligible to receive one.

MMDHD Health Officer Marcus Cheatham agreed: Distribution planning will be critical amid limited supplies.

"It's basically all about mortality reduction," Cheatham said. "So if we can get the people who are going to die vaccinated, the rest of us can figure it out. I want to save lives, so we have to get it into the vulnerable population."

In Vail's assessment, that means identifying the most "high risk" groups in the second phase of community vaccination recommendations from the CDC and the state — which called for those over 65 to begin receiving vaccines this week. Vail said she is particularly focused on those over age 70 in Ingham County.

Those over the age of 70 account for about 8% of coronavirus cases tracked in Ingham County but 75% of deaths related to viral complications, Vail said. She also estimated there about 15,000 people over the age of 70 in Ingham County in total, with many staying inside longterm care facilities.

Residents and staff of those agencies are being vaccinated through a partnership with the federal and state governments and large pharmacy companies that can provide contracted services



Vail

to those facilities. But there are still those who remain susceptible.

Like others distributing the vaccine, Ingham County has discovered that some of the vials of the Pfizer vaccine intended for just five inoculations actually contain enough vaccine for six doses.

Vail also estimates that about 43,000 Ingham County residents fit into the 1b priority category in CDC guidance. With limited supplies, prioritization is essential to ensuring the right people get the first vaccines.

Both Ingham County and MMDHD are taking online requests for the vaccine from those who are 65 or older, or members of the high-risk frontline worker groups. But that doesn't mean that they will get their doses immediately.

Vail said health risks will be weighed for each of the applicants.

"It's not a first come first serve thing," Vail added "It's not like if you are a 65-year-old with zero underlying

conditions and you're going to get in line before an 85 year old with diabetes and heart disease. That's not how this is going to work."

Cheatham said his department has also been hamstrung by limited supplies in Clinton, Gratiot and Montcalm counties. His staff wasn't prepared for Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's announcement that vaccines would be available to seniors on Monday, Jan. 11, he explained.

"These vulnerable seniors are screaming, 'Save my life, get me the vaccine.' And they're calling and telling us that we don't know what we're doing because we don't actually have the capacity to vaccinate like that," Cheatham added. "There is not enough vaccine."

More than 376,000 Americans are dead from COVID-19 and nearly 23 million cases have been reported nationally since March. Meanwhile, national health officials are facing twin problems, reports The New York Times: There only exists enough vaccine on order to cover 185 million Americans by the end of June. And some early doses are sitting unused and are now in danger of expiring.

— TODD HEYWOOD

Pot

from page 10

tax revenues to go along with it, said Township Trustee Dan Opsommer. He asked last week for a discussion on recreational pot licensing to resume next month. Time is of the essence, he explained.

Allowing recreational marijuana is an easy choice. Deciding how many locations should be allowed to open warrants a deeper discussion, said Treasurer Phil Deschaine. Those questions are expected to be discussed within the next few months, he said.

"We need to take the time to find out how our community feels about it," Deschaine said. "There's no question this community supported the legalization of recreational marijuana, but that's not the same thing as saying we need twice as many stores as East Lansing. These are all questions that we'll have to consider as

we continue to discuss this issue. It'll take some time."

Meridian Township residents voted in favor of legalizing cannabis for recreational use by a margin of more than 4,500 votes in 2018. Still, township officials spent a year deciding whether to allow medical retailers. Recreational licensing could take another.

Trustee Patricia Herring Jackson said the township has already put together an adequate infrastructure of oversight and regulation. And she's hesitant to postpone the local industry with yet another round of public input before making some quick decisions.

"I don't disagree with the calls for additional public input," Herring Jackson added. "I am concerned about the tendency to put off and put off and continuing to put off the discussion with added public input."

In the meantime, the local medical industry is "essentially dying," she said. In October 2019, Ingham County tracked 6,865 medical marijuana patients. By November 2020, that number had dwindled to 2,470 — a

64% customer base decrease in about one year.

And that dearth of medical patients has created some challenges for medical-only retail locations.

Marvin Karana, an attorney for DNVK 2, which was licensed for medical marijuana sales last year, urged the board to act quickly on recreational marijuana licensing in Me-

ridian Township.

"Eventually, that number is going to continue to decline until there are no patients remaining in the state," Karana told trustees at a recent meeting. "Opting in for adult use will spark new employment and new development in the township during the COVID-19 pandemic."

— SEAN BRADLEY

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The Request for Proposal Package may be obtained by contacting Jane Stone, Administrative Services Coordinator, at (517) 285-9794 or email at jstone@cityofeastlansing.com.

The City of East Lansing reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to accept any proposal, and to waive formalities in awarding a Contract that is deemed to be in the best interest of the City.

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How do you help those who don't want to be helped? 'Just keep trying.'

Lansing pledges \$1.8 million to battle homelessness amid 'Back 40' shutdown



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

By KYLE KAMINSKI

Don Demond has been living in his van for more than 10 months.

In March, Demond, 51, was fired from his job at a local transportation company. Unable to pay rent, he said he was evicted from a rental home on Lansing's south side, and since April, has called home an old Dodge van — frequently parked in the Moores Park neighborhood. There, local residents have been helpful with donations. Someone changed a flat tire for him last week. Another neighbor brought him a box of hand warmers and a can of propane to fuel his hotplate.

City officials tracked nearly 400 homeless households in Lansing in January 2020. Experts said that number — though precise estimates were unavailable — has only climbed. The city also tallied over 2,000 guests at emergency shelters and at transitional housing facilities between October 2019 and September 2020.

Demond wasn't among them. He'd rather go at it alone.

Like several of those struggling with homelessness I spoke to in recent

weeks, Demond was hesitant to seek shelter in a congregate setting while the pandemic continues.

"I've been trying to get a place since I was evicted," Demond said last week. "I work about 22 hours a week, so it's enough to cover the groceries and gas. Right now, I want to stay out here, COVID-19 free. At a shelter, you don't know who might have it. I'd rather be safe and alone."

Close quarters with strangers who often lack strict personal hygiene regimens obviously carry elevated risks of viral exposure, though no major outbreaks have been tracked at local shelters.

Demond's dinner is usually soup or stew, cooked in his riverside bedroom — which doubles as a kitchen, a bathroom, a living room and a daily driver to and from his part-time job. He said he fires up the van's engine every couple of hours to keep himself warm during the winter months.

"Here, the whole neighborhood knows me," Demond added. "Everybody has been so helpful."

Several homeless people in Lansing

stay at makeshift camps near Frandor Shopping Center and on Lansing's north side near Olympic Broil. Others sleep upright in chairs at the City Rescue Mission's drop-in shelter on Larch Street. Dozens more are staying at the men's shelter on Michigan Avenue or inside the Gier Park Community Center shelter, which reopened this month. Untold dozens also sleep alone beneath bridges, shielded only by tarps and donated blankets.

