

Are Lansing's dams safe? See page 16



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PULSE When the dam breaks

The precarious state of Michigan's river dams blasted its way into the public consciousness last May when the catastrophic failure of two dams near Midland sent torrents of water surging into nearby communities, causing millions of dollars in damage to public infrastructure and private property. Could the same thing happen in Lansing? Today's City Pulse story on dam safety in Michigan suggests the answer, under the right circumstances, could be yes (see page 16).

Even though both Lansing dams — Moores Park and North Lansing — are structurally sound and in good working order, an historic deluge of rain still has the potential to blow them out. If the worst-case scenario happens, large swaths of land adjacent to the river banks would be inundated. Lives could be lost and many millions of dollars in property damage would be inflicted on structures within the flood zone.

Experts say that the carnage caused by a dam break could dwarf the damage caused by a typical flooding event. Eliminating that possibility by removing the dams altogether, restoring the Grand River to its natural state, has been studied and discussed for decades. We think it's time to move forward with a comprehensive evaluation of the costs and benefits of removing one or both dams.

Lansing residents are accustomed to the wide and slow concourse of the Grand River as it eases through downtown Lansing. Altering the river's form by removing the dams would likely cause all manner of consternation. If the North Lansing Dam was removed, the impoundment that stretches several miles to the Moores Park Dam would hold a fraction of the water volume that now fills the river from bank to bank. New real estate, heretofore submerged, would be revealed. Nature would have her way, sculpting new contours along the river banks that support enhanced riverine ecosystems. Yet the mere thought of 10 feet or more of exposed river bottom on each side of a drastically narrowed channel would likely cause conniptions among riverfront property owners — a smaller scale version of the shock felt by homeowners on Wixom Lake, a dam-created impoundment that literally disappeared overnight



The CP Edit

Opinion

during the Midland catastrophe, leaving docks and boats high and dry and leaving property owners wondering if their lake would ever return.

The prospects for and implications of removing the North Lansing Dam were reviewed in a 2004 reconnaissance study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that identified modification or removal of the dam as a project that would be eligible for federal funding. The dam could be replaced, the study surmised, with artificial rapids that provide enhanced habitat for fish and wildlife. New recreational opportunities would also be created for canoes and kayaks by opening the river for continuous water transit from the Moores Park Dam all the way to Grand Ledge. With some exceptions, the environmental benefits of dam removal are significant, including increased stream flow that brings improved oxygenation and water quality, accelerated sediment transport, increased habitat biodiversity, and improved fish transit and spawning.

One of the significant downsides of removing the dam is reduced depth in the upstream river channel,

which would impede the passage of larger watercraft between the Moores Park and North Lansing dams. Another concern is the release of large volumes of pent-up contaminated sediment from the river bottom, the legacy of more than a century of industrial discharges into the river, including PCBs and other noxious chemicals that would flow downstream to Lake Michigan. The uncontrolled release of such sediments can have devastating ecological consequences downstream. Removal of the North Lansing Dam would also require significant infrastructure redevelopment related to the River Trail and storm sewer systems.

An even more dramatic change in the riverscape would occur if the Moores Park Dam is removed. The massive impoundment that creates a water wonderland for recreational boaters upstream from the dam would shrink

dramatically. Changes in the depth of the river likely would limit navigation to canoes, kayaks and perhaps shallow draft pontoon boats.

With the likelihood of massive federal funds becoming available for public infrastructure improvements over the next several years, the chance to secure resources for dam removal may be higher than it has ever been. But it is also likely to be a one-time opportunity: After several years of gargantuan cash outlays to counter the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the free-flowing federal spigot will likely give way to anxious hand-wringing and legislative retrenchment in the face of massive federal deficits.

We encourage the Lansing Board of Water & Light, which owns both dams, city leaders and state environmental regulators to take a closer look at the costs and benefits of removing one or both of Lansing's dams. Extensive public education and engagement with a myriad of stakeholders will be crucial to the success of any plan to modify or remove either of the dams. In the end, any dam removal plan will have both positive and negative consequences. Balancing those concerns and making a decision to move forward has evaded state and local policymakers for many years. Now is the time to act.

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

Line 5 is a direct threat to the health and safety of the Great Lakes

By LEVI TEITEL OPINION



(Levi Teitel is the rural communications coordinator with Progress Michigan, a Lansingbased nonprofit that holds public officials accountable and assists in promoting progressive ideas.)

What's your favorite body of water in Michigan? For me, it's Lake Michigan.

Like so many people across our state, I consider the Great Lakes a way of life and a part of who I am today. Many of us have memories that bring profound clarity and stillness to our lives — just like the water we drink from and in which we swim and play.

I learned some life lessons in the backcountry that applied not just to the Great Lakes, but to life in general, like the "leave no trace" rule. You leave the campsite better than you found it. That's a powerful message we could use more of.

We're so lucky that Michigan is the freshwater capital of the world. Yet just one catastrophic incident could set off a chain of events that would imperil the entire region. Enbridge's Line 5 pipeline, which lies under our Great Lakes, is a ticking time bomb that jeopardizes the health of our environment and the lakes that we treasure. It's a threat that must be removed.

Everyone in our state would be wise to remember when oil carried through Enbridge's Line 6b spilled into the Kalamazoo River and devastated the west Michigan town of Marshall a little more than 10 years ago. Enbridge failed to properly maintain Line 6b resulting in the second-largest inland oil spill in U.S.

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF INGHAM NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate Estate of Steven Phillip Kindel. Date of Birth: 04/25/1956. TO ALL CREDITORS: To decedent, Steven Phillip Kindel, died 04/12/2021. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Brian K. Kindel, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo, Lansing, MI 48933, and the personal representative within 4 months after the publication of the notice. 4/29/2021 Brian K. Kindel 2869 College Rd. Holt, MI 48842 517-975-4060 il spill in U.S. history, and it tragically mismanaged the oil spill, allowing oil to flow from the damaged pipe for 17 hours. This foreign fossil fuel giant has shown time and time again that it is not fit to

operate its business in Michigan.

Last summer, there was significant damage to an anchor support in Line 5 through the Straits of Mackinac portion of the pipeline that necessitated a temporary shutdown. This gross violation of Enbridge's ability to operate in Michigan is just a continuation of the same old thing: deny culpability, downplay the threat the pipeline poses to the Great Lakes and use bogus statistics to bolster its shallow arguments about its alleged benefits. Line 5 has already spilled at least 33 times and 1.1 million gallons of oil since 1968, which is a track record that cannot be trusted.

Enbridge's response to the Line 5 disaster — proposing a tunnel beneath the Straits of Mackinac would take three years to construct and encase only four miles of the roughly 645 miles the pipeline covers through Michigan. Not only is this project poorly thought out given the lack of information about the bedrock it wants to build through, but it's a delay tactic meant to prolong Enbridge's ability to rake in profits while it continues to threaten our environment and public health.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Attorney General Dana Nessel, who both oppose to the pipeline, have fought in and out of the courts arguing correctly that Enbridge is an untrustworthy actor and that its pipeline must get out of the Great Lakes. And Whitmer has issued strong proposals to make sure that propane distribution in Michigan will be unaffected by a shutdown.

Indigenous tribes, scientific experts, businesses leaders and a host of other groups across the spectrum have been sounding the alarm about the need to terminate Line 5 for years. The time has finally come when we heed their call to come to grips with a situation that grows more severe by the minute. This precarious situation, enabled by the fossil fuel lobby and corporate donors, must come to an end.

What's your favorite body of water in Michigan? Chances are it's directly threatened by Line 5. Mine sure is: Line 5 crosses 16 tributaries within nine miles of Lake Michigan. We must take immediate action to close down the pipeline, or else we may not be able to enjoy our Great Lakes.

LETTERS to the editor

Bye, Mac's

Punk rockers, professionals, young college students, recreational softball teams — no one ever felt welcome or comfortable at Mac's Bar. Pretentiously unrefined sharpie advice on dented walls, wobbly tables and chairs, disgusting toilets with newspapers for wipes, and a stage built like a trap door fit the business model of overpriced drinks and high cover charges.

Mac's was the place one would go to hear rock bands that would forever stay widely unknown. Amps were cranked to 11 as a sound engineer spun knobs like the big wheel on "The Price is Right." Band starting times were routinely pushed back from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. in an obvious ploy to keep patrons raking up bar tabs while bands received little or no compensation.

Mac's only redeeming entertainment consisted of a concave pool table complete with broken cue tips and a pinball machine equipped with a trench to the gutter. Former employees may soon find more gainful positions elsewhere and wonder why or how they stayed at Mac's for so long. The only surprise about Mac's closing is that dark forces didn't make the dilapidated building implode like the White's house at the end of the movie "Carrie." Bye, Mac's.

C.J. Hansen Lansing

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

Now you have two ways to sound off:

1.) Write a letter to the editor.

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

2.) Write a guest column:

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

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

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM Conferencing, Meeting ID 859 4003 6219 for the purpose of considering:

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, for the purpose of amending Chapter 688, Section 688.05, to provide that the penalty for violation of this ordinance shall be a municipal civil infraction.

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

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.

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

Union members' Republican slide becoming more pronounced

Democrats don't like to talk about it, but it's become obvious that more and OPINION more union



aren't voting the way of organized labor these days.

members

Big labor, a Michigan Democratic Party cornerstone since about the 1930s, is still there at the leadership level. But members? Not as much.

State Rep. Dave Martin, R-Davison, told me that during his campaign in rural Genesee County last fall, he had several lifelong Democrats tell him on their doorstep that "I'm not leaving the party. The party has left me."

Martin unseated a Democrat in a bit of an Election Day surprise. Up I-75 in Bay City, now-state Rep. Timmy Beson did the same thing.

Where is this coming from?

Teamsters President James Hoffa conceded on WKAR's "Off The Record" that as many as 50% of his members are Republicans, led astray, in his opinion by the "wedge issues" exploited by former President Donald Trump.

Guns. Abortion. Illegal immigration. Personal property rights. Defunding police. This is their focus in 2021, not pocketbook issues.

But once you're retired or knocking on retirement's door, the pocketbook issues are settled ... as long as the pension checks are rolling in as promised.

Meanwhile, the national conversation in Democratic circles is around gun control as being the answer to stopping mass shootings. For your average 60-something GM retiree with 10 acres in Iosco County, that dog doesn't hunt. That sounds an awful lot like "we're coming to take your guns away" to him.

The historic union v. management grudge matches of the '50s aren't as pronounced, either. Manufacturers and unions have learned their relationship in the 21st Century is more symbiotic than adversarial.

Unions realize their members can't get paid if the company isn't doing well. Companies realize you keep good employee by treating them well. Nobody wins when there are no jobs.

Which leads me to a couple more issues where the "big tent" Democrats

have problems — Line 5 and expanded rooftop solar.

Environmentalists want an end to fossil fuels. Now! If not sooner. Line 5 is symbolic of the old-school philosophy that burning stuff pulled out of the earth is how energy is made. Burying Enbridge's pipeline underneath the Straits of Mackinac isn't the answer because fossil fuel isn't the answer.

Meanwhile, the trades unions are waving their arms. People need the propane and light crude rolling though that pipeline for manufacturing other stuff, not to mention keeping homes warm. If Enbridge wants to spend \$1 billion to dig a utility tunned under five miles of lakebed, there's a bunch of union members signing up for that paycheck.

With rooftop solar, environmentalists are arguing the more the better. The Utility Workers Union of America agree with DTE and Consumers that until rooftop solar panel people pay their fair share to keep up the electrical grid, they're not happy.

Once again, your traditional Democrat is conflicted. Do you stand with your union brothers and sisters or the environment?

And those who are siding with the workers on these types of issues are supporting Republicans more and more.

In 2012, U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Flint Twp., blew out former state Rep. Jim Slezak 65% to 31%. That's a 2:1, 34-point blowout. In 2020, Kildee beat former state Rep. Tim Kelly 54% to 41%. That's a 13-point win. Nothing notably has changed with Kildee in these eight years. It's the people in the district that have changed.

The National Republican Campaign Committee announced this week that Kildee, for the first time ever, has been put on its watch list for the 2022 election. We have no idea what Kildee's district is going to look like, but this should make Democrats at least a little uneasy for more reasons than one.

The union vote, a cornerstone upon which they've rested their party for nearly 100 years is shifting.

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

CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1277

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to repeal Chapter 656, Section 656.04, a criminal misdemeanor under the General Offenses Code of the Codified Ordinances to eliminate prohibition of bicycles on Riverfront Park during an organized event.

Effective date: May 26, 2021

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan. A copy of the full text of this Ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan at a fee determined by City Council.

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

CP#21-111

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING East Lansing Planning Commission

NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING

May 26, 2021 at 7:00 pm

THE MEETING WILL ONLY BE HELD ELECTRONICALLY FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Planning Commission of the City of East Lansing will hold a meeting and public hearing on May 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. This meeting will only be held electronically pursuant to the Open Meetings Act and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Epidemic Orders.

A public hearing will be held to consider a site plan and special use permit application from Neumann/Smith Architecture for the property at 3775 Coolidge Road to demolish the exist drive-thru lanes and building and construct a one-story, 9,936 sq. ft. headquarter branch office building with 5 new drive-thru lanes and the associated parking. The subject property is zoned B-4, Restricted Office Business District.

The Planning Commission may also consider any business to come before it as permitted by law.

Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Act 267 of 1976, and the MDHHS Epidemic Order, the City also gives notice of the following:

1. **Reason for Electronic Meeting**. The Planning Commission is holding the meeting by electronic means only because of the gathering restrictions, capacity limits, and social distancing requirements set forth in the MDHHS Epidemic Orders.

