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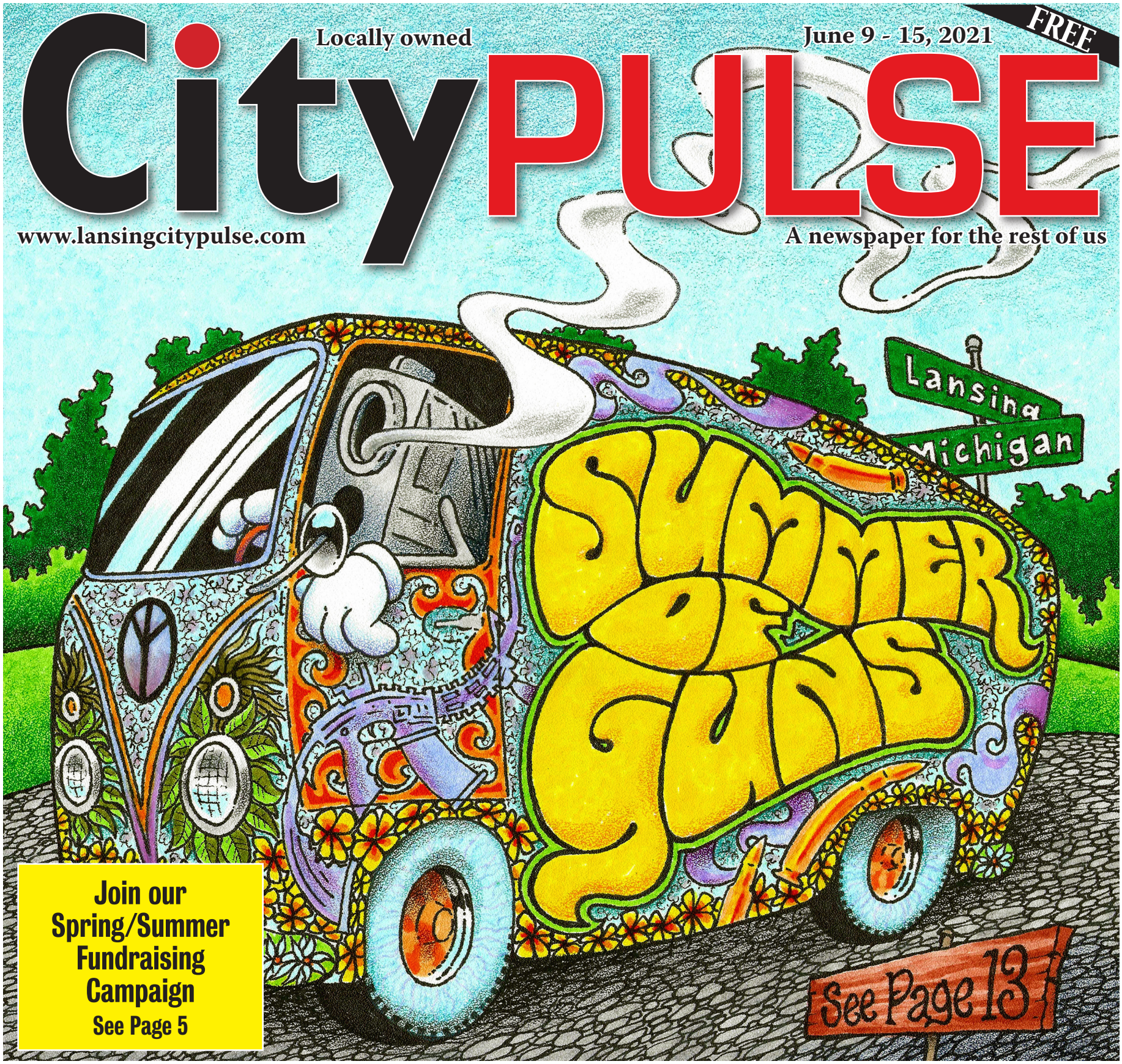

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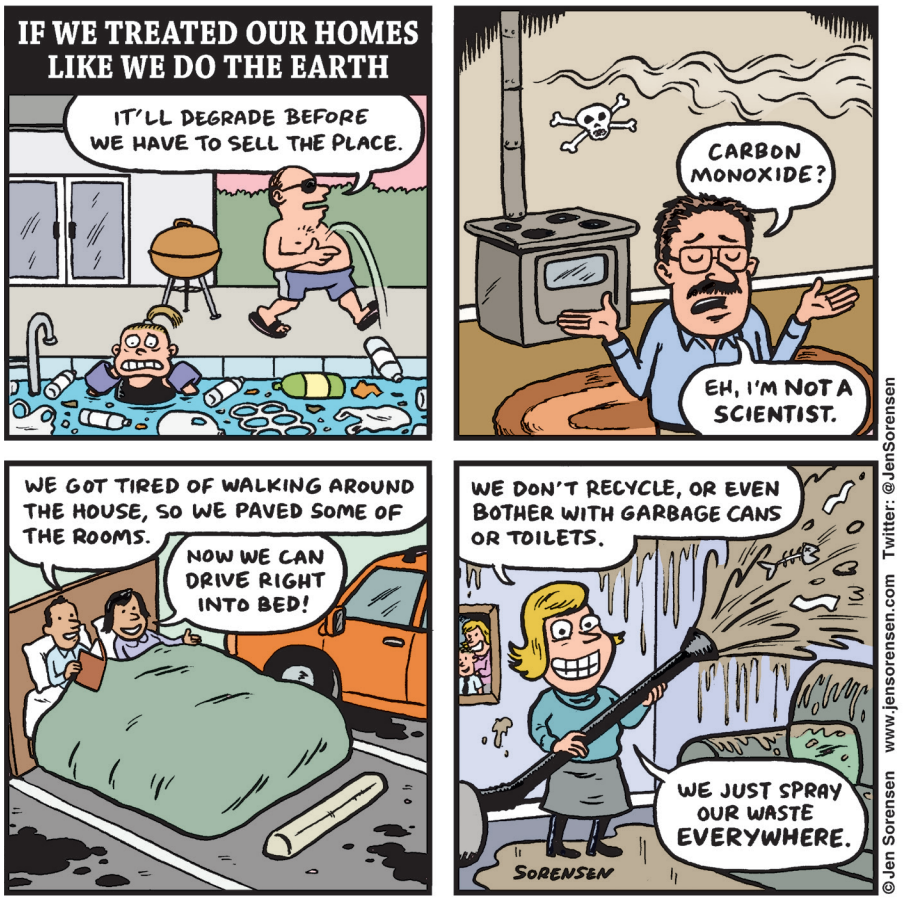