And until this week, another cadre of homeless people had stayed near the corner of Larch and Saginaw streets on homeless encampment known as the "Back 40." City contractors were in the final laps of clearing out tents and trash from the 3-acre site Tuesday after weeks of efforts to secure alternative housing arrangements for those who remain.

Most Back 40 residents — as many as 20 people in the fall — have left over the last few weeks after Mayor Andy Schor announced plans to clear out the encampment days before Christ-

Don Demond, 51, has lived in a Dodge conversion van since April after he lost his job and was evicted from his home. He often parks in the Moores Park Neighborhood, where he said local residents have been welcoming with donations of hand warmers and propane for his hotplate.

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mas.

One couple left for the camp near Frandor last week. Another left to stay with a friend. Others are now staying at Gier Park. Only three or four holdouts remained there by Tuesday afternoon. Among them: 42-year-old William File.



File

File is the self-appointed president of what's left of the Back 40. He is often the first to speak with news reporters on the scene about "squatting rights" and how he is entitled to stay on the land. Last week, he helped saw down trees to block clean-up crews from returning.

He said he wants to find more stable housing. But he also wants to do it on his own terms.

"I've gotten in fights with half the people over at Gier Park. I'm going to end up in trouble again if I go into a shelter," File told me. "My wife has a Section 8 voucher, but that hasn't worked out. I'm not going anywhere. They can kiss my butt. I have every right to stand my ground here."

File said he got "caught in a rut" after he lost his job, was evicted from his apartment and later lost custody of his child, who now lives with his mother-in-law. He stays on the Back 40 to remain close to his family. He also chooses to live outdoors to avoid fights at local shelters, trading a warmer place to sleep for the small freedoms of a Natty Daddy and a fireside joint.

Still, File spoke from a megaphone at Lansing City Hall alongside volunteers and advocates from the Lansing Poor Peoples' Campaign on Monday — decrying the "tragic and traumatizing" camp shutdown, building a narrative that villainizes the city for clearing out the camp.

"Homelessness is not something we asked for. It's something we've fallen into," File said. "You think I want to be here? The government hasn't done anything for us. Where



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Many nonprofit groups and other activists have been at the Back 40 in recent weeks, including one couple who brought by a handmade banner that reads "Hands of Back 40." That flag was proudly displayed this week on the south side of the encampment near Shiawassee Street.

does it all end?"

Schor's administration decided to charge forward with plans last month to have the camp cleared, notifying at least a dozen regular guests that they would need to leave by Dec. 21 as temperatures dropped and living conditions became increasingly dangerous and unsanitary.

Piles of trash, needles and human feces only added to the filthy conditions of the camp. And after a 33-year-old man was found dead in a tent there last week, the clean-up efforts only became more urgent, Schor explained. Back 40 campers suspect the man — who they said had stayed at the camp for at least a week — had died of an overdose before he could be rescued. The Lansing Police Department is still waiting to hear back on the results of a pending autopsy.

"At this point, there are only about three

people there and they all have options available for another place to stay," Schor said. "We don't want anyone in unsafe living conditions. We don't want anyone to face the cold, human feces, carbon monoxide or other hazardous materials. This has become a significant liability, and our first priority, as always, is keeping people safe."



Schor

Indeed, this winter marks the 10th anniversary of a fire at a homeless camp near Frandor in which a woman died.

Most of the Back 40's former and current residents — as well as local advocates who have battled homelessness for years — recognize the camp is no longer a safe place to call home. And despite rumors echoed by so-called advocates, local shelters still have available beds.

Still, the timing of the city's plans have painted a tragic story after firefighters raked out a campfire there last month — on the longest night of the year, three days before Christmas.

And even secluded homeless encampments aren't immune to politics in the city of Lansing.

"We are flexible. We've given people time. We're finding other places for them to stay. We'll never criminalize homelessness. This isn't about putting people in jail. This isn't about the police," Schor said. "Unfortunately, people are going to continue to play on that narrative."

Former Councilwoman Jody Washington became a regular visitor in recent weeks, helping to move guests to other encampments and shelters alongside dozens of other volunteers at local nonprofits. Councilman Brandon Betz, who upset Washington two years ago to win the 1st Ward seat, as well as other self-declared "anarchists" and eastside



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Advocates brought a chainsaw to the Back 40 camp last week to help build its residents a makeshift blockade. One man tried to stop City Pulse from taking pictures on the property.

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Back 40

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“progressives” have also been on the scene. Two women made a “Hands off the Back 40” sign. Another man dropped off a chainsaw to build up barricades. Others just sat around by the fire.



At times, the dueling forms of advocacy have created tension. Some activists tried to prevent City Pulse from taking pictures for this story. Washington also frequently bickered with teenage protesters on the property, belittling them for trying to defend the remaining Back 40 campers.

Washington

“Unfortunately, we have these people — Brandon Betz and the rest of them — getting everyone riled up. Everyone here has a place to go,” Washington said. “This should not be their destiny. We need to help these people regain their dignity, rebuild a sustainable life. If I had to live like this, I would be a drug addict too. I’m frustrated, but I’m actually trying to help these people.”

The Lansing State Journal, among other news outlets, have also repeatedly railed about how the city’s plans to clear the camp cross with current CDC recommendations during the pandemic. That guidance states that if “individual housing options” are not available, homeless people should be allowed to continue living in outdoor encampments. Often missing from that coverage is that the CDC calls for “the balance of risks” to be considered for each individual.

Schor maintains that health officials would be more likely to endorse the living arrangements at Gier Park Community Center over the life-threatening conditions that persist at the Back 40 — even as the COVID-19 pan-



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

(Above) Local shelters reported widespread availability this week for overnight guests. Still, three or four people chose to remain at the Back 40 on Tuesday while contactors tried to clear the property.

(Below) Poor sanitary conditions — including human feces and used needles — triggered city officials to begin clearing out the Back 40 camp last month. Those efforts were renewed this week after police found a 33-year-old man dead inside a tent on the property, possibly from an overdose.

demic continues to spread in Greater Lansing.

“They don’t push for congregate settings, but we’re also facing extreme circumstances that are clearly a health hazard in and of itself,” said Kim Coleman, the city’s director of human relations and community services. “At this point, it was too extreme to not move

people out.”

Still, an overarching question remains: How do you help those who don’t want to be helped?

“Just keep trying,” said Sharon Dade, director of Holy Cross Services, which operates

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Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

Back 40

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the Gier Park shelter, as well as an overflow space at the New Hope Community Center on Larch Street.

Dade and other advocates have helped Back 40 campers find storage facilities for their belongings as they're shuttled off to other locations. All she can do is ensure options are there.

Experts said the camp shutdown is about more than simply giving people a cleaner place to live. Shelters also serve as an opportunity to connect homeless people with vital social services to eventually get them into permanent housing. Sometimes it's as simple as helping people get a Social Security card. Other times, Dade personally calls landlords to find affordable options.

"I don't buy into the idea that people actually want to live outside. I never have. I do think that trauma and mental health issues, together, can play a role in how people make decisions and how comfortable they can become with their current living arrangements," Dade said.

