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# Beyond sexual harassment: Inside Vanguard Public Affairs

See page 15



City Pulse • March 31, 2021

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Her search for self-worth was filled with jarring darkness, desperation and hopelessness that almost took her life. Through this case study, Shari helps audiences transform their ideas about clients moving from passive victims to resilient warriors.

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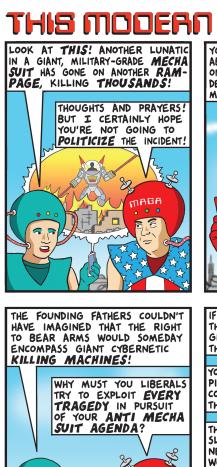
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# THIS MODEAN WOALD



IF YOU WANT A **TRULY** SAFE SOCIETY THEN **EVERYONE** SHOULD HAVE A GIANT ROBOTIC KILLING MACHINE! DEADLIER THE BETTER! THE

YOU'LL PRY ME OUT OF THE COCK. PIT OF MY MECHA SUIT WITH MY COLD DEAD FINGERS STILL GRIPPING THE LASER BLASTER JOYSTICKS



EDITOR AND PUBLISHER • Berl Schwartz publisher@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5061 MANAGING EDITOR • Kyle Kaminski kyle@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6710 ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR • Skyler Ashley skyler@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5068 EVENTS EDITOR/OFFICE MANAGER • Suzi Smith suzi@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6704 PRODUCTION • Abby Sumbler production@lansingcitypulse.com (517) 999-5066 MARKETING/DIGITAL DIRECTOR • Aimee West

aimee@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6708

**STAFF WRITER** • Lawrence Cosentino

lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5065 SALES EXECUTIVE

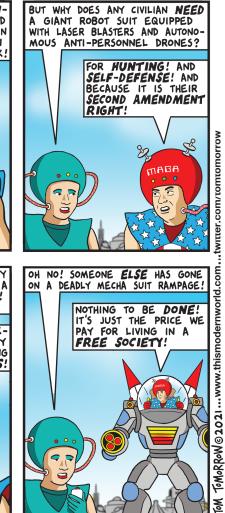
Lee Purdy • lee@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5064 SALES ASSISTANT

Earlisha Scott • earlisha@lansingcitypulse.com

Contributors: Andy Balaskovitz, Justin Bilicki, Sean Bradley, Capital News Service, Bill Castanier, Ryan Claytor, Mary C. Cusack, Tom Helma, Gabrielle Lawrence Johnson, Terry Link, Kyle Melinn, Mark Nixon, Dawn Parker, Dennis Preston, Carrie Sampson, Nevin Speerbrecker, Rich Tupica, Ute Von Der Heyden, David Winkelstern, Paul Wozniak

Delivery drivers: Dave Fisher, Gavin Smith, Jack Sova

by tom tomorrow



# PULSE Man NEWS & OPINION

# I helped to keep the 'worst kept secret' in Lansing

(The Edit this week gives way to a column by Managing Editor Kyle Kaminski, who has been sidelined from reporting on the recent scandal at Vanguard Public Affairs for reasons he explains here.)

I'm not going to explain how there's no room for sexual harassment and abusive behavior in today's society — much less in a so-called professional workplace. That's obvious. The trauma that TJ Bucholz inflicted on so many women at Vanguard Public Affairs is nauseating. It's also appalling that this scandal was able to be kept quiet for so long while impacting so many people.

The real takeaway here is twofold. One: It's become clear, especially in recent years, that young women now run Lansing. Their experiences must be believed. Their voices must be amplified. Also, as a society, we must hold people accountable for their actions and actively dismantle the power structures that allowed for Lansing's "worst kept secret" to be kept so guiet for so long.

As a former Vanguard staffer recently opined, it can be easy to fixate on the salacious details, to focus on the shock value of sexual impropriety. But that misses the point. If you don't examine the dynamics that allow emotional abuse to occur, it will repeat. Only the details will change.

Instead, let's keep focused on the people and power structures that enabled the abuse to occur.

Before I continue, I want to clear the air: I've been in a romantic relationship for about eight years with a former employee of Vanguard Public Affairs. During that time, I got to know Bucholz more than many. He paid for my ticket to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's inaugural ball in Detroit. He also bought us a fancy bottle of champagne to toast our engagement on his downtown patio.

Bucholz has never been a friend, but he has been a source and a professional acquaintance.

I've also listened to firsthand stories of his emotionally abusive behavior for years. It's for these reasons I've tried to keep my distance from this coverage at City Pulse over the last week.

And it's from this vantage point I've reached a startling conclusion: I'm a part of the problem.

I can't count the number of stories I've heard about Bucholz' explosive temper at the office. When I saw how he liked to keep a staff of mostly young women, I



# The CP Edit

# **Opinion**

thought it was odd. When I heard how he liked to show off his handgun in the office, I thought it was strange. When my fianceé complained about workplace toxicity, I did my best to console her after a "long day."

Nobody ever pitched me with a "story" about Bucholz' behavior. I never swept tales of mental abuse under the rug. Instead, like so many others in Lansing, I found a way to look past them, to think: "Well here's another crappy boss that gives off creepy vibes. Let's not give him attention."

Worse yet, I allowed myself to become part of the structure that enabled this alleged abuse.

Allowing that inadvertent, loose connection to Bucholz, even if I hadn't realized the full extent of his misconduct, only helped him to maintain his image one that included surrounding himself with as many powerful friends as possible, both in the media industry and in the political world.

It's an environment that encourages silence, that works to minimize and dismiss concerns.

And that's the wrong answer. These allegations

against Bucholz aren't a display of extremes, but what instead has developed over years into an accepted form of workplace management. Angry outbursts and sexualized comments only play into uncomfortable and toxic power dynamics. We must all do more to speak up and call out this behavior or risk victimizing others.

Sam Inglot, deputy director at Progress Michigan, put it succinctly on Twitter over the weekend: As men, we need to be part of that culture change and always call out harm when we see it or when we hear about it. Being one of the "good guys" is a state of action, not a personality trait.

As the latest chapter in yet another overdue #MeToo movement in Lansing reaches a head, this moment can be uncomfortable for men. Perhaps some are scared of their own skeletons being unburied. But staying silent is not the right approach. It only serves as an endorsement, a tacit acceptance of this

behavior and a sign that it can continue unchecked and without intervention.

### Clarification

Conflicting reports have raised questions about the accuracy of our coverage last week regarding reports of a "suicide attempt/threat" at Bucholz' home in Grand Ledge. Although Bucholz' attorney disputes aspects of the story, we stand behind our coverage.

Based on information from an extremely well-placed but anonymous source, we reported on Thursday that Bucholz had been transported by ambulance from his home following a "apparent suicide attempt," as the source put it On Friday, dispatchers confirmed they received a 10:57 a.m. call on Thursday for a "suicide attempt/threat" at Bucholz' address in Grand Ledge by a 50-year-old man, which describes Bucholz. Dispatchers do not know if or how he was transported to the hospital. Our source acknowledged jumping to a conclusion that he was transported by ambulance but maintained he was taken to Sparrow. Having dealt with this source on many stories and knowing how he obtained the information, we find his information credible overall, despite the error, which the source and City Pulse regret.

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

# Feds need to keep an eye on Michigan schools

### **By DEDRIA HUMPHRIES BARKER**

An annual educational activity everyone hates - but is necessary particularly in the **OPINION** 



pandemic — will roll out at the end of this

wake

of the

school year. It is assessment. That is the measurement of learning. The COVID-19 pandemic wrecked the school year 2020-'21. Assessment will tell us just how wrecked it is.

Education officials on all levels want to know this information, but the normal ways of getting the information won't work, said Michael Rice, the Michigan superintendent of public instruction. That is what he told the U.S. Education Department when he asked that assessment conducted at federal levels be waived.

Changes like this require a public comment period. Nearly 300 comments were given, and an overwhelming majority, 96%, backed up Rice. I am right there with them, up to a point. That point is, the assessment is going to be conducted to the benchmark of state education standards, not national standards.

That's not cool. Michigan is doing poorly on the education front. We used to be a premiere education state with public universities including the Harvard of the Midwest, the largest single campus medical school in the nation, and the premier land-grant university. And Black students aspired and were admitted to these schools.

But now we are an education experiment, including charter schools cannibalizing public school districts. Michigan K-12 education ranks 38 of 50 states, the National Center for Education Statistics reports. Only 50% of our high school graduates go to college.

"Over the last fifteen years," wrote the advocacy group, The Education Trust-Mid-West, "Michigan's relative rank has fallen dramatically in early reading and math student achievement compared to the rest of the country. Gains made by the nation are not being shared in Michigan. Data suggest Michigan's K-12 education system is witnessing a systemic failure."

The Education Trust-Mid-West is concerned with Michigan students,



especially African-American, Latinx

and poor students. The nonpartisan.

data-driven education policy, research

and advocacy organization is an affili-

ate of a national group, The Education

Trust. It is supported by foundations

The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

located in these cities: The W.K.

(Flint), Skillman Foundation,

Foundation (Grand Rapids).

Nevada and Mississippi.

schools enough.

sures.

standard.

and Max M. and Marjory Fisher

Foundation (Detroit) and Steelcase

The Education Trust-Midwest said

Michigan is among the worst educa-

tion states in the country, worse than

If you haven't heard Michigan called

Miss-chi-gan, you aren't talking about

Let's talk about educational mea-

Assessment is not just another test.

Assessment measures where the stu-

dent sits relative to where they should

be. And the entire district is judged by

that. It is a system by which instruc-

tion and learning is judged against a

Assessment looks at both teaching

achievements of all students studying

standard. The faculty decide what stu-

the same subject. That is called the

and learning by requiring certain

traditionally abysmal states such as

Kellogg Foundation (Battle Creek)

Courtesy Dedria Humphries Barker

dents should learn and agree to teach to that. How they teach that is the educator's business, or used to be.

In the end each student needs to know the same basic skills and knowledge. A good example is grade three reading. Michigan's Read by Grade Three Law requires third graders be up to snuff on reading by the end of that year, or they are not promoted.

The law is a judgment on teachers and parents who suffered with lawmakers who siphoned off money from the public schools for decades. It takes money to educate people, but in Michigan we have cheaped our way through.

It started with the lottery. In 1972, voters were led to believe they were adding to the public school dollars. Actually, the way it works is lottery dollars replace tax dollars.

What have lawmakers expanded instead? Prisons. Numerous reports, including "Misplaced Priorities: A New Report from NAACP" (2020), show that poor education is a sure path to prison.

The assessment waiver the state superintendent requested would not relax the Read by Grade Three Law. That's a good thing. People fall into a deep dark pit when they fall behind in learning to read. English is a difficult language, what with borrowing words

and grammar rules from so many other languages.

I wrestled with assessment during my 18 years teaching at Lansing Community College. Like many people, at first I didn't get it at all.

I taught college composition. One writing standard was critical thinking: Does the student question information?

In our assessment, a few student essays were drawn from each class and judged. Did the student meet, fall below or exceed the standard? That was indicated with a check ( $\checkmark$ ), check minus ( $\checkmark$ -) or check plus ( $\checkmark$ +). The data showed if our program was doing what we said we wanted it to do.

Real estate can also help explain assessment.

Homeowners get a city or township property assessment each year on their house to help determine taxes. It generally looks at the house against the standard of the neighborhood. When it's time to sell, the market value of the house relies on an appraisal. Home owners want low assessments so their taxes will be low, and high appraisals so they can sell for top dollar.

Assessments work in education as they do in real estate. A reputation as a poor school district is the high tax paid when a district falls behind other districts. Appraisal is evaluation. Evaluation is familiar to every person who ever was a student. Evaluation is grades given to specific students from specific classroom teachers. Teachers vary. Some won't give low or failing grades. Others shy from giving high grades. Everyone has their pets. I did.

School districts want their assessments high and their appraisals accurate.

Michigan students already have big gaps in their learning, so much so that remedial instruction is now offered at our state universities. On the 2020-2021 assessment The U.S. Department of Education must keep both eyes on Michigan.

(Dedria Humphries Barker, of Lansing, chairs The Andrew and Mary Jane Humphries Foundation, and authored "Mother of Orphans: The True and Curious Story of Irish Alice, a Colored Man's Widow" (New York: 2Leaf Press, 20202). Her opinion column appears on the last Wednesday of every month in City Pulse.)

# A region of firsts: **Ingham County's female leadership**

**By SARAH ANTHONY, JULIE BRIXIE** and KARA HOPE OPINION



(The authors are Democratic state representatives from Greater Lansing.) In her victo-

ry speech, Vice

President Kamala

Harris confidently

stated: "I may be

the first woman to

hold this office, but

I will not be the

last."

Anthony



Brixie



Watching this historic moment unfold with thousands of others across the country, the weight of her words brought an overwhelming sense of hope and pride for women everywhere. The climb to the top may be long,

tumultuous and unpredictable, but all it takes is one woman at the top to uncover new, previously hidden routes for others.

Here in mid-Michigan, women have benefited from the momentum and strides of inspirational women leaders for decades. It's easy to forget that Michigan moguls like Debbie Stabenow and Gretchen Whitmer had their start right here in our community, and the path was not easy for them.

In 2000, Stabenow became the first woman from Michigan elected to serve in the U.S. Senate. Since then, she has gone on to become a senior senator and mainstay in the U.S. Capitol building – fighting for Michigan's agricultural industry, our Great Lakes and the working families that drive our economy.

A few years later, Dianne Byrum became the first woman to lead a caucus in our state Capitol. Almost a decade later, a young State Sen. Gretchen Whitmer joined her in the ranks by becoming the first woman to lead a Michigan Senate caucus. We know now that Whitmer would go on to courageously lead the state during one of the most divisive and

dangerous times on modern record, along with the support of the most diverse cabinet in Michigan's history.

In 2012, State Rep. Sarah Anthony became the youngest African American woman to serve as a county commissioner in the U.S. and went on to become the first African American woman to serve as state representative for the city of Lansing in 2018. She was joined in the halls of the Capitol by Reps. Kara Hope and Julie Brixie in January of 2019, marking the first time all three House seats in Ingham County were held by women.

The ripples of these "firsts" have been tremendous for our region. Today, women make up 25% of Ingham County's elected offices and 64.7% of Ingham County's judges. For the first time, the 54A District Court is made up of entirely female judges. With diverse leadership at the top, we have taken a bold stance that our region governs through a lens of diversity, inclusivity and equity-guiding principles that have contributed to socially progressive policies at every level.