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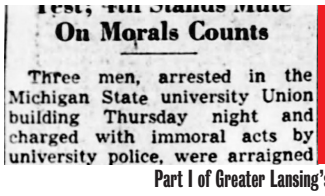
On Morals Counts

Three men, arrested in the Michigan State university Union building Thursday night and charged with immoral acts by university police, were arraigned

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Part I of Greater Lansing's Pride history

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The Fledge on Lansing's east side aims to bring people together

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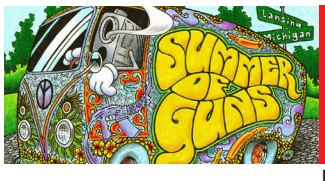
Flash in the Pan: Bok choy potato soup



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Dennis Preston

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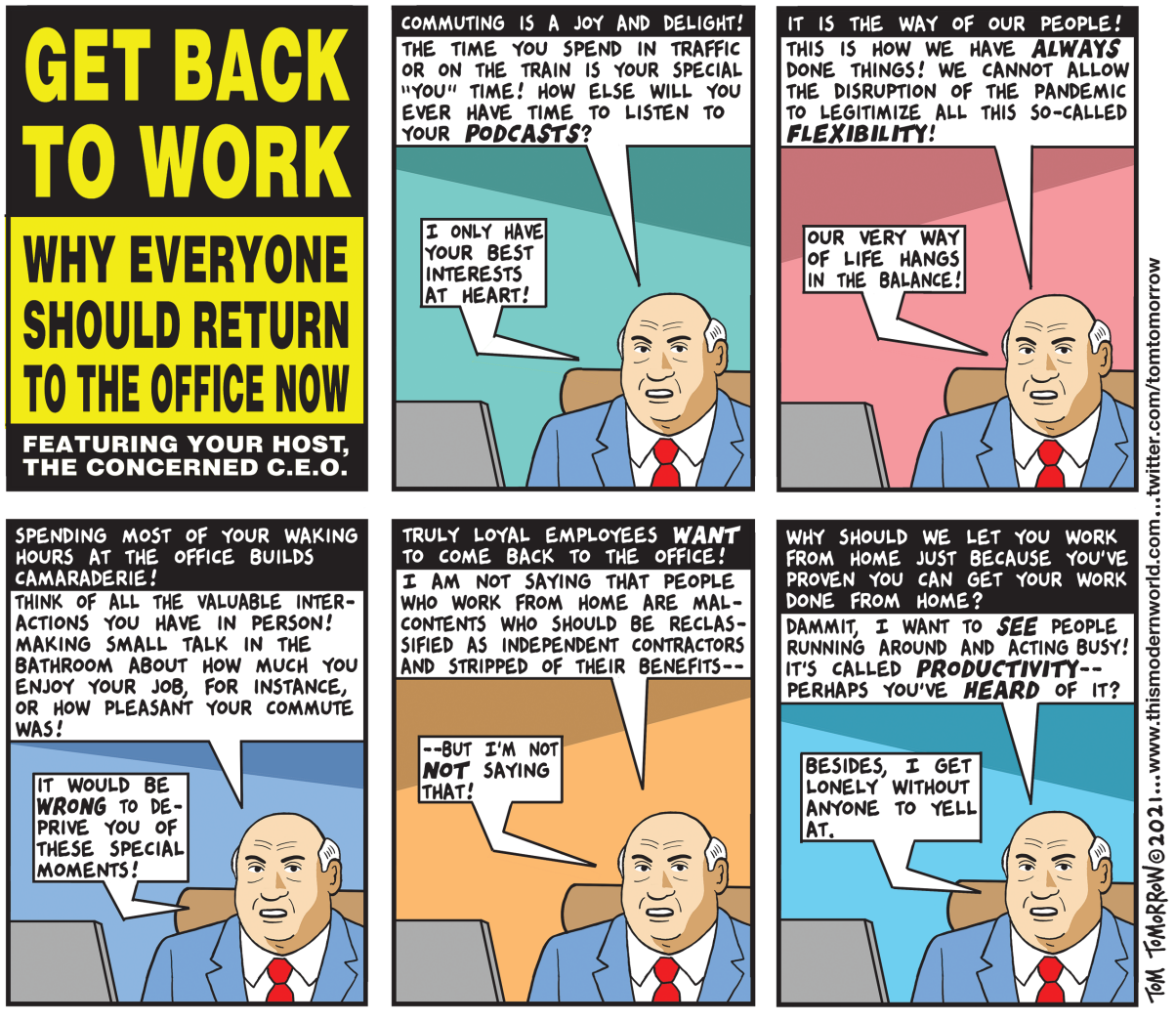
THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



PULSE NEWS & OPINION

Support City Pulse

The CP Edit

Opinion

Ever heard of a news desert? It's what you call a community that has lost its local newspapers. Over the past two decades, it's happened far more often than you might think. More than 2,100 local newspapers, including 70 dailies and 2,000 weekly publications, have permanently turned off the lights, leaving hundreds of communities across the nation with no local print journalism.

The rise of the Internet, Facebook and other social media platforms has certainly contributed to the trend, fundamentally changing the habits of news consumers and bulldozing newspaper economics, especially for small publications like this paper. Gone are the days when subscriptions and print advertising revenues were more than sufficient to cover operating expenses. It's fair to say that the traditional business model supporting independent journalism has all but collapsed, forcing publishers to cut costs by laying off staff, scaling back coverage, downsizing their physical product, and exploring the potential for alternative sources of revenue.

City Pulse is not immune to these challenges. Worsened by the disastrous effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which crushed our advertising revenues over the past year, this newspaper is admittedly struggling to stay afloat. That's why we — Lansing's "newspaper for the rest of us" — are asking for your help.