Proactive efforts to battle homelessness are also ongoing. The Capital Area Housing Partnership has provided \$1.3 million in rental and mortgage assistance since March, helping 435 families avoid eviction while also serving more than 300 households with counseling services.

City officials also plan to announce grant funds to four agencies totaling \$1.8 million to provide shelter for homeless people or those at risk of homelessness who may be or have been affected by COVID-19. That cash will also be used for eviction prevention efforts tied to the pandemic.

Additional details were expected to be rolled out later this week, city officials said on Monday.

After buying two adjacent buildings along Michigan Avenue, the City Rescue Mission is also planning to double its downtown footprint over the next few years. Plans call for a \$3.5 million renovation for at least 22 more



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Bill File, 42, helps unpack a few boxes of donated goods that arrived at the Back 40 camp last week. Donations of food and other supplies have flooded the encampment in recent weeks.

emergency shelter beds, as well as 19 affordable apartments.

"Some of our guests have very limited income, but because of age or health issues, they are unable to work. This would allow us to offer living space for guests who contribute to their stay, while we provide a safe, clean environment. The Mission also serves as a community for these men, and this will offer long-term stability," according to this month's Rescue Mission newsletter.

Executive Director Mark Criss said the long-term goal of the City Rescue Mission — among other nonprofit groups — is always focused on permanent supportive housing

rather than shelters, which serve mostly as a middle ground for homeless people to find stable resources.

"The Back 40 is really the result of what addictions can do to people. They're at a point where they're willing to remain in this unsafe environment, but at what cost? It's easy to paint the city as the bad guy, but we're all looking out for safety and getting people out of that environment."

"Some of that is going to be tough love," Criss added. "I think that's the best thing we can do: Continue to engage and explain what services are available. This is all about trying to help."

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ARTS & CULTURE

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Bernice King headlines MLK Day celebration broadcast

By SKYLER ASHLEY

In lieu of a live event, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan is taking its signature MLK Day celebration to the airwaves. The one-hour program, which is headlined by a conversation between Bernice King, the youngest of King's children, and Elaine Hardy, who chairs the commission, will air at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 18, on WILX TV.

Since 2012, Bernice King has acted as CEO of the King Center, which was founded by her mother, Coretta Scott King, in 1968. Bernice King is credited with greatly expanding The King Center's education platforms and improving its campus in Atlanta. In June, Bernice King led the "#OnlineProtest for Social Justice," a 7-day livestream initiative in protest of systemic racism.

Hardy was overjoyed to have Bernice King onboard for the commission's 2021 MLK Day celebration.

"She is one of the most gracious people that I have met. She was generous with her time and her thoughtful answers to our questions. She really wanted to connect with our community,

MLK Day Events:
Virtual Concert: Jazz, Spirituals, Prayers & Protests
 Sunday, Jan. 17, 3 p.m.
 Hosted by MSU College of Music
[Livestream.com/MusicMSU/2021MLK](https://www.livestream.com/MusicMSU/2021MLK)
18th Annual MLK Day Virtual Rally and Cultural Program
 Hosted by Detroit MLK Committee
 Monday, Jan. 18, noon to 3 p.m.
[MLKDetroit.org](https://www.MLKDetroit.org)
Facebook Live MLK Day Prayer
 Hosted by Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
 Monday, Jan. 18, starts at 7 p.m.
[Facebook.com/PRBCLansing](https://www.Facebook.com/PRBCLansing)

it was phenomenal," Hardy said.

Hardy said she framed the conversation so viewers could learn how Bernice King and her family would like to see the world celebrate MLK Day. Hardy described a profound moment of conversation — Bernice King explaining how Coretta Scott King foresaw the impact of Martin Luther King and insisted that his speeches be taped and the audio to be preserved. "I found it so interesting that she truly understood the moment she was in," Hardy said.

The theme of this year's MLK Day Celebration is based on a quote from King's "I Have a Dream" speech: "Out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope." Hardy said the commission



Courtesy Photo

King

selected the quote because it represents perseverance, and after the immense tribulations of 2020, people really need a healthy helping of positivity and inspiration heading into 2021.

"We believe the nation and our community need something to look forward to," Hardy said.

2020 saw widespread political demonstrations inspired by the deaths

of several Black Americans at the hands of police officers, and Hardy hopes the impact and momentum achieved by grass roots activism doesn't subside in 2021.

"I don't want us to lose the moment we're in. We have the opportunity for an open and honest dialogue with ourselves," Hardy said. "It was laid bare for us that racial discrimination is still alive and well in this post-Obama era. It is incumbent upon all of us to look at systemic structures that uphold white supremacy and call them out."

Hardy said condensing what's normally a two-hour plus live event into an hour-long television program was a challenge that required the wrangling of several moving parts. The program also features a performance from a symphony, surprise guest appearances, messages from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, U.S. Sen. Gary Peters and U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin and special announcements from the MLK Commission and its sponsors.

"Our biggest challenge is capturing that energy. There's something very special about the MLK Day holiday in our community," Hardy said.

Donors unite to save Pinball Pete's from reaching game over

By SKYLER ASHLEY

If you grew up in Greater Lansing, or have spent time hanging out on Michigan State University's campus, you probably have a great story about Pinball Pete's. The arcade hall and Spartan stomping ground is an epicenter for first dates, birthday parties and jolly drunken nights out. Now, amid the devastating coronavirus pandemic, Pinball Pete's is calling on the public for help.

Nick Reynolds, social media manager for Pinball Pete's and the son of owner Mike Reynolds, said being closed for the majority of the year took a huge financial toll.

"When they gave the first shutdown notice, arcades were forced to close

completely. That lasted until mid-October. We went through that whole period of time still paying for rent, utilities and taxes with absolutely no foot traffic. We kept up with everything that we could," Reynolds said. "We determined our only real option was to ask the community to lend us a hand."

The GoFundMe campaign, located at [gofundme.com/f/help-save-pinball-petes](https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-save-pinball-petes), launched by Pinball Pete's on Christmas has so far earned \$97,500 of its \$125,000 goal. There has been an outpouring of support on social media, and comments left by donors on the GoFundMe page weave a thread of warm nostalgic tales.

"It's where my wife and I have our

annual air hockey match. Without that event, how will we decide who has to buy the cookies across the street?" Craig Maddox commented. "Friends, the fate of our cookies — and my marriage — depends on Pete's. Please donate."

Other donors used the comment section to give tongue-in-cheek apologies for the times they showed up to Pinball Pete's after having perhaps a little bit too much to drink.

"I snuck in here just to use the bathroom once while waiting in the Rick's line. This donation is also my apology," wrote Emily Levy.

"I have donated \$25 twice now as an apology for some questionable behavior, which got me kicked out

of the East Lansing Pinball Pete's," Danielle Arias commented.

Reynolds said the overwhelmingly positive response to the campaign has helped lift spirits and alleviate some of the stress for him and the rest of the Pinball Pete's crew.

"I can't put into the words the impact it's had on my family, and the way it's made everybody in the business feel," Reynolds said.

