

# Meals on wheels





sidebar

dine & tap

East Lansing



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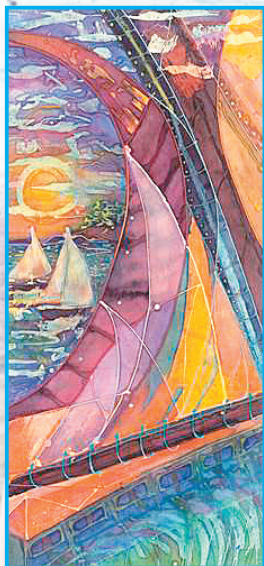


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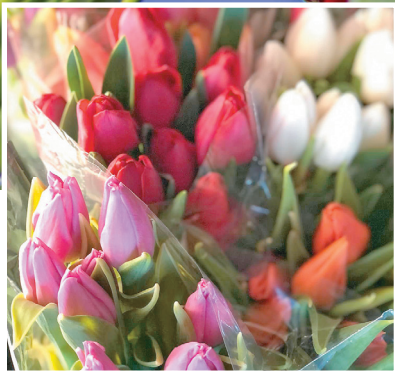


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### CRUSHING DISSENT

A NEW OKLAHOMA LAW PUNISHES PROTESTERS WITH UP TO \$5000 IN FINES OR A YEAR IN JAIL FOR "OBSTRUCTING TRAFFIC."

THE REAL CRIME HERE IS NOT BLACK PEOPLE KILLED BY POLICE, BUT DRIVERS DELAYED ON THEIR WAY TO THE CHEESECAKE FACTORY!

SOME STATES ARE NOW PASSING BILLS TO GIVE DRIVERS IMMUNITY FOR PLOWING INTO PROTESTERS OUT OF "SELF-DEFENSE."

JUST FLEEING THESE DANGEROUS "RIOTERS!"

BLACK LIVES MATTER

PERSON SURROUNDED BY TWO TONS OF METAL

THIS IS AFTER THE DEATH OF HEATHER HEYER IN CHARLOTTESVILLE AND DOZENS OF INCIDENTS OF CARS DRIVING INTO PROTESTERS LAST YEAR.

HAW HAW! CHECK OUT THIS "RUN THEM OVER" MEME!

REAL!

IT'S ALMOST LIKE ANOTHER ERA WE WENT THROUGH...

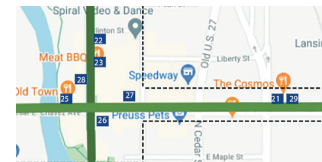
THAT'S JUST FOR "SELF-DEFENSE" AGAINST THE ANGRY MOB.

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# CityPULSE

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Practice your social distancing in a social district this summer

**PAGE  
10**

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**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



Nonprofit Origami Rehabilitation center opens second branch

**PAGE  
18**



New in Town: Fiesta Mexicana opens in Charlotte

**PAGE  
26**



**Cover  
Art**

Skyler Ashley

**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

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## CITY PULSE

on the

# AIR

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

**WDBM**  
**IMPACT**  
88.9FM

## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

I AM OUTRAGED THAT DEMOCRATS WOULD EVEN SUGGEST ELIMINATING THE FILIBUSTER!

INDEED! HAVE THEY NO RESPECT FOR THE SACRED TRADITIONS OF THE SENATE?

THE 60 VOTE RULE HAS BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE THE HALLOWED DAYS OF 1975!

DEMOCRATS CANNOT DISREGARD THE WISDOM OF OUR DISTANT FOREFATHERS FOR MERE PARTISAN ADVANTAGE!

THE FILIBUSTER IS A NECESSARY TOOL OF BIPARTISAN COMPROMISE!

AND IF THE LAST FEW YEARS HAVE TAUGHT AMERICANS ANYTHING, IT IS THAT REPUBLICANS VALUE BIPARTISAN COMPROMISE ABOVE ALL ELSE!

AND EVEN WORSE--THEY WANT TO ADD MORE SEATS TO THE SUPREME COURT TO RESTORE "BALANCE"!

WE CHEATED FAIR AND SQUARE TO STACK THE COURT WITH OUR PEOPLE! THEY CAN'T CHANGE THE RULES ON US NOW!

THESE REFORMS COULD UNDO YEARS OF WORK TO SUPPRESS THE VOTE!

HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO STAY IN POWER THEN? BY WINNING MORE ELECTIONS?

AS IF!

FORTUNATELY, MANCHIN AND SINEMA WILL NEVER LET ANY OF IT HAPPEN.

THANK GOD SOMEONE ON THAT SIDE OF THE AISLE RESPECTS THE NORMS OF THIS INSTITUTION!

MAINLY THE ONE WHERE WE ALWAYS GET OUR WAY.

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# Truth and consequences

Our society is in the thick of a long overdue reckoning with a troubling legacy of sexual harassment and abuse that has put countless people in harm's way, most of whom are women. The sexual harassment scandal that put New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo's predatory actions under the microscope is but the latest and most prominent example of the indisputable truth that women have been exploited and victimized by powerful men for a very long time.

Acknowledging this painful reality is the first step toward eradicating sexual harassment from our society. Creating a system that supports victims and encourages them to come forward is essential to holding offenders accountable for their actions. Accountability can look like what happened to local public relations consultant T.J. Bucholz, whose business imploded after numerous former employees described a toxic work environment and Bucholz's relentless sexual harassment. Former mayor Virg Bernero's attempted comeback was challenged by anonymous allegations of groping and unwanted sexual overtures and ultimately derailed by a credible accusation of sexual harassment by a former employee.

Now comes the case of Kathie Dunbar, a four-term member of the Lansing City Council who announced her mayoral candidacy as Bernero exited the race. Immediately she faced a 15-year-old allegation from a former friend that Dunbar had sexually propositioned her and used racially charged language. Dunbar's accuser, Rina Risper, is the longtime publisher of a Black community newspaper in Lansing. She's also an avowed supporter of mayoral candidate Patricia Spitzley.

We're not convinced that Risper's allegations are true. We note that the alleged incidents she describes are private, personal interactions between consenting adults. Even if they are true, we're not convinced that they rise to the level of sexual harassment. And, there is no connection to a workplace that could implicate unequal power dynamics between a supervisor and employee. There is, however, evidence to suggest that Risper's claims are motivated by a longstanding personal beef between her and Dunbar. Based on what we know now, we're not willing to throw Dunbar under the bus over Risper's claims.

We believe that truth is just as important in the court of public opinion as it is in a court of law. When someone breaks the law and is charged with a crime, our system of criminal justice affords them a presumption



## The CP Edit

### Opinion

of innocence until credible evidence is presented that proves their guilt. In today's version of the court of public opinion, people can be convicted and canceled based solely on the recollections of the accuser. Allegations that are confirmed by contemporaneous witnesses have added strength. During a recent Facebook podcast, Risper claimed "she doesn't need proof" and repeatedly referred to Dunbar as a "monster." This sort of hyperbolic language strains the credibility of the accuser. Harvey Weinstein is certainly a monster. There is no evidence to suggest that the same term can remotely be applied to Kathie Dunbar.

Nor are we losing any sleep over Dunbar's former side hustle as a standup comedian. Her routines definitely ran toward the raunchy side, and for those who are easily offended there's plenty of ammunition to cast

her as a depraved person. This aspect of her past is also being used against her in the mayoral campaign. We're not buying it: We have watched how Dunbar comports herself on the political stage for 16 years. She knows and respects the difference between her two audiences.

Make no mistake: We're firmly in the camp of those who believe that survivors of sexual harassment and sexual assault should be heard. Where we part company with the most strident supporters of the #MeToo movement is unquestioning acceptance of every allegation as fact. We still believe in truth, fairness and justice. Accordingly, we're not willing to blindly accept that every accusation is credible, especially in the heat of a political battle where false allegations are more likely to surface as part of a campaign's attack strategy.

This is tricky terrain. Speaking truth as journalists often comes with significant risk that we will be attacked for our views. In this case, we almost certainly will be excoriated by #MeToo activists for hedging on the proposition that every accuser must not only be heard but believed — every time. We think this leaves far too much room for false allegations, and the concomitant negative consequences for people who are unjustly accused.

Sadly, this is what our politics has become. If we accept that every allegation is automatically true, the door opens to all manner of false allegations as a campaign tactic. No matter how flimsy the claim, campaign operatives and those who pay them to deliver a win will take advantage. That's why we need to be especially discerning when judging accusations of sexual harassment in the midst of a heated political campaign.

In the end, the claims against Dunbar will be adjudicated by the voters of Lansing. That's as it should be. But voters also need to be aware, if they aren't already, that political attacks may or may not be true. Voters should consider the evidence and the credibility of the accuser, just as a jury would. They should consider the character and track record of the accused: Are the claims consistent with what you already know to be true?

It would be a miscarriage of justice if a qualified, experienced, progressive woman like Kathie Dunbar was denied the chance to continue her laudable public service career because we have allowed the bar to drop so far that any allegation, true or not, is good enough. It's not good enough for us.

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



# Chauvin verdict is a teachable moment

By **DEDRIA HUMPHRIES BARKER**  
**OPINION**

Because George Floyd condemns the American image, white Americans — and indeed the whole world — are paying attention and wanting to learn about the lives Black Americans live.



Barker

America is in a teachable moment.

Let me explain.

A teachable moment is when teachers want to teach and students need to learn. Both face something broken. The teacher knows how to fix it. The student wants to learn how to fix it. Mutuality. Give and take. Ying & yang. Two sides together. In concert.

Moreover, the teachable moment is an emergency. Not the best time

to teach or learn, but at that moment something must be done.

My idea of the teachable moment comes from when I taught Writing 121 at Lansing Community College.

The final was called “portfolio.” At LCC, that meant the teaching professor did not determine which of her students passed or failed. Other professors teaching different sections of the same course did that.

This division approximated the

American justice system: Police apprehend law breakers; courts enforce the law.

Students lived in terror of portfolio. I loved it, not because I am a sadist, but because submitting the portfolio was a heart-beating-hard teachable moment. It happened at the next-to-last class.

During this penultimate session, I reviewed their essays for one requirement: documentation. Documentation had to be in the text and as a list on the last page. Giving credit where credit was due, in writing, was a key learning objective. I taught documentation for half of the semester, eight tedious weeks.

It was stressful, like our situation since March 2020. COVID plus BLM.

Some students didn’t learn documentation. To help them pass the course, I reviewed their essays before they passed in their portfolio. I pointed out fatal errors.

A teacher is a trainer, like Derek Chauvin was, and he made the fatal error while his students looked on, not willing to risk correcting him.

But in class, most students paid attention to me. They were more willing to admit ignorance. More apt to use, to study up on documentation and make emergency corrections. If there was no documentation, the portfolio was a bust. Broken. And soon their course grade would be as well.

It was a teachable moment.

I used to tell my students that as long as their portfolio (which was just a folder) held the essays inside, it could sport a photo of Darth Vader on the front. It didn’t matter.

What mattered was being ready. For the teachable moment. They abound, but they don’t always work. Or turn out well.

Like in Minneapolis. Everyone lost something on the street there: George Floyd lost his life, and Derek Chauvin lost his life as he knew it. Loss happens in class as well.

Despite my lectures on how to make a plan to get work in on time, one of my African American students — I didn’t have many — never showed up to our penultimate class. He was somewhere frantically rekey-



The verdict convicting Derek Chauvin starts to fix a broken situation. We have a teachable moment.

ing his essays for his portfolio due that day. His flash drive containing them had crashed.

When he delivered his portfolio to my office, he apologized, but then tried to recover by saying, “I do my best work under pressure.”

The pressure was definitely on; did he pass? No.

But my student learned from that failure. Later in another semester, he said he took WRIT 121 again, submitted his portfolio on time and passed the course.

God help us, Derek Chauvin will never get another chance. I can only hope that the nation’s police officers saw the teachable moment in George Floyd’s Minneapolis street murder, but with Daunte Wright’s shooting this month just 10 miles away, it doesn’t seem to be the case.

Still, public spaces can be the stage of teachable moments without violence.

I was standing in the lobby of a University of Michigan Medical Center doctor’s office waiting for my daughter. A young couple with a baby wrapped in a green blanket came nearby. I asked the gender of their child.

After they rolled away, this Baby Boomer white man, came up next to me. He said, about the baby’s gender, “You never know anymore.” He meant color was not the definitive marker it used to be.

Then he said that his daughter wanted him to return with her to the doctor’s office on Jan. 16. He said he was retired. “What else do I have to do?”

Jan. 16 that year was the third Monday of the month, so I knew on that day I would be learning more about Black American history because, as I told him, “It is the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.”

“Oh,” he said, “my son keeps up with that sort of thing.”

It sounded like his son tried to teach him about BLM, without success. Was the father and I in a teachable moment. Let’s see.

“What sort of thing?” I asked. “American history?”

He stared at me, his face turning red. But he mustered enough courtesy to say, “You have a nice day.”

“You too,” I called to his back.

I was smiling and hoping I had tethered his retired world to reality.

As the African-American daughter of a Black Detroit police family, I have seethed with each vicious police killing, and protested painting all police officers with one brutish brush.

But, in 1929 and in the 1950s, when my grandfather, my uncle and father donned the blue, the police department was called the police “force.” I didn’t understand how true that was.

*(Dedria Humphries Barker, of Lansing, chairs the Andrew and Mary Jane Humphries Foundation. She is the author of “Mother of Orphans: The True and Curious Story of Irish Alice, a Colored Man’s Widow.” Her opinion column appears on the last Wednesday of every month.)*

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF INGHAM  
Circuit Court - Family Division  
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE  
File Nos. 18-417-GM, 18-418-GM

In the matter of Ayanna and Magick Mitchell.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: including Marcus Mitchell, whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: The annual guardianship report has been filed.

Date: 4/20/21

M. Frenando  
1711 N. Capitol Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48906

CP#21-105

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
54A JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
124 W. Michigan Ave. #54A,  
Lansing, MI 48933  
ORDER REGARDING  
ALTERNATIVE SERVICE  
CASE NO. 21-00097-SC

Plaintiff: Jeff Wagner, 5133 Balzer St., Lansing, MI 48911  
517-392-6794

v  
Defendant: Amanda O'Boyle  
124 W. Michigan Avenue 5th floor  
Lansing, MI 48933. 517-483-4320

Last known home address & phone: 1323 Kelsey Ave., Lansing, MI 48910. 630-740-8757

THE COURT FINDS:

1. Service of process upon the defendant, Amanda O'Boyle, cannot reasonably be made as provided in MCR2.105 and service of process may be made in a manner that is reasonably calculated to give the defendant actual notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard.

2. Service of the Affidavit and Claim and a copy of this order shall be made by the following method(s):  
a. First class mail to 1323 Kelsey Ave., Lansing, MI 48910  
d. Other: Publication of Order in the Lansing City Pulse for 3 consecutive weeks beginning 04/28/2021 and continuing on 05/05/2021 and 05/12/2021.

For each method used, proof of service must be filed promptly with the court. Date: April 14, 2021.

CP#21-106



# Certainties remain in redistricting reshuffle that will cost MI a seat

The U.S. Census Bureau confirmed Monday what we long expected: Michigan will lose a congressional seat in 2022, officially starting an uncomfortable



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

## OPINION

round of musical chairs as Michigan's 14-member delegation shrivels to 13.

Unlike years past where congressional critters lobbied their state legislators to keep their districts together, there's no political pull with the new independent redistricting commission. This is going to create any number of strange scenarios and should make nearly every member of Congress nervous.

Is U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin's Holly farm staying in the same district as Lansing? I'm sticking with what I wrote a couple months ago: more unlikely than likely. Oakland County is home to four members of Michigan's congressional delegation. That's unsustainable.

Oakland County has roughly 1.3 million people, and each congressional district must have 761,169 people.