You may be familiar with our nonprofit City Pulse Fund for Community Journalism. If you've made a donation to the Fund in the past, we thank you. But now we ask you to give directly to City Pulse, not the Fund, which is limited in its purpose: We can only use its resources to pay journalists to write stories; we can't use it to pay the rent or keep the lights on. As we consider ways to make ends meet, we have resisted the temptation to move to a subscription-only model or putting up a paywall on our website. Those options leave too many people of limited means with zero access to the news that matters in their lives. So it's up to those of us with a few extra dollars in our pockets to keep City Pulse available for free on newsstands across the region. Thus, the drive we kick off today is for City Pulse, not the Fund, which will focus its efforts on those seeking tax deductions for large gifts.

Why give to City Pulse? Let us count the ways: Tired of the dearth of quality local journalism in the corporate daily? Look no further than this paper to get your fix each week. Looking for in-depth coverage and insightful analysis of state and local politics? We've got it in droves. How about mid-Michigan's most comprehensive event listings and our special sections featuring Lansing's top festivals and seasonal attractions? Perhaps you enjoy our restaurant reviews and our annual DIning Guide as a way to introduce new flavors to your palate. Are you a cannabis connoisseur? Our weed reviews can help you find the right strain to achieve your desired results.

Our Top of the Town Awards (now moved to the Fall) celebrate the "best of the best" in hundreds of categories, from your favorite watering hole to the Lansing area's best cheeseburger. We sponsor and host the annual Inclusion Awards, to highlight champions of equality and social justice in the LGBTQ+ community, and the Pulsar Awards to honor local theater. And, we're particularly proud of our election offerings, with in-depth coverage, profiles and candidate questionnaires that provide valuable information for voters as they head to the polls. After Election Day, we continue to hold public officials accountable and demand transparency on behalf of our readers so they can gain insight and perspective on issues that matter.

City Pulse goes where other newspapers fear to tread. We were founded on the principle that "objectivity is bullshit" and we continue to embrace this provocative idea. We're not afraid to tackle controversy, or to "create" it when necessary, in the sense of recognizing an issue that ought to be controversial. Our editorial page, created in the vacuum left by the daily paper, which has largely abandoned print's traditional role as a community opinion leaders, fearlessly tackles all manner of issues, from racial equity and social justice to government ethics. Not everyone is happy with everything we write, but that's OK. Even when we are criticized, the exchange of viewpoints is usually constructive — and instructive. We learn from our readers as much as we hope you learn from us.

But all of this goodness doesn't come cheap. It takes real money to publish a real newspaper. Please consider making a donation to City Pulse to keep independent local journalism alive and well in Lansing.

Corrections

Because of editing errors, last week's story on the 40th anniversary of HIV contained two mistakes. One of them was in connection with what motivated a local resident, Doak Bloss, to engage in pioneering efforts to assist those afflicted with HIV. The story attributed it in part to his boyfriend's death. The former boyfriend is still alive. City Pulse regrets the error.

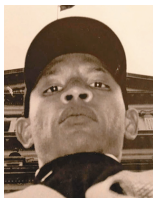
The other mistake was a typographical error giving the wrong date for when Dr. Peter Gulick moved to Lansing. The correct year was 1985.

To donate go to: **lansingcitypulse.org/support-us**

Or send a check to: **City Pulse • 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912**

Hutchinson: Make no mistake about it. This is war.

By LARRY HUTCHINSON
OPINION


Hutchinson

This is the fourth in a series of guest columns by candidates for mayor of Lansing in the Aug. 3 primary election. The order was determined by lot. Patricia Spitzley declined to participate. Please be advised that Hutchinson's submission could be considered offensive. City Pulse published it to help educate voters about the candidates. Due to the threatening nature of the comments included in this column, the Lansing Police Department was notified of its existence and Hutchinson's invitation to attend a joint mayoral debate sponsored by Fox News47 and City Pulse on June 24 has been revoked.

Like a lion in a pack that circles its prey and begins its attack by going after the genitals and neck, I too will not waste the reader's time. Make no mistake about it. This is war. This is what I live, breathe, sleep, shit and eat. To quote Mike Tyson: "My opponents are as good as dead."

There are three constants in my life: I'm either writing, involved in some court mess or running for office. To quote Michael Corleone in "The Godfather Part II": "Everytime I get out, they pull me right back in." As it was with school, once I honed in on what I was good at — reading and writing — then my life changed. I hated math with a passion. I believe there are children out there just like me. They just haven't found their purpose in life.

Campaign finance is my number one issue. I respectfully request that candidates that have taken money to please return it. There are laws against panhandling. It gives the game a black eye. Yuck! Sign the waiver and step in the "middle of street."

That's street talk for inviting someone to an ass whooping in the middle of the street.

There are four books that have guided my life: "The Art of War," The Bible, The Qur`an and "Tao of Jeet Kune Do," by Bruce Lee. In the "Art of War." Sun Zu points out that in order to go to war, you must have "moral justifications." I watched as those people stormed the Capitol and then tried to kidnap my goddamn governor. Then COVID-19 happened. And don't let me start with my personal life. So, if you are going to war, you need moral justification. I believe I have it.

To quote Michael Corleone: "It's not personal. It's strictly business."

The so-called top three candidates, AKA the current mayor and the two City Council women. Oh I am at their necks. I'm using my claws and teeth the way a lion and friends take down their prey. As I lick their blood off my face full of the meal I just ate, having feasted off the bones of the so-called top three, we still see the other two walking past and they'd better just walk pass.

Do not throw up the middle finger. Don't say hi. Just keep it steppin' because to quote Lonzo in "Training Day": "He gives us shit. We're giving lead." I was co-captain of my debate team.

I'll put them ni**as on the grill and roast them too.

Before I go any further, I would be remiss if I did not thank, recognize or mention God Almighty. It is reported that the Holy Prophet Muhammad would catch "fits" — meaning, he would have "seizure-like spells." I have no one, as he did, to wrap a blanket around me when I shake "uncontrollably" as the prophet wife did, no one to comfort me except God.