Under the direction of Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail, the Ingham Community Health Center became the only community health center in Michigan to be awarded the "Leader in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality" status. As the first woman to be elected as Ingham County Prosecutor, Carol Siemon also set a groundbreaking internal policy guiding staff to treat individuals in accordance with their preferred gender identity.

It is important that we recognize and celebrate the contributions of these effective, thoughtful leaders not just during Women's History Month, but each and every day. As the state representatives for Ingham County, we will do our best to follow in the footsteps of the Mid-Michigan women who have done so much for our region and paved the way for future leaders like us.



# What we learned from Weiser's visit to North Oakland

Michigan **Republican Party** Chair Ron Weiser doesn't typically peak at public events for a reason. To be generous. OPINION his

reputation isn't one of firing up a crowd.

**KYLE MELINN** 

The former ambassador's forté is raising money. He's very good at it. If he can't raise it all, he'll dig into his own deep pocket to cover the difference

But on Thursday, Weiser was pushed into duty. The influential North Oakland County Republican Club had a meeting where a MIGOP presence was needed. His charismatic Co-chairwoman, Meshawn Maddock, was out of the town.

His first public speaking engagement since being elected MRP chairman was rough. The North Oakland County area is a former Tea Party hotbed. It went headfirst into Trumpism early in the '16 cycle. Now, it's one of many homes to the grumpy disaffected.

To them, the election was rigged. The media is biased. Social progressivism is being shoved down their throat. The illegals are crashing the southern border. COVID is BS and so are the governor's restrictions. They'd say more about it, but they're tired of being shamed and canceled on social media.

It's to these irritable folks with their middle finger perpetually hoisted in the air that Weiser spoke. He clearly wasn't comfortable. Still, we all learned several notable key takeaways that are easy to miss simply looking at the headlines.

1. If you weren't aware, the Republican Party base is cranky and there's a lot of them. Remember, Trump didn't win Michigan in 2016 by a lot and he didn't lose in 2020 by a lot. Polling would indicate there's a solid 40% of voters – mostly rural, high school educated, blue collar voters - who fall into 'Disaffected bucket."

2. Weiser referred to the governor, secretary of state and attorney general as the "three witches" who must be defeated in 2020. This wasn't a slip of the tongue. He said "witches" three

Weiser was throwing red-meat rhetoric to a hostile crowd and clearly went over the top with his "burning at the stake" political hyperbole. However, there's folks in the crowd who wished he'd use a different word than "witches." A rhyming word and starts with a "B."

To them, "witches" is a tame descriptor, kind of like "fix the darn roads."

So, while the political left is going bonkers trying to keep the ball rolling on this story, just keep in mind that there's GOP grassroots who would be fine with a lot worse language. Don't be surprised if others use worse.

3. The crowd pressed Weiser on what should be done to U.S. Reps. Fred Upton and Peter Meijer for voting to impeach Trump. His answer: If primary voters don't like their vote, they can vote them out of office in 2022. That wasn't good enough. They wanted Weiser to openly say they "need to go" or something along those lines.

As chairman of the party, Weiser isn't going to do that. Agitated and unsure of how else to get his point across, Weiser blurted out in clear frustration that they could be "assassinated." He clearly wasn't advocating it. He was making a point that in a democracy, we vote people out we don't like. That's it. He made the point poorly and won't do it again.

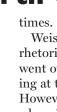
Weiser is walking a tight rope. He's used to reasoning with successful people who understand the way the world and politics works. Many Republican supporters aren't interested in reasonable right now.

4. Weiser mentioned a 2022 voting reform ballot proposal that will come out of whatever the governor vetoes from the legislative Republicans' 40-some bills moving through the system. A return to ID checks before voting, even for absentees? No prepaid postage on AV ballots? Drop boxes closed at 5 p.m. the day before an election?

Who knows what will ultimately get thrown into the soup? That's not the point. The point is the lengths Weiser and GOP leadership are going to connect with their disgruntled base.

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







8

**125 E. Mt. Hope Ave. in Lansing** This week's eyesore is rooted in a tragedy.

Authorities said a 27-year-old man lost control of his car while driving west past this home on Mount Hope Avenue last June, striking a utility pole before rolling into a parked truck. His car burst into two pieces, killing the driver and sending half of his car flying into the home at this address.

The two-story home burst into flames, leading to extensive damage but no additional injuries.

The decaying structure now serves as a tragic reminder of the crash, as well as an eyesore for the local neighborhood — first appearing on our radar this week through chatter on the NextDoor, an app for neighborhoods where you can get local tips, buy and sell items and more.

(Yes. Our reporters are on Nextdoor now.)

The doors and windows on the lower level are boarded up. Upper floor windows are shattered. An air conditioning unit teeters from the ledge. The porch is littered with scorched chunks of wood and shingles that flaked off over the last several months. Melted paint covers the siding.

Owner Paula Quinones told City Pulse that the home would be demolished just as soon as her home insurance could sort out the costs. Unfortunately for local neighbors, those conversations — which have lasted for nine months — haven't been the most productive, Quinones added.

"It's just a lot of back and forth," Quinones added. "I don't know when this will be sorted out."

The Lansing Police Department identified Ryan Donovan Dickenson, 27, of Romulus, as the driver. A press release sent out last year identified speed as a factor. Nobody was inside of the home when it caught fire, and no additional injuries were reported. – KYLE KAMINSKI

"Eyesore of the Week" is our look at some of the seedier properties in Lansing. It rotates with Eye Candy of the Week and Eye for Design. Have a suggestion? Email eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call it in at 517-999-6715.

# **REVIND** NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS



**By KYLE KAMINSKI** 



East Lansing judge to retire

Chief 54B District Judge Andrea Andews Larkins announced she will step down in June. Larkin was elected in 2012 and reelected to a six-year term in 2018. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer will fill her vacancy by appointment. The next election is set for 2024.

### 'Wolverine Watchmen' head to trial

The three members face charges for allegedly plotting to storm the state Capitol and kidnap elected officials, said Attorney General Dana Nessel. Charges include gang membership, providing material support for terrorism and other firearm-related felonies. More hearings are scheduled in April.



Nessel

### **MSU trustees hide Nassar documents**

They opted against releasing about 6,000 documents tied to the university's handling of complaints against convicted sex offender and former sports doctor Larry Nassar. The decision effectively closed an investigation from a "disappointed" Nessel, whose office had already "used every legal mechanism

available" to secure the remaining documents, according to a press release.

## Local residents land on state boards

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer appointed Michigan Retailers Association Vice President Amy Drumm, Eaton County Prosecutor Doug Lloyd and 30th Circuit Judge Lisa McCormick to the Organized Retail Crime Advisory Board; Gabriella Abel, of Okemos, to the Michigan Board of Cosmetology; and Emily McDonough, of Williamston, to the Data Collection Agency Board.

### Local activist tied to TSA changes

The Transportation Security Administration approved a series of new training protocols and procedures designed to better serve people with autism, including guidance for officers on how to properly interact and serve those on the spectrum. Lansing autism advocate Xavier DeGroat has long pushed for the changes, which have already been partially implemented in Michigan.

# City clerk blasts voting legislation

Lansing's Chris Swope joined the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks and the Michigan League of Women Voters in denouncing a series of new bills introduced to roll back voting rights in Michigan. He called recent GOP-led proposals that enact new rules for ballot drop boxes as well as identification requirements for requesting absentee ballots are "some



of the most egregious voter suppression ideas Michigan has seen." Republicans have touted the package of more than 30 bills as ways to ramp up election security and reduce potential fraud.

# East Lansing extends tax deadline

The due date has been moved from April 30 to June 1. The IRS extended the federal tax filing deadline to May 17.



Lansing charts sustainable future

Plans for "sustainable infrastructure improvements" aim to save more than \$20 million over the next 20 years and create nearly 200 jobs over the next three years. Improvements include interior and exterior lighting upgrades at city buildings, interior renovations to the crosswalk between the Radisson



hotel and the Lansing Center and a new "energy management" system to optimize heating and cooling. Together, the improvements will cost the city about \$11.9 million over the next three years.

# **Diversity shines amid latest hiring round at Lansing Fire Department**

# Lansing mayor optimistic about recruiting 'homegrown talent'

After an almost entirely white class of paramedics was hired at the Lansing Fire Department in 2019, Mayor Andy Schor said he was "disappointed" by the lack of diversity in the ranks. And over the last two years, his administration has kept focused on recruiting more people of color.

But are the efforts paying their dividends? The answer isn't so straightforward.

The latest hiring round brought nine staffers to the department this year. Six of them identify as people of color. And while the department is actually less diverse than it was in 2019, Schor said he's "proud" of his administration's work to hire employees who are racially reflective of the city.

"Hopefully it's more than baby steps. It's middle-sized steps," Schor explained. "I'm very optimistic that as people retire, we'll be able to bring in diverse classes. It's very, very difficult. That's the account



That's the case in fire departments across the country. I don't know why it's so difficult, but it is."

Criticism mounted against Schor in 2019 after the Fire Department released an image of nine recently hired paramedics. All of them pictured — save for one Latino — were white men. Former Chief Randy Talifarro also came out against Schor, pointing to an "extremely uncomfortable" workplace that created a culture that stifled recruitment of diverse talent.

In response, Schor rolled out a plan that involved creating a youth cadet program and identifying a more appropriate mix of licensed paramedics and lesser trained emergency medical technicians. He also doubled down on efforts to cast a wider hiring net for people of color.

And in January, those efforts started to show results in Lansing. Of the nine employees most recently hired at the Fire Department, six of them are identified as people of color, including three Black people. Schor labeled the more diverse mix as a sign of successful hiring reforms.

# Lansing Fire Department Demographics

# February 2019

White — 123 (71.5%) Black — 33 (19.2%) Other — 16 (9.4%)

# October 2019

White — 119 (71.2%) Black — 33 (19.8%) Other — 15 (9%)
<u>July 2020</u>
White — 119 (70.1%)
Black — 32 (18.7%)
Other — 18 (10.7%)
January 2021
White — 115 (70.1%)
Black — 31 (18.9%)
Other — 18 (10.9%%)

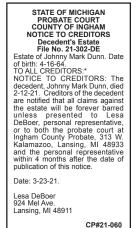
"It's not there yet, but it's close. We need more. We'd like to have the diversity match our city, and we're getting there," Schor said. "You want those who respond, especially those who are forward facing to the public, to be able to share experiences with those they are protecting. With some people, it's a trust factor. People can just relate better when they can see that diversity."

Fire departments nationwide have long struggled to attract minority applicants. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 95% of all firefighters are men and 85% of them are white. In Lansing, that makeup is 94% men, 70% white, according to records provided by Schor's office.

But despite the latest class including six more people of color, racial disparities have only widened across the department's roster over the last few years. Black employees accounted for

about 19.2% of the Fire Department in 2019. In January, that percentage was tallied at 18.9%.

In 2019, the staff included 49 people of color. And despite what Schor labeled as his "best efforts" to



attract a more diverse candidate pool, that number remained the same in January, albeit with eight fewer white employees this year than what was tracked in February 2019.

"I can't control who retires. I can't control who leaves. You're always going to have turnover in every department. But as long as you're recruiting diversity, it helps level things out," Schor said.

Among those efforts to bolster diversity at the Fire Department include last year's creation of a youth cadet program, a partnership with the Lansing School District that trains and recruits classes of up to a dozen local students to work at the Fire Department after graduation.

"What we really wanted was to get more Lansing firefighters," Schor said. "Because Lansing is a diverse city, getting Lansing firefighters and working with Lansing schools means a more diverse workforce. Our current class is almost entirely members of these different diverse communities."

None of the students involved in that inaugural and ongoing class have yet made their way through the pipeline to the Fire Department. When they do, Schor expects it will bolster overall diversity as they finish their exams and are shuffled into full-time firefighter or paramedic jobs.

"The administration has also worked with a lot of recruiters and others to get the word out to different places," Schor added. "Chief Mike Mackey knew this was a priority of mine. He knew I really didn't want to see a class of 13 or 14 white guys and one Latino guy. He did a lot of communication, pushing out the word. We also made sure that we had qualified people to hire."

Interim Fire Chief Greg Martin, the chief for 10 years before he retired in

2016, labeled the Fire Department as one of the most diverse departments in Michigan. He said he hates quotas but recognized the recruitment and hiring process can always be improved.

"These things are very much still in their infancy," Martin explained. "This is a national issue. Paramedics are like an endangered species right now. To find a paramedic of color? That's even



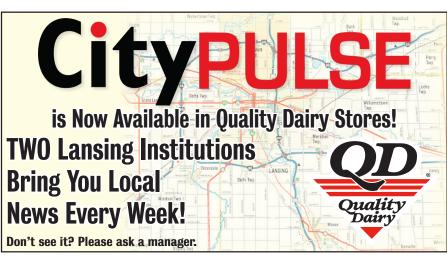
more of an endangered species. That's why we're focusing on our homegrown talent."

Martin said the first class of student cadets began last year. Exams are scheduled for May. From there, they'll also have an opportunity for paid internship opportunities at the department. He also said the Fire Department expects as many as 30 vacancies will open as senior staff continue to retire this year, creating an opportunity for demographics to continue to shift.

"There's no magic solution here to diversity, but we're trying" Martin added. "The biggest sales point we have at this point is a young kid seeing someone that looks like them on a fire engine."

Added Schor: "We're going to make sure that we continue to take measures to get us to a qualified and diverse department. What we can do is recruit a diverse class that is qualified. I'm not proclaiming victory or the job done. I'm just happy that we're able to make some progress."

- KYLE KAMINSKI



# Surging caseloads make Lansing a national COVID-19 hotspot

# Health officer: 'We can do better. We have done better. Don't give up.'

A recent surge in COVID-19 cases over the last two weeks made the Greater Lansing region among the metropolitan areas with the fastest climbing rates of coronavirus cases across the country. And now as a result, health officials are warning local residents to brace for impact.

"We are not through this. Don't

give up now," said Ingham **County Health** Officer Linda Vail in a Facebook post Sunday. "We need everyone with us for a little while longer as we continue to vaccinate enough peo-



ple. Michigan is doing poorly. Our numbers are soaring."