The math doesn't work for Slotkin, U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens, U.S. Rep. Andy Levin and U.S. Rep. Brenda Lawrence to all represent unique districts at their current home addresses.

Here's some things we do know for certain:

— U.S. Rep. Jack Bergman, R-Watersmeet, in the 1st District has nothing to worry about. The Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan will have its seat due to geographic limitation. He'll pick up more of the northern part of the Lower Peninsula, but it's hard to see how his district could become politically competitive.

— Making Detroit and a few Inner Ring suburbs like Inskter, River Rouge its own district makes a lot of sense. The new commission must make keeping "communities of interest" a high priority, and there's no question the city of Detroit would qualify for that.

But to shield against a successful legal challenge, the redistricting commission needs to preserve Michigan's two districts in which at least 55% of the population is Black. This inevitably means cutting the Motor City in half again and creating two new strange-looking Detroit-based districts to replace the current two strange-looking Detroit-based districts.

— Multiple members of Congress could end up drawn into the same district. U.S. Rep. John Moolenaar, R-Midland, and U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Flint, could get roped into a Tri-Cities Flint district.

Stevens and Levin only live 13 miles apart. Stevens and Lawrence live 14 miles apart. Stevens and Slotkin live a 30-minute trip on I-75 from each other.

U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Detroit, and U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell, D-Dearborn, live about eight miles apart.

Now, members of Congress don't have to live in the districts they represent. (State legislators do). They only have to live in the state. However, if a member of Congress is carved out of his or her district, they may feel forced to move to feel connected to their communities.

— In the aughts, Michigan had the nation's oldest congressional delegation. Now, they have one of the most inexperienced.

Only one Michigan member is on retirement watch: U.S. Rep. Fred Upton, R-St. Joseph. Upton hasn't made friends with Trump Republicans with his vote to impeach President Donald Trump. He doesn't seem to care. He has about four or five Republicans claiming they'll run against him in a primary.

Geographical issues make it hard to envision a Southwest Michigan district with Benton Harbor and Kalamazoo getting drawn out of existence, though. So, if Upton does retire, it's more likely an Upton replacement comes to Congress with Battle Creek added to the district.

— West Michigan has grown too much compared to the rest of the state to not have two congressional districts. The Grand Rapids metro region, itself has 1 million people, so that's two right there.

Nothing is for certain in this process, but having a Lake Michigan shoreline-based district that U.S. Rep. Bill Huizenga represents and a Grand Rapids-based district represented by U.S. Rep. Peter Meijer remains the most likely scenario.

As for Lansing, the best-case scenario for the region is a Clinton/Eaton/Ingham/Jackson district, which has never really happened when politicians drew the map. We'll see if this independent redistricting commission gives it a try.

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

# Whole Foods delivers ... a blow to local journalism in Lansing

Dear Jeff Bezos:  
You saved The Washington Post.

So, why are you allowing one of your companies to undermine local journalism?

Moreover, why this particular company: Whole Foods, with a well-earned reputation for being "woke"?

Let me explain.

Last week some 350 of my readers and your customers discovered they could no longer pick up their City Pulse in your East Lansing store, along with any other free publications.

Whole Foods is not breaking ground there. Meijer banned free papers in 2012. After considerable pressure from customers and local leaders, Meijer granted City Pulse inferior locations (and did not give City Pulse even that option when it opened its Bath Township store). Net loss of circulation, pre-pandemic, of 2,300 papers. More now because of the virus.

Then came Kroger. Acting on the advice of a consultant, two years ago the nation's biggest supermarket chain banned free publications. The consultant, hired to remake the front of stores, advised Kroger that nobody reads newspapers anymore, so they could go. Nobody, that is, except 3,000 Kroger customers a week.

So, Whole Foods isn't first. And its action is the least harmful to City Pulse's survival.

But, Mr. Bezos, it's still harmful — and not just to City Pulse's bottom line. (As a free newspaper, we depend on advertising revenue, which depends on eyes on those ads.)

It's harmful to journalism, and you, I am sure, understand why. And my guess is you also care.

After all, you spent \$250 million to buy The Washington Post in 2013, and who knows how you've spent on it since then. No one thinks you did it to make money. Moreover, you stayed tough on Trump despite his efforts to get even by going after Amazon. The Post's greatness has been restored. Thank you.

So, again, I have to ask why you are allowing one of your companies to hurt local journalism?

Here's what I know about Whole Foods and newspapers. I'm told by a source within Whole Foods that City Pulse (and all free pubs) should have

OPINION



BERL SCHWARTZ

*Fresh Thyme and Better Health Store's two locations carry City Pulse.*

been kicked out of Whole Foods in East Lansing long ago, perhaps when Amazon bought the chain in 2017. The store is in the Midwest division. The division won't even sell paid newspapers, while all the other divisions do. So, ironically, Mr. Bezos, you can't even sell The Washington Post in Whole Foods stores in the Midwest.

Apparently, the Midwest division overruled local leadership in ordering the removal of City Pulse. Why? Because someone put a neo-Nazi flier on the free newspaper stand at a Whole Foods somewhere. So, in a baby/bathwater scenario, out went City Pulse too.

Mr. Bezos, that kind of thinking is somewhat expected, unfortunately, from companies like Meijer and Kroger. But from Whole Foods, and especially from Whole Foods owned by Amazon and founded by you?

Multiply what has happened here by 100. That's how many papers like mine are in the Association of Alternative Newsmedia. We numbered closer to 135 members less than a decade ago. Some of those that have survived lose money on the papers. But they have gotten into ancillary businesses, like special events and even gift shops, that help them keep the newspapers alive.

We alt papers are an increasingly important local news source as paid dailies face declining revenues. Just look at Lansing: Stories from other Gannett-owned papers in Michigan take up more space in the Journal than local news does. The pandemic has presented its own challenges to circulation, which after nose-diving last spring has come halfway back; it may rebound more, but it will not return to its pre-COVID numbers. Yes, online readership is up a lot, but online ad revenue is pennies on the dollar compared to print.

Mr. Bezos, I hope you — if you ever see this letter — will give some serious thought to whether you want to contribute to the further decline of local journalism. The implications are serious and long lasting.

Sincerely,

*Berl Schwartz*

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



## FOR DESIGN



The first person to correctly identify the last Eye for Design was Mindy Morton. That detail was the tile exterior at Van Hoosen Hall (below) on the campus of Michigan State University. From afar, the pattern of the tile resembles breezeblock, consistent with the building's midcentury modern origins. It was built in 1957. The apartment-style residence hall is available to female students of sophomore status or above and is named for Sarah Van Hoosen Jones, the first woman in the U.S. to earn a doctorate in animal genetics. She later served on the MSU Board of Trustees.

This month's Eye for Design (above) can be found in Okemos. If you know where, email carries-ampson@micourthistory.org and you might win an Eye for Design mug.

— CARRIE SAMPSON



"Eye for Design" is our look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates each with Eye candy of the Week and Eyesore of the Week.

# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS



By KYLE KAMINSKI

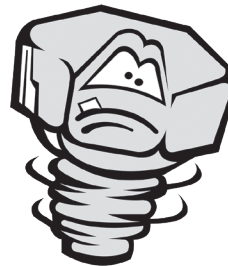


### Lansing plans millions in renovations

The City Council approved plans to borrow the money to improve about 40 locations, including parks, community centers, fire stations, police buildings and office spaces. The concept includes new HVAC units, lighting upgrades, new building controls, roof replacements, security upgrades and more. All told, the "energy and operational savings" of the proposed improvements is expected to save the city about \$20 million over the next 20 years.

### Jackson Field set for upgrades

As part of an extended lease agreement for the Lansing Lugnuts, the City Council approved \$1.25 million in facility renovations to comply with new league requirements. Improvements include the installation of energy efficient LED light bulbs, new locker rooms and batting cages.



### State of emergency extended again

It's the 14th time by the Lansing City Council since the coronavirus pandemic arrived. This one lasts through July 12.

### Drug paraphernalia legalized

The City Council repealed several ordinances deemed to be unnecessary or to have had a disparate impact on certain segments of the local population. Among them: a law that prohibits possession of drug-use tools like syringes, crack pipes, scales and baggies. Other repealed ordinances had banned loitering in places where prostitution occurs, playing in streets, riding bicycles in Riverfront Park during organized events and knocking on doors to beg for cash.



### Schor pledges \$300K against racism

The mayor released the first details of his latest budget proposal that includes \$300,000 to "set the stage" and "build the infrastructure" to bolster racial justice, equity and inclusion in the city. Among the plans: \$55,000 to create a video and recurring training modules for new employees; \$74,000 for

in-person training with top staff; \$10,000 for a consultant and \$76,000 to build an online mapping tool to further identify demographics and racial disparities throughout the city.

### Report: Lansing chemist stole secrets

Xiaorong You, of Lansing, was convicted of conspiracy to steal trade secrets from Coca-Cola and Eastman Chemical Co., economic espionage and wire fraud after a 12-day trial, reports the Journal. You reportedly stole \$120 million in trade secrets about BPA-free coatings for beverage cans and set up her own BPA-free coating company in China.

### Clara's needs tax incentives

Developer Pat Gillespie plans to use about \$750,000 in already approved tax incentives to redevelop the historic 113-year-old train station and former restaurant on Michigan Avenue. The 600Block project across the street — which includes the Capital City Market — only used about \$5 million of the \$10 million approved in a tax-increment financing package. Gillespie said that surplus could also help remediate contamination at Clara's while still saving about \$4 million that would have otherwise been spent from eventual tax revenues at the site.



### Free fare to polls Tuesday

CATA is offering them to the polls to vote on the Holt, Okemos and Waverly school proposals. Spec-Tran, Redi-Ride and rural service rides must be scheduled by 5 p.m. Monday (May 3). Other main route riders can just tell their bus driver when they board the bus.



### Lansing homicides still on rise

Seven homicides have been tracked this year, the Journal reports, putting the city on track to double its already record-breaking total of 22 homicides last year, the highest in decades. Police Chief Daryl Green is reportedly urging the community to communicate with police as much as possible about arguments, violent crime or feuds so they can mitigate the violence.

### Scammers steal life savings

Attorney General Dana Nessel is cautioning residents to stay vigilant after an elaborate scam cost one physical therapist and her family their entire savings. In the scheme, scammers posed as state investigators and FBI agents to warn the woman that her therapist license was in danger of "immediate temporary suspension," later demanding a wire transfer for her bond.

### Lansing schools remain virtual

Officials announced plans to keep classes online through the end of the school year, June 11, citing a rise in COVID-19 cases.



# Despite racial-bias claims, labor unions back Schor

With a sizable cash-on-hand lead, Lansing Mayor Andy Schor is already lining up organized labor endorsements that have traditionally helped to influence the outcome of local elections.

Those include endorsements from the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 951, Laborers Local 499, Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Locals 665 and 352, and Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 333.

Still unannounced: The UAW and unions representing the city's Police and Fire departments.

With endorsements also come donations and door knockers. Union endorsements can also result in cash flowing through political action committees. Last year, four unions donated \$25,000 to Schor's campaign coffers, according to Ingham County campaign finance records.

As the community struggled with a pandemic and racial injustice last year, Schor received \$6,500 from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, \$1,000 from the United Food and Commercial Workers, \$8,500 from the Carpenters and Millwrights and \$10,000 from the Plumbers and Pipefitters. These are direct contributions to his mayoral campaign account and do not account for independent expenditures which may have been paid out in support of Schor.

Schor had about \$180,000 left on Dec. 31. Kathie Dunbar, an at-large Councilwoman also running for mayor, had \$75 cash on hand. Councilwoman Patricia Spitzley — who is also running for mayor — tallied about \$1,200 left in her campaign accounts on Dec. 31.

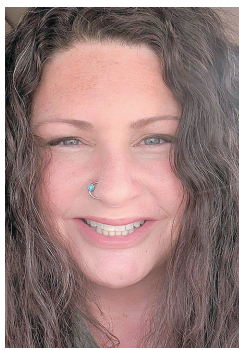
Both women can transition their Council campaign accounts to mayoral campaign accounts, said Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum. They only need to change their campaign committee statement of organization because both offices represent the exact same number of residents.

With three key unions left to endorse in the mayoral race, Spitzley said she has already sought meetings and vetting for their endorsements. She expressed disappointment that the traditional interviewing and vetting process used by unions in the past had not been followed this time.

Dunbar said the union endorsements for Schor are not an obstacle to her campaign's success. She said unions and PACs only donate to Schor in



Schor



Dunbar



Spitzley

exchange for a "benefit" that she doesn't plan to see maintained if elected. She said she'll raise cash from residents and business owners, noting she won her first council race with \$4,000 and "two pairs of Birkenstocks."

Simon Schuster, executive director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network, mostly follows state campaign finance issues but said labor unions play a "serious role" in Michigan politics.

"Their support in feet or boots on the ground is likely more important than the cash," he added.

But in a campaign season overshadowed by racial equity concerns, the traditional strength of union support may not translate into an election win. Schor has been criticized for his handling of protests against police brutality last summer in the wake of George Floyd's murder. His administration has also been hit with multiple lawsuits that allege racial discrimination. Those events also led the Lansing NAACP branch to issue a statement denouncing the mayor.

"We demand accountability now — not more reports and recommendations," the NAACP wrote.

Underlying racial tension could flip expectations in local politics, said Steve Japinga, a vice president at the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce. He said those simmering frustrations and demands for racial equity are reshaping the political landscape in as yet unknown ways.

The chamber — unlike several local unions — is continuing with its traditional interview and vetting process for candidates for city offices. Interviews are set for next month. Endorsements will likely be announced before absentee ballots begin hitting mailboxes shortly after June 24.

Japinga said the drive for racial equity is forcing change both at the chamber and within its political action committee. The pace of that

change will be slow because bylaws limit appointments and term limits, but the group is already recruiting more diversity for committees to ensure a focus on racial equity as the business organization charges forward in Lansing.

Schor, in the meantime, has released a platform that includes bolstering racial equity and addressing diversity and inclusion concerns in the city. He also dedicated at least \$300,000 in his latest budget proposal that will mostly support ongoing training efforts for city employees.

"I will be talking about my

accomplishments and my vision for the next five years," Schor said.

Dan Minton, business manager for the Laborers Local 499, said his union supported Schor in 2017. The repeat endorsement is mostly because Schor is "good for development," he said.

Minton said that racial equity was "absolutely" a labor issue, but there were no concerns from his estimated 1,400 members about the current allegations against Schor.

Spitzley was concerned by that response. Regardless of the outcome of the discrimination lawsuits against the city, she said that the fact that people can feel left out and discriminated against in Lansing requires attention. She added: "You can't just dismiss that out of hand."

Dunbar called Schor's performance related to racial issues "utterly dismal." She predicts the majority of labor cash will flow into political C4 organizations — political groups ostensibly for voter education — to "smear" Schor's opponents and "try to posit him as the least worst option."

— TODD HEYWOOD

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# Lansing to open booze districts just in time for summer

## City Council approves three 'social districts' for to-go cocktails

Imagine picking up a craft beer from Lansing Brewing Co. and then meandering across the street — cup in hand — to grab a rye whiskey from Michigrain Distillery. How about a pina colada on the beach at Rotary Park or a sidewalk cocktail in REO Town and Old Town?

The Lansing City Council pressed those booze-soaked dreams closer to reality this week, voting 8-0 to create three designated “social districts” in which dozens of sidewalks, alleyways and other public spaces could open for to-go cocktails from Lansing’s local bars and restaurants.

The plan, which has been in the

works since the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in Michigan last year, is geared toward expanding capacity for entrepreneurs still stifled amid state restrictions, explained Council President Peter Spadafore. It could also drive more business to Lansing.