After you've called your friends and family — Rosebudd, J.Prince, Min. Farrakhan, Brother Ishmail of the nation of Islam, Dan Kildee, Master P, Sean Combs, Jay Z, and our President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris — at the end of the day, it's just you and God.

To my most beautiful governor in North America, Gretchen Whitmer, to quote Prince: "I would die for you." Not only would I die for her highness, I would kill for her. I need no authority. I have my orders. I will faithfully execute the office of mayor and defend the Constitution, so help me God.

I've been closer to Hillary Clinton than the reader is to the words on this page. Mott Community College, 2000 was the year. It was my last year at the college. I sat with Tipper Gore. I remember being in the presence of Secretary Madeleine Albright. Former first lady of Flint Carrie Walling makes the best food. I love her and she knows it. Is she still with that guy?

I'm a Capricorn and sensitive to slight, therefore when the local media does not mention my name, I take it personally. Every media outlet in Lansing has flyers containing my photo and name. If they do not have one, all they have to do is walk out to the nearest utility pole and snatch one. They made me feel like a "stepchild" or a "side show."

I'm not the sideshow. I'm the closing act — the main attraction.

LETTERS to the editor

Hispanic programming a loser at LCC

Sent on behalf of my mother, Rosa Martinez:

As a radio person of LCC or WLNZ for five years, I am disappointed that my show is not included in your article (on the station's future, June 2), as it was a great show with many listeners. Also the only Spanish speaking radio show for our community, as LCC has always stated it is "community oriented" — and now nothing. My show was fun and entertaining and I brought information to our community that was of interest to our Mexican community. The music was up to date with the latest singers and bands. I had listeners from all over the country and in Mexico, and now there is nothing for our Latino community. I was told "there is no funding," but I was never paid, I was a volunteer. I don't think anyone would do a show for three hours a week for nothing. I did it because I love the music and I loved sharing with my listeners. Selling or closing the radio station would be wrong on so many levels. The shows were all very diversified and so enjoyable. I hope this doesn't happen and the shows can continue and stay here.

The Rose

P.S.: Maybe volunteering is a waste of time.

Remembering the Strand

Born in 1924, I remember the beautiful Strand/Michigan Theatre. On that stage a magician asked for a red-haired boy to help. My brother, about 12, called out "Here I am" and ran onto the stage. After the trick, he gave Carlyle the white rabbit and it peed on our hands, and we ran home to show our folks.

Later W.J.I.M. radio broadcast the "Uncle Howdy's Kiddies Jamboree" on Saturday mornings. Talented kids sang and danced on that stage.

When the curtains separated, we could see the Pathe World News and laugh at Adolph Hitler. After the coming attractions, the main feature started. We saw Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, Bing Crosby and other great movies in early color as "Gone with the Wind," starring Clark Gable.

I saw the owner, Mr. Butterfield, form long lines from the box office to the doors and the beautiful winding stairway to the balcony. His nephew was in my class at Central High School. My friends carried flashlights and ushered folks to a seat. Anyone could go in in or leave or stay over ("this is where I came in").

When that beautiful organ played and raised up by the stage is another memory. That organ was saved and is at the Opera House in Grand Ledge.

I have fine memories of that arcade and theater.

It is a shame many attempts to save it were unsuccessful.

Now after 100 years, I urge Lansingites to take notice of that facade you mentioned in your story!

Kathleen Graham Kehren
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.)

Benson is speeding up appointments, but will the Legislature assist her?

POLITICS

KYLE MELINN

OPINION

Last week, I wrote how Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson was floating in political hot water. If she doesn't clear up her backlog of folks needing new license plates, forcing people to drive illegally, Benson could be a one-term secretary of state.

This week, Benson announced moves to drain her COVID backlog by Sept. 30, if not before.

But before we dig deeper into those reforms, let me make a couple things clear from last week's column.

First, nobody should be driving around without a license plate or expired tabs. It is illegal. You can be fined at least $200 for doing it.

Next, the secretary of state offers a certain number of same-day appointments at www.michigan.gov/sos. They go fast, and if you don't get one on Tuesday, you can try again Wednesday or Thursday.

Third, while branch offices were closed 10 weeks last spring as the pandemic was kicking into gear, there are more reasons behind the backlog. Select branch offices were shut down for a couple weeks due to a COVID positive diagnosis from a customer or staff person.

Also, the Legislature used a hard-and-fast March 31 deadline, as opposed to a rolling deadline, by which people had to clear up whatever outstanding secretary of state business. This created a crush of end-of-March, early April business.

And, finally, Benson took over an office amid a culture of Republican secretaries of state who put a premium on closing officers and laying off staff. The moves pushed the public toward on-line services online, in theory, reduces the need for union labor to stand on their feet and serve the public face-to-face each day.

Only offering appointments and not walk-in service is playing to the frustrations of drivers, who don't like sitting for a couple hours to get a new driver license picture — but they like waiting three months for an appointment even less.

So, the new news is this: Benson announced this week she's having the state spend 10 minutes per customer as opposed to 20 minutes. That should free up 350,000 spots in line by Sept. 30, she said.

Also, if all you need is a placard showing you're disabled, you can visit a branch office and the greeter will hook you up, if you brought the corrected identification. If there's another service you need and you show up to a branch office without an appointment, a greeter will tell you if staff could see you in that moment.

If not, the greeter will help the customer set up an appointment.

Benson estimates a 25% increase in the number of people the Secretary of State's Office can see for vehicle-related services in the months ahead under this plan.

That's what Benson can do by herself, but there's more she could do if the Republican-led Legislature is willing to help.

Benson would love the Legislature to give her $25 million in COVID-19 relief money to cover the costs of new staff and extended officers. Her dream is for any citizens to pick an appointment that fits into his or her schedule.

She doesn't want to stick people into an oddly timed appointment in August because that's the soonest they can get in.

However, lawmakers may not give her one additional cent if she doesn't open some branch offices to more walk-in traffic. Benson hates the idea. She doesn't want her name attached to two-or-three-hour delays inside a branch office with an armed security office, keeping the peace.

You can't blame her for abandoning that dreaded ol' take-a-number system at branch offices, particular since it did not work well in ending people's waits for services.