Michigan's seven-day average of new cases reportedly doubled since March and is resting at its highest point in 2021, with a statewide average positivity rate of about 15% Tuesday. The state ranked second in the nation (behind New Jersey) in new cases per capita this week, with the Thumb region as well as Macomb and Jackson counties with the high-

### est transmission rates in the country, according to reports published in The New York Times over the weekend.

Lansing, which likely includes neighboring East Lansing, was ranked seventh-worst nationwide prompting Vail to post her cautionary message on Facebook.

"We can do better. We have done better. Don't give up on me now. We need you in this for just a little while longer," Vail said. "We're getting these vaccines out. Help us until we finish."

Health officials have since pointed to changes in the state's epidemic orders - including increased restaurant capacity - for the climbing infection rates. Vail's commentary also corroborates reports that increased hopefulness and pandemic fatigue have contributed.

Chief Medical Executive Joneigh Khaldun told Local 4 this week that she was "very concerned."

Other state health officials suggested the B.1.1.7 variant, which was first identified in the United Kingdom, could be responsible for increased transmission rates. The Michigan Health and Hospital Association told The Detroit News that the variant is now "widespread" in Michigan.

In Greater Lansing, more than 1,500 new cases were tracked over the last seven days, as well as 10 more virus-related deaths. The region also tracked its 200,000th administered dose of vaccine this week, adding into more than 4 million shots now administered across Michigan.

### CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, April 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI and via ZOOM Conferencing, Meeting ID 859 4003 6219 for the purpose of considering:

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to repeal Chapter 658, Section 658.06, a criminal misdemeanor under the General Offenses Code of the Codified Ordinances to eliminate that no person shall beg in any public place or go door-to-door requesting donations for personal gain

Members of the public wishing to participate in the meeting remotely may do so by logging into or calling into the meeting using the website https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85940036219 or by phone number 312-626-6799 using Meeting ID: 859 4003 6219.

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For more information, please call 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., on the day of the Public Hearing at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/MiPMC www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#21-063

### **CORONAVIRUS IN MICHIGAN WEEK 54 BY THE NUMBERS...**

	MIC	higar	<u>1</u>
	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.
3/23/21	633,191	15,919	3,652,762
3/31/21	665,948	16,082	4,207,102
Weekly	<b>1</b> 5.2%	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>15.2%</b>
Change			
G	roato	rland	ing

<u> </u>	reale	<u>r Lans</u>	IIIg
	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.
3/23/21	27,754	513	177,410
3/31/21	29,302	523	205,975
Weekly	<b>1</b> 5.6%	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>16.1%</b>
Change			
	Inghar	n Coun	ty

	CASES	DEATHS	VACC
3/23/21	16,852	286	106,947
3/31/21	17,811	295	125,733
Weekly Change	<b>1</b> 5.7%	<b>1</b> 3.1%	<b>17.3</b> %
enange			

	Eator	n Count	У
	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.
3/23/21	6,173	157	45,152
3/31/21	6,585	157	51,407
Neekly	<b>1</b> 67%	<b>1</b> 0%	<b>13.9%</b>
Change			
	<u>Clin</u>	ton Co.	
	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.
3/23/21	4,729	70	25,311
3/31/21	4,906	71	28,835
Neekly Change	<b>1</b> 3.7%	<b>1</b> .4%	<b>1</b> 3.9%

The "Vaccines" category refers to the total number of doses administered to patients that reported living within each jurisdiction, according to state data. Patients require two doses.

"Our rollout continues to pick up steam and we will not rest until we reach our goal of equitably vaccinating 70% of Michiganders ages 16 and up," Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said in a statement. "Michigan continues to make significant strides - administering four million vaccines in less than four months - as we work to ensure every Michigander has access to the vaccine."

### In related news...

Under new state legislation, all Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vac-

doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov

cines administered in Michigan (with certain federal funds) are now reportedly required to include a disclaimer that they were developed using stem cell research that involved tissue from aborted fetuses.

The East Lansing City Council voted to continue to meet virtually through at least May 16.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

# NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF AVAILABILITY CITY OF LANSING ANNUAL ACTION PLAN, FY 2021 Notice is hereby given that the City of Lansing proposes to present notice of availability on the City of Lansing's Annual Action Plan for FY 2021 (7/1/21-6/30/2022). A draft of the document will be available for public review and comments during the 30-day comment period from April 1, 2021 – April 30, 2021. Copies of the document and the proposed use of Community Development funds are available for review on the City of Lansing's website at: <a href="http://www.lansingmi.gov/development">www.lansingmi.gov/development</a> All written comments submitted by citizens of Lansing will be considered and reviewed for possible inclusion in the final Annual Action Plan for FY 2021 to be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) no later than May 14, 2021. A summary of all comments received will be attached to the final document. For information regarding the City of Lansing's Annual Action Plan Action Plan please contact: Doris Witherspoon, Senior Planner City of Lansing, Michigan Department of Economic Development and Planning 316 North Capitol, Suite D-2 Lansing Michigan 48933-1236 Telephone (517) 483-4063

10

# Need a COVID-19 vaccine? Here's how to get one in Greater Lansing

The Ingham County Health Department and other local healthcare providers receive a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccines each week. Those eligible for shots include law enforcement, firefighters, shelter staff, corrections officers, teachers, and childcare and agriculture workers.

Anyone age 50 or older; parents and caregivers of children with special health care needs; and anyone ages of 16-49 with a medical condition are also eligible. And beginning Monday (April 5), those over 16 will become eligible regardless of their health.

Those who live or work in Ingham County can register directly with the Ingham County Health Department. Visit hd.ingham.org to register and get in line to schedule an appointment. Health Department appointments are also being scheduled through clinics at Forest Community Health Center, Birch Community Health Center and New Hope Community Health Center in Lansing.

Residents are also encouraged to register for the vaccine with multiple

providers. Call 517-887-4623 or email covidvaccine@ingham.org for additional vaccine assistance.

The Capital Area Transportation Authority, Eaton County Transportation Authority and Clinton Transit are also setting up mobile vaccine clinics for people with disabilities, those who are homebound and anyone else who may be having difficulty getting to their local vaccine clinics.

Contact CATA at 517-394-2282, Eatran at 517-543-4087 or Clinton Transit at 989-224-8127.

Cristo Rey Community Center will also be able to distribute about 200 COVID-19 vaccines per month under a pilot program with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. People at high risk for severe illness or death are eligible. Transportation is available.

Here are a few other options in Greater Lansing:

### **Sparrow Health System**

Drive-thru vaccine appointments near the Frandor Shopping Center are

available through the MySparrow portal by visiting mychart.sparrow.org or by calling 877-205-1300.

Sparrow Health System also recently announced plans for a series of mobile vaccine clinics across Lansing, including from 1-5 p.m. on April 12 and May 24 at Allen Neighborhood Center; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 26 at Michigan Therapeutic Consultants and 1-5 p.m. on May 10 at Advent House Ministries. Visit sparrow.org/ mobileclinic for more details about how to sign up.

### Meijer

Those looking for a shot at a local Meijer clinic can visit clinic.meijer.com to set up an appointment. Alternatively, residents can call their local meijer or text "COVID" to 75049.

### **Hometown Pharmacy**

Visit hometownpharmacy.com/ retail/vaccinations to register for an appointment. Locations in the Greater Lansing region include pharmacies in Jackson, Stockbridge, DeWitt and Bellevue.

### Kroger

Visit kroger.com/rx/covid-eligibility or call 866-211-5320 to register for a vaccine appointment.

### Walgreens

Call 1-800-925-4733 or visit walgreens.com and create a pharmacy account to register for a vaccine. All of McLaren Greater Lansing's state-allocated doses of the vaccine are being routed through Walgreens, which is reportedly handling all scheduling and vaccine administration.

# **Rite Aid**

Visit riteaid.com and follow the instructions on the top of the page to register for a vaccination. — **KYLE KAMINSKI** 



# NEED A RIDE TO YOUR VACCINATION APPOINTMENT?

Our regional transit providers are working together to offer FREE transportation for residents with a scheduled COVID-19 vaccine appointment.

To request a ride, call your local transit agency after you have confirmed the time and location of your appointment.





517-394-2282

Children County - 517-543-4087

989-224-8127

America

# **Report: Moores Park Pool requires at least \$4.8 million in repairs**

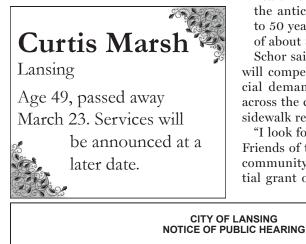
City officials explore fundraising to reopen historic public pool

An assessment report released last week shows that the Moores Park Pool will require at least \$4.8 million in renovations before it can be safely reopened to the public after it closed indefinitely in 2019. A more expensive option could bring those repairs up to about \$6.3 million.

And now city officials and local fundraising groups are headed to the drawing board to figure out whether those bills can be paid or whether the shuttered public pool will be left to deteriorate.

"To protect the oldest surviving Bintz pool in America, our group is focused on restoring and maintaining this historic gem as an invaluable asset and community space for generations to come," explained Veronica Gracia-Wing, chairwoman of the Friends of the Moores Park Pool.

Over the last several months, contractors were hired by the city to pro-



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An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to repeal Chapter 696, Section 696.02, a criminal misdemeanor under the General Offenses Code of the Codified Ordinances to eliminate that no person shall carry any firearm, air rifle, bow and arrow, slingshot, crossbow, or other dangerous weapon in any public place.

Members of the public wishing to participate in the meeting remotely may do so by logging into or calling into the meeting using the website https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85940036219 or by phone number 312-626-6799 using Meeting ID: 859 4003 6219.

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Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/MiPMC www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

vide "much needed data and information as we look at what it would cost to rehabilitate the Moores Park Pool," said Lansing Mayor Andy Schor. A report on their findings was released Friday. The Friends of Moores Park Pool, a local fundraising group, paid for half of the \$60,000 assessment.

In addition to specifically outlining a list of myriad repairs required to bring the pool up to snuff, the report outlined two options on how to get them done - along with two distinct price tags.

• Option 1 focuses on maintaining the historic architecture of the pool and costs about \$4.8 million. It includes a pool wall design that is expected to last 20 years and, because it's sympathetic to the historic nature of the existing building, it is also the option preferred by the State Historic Preservation Office and the U.S. National Park Service.

• Option 2 includes additional code deficiencies found by state health officials and would up the anticipated life expectancy to 50 years at an increased cost of about \$6.3 million.

Schor said the bill for those repairs will compete alongside "many financial demands for necessary services across the city" - including road and sidewalk repairs and other expenses. "I look forward to working with the

Friends of the Moores Park Pool on a community fundraising plan, potential grant opportunities and collabo-

CP#21-061

# rating with them as we move forward," Schor said.

Gracia-Wing told City Pulse the recent assessment report will be used as a guide to flesh out an "actionable strategy with tactics, roles, responsibilities and concrete goals." Over the next several weeks, city officials and fundraising groups will work together to hash out a plan.

Within Option 1, the report lists about \$2.7 million in repairs as "immediate priority" and about \$1.8 million as "necessary priority." Option 2 would increase those costs by about \$1.5 million.

Contractors also suggested that repairs will require "additional funds" beyond a public fundraising campaign. As a historic structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. National Park Service, the city could also qualify for grants and low-interest loans.

City officials closed the facility in fall 2019 and announced that it would need at least \$1.2 million in repairs before it could be safely reopened to the public. Leaks were costing about \$1,400 per week to keep it filled while chlorinated water spilled into the soil below. The pandemic - and budget

shortfalls - only knocked the pool lower on the city's budgetary priority list. It stayed closed last summer and certainly won't be refilled again in time for this summer, officials said.

Previously, the southwest Lansing pool was open seven days a week, 10 weeks out of the year.

Tucked into a hillside overlooking the Eckert Power Station, the pool was designed by former Lansing City Engineer Wesley Bintz and also carries historical value beyond a simple neighborhood oasis. The 1922 ellipsoidal fieldstone rock-ring structure is the oldest surviving Bintz Pool in the nation, and as such it carries a bit of a cult following among history buffs.

Schor submitted his annual budget proposal to the City Council last week without including specific funding for repairs. It will be reviewed and could be amended before its finalized in May. Visit mhpn.org/mpp to learn more about the Moores Park Pool or to make a donation to the Friends of Moores Park Pool. A copy of the 73-page assessment can be found at lansingmi.gov.

- KYLE KAMINSKI

# Pack those bowls. It's 4/20all month long at City Pulse

City Pulse gears up for '15 Days of Cannabis' in Greater Lansing

City Pulse is kicking off plans for our 4/20 print edition a bit earlier than usual this year — partly on the account of our managing editor being a major stoner. Check our website every day beginning in early April for our "15 Days of Cannabis" leading up to our April 14 print edition.

Each day, we'll be highlighting a different medical or recreational (or both) marijuana dispensary from the Greater Lansing region, including some product reviews and promotional discounts. Then, check on April 14 for a ... I mean managing editor know by 4/20-themed print issue all about the emailing kyle@lansingcitypulse.com. blossoming industry. (It will be on the Also: Stay tuned for a comprehensive news stand April 14, but you can have local directory. And a web archive of the Digital Edition waiting for you by the major stoner's weekly column, email first thing that morning if you Lansterdam in review. sign up for our newsletter on our home —



page at www.lansingcitypulse.com.)