2. **Procedures**. The public may participate in the meeting and may make public comment electronically by video or telephone conference using the following information:

URL: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89331524014

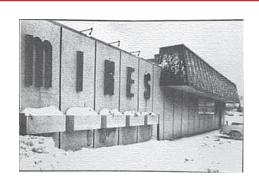
Webinar ID: 893 3152 4014 Call in Number: 312-626-6799 Toll Free Call in Number: 888 788 0099

3. **Contact Information**. For those people who desire to contact members of the Planning Commission to provide input or ask questions on the business that will come before the public body at the meeting, please contact Peter Menser, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823, (517) 319-6861, or pmenser@cityofeastlansing.com prior to the start of the meeting.

4. **Persons with Disabilities**. Persons with disabilities may participate in the meeting through the methods set forth in paragraph 2. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services in order to attend electronically should notify Rebecca Urdiales, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823, (517) 319-6922, TDD 1-800-649-3777 or rurdial@cityofeastlansing.com, within a reasonable time in advance of the meeting.

Jennifer Shuster City Clerk

REM **NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS**



Westlund's Apple Market celebrates 100 years

The Lansing grocery store opened on April 11,1921, and moved from downtown Lansing to its current location in the 1950s. Only two families have reportedly owned the business to date.

Donation to help solve cold cases

A \$10,000 donation from AT&T was directed toward the Lansing Police Department and is designed to assist in solving more than 85 unsolved homicides cases in the Capital City.

Whitmer honored for courageous leadership

The John F. Kennedy Library Foundation picked Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (and six other recipients) for its "Profile in Courage" award in recognition of her leadership amid the pandemic.



Whitmer

Construction planned for Abbot Road

City officials said the stretch between W. Saginaw Highway and Lake Lansing Road will be closed to through traffic from Monday (May 10) through Aug. 13. One lane will remain open for local traffic.

Lansing records two more homicides

Cops are searching for tips after Kelsey Cross Coon-Lennon, 29, and Harley Thomas Owens, 39, were found dead from apparent gunshot wounds at a home in the 600-block of Baker Street. Those with

information are asked to contact the Lansing Police Department at 517-483-4600. Coon-Lenon and Owens' deaths mark the eighth and ninth homicides this year in Lansing.

McLaren earns top safety grade

The hospital system received an "A" rating in this spring's



GREATER LANSING

Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades, which scores hospitals exclusively on their prevention of medical errors and patient harm.

Baseball injury kills high schooler

Cooper Gardner, a Bath High School baseball player who was knocked unconscious during a game on April 21, died from a brain injury, the Journal reports. A GoFundMe page set up for Cooper's family described the incident as a "freak accident."



Entrepreneurs join inclusion initiative

The Lansing Economic Area Partnership welcomed 19 local entrepreneurs into the latest class of its "One and All" inclusion initiative, a two-month program designed to provide immersive business and com-



BV KYLE KAMINSKI

munication training, coaching and mentoring to underserved populations.

Pot opposed in Meridian Township

Residents with a group called Meridian Voices are reportedly collecting signatures for a ballot initiative aimed at banning all recreational marijuana businesses within the township. Township officials have yet to allow for recreational pot sales, though discussions are set to continue. The group will need about 1,100 signatures to bring the referendum to a township-wide vote.

COVID-19 scams continue

Attornev General Dana Nessel is warning residents to stay vigilant following reports of scammers who reach out to family and friends of COVID-19 victims to offer funeral assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA

staff do not make unsolicited calls.

Okemos Schools considers new mascot

The Board of Education will vote May 24 on whether to abandon the chief and chieftain mascot following concerns that it could represent an offensive caricature of Native Americans.

CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1275		
Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lar Chapter 630, Section 630.14, a criminal misdemeanor unde Code of the Codified Ordinances to eliminate loitering in plac solicitation for lewd conduct occurs.	r the General Offenses	
Effective date: May 26, 2021		
Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan. A copy of the may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 9th Fl Michigan at a fee determined by City Council.	full text of this Ordinance	
Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/MiPMC www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope	CP#21-114	

CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF **ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1276**

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to repeal Chapter 650, Section 650.04, a criminal misdemeanor under the General Offenses Code of the Codified Ordinances to eliminate playing in streets.

May 26, 2021 Effective date:

The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk's Office, Notice: 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan. A copy of the full text of this Ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan at a fee determined by City Council.

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Second woman says mayoral candidate Dunbar used 'N' word

Councilwoman flatly denies accusation

A woman has stepped forward to corroborate allegations that Lansing mayoral candidate Kathie Dunbar had once used the N-word more than 15 years ago in a conversation with Rina Risper, the publisher of the New Citizens' Press, which caters to the African-American community in Lansing. Risper is Black and Dunbar is white.

Margaret — who no longer lives in Lansing and who is identified only through a pseudonym to protect her identity — told City Pulse she was once good friends with Risper and Dunbar, an at-large Councilwoman. But that quickly dissolved after a tense encounter on the Troppo patio in downtown Lansing in 2006, Margaret explained.

More than 15 years ago, she said, she and Risper and Dunbar were dining at Troppo when Dunbar tried to make a "joke" that involved the repeated use of the N-word in reference to Black people. Margaret said Risper had told her not to use that word in the past. Dunbar persisted.

"I just remember cringing," Margaret said. "Kathie is very outspoken, outgoing. She does stand-up comedy — and she's actually really funny on stage. That was part of it. She thought she could do that with Rina, even though Rina told her that she cannot use that word. She told her: 'You cannot say those words. You can't call me that. That's not OK.'

"But she still did it."

Risper, fed up with the blatantly derogatory remarks, left the table in frustration, Margaret said.

"I just remember her saying it and thinking: Well, this isn't OK," Margaret added. "Kathie tried to brush it off like Rina was being oversensitive. I think Rina has just had enough at that point."

Dunbar said she has no memory of that encounter at Troppo, much less using the N-word.

"Did I have meals at Troppo? We did all the time. Do I remember this specific incident? No," Dunbar explained. "I never used the N-word in my jokes. For comics, our material often bleeds into our social lives, but I can say with certainty that I did not make jokes using that word."

Dunbar, 52, filed to run for mayor in the August primary election last month.

And less than 24 hours after filing, Dunbar was accused of a series of offensive missteps. "We never, ever, approached Rina for sex. Ever. ... I've got issues with my ex-wife. She's my ex-wife, for God's sake. But I can say with certainty that she's not a sexual predator."

The claims are several: Risper alleged on Facebook that Dunbar once told her that "your little Black newspaper won't make it." She also claimed that Dunbar used the N-word and made off-color remarks about how

Risper resembled "Buckwheat" from the "The Little Rascals" films that were first popularized in the mid-1930s — all claims that Dunbar flatly denies today.

Dunbar

"I said a racially insensitive term back then that I didn't realize was racially insensitive. And that was Buckwheat, which was only in reference to myself. I didn't call Rina that name," Dunbar explained, noting that her naturally curly hair had led to the nickname when she was a child. "I recognize I have made jokes in the past I wouldn't say now. None of them involved the N-word."

Risper also alleged that Dunbar had repeatedly propositioned her to have a threesome with her now ex-husband in 2006, continuing to pressure her even after Risper declined the invitation.

"She is a sexual predator and a racist," Risper posted to Facebook last month.

Former City Councilwoman Jody Washington also alleged that Dunbar had inappropriately "grabbed" her sister from behind, though wouldn't elaborate.

Dunbar also denied asking — much less badgering — Risper for a threesome with her ex-husband. She also clarified that if she had ever touched Washington's sister's rear end, "it was not in any kind of lewd manner." She also doubled down on those denials this week.

As for the butt grabbing? "I can't even imagine a context where that would happen," she said.

Her ex, Sam Dunbar, also spoke in Dunbar's defense in a statement Dunbar said her former husband gave her for public consumption.

"That didn't happen. We never, ever, approached Rina for sex. Ever. I usual-

Sam Dunbar

ly stay out of my ex's political affairs, but I have to speak on this. I find the idea that a person can make up lies from whole cloth and spread them around for political gain to be a disgusting trend in our political system. I've got

issues with my ex-wife. She's my ex-wife, for God's sake. But I can say with certainty that she's not a sexual predator."

Meanwhile, Margaret is also defending Risper's allegations, which have faced some criticism after it was revealed that Risper publicly supports Councilwoman Patricia Spitzley's mayoral campaign. Risper has also declined multiple interview opportunities with City Pulse.

Margaret said she was shocked to see how Dunbar had denied Risper's experiences — including Risper's recent claims of how Dunbar had tried to pressure Risper into a threesome.

Margaret said Dunbar also once invited Margaret to have sex with her and her husband. Unlike Risper's claims of sexual harassment, Margaret said she only had to decline the invitation once and wouldn't classify the request as harassment. It simply made her feel "uncomfortable."

"I was dating someone at the time

CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1279

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to repeal Chapter 680, Section 680.03, a criminal misdemeanor under the General Offenses Code of the Codified Ordinances to eliminate using profane language in a building or on any property adjacent to any building in the City occupied as public, private or parochial school.

Effective date: May 26, 2021

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan. A copy of the full text of this Ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan at a fee determined by City Council.

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

and I just let the whole friendship fizzle out from there," Margaret said. "I was uncomfortable about it, but I didn't feel like she was using me. I felt like she genuinely wanted me to join her and her husband. It wasn't because she was using me for my job or my connections. I didn't feel pressured. I didn't ever feel like she was harassing me."

Without knowing the woman's real name, Dunbar said she couldn't be sure if she ever asked Margaret to have a threesome with her and her ex-husband. But even if she did: Who cares?

"Attraction is not transferable. Just because I may have — and I can't say that I have — offered any kind of sexual interaction does not mean that I did that with Rina or anyone else," Dunbar said in response. "I'm not attracted to Rina. I'm also entitled to privacy in my own sex life."

Of course, without workplace power dynamics in play or other underlying relational issues, one simple request for a threeway with a friend may not alone be classified as sexual harassment. Risper's unevidenced claims, instead, appear to be rooted in her repeated denials to Dunbar's alleged request which both Kathie and Sam Dunbar contend never actually happened.

Dunbar — who identifies as a bisexual woman — said the LGBTQ community is often hypersexualized with the assumption that bisexual woman are sexually attracted to everyone.

"Anyone in the LGBTQ community can attest to that," Dunbar added. "I've dealt with many instances of this running stereotype out there, including with my current partner. This idea is that because you're bisexual you must be incapable of being monogomous. That's just not true."

- KYLE KAMINSKI

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CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1278

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

Effective date: May 26, 2021

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan. A copy of the full text of this Ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan at a fee determined by City Council.

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

CP#21-112

CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1280

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to repeal Chapter 680, Section 680.06, a criminal misdemeanor under the General Offenses Code of the Codified Ordinances to eliminate borrowing money or a thing of value from a student at any school.

Effective date: May 26, 2021

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan. A copy of the full text of this Ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan at a fee determined by City Council.

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

CP#21-113

NOTICE OF PROJECT PLAN PUBLIC HEARING

The Lansing Board of Water & Light will hold a public hearing for the purpose of receiving public comments and input regarding the proposed Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Project Plan for water main replacement in partnership with the City of Lansing Wet Weather Control Program. The public hearing will be held at 3 P.M., June 7, 2021, via Webex.

Meeting URL	https://lbwlevents.webex.com/lbwlevents/onstage/g. php?MTID=efbffd79742179fe7bd45b658d388d724					
Event Number	132 012 7622					
Event password	2arK35pYJig					
Audio Conferenced:	United States Toll +1-408-418-9388					
Access code:	132 012 7622					

The purpose of the Project Plan is to secure approval of DWSRF funding for the replacement of aging water main, valves, associated fire hydrants and appurtenance located within the City of Lansing's Combined Sewer Separation Areas of 034D, 034E and 015S to improve water quality and reliability and to improve flow efficiency and public health protection.

The estimated cost for the three proposed projects is \$19.2 Million. The estimated cost to a typical residential user for the associated DWSRF loans is \$0.35 per month. Any grants awarded to the BWL from the DWSRF program would reduce the estimated cost.

On or before May 5, 2021, copies of the draft Project Plan will be available for public review on the Lansing Board of Water & Light's website at: www.lbwl.com/customers/ services/water. All interested parties are invited to present comments on the proposed Project Plan. Written comments may be submitted to the Lansing Board of Water & Light, Attn. Mike Lehtonen, 730 East Hazel Street, Lansing, MI 48901, or via e-mail to: Michael.Lehtonen@LBWL.COM. Written comments must be received no later than June 7, 2021, in order for them to be considered as part of the public record.

CP#21-103



A screen grab of Linda Keefe (left) during a meeting of the Windsor Township Board of Trustees. The meeting was held weeks before her position was declared vacant by the board, resulting in Keefe's removal.

Discredited Windsor Township clerk seeks Lansing City Council seat

A Windsor Township resident and attorney who sued former township clerk and current Lansing City Council candidate Linda Keefe has a warning for local voters: Don't trust Keefe.

The reason, Jaye Bergamini said, is that Keefe is "lazy."

As evidence, she points to reams of court documents used in a lawsuit she brought in 2013 on behalf of several Windsor Township residents that was aimed at forcing Keefe to do the job that she was elected to do. The residents ultimately had to ask a judge to order Keefe to do the job.

That lawsuit set off a series of court actions resulting in Keefe's position as clerk being declared legally vacant and costing township taxpayers thousands of dollars in fees, contracts and legal assistance — as well as increased insurance rates.

"She is not qualified to do anything except flap her lips," Bergamini said last week during an interview at her home in rural Windsor Township.

Keefe was sworn in as township clerk after the November 2012 election. Almost immediately, court records show, township employees and others began to see odd changes in their payroll, if they received it at all. The new clerk also seemed to rarely be in her office during office hours.