Pinball Pete's in East Lansing is open with limited hours, capacity limits and social distancing guidelines. Reynolds said coming down to the arcade, respecting the rules and enjoying some classic games is a great way to help Pinball Pete's keep its neon lights on.

OUT ON THE TOWN

Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com. Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesdays for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Suzi at (517) 999-6704.

Wednesday, January 13

New Moon Ritual - experience embracing the energy of the New Moon. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Zoom link at weaversoftheweb.org.

Thursday, January 14

Glittering Snowflake Mason Jar - Pagans Night Out - 6:30-8:30 p.m. Paint Your Poison online event at paintyourpoison.com. 517-220-0058.

Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual) - 6-7 p.m. facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing

Studio (in)Process: Upcycle Edition - Landfills in the US receive over 11 million tons of textiles each year. 8-9 p.m. MSU Broad Art Lab. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Friday, January 15

Liz Carroll with Jake Charron - From the Archives: Audio from Liz Carroll with Jake Charrons Feb. East Lansing. Go to tenpoundfiddle.org.

Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual) - 7:30-8:30 p.m. facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing

Vivaldi, Harlin, & Villa Lobos - 7:30 p.m. On Demand Digital Concert, available at LSOvideo.com. lansingsymphony.org.

Saturday, January 16

Brass Philly - the best damn philly in Michigan every Saturday! 9:30 p.m.-12 a.m. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E Michigan Ave,

Lansing. Call 517-999-7549 to order.

Drive-Through Mobile Food Distribution - Distribution of free, fresh and non-perishable food items to City of Lansing residents. 9-11 a.m. First United Methodist Church, 3827 Delta River Dr, Lansing. lansingmi.gov.

Make It! Think Tank Workshops - For ages 9-14. Opportunity to build new skills and get creative. 7-9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116.

Thermochromic Clay Lanterns - 10 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Sunday, January 17

Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual) - 6-7 p.m. facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing


Monday, January 18

Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual) - 6-7 p.m. facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing

Tuesday, January 19

Virtual Habitat Hall Tour at the MSU Museum - Curious what the dinosaurs have been up to while you've been away? Join us on a virtual tour of the Habitat Hall at the MSU Museum! 12:30-1:30 p.m. museum.msu.edu

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Dorothy Doherty, Svalbard Global Seed Vault, Spitsbergen Island, Norway, from the series Archiving Eden: The Vaults, 2008-present. Courtesy the artist and Holly Johnson Gallery, Dallas.

broadmuseum.msu.edu

MSU BROAD



Chamber Series

Thursday, January 21st • 7:30 p.m.

Joseph Boulogne: Sonata in G minor Op 1b No 3

Brahms: Sonata no. 2 in A major

Arvo Pärt: Fratres

William Grant Still: Suite for violin and piano

Amy Beach: Romance

Featuring Yvonne Lam, Violin and Zhihua Tang, Piano

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**Don't see it?
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Lightning rolls and moon rocks — an otherworldly weed experience

Blasting off to another planet with luxury products from Owosso's Lume

By KYLE KAMINSKI

Lume Cannabis Co. opened its doors for adult-use marijuana sales last February — marking the first pot shop to launch in Owosso since recreational weed was legalized in Michigan in 2018.

City ordinances allow up to four dispensaries there. Lume operates nine other shops: Adrian, Big Rapids, Honor, Jackson, Lowell, Mackinaw City, Petersburg, Walled Lake and Alpena.

There are plenty of more local options for premium-grade cannabis that don't require a drive halfway to Flint, but Lume appears to be the only store within at least 50 miles of Lansing to sell moon rocks — bud dipped in hash rosin and then rolled in kief. And they were well worth the trip.

Lume — Lume Rocks
Price — \$55

THC content — 54.4%

Lume Rocks are Lume's version of moon rocks, which have earned a spot in stoner history as one of the most potent cannabis concoctions ever to be assembled. Premium flower coated in house-made solventless hash rosin, then blanketed in a layer of house-blended kief — a combination that is almost guaranteed to send even veteran pot smokers into a mild coma.

So, how do you smoke them? Not in a joint. These incredibly sticky buds almost always clock in above 40% THC, are designed only for glass pipes and are best enjoyed by tucking a small nugget into the middle of a bong bowl of premium flower or by sprinkling some shards on top.

The oily rocks, because they've been soaked in rosin, are a dark shade of brown on the inside and bubble under the flame, producing a heavy, dab-like and terpene-rich taste that made me break a sweat after the first hit.

It was smooth, fruity and clean. And holy hell, my head vibrated. Ever scraped resin balls from a bowl? Moon rocks are just like that, but they actually taste great. I know I watched at least two hours of Netflix after polishing off a half-gram and settling into the couch, but I honestly couldn't tell you what show was on the screen. Instead, I spent the time devouring an entire bag of potato chips and wondering wheth-



Lansterdam:

Lume Cannabis Co.

116 N. Washington St.,
Owosso
(989) 494-4527
lume.com

er the mind-numbing effects of the Lume rocks were actually early onset COVID-19 symptoms. It turned out I was just incredibly stoned — to the point where I felt like I had to consciously remember to breathe in and out.

All told, I don't think I've been this high since college. I woke up in the morning with puffy eyes and a heavy appetite, wondering how I managed to fall asleep on the couch before midnight.

Lume — Blueberry Crumble
Lightning Roll
Price — \$65

THC content — 44.9%

My jaw dropped when I saw the price tag on these luxurious joints from Lume. Less than a gram for \$65 is inherently insane; I recognize that. This is purely a special occasion product, a birthday joint, something you pick up when you're trying to impress your pot-head friends.

That being said: It was easily the best joint I've ever had the pleasure of smoking.

Much like the moon rocks, these pre-rolled joints are the trifecta of cannabis concoctions — filled with premium indica Blueberry Crumble, coated in sticky THC distillate and then rolled in a heavy layer Orange Cream kief. Together, this 0.7 gram joint tested at a whopping 44.9% THC.

Each sweet-tasting puff hit like it was from a dab rig as the distillate bubbled along the edges of the joint, leading to a slow and even burn throughout. The ash was also noticeably white — a sign of purity, showing that this harvest had been properly flushed during the cultivation process.

Kyle Kaminski is a City Pulse staff writer and cannabis enthusiast who has been smoking marijuana just about every day for the last decade. Every week, Kaminski samples some of the best cannabis products available in Greater Lansing, gets real high and writes about them.

Favorite Things

Melik Brown and his Honda motorcycle



Melik Brown is a jack-of-all-trades. He's a comedian, promoter, spoken word artist, photographer, videographer, musician and he helps celebrate all things 517 with his company LansingMade. Brown's favorite thing is a Honda VTX1800. He explained why riding his motorcycle is so therapeutic.

My favorite thing is a Honda VTX1800 motorcycle I got five years ago. I was in a tumultuous time in my life — meaning that most things in my life were chaos, personal and business-wise. I was trying to figure out how to restore some peace and levity, and I remembered that there were points of time in my life where I had motorcycles and it was a lot of fun.