Shops to be featured include Skymint, Homegrown Cannabis Co., Bazonzoes, Lansing Botanical Co., Edgewood Wellness, Pure Options, Arcanna and First Class Cannabis Co. Others have been invited to participate. If your shop is not included and wants to be, just let our major stoner

**MINOR STONER** 

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An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to repeal Chapter 680, Section 680.03, a criminal misdemeanor under the General Offenses Code of the Codified Ordinances, to eliminate using profane language in a building or on any property adjacent to any building in the city occupied as public, private, or parochial school.	An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to repeal Chapter 658, Section 658.03, a criminal misdemeanor under the General Offenses Code of the Codified Ordinances to eliminate annoying persons.
Members of the public wishing to participate in the meeting remotely may do so by logging into or calling into the meeting using the website https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85940036219 or by phone number 312-626-6799 using Meeting ID: 859 4003 6219.	Members of the public wishing to participate in the meeting remotely may do so by logging into or calling into the meeting using the website https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85940036219 or by phone number 312-626-6799 using Meeting ID: 859 4003 6219.
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Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/MiPMC www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope CP#21-066	Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/MiPMC www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope CP#21-067
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An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to repeal Chapter 680, Section 680.06, a criminal misdemeanor under the General Offenses Code of the Codified Ordinances to eliminate borrowing money or a thing of value from a student at any school.	An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to repeal Chapter 630, Section 630.14, a criminal misdemeanor under the General Offenses Code of the Codified Ordinances to eliminate loitering in places where prostitution or solicitation for lewd conduct occurs.
Members of the public wishing to participate in the meeting remotely may do so by logging into or calling into the meeting using the website https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85940036219 or by phone number 312-626-6799 using Meeting ID: 859 4003 6219.	Members of the public wishing to participate in the meeting remotely may do so by logging into or calling into the meeting using the website https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85940036219 or by phone number 312-626-6799 using Meeting ID: 859 4003 6219.
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An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to repeal Chapter 650, Section 650.04, a criminal misdemeanor under the general offenses code of the Codified Ordinances to eliminate playing in streets.	An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to repeal Chapter 656, Section 656.04, a criminal misdemeanor under the General Offenses Code of the Codified Ordinances to eliminate prohibition of bicycles on Riverfront park during an organized event.
Members of the public wishing to participate in the meeting remotely may do so by logging into or calling into the meeting using the website https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85940036219 or by phone number 312-626-6799 using Meeting ID: 859 4003 6219.	Members of the public wishing to participate in the meeting remotely may do so by logging into or calling into the meeting using the website https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85940036219 or by phone number 312-626-6799 using Meeting ID: 859 4003 6219.
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### STATE OF MICHIGAN OFFICE OF THE INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER NOTICE OF DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING TO HEAR OBJECTIONS TO APPORTIONMENTS OF COST OF DANIELS DRAIN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 20 of 1956, PA 40, as amended, that a meeting of the Drainage Board for the Daniels Drain (a Chapter 20 Drain) will be held at the following date, time, and location:

Wednesday, April 21, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Ingham County Board of Commissioners Resolution #21-138, the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's office is conducting the Daniels Drain Drainage Board meeting via web or telephone conference. The web link or telephone number and access code to attend the Drainage Board meeting is as follows:

> Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89371429101 Meeting ID: 893 7142 9101 - OR-Dial +1 888-475-4499 US Meeting ID: 893 7142 9101

The purpose of this meeting is to hear objections to the proposed apportionments, and to discuss any other business that may come before the Board. The proposed apportionments are as follows:

Meridian Township	82.76%
County of Ingham	13.85%
Michigan Dept. of Transportation	3.39%
Total	100.00%

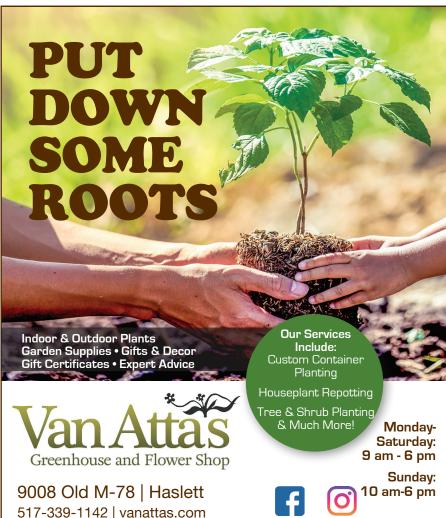
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the estimate of costs of the Daniels Drain to be assessed, the route and course of the Drain, and a description of the area to be served by the Drain, are on file in the Office of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854; and that the apportionment percentages as finally established by the Drainage Board shall be applied to the actual cost of the drain expenses when finally completed.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any public corporation to be assessed, or any taxpayer thereof, will be entitled to be heard at the time and place of the hearing; and that after consideration of all objections to the apportionments, the Drainage Board shall determine whether the apportionments fairly reflect the benefits to accrue to each public corporation and the extent to which each public corporation contributes to the conditions making the drain expenses necessary. If the Drainage Board determines that the apportionments are equitable, then it will enter a Final Order of Apportionment confirming the apportionments. The Final Order of Apportionment shall not be subject to attack in any court, except by proceedings in certiorari brought within 20 days after the filing of such order in the Drain Commissioner's Office. If no proceedings are brought within 20 days after the filing of the Final Order of Apportionment, then the legality of the apportionments shall not thereafter be questioned in any suit at law or in equity, either on jurisdictional grounds.

Information regarding this meeting may be obtained from Paul C. Pratt, Ingham County Deputy Drain Commissioner, via telephone at (517) 676-8395 or email (ppratt@ingham.org). Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Michigan Relay Center at 711 (TTY) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request visual, hearing or other assistance. Minutes of the meeting will be on file at the office of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner.

Dated: March 25, 2021 Dated: March 25, 2021 Dated: March 25, 2021 Dated: By: Patrick E. Lindemann, Chairperson Ingham County Drain Commissioner

CP#21-070



CITY OF	EASTL	ANSING,	MICHIGAN
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NOTICE OF ADOPTION RESOLUTION TO HOLD ELECTRONIC PUBLIC MEETINGS DURING LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

> POLICY RESOLUTION NO. 2021-6 Date: March 23, 2021

WHEREAS, the City adopted Ordinance No. 1488, which authorizes the Mayor to declare or proclaim a City State of Emergency and to promulgate orders, rules, and regulations to protect life and property or to bring the emergency situation under control; and

WHEREAS, in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and increased cases and hospitalizations in Ingham County, the Mayor properly proclaimed and declared a continuing City State of Emergency, which was confirmed by the City Council and extended by the City Council through May 16, 2021, at 11:59 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, Section 3a of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976, allows a public body to hold an electronic meeting if the meeting holds its meetings in an area affected by a local state of emergency or state of disaster (MCL 15.263a(1)(b)); and

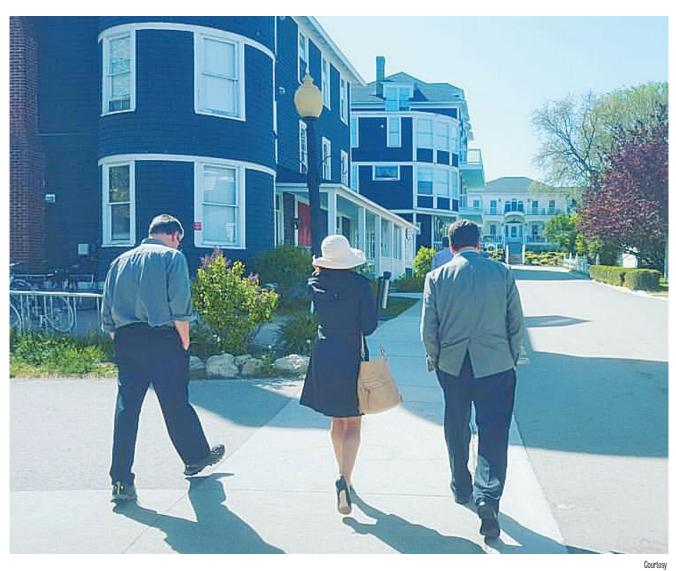
WHEREAS, the City and its various boards, commissions, and committees hold their public meetings within the City, which is an area affected by the local state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, because COVID-19 continues to threaten the health and lives of those in the City, the City will to continue holding electronic meetings in accordance with the Open Meetings Act for so long as its local state of emergency remains in effect.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that all public meetings of the City of East Lansing City Council and all of the City's boards, commissions, and committees will be held electronically in accordance with the Open Meetings Act for so long as the City's local state of emergency remains in effect.

> Jennifer Shuster City Clerk





Central Michigan University Professor Steve Coon (left) walks alongside Jen Eyer and TJ Bucholz, of Vanguard Public Affairs, while at the Detroit Regional Chamber's Mackinac Policy Conference.

# Ex-staff describe 'rich stew of grossness' at Vanguard Public Affairs

# By TODD HEYWOOD

Seven former

employees

offer glimpse

into the daily

life at Lansing

political firm

Lansing political consultant TJ Bucholz and his firm Vanguard Public Affairs have made headlines following allegations of sexual harassment from more than a dozen former employees. But the story runs deeper than sexual innuendo and allegations of a "creepy" boss.

Several former employees described a hostile and toxic day-to-day work environment and an unpredictable man at the helm. Their last days were filled with constant worry that Bucholz would flip from gregarious laughter to explosive anger. Some also described bigoted comments about race and how employees at the firm were actively discouraged from getting pregnant — all while a steady stream of politicians wandered in and out of the offices, leaving the women with the perception that those politicos were aware of the "toxic" working environment.

That perception of support by powerful politicos made it harder to speak up or leave, some women have explained.

In a text message Tuesday, Bucholz declined to comment for this story, citing a perception of bias in reporting. (See full statement on P. 16)

For more than a week City Pulse spent hours speaking with seven former employees of Vanguard Public Affairs. Five women have agreed to have their names included in this story. One woman and one man have asked to remain anonymous, but their identities were verified by City Pulse.

Together, their stories paint a picture of a workplace on the edge: emotionally and financially. They also illustrate a protective network of political power players — "good ol' boys" — who control political contracts, influence and paychecks.

Abby Clark, 38, was one of the more experienced employees at Vanguard. She thinks that a firm staffed almost entirely by women was a savvy business maneuver for Bucholz. But it also raised eyebrows. At least one outsider jokingly referred to the firm as "Hooters," Clark recalled.

"I honestly thought it made him a little bit smart. Such smart, hard-working people for bargain prices. You can get a more talented woman that will work longer hours at a lower rate. Everybody knows that," Clark recalled of the all-female employee situation. "And I will say, he told us how smart and talented we all were. He really did have an eye for talent. And you

# Vanguard

### from page 15

know, it's flattering to have your talent recognized. I think that's how it starts for everybody."

Another former employee, Ashlea Phenicie, described to City Pulse a series of incidents involving Bucholz that made her want to leave the company. But calling out sexual harassment and an abusive atmosphere, she feared, would only tarnish her capacity to take another job.

"As I was there wanting to leave, I was really afraid that a lot of people who are in positions of power knew that TJ treated young women like this, and I was really afraid that they would see that I had been promoted several times and attribute that to something other than my work, assume that I had given him sexual favors or done something else like that," Phenicie added.

There was no sexual contact described between Bucholz and Phenicie - or any other woman interviewed for this story. But many of them faced a variety of sexually inappropriate conduct.

Phenicie, for instance, said she was provided a "graphic" description of Bucholz' vasectomy while in the car. Bucholz also brought his handgun into her office and asked her to "touch it."

"It felt like a power move with a sexual innuendo implied," Phenicie said of the gun incident, noting that Bucholz would also encourage his staff to accompany him to the shooting range.

Another former staffer, Mariah Prowoznik, said Bucholz flashed his gun to her while she drove them to a meeting near Detroit. He kept it in the center counsel of his BMW, she explained.

One unnamed woman shared graphic text messages from Bucholz with the Eclectablog in which he asked for explicit pictures. Prowoznik also received an unsolicited photo from Bucholz of him shirtless in a bow tie. He had been discussing wearing a bowtie to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's licited photo of TJ Bucholz shirtless in a bow tie. inaugural ball in Detroit but had

Courtes One former staffer said she received an unso-

complained he didn't know how to tie one. Each of the women shared individual stories and text messages that, taken alone, could be dismissed - but taken together they painted a picture of a toxic workplace.

All of the women shared stories of Bucholz's calling them into his office and discussing what television hosts were wearing and whether it was flattering. He would also comment on appearances of women at staff meetings, according to at least one former employee.

Another former staffer, Chelsea Coffey, recalled a series of inappropriate texts from Bucholz, including a marriage proposal after she sent him a picture of a loaf of bread from his favorite bakery and another in which he discussed how she looked "um... healthy" in another image.

The comment was in response to an image of her holding open a jacket to show off her

# Full statement by TJ Bucholz to City Pulse's request for comment:

"Because of the obvious bias I perceive you to have in reporting these perspectives on the workplace culture at Vanguard



Public Affairs and purposefully rumor mongering about private information related to my personal health in previous missives, I do not trust you to quote me accurately and therefore will refrain from commenting on the substance of your article."

shirt in what she called a "superman" pose. Coffey presumed Bucholz' comment was about her breasts.

In a performance review, Phenicie remembered being directed to spice up her wardrobe and to always be "camera ready" in the office. That review was performed by an employee who was based in Texas and had no daily contact with Phenicie or supervisory responsibility of her. She, as well as the remaining staff and contractors quit the firm on Monday. In a statement they denied knowledge of any of the allegations leveled by former employees.

It wasn't that Phenicie was dressed in a t-shirt and jeans - she was in business wear with light makeup and her hair in a bun. But being "camera ready" she was told meant to wear dresses, wear her hair down and having full make up. She noticed that when she

complied, she was given more work.

Clark said she dealt with a barrage of outbursts from Bucholz – including instances of yelling and berating staff but she did not receive any of the direct sexual harassment from him that other former staffers have outlined. She dodged the worst of Bucholz' behavior, she said.

"What came out

first was abusive behavior, erratic, unpredictable moods and

a temper. People would get screamed at," she said. "It starts to get everybody a little scared and a little on edge."

Clark was not alone in experiencing erratic and abusive behavior. Coffey, who since moved from Michigan to Florida and left political work altogether, also recalled an unpredictable Bucholz.

"He would fly off the handle at any little thing and start yelling and swearing," Coffey said.

Rachel Felice, another former employee, had similar recollections.

"He was very high some days, in a great mood, calling everybody buddy, calling everybody pal, 'Let's go out to lunch,' 'Let's have a couple beers on the patio,' and then the next day he could come in and just be very verbally abusive and take out his behavior on others or anger on others," Felice said.



TJ Bucholz opens a bottle of wine at a staff Christmas party at Vanguard Public Affairs.

"And so, if he owed you money, you had to wait until the right moment to ask him, because depending on his mood, it could go one way or the other - so we just had to be careful of what mood he was in."

One of the few men who worked at the firm also confirmed common screaming outbursts and door-slamming incidents. Trent, who asked not to be identified by his real name, said he wasn't regularly in the office, so he often heard about Bucholz' behavior from his female colleagues.

When Clark wasn't in the office, she would also get phone calls from staff about his behavior – actions ranging from loud outbursts to temper tantrums. With more experience under her belt, she felt obligated to protect her fellow coworkers by being in the office as much as possible.