By January, the small community's whisper network was in overdrive about allegations of Keefe's abusive nature, failure to show up and other concerns.

Bergamini couldn't believe it, so she attended the next two board meetings. And it became obvious Keefe was not doing her job, she said. Meeting minutes were not showing up for review and approval and the meeting notices were not being properly posted, resulting in violations of the Open Meetings Act.

Bergamini called a meeting of community members to discuss the flailing clerk in March 2013, resulting in a decision made by seven residents to file suit against Keefe and demand, in court, that she do the job electors approved her to do.

The May 2013 lawsuit had numerous exhibits to demonstrate the need for the court's involvement — including affidavits attesting to her lack of time in the office, reports she had filed a blank, predated notarized attestation for the alleged hiring of a deputy clerk and multiple agendas related to various meetings without minutes.

The lawsuit also alleged, and the court agreed, that Keefe had failed to become a certified election official under Michigan law. As a result of that failure, the township had to contract a Delta Township election official to oversee a February school election. The Township ultimately sought to recoup the costs of the outside contract with Delta from the bond covering Keefe.

Judge Jeffrey Sauter did just that in July 2013. He issued a legal ruling, called a writ of mandamus, ordering Keefe to become a qualified election official, to follow the Open Meetings and Freedom of Information acts, to pay employees of the township their past due employment wages and to assist in the performance of the township's required audit — her duties as clerk.

City Council explores ranked choice voting for 2022 elections

Proposed system would eliminate primary elections

Lansing residents could soon have the option to fundamentally shift how they elect their mayors, clerks and members of the City Council through a method that would consider second-choice preferences, eliminate primary elections and shift a wider candidate pool to the general election.

A proposal introduced to the City Council's Committee of the Whole this week outlined plans to shift city elections from a simple popular vote to a method referred to as "ranked choice voting." The committee tabled the proposal this week, but it could be sent back to the Council as early as next week and sent to voters in the form of a ballot proposal this November. Officials said the earliest the new system could take root for local elections would be in January 2022.

"It gives them backups in case their favorite can't win and in case no candidate reaches a majority of the vote," explained Hugh McNichols, a Lansing resident and advocate for ranked choice voting. "It gives us as many runoffs as

Visit lansingcitypulse.com for continued coverage as these discussions continue at City Council.

we need until one candidate hits 50% of the vote."

Currently, primary voters whittle the field down to the two top vote-getters in each race for mayor, city clerk and Council ward candidates, with the General Election determining each winner. In at-large Council elections, when there are usually two seats up, the field is reduced to the four best vote-getters, with the top two in the General Election getting the spots.

In ranked voting, residents would also have the option to order the candidates by preference rather than just voting for a single candidate. In ranked voting, if one candidate does not win more than 50% of the votes, the candidate with the fewest first-place votes is eliminated from the competition and the votes are recounted - this time considering second-choice preferences - until one candidate achieves a majority.

McNichols said those "instant runoffs" would preserve voters' second-place preferences without diluting support from their most preferred candidate. It could also save costs by negating the need for a primary election, in turn ramping up voter turnout for one chance to head to the polls.

Ranked choice voting naturally creates wider candidate pools and could also create friendlier campaigns where candidates still have a reason to vie for second-place votes, McNichols said.

The concept is already in place in several cities across the country, including Cambridge, Massachusetts; Portland, Maine; St. Paul, Minnesota; Minneapolis; Santa Fe, New Mexico; San Francisco; New York City; Salt Lake City, Utah, and Michigan cities like Ferndale and Eastpointe.

Local conservative resident Loretta Stanaway spoke against the idea, largely because of her "old-fashioned upbringing and reluctance to change." She said ranked choice voting could confuse voters and deny them a chance to reevaluate candidates from the August primary to the Genera Election in November.

Nationally, the concept has also faced

some other criticisms. If voters choose not to rank all of the candidates on the new ballot forms, for example, and their first-choice candidate were to be eliminated in an instant runoff, it could result in their ballots not being counted at all.

Advocates have argued that the change would still lead to a more agreeable government where local voters can learn more about a wider selection of candidates and be much more specific at the polls about their preferences, theoretically picking winners who please the most people.

In a four-person race for City Council under the current system, for example, winners need only carry 26% of the vote to be elected, potentially leaving 74% of voters dissatisfied in November.

Ranked choice voting can also shake up otherwise predictable election results.

Democrat Jared Golden, for example, beat the incumbent Republican and won a congressional district in Maine in 2018 after he was awarded 3,000 votes as the preferred second choice after an independent candidate was eliminated. - KYLE KAMINSKI

Keefe

from page 10

"Based upon the evidence presented, this court finds Keefe is unlikely to perform her mandatory, non-discretionary statutory duties without direction and supervision of the court," Sauter wrote in his order.

Keefe did not respond to multiple phone calls seeking comment.

However, she told the Livingston County Press that her removal from the clerk's post in Windsor Township was "political," noting that she was a Democrat and the majority of the board was Republican. She made that comment while under fire for signatures she collected to get on the ballot to run for the 8th Congressional District in Michigan in 2016.

Enough of her petition signatures were rejected that she ultimately did not qualify for the ballot.

Keefe also appears not to have fully complied with the order. Her position was ultimately declared vacant when she failed to provide an acceptable bond to assure she would not cost the township any additional cash. Earlier in 2013, the township board had laid the groundwork for her removal by adopting an ordinance requiring officials to be covered by a \$10,000 bond.

That was also not the first time Keefe landed in court over an elected position. In 1996, she ran for a position on the Ingham County Board of Commissioners.

She unseated

a Republican incumbent in November of that year and took office.	STATE OF MICHIGAN 54A JUDICIAL DISTRICT 124 W. Michigan Ave. #54A, Lansing, MI 49933 ORDER REGARDING ALTERNATIVE SERVICE CASE NO. 21-00097-SC Plaintiff. Jeff Wagner, 5132 Balzer St., Lansing, MI 48911 517-392-6794
But incum- bent Com-	Defendant: Amanda O'Boyle 124 W. Michign Avenue 5th floor Lansing, MI 48933. 517-483-4320
missioner Pat Gallagher dis-	Last known home address & phone: 1323 Kelsey Ave., Lansing, MI 48910. 630-740-8757 THE COURT FINDS:
covered that when Keefe filed for elec-	 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
tion in May 1996, she was	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
neither a resi-	Claim and a copy of this order shall be made by the following method(s).
dent nor a reg- istered voter	 a. First class mail to 1323 Kelsey Ave., Lansing, MI 48910 d. Other: Publication of Order in the Lansing City Pulse for 3
in the county's 9th commis-	consecutive weeks beginning 04/28/2021 and continuing on 05/05/2021 and 05/12/2021. For each method used, proof of
sion district, making her	service must be filed promptly with the court. Date: April 14, 2021. CP#21-106

ineligible. An Ingham County judge agreed with

Gallagher. Keefe appealed the decision, which was later upheld in 1998, effectively booting Keefe off the county commission.

Keefe is joined in this year's race

for City Council by seven other hopefuls: Incumbent City Council President Peter Spadafore, 36; Rachel Willis, 32; Grant Blood II, 34; Jeffrey Brown, 37; Linda Appling; DeMarco Taft, 47; and Claretta Duckett-Freeman, 39. - TODD HEYWOOD

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM Conferencing, Meeting ID 859 4003 6219 for the purpose of considering:

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, for the purpose of amending Chapter 688, Section 688.07, to provide that the penalty for violation of this ordinance shall be a municipal civil infraction.

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

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.

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

VACC.

doses of the COVID-19 vaccine admin-

istered statewide to date. At least 50%

of residents have now received one dose.

Records show that about 38% of resi-

"As we get closer to achieving our

goal of equitably vaccinating 70% of

Michiganders 16 and up, we have to

remember that we are still in this fight

against the virus. Our case count and

hospitalization rates are a reminder that we must continue following basic pub-

lic health protocols we know work," Gov.

Gretchen Whitmer said in a statement

drink establishments hit by the pan-

demic are eligible to apply this week for \$28.6 billion in federal Restaurant

Revitalization Fund direct relief pro-

vided by the U.S. Small Business

Administration under the federal

to women, veterans and socially and

economically disadvantaged people for

the first 21 days then switch to a first-

come, first-serve model. Visit sba.gov/

restaurants (or in Spanish at sba.gov/

restaurantes) for more details about the

ness owners, the city of East Lansing is

waiving this year's business license and

entertainment fees, much like last year's

waiver as the pandemic began.

- KYLE KAMINSKI

In an effort to assist struggling busi-

Officials will prioritize direct relief

Restaurants, bars and other food and

released this week.

American Rescue Plan.

dents have also been fully vaccinated.

Johnson & Johnson vaccines return to Ingham County

Michigan surpasses 7 million doses administered statewide

The Ingham County Health Department is back to using the single-shot Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine this week after a nationwide administrative pause was prompted by six reports of women who had developed blood clots after receiving those particular vaccinations.

"The bottom line is that any of these vaccines is better than no vaccine," Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail said in a statement. "The risk for COVID-19 followed by a serious illness or death is significantly higher than the risk for a severe adverse reaction from the vaccine."

The temporary pause in J&J vaccines was based on reported cases of a rare and severe type of blood clot called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis that developed in six patients (of more than 6.8 million) after their shots. All of the patients were women 18 to 49.

After a federal investigation, the CDC and FDA concluded the benefits of the vaccine outweigh the potential risk. Vaccine appointments — which also include options for those who still prefer Pfizer or Moderna vaccines — are available at hd.ingham.org/coronavirus/r_1013.aspx.

in related news...

Michigan hit a shots-in-arm milestone this week, ticking past 7 million

> CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

program.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM Conferencing, Meeting ID 859 4003 6219 for the purpose of considering:

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, for the purpose of amending Chapter 664, Section 664.01, by repealing subsection b, prohibiting loud and boisterous conduct.

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

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.

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

CP#21-109

CORONAVIRUS IN MICHIGAN BY THE NUMBERS	WEEK 59

	<u>Michigan</u>										
	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.								
4/27/21	829,520	17,429	6,657,997								
5/4/21	851,947	17,897	7,018,442								
Weekly Change	1 2.7%	1 2.7%	1 5.4%								
G	reate	r Lans	ing								
	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.								

4/27/21	35,669	588	331,525
5/4/21	36,294	603	353,085
Weekly Change	1.8%	1 2.6%	1 6.5%

Ingham County CASES DEATHS VACC. 4/27/21 21,533 335 197,999 5/4/21 21,913 346 211,208

4/27/21 8.381 177 76,845 5/4/21 8.554 180 80,339 Weekly **1**2.1% 1.7% **1**4.5% Change Clinton Co. CASES DEATHS VACC. 4/27/21 5.755 76 56.681 5/4/21 5.827 77 61,538 Weekly 1.3% 1.3% **1**8.6% Change The "Vaccines" category refers to the total number of doses administered to patients that reported

Eaton County CASES DEATHS

istered to patients that reported living within each jurisdiction, according to state data. Patients require two doses.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 1499 ORDINANCE PROHIBITING RESIDENTIAL WATER SHUT-OFFS

16.7%

The City of East Lansing Ordains:

13.3%

Section 1. Findings.

1.8%

Weekly

Change

The City of East Lansing determines as follows:

- A. Residents of the City of East Lansing are continuing to experience illness, death, and financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- B. Shutting off water service to East Lansing residents poses an imminent threat to public health, which may include water-borne diseases, upper respiratory infections, and other diseases such as flus and viruses that can be avoided by frequent hand washing; and
- C. In light of the above circumstances, an ordinance is necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the City's residents.

Section 2. Moratorium

- A. A moratorium is imposed to prohibit the City of East Lansing from acting either directly or indirectly to shut off water service to a residential customer on the basis of non-payment for water services.
- B. The City of East Lansing may continue to shut off water services to a residential customer for reasons other than non-payment.

Section. 3. Financial Obligations

- A. This ordinance does not abrogate the obligation of a resident to pay for water services, prevent the City of East Lansing from charging any customer for water service, prevent the City of East Lansing from charging late fees for delayed payment for water services, or reduce the amount a resident may owe to the City of East Lansing for water services.
- B. This ordinance does not amend or interfere with the City of East Lansing's ability to add any amounts past due for water services to a property owner's tax bill.

Section 4. Option to Extend

Before the moratorium expires, the City may, by resolution, extend the moratorium as appropriate to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of its residents. If such an extension is adopted, then the City will publish a notice of extension in a newspaper of general circulation following adoption of that resolution.

Section 5. Duration

This Ordinance remains in effect through July 1, 2021.

Section 6. Effective Date

This Ordinance is effective upon publication.

April 29, 2021

Jennifer Shuster City Clerk

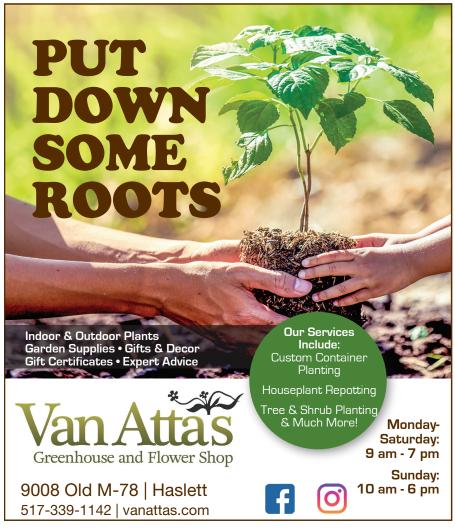
AND CUSTOM FRA

www.lansingcitypulse.com



www.absolutegallery.net

BRIGHTEST WISHES to Moms Everywhere



Charlotte centenarian named 'best' mother in Greater Lansing

Winifred Jean Bearup, 100, of Charlotte, was named the winner City Pulse's first "Best of the Best" Mother's Day award following a heartfelt nomination from her 68-year-old son, Richard Bearup. The big prize: \$175 in gift certificates to Sweet Custom Jewelry and Bliss Salon Spa Boutique.