Yet, when dealing with the Legislature, compromise — not demanding action — often wins the day. If Benson needs to let in some foot traffic in order to get lawmakers to squeeze some money her way, she may need to swallow her pride and do it.

Her re-electability may count on it.

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

City of East Lansing
Zoning Board of Appeals

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS AT ELECTRONIC MEETING
Wednesday, July 7, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

The Zoning Board of Appeals of the City of East Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan ("Zoning Board of Appeals") will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, July 7, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.**, concerning the following:

A public hearing will be held to consider an application from United Hospitality Group East Lansing for the property located at 1100 Trowbridge Road, in the B-2, Retail Sales Business District, for a variance from the following requirement of Chapter 50 – Zoning Code of the City of East Lansing:

Section 50-147(1)(b): within any yard not bordering a street, fences, or walls, other than retaining walls, shall not exceed six feet in height.

The applicant is requesting after-the-fact approval for an 8-foot-tall solid fence constructed along the west property line where only a 6-foot-tall solid fence is permitted.

This meeting will only be held electronically pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Act 267 of 1976, and the capacity restrictions and social distancing requirements set forth in the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Director's Emergency Orders. The purpose of the meeting will be to hold the public hearing described above and consider any other business that comes before the Zoning Board of Appeals. Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, the City gives notice of the following:

1. **Reason for Electronic Meeting**. The Zoning Board of Appeals is holding this meeting by electronic means only due to the restrictions imposed by the MDHHS Director's Emergency Orders. If the Orders are revised and if an in-person meeting is to be held instead of an electronic meeting, the meeting may be rescheduled to a different date and time. Notice of any such change will be posted at the City Hall and on the City's website.

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

Join Zoom Meeting by Video: https://zoom.us/j/96527387279

Or Dial In By Telephone - Call in: 312-626-6799, Toll Free: 888-788-0099**
Meeting ID: 965 2738 7279
Password: Not required

**To unmute microphone from a cell phone dial *6 (star 6)
To raise your hand from a cell phone dial *9 (star 9)

3. **Contact Information**. For those who desire to contact members of the Zoning Board of Appeals to provide input or ask questions on the business that will come before the public body at the meeting, please contact Peter Menser, at (517) 319-6861 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 1-800-649-377, within a reasonable time in advance of the meeting.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#21-141

City Pulse partners with FOX 47 for live mayoral debate

Four mayoral candidates facing off in the August primary election will battle it out on stage this month at a live, 60-minute televised debate hosted by FOX 47 News and City Pulse at 7 p.m June 24.

Incumbent Lansing Mayor Andy Schor will outline his reelection platform and defend himself from challengers and City Council members Kathie Dunbar and Patricia Spitzley along with local community psychologist Melissa Huber. Farhan Sheikh-Omar didn't respond to an invitation. Larry Hutchinson Jr. will not be allowed to attend in accordance with legal advice.

Managing Editor Kyle Kaminski and MIRS News Editor Kyle Melinn will help formulate the questions alongside a panel of journalists from FOX 47. The primary election is set for Aug. 3. Absentee ballots will start to hit local mailboxes later this month. Don't miss an opportunity to inform your vote; tune in to FOX 47 or watch the debate online this month at fox47news.com.

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

By KYLE KAMINSKI

City Council OKs Gillespie tax deal

The former Clara's restaurant on Michigan Avenue is one step closer to becoming a Starbucks coffee shop after the Lansing City Council greenlighted a tax deal for the Gillespie Group, which plans to begin redeveloping the vacant building and 113-year-old former train station this year. Developers plan to use about $750,000 of a $5 million surplus of tax incentives realized after recently finishing the 600Block project across the street, including the Capital City Market, to expedite the redevelopment for a summer 2022 opening. Starbucks reportedly submitted a letter of intent to rent the building and outdoor patio space, but no leases have yet been signed.

Greater Lansing man hits jackpot

A 57-year-old Ingham County man was the lucky winner of a $600,590 jackpot through the Michigan Lottery's Fantasy 5 drawing in late April. The man — who chose to remain anonymous — reportedly bought his ticket in East Lansing and told lottery officials that he plans to help family and buy a house with the winnings.

AG: No charges in police shooting

Dana Nessel announced that none of the officers who shot and killed Jason Gallegos during a police encounter last year will face criminal charges for their involvement. Cops reportedly killed Gallegos after he exited a home on Walnut Street carrying a rifle, walked into the middle of the street, pointed his gun at one of the officers and then shot him in the leg. The call originated after reports of a firearm discharge at Gallegos' home. After reviewing 33 hours of video footage, prosecutors determined the officers were justified in using deadly force.

Nessel

Lansing moves to biweekly yard waste pickup

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor pointed to a shortage of seasonal staff with commercial driver's licenses in the shift, which begins June 28. Those services are funded by the annual $115 fees that are assessed to each single-family property on winter tax bills. Schor hasn't contemplated how to reduce those costs accordingly.

Township trustee donates paycheck

Thirdgill

Delhi Township's TyJuan Thirdgill is giving away about half of his $11,511 salary to constituents who need some extra cash, the Journal reported. Thirdgill plans to give away $200 every two weeks to residents in need who request his assistance.

Lansing adjusts park ordinance

It's no longer a misdemeanor in Lansing to visit a park after dusk or on hours posted on nearby signs. The City Council reduced that penalty to a municipal civil infraction, noting that police can still boot late-night park visitors and cite them with trespassing tickets if they refuse to leave.

Teenager sues Lansing cops

The girl, who was repeatedly punched by Lansing Police officer Lindsay Howley two summers ago, is suing Howley, fellow arresting officer Bailey Ueberroth and former Police Chief Mike Yankowski under allegations of excessive force, unreasonable search and seizure, and racial discrimination. DeShaya Reed, 16 during the 2019 incident, also claimed that officers failed to protect her from Reed during her arrest, reported the Journal.

FOR DESIGN

No one identified the last Eye for Design, which was a detail on the gate at Okemos Nursery School (below). The bright, rainbow-colored tabs are part of the school's "Wishes and Worries" art installation. Members of the ONS community were encouraged to make a wish or hang up their worries. My personal favorite was a child's wish to turn into a mermaid. Okemos Nursery School is a regional treasure, located in a charming little white house with bright blue shutters, tucked away in a natural setting not far from the bustle of once and future downtown Okemos.