Other stories about Bucholz from ex-staffers at Vanguard ranged from inappropriate text messages of a sexual nature to strange requests that he be driven places in his own BMW. Prowoznik said she was often pulled away from time sensitive projects in order to drive him on non-work-related errands and to client meetings.

Others also described instances where Bucholz would encourage staff to drink during the day.

Phenicie took a job at Vanguard as a communications associate in 2016. She said the initial round of job interviews didn't raise any red flags, but soon after starting, things felt out of place.

"The first thing that was strange to me was that they had a bar in the office and TJ would encourage people to drink at the office," she said, noting that Bucholz specifically said he would not consider hiring anyone under the age of 21, so the open bar "wouldn't be a problem."

Mariah Prowoznik left the firm shortly after her promotion to creative director. She said she also saw – and participated – in the day drinking during her time at Vanguard. The downtown office was always stocked with alcohol, including cabinets with various whiskeys and beer, she said.

Prowoznik recalled raising concerns to Bucholz after an underage intern, the son of a client, cracked open a Corona while she was the only other employee in the office.



# Vanguard

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The intern was forced to dump the beer. The next day, he was called into Bucholz' office but not fired, she said.

And that was not the only instance of underage drinking. When Prowoznik got engaged to City Pulse Managing Editor Kyle Kaminski while working at Vanguard, Bucholz offered to throw a celebration for the couple on the agency's balcony. Unbeknown to Prowoznik, Bucholz invited his wife and two children as well as his 15-year-old niece who was staying with them.

Everyone was served champagne, including the underage people present. One staffer, a recovering alcoholic, refused to drink, but Bucholz attempted to bully her into a glass, Prowoznik said. Clark also confirmed the story.

As creative director, Prowoznik had some hiring responsibilities at Vanguard. She recalled a discussion with Felice about a desire to bolster racial diversity among the staff in the office.

"I made the comment where we should have some diversity, because it was very clear to me that we were all white people and white women, and I said we should focus on diversity and hire some good candidates," Felice remembered. "His response was: 'Yeah, totally down for that,' but he said that he hates Asians and he would never hire an Asian to work for him."

Prowoznik recalled the same incident – including Bucholz' anti-Asian sentiments.

"I don't remember fully, but I think he just straight up said, 'I don't like Asians. I would never hire an Asian," Prowoznik recalled. "I just kind of looked at him like, 'I can't believe that came out of your fucking mouth.' Rachel, I think, laid into him and was like, 'You cannot say that."

One of Vanguard's higher profile clients was Shri Thanedar, a South Asian American who ran for the Democratic nomination for governor in 2018. In a phone conversation, Thanedar denied any knowledge of an anti-Asian bias at the firm and noted he had "terminated" his relationship with Vanguard before the primary. He said the decision to terminate the contract was purely business, noting he had hired his own staff to do the work Vanguard was doing.

Former employees said Vanguard also nearly took on a contract to do public relations for convicted sex offender Larry Nassar, but women in the firm talked Bucholz out of the decision. That was later used by Bucholz as evidence of a collaborative working environment, they said.

Prowoznik also recalled Felice leaving the



room mid-meeting with a high-profile client who was involved in a racial discrimination lawsuit. She said the clients had used racist language in a client consultation. Afterwards, Prowoznik said she blocked her access to that client's files on the company's internal project management system. The particular interaction also bothered Prowoznik enough for her to approach Bucholz and ask to kill the client contract, a request to which she said Bucholz replied: "Oh, it's too much money."

Felice declined to discuss the contract citing an NDA. But according to several other former employees interviewed by City Pulse, money was always a constant issue at Vanguard.

Kersten Kruse, who worked at the company for nearly a month, said she constantly answered phone calls from people demanding bills be paid. Several of the women saw "inch thick" envelopes from the IRS arrive on a weekly basis. Prowoznik, at one point, said she found a filing cabinet full of notices from the IRS while looking for office supplies. Afterwards, she was chastised by Bucholz and asked to show up the next morning at 7 a.m. and return the keys that had made that particular filing cabinet accessible.

Others were also berated for discussing the issue, which was never fully disclosed to staff.

Some staff also described payroll issues, including bounced checks and not being paid for bonuses owed. Clark specifically said Bucholz, at one point, had owed her thousands of dollars.

And while Bucholz did not cover health insurance for everyone, some women said he would pay their monthly premiums out of pocket — but only by going to Bucholz and asking for the cash. Some women said they often timed their requests around Bucholz' unpredictable behavior.

Former staff also said internships and other low-level positions would suddenly appear without notice, often fueled by an inordinate number of graduates from Central Michigan University.

Clark said Bucholz appeared to use his connection with Steve Coon — a college friend, journalism professor at CMU and senior adviser at Vanguard — to help recruit young women. At least two former employees told City Pulse they were referred to the firm under Coon's advice.

"There is this revolving door of young women from CMU,t and it seems like the well never runs dry even though the turnover is so high," Clark said. "I think that's partially the industry. And yet, also somehow men never appear in this doorway either. And, again, I'm sure the department is more female than male, but I just don't think it's a coincidence. I think it's like a little routine."

Coon was placed on leave by CMU last week following inquiries by City Pulse about his role in encouraging women to work for (Far left) TJ Bucholz pours a glass of whiskey at Vanguard Public Affairs' office in Lansing.

(Left) TJ Bucholz gives a presentation alongside former Vanguard Public Affairs partner Jen Eyer.

Vanguard and has not responded to questions via Facebook.

Kruse also told City Pulse that she had heard rumors of issues at Vanguard in terms of toxic workplace, finance and managerial abuse. But she said Coon assuaged those con-



cerns, claiming that the rumors were fueled by Bucholz' competitors to stop him from succeeding.

Kruse said she believed him, but resigned after less than a month at the firm, in part because she was not being paid and was not doing the workload that she was promised. Much of her time at Vanguard was spent on the phone with people demanding unpaid bills be paid, she said.

The CMU investigation also expanded to another staffer after it was revealed that student newspaper adviser Dave Clark was told by Kruse and Prowoznik that Bucholz was a "creep." Clark said he hadn't referred anyone to Vanguard in "a long time." Still, his failure to report those concerns to university administrators could lead to more consequences than a temporary leave.

CMU announced Tuesday it has hired outside counsel, Matthew Schneider of Honigman LLP, to conductive investigation.

Clark could not be reached for comment. He has also been suspended from the board of the Michigan Press Association, which City Pulse is a member

Pulse is a member, because he does not currently represent a newspaper. The MPA Board said the suspension was not a judgment on his role, just a decision required by an association bylaw that board members must be able to "actively" represents their



Clark

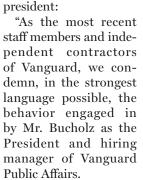
organizations. His suspension will hold until CMU has completed its investigation, and the board of the Press Association may take further action depending on that outcome.

The "rich stew of grossness," as former staffer Abby Clark defined the working environment, became too much and she, Prowoznik and Felice plotted their escape during the summer of 2019. By October 2019, they had all left for different jobs, carrying the wounds of their time at Vanguard and unsure of who, when or if they could ever tell their stories. And now, they have.

# **Vanguard fallout**

Since reports surfaced that TJ Bucholz, owner of Vanguard Public Affairs, was accused of sexual harassment as well as fostering an abusive work environment, there have been these developments:

- On Monday, all contractors and remaining staff at Vanguard resigned en masse. Here's the statement from Beth Bowen, former vice president, Teresa Bingman, former senior adviser who is in charge of the Schor administration's race-relations efforts, Katherine Erickson, former COO and David Lossing, former vice



"A safe and healthy workplace is critical to the success of all individuals. No one should ever tolerate sexual harassment, feel threatened, intimidated, or undercut in the workplace. Professional obligations such as salaries, fringe benefits, and work expectations should be defined in writing and honored by the organization.

"We honor the sto-



TJ Bucholz poses at an event with former Vanguard Public Affairs partner Jen Eyer.





Bingman



Erickson



ries of these courageous young professionals and support their recovery as survivors even though our experiences were not the same. The survivors were demonstrably subjected to pressures on their persons, their financial stability, and their professions that were inappropriate and unacceptable.

> "All employees and contractors have resigned from the organization in the wake of these credible allegations. We did not witness any of this type of behavior, and it was not reported to any of us. Most of us were employed entered or into contracts subsequent to the dates of employment listed by the survivors."

Courtesy

- Ann Abor City Councilwoman Jen Ever resigned her partnership at Vanguard. Although she has resigned, Eyer herself was implicated in contributing to the toxic work culture, as City Pulse reported last week.

Andy Schor demanded, and got, Bucholz' resignation from Downtown Lansing, Inc. In statement, here's what Schor said: "TJ Bucholz was a

downtown small business owner interested in helping Lansing, so he applied for the volunteer position on Downtown



Lansing Inc.'s Board, and was vetted through the City's process. I was told about an inappropriate message that was sent to a woman and I supported the woman who came to me in the way she requested. I had no knowledge of this pattern of toxic behavior, nor the extent to which it escalated with others. After reading the Free Press article, I told TJ Bucholz he must resign from Downtown Lansing Inc.'s Board, and he did so immediately. This behavior is completely unacceptable and these allegations need to be treated with the seriousness they deserve. It's important that we listen to all of the courageous women who are telling their stories."

 Bucholz' seat as president-elect of the Central Michigan Public Relations Society of America is now vacant.

- Central Michigan University has opened an investigation into journalism Professor Steve Coon, a senior adviser at Vanguard, and CM-Life student newspaper adviser Dave Clark on what they may have known about the environment at Vanguard. Both men have been placed on leave. Read more coverage on the City Pulse website.

 Clark has been suspended from the Board of the Michigan Press Association. You can read more about this at the City Pulse website.

has been reduced to a placeholder website.

attorney Derrick George George of Royal Oak.

U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Detroit, put out the following statement:

"The behavior and events described in the accusations against T.J. Bucholz are reprehensible. I commend the courage of all the women who have shared their painful experience working for and with T.J. Bucholz. As someone who has experienced sexual violence Tlaib in the workplace, I know how hard it is and the

fear involved in not only speaking out against a harasser, but to also come forward in a society that shames, blames, and attempts to discredit survivors of sexual violence.

"My campaign ended involvement with



TJ Bucholz poses inside his office with State Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr. (D-East Lansing).

T.J. Bucholz and Vanguard Public Affairs in December 2019 for unrelated reasons. My campaign team and I were not aware of any accusations against T.J. Bucholz during our contractual relationship, and would have ended our ties immediately if we had known of any allegations. It pains me that these disgusting acts were happening without my knowledge. This is a reminder to all of us that we must strive to be more vigilant and diligent in rooting out predatory, toxic, and violent behavior in the workplace. I stand in solidarity with the women who have come forward and will continue to fight hard to protect everyone who faces sexual harassment and violence."

State Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr., formerly a close ally of Bucholz and regular visitor to the Vanguard offices, issued the following statement on his Facebook page:

"The last day has been filled with anger, confusion and sadness. I am embarrassed that someone I thought I knew, someone I considered a friend, could hurt so many people. In conversations I have even found out that perceived connection to me was used to show power that likely helped keep people in their silence. There are no other words than disgusted.

"While I was never present for or had knowledge of these actions, I am horrified and lived that this went on for so long and I didn't see it. And while I understand that perpetrators purposefully hide their actions from those they use for power to continue their behavior, I am sitting with the guilt that I didn't recognize it.

"These women are incredibly courageous for speaking out. I can't even imagine the hell that TJ's actions have put them through many of whom were at the beginning of their careers.

"I hope that we can all find ways to lift them up during incredibly difficult time and that we can use their strength as a lesson of how we act as allies in the future."

- TODD HEYWOOD





– Vanguard's website

– Bucholz has hired

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# ARTS & CULTURE AND ART-BOOKS FILM - MUSIC Local indie rock bands gather for compilation album

### **By SKYLER ASHLEY**

Thanks to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the vast majority of Lansing's indie rock bands have not performed a live concert in more than a year. But our tenacious local guitar-slingers have not been totally dormant. "This Must Be the Place: Quality Hits From Lansing" is a new compilation that gives the local music scene a well-deserved opportunity to shake off some of the pandemic rust.

GTG Records teamed up with music writer Rich Tupica — author of the longtime City Pulse column "Turn it Down!" — to herd together some of Lansing's best underground rock bands for a stacked compilation that features a fun blend of cover tracks. If you want a solid sampler of what's going on with local indie music, this an excellent starter pack Check out "This Must Be the Place" by visiting gtgrecords.bandcamp.com

to dig into.

"Each band could pick any cover they wanted. No restrictions or themes," Tupica said. "I felt that'd not only encourage more people to contribute, but also allow them to properly document a cover song they've been thinking about doing."

Every band featured on "This Must Be the Place" recorded a send-up to their favorite artist. Classic bands covered in the compilation include post-punk outfits such as The Talking Heads, classic rock groups like Jefferson Airplane and The Who, and even grunge acts à la Alice in



Chains.

"This compilation came together organically. It just seemed like something that needed to happen," Tupica said. "There have been almost zero live shows, so this is sort of a stopgap in that sense. It's a way to experience local bands while we can't see them in person."

"This Must Be the Place" is a fun smattering of music that is distinctly representative of both the current and past Lansing underground rock scene. New bands such as the Rodeo Boys and Silktail make an appearance, as well as veterans like Wally Pleasant and The Plurals. The cover art, a nighttime shot of a Quality Dairy parking lot, is also a fun, winking nod to Lansing culture.

The album is available 100% free to download on GTG Record's BandCamp page. Tupica said it was important that the compilation be easy to listen to and distribute.

"In short, this was just a fun project. And, something that's really important here is that it's totally free to listen to and download. No profits, just fun," he said.

# Lansing comedian lampoons doomsday preppers

### **By COLE TUNNINGLEY**

Have you ever thought about what you would do in the apocalypse? Doomsday preppers take that hypothetical into a lifestyle. Local comedian and YouTuber Louis D. Michael created the web show "Loaded for Bear" to parody the folks who slide into conspiracy theory and obsession.

"I want to make the show a mix of

You can find Michael's videos on his YouTube channel, "Loaded for Bear." humor and practical, survival skills. It'll be kinda like a 'Red Green Show' knockoff," Michael said, in reference to a pop-

ular Canadian TV program. "It's very Canadian humor. Like 'Letterkenny' and 'Kids in the Hall."