Winifred Bearup was an army combat nurse in World War II, serving the wounded from French, Belgian and German battlefields. It was there she met and married her husband of 60 years, an Army artillery company commander, in the south of France. Together, they had three children.

Her son described Bearup as "one of the original working moms." She served for several years as a nurse at Hayes Green Beach Hospital in Charlotte, later being promoted to director of nursing. Today, Bearup is retired and still resides in Charlotte.

"Among her hallmark qualities are her ever-present positive attitude, sunny disposition, service to others and an abiding belief in the goodness of peo-



ple," Richard Bearup told City Pulse. Our run-

Our runner-ups in this year's contest are Jasenka Piljac Zegerac and DeLisa Fountain, who was recently appoint-

Bearup

ed as the director of the Department of Neighborhoods and Citizen Engagement for the city of Lansing. Fountain's 15-year-old son, Sean Carter, said she "will always do whatever she can to make sure we can have a stable life." Zegerac also "does all the housework and reminds me to do my homework," according to her daughter Antonia.

Stay tuned for another iteration of this City Pulse contest for Father's Day in June.



You belong here

Free^{*} or reduced tuition towards your degree. lcc.edu/reconnect

BRIGHTEST WISHES to Moms Everywhere

'Embraced me like a mother would'

Beloved MSU adviser memorialized with 5K run

Frances Kaneene was a guardian angel to Rachel Nanteza.

Nanteza moved to the United States from Uganda in 2014. She enrolled as a freshman at Michigan State University, took engineering classes and later decided to change her major.

Learn more about the Frances 5K Runsignup.com/Race/MI/ Lansing/Frances5K

Kaneene came into Nanteza's life as a college adviser - and left it as a mentor and friend.

"She helped me pick my classes," Nanteza remembered. "She just embraced me because I was very scared. She embraced me like a mother would and said everything would be OK. It just made me feel comfortable and safe and supported."

Kaneene died last year after a several-year battle with uterine cancer. And this year, her friends, colleagues, family and students are remembering her for the motherly role she played in helping to put students on their right path - both inside and out of the classroom.

"She just liked to bring people together and make people smile," Nanteza added, remembering when she and other international students would gather at Kaneene's home to listen to music. Together, they would sing Christmas carols, dance and enjoy a small family away from family.

Now, students are looking to create an annual tradition out of remembering Kaneene's life.

The inaugural Frances 5K - set for Sept. 12 – will include a run/walk across Hawk Island. Kaneene's favorite performers, food and games will attend. And proceeds will help support MSU's Frances Kaneene Scholarship for students studying community sustainability.

"Running and fitness became a really big part of her life, especially after she was diagnosed the first time with cancer," said Tessa Kaneene, her daughter.

Committing to getting in the best shape of her life after her diagnosis, Kaneene ran with her friends and family in races in Greater Lansing, across



Frances Kaneene runs in one of the Playmaker 5K races in 2018 in Lansing.

Michigan and in places like Chicago. "She really committed to her fitness and made it fun," Kaneene added.

As Tessa Kaneene grew up with her siblings, their mother was the "biggest cheerleader" and "best friend" to them, she explained. They would often cook meals at home, sing and dance.

"She wanted us to be well-rounded humans," Kaneene added, remembering the times when flour from homemade cookies would fly across the kitchen, the family all in jovial spirits.

"Cooking was always such a fun way for us to be together," she said. "She always wanted everything to be fun and educational."

Sara Aikman, one of Kaneene's closest friends, is helping organize the upcoming 5K.

"I looked to her as a moral compass. always wanted her opinion if I had a dilemma," she said.

Kaneene and Aikman met more than a decade ago in an early morning class at the Michigan Athletic Club in East Lansing. Over time, the two of them - and another friend - started calling themselves "las tres amigas" -Spanish for "the three friends".

"For our everyday running, it was absolutely more about the camaraderie," Aikman added, recalling how the trio would run from the Athletic Club



LANSING COMMUNITY

COLLEGE

MICHIGAN

RECONNECT

Kaneene ran various races with friends and colleagues. Here she is with running friends Sara Aikman (left) and Bobbi Krasuski (right).

to the Sparty statue on weekdays.

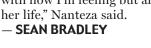
Even after Kaneene was reeling from the throes of her re-diagnosis in 2019, Aikman received a surprise visit from her after Aikman's mother passed away, she said. Kaneene came to be with Aikman - at times needing help standing - just to be there to support Aikman in her grief.

"She wouldn't consider not coming. That's the kind of person she was,'

Aikman added.

All three of them, including Nanteza, plan to participate in the 5K in September.

"In one way more than the other, I'm still mourning and I feel like things like this help me just face and deal with how I'm feeling but also celebrate her life," Nanteza said.





Dammed if you do, damned if you don't

The 21-foot-high Moores Park Dam is listed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as "high risk," not because of disrepair, but because of the dense urban area that would be affected if it were to fail.

Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

A year after Midland floods, Lansing's dams fight time and tide

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

"Nothing is softer and more yielding than water, yet nothing is better in attacking the solid and forceful," teaches Chinese sage Laozi in the Dao de Ching.

Or, as Lansing dam safety expert Russell Hicks put it, "A river's gonna do what a river's gonna do."

A year ago, on May 17-19, 2020 - 12 days before Dam Safety Awareness Day – a deluge of up to 8 inches of rain in 48 hours swelled the Tittabawassee River in eastern central Michigan, sending a surge of water that breached two dams, damaged 2,500 buildings and caused over 10,000 people to evacuate the towns of Midland and Sanford.

The Michigan Dam Safety Task Force is a state-advisory panel created last year of representatives of government, industry and environmental organizations. In February, it found "important gaps in law, capacity and tools to ensure dam safety" in the state.

There are over 2,500 dams in Michigan and 90,000 across the nation. Most of them are more than 50 years old and getting older in an era of extreme rainfall events in Michigan and across the nation that are becoming more frequent and more catastrophic. State dam safety officials say that Lansing's two dams have been well maintained by their owner, the Lansing Board of Water & Light. But the Moores Park and North Lansing dams are well over 80 years old, and increasingly extreme weather is likely to test them in their old age as never before.

Bill Rustem, a Dam Safety Task Force member and adviser to former governors William Milliken and Rick Snyder, called the Midland dam failures "a wake-up call for the state of Michigan."

"You see more frequent, intense rainstorms, and you're going to see more in the future," Rustem said. "Woken up by these two dam failures, it's time to take a good look at how we're handling our infrastructure, with an understanding that we're going to face greater challenges in the future as the climate continues to change."

Worst case scenario

The 21-foot-high Moores Park Dam bisects the Grand River next to the Eckert Power Station, impounding a broad, 240acre stretch of river. About three miles downstream from Moores Park, the North Lansing dam, 20 feet high, sends a picturesque cascade into the heart of Old Town, near the intersection of Cesar Chavez Avenue and Turner Street in Old Town.

The Moores Park Dam, built in 1908, has been extensively repaired several times, most recently in the summer of 2020, but it has never been replaced. The current North Lansing dam, built in 1936, is the latest in a series of dams that go back to 1838. The first, earthen North Lansing dam, failed in a flood in 1844. Since the current concrete dams were built, there have been no failures.

Hundreds of Michigan towns and cities, including Lansing, rest on rivers shaped by dams.

"Dams were the first source of energy, really, for our civilization," Douglas Jester explained. Jester is vice chairman of the Michigan Dam Safety Task Force. "That's why we find so many small, former milldams in the center of Michigan's communities." The North Lansing dam began as a milldam; the mill itself is still standing, and is now home of the Clark Hill law firm.

But when communities grow around a dam, as many Michigan towns did a century and a half ago, a maximum number of people are affected by a dam failure. The city of Lansing lists the Moores Park dam as "high risk," not because of its con-

Dams

from page 16

dition, but because of the impact a failure would have on the surrounding floodplain and further downriver. The assessment is based on national data from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, listing Moores Park as "high hazard potential," meaning that "loss of human life likely if dam fails."

The corps assigned the North Lansing Dam a lesser degree of risk, or "significant" hazard potential, meaning "no probable loss of human life, but can cause economic loss, damage, disruption of lifeline facilities, or impact other concerns."

Ryan Filbin, a Ph.D. geography student at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, studied stream flow in the Grand River five years ago, as a student at Western Michigan University. In a 2017 paper, Filbin declared the two dams "deteriorating structures presenting a threat to the downtown Lansing area."

"Hopefully, the Midland disaster serves as a lesson for Lansing, where the potential is there as well," Filbin said. "If you get 10 inches of rain in a 12-hour span, and that water has nowhere to go and you have a catastrophic failure — it's going to be more catastrophic in Lansing, just based on the population density."

Luke Trumble is the supervisor of the Dam Safety Unit, a part of the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, or EGLE. Trumble said the state inspects the North Lansing dam every three years. After a series of major fixes, from 2011 through 2016, "that dam has been largely rehabilitated," Trumble said.

The Moores Park dam is inspected every year by federal inspectors, because it has been used to produce hydroelectric power, with an "in-depth" inspection ever five years, Trumble said. Inspections of the Moores Park dam are likely to revert to the state, because the utility is surrendering its federal license to generate hydropower, which was set to expire in 2024. The dam isn't generating power at present, but it's still draining money.

The BWL replaced the adjustable floodgates at the Moores Park dam and upgraded the powerhouse there in summer 2020, at a cost of \$1.3 million.

"BWL has a very good record of having inspections done, reviewing the recommendations and taking positive action," Trumble said. "They've done major rehabilitations at both dams."

An inspection of the North Lansing dam in 2007 revealed that erosion on the dam had undercut the river bottom and the "scouring" could lead to dam failure. The BWL shored up the dam with new concrete piers and huge granite boulders. The repairs, completed in 2011, cost \$1.2 million in BWL operating funds.

But there's no guarantee the dams will hold, according to Russell Hicks, a longtime dam safety speaker and member of the North Lansing Dam Removal Workgroup. William Engelter Lansing's emergen

William Engelter, Lansing's emergen-

To see Lansing Dam Inundation Maps Go to: Ibwl.com/ community/health-safety

management cy chief, referred all dam-related questions to Hicks. Ronda Oberlin, described by Engelter as "our experienced floodplain manager and dam expert," retired as Lansing's hazard mitigation coordinator in 2020. Engelter said the city hopes to fill the position with a knowledgeable dam expert by the end of May.

Before Oberlin retired, Hicks drew up a list of completed and proposed dam removals in Michigan and other states, at her request. Engelter said the city consults with Hicks on dam-related matters.

Hicks can launch an armada of reasons old dams need to be dismantled as soon as possible, from human safety to flood mitigation to restoration of habitat for wildlife, especially fish. As part of a demonstration on dam safety, he sent aluminum canoes over the North Lansing Dam to be crumpled by the fierce "boil" beneath in 2018 and 2019, in tandem with multiple city and federal departments.

Hicks said lowhead dams like North Lansing's have claimed multiple lives in recent years, swallowing multiple

anglers and kayakers. A kayaker drowned going over the North Lansing Dam on Feb. 27, 2018.

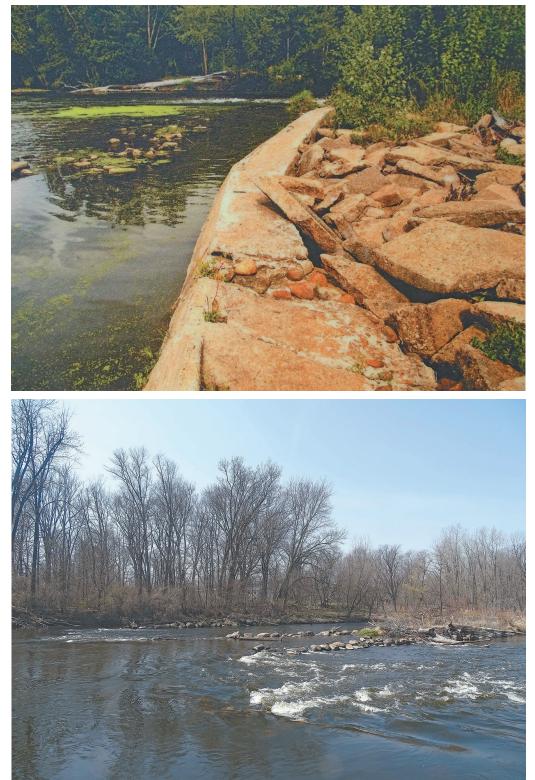
"Over 40 first responders searched for over a week in a terrible, bank-full river with boats and Zodiaks that were overmatched for the river conditions which put our search and rescue personnel at risk," Hicks said.

Comparing one dam failure to another is a tricky business, but Hicks is concerned about the widespread risk of storms "overtopping" Lansing's two dams, possibly causing dam failure and widespread flooding, especially downtown.

"Since BWL spent nearly \$3 million rebuilding Moores Park over the last four years, it is unlikely that it would fail," Hicks said. "However, 'unlikely' is not a guarantee, if there was a storm or rain event that dumped six, nine, 12 inches of rain on the river upstream of Moores Park."

Trumble agreed that the risk of once-rare deluges appears to be increasing. "We do see, in Michigan, a lot of these high-intensity, localized rainfall events — 100-year floods, 500-year floods, that are becoming more frequent," Trumble said. "The Muskegon River had a 500-year event in 2014. Houghton had a 1,000-year event, the Father's Day flood of 2018."