This month's Eye for Design (above) can be found in the heart of East Lansing. If you know where, email carriesampson@micourthistory.org and you might win an Eye for Design mug.

— CARRIE SAMPSON

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

‘Invasion of Undesirables’: Before Stonewall at MSU

By TIM RETZLOFF

Headlines in the Lansing State Journal in the 1950s, then simply the State Journal, tell a skewed story about people we now understand as LGBTQ. In the decades before Stonewall, the proverbial “first draft of history” of journalists was decidedly slanted in the local mainstream press, as it was in newspapers across the country.

The few overt accounts about queer folk that made the LSJ focused on criminality.

Case in point was coverage of several homosexual arrests in the bathroom of the MSU Union in late 1955. An undercover sting operation nabbed four men in their 20s and charged them with gross indecency. The paper printed their names, ages, occupations and addresses — in effect stoking a minor media panic.

On behalf of university officials, public safety director Arthur F. Brandstatter expressed alarm at what he called an “invasion of undesirables.” He claimed that the accused men were unaffiliated with MSU and threatened students and the general security of the campus. Brandstatter apparently ignored the fact that one of the arrestees was a 26-year-old sophomore, who was forced to withdraw from his coursework.

Other, more subtle glimpses in the paper hint at how lesbians generally escaped notice, yet not entirely.

Lucile Portwood and Evelyn Sanders shared a home together for several decades on Dobie Road in Okemos. Their cohabitation garnered multiple mentions in the Lansing State Journal from 1957 to 1962, all in connection to their Scottish terrier competing at various kennel shows.

Lucile Portwood from her 1932 college yearbook.

Evelyn Sanders from her 1935 high school yearbook.

One article noted their champion dog’s name was “Glendoune Gaytime.” Another article identified “Sandbark Gay Fantasy” as their winning pooch.

Sanders was a professor of microbiology at MSU. She and Portwood, known to friends as “Porty,” both arrived from Texas in the early 1940s to pursue their doctorates.

4 Brought Into Court

2 Demand, 1 Waives Court Test; 4th Stands Mute On Morals Counts

Three men, arrested in the Michigan State university Union building Thursday night and charged with immoral acts by university police, were arraigned in East Lansing justice court Friday afternoon.

Lansing State Journal headline from December 3, 1955.

While a grad student, Portwood discovered a vaccine for whooping cough and later went on to an esteemed career as a scientist with the Michigan Department of Public Health.

April Allison interviewed Portwood about her graduate school years for “Moving Forward: Lesbians and Gay Men at Michigan State University,” an institutional self-study released in 1992 for which Portwood used the pseudonym “Mary.”

“We were very tightly closeted, but it was very comfortable. We were invisible, so there weren’t all these finger-pointings,” Portwood told Allison.

In a recent exchange via Zoom and email, Allison recalled her interview with Portwood and the intergenerational friendship they developed. “It’s interesting that Porty emphasized to me how comfortable and happy she was in this totally closeted environment,” Allison noted.

Other fragments of evidence help reveal history not captured in the pages of our local press. Stray puzzle pieces from the area’s LGBTQ past help show how queer people navigated harsh social stigma at a time when the country was deeply enmeshed in what historian David K. Johnson has termed the Lavender Scare.

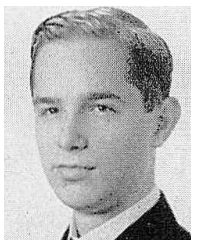
John DeCecco served on the humanities faculty at MSU from 1955 to 1960. DeCecco discussed shielding himself from scrutiny while he taught in East Lansing. “I was having my sex with auto workers, who couldn’t care less about Michigan State University,” he said.

DeCecco was more discreet closer to school, where most homosexual faculty remained circumspect. Despite this, he had a few close friends he could confide in. One, in particular, “was much more openly gay,” DeCecco remembered, “so we could talk and we could cruise, and we could even occasionally share a trick.”

Greater Lansing’s LGBTQ+ Past

This is Part I of a four-part City Pulse series to commemorate Pride Month. On June 30, City Pulse will announce this year’s Inclusion Award honorees for the work they have done for the LGBTQ+ community.

“I had other colleagues who were gay, but it was very tortured,” DeCecco recalled. “Some of them were married.” His circle of friends dared to socialize mainly through “elaborate” dinner parties.



John DeCecco from his 1943 high school yearbook.

DeCecco attributed the hostile campus atmosphere in part to MSU President John A. Hannah, who had ties to state and federal government and had ambitions to compete with the University of Michigan. “He was very much afraid of the reputation of the place getting sullied. So, it was very bad.”

“I knew other faculty members who just sort of disappeared,” DeCecco explained. “People just vanished from sight if they got in any trouble at all.”

This happened to one of his best friends, Findlay Hooper, with whom DeCecco describes as having “one of these gay bitch relationships.” The university pressured Hooper to relinquish his faculty position after he made a sexual advance to someone at a local bar that he believed was gay but turned out not to be. Fortunately for Hooper, his connections and academic stature landed him a job at Wayne State in Detroit.

The swirl of accusations and fear left students especially vulnerable. A two-page police report from 1957 that came to light in 2016 reveals how campus authorities targeted even undergrads for surveillance. MSU archivist Susan O’Brien created a copy of the document with names redacted to make it available to researchers.

According to the report, Officer Ralph Ryal interrogated an accused student, forcing him to reveal meeting places and name names. Ryal observed that “most of his contacts had been made at Olsen’s Bar, 325 N. Washington Ave. Lansing.”

Even in the midst of social intimidation, local queer folk found ways to find one another.

Joseph Dougherty, for one, connected to a wider homophile movement that was just emerging on the East and West coasts. Dougherty, then a 24-year-old Michigan State student from Pontiac, wrote to the pioneering ONE magazine in October 1953, a mere 10 months after the publication began. “I wish to offer my congratulations on a fine magazine,” his letter said. “My copy of ‘ONE’ is always read from cover to cover by myself as well as by many others here at Michigan State.”

Joseph Dougherty from his 1948 high school yearbook.