In a recent video, Michael ate his way through a package of Meals Ready-to-Eat, or MREs, often used by soldiers in combat. In another, he constructed a Batman-esque toolbelt of survival supplies.

"I just took a bunch of gear you'd normally put in a backpack and went, 'Fuck it. I'm gonna make myself a Batman belt," Michael explained. "That was



Lansing comedian Louis D. Michael filming his web show "Loaded for Bear."

fun. Got your flashlight, your matches, right around your waist."

Michael is a lifelong Michigan resident. He's also spent years traversing the state as a stand-up comedian. His travels exposed him to the most rural, off-the-beaten-path corners of the Mitten State.

The comedic aspects of the show hide the fact that Michael actually contains a treasure trove of survival know-how. He can show you how to start a fire, pitch a tent and wield an ax. In the early stages of "Loaded for Bear," Michael just wanted to make videos that could comfort his friends who felt unequipped to deal with the changing world.

"A lot of it is stuff my dad would show and tell me when I was growing up. I was a half-assed army brat," Michael said. "We never went camping or hunting, really. But I learned basic urban survival and some wilderness survival from him."

During the past few years, Michael started to grow interested in camping

and backpacking. His personal anxieties about the world led him to dive deeper and deeper into research about survival.

"At the advent of the pandemic, I decided to turbocharge all my knowledge," Michael said. "I wouldn't say I'm unironically a doomsday prepper. But I'm further beyond what the government recommends." The government recommends keeping two weeks of supplies in storage. Michael keeps enough for a few months.

He is hesitant to become fully committed prepper because the lifestyle can often be a slippery slope towards dangerous ideologies or conspiracies.

"It's definitely fertilizer for some crazy shit," Michael admitted. "You can find some guys who drank a little bit too much of the Kool-Aid. At what point are you just already living life like you're experiencing the apocalypse?"

Michael plans to keep growing his show, releasing new episodes and upping the production value.

"I'm going to keep reading up on this stuff and learning. But also, I'm going to lean really hard into being a spoof of a prepper," Michael said. "Why not make fun of what's scaring us?"

# **Exploring the German influence on American culture**

### **By BILL CASTANIER**

Lynne Breen of Lansing had little intention of writing a book when she first sat down in 2014 with 89-yearold Grand Ledge resident Ernst Floeter, who first came to the United States as a prisoner of war. Like most prisoners of war, Floeter was sent back to Germany, but his love of America brought him and his spouse back to the U.S.

Ernst became a fixture in Grand Ledge, portraying Uncle Sam in the Fourth of July parade and serving as the chairman of the town's bicentennial celebration of the U.S. He also became well known for his photography business.

Lynne and Floeter ended up cowriting his memoir, "I'll See You Again, Lady Liberty."

"We met for about five months at the Logjam restaurant in Grand Ledge, where I took notes. The next week I would give him a chapter to work on," Breen said.

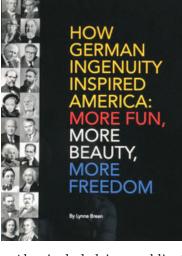
When the book was released, Breen said, "There were people lined up out the back door of the Logjam."

Floeter died in 2015, only a short while after the book was published. He had inspired Breen to keep writing about something that was near and dear to his heart — the goodness and ingenuity of Germans and the great influence they played in American culture.

During his later years, Floeter would lecture at schools and community groups about the "goodness" of German Americans. Breen has taken up that mantle with the new, 237page book, "How German Ingenuity Inspired America: More Fun, More Beauty and More Freedom," which was recently published by the German American Heritage Foundation of the USA.

The beautifully illustrated, flawlessly documented coffee table book details from A-Z (Astaire to Ziegfeld) the impact German creativity has had on the U.S., since German immigrants began making their way here seeking a better life. Breen's book documents that influence with passages on beer, sausages, music, science, arts, religion and architecture among others.

The book is a pleasure to leaf through, and it's an even bigger pleasure to learn just how deep the German influence is across the coun-



try. Also included is an obligatory piece on Frankenmuth.

Assisted by friends, who would send her articles about the German influence, Breen also did something surprisingly simple to uncover its breadth.

"My husband has a large collection of nonfiction books and I would look for the letter 'G' for Germans in the index," she said.

Some of the entries are obvious like Albert Einstein, beer and Beethoven, but it would be a good wager that most of us couldn't name the device invented by a German that had a major influence on rock 'n' roll. The Wurlitzer jukebox was created by Franz Rudolph Wurlitzer in the 1850s as an offshoot of his previous venture, creating band organs for carousels, which were introduced in the U.S. by another German, Gustav A. Dentzel. And then there's The Mommas and Poppas and the Hohner Harmonica, which both have German roots.

Breen, who is only part German,

"I'll See You Again, Lady Liberty" is currently available at the website: www.gahmusa.org



had nevvisited er Germany. short In order, she has become font of а information on German influence in America. She even threw back some Jägermeister

J in the name of research.

Breen

"People were egging me on to down it," she said

Some 20 entries in the book speak specifically to the German influence in Michigan, including the Fisher Building in Detroit, designed by Albert Kahn, the Niles train station, designed by Frederick Spier and William Rohns, and the original Stroh's Brewery building, designed by Detroiter Heinz Prechter, among others.

Breen also said she came across a German influence during her research that will be the topic of her next book.

"While researching, I came across Germans' role in the Underground Railroad, the election of Lincoln and ending slavery," she said.

In the book, she quotes abolitionist Frederick Douglass, "A German

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has only to be a German to be utterly opposed to slavery." She also writes about Franz Daniel Pastorius, who led the first formal protest against slavery in the colonies.

You don't have to be of German descent to embrace their impact on our culture. Think about the Hummel on your shelf, the Steiff bear in your child's bed or those wonderful Cracker Jacks, all created by Germans.

German food also has grown to be a staple in our epicurean lives and includes schnitzel, sauerkraut, and the barbecue favorite bratwurst. And with Easter this weekend, give credit to the Germans for giving us not only Santa Claus, but colored eggs and the chocolate Easter Bunny.

Breen has her own favorite German influence in her life. "Growing up our family listened to music standards. I had no idea Tin Pan Alley has a German connection," Breen said. "So many of the songs were by German Americans."



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"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold, when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade."
Charles Dickens **Archives Book Shop** 

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25.78% THC

0.03% CBD

**Biohazard** 

/Hybrid/

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HYBRID

/Hybrid/

# Quiet opening, loud products at new north Lansing dispensary

Lansing's newest pot shop sells chocolates and candy-inspired weed

# **By KYLE KAMINSKI**

Stoners across Lansing, rejoice. We have another new pot shop in the Capital City — and that means that an even wider selection of recreational and medical cannabis products are in town.

First Class Cannabis Co. quietly opened its doors at the southeast corner of N. Grand River Avenue and N. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard on March 5. Without much advertising or marketing fanfare, staff there are relying largely on top-notch customer service, word-of-mouth reviews and an



Lansterdam in Review: **First Class Cannabis Co.** 2515 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing 517-993-6490 first-class.kushcart.us/

expansive product selection.

Plus, first-time customers can choose from a wide selection of pre-rolled joints for only a penny.

"We don't necessarily specialize in any particular products. What really sets us apart is having a very knowledgeable staff with great customer service skills to help people find the products that are best for them," explained Anthony Morales-Doxtader, store manager.

The Lansing shop is the company's only location — for now. Daily specials on ounces run from 4:20-7:10 p.m. Shop in store or check out Weedmaps and first-class.kushcart.us to place an order. And don't be deterred by the nearby road construction; the parking lot is still navigable.

### **Root Weaver – Runtz** Price - \$60/3.5g THC content - 19.85%

Effect: Energizing, Relaxing, Stress Relief

Gorilla Glue #4 (aka Original Glue) has

earned its incredible popularity as a

hybrid strain through a potent mix of

euphoric effects and full-body buzz.

Available for medicinal and adult use. Cannot

NEW STRAIN DROP

Effect: Relaxing, Stress Relief

Like its name suggests, Biohazard is a

robust strain with a reputation for its

equally intense bouquet and effects.

Available for adult use, Biohazard drops Friday 4/2.

Expect Purely powerful pleasure.

be combined with any other offers or discounts Offer valid 3/29-4/4, while supplies last.

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SAVE

\$5

Runtz is a rare hybrid cross between Zkittlez (one of my favorites) and Gelato, which is probably the most commercially available strain in Greater Lansing at the moment. Known for its balanced, euphoric and uplifting effects, it was also named Leafly's "Strain of the Year" in 2020.

As the candy-inspired name would imply, this strain packs some serious fruity smells and flavors. Dense, dark green buds were caked with a cheeselike layer of yellow pistils and trichomes. The first few hits were shockingly smooth with overwhelming fruit flavors - pear, apple, berries, grapes, maybe a touch of grapefruit too. It's a fruit basket rolled up in a joint.

After a stressful week, I was sort of hoping the indica-dominant ancestry would shine through here. Instead, I found myself energized, uplifted and puttering around the yard for a few hours. It also turned out to be a great pairing for a bike ride along the Lansing River Trail. Pedal safely.

### Magic Edibles – White Chocolate Price - \$20/36 pieces THC content - 100 mg

There's something about chocolate that hits differently than other edibles. Maybe it's the extra fatty content helping streamline the THC straight into my bloodstream. Maybe it's because recent studies show that cannabis-infused chocolate could actually be more potent than labeled.

Either way, white chocolate is my favorite kind of chocolate. (Yeah, I know: It's not really chocolate.) And this tasty snack had me stuck in another dimension during my weekly trip to the grocery store on Sunday afternoon. I'd highly recommend splitting this bar with a friend or risk spending \$300 on junk food at Sam's Club.

Don't worry everyone; I didn't drive to the store. I also made it out without causing a scene.

### **Kiva Confections – Espresso Beans** Price – \$20/20 pieces THC content - 100 mg

I'm always searching for unique products. And like the white chocolate. I haven't seen chocolate-covered espresso beans on any recreational menus at other dispensaries in Lansing.

A small can of 20 beans offered an easy (and portable) way to slow dose throughout the day. And because they're real espresso beans, there's also a noticeable kick of energy to accompany the high. Consider these the perfect snack for a hike through the woods.

Or skip your coffee, pop a few on the morning commute and enjoy a semi-coherent work day.

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



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FOR USE BY INDIVIDUALS 21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER ONLY. Keep out of reach of children. It is illegal to drive a motor vehicle while under the influence of marijuana. National Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222.

# LCC's 'What's Next?' embraces the new normal

### **By DAVID WINKELSTERN**

During the pandemic, we've seen several Zoom productions, a professionally filmed play, a drive-in movie, a socially dis-

### "What's Next?"

Debuts online April 16 Viewable on Facebook.com/ LCCPerformingArts tanced outside show and podcasts. On April

16, Lansing Community College's Performing Arts Department reveals on its Facebook page yet another creative way to safely experience performances.

"What's Next?" is an original film about our recovery from the year that was, and embracing the new normal. It's unique because of its content and format, and how it was assembled. "What's Next?" is a collection of nine original segments by students that began in January as a theatrical piece and transformed into a film.

"As I pitched the project to LCC, my mission was to create a project that focused on the unexpected, even remotely positive outcomes of the living hell that was the last year," director Mark Colson said.

"Someone in the group of about eight that I was pitching to said, 'We have seen the projects about the tragedy and loss from COVID. I guess I'm more interested in what's next.' That conversation stuck with me," Colson said.

Colson is a LCC acting instructor who is well known for his directing and acting accomplishments. The Screen Actor's Guild and Actor's Equity member has an impressive local and national resume of stage and screen roles. That included a recurring character in Netflix's "I Am Not OK With This."

"Season two was greenlighted and then canceled by Netflix," Colson said. "The explanation was that it that it was completely due to the pandemic."

For "What's Next?" Colson wanted to create something other than a virtual play or piece focused on the pandemic's devastation. He also wanted to use the Devised Theater technique — a process Colson employed while being part of the "Theatre 2 Film" projects when he taught at Michigan State University.

"Devised Theater begins with extremely loose parameters of the project's theme or mission," Colson said. "There is no end goal or finish line."

"What's Next?" took shape through combined efforts that produced structures and endings over time. "In essence, DT is for the brave who are willing to stand at the edge of a cliff, look down, not see the bottom, and jump anyway," Colson said. "All of my actors jumped off the cliff."

Sally Hecksel, Samantha Le, Rebecca MacCreery, Kallie and Makayla Marrison, Pamela R. Smith, Molly Sullivan, Brianna Sweet and Colson make up the cast. Topics for the segments include relationships, body image, family, social justice, healing, health, wellness and hope.

Sullivan's "Ignite," Kallie Marrison's "Jumbled Thoughts of Isolation," MacCreery's "Looking Glass," Smith's "One Spark Leads to a Flame," Sweet's "Unwanted" and "We Can Thrive," Kallie and Makayla's, "Sisters," and Le's "Connection" and "Sandy, the Twins, and the Dodge C a r a v a n " make up the mini-films.

"I was not only asking my students to be writers, I was asking them to be filmmakers," Colson

Colson said. "Theater and

film rely on the continued proliferation of new material. I have strived to con-

struct platforms that encourage artists to tell their stories for the first time."

The entire project was done virtually. Jade Smith is the video editor and Robert Fernholz is the technical director. Colson, who will give a curtain speech before the premiere, has a wish for viewers of "What's Next?"

"Hopefully, they will connect to the same thing that we witnessed," he said. "That we are not alone. That we will become whole or stronger again thanks to our shared experiences."



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April 3, 10, and 17 (register for free on the MSU Science Festival website)

# **NEW THIS YEAR!**

### Self-Guided Activities

Activities that you can do at your leisure:

Citizen science projects

- Get outside and explore activities
- Other self-guided experiences

# **Digital Resources**

Year-round, browse our library of STEAM related digital resources that include citizen science projects, virtual tours, videos, podcasts, and STEAM activities that you can do at home.