“Really, the impetus was the pandemic and allowing greater capacity to serve and help keep these businesses afloat. The added benefit is that this creates a gathering destination,” Spadafore said. “It also creates more opportunities for outdoor festivals in places like Old Town.”

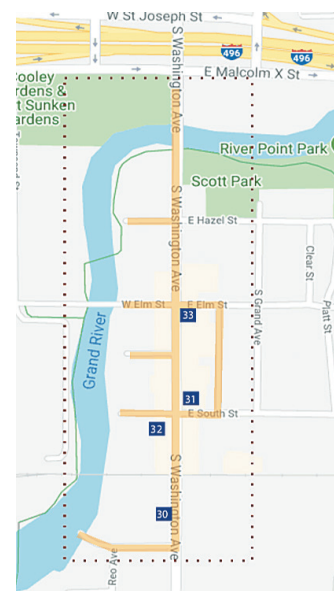
Pending state approval and additional permits from the city, two or more licensed bars, distilleries, breweries or restaurants in each district will be able to sell booze poured in special cups that can then be consumed in shared outdoor common

areas. Those mostly include sidewalks along Washington, Michigan and Cesar Chavez avenues as well as other adjacent side streets, the entirety of Rotary Park and a large swathe of the downtown Lansing River Trail.

The Michigan Liquor Control Commission still needs to sign off on the proposed districts. And individual businesses within each district will still need city approval before the outdoor booze can start flowing. City officials expect they’ll be operational before the summer heat sets in.

A total of 33 licensed bars and restaurants will be eligible to apply to participate in the program.

Cathleen Edgerly, executive director of Downtown Lansing Inc., said the districts will allow local watering holes to split the cost of outdoor entertainment, attracting customers to the city in a more socially distant fashion. Similar concepts are in place in Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids.



The REO Town district covers S. Washington Avenue, bordered at the north end by E. Malcolm X Street and continuing to Island Avenue on the south end of the district. Portions of Cottage Avenue and Hazel, Elm, and South streets are also included.

### NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE WATER SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS TO THE ELECTORS RESIDING WITHIN THE EAST LANSING-MERIDIAN WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Trustees of the East Lansing-Meridian Water and Sewer Authority (the “Authority”) intends to issue bonds in an amount of not to exceed \$4,370,000 in addition to amounts it has previously stated its intent to issue (the “Bonds”). The Bonds may be issued together with bonds the Board of Trustees has previously stated its intent to issue or as one or more separate series of bonds.

The bonds shall be issued for the purpose of defraying the cost to design, purchase, acquire, install and construct improvements to the Authority’s water system, including but not limited to improvements to the Authority’s water plant and facilities including but not limited to replacement and upgrading of HVAC equipment and components and any related appurtenances; pipe paint evaluation and application; and Water Treatment Plant filter additions and controls; as well as all work, and equipment necessary and incidental to these improvements and such other water treatment plant improvements the Authority shall determine to make and to pay the costs of issuing the bonds and capitalized interest, if any.

The bonds of this issue shall mature within the maximum terms permitted by law with interest on the unpaid balance at a rate not to exceed the maximum rate permitted by law payable over not more than thirty (30) years from the date of issuance of the Bonds. The bonds shall be issued pursuant to Act 94, Public Acts of Michigan, 1933, as amended.

#### SOURCE OF PAYMENT

The principal of and interest on the bonds shall be payable from the net revenues derived from the operation of the Water System.

#### RIGHT OF REFERENDUM

The bonds will be issued, without submitting such a question to a vote of the electors, unless within 45 days after the date of publication of this notice a petition requesting a referendum upon such question, signed by not less than 10% or 15,000 of the registered electors residing within the boundaries of the Authority, whichever is the lesser, shall have been filed with the undersigned Secretary. In the event that such a petition is filed, the bonds will not be issued unless and until the issuance thereof shall have been approved by the vote of a majority of the electors within the Authority qualified to vote and voting thereon at a general or special election.

This Notice is published pursuant to the requirements of Section 33 of Act 94 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1933, as amended.

Charles Peterson, Board Secretary

CP#21-101

See Social districts, Page 11



The downtown district spans along the south side of Washington Square to Midtown Brewing Company and west down E. Michigan Avenue past the Capital City Market, including all of Rotary Park and the Lansing River Trail north to Shiawassee Street.



# Social districts

from page 10

“I’ve watched social zones greatly enhance all of these areas,” said David Sell, who owns the Tin Can downtown. “They’re sort of the carrot at the end of the stick that we really need right now. Our industry has been ravaged by COVID-19, and this is really something that can help us limp through the rest of these mild weather seasons. This is the right thing for us. We need it.”

Scott Ellis, executive director of the Michigan Licensed Beverage Association and president of MichiGrain Distillery, said he expects the Liquor Control Commission to act quickly on the proposal. He also promised the Council that they “won’t

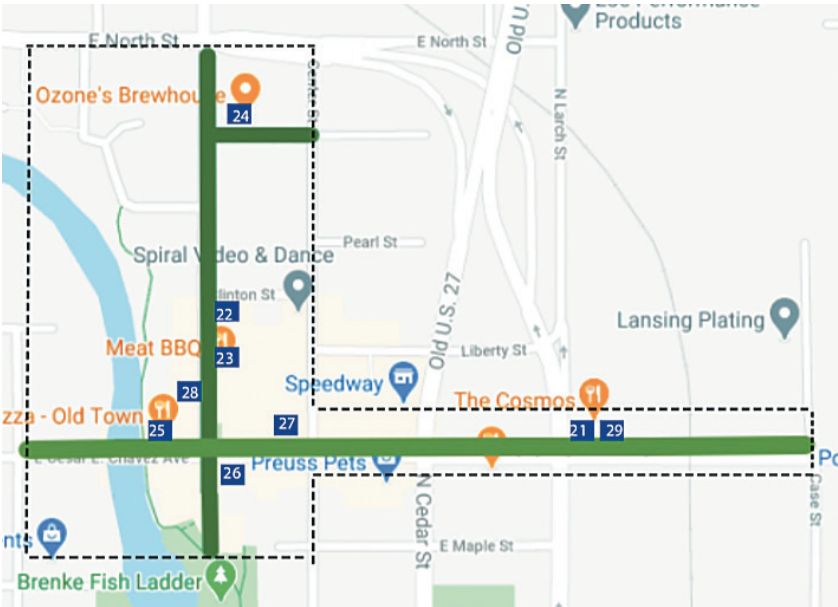
become these big, gigantic problems.”

Council members have long emphasized that they have no intention of broadly lifting ordinances on open intoxicants, only allowing them to be consumed in districts with signage and marked boundaries. The proposed zones are also temporary, set to naturally expire on Dec. 31, 2022.

Additionally, the outdoor booze districts — pending state approval — will only be able to stay open until 10 p.m. from Sunday through Thursday and until midnight on Friday and Saturday. Tents, lighting and loud speakers with music will require additional approvals from the city.

Dogs will be allowed within the districts but leash laws still apply. New trash and recycling cans will also be maintained by commercial organizations that represent each of the social districts.

— KYLE KAMINSKI



The Old Town district includes the entirety of Old Town and runs north along Center Street and most of E. Cesar E. Chavez Avenue, bordered to the east by Case Street.

## CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., via ZOOM Conferencing, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85940036219> or by dialing 312-626-6799 using meeting ID: 859 4003 6219 for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of Brownfield Plan #75 Amendment #2 – Capital City Market and 637 E. Michigan Ave Brownfield Redevelopment Project pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, Public Act 381 of 1996, as amended, for property commonly referred to as Capital City Market and 637 East Michigan Avenue, located in the City of Lansing, but more particularly described as:

Parcel 636 E. Michigan Avenue: A parcel of land in Block 242, Original Plat, City of Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, and recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, Page 36, Ingham County Records, Connard's Subdivision on Lot 1, Block 242, Original Plat, City of Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 31, Ingham County Records, and in Barnard's Subdivision on Lots 2, 3, and 4, Block 242, Original Plat, City of Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 32, Ingham county Records, the surveyed boundary of said parcel described as: Beginning at the Northwest corner of said Connard's Subdivision 425.18 feet (recorded as 425.04 feet) to the Northeast corner of said Connard's Subdivision; thence S00o06'32"W along the East line of said Connard's Subdivision, the East line of said Block 242, and the East line of said Barnard's Subdivision 521.16 feet to the Southeast corner of Block 1, said Barnard's Subdivision; thence N89o29'27"W along the South line of said Block 1 a distance of 429.20 feet (recorded as 429.00 feet) to the Southwest corner of said Block 1; thence N00o33'03"E along the West line of said Barnard's Subdivision 121.50 feet to the Northwest corner of Block 1 of said Barnard's Subdivision; thence S89o28'38"E along the North line of said Block 1 of Barnard's Subdivision 135.00 feet to the East line of the West 135 feet of said Lot 2, Block 242; thence N00o33'03"E along said East line 78.23 feet to the south line of the North 8 feet of said Lot 2, Block 242; S89o18'57"E along said South line 30.00 feet to the Southerly extension of the East line of Lot 23, said Connard's Subdivision; thence N00o33'03"E along said Southerly extension of the East line of said Lot 23 and the East line of Lots 23, 22, 21, and 20, said Connard's Subdivision 155.45 feet; thence N54o22'13"W 13.08 feet; thence N89o27'25"W 4.35 feet; thence N00o29'31"E 3.08 feet; thence N89o27'25"W 149.95 feet to the West line of said Connard's Subdivision; thence N00o33'03"E along said West line 155.83 feet to the point of beginning; said parcel containing 4.24 acres, more or less, said aprcel subject to all easements and restrictions, if any; and

Parcel 119 S. Larch Street: Lots 20, 21 & 22, except the North 16.5 feet of Lot 20, Connard's Subdivision on Lot 1, Block 242, Original Plat, City of Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 31, Ingham County Records, also except a parcel of land being part of Lot 20, Connard's Subdivision on Lot 1, Block 242, Original Plat, City of Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 31, Ingham County Records, the boundary of said parcel described as: Commencing at the Northwest corner of said Connard's Subdivision; thence S00o33'03"W along the West line of said Connard's Subdivision 142.49 feet to a point 16.5 feet South of the Northwest corner of said Lot 20 and the point of beginning of this description; thence S89o26'46"E

parallel with the North line of said Lot 20 a distance of 165.00 feet to the East line of said Lot 20; thence S00o33'03"W along said East line 23.91 feet; thence N54o22'13"W 13.08 feet; thence N89o27'25"W 4.35 feet; thence N00o29'31"E 3.08 feet; thence N89o27'25"W 149.95 feet to the West of said Connard's Subdivision; thence N00o33'03"E along said West line 13.34 feet to the point of beginning; said parcel containing 0.44 acre, more or less; said parcel subject to all easements and restrictions, if any.

Parcel 637 E. Michigan Avenue: Part of Lot 39, Assessor's Plot No. 36 of Block 243, Original Plat, as recorded in Liber 11, Page 18, Ingham County Records and part of vacated East Street described as: Commencing 107.75 feet North of the East 1/4 corner of Section 16, Town 4 North, Range 2 West, thence West 46.6 feet, thence South 50 feet to the North line of Michigan Avenue, thence West to the East line of Pere Marquette Drive at a point 123.75 feet West of the East line of said Section 16, thence North 88 feet; thence North 09 degrees 48 minutes 53 seconds East 41.25 feet, thence North 03 degrees 20 minutes 18 seconds East 71.04 feet, thence North 00 degrees 05 minutes 20 seconds East 392.91 feet, thence East 112.28 feet to the East line of said Section 16, thence South 542.58 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Approval of this Brownfield Plan will enable the Lansing Brownfield Redevelopment Authority to capture incremental tax increases which result from the redevelopment of the property to pay for costs associated therewith. Further information regarding this issue, including maps, plats, and a description of the brownfield plan will be available for public inspection and may be obtained from Karl Dorshimer – Vice President of Economic Development, Lansing Economic Area Partnership, 1000 South Washington, Suite 201, Lansing, MI 48912, (517) 702-3387.

NOTE: States of emergency declared by the Mayor and approved by City Council have led to a closure of City Hall to public at this time due to COVID-19. Public observation and participation may be facilitated electronically in accordance with the Open Meetings Act as amended, in an effort to protect the health and safety of the public.

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

Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation to fully participate in these meetings should contact the City Council Office at 517-483-4177 (TDD (517) 483-4479) 24 hour notice may be needed for certain accommodations. An attempt will be made to grant all reasonable accommodation requests.

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](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov).

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/CMMC  
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[www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope](https://www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope)

CP#21-104



# County health officials ramp up vaccinations at MSU Pavilion

A partnership between McLaren Greater Lansing and the Ingham County Health Department aims to vaccinate up to 4,000 people daily at a clinic at the Michigan State University Pavilion. Officials are averaging only about 1,400 doses administered there every day. The expansion — which began with staff assistance on Tuesday— ramps that rate up by 185%.

“We will be running at full capacity over the next month, working as hard as we can to meet our vaccination goals, but the demand for staffing is a challenge,” said Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail. “Ingham County Health Department has been working toward common goals with McLaren Greater Lansing over the past year, but now we will be united in operations.”

The additional help from McLaren Greater Lansing will also allow county health officials to increase outreach and bolster equity with community clinics, mobile clinics and strike teams.

Last week, health officials expanded vaccination appointments at the drive-thru MSU Pavilion clinic to all Michigan residents ages 16 and older. Previously, the clinic was only vaccinating people who live or work in Ingham County. More than 68,000 doses have been administered there to date. County officials are about 50,000 doses short of vaccinating 70% of residents.

Visit [hd.ingham.org/coronavirus/r\\_1013.aspx](http://hd.ingham.org/coronavirus/r_1013.aspx) to schedule an

appointment online. Vaccinations are also available without an appointment every day this week from 9 a.m to 2:30 p.m. Community volunteers are encouraged to register and apply at [tinyurl.com/ICHDVolunteer](http://tinyurl.com/ICHDVolunteer).

### In related news...

New guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides that fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear masks indoors or outdoors when in small groups with other fully vaccinated friends and family. CDC officials also suggested that vaccinated people can gather in small groups without masks even if the group includes unvaccinated individuals — just as long as the group consists of two households who don’t have risky medical conditions.

Still, Vail urged residents in Greater Lansing to avoid potentially unnecessary viral exposure.

“We might want to be a little more cautious,” Vail said. “I’d advise people to be a little more cautious here in the state of Michigan for a little while longer. In general, this is a very good outcome. I just think we are uniquely situated in this state right now. I’d urge caution.”

With vaccination clinics still struggling to outpace rising hospitalization rates and percent positivity rates in Greater Lansing, Vail said gatherings should still be avoided.

More than 200 federal personnel will arrive in Michigan this week to assist at three vaccination sites: Devos Place in Grand Rapids, Ford

## CORONAVIRUS IN MICHIGAN

### BY THE NUMBERS...

	Michigan			Eaton County		
	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.
4/20/21	799,140	16,986	6,065,254	8,090	166	70,493
4/27/21	829,520	17,429	6,657,997	8,381	177	76,845
Weekly Change	↑3.8%	↑2.6%	↑9.8%	↑3.6%	↑6.6%	↑9%

	Greater Lansing			Clinton Co.		
	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.
4/20/21	34,526	564	303,874	5,555	75	54,100
4/27/21	35,669	588	331,525	5,755	76	56,681
Weekly Change	↑3.3%	↑4.3%	↑9.1%	↑3.6%	↑1.3%	↑4.8%

	Ingham County		
	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.
4/20/21	20,881	323	179,281
4/27/21	21,533	335	197,999
Weekly Change	↑3.1%	↑3.7%	↑10.4%

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.

Field and the TCF Center in Detroit. That support includes staff from the Department of Defense, U.S. Coast Guard and the Forest Service. They arrived in Michigan on Wednesday (April 21) and are expected to be fully operational by Thursday (April 29).