In what Hicks called a "worst case sce-



nario," a sudden deluge could bring about a cascading double dam disaster in Lansing, along the lines of last spring's Midland flooding. The broad stretches of water impounded by the Moores Park dam, where the Michigan Princess chugs along and MSU crew holds its practice runs, would add its considerable weight to the 92 acres of impounded river between the Moores Park dam and a "weakened" North Lansing dam, "which in turn, would send additional water surging toward Grand Ledge," Hicks said. "All of downtown Lansing along the river would be affected."

The North Lansing dam is designed to withstand a 200-year flood, according to Trumble. The Moores Park Dam is designed to withstand a Probable Maximum Flood, defined by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as "the theoretically largest flood resulting from a combination of the most severe meteorological and hydrologic conditions that could conceivably occur in a given area."

That sounds rock solid, but the conceivable is bending into the inconceivable in the 21st century, as 200-year floods and worse are proliferating in Michigan and across the country.

"With increased catastrophic rainfall events like Hurricane Harvey, which Lawrence Cosertino/City Pulse In 2006, the village of Dimondale replaced an aging, 260-foot dam on the Grand River with a "W" weir, a zig-zagging rock barrier that slows the river down while allowing fish to swim upstream and kayakers to go downstream.

Dams

from page 17

dumped more than 45 inches of rain on parts of Texas, and Hurricane Matthew, which caused 13 dams to fail in the Carolinas, it is not a matter of if, but when it will happen here," Hicks said.

Hicks compared his hypothetical worstcase Lansing scenario to the failure of Nebraska's Spencer Dam in March 2019, when a combination of heavy rain, snowmelt and breaking ice sent an 11-foot wall of water downstream, washing out dozens of buildings, a bridge and a highway in the town of Niobara and killing a homeowner just downstream from the dam.

'Spencer was nearly three times the size of Moores Park, but even a 4-foot surge in Lansing would be devastating to some sections of the river, buildings, and the city's infrastructure," Hicks said.

BWL General Manager Dick Peffley said about 50 structures would be affected if the Moores Park dam were to fail.

Until Friday, residents had to file a FOIA with the BWL to learn whether their home or business is in the Moores Park and North Lansing inundation area. Friday afternoon, a set of inundation maps, based on a recent study of the Grand River, went up on the BWL's website.

Re-wilding the rivers

Engineers have many ways of de-escalating angry river surges in lieu of dams. Most of them involve digging channels and stacking rocks in patterns with alphabet-soup names like "J-hooks" and "W-weirs."

In 1995, an obsolete, 260-foot-long dam in the village of Dimondale, just southwest of Lansing, showed early signs of breaching. The BWL, the owner of the dam, sold it to the village for a dollar.

In 2006, the dam was demolished, carted off and replaced with a zig-zagging, W-shaped weir, or rock barrier, that allows fish to swim upstream and kayakers to go downstream — the first such design to be built in Michigan. The state Department of Natural Resources and river expert Sandy Verry from Grand Rapids, Minnesota, worked with the city and other partners. It took only two weeks to complete the project, at a cost of \$540,000, offset by a \$199,000 grant from the DNR's Inland Fisheries Grant Program.

The bubbling, rippling weir has a way of calming people as well as water flow, and it's now the centerpiece of shady Sanford Park in the heart of Dimondale.

"It's pretty cool, and they were able to keep the levels they wanted without the dam there," Peffley said.

In 2016, Hicks participated in a similar project, the removal of the 1918 West Sanitation Low-head Dam in Eaton Rapids.

"The natural rock ramps built for fish passage at Dimondale and Eaton Rapids can be built at the North Lansing Dam as well as Moores," Hicks said.

In 2018, a Lansing contractor – Davis Construction - demolished the crumbling 98-year-old Hamilton Dam on the Flint River, just north of the University of Michigan-Flint campus.

The \$3.1 million project is part of a "re-wilding" of the Flint River Corridor that includes new rapids, better kayaking and canoeing access, and vastly improved river ecology. The Flint River took a lot of

industrial punishment in the 20th century, "but it's amazing just how quickly rivers begin to heal once we remove these obsolete structures," Hicks said

Hicks cited a long list of successful dam removals, in Michigan (on the AuSable near Grayling and the Maple River north of Pellston) and across the country.

In 2014-2015, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative spearheaded the Frankenmuth Fish Passage Project, removing an 1850 dam across the Cass River about 20 miles south of the Saginaw Bay.

Hicks called the Frankenmuth project "almost a twin" of what could be done at the North Lansing Dam, right down to a "probable final design," with a sunburst pattern of 13 boulder weirs over 300 feet of riverbanks and "a similar river width, bank-to-bank, with a central paddling channel." The Frankenmuth project cost \$3.5 million, about \$2.3 million from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

When the restoration was completed, walleye and lake sturgeon returned to a 73-mile stretch of the Cass River after more than 150 years.

The granddaddy of Michigan's numerous dam replacement projects has set the ambitious goal of restoring the Grand Rapids to Grand Rapids. The \$45 million Whitewater project, scheduled to break ground this summer, would remove five dams along the Grand River and replace them with rock and boulder barriers that will restore river habitat and, it is hoped, usher in a new era of river recreation.

No days off

The BWL's Peffley said the utility would be happy if Lansing took the Moores Park dam off its hands.

"We no longer need the dam," Peffley said. "They were required when we had operating power plants. As far as the board is concerned, whatever the city, the community, the stakeholders want, we're on board. We don't have any reason to keep the dam there."

Trumble was careful to point out that the state's Dam Safety Program takes no position on whether a dam should be dismantled, only that the dam, or its replace-

ment structure, be maintained safely. "It's a highly contentious subject," Trumble said. "There are people who want

to see natural rivers, and the flow and connectivity restored, and people who want to keep waterfront property they can float a boat on."

Just upstream from the Moores Park Dam stretches the area's premier boating playground, where water skiers and pontoon boaters are as common a sight as blue herons and kingfishers.

"You couldn't just take the dam out," Peffley said. "You'd have to figure out how to have some kind of rapids, or weir, so you wouldn't lose the impoundment all the way back to Dimondale. There's a lot of property owners."

Hicks said it can be done, and has been done, dismissing resistance to dam removal as "the emotional tug that some people have for concrete and rebar."

"The river made the city, not the dams," Hicks said. "Now that many dams are no longer needed or used as intended, we've learned that we can deconstruct them and return the rivers to a more natural state that benefits the new view of our rivers."

Rustem, a member of the Dam Safety Task Force, has found that too many people think of dams as just a part of the landscape.

"They are not," he said. "The flow of water and the pressure of impoundment is an inexorable degradation of the dam. You can't just ignore them forever."

Hicks will probably bring the crumpled canoe that went over the North Lansing Dam in 2018 to a dam safety program scheduled near the Brenke Fish Ladder on Memorial Day. There you can swim, if you dare, in the undertow of his multiple argu ments for the removal of obsolete dams.

"A 'wait and see' approach to maintenance, such as the owner of the Edenville and Sanford dams held for 20 years, culminated in a quarter of a billion dollars in damages," Hicks said. "Hydrostatic and sheer pressure on dam surfaces, whether concrete or earthen, don't take a day off. And, unlike a bridge that is failing where a road can be closed, there's no "closing" of a river's flow. A river's gonna do what a river's gonna do."

Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

The North Lansing Dam, built in 1926, is the latest in a series of dams going back to 1838.

ARTS & CULTURE Mac's Bar will expand, continue to host live music

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Last week, Mac's Bar was listed as 'temporarily closed' on Facebook. Talent buyer Scott Bell said that when it completes renovations, Mac's would reopen as a sport's bar and likely not feature live music from local artists. The Facebook page was updated with a photo that said "R.I.P. Mac's" and local social media was rife with posts memorializing the bar, as people lamented the news and shared their deepest personal experiences hanging out with friends and attending gigs at Mac's Bar.

Owner Chuck Mannino now says the fears of losing Mac's Bar for good have been exaggerated and that Mac's, once renovations are complete, will expand as a larger establishment that will serve pizza and host smaller shows downstairs and larger concerts upstairs.

"We are renovating the bar and we've gutted it. It needs a facelift, it has for a long time," Mannino said. "We are going back to the building itself, it will have exposed brick walls."

Mannino said he purchased the build-

ing directly next door to Mac's Bar and will turn it into a pizza joint that offers carryout and delivery. His end goal is to connect the two buildings and have the pizza also served in Mac's Bar. The pizza, Mannino says, will be Detroit-style. Also, in addition to the deck, a back patio will be added.

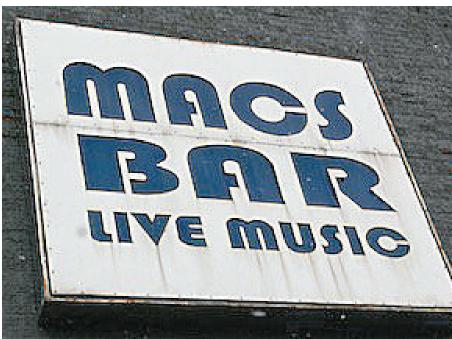
"We're going to cut a hole in the wall and attach the two buildings. That's going to be awesome," Mannino said.

Mannino said he is basing the Mac's Bar upstairs overhaul on a Detroit-based bar called The Checker Bar. Larger shows will tentatively be moved to this space in the building that is being opened up for the first time.

"Nothing is signed in blood. We might still have space for a guy with a guitar or a DJ to play downstairs. But we won't have a setup for a huge band downstairs," Mannino said.

Mannino said that those worried about the future of Mac's Bar will ultimately be happy with the end results.

"It's going to the best damn bar in the east side, hand's down," he said.



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

Mac's has been closed since March 2020 and is undergoing major renovations.

Traveling artists Victor Ving and Lisa Beggs come to East Lansing

Postcard-inspired art to be painted on south wall of Roadhouse Pub

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Artists Victor Ving and Lisa Beggs have been on the road since 2015, painting murals inspired by vintage postcards in different cities across the United States. Now, they're taking their tour to East Lansing, where they will paint an original mural on the south-facing wall of the Roadhouse Pub.

"We started this back in 2015. We painted a mural in Chinatown, New

Victor Ving and Lisa Beggs Read more about

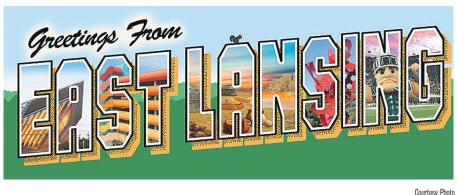
their tour here: www.greetingstour.com York City, where we were living at the time, unconsciously in this postcard style. It was a good vehicle to put a

lot of imagery related to a community into one painting and have it still be cohesive," Ving said. "It's a very popular mid-century image related to travel, but we've modernized that concept." Ving and Beggs travel the country in an RV. It serves as their home, vehicle and mobile headquarters for their mural tour project. They will arrive in East Lansing on Monday (May 10) and hope to complete the mural by May 17. "The RV is where we stay most of the time, but sometimes we get some accommodations," Ving said.

Ving and Beggs' murals are created using spray paint. The concept is to modernize the classic postcard by creating a giant one that anybody can take a picture of using their smartphone and then share with their friends and family on social media.

"It's a way for people to document their travels and say, 'Hey, I was here.' It also helps create some local pride," Ving said.

One of Ving and Beggs' design rules as part of the tour is to collaborate with



A digital mockup of the mural that will be painted at the Roadhouse Pub.

local artists in the cities they visit. For their East Lansing mural, they will work with Lansing-based graffiti artist Samskee. Ving and Beggs also consulted a designer they met during their travels in Detroit.

"After doing our first one of these on the road in Chicago, it just snowballed from there. During that first year, we didn't have many cities reaching out to us," Ving said. "But by the end of the year, we had multiple cities reaching out to us and then, because we had funding, we decided to keep going."

The mural project was commissioned by the East Lansing Arts Commission with \$27,700 from the Percent for Art program's Public Art Fund. The mural location was made possible by an agreement between the City of East Lansing and Harrison Village LLC, the owners of the Roadhouse Pub.

Matias Brimmer considers the canvas a battlefield

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

I was introduced to Matias Brimmer by his father, Henry, a graphic designer who recently retired from being a professor of advertising. He talked ecstatically about his son's art. In a proudly paternal fashion, he told me that it

Matias Brimmer at MICA Gallery

Friday, May 7 1210 Turner St., Lansing (517) 371-4600 Facebook.com/brimmer.matias looks like Matias is fighting his demons on the canvas. "In a certain sense,

yes. But I don't really know what he means by that," explained Matias. "The canvas is more like a battlefield on which these materials — paints, charcoal, pastels — come into a chaotic conflict with one another. Out of that chaos, an image comes."

Brimmer has a gallery opening Friday at the Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art. His paintings depict people who seem like they're trying to escape the confines of the body. The paintings are at war with themselves. Looking at his work, you can understand why he refers to the canvas as a

battlefield.

Jenny Saville and Francis Bacon are his most direct inspirations. Both British figure painters, their approach to portraying the human body helped Brimmer find his own style.

"The figure appears recognizable without losing the spontaneity and excitement of seeing paint thrown all over the place," Brimmer said. "Perhaps these figures are fighting their own demons or trying to leave their body." At the start of quarantine, Brimmer dove into a book by the famously difficult philosopher, Gilles Deleuze. The idea of someone trying to escape one's own body fascinated him.

"The way that I'm painting expresses this sense of wanting to go beyond your own limitations. The body, in its own way, sets the parameters," said Brimmer. "I'm trying to express the desire to go beyond that. And at the same time, express our inability to go beyond it."