# Thursday, April 8 + 7:30 p.m.

# The Transcendental Etudes of Franz Liszt

# Featuring Fangzhou Feng, pianist

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# Favorite Things Jacob Weston and his **T-shirt collection**



Jacob Weston is a graphic designer and a musician. When not performing in bands holding down vocal or guitar duties, he's helping to design merchandise and album artwork. His favorite thing is the collection of band *T-shirts he's gathered over the years.* 

Over the years, going to shows, I would always pick up shirts to support bands. I've just been hoarding them since I was 13-14. I 've got stuff from local bands that don't exist anymore and stuff from my favorite bands of all time.

One that stands out to me is from a band called Stretch Armstrong's 2000 tour. One of my friends picked it up and gave it to me. That band was kind of an introductory for me to hardcore music and that kind of launched me into the direction I went in life.

I've got stuff I designed for friend's bands. Shirts and stuff is what transitioned me into doing graphic design like I do now. I've also got shirts from bands I've toured with, like Under Anchor. I have a First Step shirt that I love so much that I rebought it in a different size. It's very youth crew, which speaks to me.

I've got a handful of red ones, like this Verse one from the "From Anger and Rage" tour. I've got an olive green Down to Nothing shirt, and a royal blue Bad Seed tank top, which is actu-

ally one of the more valuable shirts that I have. I love looking through all of my shirts and remembering, "This is dope, and I remember when I was super into this band." I also found my old Set Your Goals shirt, which was at the beginning of the big cartoon, all-over print. It's something I would never wear these days, but I was so into it back in high school.

Fashion is a big part of self-expression. It can be co-opted by people, like the Joy Division shirt. But that doesn't really bother me too much. I feel like it's a way of saying, "This is what I'm into." It can be a way of connecting and meeting people. You can make friendships, and I think that's huge. And I think design really matters, especially with how you present yourself. In a pandemic, how can you support artists? You can't go to shows, and streaming doesn't compare to buying merchandise. Buying shirts is a way to support bands you care about and way for them to earn revenue. Recording costs money and it takes a lot of work and effort to put stuff together. I'm going to continue to buy shirts and support those I care about, probably forever.

Interview edited and condensed by Skyler Ashley, if you have a suggestion for Favorite Things, please email Skyler@Lansingcitypulse.com

By Matt Jones

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"Sandwiched"--

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by Matt Jones

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42 1.5-volt battery size

44 His Secret Service

code name is "Celtic"

49 Skulk about

51 "Feels great!"

53 Part of PSL

55 "Oh, nasty!"

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56 "Tickle Me" doll

57 Brooding music

50 "Uh-uh"

36 "Downton

(1968 hit)

40 "Byeeee"

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39 Central or Hvde. e.g. 40 Twist out of shape 42 "The Living Daylights" singers 43 "Famous Potatoes" state 45 Looked slyly 46 English, in Spanish 47 White of "Family Matters' 48 "Roger \_\_\_\_" (1960s cult cartoon hero) 52 They're raised by mechanics 53 Time to give up? 54 Included with 55 Lyft competitor 56 County Kerry's isle 59 Manipulate 60 Pilot's calculation 61 Group for ex-Gls

Answers on page 27

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# **TO PLAY**

37 Bleachers sound

38 Places to be let on

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 Brezsny

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Playwright August Strindberg (1849–1912) was a maverick innovator who loved to experiment with plot and language. One of his stories takes place in a dream and the hero is the Christ-like daughter of a Vedic god. He once said that he felt "an immense need to become a savage and create a new world." Given your current astrological potentials, Aries, I suspect that might be an apt motto for you right now. APRIL FOOL! I half-lied. There's no need for you to become a savage. In fact, it's better if you don't. But the coming weeks will definitely be a good time to start creating a new world.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Who says all Tauruses are gentle, risk-avoidant, sensible, and reliable? Taurus author Mary MacLane (1861–1929), known as the "Wild Woman of Butte, Montana," authored shocking, scandalous books. In \*I Await the Devil's Coming\*, she testified, "I am not good. I am not virtuous. I am not generous. I am merely a creature of intense passionate feeling. I feel-everything. It is my genius. It burns me like fire." Can I convince you, Taurus, to make her your role model for the coming weeks? APRIL FOOL! I don't think you should be EXACTLY like MacLane. Please leave out the part about "I am not good. I am not virtuous. I am not generous," as well as the "I await the devil's coming" part. But yes, do be a creature of intensely passionate feeling. Let your feelings be your genius, burning in you like a fire.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Poet Emily Dickinson had a good sense of humor, so she was probably making a wry joke when she wrote, "The lovely flowers embarrass me. They make me regret I am not a bee." But who knows? Maybe Emily was being a bit sincere, too. In any case, I advise you to make a list of all the things you regret not being—all the qualities and assets you wish you had, but don't. It's a favorable time to wallow in remorse. APRIL FOOL! I was totally lying! In fact, I hope you will do the reverse: Engage in an orgy of self-appreciation, celebrating yourself for being exactly who you are.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Provocation specialist Lydia Lunch is a singer and poet who's skilled at generating interesting mischief. She testifies, "My daily existence is a battlecade of extreme fluctuations where chaos clobbers apathy, which beats the s--- out of depression which follows irritability which slams into anger which eclipses ecstasy which slips through my fingers far too often." In the coming weeks, Cancerian, I recommend you adopt her melodramatic approach to living the intense life. APRIL FOOL! I lied. Please don't be like Lydia Lunch in the near future. On the contrary: Cultivate regal elegance, sovereign poise, and dynamic equanimity.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): In 1692, a Swedish man named Thiess of Kaltenbrun was put on trial for being a werewolf. He claimed to be a noble werewolf, however. He said he regularly went down to Hell to do holy combat against the Devil. I suggest you make him your inspirational role model in the coming weeks. Be as weird as you need to be in order to fight for what's good and right. APRIL FOOL! I half-lied. What I really meant to say was: Be as weird as you need to be to fight for what's good and right, but without turning into a werewolf, zombie, vampire, or other supernatural monster.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): DI want to hear raucous music, to brush against bodies, to drink fiery Benedictine," wrote author Anais Nin. "Beautiful women and handsome men arouse fierce desires in me. I want to dance. I want drugs. I want to know perverse people, to be intimate with them. I want to bite into life.D All that sounds like perfect counsel for you to consider right now, dear Virgo! APRIL FOOL! I lied. Nin's exuberant testimony might be an interesting perspective to flirt with-\*if\* the COVID-19 virus had been completely tamed. But it hasn't. So I must instead suggest that you find ways to express this lively, unruly energy in safe and sublimated ways.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Here are affirmations that will serve you well in the coming days. 1. am willing to make mistakes if someone else is willing to learn from them." 2. "I am grateful that I'm not as judgmental as all the shortsighted, selfrighteous people." 3. "I assume full responsibility for my actions, except those that are someone else's fault." 4. "A good scapegoat is as welcome as a solution to the problem." APRIL FOOL! All the preceding affirmations are total bunk! Don't you dare use them. Use these instead: 1. "I enjoy taking responsibility for my actions." 2. "Rather than indulging in the reflex to blame, I turn my attention to fixing the problem." 3. "No one can make me feel something I don't want to feel." 4. "I'm free from

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): According to author Kahlil Gibran, "If we were all to sit in a circle and confess our sins, we would laugh at each other for lack of originality." But I challenge you Scorpios to refute that theory in the coming days. For the sake of your sanity and health, you need to commit highly original sins—the more, the better. APRIL FOOL! I lied. Save your novel, imaginative sinning for later. The truth is that now is an excellent time to explore the joyous and healthy practice of being \*extremely\* virtuous. Imitate author Susan Sontag: "My idolatry: I've lusted after goodness. Wanting it here, now, absolutely, increasingly."

believing in the images people have of me.'

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The coming months would be a great time to start your own university and then award yourself a PhD in Drugless Healing or Mathematical Reincarnation or Political Metaphysics—or any other subject you'd like to be considered an expert in. Hey, why not give yourself three PhDs and call yourself a Professor Emeritus? APRIL FOOL! I'm just joking. The coming months will indeed be an extremely favorable time to advance your education, but with real learning, not fake credentials.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): After his Nirvana bandmate Kurt Cobain committed suicide, Capricorn drummer Dave Grohl was depressed for months. To cheer himself up, he wrote and recorded an album's worth of songs, playing almost all the instruments himself: drums, lead guitar, rhythm guitar, bass, and vocals. I think you should try a similar spectacularly heroic solo task in the coming weeks. APRIL FOOL! I lied. Here's my true and actual advice: Now is a time when you should gather all the support and help and cooperation you can possibly garner for an interesting project.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Argentine poet Alejandra Pizarnik told her psychoanalyst León Ostrov that if she were going to steal something, it would be "the façade of a certain collapsed house in a little town called Fontenay-aux-Roses [near Paris]." What was so special about this façade? Its windows were made of "magical" lilac-colored glass that was "like a beautiful dream." In accordance with astrological omens, I invite you, too, to decide what marvel you would steal—and then go steal it! APRIL FOOL! I half-lied. Yes, definitely decide what you would steal-it's important to give your imagination permission to be outrageous—but don't actually steal it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): I've never understood the appeal of singer-songwriter Morrissey, especially since he began endorsing bigoted far-right politicians. However, I want to recommend that you adopt the attitude he once expressed in a letter to a friend. "It was a terrible blow to hear that you actually worked," he wrote. 'It's so old-fashioned to work. I'd much rather lounge about the house all day looking fascinating." Be like that in the coming weeks, Pisces! APRIL FOOL! I lied. In fact, you'd be making a silly mistake to lie around the house looking fascinating. It's a highly favorable time for you to find ways to work harder and smarter.

25

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

www.lansingcitypulse.com

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

# REPLAY AIMS TO REOPEN, LAUNCHES FUNDRAISER



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Replay's Ted Wilson (right) and Clint Harkness stand outside the Old Town shop. (courtesy photos)

# Longtime entertainment and record shop hopes to sell 1,000 shirts

Back in 2006, entrepreneur Ted Wilson opened Replay Entertainment Exchange and offered a new take on traditional record stores. Alongside vinyl, DVDs and CDs are stacks of other used media, including video games and accessories. It's well-curated pop culture haven on the edge of Old Town.

Over the years, it's moved around a few times, across a few parts of town including Lansing's eastside and downtown East Lansing. Since 2015, Replay has been in its Old Town location (at the old Capital Harley Davidson), but recently it's needed serious roof repairs that made a difficult time even more stressful. Wilson chatted with City Pulse about how Replay is combating this unexpected problem and challenges presented by the pandemic.

There's FBC, The Record Lounge and your shop — which is a bit different. How would you describe Replay?

Replay is more of a catch-all physical media shop, we don't restrict what we carry because we know that our clientele will tell us what they're looking for, and there are still a lot of movies and video games that folks are looking for. With streaming services ballooning in popularity and specific service and studio centric, it costs more than ever to have access to everything you may want to watch on your smart TV. Frankly, not everyone wants to pay a monthly fee to have their favorite movies at their fingertips, and that's why a used store like ours makes it more convenient to have your favorite titles in your collection.

# I understand there were problems with Replay's roof and ceiling. How serious?

Ted Wilson: The roof problems exacerbated the ceiling strength from the inside. It was the water damage from the leaking roof that weakened the interior ceiling to the point where entire sections were collapsing. The repair problems were largely Covid related. We were not the ones scheduling the work, as that was done by our new landlord, Michigan Community Capital, who is redeveloping the Temple Club into apartments while preserving the historical significance of the building. Unfortunately, there were a lot of factors beyond their control while trying to schedule the work to get the building safe and perform a much-needed facelift. There were Covid delays with the work crews to maintain their safety, and with such an old building, every time a layer was peeled back, there were more things that needed to be addressed and it just takes time. We planned on being open by the end of 2020, but waiting an extra over threeplus months put us behind schedule, both for the work to be completed on our end after the initial construction, as well as financially behind. It made the t-shirt fundraiser necessary.

To raise funds, you're selling shirts via your other company Michigan Shirt Works, which prints in the back of the building. Why did you go that route instead of a Kickstarter?

Times are tough, and that's not an understatement. We understand the fatigue associated of seeing everyone with their hands out looking for help, and that not everyone is in a position to help everyone via charity. We happen to be in a very unique position that we have a universal product we can sell to anyone: custom t-shirts and apparel. Everyone wears t-shirts, tank tops and sweatshirts, so instead of asking for a donation, we're asking folks to buy a shirt or sweatshirt from our catalog of popular designs. They can pick it up when we reopen, or we'll ship it to them for free. We want to earn our bread, and since our t-shirt printing business is slow because of Covid, we thought selling t-shirts for our fundraiser would be a great option,

and make our reopening campaign different from typical GoFundMe campaigns. We just started the fundraiser last week, and hope to run it for a month and reach our goal of 1,000, or more, t-shirts sold.

# When do you hope to have the repairs done? When will you reopen?

The repairs are now finished, but we still have a ton of work to do in laying down the new carpet, getting our signage back up, rebuilding the fixtures and putting the store back together. Ideally, we're hoping to reopen the middle of April. We are very grateful to be a part of this community. Everyone's support during the last year of wanting to see us reopen, plus the participation of our community during our outdoor events last summer, were a very special time for us. We're in a great position to be a member of the Oldtown and Lansing community for years to come, but with Covid, we're in a precarious position, so everyone who chooses to buy a shirt from us to help us to reopen, we can't thank you enough.

Replay Entertainment Exchange is at 536 E. Grand River Ave. Lansing. For more information, visit facebook. com/replayarmy and to buy a shirt visit jollymitten.com. 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

Wednesday, March 31

series. 11 a.m. events.msu.edu

Allen Farmers Market - 1629 E.

Kalamazoo! 3-6:30 p.m. 517-999-3911.

**Biomedical Engineering Virtual** 

by Michigan Authors - 11-11:30 a.m.

Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. glad.org

Future Present Exhibition - MSU's

Science Gallery Detroit debuts exhibition in

E. Broad Art Lab, 565 E. Grand River Ave.,

East Lansing, through April 11th. Info and

reservations: detroit.sciencegallery.com.

**Michigan Authors Virtual Bookfest** 

LIVE on Zoom! - 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge

Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St.

Mouse Trap - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science

Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-

Paper Airplane Kits - Kits available on a

first-come-first-served basis. 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S.

Return and Karma - Join us on Zoom. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Weavers of the Web

Antiques & April - Coming to Mason in

April 2021! business.masonchamber.org.