After I figured out that I wanted a motorcycle, I realized I didn't have

enough money to pay for one. I came up with this crazy scheme to work out a business deal with a local company. I went to College Bike Shop, went to the owner and said, "I have a crazy idea." We agreed on the crazy idea, and I worked out a deal to get a motorcycle.

When it came time to choose the motorcycle, the owner, who was very knowledgeable, directed me to this particular motorcycle. It was orange, and I couldn't stand the color of it. But everything else fit and I ended

up with the motorcycle.

At the time this motorcycle was originally produced, it was one of the highest CC models a consumer could get with an upright roadster. It's not a crotch rocket, you're not doing zero to 60 in two seconds — that's not your thing. But you're able to have this power that can bring you through. It's not fast off the line, but it's not slow off the line. When you're up to 50-70 mph, there's still enough power to make quick decisions.

It was springtime and every night after work I'd go for a ride. Driving a motorcycle is one of the few things you can do on the ground that resembles flying. Part of the thrill is the fact that you have no walls and that you have to be extremely aware of everything around you.

Lots of dumb stuff can happen; I've seen a couch fall out of the back of a truck. You're on two wheels and you've got four inches, at most, of rubber that's keeping you alive. If you learn how to anticipate situations, there's a sense of being able to control the chaos.

My favorite place to ride is anywhere I've never been before. The highway is terrible most of the time, so I prefer back roads. I'd rather deal with a deer or a turkey than deal with a bunch of yahoos doing a bunch of weaving back and forth on the highway.

Interview edited and condensed by Skyler Ashley. If you have a suggestion for favorite things, please email Skyler@LansingCityPulse.com



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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Must Be '21 to Enter"—happy new year to you!
by Matt Jones

- Across**
- 1 "21 ____" (2003 Sean Penn film)
- 6 Go on and on
- 10 1982 movie with a 2010 sequel
- 14 Quick text that's usually abbreviated even more
- 15 Pilot's prefix
- 16 Mandlikova of tennis
- 17 "Raging Bull" boxer Jake La ____
- 18 Person, place, or thing, in grammar
- 19 One of many for "Game of Thrones"
- 20 Band whose album "No Need to Argue" features the track "Twenty One" (followed by their biggest hit, "Zombie")
- 23 ____ de los Muertos
- 24 Largest continent
- 25 Trivia locale, once (and hopefully in the future)
- 28 "Frozen" snowman
- 31 "Great British Bake Off" fixtures
- 35 Ending for suburban
- 36 Rattled
- 38 Actress Falco of "The Sopranos"
- 39 1950s news involving Charles Van Doren and "Twenty-One"
- 43 Primal calling
- 44 Holiday spread
- 45 Kind of wind or will
- 46 Opposite combatant
- 48 "Live!" cohost for 20+ years
- 49 1994 and 1997 U.S. Open winner Ernie
- 50 Icicle lights locale
- 53 "Skyfall" actor Rapace

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
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62						63				64				65
66						67				68				
69						70				71				

- 55 Place to play Twenty-One
- 56 Penguins' milieu
- 57 Former "Whose Line" host Carey
- 58 "Spunk" author Zora ____ Hurston
- 59 Present prefix
- 60 "Rondo ____ Turca" (Mozart piece)
- 61 Casual goodbyes
- 62 Calamities
- 63 Bigfoot's Tibetan cousin
- 64 Singer with the Grammy-winning album "21"
- 65 Florida explorer Ponce de ____
- 66 Caribbean island near Venezuela
- 67 Skeletal makeup
- 68 Poem with the line "Darkness there and nothing more"
- 69 "Mr. Robot" actor Malek
- 70 "The joke's ____"
- 71 Some House votes
- 72 "Lord of the Flies" leader
- 73 2014 World Cup final city
- 74 Irritated state
- 75 Half a 360
- 76 Neutral, blah color
- 77 Starting on
- 78 Less numerous
- 79 Murphy of 2021's "Coming 2 America"
- 80 Former One Direction member Horan
- 81 Markets successfully
- 82 Public TV chef Ming ____
- 83 "Back to the Future" director Robert
- 84 \$100 bill, in old slang
- 85 Fleet-footed heroine of Greek myth
- 86 It's milked in Tibet
- 87 Truman declaration of 9/2/45
- 88 Country-blues guitarist Steve
- 89 Draw ____ on (take aim at)
- 90 Waxing target
- 91 Chauffeur-driven vehicle
- 92 Rice who writes of vampires
- 93 Ancient British Isles settler
- 94 "The Bridge on the River ____"
- 95 Hurrying, maybe
- 96 Airline to Jerusalem
- 97 Language suffix

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SUDOKU

Intermediate

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

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 27

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsný

January 13-19, 2021

ARIES (March 21–April 19): As you ripen into a more fully embodied version of yourself, you will summon ever-greater discrimination about where to seek your inspiration. I trust that you will increasingly divest yourself of any tendency you might have to play around with just any old mediocre fire. More and more, you will be drawn to high-quality blazes that provide just the right amount of heat and light—neither too much nor too little. And you will steadfastly refrain from jumping into the flames, as glamorously dramatic as that might seem—and instead be a master of deft maneuvers that enable you to get the exact energy you need.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): Denstu is a major Japanese advertising agency headquartered in Tokyo. Annually since 1925, its new employees and freshly promoted executives have carried out a company ritual: climbing 12,388-foot-high Mount Fuji, Japan's tallest peak. The theme of the strenuous workout is this: "We are going to conquer the symbol that represents Japan more than anything else. And, once we do that, it will signify that we can do anything." In anticipation of what I suspect will be a year of career gains for you, Taurus, I invite you to do the following: Sometime in the next six weeks, go out in nature and perform an equivalent feat.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): Today I received a new email from a Gemini friend who lives in London. It was date-stamped January 15, 2015. Weird! In it, she talked about applying for a new job at a publishing company. That was double weird, because February 2015 was in fact the time she had gotten the editing job that she still has. Her email also conveyed other details about her life that I knew to be old history. So why did it arrive now, six years late? I called her on the phone to see if we could unravel the mystery. In the end we concluded that her email had time-traveled in some inexplicable way. I predict that a comparable event or two will soon happen in your life, Gemini. Blasts from the past will pop in as if yesterday were today.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): Eugene Sue (1804–1857) was a popular French author whose stories often offered sympathetic portrayals of the harsh living conditions endured by people of the lower economic class. Writing generously about those downtrodden folks made him quite wealthy. I'd love to see you employ a comparable strategy in the coming year. What services might you perform that would increase your access to money and resources? How could you benefit yourself by helping and uplifting others?