“We are still fighting this virus, and we must continue masking up, socially distancing, washing our hands, and crucially, getting vaccinated,” said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. “I will continue fighting to make sure Michigan gets the support it needs so we can get back to normal sooner.”

Michigan has administered more than 6.5 million doses in just over

four months. To date, at least 47% of residents have received at least one dose. One third are fully vaccinated.

The city of East Lansing canceled an underground market slated for May 9 due to continued high rates of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, city officials said in a press release.

— KYLE KAMINSKI



# Mother's Day is May 9



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## Voters will decide next week on funding for area schools

Four local school districts are leaning on new tax levies and millage renewals to drive renovations, new construction and other improvements for students in Greater Lansing.

Five items are up for a vote at a special election set for Tuesday (May 4). Here's a quick overview:

### Holt Public Schools

This school district in Ingham and Eaton counties is leaning on a bond issue to reconfigure the layout of its school buildings — with plans to reconstruct two elementary schools over the next eight years and close Hope Middle School altogether. And tax rates would still decrease.

The proposal calls for borrowing up to \$148 million, repaid through an annual property tax levy of 3.39 mills — or about \$3.39 for each \$1,000 of taxable property value within the district. The rate that will expire is 5.16 mills, equating to a net decrease of 1.77 mills.

Among the district's plans: Close Hope Middle School and return fifth-graders to elementary school while sending sixth-grade students to the same building as seventh- and eighth-graders. In turn, the high school would house grades 9-12 and the North Campus would become an "Innovation Center" that serves programs like Early College, dual college enrollment, robotics labs and courses in energy fundamentals, aviation, engineering and other technical topics.

Superintendent David Hornak said that reorganizing grade configurations could bolster student outcomes, improve behavior and "positively impact relationships" in the district. The idea: The longer a student stays in any particular building, the more opportunities they have for success.

Holt Public Schools hasn't sought voter approval for a bond proposal since 2000, which was then focused on funding for the high school. This proposal, Hornak explained, would focus on the elementary level by reconstructing two elementary buildings on opposite ends of the district.

Other improvements include more secure building entrances; improved traffic flow in drop-off areas; reimaged playgrounds; HVAC upgrades with added air conditioning; improvements to parking lots and sidewalks; new lighting, roofing, windows, plumbing and drinking fountains.

### Waverly Community Schools

Superintendent Kelly Blake said this bonding proposal — which would keep taxes flat for district families — resulted from a year-long study that includ-

ed a comprehensive facility assessment, board work sessions and dozens of staff meetings. The plan focuses largely on adding capacity at the elementary buildings and ensuring buildings are safe and secure.

The renewal would generate \$125 million and keep the tax rate flat at 4.12 mills — or \$4.12 for every \$1,000 of taxable property value. The cash would be used to remodel and build additions to elementary buildings as well as improve athletic facilities, parking lots and playgrounds. Other plans include district security improvements, new furnishings and upgraded district technology.

### Okemos Public Schools

This Ingham County school district has two millage renewal proposals.

A sinking fund proposal would maintain a 0.9861 mill levy (or about \$0.99 on each \$1,000 of taxable value) for the next 10 years, generating about \$1.3 million annually for the construction or repair of school buildings, security enhancements and upgraded district technology. Officials said that includes funding for items like roof repairs, repaved parking lots and other projects.

The other proposal is a heavy hitter, providing more than 15% of the district's annual budget. This renewal would allow the district to continue receiving its full per-pupil allocation from the state government, enabling the continued collection of a statutory 18 mills on all non-homestead properties like vacation homes, businesses, land and other rental properties in the district. That funding, unlike specific bonding proposals, can be rolled directly into daily district operations.

### Fowlerville Community Schools

Though most students reside in Livingston County, portions of this district dip into eastern Ingham County. If this bonding proposal passes, the existing millage rate would remain 9.55 mills — or \$9.55 for every \$1,000 of taxable property value.

District officials said the \$37.8 million collected through the proposal would allow for construction of a new K-2 elementary school building near Sharpe Road, which would open in 2023. Air conditioning would also be installed at two district buildings beginning next summer.

Other planned improvements include: Upgrading and converting H.T. Smith Elementary School into an early childhood center and continued upgrades to aging student technology and devices.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

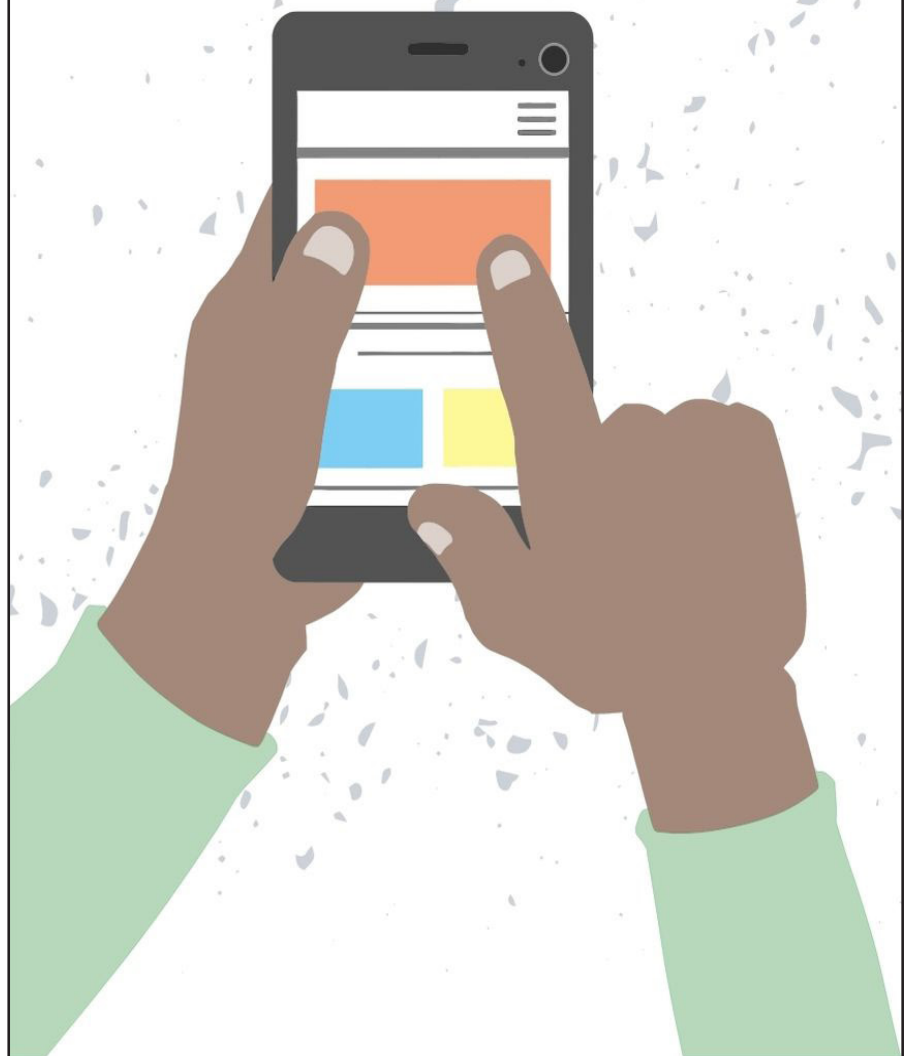
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# National, state NAACP asked to probe local leadership

Twenty NAACP members request suspension of president, vice president

At least 20 members of the Lansing branch of the NAACP have demanded that President Dale Copedge and Vice President Randy Watkins be suspended, investigated and possibly removed from their leadership positions, sources have told City Pulse.

In a Feb. 19 letter to executives of the NAACP’s national and state organizations, the members complained that Copedge and Watkins do not “seem to understand the NAACP charge” and have largely served as “roadblocks” to advocacy efforts on several issues related to racial discrimination and social equity in the Capital City. And as a result, the members have submitted a vote of “no confidence” against Watkins and Copedge and requested they both be “immediately suspended and removed from office during an internal investigation,” the letter said.

Sources shared the letter with City Pulse but not who signed it.

The signers represent less than 10% of the membership, Watkins said last week. He pegged membership at about 400.

Copedge declined to comment until he could receive guidance from state and national chapter officials, he said. Copedge said he was unaware of the letter until City Pulse shared it with him.

Watkins said he doesn’t have any plans to acquiesce to the demands.

“I’m not going anywhere,” Watkins told City Pulse. “I was elected twice to serve as vice president, and I don’t intend to resign from anything. I’m here serving to the best of my ability.”

The letter to National NAACP President Derrick Johnson and Michigan State Conference President



Courtesy WLNS

Longtime local NAACP leader Dale Copedge is under fire from a faction of its membership.

Yvonne White in February outlined the complaints against Copedge and Watkins, alleging they failed to fulfill several duties outlined within chapter bylaws. It also requested that national officials quickly suspend, investigate and remove them from their positions in Lansing.

Both men remained in their leadership roles this week. Johnson and White didn’t respond to emails and subsequently couldn’t confirm the receipt of the letter.

“Our concern is that neither men seem to understand the NAACP charge,” the letter states. “Our mayor and city officials are comfortable in their stances against brown and Black people and in the presence of the president and vice president of the NAACP. Both men are experienced as roadblocks in the efforts of the general membership to address the racist practices in Lansing.”

Copedge serves on Lansing Mayor Andy Schor’s Racial Justice and Equity Alliance, a 40-member group appointed by the mayor last year to address racial inequities in the city. Watkins chairs Schor’s Inclusion and Diversity Advisory Council.

Both have refused to resign from

those organizations despite requests from chapter members, according to the letter. And now a contingent of local NAACP members are growing concerned that those roles could “give the illusion that the NAACP supports the mayor unconditionally.”

“Our desire is to work with the mayor, but not at the expense of destroying the personhood of brown and Black people,” according to the letter, noting that both men were asked to resign from the roles “so we will not be working against each other.”

The letter also states: “There is a culture of covert, oppressive and manipulative practices. Current members stop engaging and new members leave frustrated because they are not utilized to help grow the organization. We, the undersigned, declare that this branch’s reputation in this community leaves much to be desired. ... The president and the vice president uses the NAACP to advance their own political interests instead of being a voice for the community.”

Schor’s administration has faced no shortage of criticism (and lawsuits) tied to its treatment of Black and brown people in Lansing. Last year, he allowed tear gas to be deployed at a protest against police brutality in the wake of George Floyd’s murder. Statistics also show local cops disproportionately arrest and search Black people much more frequently than white people.

Several former Black employees have spoken out about alleged mistreatment under Schor’s administration after they quit, were fired or otherwise removed from their jobs after the mayor took office in 2018. Those complaints have also culminated in a lawsuit filed last year from several former city employees — including Black Lives Matter Co-Leader Michael Lynn Jr.

Until recently, the Lansing NAACP branch has remained relatively silent on those issues.

Its first real public criticism of Schor’s administration arrived in a press release Tuesday.

“This is not the record acceptable of

any mayor. Our community deserves and demands better,” it read. “Lansing’s lack of accountability, outdated policies to address discrimination, and use of force issues fail to address the matters faced by so many people of color. Numerous lives are being affected by Mayor Schor’s actions and must be appropriately addressed immediately. We cannot wait. We demand accountability now — not more reports and recommendations.”

But for some members, that new-found voice for accountability apparently arrived too late.

“We, the undersigned, believe the branch will be revitalized with the removal of the branch president and vice-president,” the recent complaint letter states. “We believe removal will result in an actively engaged membership, strong partnerships and a collaborative community.”

Watkins said the recent letter was motivated and signed mostly by new members of the chapter who are frustrated with the sluggish pace of internal bureaucracy. He said press releases and protests — including those taking a stand against Schor — often require approval from state and national NAACP officials, who aren’t always too quick to jump into a localized controversy.

“This executive committee makes the decisions for the branch. We’re not obligated to respond to every incident that occurs, and, for the most part, we need a written document that explains these issues before we can jump in and take positions. When we don’t have that, we’re not going half-cocked into issues,” Watkins explained. “As an organization, we can’t afford to take positions based on opinions only to find out those opinions are wrong or skewed somehow.”

Nationally, the NAACP has tried to stay relevant amid an era largely defined by Black Lives Matter. The demands of a younger generation — including demands to divest from the Police Department — often appear impatient compared to the NAACP’s style of advocacy, which works from within the system to hammer out legislative change over more raucous street-side rallies.

And that’s exactly why Watkins said he has refused to resign from Schor’s advisory committees.

“I’m not there to represent the NAACP,” Watkins said. “I don’t claim to be there for that reason. To effect change, you’ve got to sit down at the table. You’ve got to be able to see both sides.”

NAACP bylaws give authority to Johnson to suspend any officer or member pending a full hearing if he’s “satisfied that there is a danger of irreparable harm” to the local chapter. The complaints against Copedge and Watkins were also supposed to have been forwarded to them within 10 days of receipt. Both of them said they had never seen the letter before this week.

Bylaws will also give them an opportunity to file a written response and appeal any decisions.

Copedge also said he plans to submit a written response to the allegations to City Pulse.

— KYLE KAMINSKI



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P.O. Box 241, Bath, MI

Lansing (Michigan) Branch, Unit 3145  
Article X Complaint against President and Vice President

To: NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson  
NAACP Michigan State Conference President Yvonne White  
From: Members of Lansing Branch, Unit 3145-B  
Date: February 19, 2021  
Subject: Article X complaint against President and Vice President of Lansing Branch NAACP

Dear President and CEO Derrick Johnson and State Conference President Yvonne White:

The Bylaws for Units of the NAACP, Article VII, Duties of Officers of Units, 1. President, the duties of the President shall be (p. 33):

- To preside at meetings of the NAACP Unit and act as the Chair of the Executive Committee,
- To appoint the Chair and members of all Committees not otherwise elected by the General Membership or the Executive Committee of the NAACP Unit, except the Chair of the Youth Work Committee of a Branch or State Area Conference,
- To encourage and assist all Committees in the development of their programs and the performance of their duties.

Our Unit President, Dale Copedge, [redacted] fails to fulfill the duties as outlined in our Bylaws for Units of the NAACP. It is with heavy hearts that Pursuant to Article X, Sections 2 and 3 (p.80), We, the undersigned, request an investigation into the conduct of the Lansing Branch President. In addition, the duties of the Vice President (p. 34) shall be:

- To perform all the duties of the President in his/her absence or disability.

The Vice President, Randy Watkins, [redacted] fails to fulfill his duties as Vice President as outlined in our Bylaws for Units of the NAACP.

There have been ongoing issues that began to intensify beginning in the summer of 2020. In this complaint, we outline, in chronological order, the actions of the President and Vice President inimical to the best interests of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, as set forth in its Constitution, and as defined by the Board or Convention. As we outline the chronological order, information will be given dating back to the summer of 2020. We request the immediate suspension and removal of said officers pending investigation due to acts that have harmed this Branch's ability to effectively operate in accordance with Unit Bylaws and parliamentary procedure.

For example, at the time of this writing, what was the Lansing Unit's means of communication with the public and between members is shut down. We are unable to communicate through what was our Lansing Chapter NAACP's website, including our Unit Secretaries' emails, and databases which allowed our Unit to communicate with each other, donors and interested parties. Shutting down our primary means of communication hinders and, in this case, has stopped our ability to serve our citizens in our community and continue to address several ongoing issues. For example:

The first page of the Feb. 19 letter to NAACP executives. For the full letter, please visit [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com)



By SKYLER ASHLEY

With coronavirus vaccines rolling out and the weather finally warming up and staying comfortable, it looks like it might finally be a good time to enjoy some fresh air and some good food in Lansing. For those who are starved to eat a meal that they didn't cook themselves but are too nervous to sit in a potentially overcrowded dining hall, food trucks offer a delicious happy medium. Michigan's long and hellish winter months coupled with pandemic shutdowns can make it easy to forget about our valiant fleet of mobile restaurateurs, but simply survey the town and you'll see they haven't gone anywhere.