Autism Awareness Puzzle Swap and

Basket Distribution - ASPPIRE is again

Burgess New Venture Challenge - 5-8

Clue - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center,

Detroit Tiger's Opening Day - !!!MLB

OPENING DAY!!!! 1 p.m. Ellison Brewery +

200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116.

Spirits, 4903 Dawn Ave, East Lansing.

Building Parking Lot, 3815 W St Joe,

p.m. entrepreneurship.msu.edu

**Capital Area Audubon Society** 

monthly meeting - Socializing 7-7:15 p.m. followed by presenter Josh Haas on "Love for Birds, Light and Composition."

doing an outreach to pass out COVID safety supplies. 6-8 p.m. Fairlane Professional

Threads of Wisdom: Threefold

Grand Ledge. gladl.org

8116. impression5.org.

Main, Eaton Rapids.

weaversoftheweb.org.

Thursday, April 1

Lansing. 989-272-2977.

capitalareaaudubon.org.

impression5.org.

Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E

Seminar Series - Join us for our weekly

"Featured Authors" Books presented

Suzi at (517) 999-6704.



Kaleidoscope Kits - available on a firstcome-first-served basis. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 South Main Street, Eaton Rapids. eradl.org

Virtual Refugee Foster Care Information Session - 5:30-7:30 p.m. RSVP to RFCinfo@samaritas.org for Zoom info.

# Friday, April 2

Karaoke - Hosted by Rico! Fun starts at 9 pm. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. crunchyseastlansing.com.

Overload Day - Escape Room - You've been studying for your computer science class too long! 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library. gladl.org

Risk - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org

# Saturday, April 3

Annual Candy Hunt - 10 a.m. until candy is gone. Open for all children through 5th grade. 10-10:30 a.m. Patriarch Park, 960 Alton Rd., East Lansing. k03414.site.kiwanis.org.

Drive Thru Easter Basket Giveaway -Temple #308 Elks Lodge, 5334 S MLK Jr Blvd., I ansing.

Future Present Exhibition - MSU's Science Gallery Detroit debuts exhibition in

E. Broad Art Lab, 565 E. Grand River Avenue, East Lansing. detroit.sciencegallery.com.

Hippity Hop 5K - The Hippity Hop 5K is officially back for 2021! Join us on Saturday April 3rd for an in-person event. 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing. 517-483-4222. runsignup.com.

Karaoke - Hosted by Brad! Fun starts at 9pm! 12-3 a.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. crunchyseastlansing.com.

Mobile Easter Food Box Giveaway -LMTS Community Outreach Services will be distributing food boxes 12-2 p.m. 1122 W. Holmes Rd. #3, Lansing. Imtsoutreach.org.

# Sunday, April 4

Karaoke - Starts at 9pm! 12-3 a.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. crunchyseastlansing.com.

Sunrise Easter Service - Join Sycamore Creek Church as the sun rises on Easter Sunday. 7-8 a.m. Mt. Hope Cemetery, 1800 E. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing.

# Monday, April 5

Busy Work Kits - We will provide a variety of mazes/word searches/sudokus etc. in a kit! 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main, Eaton Rapids. gladl.org

Chronic Pain workshop- Attend a free 6-week workshop via phone calls! 1-2 p.m. business.masonchamber.org.

Music Bingo - at The Crunch! 10 p.m.-12 a.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. crunchyseastlansing.com.

**Operation** - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual) - 6-7 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka Street, Lansing. facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing

UPCOMING EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS COMING TO LANSING

 $FAST_FORMA$ 

# Stimson Hospital **Public Ghost Hunt**

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Tickets: \$15-\$40 Saturday, April 3, 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. 101 W. Plain St., Eaton Rapids Facebook.com/ **StimsonHospital** 

Join the Inner Circle Paranormal Society for a paranormal tour of the Stimson Hospital in Eaton Rapids. The event kicks off at 5 p.m. with an historical tour of the hospital, followed by a paranormal investigation from 7 p.m. to 10: 30 p.m. and then concludes with a findings debriefing from 10:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Guests are encouraged to bring a flashlight and other equipment they might find necessary.

### **Detroit Tigers Opening Day at** Ellison Brewerv + Spirits Thursday, April, 1 p.m. 4903 Dawn Ave., East Lansing

Facebook.com/EllisonBrewery Join Ellison

Brewery + Spirits for a chill day of baseball and beer. Major League Baseball returns, and the Detroit Tigers are start-

ing off the new season by facing the Cleveland Indians. Special drinks for the day include 97.1 The Ticket American Lager and Hazy Pale Ale.

# Tuesday, April 6

Candy Land - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

SUDOKU SOLUTION From Pg. 25										
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# Lansing Brewing Co. Presents Flight **Nights with Quality Dairy** Saturday, April 3, noon to 9 p.m. Sunday, April 4, noon to 8 p.m. 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing

Facebook.com/LansingBrewing

Lansing Brewing Co. is launching a new beer-pairing event where it will partner with different local businesses to explore



how their products match with LBC's craft beer. First up is Quality Dairy, so expect to dine on a variety of delicious donuts paired with frosty beer.

Our Daily Work, Our Daily Lives Brown Bag Series - "Inside the Early Twentieth Century Working Class Family: Kin, Work, and Neighborhood." 12:15 p.m. broadmuseum. msu.edu.

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From Pg. 25														
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# Maple pecan pie

### **By ARI LeVAUX**

A maple tree in April is a force to be reckoned with. The sap flows with a vengeance, squeezed by specialized cells that expand during the heat of day to create more pressure in a maple tree than in the inside of a car tire.

The people who make maple syrup, a hearty tribe called "sugarmakers," capitalize on this pressure by drilling holes in the tree, a process known as tapping. Taps allow the tree's pressure to push the sap, which the sugarmakers refer to as "water," out of the tree and directly into a collection system. A maple in April is a creature in the zone exercising its superpower, pregnant with sweet possibilities. It is an engine firing on all cylinders. A motivated counterparty.

Last winter a new guy showed up at the farmers market in my town of Missoula, Montana. He seemed to be everywhere at once, speeding around and chatting with other vendors, while juggling a steady queue at his stand, where motivated shoppers were eager to buy the syrup he makes from three distinct types of maple tree.

Most sugarmakers have a stash of tapped sugar and red maple trees called a sugarbush. David Knudson doesn't have one to call his own. His business, Montana Mapleworks, relies on the cooperation of landowners with maples on their properties including his urban neighbors; several Norway maples in the alley behind his house are, as we speak, quietly draining their sap into bags that Knudson will simmer into syrup in the sugarshack he built in his garage.

Around here, Norway maples are considered invasive species. I wanted to cut one down in our backyard. But the neighbors accused me of plotting a crime against nature, so I relented. I've since come to appreciate the tree for its shade, and the tree house. And now, thanks to Norway Maple Syrup, I have another reason to appreciate this interloper.

"I think it's far superior in terms of caramel and depth," Knudson told me. And each batch is different. Some are darker with more molasses flavor while other batches are lighter with



more butter caramel, depending on the exact time of year the sap starts flowing, how much the tree makes, and temperature fluctuations during the cooking process.

The sugar maple syrup tasted sweet and familiar, and was less interesting than the Norway or the silver, a native maple species. Knudson also has black walnut and sycamore syrups under development, both of those trees also being sap pushers.

In order to properly enjoy my new syrup, and further appreciate my Norway maple tree, I was able to acquire a maple pecan pie recipe from my friend Sue Kost, who sells them alongside many other fine cookies and pastries at the market. Her pies remind me of the Bama brand pecan pies from the 7-11 that I used to pig out on late night back in the day. The substitution of maple syrup for corn syrup was a definite improvement over the usual pecan pie. Maple pecan, after all, is a noted combination in ice cream. With maple syrup these little pies are buttery, nutty, and drop dead decadent. Like a pecan pie should be.

### Mini Maple Bourbon Pecan Pies by Sue Kost

Sue uses the Pampered Chef Mini (4-inch) Pie Pans and gets six pies. Since those pans can be hard to find, I've adapted her recipe to standard-issue muffin tins, in which I get about ten cupcake-sized maple pecan pies. Crust:

- 1 stick (1/2 cup) frozen butter
- $1\frac{1}{4}$  cups flour
- 1 Tablespoon sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon salt
- 5 Tablespoons ice water

Cut the butter into small cubes, about a half-inch on a side.

Add the flour, sugar and salt to a mixing bowl, and stir to combine. Add the cubed butter to the flour mixture and toss to coat. Cut the butter into



the flour with a pastry cutter until the flour has turned a pale yellow and resembles a coarse crumble.

Add the water and mix until combined. Don't overwork it. The mixture should be just moist enough that it holds its shape when you squeeze it in your hand. Add more water if needed. Form the dough into a mound and wrap in plastic wrap, chilling for at least 1 hour or up to 2 days.

When ready to use, let the dough sit at room temperature for 30 minutes to soften slightly. Pat the dough into a puck-like shape and roll between two sheets of parchment paper to about 1/8" thickness. Find a bowl or cup about an inch in diameter more than your muffin tin. Press it down like a cookie cutter onto the rolled dough, packing as many of those circles as you can into the rolled sheet. Gather and ball up and re-roll the remaining dough to get a few more disks. If the circles start to fall apart when you lift them, place the sheet in the freezer for ten minutes to stiffen up.

Place each disc in a well-buttered cupcake tin, gently pressing down first all around the bottom, pushing out any air bubbles. The sides will crease. Smooth them to fit with your fingers and shape into mini pie crusts. Filling:

1 stick unsalted butter

<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup packed brown sugar
<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup maple syrup
2 tablespoons bourbon
2 large eggs
1 tablespoon vanilla extract

- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon salt
- 1 cup chopped pecans
  - Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In a saucepan or microwave, heat the butter, syrup, brown sugar and bourbon on high for 2-3 minutes, or until the butter is melted; whisk to combine. Let the mixture cool for 3-4 minutes.

Add eggs slowly, whisking constantly, followed by the vanilla and salt.

Toast the pecans on a dry pan on medium heat for about five minutes, stirring constantly.

Divide the pecans among all of the crusts. Cover them with the molten filling, up to crust level.

Bake for 30-35 minutes, or until the crusts are golden brown and the filling has set. Let cool for 5 minutes. Go around each pie with a thin knife to free the edges. When cool enough to handle, pry them out with the knife.

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.

# New Lansing eateries to try this spring

# **By COLE TUNNINGLEY**

As spring comes to Lansing, its residents have much to look forward to. Vaccines are rolling out. That big boat is finally unstuck. And last but not least, there are new restaurants opening up around town.

Here are some of the new and upcoming restaurants that have planted their roots in the Lansing area:

# St. John's Brewing Co.

St. John's Brewing Co. is the third taproom to open under the umbrella of Mountain Town Brewing Co., a Mount Pleasant-based craft beer maker. Opened in December of last year, St. John's offers 20 taps serving beers, ciders and seltzers. If you want to grab a bite with your drink, the menu also has a selection of smoked meats that pair perfectly with its home-crafted brews.

# **One North Kitchen & Bar**

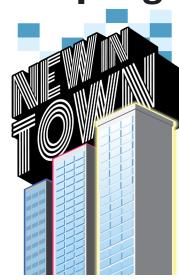
While it's a favorite over in Jackson, Lansing residents got their first chance to try One North earlier this year. A Lansing location just opened up in the old Reno's west building on Saginaw Highway. One North is a sports-themed bar with over 40 beers on tap. Don't miss their scratch cooking. Menu items included favorites like pizza, burgers and delicious fried foods.



St. John's Brewing is housed in a bank.

# **Sidecar Slider Bar**

Coming to Lansing this spring, Sidecar Slider Bar is already a hit in the Detroit area. The concept of the restaurant is simple. The good folks at Sidecar developed a limited menu of sliders, hot dogs and sides. For them, the simplicity is the point. "Focus on a few things and do them very well," reads the Sidecar website. The staff at Sidecar is also extensively trained in the wacky world of craft beer and cocktails. If you need any help navigating the menu, they'll be right by your side.



# St. John's Brewing Co.

200 N. Clinton Ave., St. Johns Sunday, Noon to 8 p.m. Monday to Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. (989) 227-7700, stjohnsbrew.com

# **One North Kitchen and Bar**

5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing Open Sunday to Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. (517) 901-5001 onenorthdining.com/lansing

# Sidecar Slider Bar

500 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing Coming soon sidecarsliderbar.com



The only American owned & operated fish fry in Lansing



517-694-8655 T-F 11AM-7:30PM









Don't see it? Please ask a manager.

**F** ArtByNevin

O Art\_By\_Nevin

# LOOK WHO'S BANKROLLING ...



KRIS NICHOLOFF, CEO AND LOBBYIST: \$1,000 ELIZABETH JONES, DTN STUDENT RENTALS: \$2,000 PAUL FRICK, D.C. CONSULTANT: \$1,000 JOSEPH MANZELLA II, DIRECTOR, QUICKEN LOANS: \$1,000 SAGAR SETH, CEO, MOEBIUS: \$1,000 KEVIN SCOTT, FAST FOOD ENTREPRENEUR: \$1,000 JANE HOURANI, HOMEMAKER: \$1,000 WILLIAM DEMMER, CEO, DEMMER CORP.: \$1,000 MICHAEL MARKS, CEO, E.T. MACKENZIE: \$1,000 EARDMENT MACKENZIE, CHAIRMAN, E.T. MACKENZIE: \$2,100 EDGER HARDEN, CEO, CAPITOL NATIONAL BANK: \$500 STEVE CALVERLEY, CEO, MAPLEGROVE PROPERTY MGMT: \$500 VAN MARTIN, CEO, MARTIN COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES: \$1,000 KRISTIN CARLTON, OWNER, CLEAN CLEANING LLC: \$1,500 AMANDA SHAMOON, UNEMPLOYED: \$1,500 PAUL BROWN, REALTOR, KELLER WILLIAMS: \$2,100

(WATCH THIS SPACE IN JULY FOR A <u>COMPLETE</u> LIST!)

Source: Virg Bernero for Lansing 2020 campaign finance report, ingham.org



*Survivor: former threeterm mayor 'still a danger to women' in 2021* 

City Pulse, 3/10/21

Report: Former Lansing mayor faces sexual criticism mounts against tallegations

Criticism mounts againse Bernero over sexual harassment claims <sub>City Pulse, 3/4/21</sub>

Paid for by Michigan Deserves Better, PO Box 14222, Lansing, MI 48901