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): The beautiful and luxurious fabric known as silk comes from cocoons spun by insect larvae. Sadly for the creatures that provide the raw material, they're usually killed by humans harvesting their handiwork—either by being stabbed or boiled alive. However, there is a special kind of silk in which manufacturers spare the lives of their benefactors. The insects are allowed to mature into moths and escape. I propose that we make them your spirit creatures in the coming weeks. It's an excellent time for you to take an inventory of everything you do, and evaluate how well it upholds the noble principle of "Do no harm."

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): "Any time that is not spent on love is wasted," declared the Italian poet Torquato Tasso. Although I am sympathetic with his sentiment, I can't agree that acts of love are the only things ever worth doing. Sometimes it's healthy to be motivated by anger or sadness or skepticism, for example. But I do suspect the coming weeks will be a favorable time for you to be in intense devotion to Tasso's counsel. All the important successes you achieve will be rooted in an intention to express love and compassion.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): I heard a story about how a music aficionado took a Zen Buddhist monk to a performance of Beethoven's "Symphony

No. 5". The monk wasn't impressed. "Not enough silence!" he complained. I'm puzzled by that response. If the monk were referring to a busy intersection in a major city, I might agree with him, or the cacophony of a political argument among fanatics on Facebook. But to want more silence in one of history's greatest pieces of music? That's perverse. With this in mind, Libra, and in accordance with astrological omens, I encourage you to seek extra protection from useless noise and commotion during the coming weeks—even as you hungrily seek out rich sources of beautiful information, sound, and art.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): "Some people expend tremendous energy merely to be normal," wrote Scorpio author Albert Camus. If you're one of those folks, I'm happy to inform you that you have cosmic permission to relax. The coming weeks will be an excellent time to explore the pleasures of NOT being conventional, standard, ordinary, average, routine, prosaic, or common. As you expansively practice non-normalcy, you will enhance your health, sharpen your wits, and clarify your decisions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): Our lives tend to be shaped by the stories about ourselves that we create and harbor in our imaginations. The adventures we actually experience, the problems we actually face, are often (not always) in alignment with the tales we tell ourselves about our epic fates. And here's the crux of the matter: We can change the stories we tell ourselves. We can discard tales that reinforce our pain, and dream up revised tales that are more meaningful and pleasurable. I believe 2021 will be an excellent time for you to attend to this fun work. Your assignment: Be a self-nurturing storyteller.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): Capricorn author Edgar Allen Poe named "four conditions for happiness: life in the open air; love of another human being; freedom from all ambition; creation." I'm accomplished in three of those categories, but a failure in being free of all ambitions. In fact, I'm eternally delighted by all the exciting creative projects I'm working on. I'm VERY ambitious. What about you, Capricorn? I'm going to contradict Poe and speculate that your happiness in the coming months will require you to be at least somewhat ambitious. That's what the planetary omens are telling me. So what are the best goals and dreams for you to be ambitious about?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): It's time to launch Operation Supple Watchdog. That means you should be tenderly vigilant as you take extra good care of everyone and everything that provide you with meaning and sustenance. It means you should exercise rigorous but good-humored discernment about any oppressive or demeaning ideas that are flying around. You should protect and preserve the vulnerable parts of your life, but do so with tough-minded compassion, not ornery overreactions. Be skeptical, but warm; breezily resilient but always ready to stand up for what's right. (P.S. The better you shield yourself against weird surprises, the more likely it is you'll attract interesting surprises.)

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): The atoms that compose your body have existed for billions of years. Originally created by a star, they have been part of many forms before you. But they are exactly the same in structure as they have ever been. So in a very real sense, you are billions of years old. Now that you know that, how do you feel? Any different? Stronger? More expansive? More eternal? I bring these thoughts to your attention, Pisces, because 2021 will be an excellent year for you to come to a more profound and detailed understanding of your true nature. I hope you will regularly meditate on the possibility that your soul is immortal, that your identity is not confined to this historical era, that you have been alive and will be alive for far longer than you've been taught to believe.

TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

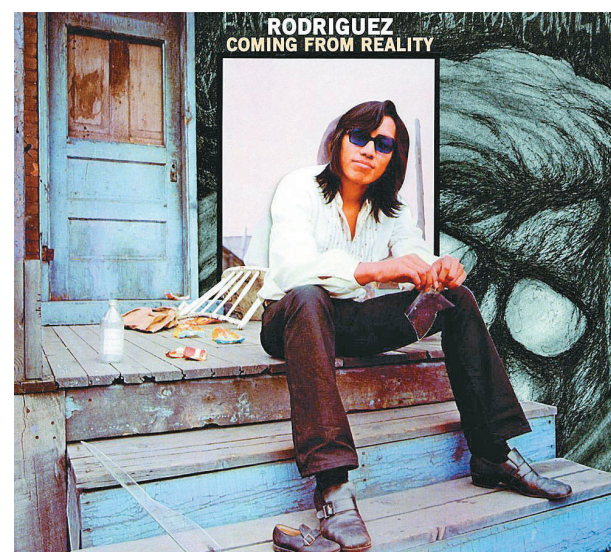
A LOOK BACK AT THAT TIME SIXTO RODRIGUEZ DISSED THE MC5



Sixto Rodriguez, shown here in 1969, is now 78 and lived through decades of musical obscurity. (Courtesy photo)



"Cold Fact" LP, 1970



"Coming from Reality" LP, 1971

Detroit street-poet folkie appeared in the '60s then disappeared

In a 1969 interview, Mexican-American singer-songwriter Sixto Rodriguez had some harsh words for some of his fellow Michigan musicians. "I don't have much respect for the MC5 because they stopped fighting the machine," he casually told the Detroit Free Press.

While today both parties are known for their own revolutionary sonic missions, it's no wonder why Rodriguez felt lukewarm about the hard-partying and grandstanding MC5. While the MC5 boys came from comfortable backgrounds, Rodriguez lived the life he sang about. He was, and still is, a true underdog — a disconnected outsider who sings songs for other outcasts.

"I grew up in an orphanage and I'm grateful to the sisters of the Roman Catholic corporation for all they gave me and instilling that higher motivation thing," he said in the same 1969 interview. "But that doesn't work on the street, you know?"

And he knew all about the streets. During his 1950s youth, it

served as his makeshift education. Though he never attended high school, he took part in the University of Michigan's mature student program in the late '60s. He fought for his education. "Street life teaches you a lot," he said at the time. "At school, they're just giving me different names for the things already in my head. ... I function out of the reality of things around me."

And that reality is cemented on his two now-legendary albums: 1970's "Cold Fact" and 1971's "Coming from Reality." Billed simply under the name Rodriguez, the now-cherished records flopped here in the United States, causing the songwriter to sink deeper into the underground and step away from the stage. For years, his small but loyal fanbase didn't know if he was dead or alive. Info on him was scarce. His followers were limited to reading tidbits written in his LP liner notes and clues he peppered into his poignant storytelling song lyrics.

However, on the other side of the globe, his two loner-folk

LPs were secretly bootlegged and released in the Apartheid-era South Africa. Because it was pre-Internet, Rodriguez didn't even hear about his South African success until years later. There, he was a mysterious celebrity, but here in the U.S. he was living hand to mouth in inner-city Detroit.