He describes the body as an "engine of mortality." Like a ticking time bomb that determines exactly how much time we get to spend on Earth.

Depression informs Brimmer's art.

Painting and making music helped him vent after entering a depressive episode right after graduating high school. For Brimmer, painting allows him to achieve a kind of zen. He described it as a "Western version of what zen actually is."

"When I'm painting, I can let loose the aggression or tension or anxiety that builds up because of mental illness," he explained. "Freud had a word for when your demons are, essentially, positively channeled."

Interestingly, Brimmer feels more connected with the music scene than the visual arts scene. He makes ambient music under the moniker Casey Jones, which is unrelated to the classic Grateful Dead tune, he emphasized

"There's almost a religious aspect to music. Every religious tradition involves music," said Brimmer. "Now, it's just random people at a house show banging drums and singing along to the music."

According to him, painting is a solitary activity. He enjoys painting alone. If other people are around, he feels like he's performing.



Matias Brimmer with two of his paintings.

"Oh, wow! Look at that guy throw paint at the canvas," he said sarcastically. "He doesn't give a fuck!"

Though painting is something he enjoys doing alone, Brimmer is still hopeful that his showing will have an audience.

"That may sound misanthropic, but ...," he trailed off.

Inside Ixion Ensemble Theatre's new anthology production

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

Ixion Ensemble Theatre is bringing a new anthology production to Sharp Park's amphitheater. The performance, titled "Dreams," was crafted from six different handpicked plays.

"We put out a call for 10-minute

"Dreams"

April 3, May 1 and May 7 & 8 at 6:30 pm Sharp Park Amphitheater 1401 Elmwood Road, Lansing Admission is free. Donations will be accepted. call for 10-minute plays — previously performed or not — that explored aspirations, fantasies or nightmares," Ixion artistic director Jeff Croff said. "Whatever the word 'dreams' meant to the

authors."

The call for scripts went out last spring. By September, Ixion received over 400 entries with a "dreams" theme. "We had submissions from all over Canada, the U.S. and even some from Australia and the U.K.," Croff said.

The plays are "Goodmare," by Ron Burch, "Lifelines," by Donna Hoke, "The Monster Inside," by Adam Carlson, "Christmastown," by Kayla Hambek, "Scream," by George Sapio, and "Possibility of Lightening," by Scott Mullen. Only Carlson is a Lansing native. Heath Sartorius appreciates working on new and original scripts. He acts in "Goodmare," "Christamstown" and "The Monster Inside."

"I think Ixion's yearly topics for original plays get many people to see their work put up when they often wouldn't," Sartorius said.

Motivating people to write is even more important to him. "I think community art should inspire the community to be artists," Sartorius said.

He recently returned to Lansing after a year and a half in New York City to pursue his acting dream. The familiar local community seemed a better place to be during a pandemic.

Lansing also provided more dreamy acting opportunities. Sartorius was in "Pass the Ducks," where he appeared on YouTube in January with author Doak Bloss.

In "Goodmare," he plays a man with recurring nightmares.

"I play the cliché Hallmark, perfect dreamboat guy," Sartorius said about his role in "Christmastown."

In "The Monster Inside," he plays a monster having a bad dream. "Think Elmo," he said.

Sadonna Croff directs "The Monster

Inside." On opening night, she and Jeff will celebrate their 11th wedding anniversary.

"Working with and being married to Jeff is never boring. I love it," Sadonna said. "Like our life together, it's always a crazy, fun adventure ride. We have a lot of trust and respect for each other so everything just flows together smoothly."

Sadonna has been involved with Ixion since its inception in 2014. "I've done pretty much everything. Act, direct, assistant direct, costumes, make-up, sound, lights and props," she said. Sadonna was last seen on an Ixion stage in 2019's "Hope."

Like other "Dreams" plays, preparations for "The Monster Inside" were done virtually. "Our rehearsals have been done over Goggle Meets," she said.

"I miss the spontaneous energy that ignites while rehearsing in person," Sadonna said. "It's harder for that to happen sitting at your computer on a video conference call."

What she remembers most about "Dreams" is the chance to make puppets. "This is the first time I have actually jumped into the puppet making process," she said. "I've always wanted to try, and now I finally get to do it." For Tim Lewis, the "Dreams" collection fulfilled his longtime wish, too. Lewis is directing "Christmastown."

"I didn't want to be an actor," he said. "I wanted to try my hand at directing, and this gave me the perfect opportunity to do that."

Lewis was an assistant director for Ixion's "She Kills Monsters" in 2016. For Ixion's "Turn, Turn, Turn" last August, Lewis performed a monologue.

Being a first-time director was a bit scary at first, but he got through auditions. "That was the part that worried me the most," Lewis said. "Could I cast? I had no idea."

With "terrific" and "fun" actors to work with, everything fell into place for him. "I have a truly great cast that is making this directing experience a breeze and a joy," he said.

The hardest part for him was being separated from his girlfriend. "Trying to get to see her and also trying to juggle my rehearsal schedule has been a very difficult challenge," Lewis said.

For Lewis, "Dreams" is a dream come true.

"I love being a director," he said. "It's seeing a script come alive with my vision for it."

Tommy Chong launches prerolled joint brand in Michigan

Famed comedian partners with Detroit cannabis brand to 'save the world'

By KYLE KAMINSKI

A new line of prerolled joints is hitting the shelves at pot shops across Michigan this week featuring the name of one of the founding fathers of American cannabis culture: Tommy Chong.

Dispensaries in Greater Lansing will have to wait until later summer, but customers can head to several dozen pot shops elsewhere across Michigan beginning this week to purchase 12 new strains released in collaboration with Chong and the Detroit-based cannabis brand MKX Oil Co.

Strains include Cherry Punch; Donkey Butter; Cookies & Cream; Crunch Berries; Triple Chocolate Chip; Wedding Cake; Banana Daddy; MAC Gas; Purple Triangle Kush; OG Cookies; Purple Ghost; and Now & Later Cookies — all grown in Michigan, all stamped with Chong's approval. At a virtual press conference this week, Chong couldn't decide on his favorite.

"I'm the worst judge when it comes to this," he told me. "I like everything. It's so hard to pick a favorite with cannabis. I haven't found my favorite yet, but I'm sure having fun testing them all."

Chong is perhaps best known for his marijuana-themed flicks with fellow comedian Cheech Marin, including "Up in Smoke" and "Nice Dreams." Over the years, he has also been an actor, writer, director, musician and cannabis activist. His latest mission: "Save the world" with weed.

"The pandemic brought out the fact that we're essential. We're medicine," Chong said.

He added: "We're doing pretty good considering I went to prison for selling a bong and now you can go to stores across the nation and buy bongs — and the cannabis that goes in the bongs. Even though we're locked down, we can still go into stores and buy Tommy Chong pre-rolls."

Dispensaries receiving shipments of Chong's new lineup this week include: Shango, THC Detroit, Herbal Healing, The Flower Bowl, House of Dank and Herbology in Detroit; Herbology, Fire Creek, Hashish Boyz and Dispo in Bay City; Exclusive and The Patient Station in Ann Arbor; Pinnacle in Jackson; Lansterdam in Review: MKX Brands x Tommy Chong

> Great Lakes Holistics in Kalamazoo and Exclusive in Grand Rapids.

> This news is so fresh that I haven't even been able to get my hands on any samples. C o m p a n y

officials said

Ig

the next batch is headed toward the Capital City. In the meantime, Chong offered a message to stoners across Greater Lansing on Monday afternoon: "Smoke up, relax and wait."

Chong said his latest expansion his first foray into Michigan's cannabis market — is all part of his quest to "save the world" with pot, one pre-rolled joint at a time. Though he went through phases of using pipes and bongs, he said he mainly smokes joints nowadays. His latest advice? For a smoother and cooler temperature smoke, stuff the joint into a hollow piece of bamboo.

"Eventually, it'll be federally legal and then the rest of the world, but America better hurry up," Chong added.

MKX Oil Co. launched in Detroit in 2017 and bills itself as a "patientover-profit" company focused on producing the cleanest, high-potency cannabis products with care and integrity. Products include flower, vape cartridges, gummies, chocolate and THCinfused toothpicks.

Chong said he plans to use the profits to purchase an 800-acre farm once owned by automotive titan Henry Ford, where he supposedly developed a car fueled by hemp and other biomaterials.

"When we sell enough prerolls, I'm going to go buy it," Chong joked.

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

Favorite Things Scott Pohl and his signed John Irving novel



Scott Pohl is a retired reporter and host with the WKAR radio station. He fell in love with John Irving's novel "A Prayer For Owen Meany," and later met the author at a reception. His signed copy of the book is his absolute favorite thing.

John Irving is my favorite author, and "A Prayer For Owen Meany" is my favorite book. He came to MSU to do a lecture at the Wharton Center; it had to be in the '90s at some point. I did a telephone interview with him prior to his trip to East Lansing and told him how much I loved the book. My wife and I got invited to a reception after his lecture. The one thing that the organizers of this reception told me was, "Irving doesn't like these events turning into a big line of people getting autographs, please don't bring a book for him to autograph."

I purposely did not bring the book, and of course there's a table of his books that they're selling and people are walking up to him to get autographs. When my wife and I approached him, I told him, "I could buy a copy of 'Owen Meany,' but it would mean a lot to me if you signed my personal copy."

I specifically took that copy on my honeymoon, rather than take a new book I hadn't already read before. I wanted to take my favorite book with me. I told him, "This book has gone on my honeymoon with me and traveled all over with me, but I didn't bring it with me because I was told not to."

As I recall, he was certainly simpatico with my wanting of a personal copy being signed rather than a new one. One of us, whether it was him or me I don't remember, suggested mailing it to him. So I mailed it to a post office box with a return envelope, not knowing if I would ever see it again. But he did sign it and return it, so that's how I got it.

It's quite emotional and very funny in places. The first time I read it, I was already a fan of John Irving; I had read all of his books. When "Owen Meany" was published, I read it onto tape for the WKAR Radio Reading service. It took me 28 hours, because I could only read in 20-minute chunks.

In the book, Owen Meany has a premonition of his own death, and within the last 10 pages it doesn't seem possible; he's wrong. But then it happens. And everything about his premonition was true. When I read it out loud, I had tears streaming down my face. To me, it's the great American novel.

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

21



Lansing man ditches job for global travels — and animal activism

Documentary filmmaker raises cash to protect endangered gorillas

By PATRICK SLOAN-TURNER

Between the snow-capped Taurus Mountains and the Mediterranean Sea, Woody Ellis, 39, rested alone last week in a rented room in Ölüdeniz, Turkey. Far from hometown Lansing, he sported his sole t-shirt and a scruffy precursor to a beard as he prepared for another journey.

This week, Ellis begins his trek of the Lycian Way — a 310-mile trail along Turkey's Mediterranean-anchored Teke Peninsula. It won't be his first adventure off the grid into rugged terrain, but Ellis has added a new element to this trip. This time, he'll be traveling for a cause.

"I thought about junior high and how we would walk to raise money," Ellis said, referencing a walkathon-type fundraising he participated in during his time at St. Therese School in Lansing.

For this and for future hikes to come, Ellis will be using a similar concept to raise awareness (and some cash) for animal rescue and conservation organizations. Over the next two months, as Ellis walks and camps alone along the Lycian Trail, he will serve as his own documentary filmmaker with hopes of raising some funds through his website — whereswoody.org — along the way.

Most of the money will cover his travel expenses, which in and of itself are designed to raise awareness for nature and wildlife protection through a series of documentary films. Upcoming donations will also help to reserve Ellis a spot traveling and volunteering with the Great Gorilla Project, a charity that sends volunteers across the globe to have them work alongside a diverse variety of wildlife. Up to \$450 of the \$4,200 he hopes to raise for that trip will be donated back to the project itself. He also plans to direct any excess proceeds to the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International, a charity that helps protect endangered mountain gorillas in Rwanda and Congo.

Ellis' newfound sense of animal activism was spurred by a deeply rooted desire for world travel.

About a decade ago, Ellis lived in Chicago and worked in the event, marketing and music industries — mostly managing artists and putting together festivals and shows at nightclubs. He admits he always had a sense of wan-

derlust, but back then he was more worried about trendy clothing brands rather than figuring out how to stuff

months' worth of food into a backpack. "I'm the guy that used to iron

his boxers," Ellis

said. "I used to

take two showers a day religiously. I did my hair perfectly. My nickname to my friends was 'Princess.''

Ellis

Twelve years in the industry, however, can lead to burnout. No longer able to deny the part of him that wanted to explore the world, Ellis said he set out on fulfilling a fantasy held by many. In 2017, he quit his job, sold most possessions, left everything behind and departed the country.

Nowadays he doesn't carry much more than clothing and a family heirloom acoustic guitar.

"That was where the whole adventure began," Ellis explained. "I went from British Columbia to Hawaii, to Japan, to China, to Taiwan, to Thailand, to England, and then to Portugal."

Choosing his next destination was a simple decision.

"I just pulled up flights and looked for the next cheap place to go," Ellis added.

Ellis' backpack is bare essentials: Just one t-shirt, jacket and hoodie; two beanies; one pair of sweatpants, shorts and hiking boots; two pairs of socks; a bucket and a bottle of shampoo. The rest of the possessions from his past life have either been sold or are tucked away in storage.

"I just wash my clothes in a bucket with shampoo," he said.

In addition to raising cash for a good cause, Ellis also records and produces videos during his excursions. That started on his last excursion, a 25-mile hike up the summit of Mount Toubkal in Morocco. That video is posted on his YouTube channel and shows Ellis trudging through knee-deep snow, befriending locals and reveling in the stunning views that surround him.