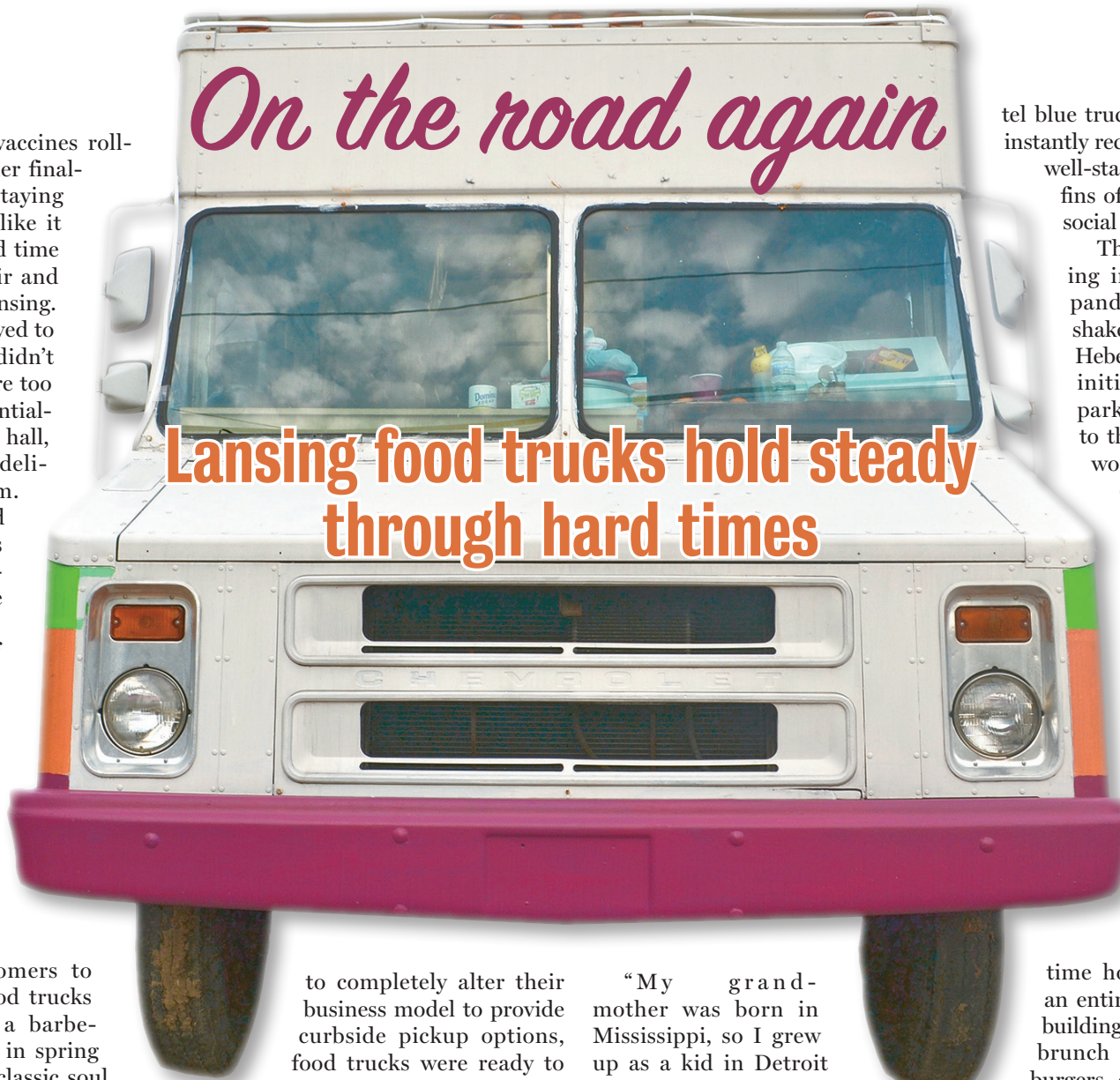
### "COVID-19 inspired me to start my business"

One of the newcomers to Lansing's world of food trucks is Smoke and Soul, a barbecue joint that opened in spring 2020 and focuses on classic soul food such as brisket, ribs, macaroni and cheese and collard greens. Occasionally, Smoke and Soul will even serve up smoked duck and salmon — rarities you won't find in too many restaurants across Lansing. Owner and head chef Glenn Hughes, who goes by Chef Glenn, was a former traveling salesman who found himself out of a job during the initial impact of the coronavirus.

He sold televisions door-to-door, and decided that a global pandemic was a poor environment to be meeting dozens of people face to face on a daily basis. Knowing he would have to find a new line of work that was more suitable, Hughes decided the proper avenue was to open up a food truck.

"Five years ago by a twist of fate, I got into satellite television sales. I was a door-to-door contractor and here comes COVID. No longer was it safe for me to be going into people's houses," Hughes said. "All of the restaurants were closing and I said, 'Hey, this might be an opportunity to get back into the local food scene.'"

Opening up a food truck over a brick-and-mortar restaurant had distinct advantages for Hughes. Primarily, he wouldn't have to suffer from indoor-dining closures as food trucks operate entirely outdoors and customers are only required to pickup their food from a window. While many restaurants across town would have



to completely alter their business model to provide curbside pickup options, food trucks were ready to take that on from the get-go.

Not to mention, opening up a food truck is considerably cheaper than purchasing or leasing an entire building and constructing a kitchen and designing a suitable dining area.

"Being outside was certainly a good option," Hughes said. "Honestly, the money wasn't there for a brick-and-mortar, so it was like, 'Well, let's do this.'"

Since getting the ball rolling with Smoke and Soul, Hughes has picked up a steady stream of regulars that have become enamored with his freshly smoked meat and hearty comfort food dishes. Hughes said his original vision with Smoke Soul was to corner the market on down south smoked dishes that remind diners of their favorite home cooked meals.

Hughes' menu is inspired by his childhood, and days he spent with his grandmother learning how to perfect her old family recipes. His grandmother was born in Mississippi, so Smoke and Soul has a distinct southern tinge in its flavors.

"My grandmother was born in Mississippi, so I grew up as a kid in Detroit eating Mississippi food, and that inspires the side dishes that I carry today," Hughes said.

Hughes takes the pandemic seriously, keeping a box of masks standby for customers that show up without one. While the service industry has been plagued with incidents of unruly customers refusing to wear masks, or rudely grandstanding when asked to put one on, Hughes said he hasn't dealt with any customers causing him grief. In fact, the diners have been his favorite part of operating a food truck.

"Everyone has been really cool. I haven't had a single bad incident. It's been really positive; this community has been really good to me," Hughes said. "It's a hard grind, but it's paying off in spades."

### Switching things up to meet a changing market

Bangos has worked its way up the ladder since hitting the street in 2019 and is now a go-to brunch and dinner spot for many Lansing foodies. Its pas-

tel blue truck with floral print trim is instantly recognizable and photos of its well-stacked sandwiches and muffins often generate buzz on local social media groups.

The past year and the ongoing impact of the coronavirus pandemic have caused some shakeups for co-owners Aharon Hebert and Will Green. Bangos' initial strategy was to stay parked downtown and cater to the leagues of hungry office workers that would pour out of the Capitol every day during the lunchtime rush. When working from home became the new routine for office workers, Bangos had to settle on a new business scheme.

"We weren't making enough to justify being downtown anymore," Hebert said. "We started opening at night and got busier for weekend brunch, and it made up for that loss."

Being open for nighttime hours meant incorporating an entirely new menu. While first building its name on breakfast and brunch fare, Bangos now offers burgers, chicken sandwiches, vegan Coney dogs and, of course, French fries. But evening patrons can still get their hands on bagel sandwiches with eggs, sausage and maple syrup.

While food trucks are obviously outdoors and not nearly as crowded as a busy restaurant, it's still a requirement for those waiting in line to wear a mask. Hebert said customers sometimes make the misconception that they can be mask-free just because they're dining at a food truck.

"Dealing with anti-mask people is annoying, but it's manageable," Hebert said. "People think because they're outside they don't need to wear a mask, but you're still interacting with us and talking, so we expect you to wear a mask."

Though the occasional anti-masker will pop up seemingly just to give everyone a hard time, Hebert said the vast majority of Bangos' guests and regulars have typically been patient and understanding. Food trucks can get just as backed up as restaurants, so Bangos has always requested via social media that its customers call-in ahead of time to avoid a long wait.

"We have a small kitchen and I'm the only cook, so when we get busy the wait can be an hour long. I personally made about 14,000 sandwiches last year and I can't remember five complaints," Hebert said. "I had



Hebert



Hughes



Courtesy

Bangos food truck on North Creyts Road outside of The Brew Café.

See Food trucks, Page 16



# Food trucks

from page 15

to have screwed up more than that, but our customers are cool.”

## Do what you know best

Deanna Ray Brown opened up her food truck Everything is Cheesecake in 2019 with a simple vision in mind: create a joint where people can get ultimate cheesecake creations. Brown noticed there was a distinct lack of restaurants around Lansing where people could get their hands on the classic desert dish. Over the years, she has become a master in baking cheesecakes, so who could take on the cause better than her?

“Besides brownies, cheesecake is my favorite dessert. I wanted to definitely go with something that I enjoy,” Brown said. “Cheesecake is also one of those desserts you can be very creative with. We tend to get really creative and that makes it so much fun, I love to bake and I love cheesecake. It was a no-brainer.”



Hughes

While the pandemic has caused the vast majority of restaurants to restructure how they operate, Brown said how Everything is Cheesecake operates has remained relatively unaffected. Her food truck was always geared for people to pick up their cheesecake and go, so when curbside pickup became the norm and small gatherings were prohibited, it was just business as usual for Everything is Cheesecake.

“We’re set up for pickup. A lot of restaurants had to change how they conduct business, but food trucks were already set up in that capacity,” Brown said.

The real challenge presented by the pandemic for Brown and her staff has been the close face-to-face interactions with customers as they come up to the window to grab their order. Despite being permitted to stay open, Everything is Cheesecake spent much of last spring voluntarily shutdown as a precaution.

“We thought, for everybody’s safety, it would be better if we closed for a while,” Brown said.

While the past few months have seen more and more people receive the coronavirus vaccination and become more comfortable with heading back out into public, Brown has noticed an uptick in customers. She said business has been decent in the first quarter of 2021.

“Once upon a time it was a whole lot more, but I honestly feel it is going pretty good. You have people that are still skeptical. Me and my family take a lot of stuff to go; we support restaurants but it’s more in the pickup and delivery capacity,” Brown said.

Brown’s main goal for the future of Everything is Cheesecake is to expand deliveries and upgrade from a trailer into a proper truck that she can take to different cities and festivals.

## What does it take to operate a food truck?

Though food trucks offer countless varieties of cuisine and come in all different shapes and sizes, there’s a common thread. Owning a food truck is a tough but rewarding gig.

“For anybody that’s thinking about owning a food truck, it’s a lot of fun,” Brown said. “If you’re looking for a job where your day can change consistently, then definitely go for it. But if you’re scared of working hard, running a food



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

Everything is Cheesecake's trailer located on South Cedar Street.

truck is not for you.”

Hebert said a food truck shouldn’t be confused for a simpler version of a restaurant. You shouldn’t expect to cut corners when it comes to preparing food just because your business isn’t operating out of a brick-and-mortar space.

“I don’t think you should open a food truck if you wouldn’t open a restaurant. It’s not easier, just different,” Hebert said. “For us, being consistent is best, but you have to be willing to adapt to circumstances and try something different.”

Hughes said he doesn’t regret his decision to get into the food truck industry. If he could go back to the fateful moment when he left being salesman behind to open up Smoke and Soul, he’d do it over again in a heartbeat.

“Through selling this food, I’ve attracted investors, and I plan on taking things to the next level,” Hughes said.

And if purchasing and operating your very own food truck is a little too ambitious for you just yet, you could



Courtesy

Mixed berry cheesecake from Everything is Cheesecake.

always dip your toes into the food industry with other small businesses. Hebert said that’s a great way to see if a food truck might be right for you.

“Start with a food cart if you can’t afford a truck, start a hot sauce business at a commissary kitchen, start whatever you can and build it up,” Hebert said.

# Where to Find Lansing’s Food Trucks

## Bangos

Calling ahead recommended  
Saturday at 800 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
Sunday at The Brew Café, 610 N. Creyts Road, Lansing  
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. & 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Sunday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
(989) 277 5088  
Facebook.com/BangosBangosBangos

## Caribbean BBQ

1901 S. Martin Luther King Blvd., Lansing  
Friday-Saturday, noon to 7 p.m.  
(517) 897-2733  
Facebook.com/CaribbeanBBQ

## Eato Chef

Check online or call for daily locations, hours and farmers market appearances  
(517) 258-1257  
Facebook.com/EatoChef

## El Oasis

251 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
(517) 882-1777  
ElOasisTruck.com

## Everything is Cheesecake

5443 S. Cedar St., Lansing  
Saturday-Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
(517) 862-2979  
EverythingIsCheesecake.net

## Fire and Rice

Check online or call for daily locations, hours and farmers market appearances  
1305 S. Cedar St., Lansing  
(517) 803-0015  
Facebook.com/FireandRiceLansingMichigan

## Grand Grillin

Check online or call for daily locations, hours and farmers market appearances  
(517) 881-7842  
Facebook.com/GrandGrillin

## Habana Delight

536 E. Grand River, Lansing  
Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
(517) 763-8719  
Search Facebook for “Habana Delight”

## La Fajita

4405 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing  
Monday-Saturday, Noon to 7 p.m.  
(517) 885-8168  
Facebook.com/LansingLaFajita

## Maria’s Cuisine

536 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Lansing  
Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
(517) 614-3306  
Facebook.com/MariasCuisi

## Taquero Mucho

2408 S. Cedar St., Lansing  
Monday-Saturday, Noon to 7 p.m.  
(517) 303-7882  
Search Facebook, “Taquero Mucho”

## Shove It Pizza Truck

Check online for daily locations and farmers market appearances  
Facebook.com/ShoveItPizza

## The Smoke N’ Pig BBQ

908 Elmwood Road, Lansing  
Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
(517) 582-5100  
TheSmokeNPigBBQ.com

## Smoke and Soul

Corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Mt. Hope Avenue  
Check online for daily locations, hours and farmers market appearances  
Facebook.com/SmokeandSoulLansing

## VEG-N

902 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Lansing  
Monday-Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 8 .m.  
(517) 402-4439  
EatVegn.com



# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## Connect and disconnect

### MSU Filmetry Festival relives pandemic in poetry and film

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

What good are poems in a pandemic? A short film called “How to Make a No-Sew Coronavirus Mask From a Poem,” based on a poem by Wendy Drexler, takes a disarmingly direct approach.

The film is part of MSU’s third annual Filmetry Festival, a lively online mash-up of poetry and film devoted this year to life in the time of COVID.

Tear the poem out of the book. Fold down a flap of fear. Fold up a flap of hope. Add elastic bands, pleat the page carefully and wear it “as if your life depended on it,” the poet tells us.

“This poem is not guaranteed to save you, or the world,” she cautions. “However, evidence suggests that a poem may help you to get through one more day.”

The meat of Filmetry, which premiered April 21 and can be viewed on line, is a set of 18 short films based on poems from “Voices Amidst the Virus,” a new anthology edited by Eileen Cleary and Christine Jones.

The prospect of reliving the past year may not seem appealing to many people at first, but Filmetry’s “cinepoems” satisfy a deep hunger, sharpened by months of isolation, to find out how people are doing, what they are doing, and what’s inside their heads.