So what sound was it that captivated a far-away country to worship an unknown Motor City folkie? A 27-year old Rodriguez explained it best. "Some people say I'm a folk singer because most of my stuff is soft with an acoustic guitar and all that," the prophetic songwriter said. "But on my album, there are some very Motown-ish things. The division they talk of in music really isn't there. ... Later on, they'll integrate music on the stations. There'll be no 'This is ours and that is theirs.' It's all music. It's the universal thing."

After years of obscurity, after a slowly swelling grassroots cult following grew, Rodriguez finally got his due. He began touring the world, sharing stages with the likes of Brian Wilson. During the last

decade, he's gone from scraping by, to earning an easy living thanks to his poetic songbook.

In 2012, his life was artfully documented in the "Searching for Sugar Man" film ("Sugar Man" being one of his most notable tracks). That year, it won the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. Not a bad feather in the cap for most, but the elusive Rodriguez was nowhere to be found at the ceremony. He later humbly admitted he didn't want to steal attention from the filmmakers, among a few other reasons.

"We also just came back from South Africa and I was tired," the forever-enigmatic Rodriguez told Rolling Stone at the time. "I was asleep when it won, but my daughter Sandra called to tell me. I don't have TV service anyway."



Library of Michigan announces 2021 MI Notable Books

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Each year, the Library of Michigan selects 20 Michigan Notable Books, which are published during the previous calendar year and are either about Michigan, set in Michigan, or written by a Michigan author. The selections are made by a panel of mostly librarians from across the state, and include a variety of genres, both fiction and nonfiction.

"The diversity of these books reflects the diversity of our state," said Michael Rice, the state superintendent for public instruction. "People, especially children, need to experience through reading the lives and contributions of people like themselves in addition to others about whom they are not familiar. Books should be mirrors that reflect our own lives, as well as windows for us to see others."

The books that are being honored are: "Black Bottom Saints," by Alice Randall

The life of a celebrated Detroit columnist, nightclub emcee and fine arts philanthropist is recounted in this faux memoir that draws inspiration from the Catholic Saints Day Book.

"Boulders: The Life and Creations of Earl A. Young in Charlevoix, Michigan," written by David L. Miles, photography by Mike Barton

Utilizing vintage and contemporary photography, this biography of builder Earl Young showcases his visionary boulder homes.

"City of Champions: A History of Triumph and Defeat in Detroit," by Stefan Szymanski and Silke-Maria Weineck

The history of Detroit is explored through stories of its gifted athletes and celebrated teams, linking iconic sporting events to the city's shifting fortunes.

"The Dead Are Arising: The Life of Malcolm X," by Les Payne and Tamara Payne

The new biography of the iconic civil rights leader draws on hundreds of hours of interviews to offer insight into the life Malcolm X, from his youth through his 1965 assassination.

"Grief's Country: A Memoir in Pieces," by Gail Griffin

Married only four months when her husband's body was found in the Manistee River, this memoir is full of stories of grief and the phenomenon of grief itself.

"Half," by Sharon Harrigan

Growing up, identical twins Paula and Artis speak in one voice. Years later, with

The annual Michigan Notable Books awards ceremony is canceled due to COVID-19. Keep up with future online events hosted by the Library of Michigan by visiting: michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan

lives of their own, they reunite at their father's funeral and retrace their early lives.

"I Have Something to Tell You: A Memoir," by Chasten Buttigieg

A moving, hopeful and refreshingly candid memoir by the husband of presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg about growing up gay in his small Michigan town.

"Isaiah Dunn Is My Hero," by Kelly J. Baptist

Referring to his late father's journal for advice on how to be the man of the house, young Isaiah taps the support of two friends who help him manage without superpowers.

"The King of Confidence: A Tale of Utopian Dreamers, Frontier Schemers, True Believers, False Prophets, and the Murder of an American Monarch," by Miles Harvey

In 1843, James Strang, a young lawyer and avowed atheist, vanished from rural New York. He reappears on the Midwestern frontier and converts to Mormonism. Following the murder of the sect's leader, Joseph Smith, Strang becomes his self-appointed successor, and hundreds of followers join him on Beaver Island, where he declares himself king.

"Lakewood," by Megan Giddings and "The Wicked Sister," by Karen Dionne

These two psychological thrillers about false memory and reality will keep you up well into the night.

"The Mason House," by T. Marie Bertineau

After her father's untimely death,

Theresa faces an unstable childhood. Her grandmother's house in Mason, a former copper mining town in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, becomes her safe house. Gram's passing leaves Theresa facing the destructive grief of her Ojibwe mother and stepfather.

"A People's Atlas of Detroit," edited by Linda Campbell, Andrew Newman, Sara Safransky, and Tim Stallmann

Developed from a community-based project, this book narrates the experiences of 50 people engaged in political battles central to Detroit's future.

"RESPECT: The Poetry of Detroit Music," edited by Jim Daniels and M.L. Liebler

This collection of poems and lyrics covers numerous genres including jazz, blues, doo-wop, Motown, classic rock, punk, hip-hop and techno — all with a focus on Detroit.

"RESPECT: Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul," by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Frank Morrison

Aretha Franklin's musical talent began in her father's Detroit church, where her soaring voice spanned more than three octaves. This children's book follows the life of the Queen of Soul.

"The Ship We Built," by Lexie Bean

A fifth-grader, whose best friends walked away, whose mother is detached and whose father does unspeakable things, copes with the help of a friend.

"The Star in the Sycamore: Discovering Nature's Hidden Virtues in the Wild Nearby," written by Tom Springer, illustrated by Patrick Dengate

This collection of essays shows how we can discover places rich in natural mysteries in the "wild nearby." Springer finds them in secret urban fishing holes and motherly old trees.

"Wolf Island: Discovering the Secrets

of a Mythic Animal," by L. David Mech and Greg Breining

"Wolf Island" recounts three summers and winters L. David Mech spent on Isle Royale National Park, tracking and observing wolves and moose.

"Words like Thunder: New and Used Anishinaabe Prayers," by Lois Beardslee

A collection of poetry centered on the Native people of the Great Lakes by an award-winning Ojibwe author.

"You're in the Wrong Place," by Joseph Harris

The book, composed of 12 stories, begins with the shuttering of a fictional industrial shop located in Ferndale and follows the shop's former employees, friends and families struggles.

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Roots rock

By **ARI LeVAUX**

I was on the hunt for the Winter Pebbles, an assortment of turnips, potatoes, carrots, beets, parsnip and winter radishes that some enterprising farmers at the market sell as a mix. They look like a basket of gleaming jewels. They remind me of Fruity Pebbles, the breakfast of Flintstones.

Storage crops are typically harvested in the fall and kept cool and fresh all winter. Homesteaders would store these tubers in aptly-named root cellars, along with squash, sides of bacon, apples and whatever else they could squirrel away. The pandemic has made us contemplate various end-of-the-world scenarios, and brought out the inner “prepper” in many people. It sounds fun and romantic, but the diet could get old, and any viable attempt to live off the land would mean coming to terms with turnips, and some of the other harder-to-appreciate roots, including celeriac, rutabaga and Jerusalem artichoke.