Ellis mainly uses the footage to grow a brand — and a hashtag #WHERESWOODY — to help raise awareness and drive support for his animal activism and help conservation efforts worldwide.

Ellis said his love for animals has



Woody Ellis resting on a beach during his cross-country travels.

roots in Lansing, where he grew up surrounded by family dogs with early childhood dreams of someday becoming a marine biologist or zoologist.

While traveling through Morocco, Ellis said he crossed paths with a man who could no longer take care of his young Aidi puppy. An animal lover at heart, he named her Morticia (or "Morty" for short) and they were off for a 110-mile hike from the Moroccan fishing village of Tamraght.

With the crashes of waves serving as their road trip soundtrack, the two made their way up the coast through small villages, sandy beaches and along the limestone bluffs of the Atlantic coast over six days. Ellis remembers that hike with Morty as one of his best hiking adventures so far.

Unfortunately, with the extensive travel ahead of him that would require flights, Ellis knew he couldn't keep Morty forever. To continue with his animal advocacy project, he found her a new home through the owner of a bungalow in Essaouira that the two had stayed in for weeks.

Ellis said his inspiration to help animals also comes from his knowledge of the atrocities that humans often put them through. In his travels, he has learned of people poaching elephants for their ivory trade, killing sharks to harvest their fins and skinning live raccoon dogs for their fur.

The footage of the latter impacted him most.

"I lost it," he said. "I was weeping. I

fell to the floor. It destroyed me."

While Ellis plans to eventually aid a wide array of conservation groups, his immediate focus is on protecting gorillas. A long-felt appreciation of silverbacks inspired him to take a stand.

"Silverbacks have been my favorite animal for as far back as I can remember," he added.

After he finishes his journey in Turkey, Ellis has another ambitious adventure planned on the other side of the globe. Once pandemic travel restrictions ease, he plans to return to Lansing to be vaccinated and then set course for the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

There, Ellis will complete a 3,000mile hike around the island of Newfoundland. He estimates the journey will take him 10 to 15 months. And of course, he will document the long-distance walk with hopes to create ways to involve his supporters closely while growing his activism efforts.

"I want to have people fly there and hike segments with me," Ellis said. "Best friends or people I don't know at all – whoever is interested. We could talk about life, the project and have a featured conversation by the campfire each night."

Before that adventure begins, Ellis is focused on the trek ahead of him along the Lycian Way. Eventually, he plans on advocating for the conservation of as many different species as possible.

"But it has to start somewhere," Ellis added.

Remembering the horrors of the Bath School bombing

By BILL CASTANIER

On an otherwise quiet Sunday afternoon in late May 1927, more than 85,000 vehicles crowded the roads leading to Bath. They were drawn by a sense of morbid curiosity to see the remnants of a massive explosion, which on May 18 ripped into the Bath Consolidated School, killing 44 including 38 children.

In his new book, "Maniac: The Bath School Disaster and the Birth of the Modern Mass Killer," noted true crime writer and expert Harold Schechter writes about the what has become known as the worst mass killing at a school in United States history.

Grieving families were still burying their dead as the cars carrying the curious rolled through the small village. The cars' passengers were talking about the madman Andrew Kehoe who had caused the devastation, but also about the young American pilot Charles Lindbergh, who on May 21 became the first aviator to cross the Atlantic Ocean — flying from New York City to Paris in 33 and one-half hours.

Soon, except for the grieving survivors, the Bath School bombing would pass into oblivion in the passage of history until the horrific school shooting at Columbine in 1999.

"Maniac" is not the first book to be written about the Bath School bombing. Shortly after the bombing, an account, "The Bath School Disaster," appeared in a locally produced pamphlet, and in 1979, author Grant Parker wrote "Mayday: The History of a Village Holocaust," which would become the standard until 2007, when Chicagoan Arnie Bernstein wrote "Bath Massacre: America's First School Bombing."

Upper Peninsula author John Smolens wrote about the bombing in his remarkable piece of historical fiction, "Day of Days." Locally, a historical docudrama is nearing completion by Ahptic, a film production house.

Still, tragedies such as the Bath School bombing have a way of passing from the public consciousness, according to Schechter, who has studied true crime incidents since his early days as a university professor. He recently retired.

For the book, Schechter traveled to Bath and walked the memorial across from the site of the bombing. The door to the school was locked, but by luck a teacher let him into the school to view the historical collection related to the bombing. Extensive research was also conducted at the Library of Michigan.

"It was totally heartbreaking," Schechter said. "There is nothing like seeing physical objects to bring the story to life."

In one portion of the book, Schechter focuses on the perpetrator Kehoe, whom he calls a "grievance collector." The author said Kehoe closely fits the profile of mass killers who believe their life has come to a dead end.

"They come to believe in an unbearable feeling of humiliation and blame people around them," he said.

In Kehoe's case, his grievances are well documented. He was facing financial ruin. He had recently lost two political campaigns and his sense of superiority to those around him was diminished. He blamed school taxes for his problems.

"He lashed out at people who he believed were responsible for his own failures," Schechter said.

When Schechter was doing his research, he became convinced that the "most heinous crime of the twentieth century" was wiped from the communal memory.

Schechter posits that during different eras of history there are signature crimes that define that era — ranging from poisonings, kidnappings and serial killers like Charles Manson.

He said the Bath School bombing was a "horror before its time."

Schechter said his book on the Bath School bombing was typical of virtually every book he's written.

"In addition to the thousands of people who descended on the scene, there were postcards created depicting the horrific bombing," he said.

The author said that while growing up in the '50s, he was attracted to "feature creatures" and misspent many Saturdays watching horror double features at the movies. That interest followed him into academia, where he taught American fiction for 42 years at Queen College in New York.

He said true crime writing can be traced back to at least Shakespearian times, but our obsession with true crime goes through phases.

"Our obsession with serial killers

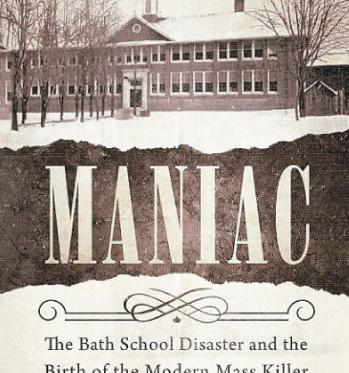
has totally faded to be by replaced mass murderers. Our interest isn't based on just the amount of carnage, but is determined by cultural anxieties that give it resonance. Media alone can't create

a fascination with crime," he said. In his book,

S c h e c h t e r quotes philosopher William James and his observation that humans have a "carnivore within."

> Still, he w r i t e s : "Horrific violence isn't enough to ensure a crime will become an ongoing media sensation, let alone a per-

manent part of our cultural mythology." Schechter says something else is necessary. He cites factors like prominence of the perpetrator; a mysterious disappearance; a bizarre method of disposing of a corpse; a suspenseful trial or a melodramatic denouement as ingredients people look for.



Birth of the Modern Mass Killer

HAROLD SCHECHTER

AUTHOR OF HELL'S PRINCESS

In the instance of the Bath School bombing, the horrific headlines were almost overnight replaced by news of a young aviator crossing the Atlantic. Five years later, Lindbergh's own family life would become one of the most compelling true crimes of the century, when his baby son was kidnapped and killed.

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 Archives Book Shop, 32-8444 Free Parking Mon.-Sat. 11-6 pm, Sun. 12-5 pm *thearchivesbookshop@gmail.com* By Matt Jones

May 5-11, 2021

Jonesin' Crossword

"Seize Them!"-initially so. by Matt Jones

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Free Will Astrology By Rob Brezsny

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Created by Leonardo da Vinci in the 16th century, the *Mona Lisa* is one of the world's most famous paintings. It's hanging in the Louvre museum in Paris. In that same museum is a less renowned version of the *Mona Lisa*. It depicts the same woman, but she's unclothed. Made by da Vinci's student, it was probably inspired by a now-lost nude *Mona Lisa* painted by the master himself. Renaissance artists commonly created "heavenly" and "vulgar" versions of the same subject. I suggest that in the coming weeks you opt for the "vulgar" *Mona Lisa*, not the "heavenly" one, as your metaphor of power. Favor what's earthy, raw, and unadorned over what's spectacular, idealized, and polished.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Taurus poet Vera Pavlova writes, "Why is the word yes so brief? It should be the longest, the hardest, so that you could not decide in an instant to say it, so that upon reflection you could stop in the middle of saying it." Suppose it makes sense for her to express such an attitude, given the fact that she never had a happy experience until she was 20 years old, and that furthermore, this happiness was "unbearable." (She confessed these sad truths in an interview.) But I hope you won't adopt her hard-edged skepticism toward YES anytime soon, Taurus. In my view, it's time for you to become a connoisseur of YES, a brave explorer of the bright mysteries of YES, an exuberant perpetrator of YES.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In indigenous cultures from West Africa to Finland to China, folklore describes foxes as crafty tricksters with magical powers. Sometimes they're thought of as perpetrators of pranks, but more often they are considered helpful messengers or intelligent allies. I propose that you regard the fox as your spirit creature for the foreseeable future. I think you will benefit from the influence of your inner fox—the wild part of you that is ingenious, cunning, and resourceful.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "The universe conspires in your favor," writes author Neale Donald Welsch. "It consistently places before you the right and perfect people, circumstances, and situations with which to answer life's only question: "Who are you?" In my book "Pronoia Is the Antidote for Paranoia: How the Whole World Is Conspiring to Shower You with Blessings*, I say much the same thing, although I mention two further questions that life regularly asks, which are: 1. What can you do next to liberate yourself from some of your suffering? 2. What can you do next to reduce the suffering of others, even by a little? As you enter a phase when you'll get ample cosmic help in diminishing suffering and defining who you are, I hope you meditate on these questions every day.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The poet Anne Sexton wrote a letter to a Benedictine monk whose real identity she kept secret from the rest of us. She told him, "There are a few great souls in my life. They are not many. They are few. You are one." In this spirit, Leo, and in accordance with astrological omens, I invite you to take an inventory of the great souls in your life: the people you admire and respect and learn from and feel grateful for, people with high integrity and noble intentions; people who are generous with their precious gifts. When you've compiled your list, I encourage you to do as Sexton did: Express your appreciation; perhaps even send no-strings-attached gifts. Doing these things will have a profoundly healing effect on you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "It's a temptation for any intelligent person to try to murder the primitive, emotive, appetitive self," writes author Donna Tartt. "But that is a mistake. Because it is dangerous to ignore the existence of the irrational." I'm sending this message out to you, Virgo, because in the coming weeks it will be crucial for you to honor the parts of your life that can't be managed through rational thought alone. I suggest you have sacred fun as you exult in the wildness within you, unrepress big feelings you've buried, and marvel adoringly about your deepest yearnings.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Science writer Sharman Apt Russell provides counsel that I think you should consider adopting in the coming days. The psychospiritual healing you require probably won't be available through the normal means, so some version of her proposal may be useful: "We may need to be cured by flowers. We may need to strip naked and let the petals fall on our shoulders, down our belies, against our thighs. We may need to is naked in fields of wildflowers. We may need to walk naked through beauty. We may need to walk naked through color. We may need to walk naked through scent."

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): As Scorpio author Margaret Atwood reminds us, "Water is not a solid wall; it will not stop you. But water always goes where it wants to go, and nothing in the end can stand against it." According to my reading of the astrological omens, being like water will be an excellent strategy for you to embrace during the coming weeks. "Water is patient," Atwood continues. "Dripping water wears away a stone. Remember you are half water. If you can't go through an obstacle, go around it. Water does."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In a letter to a friend in 1856, Sagittarian poet Emily Dickinson confessed she was feeling discombobulated because of a recent move to a new home. She hoped she would soon regain her bearings. "I am out with lanterns, looking for myself," she quipped, adding that she couldn't help laughing at her disorientation. She signed the letter "From your mad Emilie," intentionally misspelling her own name. I'd love it if you approached your current doubt and uncertainty with a similar lightheartedness and poise. (PS: Soon after writing this letter, Dickinson began her career as a poet in earnest, reading extensively and finishing an average of one poem every day for many years.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): Now is a favorable time to celebrate both life's changeableness and your own. The way we are all constantly called on to adjust to unceasing transformations can sometimes be a wearying chore, but I suspect it could be at least interesting and possibly even exhilarating for you in the coming weeks. For inspiration, study this message from the "Welcome to Night Vale" podcast: "You are never the same twice, and much of your unhappiness comes from trying to pretend that you are. Accept that you are different each day, and do so joyfully, recognizing it for the gift it is. Work within the desires and goals of the person you are currently, until you aren't that person anymore."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Aquarian author Toni Morrison described two varieties of loneliness. The first "is a loneliness that can be rocked. Arms crossed, knees drawn up; holding, holding on, this motion smooths and contains the rocker." The second "is a loneliness that roams. No rocking can hold it down. It is alive, on its own." Neither kind is better or worse, of course, and both are sometimes necessary as a strategy for self-renewal—as a means for deepening and finetuning one's relationship with oneself. I recommend either or both for you in the coming weeks.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): England's Prince Charles requires his valet to iron his shoelaces and put toothpaste on his toothbrush and wash all of his clothes by hand. I could conceivably interpret the current astrological omens to mean that you should pursue similar behavior in the coming weeks. I could, but I won't. Instead, I will suggest that you solicit help about truly important matters, not meaningless trivia like shoelace ironing. For example, I urge you to ask for the support you need as you build bridges, seek harmony, and make interesting connections.