Freedom of thought and confinement of body is a charged combination. The words and images presented in the films zap around freely in the vacuum of quarantine, floating from mood to mood with the speed of thought.

“In This Way,” filmed by Marcus Fields, follows isolated poet Kevin Prufer as his thoughts flow from the Trojan War to the soup bubbling on his stove. Tiny Greek soldiers spring from a 3-D printer and morph into virus parti-



Courtesy images

Pandemic images range from empty streets and pulsating virus particles to varied vignettes of quarantine life in MSU’s 2021 Filmetry Festival, an online festival of 18 “cinepoems,” or poems adapted to film.



cles on the screen. The poet’s final mental leap is to imagine dying in a hospital room. A nurse asks, “How are we doing today?”

“Doing the best we can,” he answers, “here, in the past, looking out my window onto the dark street.”

Processing trauma is not a rational business.

In “Potatoes, their various moods,” poet Eileen Cleary struggles to grasp the scale of the pandemic while making dinner. Filmmaker Aileen Dwyer juxtaposes horrific images that flooded our screens in 2020, from overflowing hospitals to stacks of caskets, with shots of potatoes going into the oven.

There is an almost subliminal shot of a potato trying to wriggle away before getting chopped. “We are all foxfire, or timber decayed,” the poet concludes,

hanging for dear life between incoherence and profundity. “We are not. What I mean is, it’s early March. Let’s see how the weather holds.”

MSU students, staff and faculty made most of the films, so expect to spot familiar locations. “Mercy in a Cold April,” based a poem by Michael Mercurio, is filled with gorgeous aerial images of empty Lansing streets and surrounding farmland, filmed by Michael Rautio,

The festival is the brainchild of Pete Johnston, a filmmaker and MSU Film Studies faculty member, and poet Cindy Hunter Morgan, director of communications at the MSU Library and instructor of an introductory poetry class.

This year, Hunter Morgan invited her students to participate by writing an original piece about the pandemic.

Johnston invited his film and digital media students to adapt the poems into a film.

Two of their students’ pieces are included in the festival: Carlos Lundback’s melancholy film of Loren Rascoe’s poem “Neverland 2020” and Maddie Katz’s film of a deeply empathic poem by Natalie Mannino, “2020 Vision.”

In “2020 Vision,” a series of masked faces look directly at the camera. “These eyes have turned into much more than windows, as they struggle to be mirrors, hearts, hands,” the poem reads. “What a burden laid upon such a small organ.”

In “Neverland 2020,” slow pans across empty playground equipment accompany the poet’s longing for the “Neverland” of pre-pandemic times.

In a filmed introduction to the festival, Hunter Morgan said the films gave her a “bigger and better understanding of the magnitude of the pandemic and the impact it’s had on our students.”

“We’re all connected in our feelings of disconnection,” she said.

One Filmetry entry, “Dear Johnny Cash,” is based a poem by Hunter Morgan that was awarded a spot in the “Voices Amidst the Virus” anthology. Johnston, her Filmetry cofounder, made the film.

Like many of the festival entries, the film takes a witty leap beyond familiar pandemic clichés, but circles back to a merciless shared reality. Sepia images recreate the moment when country music legend Johnny Cash, while stationed in Germany with the 12th Radio Squadron of the U.S. Air Force, intercepted a radio bulletin and became the first American to learn of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin’s death.

“We’re all desperate for a message, but we’re not sufficiently trained to hear it,” the poem reads.

Is the 2021 version of Stalin dead yet? In the film’s final shot, a glossy vinyl album with a bright red label — “The Fabulous Johnny Cash” — slowly rotates to a standstill.

“We need you, Johnny Cash,” the poet pleads.

The crackles and pops die out and the disc decelerates to silence.



# Origami Rehabilitation opening new satellite location

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

Origami Rehabilitation provides support for children and adults suffering from developmental, neurological, orthopedic or mental health conditions. The organization is planning to open a second location in downtown Lansing.

This new location offers the same outpatient services as the original Origami Rehabilitation Center in Mason.

Since 1997, Origami has provided care to thousands of people diagnosed with post-concussion syndrome, Parkinson's, cerebral palsy and more. The purpose of opening a second rehabilitation center was simply to widen the organization's reach and allow it to treat more patients in need.

Tammy Hannah, president and CEO of Origami, started working with the organization in college. She had to work there for 16 weeks before graduation. Now, about 20 years later, Hannah runs the place.

"It's been quite a journey," Hannah said. "It's been packed full of great rewards."

## Nonprofit News



This is a new occasional feature highlighting events and milestones at local nonprofits. If you

would like to submit a suggestion please email [skylar@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:skylar@lansingcitypulse.com)

### Origami Rehabilitation

3181 Sandhill Road, Mason  
(517) 336-6060  
[OrigamiRehab.org](http://OrigamiRehab.org)

The organization has grown significantly over the years. When Hannah first started there, Origami only served 16 patients at a time. The organization started as an exclusively residential rehabilitation center but eventually began offering outpatient services.

"It's grown and evolved into a much larger organization that has a much more diversified population," Hannah said. "That's exciting. Because now we offer help to people who may not have



Courtesy

Patients receiving treatment at Origami Rehabilitation.

received it."

In a way, the COVID pandemic is responsible for the existence of Origami's new satellite location. Hannah began thinking about expanding the organization's original campus back in March of 2020. But that plan would have cost too much.

Still, Origami was receiving more calls than it could handle. Patients were being turned away.

"That didn't feel too good," Hannah explained. "So we started thinking that a satellite clinic could solve our capacity issue."

She also pointed out that the new clinic opens up access to care. Now residents of DeWitt, Charlotte and Grand Ledge don't have to go far to find help for their neurological issues.

Hannah said that helping a patient achieve a sense of normalcy can have a ripple effect. The patients' families also get involved in the rehabilitation process. Watching them see a loved one get better is one of her favorite parts of the job.

"Our work doesn't just affect the people we serve," Hannah said. "It also affects their family members. The environment at Origami is so family-oriented and relaxed. We all watch people change right before our eyes. It's very rewarding."

At Origami, progress tends to happen slowly. Rather than becoming impatient, the staff and patients have

learned to look for and celebrate the small things. Recovery can take a long time, so every little step matters.

"Just being able to have someone sit up on the edge of the bed, rather than laying down all day," Hannah said. "That is worth celebrating."

Hannah knows what it's like to watch someone get better. Her brother had cerebral palsy. From a young age, she observed the life-changing effects of occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech therapy.

Working at Origami during her college years, Hannah was reminded of how wonderful it is to watch someone's life change for the better.

"Someone comes to us maybe from a traumatic car accident or from the hospital; they're not walking, they're not talking. Maybe they're not even able to feed themselves," Hannah said. "With our help, we get them back to doing what they love and being as independent as they can."



Hannah

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# Family-owned provisioning center sets up shop in Laingsburg

Local Roots plans cannabis delivery service across Greater Lansing

**By KYLE KAMINSKI**

Ronda Liskey and her son Roy have spent most of their lives in the small town of Laingsburg. And if all goes well after opening a pot shop there this month, they might just retire there too.

“We’re trying to differentiate ourselves as the regular, non-corporate sort of mom-and-pop shop,” Roy Liskey explained. “It’s small, homey, comfortable. It really fits Laingsburg. A big pretentious thing would’ve been odd for this community. We really want our customers to feel comfortable.”

Local Roots Cannabis Co. quietly opened its doors for recreational marijuana sales this month. Its logo is hand-painted on scraps of reclaimed barnwood. Posters from local musicians are hung across the shop. Bluegrassy harmonica tunes played from the radio there last Friday.

Ronda was sweeping the entryway; Roy and his fiancée were tending the front counter. The entire staff is either directly related or close family friends — all with “local roots” in the area. It made coming up with a name for the store a relatively easy endeavor, the Liskeys explained.

Small rural communities aren’t always the most supportive locations for the cannabis industry, but not so much for Laingsburg. Ronda said the community has offered nothing but steadfast support.

“Everyone has been hugely welcoming,” she said. “They couldn’t wait for us to open our doors.”

Ronda has been a medical marijuana caregiver since 2008. Roy studied hospitality and business and also interned in Colorado as the pot market took off nationally — later bringing his new-found entrepreneurial talents back to Michigan to hang out his family shingle in Laingsburg.

The provisioning center is off to a relatively slow start, but dank new products are rolling in every week. Local Roots also plans to launch a delivery service that’ll cover most of the Greater Lansing region later this summer.

The Liskeys also plan to host several upcoming community events — like live music at the shop as well as at the new amphitheater that was recently built at neighboring McClintock Park.

Roy was setting up a Wheel of



**Lansterdam in Review:**  
**Local Roots Cannabis Co.**  
120 W Grand River Rd.  
Laingsburg  
localroots.cc

Fortune style game in the store last week. He also plans to offer discounts to customers who bring in their receipts from local restaurants — a nod to neighboring businesses that have been nothing but welcoming since Local Roots opened earlier this month.

**M&M Agriculture — Floruit**  
**Price — \$35/3.5g**  
**THC content — 22.5%**  
Lansing-based M&M Agriculture was licensed to grow recreational



marijuana off Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard last year. Ronda Liskey — with at least 30 years of experience smoking high quality weed — labeled this gassy, indica-dominant strain as her “all-time favorite.” I had to try it.

The buds were dark green with layers of rich purple. Crystallized trichomes gave them a sticky and shimmery appearance. Like the name implied, this strain was fruity with bright citrus and floral notes. It was also among the smoothest hitting stuff I’ve ever had the privilege of smoking.

The first few hits offered a euphoric sort of headrush that had me literally giggling over my morning coffee. And after a massive brunch at Good Truckin’ Diner, it didn’t take long for that high to spread across the rest of my body. I watched half a movie and took a nap on the couch.

See Lansterdam, Page 20



**PURE PICKS OF THE WEEK**

**Sozo Wedding Cake /Hybrid/**  
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HYBRID		1/8 OUNCE	

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**GG#4 /Hybrid/**  
*Effect: Energizing, Stress Relieving*

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25-30% THC	<b>\$35</b>	NET WT.	<b>1/8 OUNCE</b>
HYBRID			

Available for medicinal and adult use. Cannot be combined with any other offers or discounts. Offer valid 4/26/21-5/2/21, while supplies last.

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# Lansterdam

from page 19

**Redemption Cannabis — Goo Berry**  
**Price — \$36/3.5g flower; \$42/0.5g**  
**vape cartridge**

**THC content — 22.9%; 62.15%**

The cannabis wizards at Redemption may have truly perfected their recipe for dank vaporizer cartridges this month — namely by removing THC distillate as an ingredient altogether.

Most vaporizer cartridges are filled with distillate, which typically involves processing and isolating THC from the cheapest and least potent parts of the marijuana plant. Live resin, however, is produced by freezing the flower immediately to retain more of the character, flavors and aromatic profiles of the original strain. As a result, the high is often much more potent.

The best part? These cartridges actually taste like real weed, not artificially flavored bullshit.

Gooberry is another indica-dominant hybrid perhaps best suited



for spending a rainy day inside the house. For me, this fruity and spicy strain was the perfect way to finish binge-watching the second season of *The Circle* on Netflix — mindless entertainment for a truly mindless viewer.

*Kyle Kaminski is City Pulse's 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.*

## Favorite Things Ny'keria Blocker and her pole

*Ny'keria Blocker, 23, loves the art of the pole, whether it's for fitness, dancing or any other form of artistic expression. Naturally, her favorite thing is very own pole that she keeps in her bedroom.*

My favorite thing is my pole, which I have had for three years now — maybe four. I think pole dancing is a beautiful art form. A lot of people when they think of poles, they think of dancing or strippers. It's actually so much more than that. Pole is actually a sport, there are women earning medals for pole sports. I used to watch a lot of videos about that and I loved it.

One day I decided to drop into a pole studio in Holt called Polistic Fitness. I took a class and I initially thought to myself, "Wow, I can't do this." That first class was really hard, but I really liked the environment. It was a studio for women. It was just women of all colors. It was very welcoming and empowering. It was a safe space. And that's where I really began to learn the art.

After that first class, I realized I loved it and I wanted to do it and get stronger. I spent the following three years dancing in the studio and taking a lot of classes. There are different styles of pole you can learn. I dabbled in all of them. Yes there are stripper styles, there's also sport pole and classic, which is more of a burlesque style — different things like that.

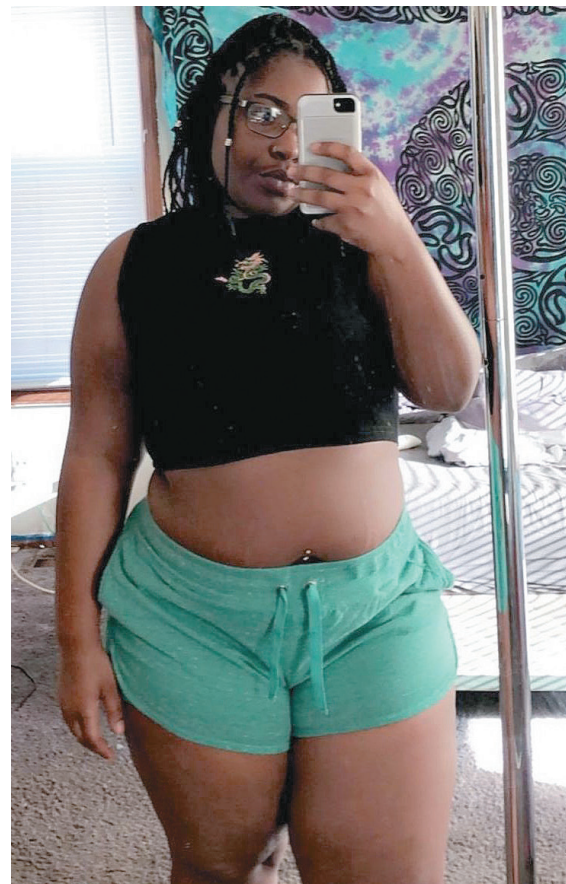
I did progressive levels, there were six of them at the time and I made it to level three. I got stronger and learned all sorts of tricks.

Eventually, I thought it was worth having my own. So, I talked to my instructor about buying my own pole, and I purchased it online. I got a professional one to make sure I don't bust my ass at home.

Fitness-wise, it made me stronger and healthier. It's a really fun workout; it's so much more fun than going to the gym. You work on your flexibility; I love the confidence it gave me. My style is like exotic and sport. Sport pole is more tricks; you do flips and things like that. Exotic is more slow and intimate. I like both of them.

Pole is a by-myself kind of thing. But in the studio we would perform for each other and hype each other up. There are showcases you can enter, but I've never done one. Once I get stronger, I want to compete in sport pole.

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



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# MSU acquires massive Jorge Luis Borges collection

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Michigan State University Library made a huge leap in its collection of Latin American-focused literature with the acquisition of papers, ephemera and audio recordings from Jorge Luis Borges.

Borges was an Argentine short-story author, poet and essayist and is considered to be one of the most important magical realism writers. His career stretched more than 65 years, and despite losing his sight at 55, he made a significant mark in literature — especially with his interconnected short stories marked by dreams, fictional writers, labyrinths and mirrors.

His most important works are “Ficciones” and “El Aleph,” which were published in the late-’40s. After the onset of blindness and having never learned braille, Borges focused on lecturing and poetry, where he could commit the work to memory while writing.

In the ’60s, his work was discovered after it was translated into English. At that time, former MSU Professor Donald Yates became the translator of the first collection of Borges’ fiction to appear in English. Yates and Borges would become lifelong friends and in 1976, Yates was instrumental in bringing Borges to MSU as a visiting professor. Borges died in 1986 and Yates in 2017.

During that time, Yates amassed a collection of material relating to Borges. Today, that material fills more than 19 boxes and includes everything from rare manuscripts, correspondence, photographs, and ephemera, which become the basis for the Donald Yates Spanish American Literature Collection at MSU.