It is unclear how Dougherty learned of ONE or how he became acquainted with others on campus like himself. Perhaps it was at Olsen’s Bar.

Although Lansing gay bars of the 1950s do not seem as well established as those in Detroit, Flint, Ann Arbor, or Grand Rapids, over the next 10 years a notable scene emerged.

A national gay travel directory called the International Guild Guide included the Wentworth Hotel Bar in downtown Lansing among its listings for 1967 and 1968. Since the hotel was razed in 1966, the publisher was likely relying on outdated information.

There’s more definitive documentation for the Rustic Bar, later known as Stober’s, which first appeared in the Damron Address Book in 1968, with the next year’s edition noting it was “very popular.”

Don Savolainen shared his fond memories of the Rustic in a 2019 segment on WKAR about gay life in Lansing at the time of Stonewall. “You got to meet a total mix of the Lansing area. MSU students and business community, regular working people, factory people,” Savolainen said. “It was a good place to have friendships.”

Even so, this earlier LGBTQ world remained mostly hidden to outsiders. Soon enough, area locals would have their relative invisibility upended.

(Historian Tim Retzloff teaches LGBTQ Studies at Michigan State University.)

CORONAVIRUS IN MICHIGAN
BY THE NUMBERS...

WEEK 64

Michigan

	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.
6/1/21	888,581	19,176	4,581,048
6/8/21	891,057	19,432	4,673,866
Weekly Change	⬆0.3%	⬆1.3%	⬆2.0%

Greater Lansing

	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.
6/1/21	37,400	658	230,487
6/8/21	37,508	662	234,876
Weekly Change	⬆0.3%	⬆0.6%	⬆1.9%

Ingham County

	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.
6/1/21	22,571	373	138,515
6/8/21	22,646	378	141,264
Weekly Change	⬆0.3%	⬆1.3%	⬆2.0%

Eaton County

	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.
6/1/21	8,839	202	52,331
6/8/21	8,857	202	53,363
Weekly Change	⬆0.2%	No Change	⬆2.0%

Clinton Co.

	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.
6/1/21	5,990	83	39,641
6/8/21	6,005	84	40,249
Weekly Change	⬆0.3%	⬆1.2%	⬆1.5%

The "Vaccines" category refers to residents that have received at least one dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, according to state data.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
City of East Lansing
Wetland Use Permit Application

The City of East Lansing has received an application for a Wetland Use Permit under authority of Chapter 49, Wetland Protection, of the East Lansing City Code from applicant, Wendy Wilmers Longpre, on behalf of the City of East Lansing Parks and Recreation Department, 410 Abbot Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823, for improvements to the Northern Tier Trail System.

A 4.8-mile-long off-road trail network in the City of East Lansing, the Northern Tier trail is a 10' wide asphalt pathway that connects 10 City parks and recreation facilities. It used extensively year-round and serves as a resource for recreation and non-motorized transportation. This Bridges project increases the connectivity of the trail to adjacent neighborhoods.

More specifically, the applicant is requesting a Wetland Use Permit from the City for wetland impacts totaling 0.04 acres in total for the following activities:

- Colorado Drive Bridge: An aluminum arch culvert will span 44' of the Taylor Drain to connect the Bessaumar neighborhood to the Northern Tier Trail System to the north. Use of a pre-constructed box culvert will minimize time and work within the drain; silt fence, inlet protecting fabric drops, and temporary in-drain measures will be used.
- Riveria Drive Bridge: A 60' clear span, prefabricated pedestrian bridge will span the Sanderson drain between 1954 and 1946 Riveria Drive and will connect the Tamarisk neighborhood to the Northern Tier Trail to the east. Only foundation construction and bridge installation will be necessary at the site and silt fence, inlet protecting fabric drops, and temporary in-drain measures will be used.

The proposed project is also regulated under Part 303, Wetlands Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. The applicant has also submitted a wetland use permit application to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).

All persons wishing to make comments shall furnish their written comments to Catherine DeShambo, Environmental Services Administrator, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Rd. East Lansing, MI, 48823, cdesham@cityofeastlansing.com within 8 days after the date of this notice.

Copies of the Wetland Use Permit Application materials, the report, and recommendation of the City Wetland Consultant may be obtained here: https://www.cityofeastlansing.com/wetlandapplication The City will approve, approve with conditions, or deny the application within 90 days after receipt.

CP#21-142

CityPULSE

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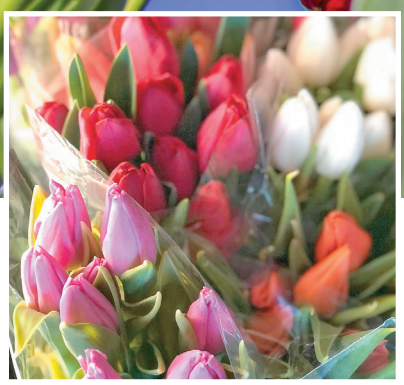

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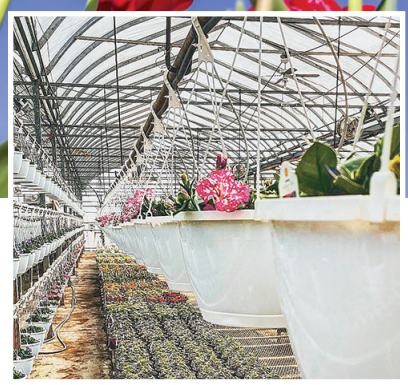

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

DANIELS DRAIN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Patrick E. Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, being Chair of the Daniels Drain Drainage Board, will receive bids on **Thursday, July 8, 2021 until 3:00 p.m.** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Social Distancing protocols are being implemented for this Project by conducting a Virtual Bid Letting only and will only accept bids submitted through the QuestCDN website, unless further advised via Addendum. Bids relative to the Daniels Drain will then be publicly opened and announced on Thursday, July 8, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. and, after a meeting of the Daniels Drain Drainage Board, will be publicly awarded for work to be undertaken in connection with a drain known and designated as the "Daniels Drain." The format of the bid opening will be via a Zoom web conference available through the following link or telephone conference number:

Link for Bid Opening:
https://zoom.us/j/92213744436
Or Dial
+1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 922 1374 4436