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

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2020 Jonesin' Crosswords

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TO PLAY

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Advanced

Answers on page 26



BY RICH TUPICA

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

CATCHING UP WITH TESCO VEE AND HIS LANSING COLLECTABLE TOY COMIC AND RECORD SHOW



Tesco Vee, formerly of The Meatmen and the "Touch and Go" zine, now focuses on his rapidly growing toy, record

TURN

The Lansing Collectable Toy Comic and Record Show, shown here at past events, returns Sunday (May 9) to the Okemos Conference Center. (courtesy photos).

Vintage pop-culture event returns, with masks

After an 18-month hiatus, The Lansing Collectable Toy Comic and Record Show returns Sunday, but with some precautionary measures, said host Tesco Vee.

Presented by Tesco's Toys, a company owned by the Lansing-punk legend, this show will, as usual, be stacked with plenty of fun figurines, albums and paper goods. However, this time around, Vee said there will be more room to browse the tables. Beyond that, Vee said he also has a simple request for those who plan to attend.

"First and foremost: wear a mask," Vee said. "We are following state mandated 'retail rules' and have spaced the show out much better. A few dealers decided to wait until fall, and that is allowing us to spread things out and make the layout more socially distanced. We also have a couple dealers setting up outside on the front patio."

The free-admission event, which features 100 tables of toys (about 17 less tables than previous events),

boasts not only rare action figures and old-school toys (from Frankenstein to Star Wars), but also stacks of obscure comics, movies, old magazines, vinyl records and posters. It's tables full of both pop culture classics and hard-to-find rarities. Like before, it's spread out over two floors, with dealers from several states.

As for Vee himself, like many, he spent 2020 just "surviving," but also celebrated a milestone year, career wise.

"I finally retired from my job," he said. "So, pandemic notwithstanding, that has been great. I worked from home for the last six months anyway, but after 20 years at Sparrow, it was time."

Of course, he's also kept up with his collecting routine. His rapidly growing archive of treasures is a masterfully curated collection. He never stops hunting, and it's apparent when looking at both his personal items, and the cases of vintage gems he sells at shows.

"I never stop buying, it's in my

blood," Vee said. "I have been going through my record collection of the last 40 years and plucking some gems to add to the six big totes I will be bringing to the show. I'm still collecting robots and monsters, and I'll have a good selection of monster toys at the show as well."

For those who grew up watching Vee front the wildly tongue-in-cheek band The Meatmen, or reading his now-legendary "Touch and Go" punk zine, this newer collector venture might seem like an about face. But it's a change the entrepreneurial Vee welcomes, though he said it's tough to compare the two worlds. For him, both are passion projects.

"The toy shows are more fun, but the thrill of being on stage is a oncein-a-lifetime thing," he said. "I was fortunate to do the punk rock thing on-and-off for 40 years. Now it's time to sling pop culture for fun and profit."

For newbies looking to get into the collector game, Vee has some advice for entering the always fluctuating market.

"The sports card market has gone nuts in the last few months and comic books are very strong, as well," he said. "Superhero toys are extremely popular right now. My advice is: collect what you like and always with an eye for what something might be worth down the road. And vinyl is vinyl. Vinyl rules."

> The Lansing Collectable Toy Comic and Record Show Sunday, May 9 Okemos Conference Center 2187 University Park Drive, Okemos. FREE, all ages, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. facebook.com/TescosToys

"Birding by Ear, A Beginners Guide to Birdsongs, Calls and Commotion" 7-9 p.m. 517-303-5742. capitalareaaudubon.org.

Virtual Refugee Foster Care Information Session - 5:30-7:30 p.m. Samaritas Refugee Youth Services. RSVP to RFCinfo@samaritas.org at least 24 hours

before the event for Zoom info.

Mother's Day Concert with Sally Rogers and Claudia Schmidt - From the Archives: Audio of the Mother's Day Concert with Sally Rogers and Claudia Schmidt (May

8, 2015; May 11, 2012)tenpoundfiddle.org

Dreamscapes- Luzhen Qiu & Cathy Jacobs - Exhibition & Reception May 8-June 26. Schedule appt. to view

exhibiit. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery &

Education Center, 119 N Washington Sq, Šte 101, Lansing. 517-374-6400. singartgallery.org.

LAFCU Free Internet Hotspot Program

Deadline - Applications are due today for a free internet hotspot from LAFCU, 106 N.

Marketplace Bvld., Lansing. 517-622-6600.

East Lansing Downtown Underground

Market - 10 am-2pm. M.A.C. Avenue Garage, 310 M.A.C., East Lansing.

Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual) - 6-7 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St., Lansing.

"Holocaust Cantata: Songs from the

Camps" Musical event - 8 p.m. through May 23. Peppermint Creek Theatre.

Friday, May 7

Saturday, May 8

LAFCU.com.

Sunday, May 9

Monday, May 10

refugerecovery.org

Tuesday, May 11

peppermintcreek.org.

By SKYLER ASHLEY



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

Wednesday, May 5

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

"Holocaust Cantata: Songs from the Camps" Musical event - 8 p.m. through May 23. Peppermint Creek Theatre. peppermintcreek.org.

Michigan Young Birders Network Virtual Meeting - via Zoom. 7-8 p.m. Michigan Audubon, 2310 Science Parkway, Suite 200, Okemos. michiganaudubon.org.

MSU Spring Plant Sale - MSU Horticulture Gardens, 1066 Bogue Street, East Lansing. 517-353-0443.

Women United Lighting the Path Virtual Luncheon - 11:30 a.m. Virtual via Zoom, tinyurl.com/wusept

Thursday, May 6

Capital Area Audubon Society monthly meeting - Presentation on

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM Conferencing, Meeting ID 859 4003 6219 for the purpose of considering:

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, for the purpose of amending Chapter 656, Section 656.05, to provide that the penalty for violation of this ordinance shall be a municipal civil infraction.

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

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.

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

CP#21-110

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS COMING TO LANSING



Lansing Lugnuts Opening Week May 5-May 9 Buy tickets at: MILB.com/Lansing

The Lansing Lugnuts are returning for the 2021 season to face off against the Lake County Captains in a set of opening week matches. GO NUTS!



White Claws and Paws at Jackson Field

Saturday, May 8, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing Facebook.com/LansingLugnuts

Jackson Field, home of the Lansing Lugnuts, is hosting an evening for people to bring their dogs down to the ballpark for some fun and exercise. You can also enjoy discounts on White Claw all night.

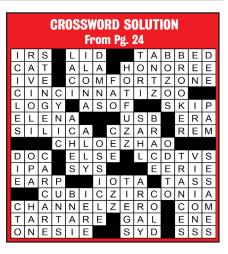
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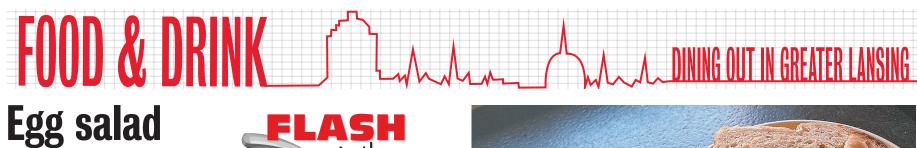


Mother's Day Meow Market Sunday, May 9, Noon to 3 p.m. 3320 E. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing

Facebook.com/ConstellationCatCafe

Invite your mother with you to Constellation Cat Café to share delicious tea and coffee and hangout with cute cats. Adoptions will be available, so you might even consider taking one home with you!





By ARI LeVAUX

Once, when my mom was out for a visit, she made egg salad sandwiches. The kids wolfed them down before I had a chance to nab a sample. Their mouths were still full when they asked for another round.

I paid close attention as she prepared another batch and watched her pull a move I didn't even know existed. She snapped a piece of celery in

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half, leaving the two pieces connected by the fibers that run down the ridge of a celery stalk. She pulled the two pieces apart, yanking the strings from both pieces at once. Then she hunted for more, digging and tugging out the fibers with the tip of a knife. The de-stringed celery had a glowing, freshly scrubbed look, while the strings sat in a tangled pile like a green hairball. The resulting egg salad, which I managed to taste, was crunchy and soft, chunky yet smooth.

Next time you want to give someone the royal treatment, peel their celery. With Mother's Day coming up, now is your chance. String-free celery is a luxury on par with breakfast in bed, minus the mess.

Until then, I had been under the impression that chewing a cud of twine was just the way celery eating went. The new way, crunchy and juicy but not chewy, ushered in a brand new celery honeymoon. More than once, I've de-stringed a piece of celery for egg salad and then impulsively popped it into my mouth like a Twix bar.

Pulling those strings will make any celery snack more palatable and won't leave your heart deprived of fiber, because there will still be plenty left in that string-free stalk. If you could somehow remove all the fiber from celery, there would barely be anything left but a green column of water.

Mom lives alone and spent most of her 91st year in near isolation thanks to the virus. In January, she came out to stay with us for a while. Now, we are on the cusp of our first Mother's Day under the same roof in decades.

The problem with Mother's Day is that if we choose one specific, extraordinary day a year to pamper, remember or otherwise celebrate the moms in our lives, we simultaneously create 364 days of ordinary treatment.

Nobody's mom is getting any younger, and those who've already lost their



Ari LeVaux's mom's egg salad.

mother, or never experienced what it's like to have a mom, might advise you to treat every day like it's the last Mother's Day on Earth. Of course, we should pamper our moms, but let's remember to learn and absorb as much as we can, too.

These days, when mom makes egg salad, I do the heavy lifting and fiber pulling, and she leans against the counter, watching and tasting progress. The salt has to be just right. And you can't overwork it. Little things. But if you don't do the little things, the kids will complain.

As for mom, she won't complain, even if you leave the string in. She never complains. It's a lesson I hope to learn some day myself. In the meantime, I'm going to keep doing the little things for her that she used to do for me. In life, as in egg salad, the little things add up.

Mom's Egg Salad Recipe

Boil the eggs for nine minutes Mix them with onion and celery Salt and very little pepper Add the mayonnaise. Carefully." Serves 2 3 large eggs 1 stick celery 50g onion (about a 4th of a medium sized onion) $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt Courtesy Ari LeVaux

1 dash of pepper 2 tablespoons mayo

Heat enough water to cover two eggs by at least an inch. When it reaches the boil, carefully lower the eggs into the water with a spoon. Boil for nine minutes. Remove the eggs and place them in cold water. When they are cool enough to work with, peel them.

Break the celery stick in half. If the two halves remain connected by threads, gently pull the two pieces away from each other such that the strings pull out. Once they are separated, remove any more strings you can by digging them out with the tip of a knife and pulling. You don't need to fuss about trying to remove every single fiber. But every bit that you do remove will make the salad a little easier to chew.

Mince the celery and onion together. Chop the eggs as finely as possible without turning them into a paste and add them to a bowl. Add the minced celery and onions, salt and pepper. Gently mix with a scooping motion to avoid crushing the eggs. Taste to check seasonings. Gently fold in the mayo.

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.



28

Sub and ice cream shop coming to Michigan Avenue

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Aharon Hebert and Will Green, co-owners of Bangos food truck, are opening up a new restaurant called Babe's Corner. The new shop will offer a variety of fresh cold-cut sandwiches and gourmet soft-serve ice cream. And this isn't just another food truck: This time Hebert and Green have their very own brick-and-mortar space on Michigan Avenue.

"Will and I are always thinking of new ideas. This spot opened up; we liked the corner and we brainstormed what we could do in this spot without investing \$50,000," Hebert said. "We thought subs first and I was thinking about how I prefer soft-serve over hard-serve. We also thought this area was kind of empty for ice cream."

The ice cream served at Babe's Corner is going to keep things simple but enticing. Green and Hebert aren't going to focus on having 40 different gimmicky flavors, rather they'll stick to the classics and offer delicious toppings like crushed cookies, cookie dough and peanut butter cups.

"We'll have vanilla, chocolate, a weekly specialty flavor, and we'll also have one vegan special every week," Hebert said. "We also might do a sundae special every week."

Babe's Corner's sandwiches will utilize fresh and local ingredients. The bread comes directly from Great Harvest in Lansing. Customers can

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Babe's Corner 800 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing Facebook for updates: Facebook.com/ babescornerlansing



Babe's Corner logo.

expect denser sub rolls with sesame seeds on top. You can either order your own custom sandwich or leave it up to Babe's Corner's specialty menu to craft the perfect tasty combo. Like the ice cream, there will also be plenty of vegan options.

See New in Town, Page 29



New in Town

from page 28

"It's our take on sub sandwiches. We'll have different sauces that we make that are special; there's going to be turkey, roast beef, Italian meats and all sorts of veggies," Hebert said. "There's going to be a few specialties, but people can always just say exactly what they want."

The specialty sandwiches on Babe's Corner's menu are all named after influential women in Hebert and Green's life. The decision was inspired by an experience Hebert had eating in

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a sandwich shop in Grand Rapids with his girlfriend, Melissa Libby, where the pair noticed that every single sandwich on the shop's incredibly large menu was named after a man.

"The sandwiches are named after important women in our lives. Our grandmothers, our great aunts, people like that," Hebert said.

Like the Bangos food truck, which uses a pastel and floral design, Babe's Corner's interior will be creative and colorful. Hebert said prints by local women artists will adorn the restaurant's walls.

Hebert said people can expect to dine at Babe's Corner in late May or early June.

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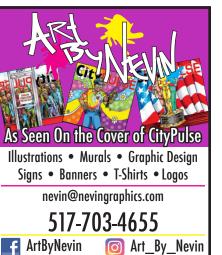
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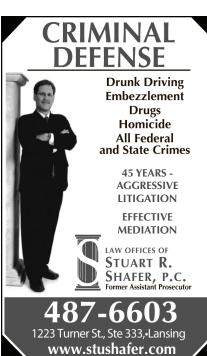
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