“It is one of the most significant collections of Borges’ work in the world,” said Leslie McRoberts, head of Murray



Borges

& Hong Special Collections at MSU. “Everyone should read his work. He blends intense landscapes and interconnected lives, where time and space are infinite and we all exist simultaneously.”

Interestingly, one of his short stories, “Garden of Forking Paths,” which was first published in Ellery Queen’s Mystery Magazine in 1948, helped him garner recognition from the Mystery Writers of America. In 1976, the group awarded him the Special Edgar Allan Poe Award. Borges’ writing especially lent itself to the mystery and science fiction genres. One of his short stories was first published in the Fantastic Universe, which

is a science fiction magazine.

Some critics believe Borges’ was an originator of the hyper-text novel, due to his focus on marrying complex labyrinths of time and reality, which often had no beginning or ending.

Borges’ personal life and his political beliefs often led to his loss of favor among the ruling class in his home of Argentina. His home country went through numerous political upheavals, some of which led to his being relegated to dishonor.

He was virulently anti-fascist and an outspoken critic of Adolf Hitler — not always a good thing in Nazi-friendly Argentina — and was openly critical of the Nazi’s use of children’s books to fuel anti-Semitism and the rewriting of history. During Argentina’s rule by President Juan Peron, a spoils system led to Borges being removed from a library post and assigned to

inspect rabbits and chickens. When the military overthrow of Peron occurred in 1955, Borges became the director of the National Library of Argentina. He later would become an outspoken critic of the country’s military junta.

Later, Borges would be seen as a genius of mixing fantasy with folk heroes and historical figures. In “The Library of Babel,” he created a fictional library that contains every book that is 410 pages long. Borges had the uncanny ability to write across genres while still using his literary technique of altered reality.

Borges also contributed greatly to the body of work on Argentine folklore — writing about gauchos, outlaws, dance and literature. His mind was fertile and he created a bestiary for his work “Book of Imaginary Beings.”

Borges’ deeply philosophical approach to writing resulted in the creation of the philosophical term “Borgesian Conundrum,” which basically argues whether a writer writes a story or the story writes him.

“MSU now has an epic collection of his work, which will be available to scholars for research,” McRoberts said. “The collection will help scholars answer the question: What was he thinking?”

McRoberts said the Borges’ collection, like the work of many other authors in MSU Special Collections, including the papers of Lev Raphael and Richard Ford, will help scholars and readers further understand the experience of writing.

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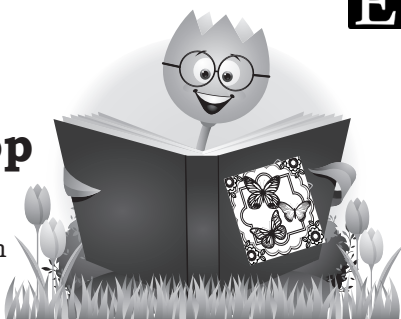


“There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate’s loot on Treasure Island.”

-Walt Disney

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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Ask Your Doctor"—they sound like prescriptions.  
by Matt Jones

Across

- 1 "Dis or \_\_\_\_" ("You Don't Know Jack" round)  
4 Ozone depleter, for short  
7 Brotherhood brothers  
12 Obama's first chief of staff  
Rahm  
14 Fragmented  
16 "Feel the need to get in hot water?" Ask your doctor if \_\_\_\_ is right for you."  
17 "Are you managing your health under 'New Rules'?" Ask your doctor if \_\_\_\_"  
19 Our top story?  
20 Things to pick  
22 Film set in cyberspace  
23 7, on a grandfather clock  
24 Chime in  
26 Prefix meaning "iron-containing"  
27 Maritime patrol org.  
29 "Lack of unusual influences getting you down?" Ask your doctor if \_\_\_\_"  
31 "Atlas Shrugged" novelist Rand  
33 "And giving \_\_\_\_, up the chimney he rose"  
34 Marlins' MLB div.  
35 In-browser programs  
39 Tiny amounts  
41 Conk out  
42 Feast on the beach  
44 Roman 1011  
45 "Do you need to reach higher in life?" Ask your doctor if \_\_\_\_"  
48 Aquafina rival  
52 Game show host Convy and Muppet ... well, we don't get a last name

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	
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51													
52						53				54		55	
56					57					58	59		
60					61				62	63			
	64								65				
			66									68	

- 53 Gnocchi-like dump-  
lings (from the Italian for  
"naked")  
55 "Who Let the Dogs  
Out?" group Baha \_\_\_\_  
56 "You're in trou-  
bille \_\_\_\_"  
57 Poison lead singer  
Michaels  
58 Barely enough  
60 "Want to feel like  
you did it your way?" Ask  
your doctor if \_\_\_\_"  
62 "Feel like the only  
way to be cured is by  
meat?" Ask your doctor  
if \_\_\_\_"  
64 Milk acid  
65 Seven days from now  
66 Nebraska sena-  
tor Ben who voted to  
impeach in the February  
2021 trial  
67 \_\_\_\_ Equis  
68 "Black-ish" dad
- 2 Cremona violins  
3 Gambit  
4 Capital of the 21-Down  
Empire  
5 Moroccan hat  
6 Medical center  
7 Age range for most  
high-schoolers  
8 Heavy burden  
9 Bucks' org.  
10 Out of \_\_\_\_ (askew)  
11 Like some renditions  
13 Rapa \_\_\_\_ (Easter  
Island, to locals)  
15 Trivia quiz website  
that also offers pub  
trivia  
18 Licorice-flavored  
seeds  
21 See 4-Down  
25 Kept inside  
26 Former Army base  
in N.J.  
28 Gadot of "Wonder  
Woman"  
30 Scarfed, even more  
slangily  
32 Barks sharply
- 35 Marinated Philippine  
dishes  
36 Disinfectant ingredi-  
ent  
37 Kuala Lumpur's \_\_\_\_  
Towers skyscrapers  
38 Provide table talk?  
40 "What's the \_\_\_\_?"  
("So what?")  
43 \_\_\_\_ Reader (alterna-  
tive digest)  
46 Home of Odysseus  
and Penelope  
47 Won on eBay, usually  
49 Took an x-ray of,  
perhaps  
50 Kendall or Kylie  
51 Consumption  
54 Cozumel y Mallorca,  
por ejemplo  
57 Rite performed by  
a mohel  
59 Dairy dweller  
61 Some two-door Audi  
models  
63 One of "Two Virgins"  
on a 1968 album cover

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SUDOKU

Intermediate

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

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 24

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

April 28 - May 4, 2021

**ARIES (March 21–April 19):** Poet Allen Ginsberg despairingly noted that many people want MORE MORE LIFE, but they go awry because they allow their desire for MORE MORE MORE LIFE to fixate on material things—machines, possessions, gizmos, and status symbols. Ginsberg revered different kinds of longings: for good feelings, meaningful experiences, soulful breakthroughs, deep awareness, and all kinds of love. In accordance with astrological potentials, Aries, I'm giving you the go-ahead in the coming weeks to be extra greedy for the stuff in the second category.

**TAURUS (April 20–May 20):** In her poem "Mirror," Taurus poet Halina PoDwiatowska wrote, "I am dazed by the beauty of my body." I applaud her brazen admiration and love for her most valuable possession. I wish more of us could genuinely feel that same adoration for our own bodies. And in accordance with current astrological omens, I recommend that you do indeed find a way to do just that right now. It's time to upgrade your excitement about being in such a magnificent vessel. Even if it's not in perfect health, it performs amazing marvels every minute of every day. I hope you will boost your appreciation for its miraculous capacities, and increase your commitment to treating it as the treasure that it is.

**GEMINI (May 21–June 20):** Gemini poet Buddy Wakefield writes that after the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami of 2004, "the only structure still standing in the wiped-out village of Malacca [in Malaysia] was a statue of Mahatma Gandhi. I wanna be able to stand like that." I expect you will indeed enjoy that kind of stability and stamina in the coming weeks, my dear. You won't have to endure a metaphorical tsunami, thank Goddess, but you may have to stand strong through a blustery brouhaha or swirling turbulence. Here's a tip: The best approach is not to be stiff and unmoving like a statue, but rather flexible and willing to sway.

**CANCER (June 21–July 22):** No educator had ever offered a class in psychology until trailblazing philosopher William James did so in 1875. He knew a lot about human behavior. "Most people live in a very restricted circle of their potential being," he wrote. "They make use of a very small portion of their possible consciousness, and of their soul's resources in general, much like a person who, out of his whole bodily organism, should get into a habit of using only his little finger." I'm going to make an extravagant prediction here: I expect that in the coming months you will be better primed than ever before to expand your access to your consciousness, your resources, and your potentials. How might you begin such an adventure? The first thing to do is to set a vivid intention to do just that.

**LEO (July 23–Aug. 22):** "Someone in me is suffering and struggling toward freedom," wrote Greek author Nikos Kazantzakis. To that melodramatic announcement, I reply, good for him! I'm glad he was willing to put himself through misery and despair in order to escape misery and despair. But I also think it's important to note that there are other viable approaches to the quest for liberation. For example, having lavish fun and enjoying oneself profoundly can be tremendously effective in that holy work. I suspect that in the coming weeks, Leo, the latter approach will accomplish far more for you than the former.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22):** Virgo novelist Agatha Christie sold hundreds of millions of books, and is history's most-translated author. While growing up, she had few other kids to associate with, so she created a host of imaginary friends to fill the void. They eventually became key players in her work as an author, helping her dream up stories. More than that: She simply loved having those invisible characters around to keep her company. Even in her old age, she still consorted with them. I bring this to your attention, Virgo, because now is a great time to acquire new imaginary friends or resurrect old ones. Guardian angels and ancestral spirits would be good to call on, as well. How might

they be of assistance and inspiration to you?

**LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22):** "To hurry pain is to leave a classroom still in session," notes Libran aphorist Yahia Lababidi. On the other hand, he observes, "To prolong pain is to miss the next lesson." If he's correct, the goal is to dwell with your pain for just the right amount of time—until you've learned its lessons and figured out how not to experience it again in the future—but no longer than that. I suspect that such a turning point will soon be arriving for you.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21):** In her poem "Every Day," Scorpio poet Denise Levertov wrote, "Every day, every day I hear enough to fill a year of nights with wondering." I think that captures the expansive truth of your life in the coming weeks. You've entered a phase when the sheer abundance of interesting input may at times be overwhelming, though enriching. You'll hear—and hopefully be receptive to—lots of provocative stories, dynamic revelations, and unexpected truths. Be grateful for this bounty! Use it to transform whatever might be stuck, whatever needs a catalytic nudge.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21):** I hope you're not too stressed these days. There has been pressure on you to adjust more than maybe you'd like to adjust, and I hope you've managed to find some relaxing slack amidst the heaviness. But even if the inconvenience levels are deeper than you like, I have good news: It's all in a good cause. Read the wise words of author Dan Millman, who describes the process you're midway through: "Every positive change, every jump to a higher level of energy and awareness, involves a rite of passage. Each time we ascend to a higher rung on the ladder of personal evolution, we must go through a period of discomfort, of initiation. I have never found an exception."

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19):** We can safely say that Anais Nin was a connoisseur of eros and sensuality. The evidence includes her three collections of erotic writing, "Delta of Venus", "Little Birds", and "Auletris". Here's one of her definitive statements on the subject: "Sex must be mixed with tears, laughter, words, promises, jealousy, envy, all the spices of fear, foreign travel, new faces, stories, dreams, fantasies, music." In response to Nin's litany, I'm inclined to say, "Damn, that's a lot of ambience and scaffolding to have in place. Must it always be so complicated?" According to my reading of upcoming cosmic rhythms, you won't need such a big array of stuff in your quest for soulful orgasms—at least not in the coming weeks. Your instinct for rapture will be finely tuned.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18):** "One is always at home in one's past," wrote author Vladimir Nabokov. I agree. Sometimes that's not a good thing, though. It may lead us to flee from the challenges of the present moment and go hide and cower and wallow in nostalgia. But on other occasions, the fact that we are always at home in the past might generate brilliant healing strategies. It might rouse in us a wise determination to refresh our spirit by basking in the deep solace of feeling utterly at home. I think the latter case is likely to be true for you in the coming weeks, Aquarius.

**PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20):** "Not everything is supposed to become something beautiful and long-lasting," writes author Emery Allen. "Not everyone is going to stay forever." Her message is a good one for you to keep in mind right now. You're in a phase when transitory boosts and temporary help may be exactly what you need most. I suspect your main task in the coming weeks is to get maximum benefit from influences that are just passing through your life. The catalysts that work best could be those that work only once and then disappear.

Go to [RealAstrology.com](http://RealAstrology.com) to check out Rob Breznsky's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.

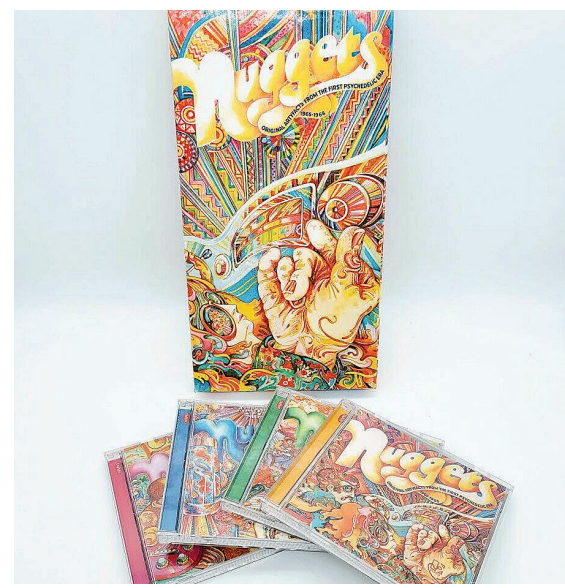


# TURN IT DOWN!

**Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene**

BY RICH TUPICA

LOOKING BACK AT "WHO DO YOU LOVE" BY THE WOOLIES



In 1967, The Woolies released their now signature take of "Who Do You Love?" The hit single was originally issued by Dunhill Records, and later included on the "Nuggets" box set. (courtesy images)

## A 1967 Lansing rock 'n roll classic

For decades now, the highly influential compilation "Nuggets: Original Artyfacts from the First Psychedelic Era, 1965–1968" has inspired countless garage bands across the world. The historic box set includes iconic trippy tracks from The Seeds, Electric Prunes and the 13th Floor Elevators, to only name a few.

But one of the more bluesy, R&B-tinged tunes on the set comes courtesy of Lansing rock 'n roll legends: the Woolies. These Michigan kids were more inspired by Elmore James than The Beatles, and it's clear in their rootsy sound. The outfit's fiery cover of "Who Do You Love?," a 1956 Bo Diddley song, was chosen among the roster of greats, and rightfully so. The Woolies often backed the man himself, Bo Diddley. Not a bad seal of approval, huh? That's what set The Woolies apart from so many other area bands — they could hang with the greats.

The Michigan blues-rock outfit first formed in the Detroit area in 1964, at the height of the British Invasion. The original lineup comprised vocalist Stormy Rice, keyboardist/harpist "Boogie" Bob Baldori, guitarist Jeff Baldori, bassist Ron English and drummer William "Bee" Metros. The remarkable "Black Crow Blues," a 1965, 7-inch single on TTP Records, was the band's debut — though it failed to chart nationally. But they kept busy. The group played the Grande Ballroom's grand reopening in 1966, as well as other high-profile spots

at Cincinnati's Riverfront Stadium, Cobo Hall and Detroit Olympia Arena.

However, by March 1967, The Woolies reached a new level when the band scored a Top 100 Billboard hit with "Who Do You Love?" In the following years, the band also released a stack of wax via Spirit Records, a Lansing-based label operated by band member/producer Bob Baldori. Among that discography is 1972's "Basic Rock" LP, 1973's "Live at Lizards" LP and 2006's "Ride, Ride, Ride" LP, a 1965-1974 retrospective. A small stack of 45s was also issued and are still available via spirit-records.com.