I had been thinking about Winter Pebbles a lot after they first caught my eye, and had decided to buy some at the next market. Alas, my farmer friend broke the sad news: early that morning, as he was transferring the winter pebbles from their burlap sack into their quart cartons, a gentleman made an offer on the entire sack. The offer was accepted, and the pebbles were gone.

“Oh well, next week I guess,” I said. “Unfortunately, that’s it for the season,” he replied. They were now out of turnips and storage radishes for the year, which means the Winter



Pebbles could no longer be complete.

So there I was, forced by fate to do what I could have done all along: buy a bunch of different roots, and mix them together myself.

But I kept wondering: What was the gentleman going to do with that huge sack of Winter Pebbles? It’s one thing to buy a small amount of Winter Pebbles and cook them right away, but storing a diverse assortment of root crops in the same bag like that can be risky. Each type of tuber will have different storage needs. Radishes, for example, do better in plastic bags, while potatoes, garlic and many others prefer mesh. If you’re buying a large volume of roots and planning on storing them, it’s actually wiser to buy and store them separately.

Winter Pebbles is more of a way of cooking than a specific mix of roots. It’s a way of getting to know what’s local in winter, and of tasting the flavors of the land, or the terroir, if you will. You may not be able to pronounce it, but you’ll know it when you taste it.

Winter Pebble Tart

Visit your market and keep your eyes peeled for your local “Winter Pebbles” mix, or create your own by choosing from different stands.

Tossed in olive oil, salt and pepper, and roasted at 350 until soft, those combined roots create an array of delicious flavors. The bitter flames of turnips and radish create a sharp contrast to the sweet, mel-



A winter mix of root vegetables

low carrots. Maybe next time you’ll skip the turnips. Or add some of the honorary root crops like squash or Brussels sprouts.

If that is not enough micromanagement for you, here is a recipe for a root tart from Kate, the co-inventor of Winter Pebbles.

Serves 4

1 large potato, sliced into ½-inch rounds

1 large carrot, sliced into ½-inch rounds

1 medium parsnip, peeled and sliced into ½-inch rounds

5 Brussels sprouts, sliced in half

1 small red onion, sliced into ½-inch rounds

1/4 cup olive oil

salt and pepper

1/3 cup sugar

1 tablespoon white wine vinegar

1 tablespoon fresh rosemary, chopped

1 tablespoon fresh sage, chopped

10-ounce piece of goat cheese

1 rolled piece of pie dough or pizza dough (or you can skip this part and proceed with the roots)

Preheat oven to 400. Toss the sliced roots in oil and season with salt and pepper. Arrange them in a single layer on a baking pan. Roast until golden and tender, about 40

minutes. Remove from the oven and allow to cool.

Cook the sugar in 2 tablespoons of water in a thick-bottomed saucepan on medium heat, stirring as necessary to prevent burning, until the mixture is amber colored, about 8 minutes. Turn off the heat, add the vinegar and a pinch of salt, and stir it in.

Pour the vinegar into a 9-inch pie pan. Scatter the sage and rosemary over the caramel. Arrange the sliced roots artfully atop the herbs, using pieces to stuff the holes. Sprinkle with the onion slices and crumbled goat cheese. Cover the whole thing with the rolled dough, and bake it at 400 for another 20 minutes, or until the dough is nicely crusted.

Remove from the oven to cool, and invert the pan over a plate to serve.

Flash in the Pan is food writer Ari LeVaux’s weekly recipe column. It runs in about 100 newspapers nationwide, nourishing food sections large and small with complete protein for the belly brain.

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Two new breakfast joints to check out in Lansing

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

Two local joints that have popped up since fall you may have missed are Social Cloth Cafe & Bakery and Sunshine Diner.

Sunshine Diner, located on South Pennsylvania Avenue, offers a conventional breakfast experience familiar to anyone who has graced the booths of Fleetwood or Good Truckin'. From bacon to biscuits, to pancakes and omelets, its menu samples of the cornerstones of American breakfast cuisine.

For diners visiting on their lunch breaks, Sunshine Diner's menu also has a selection of soups, salads and sandwiches. Sunshine Diner also serves a variety of halal biryani rice dishes. But you've got to be an early bird, because the diner closes shop by 3 p.m.

Downtown, the family-owned artisanal shop Social Sloth Cafe & Bakery is serving up Turkish cuisine. Social Sloth dishes out breakfast, baked goods, desserts, plus a selection of special Turkish dishes, including köfte and pide.

Social Sloth's menu is constantly evolving, and the food is made fresh every day. "People have been asking us why we came to Lansing. To that, we say, 'Why not Lansing?'" said Burcay Gunguler, co-owner of the cafe along with her husband, Aybars. "There's no other Turkish food around Lansing. Being unique is always good."

Social Sloth's owners explained that the cheeky name comes from an appreciation of the sloth's lifestyle — one that is relaxed and cozy. "We want people to enjoy their goodies in a mindful way," said Gunguler. "This country is so chaotic, especially nowadays. Everyone is so



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

Burcay (left) and Aybars Gunguler, owners of Social Sloth Cafe & Bakery.

busy. We don't want people to have to be quick."

Staying afloat during the pandemic led the owners of Social Sloth to get creative. In addition to catering services and special holiday menus, the cafe offers virtual cooking classes for foodies stuck at home with nothing to do.

In the classes, which will begin later this month, the Gungulers will guide their students through the preparation of multiple Turkish dishes and share facts about the food culture in Turkey.

"Historically, lots of different nations have lived on the land that is now Turkey. So, there are many, many different kinds of food in Turkey, depending on what region you are in," said Gunguler. "Also, you can find or grow everything over there. Vegetables, wheat, meats and cheeses."

Social Sloth also stocks a variety of Turkish groceries, including canned goods, Turkish coffee, sauces and cheeses.

Opening a cafe in 2020 may not have been easy, but Gunguler said that it was



Sunshine Diner

1040 S. Pennsylvania Ave.,
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(517) 574-5416

Social Sloth Cafe & Bakery

301 S. Washington Ave.,
Lansing
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9 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
(517) 515-0265
SocialSlothCafe.com

definitely worth the trouble. She and her husband just wanted to share their knowledge and love of Turkish food with the community.

"It's good mood food," said Gunguler. "And people are enjoying it so far."

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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SUNDAY FUNDAY

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For use by individuals 21 years of age or older or registered qualifying patients only. Keep out of reach of children. May cause drowsiness.
It is illegal to drive a motor vehicle while under the influence of marihuana. Not intended for redistribution. Testing levels may vary up to 10% from stated amounts.

National Poison Control Center
1-800-222-1222

WARNING: Use by pregnant or breastfeeding women, or by women planning to become pregnant, may result in fetal injury, preterm birth, low birth weight, or developmental problems for the child.