Metros told City Pulse in 2015 that "Who Do You Love?" happened after a series of circumstances landed the shaggy haired musicians in California.

"We'd won the Vox 'Band of the Land' contest at the state fairgrounds in 1966," Metros recalled. "That was sort of a huge break for us. It got us on a national level. First prize was a trip to Hollywood and supposedly a recording contract."

"The recording contract was complete B.S.," he added, "but they did end up flying us out and put us up at the Roosevelt Hotel for a week. We ended up signing with Dunhill Records and Lou Adler. As a result, we recorded 'Who Do You Love?' at Sunset Sound studios in Los Angeles, the same studio the Beach Boys recorded in."

While Dunhill, which was distributed by ABC Records, tried to promote the folk-rock tune "Hey Girl" to radio, it was

"Who Do You Love?" that connected with listeners in the Midwest. Despite the confusion on what song would be the 45's plug side, the single made the national singles charts, peaking at number 95. In some regional markets, it climbed even higher. Though, by the time the record charted, Adler sold Dunhill, and the Woolies found themselves at odds with the label's new management. The group's May 1967 follow-up single, "Love Words" b/w "Duncan & Brady," was its last on the Dunhill imprint.

Along with the right, pounding rhythm section, "Who Do You Love?" also showcases Rice's amazing vocals, though he'd exit the band the following year — Jack "Zocko" Groendal filled the open space. In the following years, Lansing became the Motor City band's new home base.

"When we started, there was no alcohol in East Lansing, it was completely dry," Metros said. "So if we played, it was at Coral Gables. This was before the bar scene really took off in the early '70s, so we'd play a lot of high-school places, fraternity parties, senior proms, dances and teeny-bop clubs like Daniel's Den in Saginaw."

Of course, many locals remember The Woolies being a Mid-Michigan fixture throughout the following decade.

"In the early '70s, when East Lansing had alcohol, we were one of the first bands to play Lizard's (now Rick's American Cafe)," Metros said. "We

played there weekly for many years. As a result of that, we played all the East Lansing places like Dooley's (current location of Harper's). We played Grandmother's, the Brewery and Silver Dollar—which was all the same place. There was the Allé-Ey, Mac's on South Logan, Rocky's Teakwood Lounge. We'd go anywhere. We played Nebraska, Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio and New York. All over."

During their time as a band, The Woolies were called in to back up a long list of music greats: Gary U.S. Bonds, Bobby Sherman, Martha Reeves & the Vandellas and Stevie Wonder. "We also played a number of gigs with Del Shannon, who was phenomenal — what a great singer he was," Metros said.

And any Lansing music buff knows that when rock pioneer Chuck Berry needed a solid rhythm section, he called The Woolies. Beyond shows, Berry's 1971 LP, "San Francisco Blues" (Chess Records), was ironically cut at "Boogie" Bob's studio in Okemos.

"What kept our career alive was playing with Chuck, he loved us," Metros recalled of their late rock 'n roll mentor. "I'm not saying that in a braggadocio way. What I'm saying is, we followed him, we didn't step over him. We could put in the groove. After he played with us for a week at The Dell's (on Lake Lansing), if Chuck came to Michigan or the Midwest he'd say, 'Get the Woolies!'"



# OUT ON THE TOWN

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

## Wednesday, April 28

**Allen Farmers Market** - 1629 E. Kalamazoo! 3-6:30 p.m. 517-999-3911.

**Biomedical Engineering Virtual Seminar Series**- Join us for our weekly series. 11 a.m. [events.msu.edu](http://events.msu.edu)

**Cinderella's Closet Prom Dress Giveaway** - through May 1st at Ever After Opportunities in Lansing Mall. By appt. only, hours vary. Call 517-885-5646 or email [info@everafteropportunities.org](mailto:info@everafteropportunities.org)

**Dinner and Live Music with Mike Eyia** - 5-10 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St. Old Town, Lansing. [urbanbeatevents.com](http://urbanbeatevents.com).

**Focus Tour:** Ocean Chemistry - One artwork. One guest. One theme. 4-5 p.m. Facebook Live, 368 Orchard St, East Lansing. [www.broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://www.broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**"Holocaust Cantata: Songs from the Camps" Musical event** - 40-minute cantata. Through May 23. 8 p.m. Peppermint Creek Theatre. [peppermintcreek.org](http://peppermintcreek.org).

**LAFCU Listen & Learn Butterflies & Bees** - LAFCU's April reading event. 7 p.m. LAFCU, 106 N. Marketplace Blvd., Lansing. [lafcu.com](http://lafcu.com).

**MSU Science Festival** - a celebration of the many ways science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM) touch our everyday lives. Through April 30. [sciencefestival.msu.edu](http://sciencefestival.msu.edu).

**MSU Spring Plant Sale** - Our annual spring plant sale will be a little different this year. April 26-May 6. MSU Horticulture Gardens, 1066 Bogue Street, East Lansing. 517-353-0443. Info: [canr.msu.edu](http://canr.msu.edu)

**Waverly Class of 1981 Reunion** - Sign up now for reunion September 25, 2021. 1 p.m. Country Club of Lansing, 2200 Moores River Dr., Lansing. [facebook.com/groups/225551375964658/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/225551375964658/)

**Wednesday Workdays at CCBS** - Do you enjoy spending time outdoors in nature? 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Capital City Bird Sanctuary, 6001 Delta River Drive, Lansing. [michiganadubon.org](http://michiganadubon.org).

**Wheel of the Year: Beltaine** - Join us on Zoom for a discussion of Ostara on the Wheel of the Year, as well as preparation for Saturday's ritual. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Weavers of the Web. 517-657-5800. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

**Write a Poem for our "Poet-Tree"!** - Spring is "leafing-out" with Poems! Visit us all month long to read the poems on display and contribute one of your own. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge.

## Thursday, April 29

**Dinner and Live Music with Mike Skory** - 5-10 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. [urbanbeatevents.com](http://urbanbeatevents.com).

## Friday, April 30

**Virtual Preschool Family Storytime** - 11-11:30 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, Go to [gladl.org](http://gladl.org) for link.

## Saturday, May 1

**A Socially-Distanced Spring Fling Experience** - Outdoor festival with 140 vendors. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. City of Mason.

**Beltaine Ritual** - Visit our website for both virtual and in person information. 4-9 p.m. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

**Hunter Park GardenHouse Presents: Container Gardening** - 10-11:30 a.m. Hunter Park, 1400 E Kalamazoo St, Lansing.

**Tailgate Book Sale** - Used books of all genres (\$1 for hardbound, \$.50 for paperback) including children's books (\$.25), cd's, and dvd's for sale. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Delta Twp. District Library Friends' Bookstore, 5130 Davenport Dr., Lansing. 517-285-9016.

**Try Curling** - Get out of your house and into ours! 1:30-3:30 p.m. Suburban Ice East Lansing, 2810 Hannah Blvd, East Lansing. [LansingCurls.org](http://LansingCurls.org).

## Sunday, May 2

**A Socially-Distanced Spring Fling Experience** - Outdoor festival with 140 vendors. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. City of Mason.

**Second Annual APS Flower Day Party** - May Day is a French holiday celebrated on May 1 in honor of International Workers' Day! 3:30-5 p.m. Aux Petits Soins, 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Suites B and F, Lansing. 517-999-7277. [apsfrenchclass.com](http://apsfrenchclass.com).

## Monday, May 3

**Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual)** - 6-7 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St., Lansing. [refugerecovery.org](http://refugerecovery.org)

## Tuesday, May 4

**"Holocaust Cantata: Songs from the Camps" Musical event** - 40-minute cantata. 8 p.m. Peppermint Creek Theatre, [peppermintcreek.org](http://peppermintcreek.org).

# FAST FORWARD



## UPCOMING EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS COMING TO LANSING

By SKYLER ASHLEY



## Rosé All Day at Cooley Gardens

\$35

May 1, Saturday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

213 W. Malcolm X St., Lansing

[Facebook.com/Lansing501](https://www.facebook.com/Lansing501)

Prepare to pop some corks and grab your friends for the Rosé All Day celebration in Lansing's own Cooley Gardens. Rosé All Day is Michigan's very first rosé wine festival and will feature live music and artisan vendors.



## Abundant Grace Church Carnival \$2

Through May 2

Monday-Friday, 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Saturday, noon to 10 p.m.

Sunday, 1 p.m. to 10 p.m.

5750 S. Cedar St., Lansing

(517) 403-8455

[Elliottsamusements.com](http://Elliottsamusements.com)

Celebrate the recent burst of warm weather with a full blown carnival with all the classic trappings. You can have fun in the sun with a ferris wheel, exciting carnival games and delicious fried food like corn dogs and elephant ears.

## Board and Brush Art Studio Grand Opening

May 1, Saturday, Noon

723 Brookside Dr., Lansing

(517) 319-0854

[BoardandBrush.com/Lansing](https://www.boardandbrush.com/Lansing)

Board and Brush is Lansing's newest art studio and will offer a plethora of workshops and classes. To celebrate its grand opening, Board and Brush is inviting people to check out their space and enjoy complimentary gift bags and plenty of opportunities to win special giveaway prizes.



## SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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

From Pg. 22

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# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

### Blue better boba

By ARI LeVAUX

Drinkers of bubble tea are bracing for the worst. Boba balls, the tapioca-based spheres that collect at the bottom of a cup of this wildly popular Taiwanese beverage, are reportedly in short supply.

Bubble tea is a combination of milk and tea, shaken or stirred to create the namesake bubbles. The boba balls hang out at the bottom of the cup, to be sucked up through an extra-wide straw and chewed with the sips of tea.

Boba, as the kids call this wildly popular beverage, has spread throughout East and Southeast Asia and is available wherever such food is sold. Taiwan exports boba balls worldwide, in myriad colors, sometimes even with little juice pockets inside. The diversity of boba tea recipes is like a drinkable distillation of the myriad Asian food scene: Vietnamese coffee boba, Japanese matcha with cheese foam, potted plant boba, black tea and strawberry gummy bear.

The popularity and reach of boba tea has been expanding exponentially, but, as first reported by the San Francisco Chronicle and followed up by Business Insider, Smithsonian and others, the dried boba pearls are in short supply, thanks to a perfect storm of boba-blocking happenings.

With world economies reopening, more folks are going out for boba, straining supplies. Meanwhile, many ports are still running at partial capacity because of COVID-19. And ships these days are larger than ever, including 20-some supersized cargo ships anchored offshore from the port of Los Angeles, plus one stuck in the Suez Canal.

Tapioca is a starch made from the root of the cassava plant, which was domesticated in Brazil and dispersed by the Portuguese to the tropical regions of Asia, Africa and elsewhere. It's beloved wherever it grows for its large harvest of tubers that can be prepared in many different ways. Most Taiwanese boba balls are made with Thai tapioca.

Boba wholesalers are strapped and retailers are stressed, because without those chewy balls at the bottom, boba buyers are bailing. "Some people will not buy a drink if we're out of boba,"



bubble shop owner Alex Ou told the Chronicle. "They're literally here for the boba."

Even if there weren't a shortage I would prefer frozen blueberries. They are my summertime ice cubes of choice for many drinks. They get the job done cooling the drink and then offer their soggy bodies as a sweet, tart finish. I'm lucky to live near a northern Idaho farm that grows monster blueberries, which I buy by the gallon ziplock.

In bubble tea, in place of boba balls, blueberries get the job done in a very juicy way, reminiscent of the extra-fancy juice-injected boba balls of Taiwan but even juicier. I use jasmine tea, because its magical flavor pairs perfectly with the blueberries.

To make a very boba-esque blueberry bubble tea, all you need is whipped cream, tea, sugar and frozen berries. Or substitute carbonated water for milk and add lemon, for berry bubbly blue boba lemonade.

#### Blueberry Boba

The glorious combination of blueberries, cream and jasmine tea makes this something you could imbibe to the bursting point, with no possible regret.

*Makes 2 pints*

*1 cup frozen blueberries  
2 tablespoons powdered sugar  
3 cups room temperature jasmine tea  
1/2 cup cream, whipped*

*In a bowl, toss the frozen blueberries in the sugar. Add the berries to your pints, followed by the tea, and finally the whipped cream. Shake vigorously, and serve.*

*Blueberry Bubbly Tea*

*This is a lighter, fruitier, summery-er and bubbly-er take on bubble tea.*

*Makes 2 pints*

*1 lemon, sliced and squeezed with seeds removed*



Ari LeVaux

Blueberry boba tea.

*1 cup frozen blueberries  
2 tablespoons powdered sugar  
2 cups room temperature jasmine tea  
2 cups bubbly water*

*In a bowl, toss the frozen blueberries in the sugar. Add the berries to your pints, followed by the tea, and then the lemon juice and slices. Finally, add the*

*bubbly water. Stir this one, or leave it alone. Definitely don't shake it.*

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

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Saturday 9am-10pm • Sunday 9am-8pm

## Brothers open Fiesta Mexicana after years of hard work

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

David and Jonathan Hernandez spent the past few years working in a factory. All the while, they were saving up to open a restaurant. They were both laid off at the start of the pandemic. Wasting no time, the brothers found an empty building on Facebook Marketplace and turned it into Fiesta Mexicana, a restaurant that serves authentic Mexican cuisine.

"We remodeled the inside. We painted. We built booths. We built a bar," David Hernandez said. "We really wanted to build it up. When we first bought it, it wasn't so nice inside."

The menu has all the items you'd expect to find at a Mexican restaurant. Enchiladas, burritos, tacos, quesadillas, fajitas and more. But at Fiesta Mexicana, the food is always evolving.

All of the recipes were handcrafted by Jonathan Hernandez during the free time he had after getting laid off. David Hernandez said that his brother is constantly adjusting them, trying to find the best possible combination of ingredients. He is particularly proud of his original marinades, which lend the meat its unique flavor and tenderness.

"My brother thinks he can make a recipe better every day," David Hernandez said. "These recipes are his own. They're his. He's always trying to make the meat taste even better."

First impressions are everything, that's why the brothers use fresh tomatoes to make their salsa. The salsa is yellow instead of the red stuff that your



**Fiesta Mexicana**

1820 Lansing Road,  
Charlotte  
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Facebook  
(517) 983-5027



Courtesy

Quesa birria from Fiesta Mexicana.

typical Tostitos eater would recognize.

"Other restaurants use canned tomatoes. That's why it's red," David Hernandez explained. "Some people are like, 'Oh, what is this?' and I just tell them it's because we use fresh tomatoes. Boiled, blended, mixed with onion and cilantro and all the other good stuff that gives it flavor."

David Hernandez said that the salsa is very popular among the customers who don't mind its distinct color.

He also made sure to point out that Mexicana Fiesta serves humongous burritos. Some customers balk at the price when they see it on the menu. But the second the burrito hits their table, they know that they're getting their money's worth.

"The burritos. Oh, my god, the burritos. People are impressed with the size," David Hernandez said. "Maybe they expect something smaller, so when we bring it out, they go, 'This is huge!'"

Fiesta Mexicana is a dream come true for the Hernandez brothers. They started with nothing. As children, they lived with their grandmother. She took care of them, but still, life was difficult back then. They always talked about starting their own business someday.

"Finally, we have it. We appreciate what we have because we put so much work into it," David Hernandez said. "We put our heart into this business."

# Appetizers

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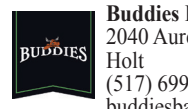
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### 3. Shove It Pizza Truck

Check online for daily locations and farmers market appearances  
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### 4. Bangos

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Sundays The Brew Café,  
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Facebook.com/BangosBangosBangos

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