The following items of work are viewed as the major items of work comprising the construction of the Daniels Drain. The quantities associated with the items of work are approximate and final payment will be made based upon final installed and measured quantities:

- 6,300 LF of Roadside Ditch Cleanout & Grading
- 146 LF of 10-inch SDR 26 Sanitary Sewer
- 130 LF of 24-inch I.D. Fusible HDPE DR Pipe (Trenchless Installation)
- 2,827 LF of 12-inch C76 IV RCP Storm Sewer
- 775 LF of 15-inch C76 IV RCP Storm Sewer
- 244 LF of 18-inch C76 IV RCP Storm Sewer
- 1,258 LF of 24-inch C76 IV RCP Storm Sewer
- 215 LF of 27-inch C76 IV RCP Storm Sewer
- 136 LF of 30-inch C76 IV RCP Storm Sewer
- 95 LF of 6-inch Perf. Sock Wrapped Dual Wall HDPE Storm Sewer
- 73 LF of 12-inch Perf. Sock Wrapped Dual Wall HDPE Storm Sewer
- 166 LF of 15-inch Perf. Sock Wrapped Dual Wall HDPE Storm Sewer
- 810 LF of 24-inch HP Storm Sewer
- 51 LF of 36-inch Perf. Dual Wall HDPE Storm Sewer
- 480 LF of 12-inch CSP Culvert
- 55 LF of 36-inch x 60-inch RCP Box Culvert
- 194 LF of 36-inch x 72-inch RCP Box Culvert
- 1 EA of 36-inch x 72-inch RCP Box Culvert, 15 Degree Bend
- 19 EA of 4-Foot Dia. Conc. Manhole
- 5 EA of 5-Foot Dia. Conc. Manhole
- 37 EA of 2-Foot Dia. Catch Basin w/ 2-Foot Sump
- 1 EA of 4-Foot Dia. Catch Basin w/ No Sump
- 6 EA of 4-Foot Dia. Catch Basin w/ 2-Foot Sump
- 1 EA of 5-foot Dia. Catch Basin w/ 2-Foot Sump
- 1 EA of Conc. Box Manhole Tee
- 1 EA of Conc. Junction Chamber
- 1 EA of Pond Level Control Structure
- 650 SYD of Riprap over Non-Woven Geotextile Fabric
- 1 LS of Detention Basin Excavation and Grading & Two Forebay Excavation and Grading (Estimated Net Cut = 26,000 CYD)
- 1,360 LF of Existing Sewer and Culvert Removal, Any Size
- 442 LF of Heavy Cleaning & Root Removal for 42-inch Storm Sewer
- 1,800 SFT of Sidewalk, Conc, 4-inch
- 50 SFT of Sidewalk, Ramp, Conc, 6-inch
- 16,144 SYD of Pavt, Rem, Modified
- 2,800 SYD of HMA Path Construction (4" Agg Base, 3" HMA)
- 1,749 SYD of HMA Drive/Parking Restoration (6" Agg Base, 3" HMA)
- 12,157 SYD of Full-Depth HMA Road Restoration (12" Subbase, 8" Agg Base, 5" HMA)
- 534 SYD of Conc. Drive Restoration (4" Sand, 6" Conc)
- 50,000 SYD of Grass Lawn & Roadside Restoration (3 inches topsoil, seed, fertilizer, Silt Stop (polyacrylamide), watering and loose mulch
- 1 LS of Detention Pond Seeding and Restoration
- 1 LS of Dual Forebay Seeding and Restoration
- Also includes additional Pond & Forebay Plug restoration, all site features, removals, SESC, traffic control, mobilization and related stormwater facility restoration work

One contract is being let for this work, which will include all material necessary to perform same. This contract will be let in accordance with the Contract Documents and bids will be made and received in accordance with these documents.

Bidders wishing to download the Plans and Specifications at a cost of $30.00 (which includes the cost of bid submission) may do so by downloading digital project bidding documents by entering **Quest Project Number 7877578** on the website's project search page, or by using this link: **https://qap.questcdn.com/qap/projects/prj_browse/ipp_browse_grid.html?projType=all&provider=6901061&group=6901061**.
Please contact QuestCDN Customer Support at (952) 233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with the digital project information. Bidding documents are also available at www.geiconsultants.com (click on the "GEI Bidding" link).

Bid security in the amount of 5% for and subject to the conditions provided in the Instructions to Bidders must be submitted with each Bid. Bids may not be withdrawn for a period of 90 days after the actual date of opening thereof. This time period may be extended by mutual agreement of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner and any Bidders.

A MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on Wednesday, June 23, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Due to the COVID-19 Social Distancing protocols, this pre-bid conference will be conducted via video and/or telephone conference. Please find the zoom link and call-in information below.

Link for MANDATORY Pre-Bid Conference:
https://zoom.us/j/93490941731
Or Dial
+1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 934 9094 1731

Representatives of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner and Engineer will be available at the pre-bid conference to discuss the Drain Contract. Prospective Bidders are required to attend and participate in the pre-bid conference. All prospective Bidders must "sign in" by providing the name of the attendee, business represented, and email address. All prospective bidders will also be required to submit a certification of compliance with Public Act 517 of 2012 prior to bid award. Only bids from Bidders in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be opened. All other bids will be considered non-responsive and will be disqualified from bidding on the Drain Contract. The Engineer will transmit to all prospective Bidders of record such Addenda as the Engineer considers necessary in response to questions. Oral statements may not be relied upon and will not be binding or legally effective. Use the Bid Form on QuestCDN for submittal of bids. **You must download the Contract Documents from QuestCDN to bid on the project, to be included on the plan holders list, and to receive Addenda**. The Contractor is responsible for ensuring all addenda have been received and acknowledged prior to submittal of the bid.

Contracts will be entered into with the successful bidder giving adequate security for the performance of the work and meeting all conditions represented in the Instructions to Bidders. The Daniels Drain Chapter 20 Drainage Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids, award the Contract to any bidder for any reason, and to adjourn the letting to such time and place as it shall publicly announce.

Bidders shall comply with the Ingham County policies regarding the payment of Prevailing Wages, and Equal Opportunity/Nondiscrimination, as set forth in Ingham County Board of Commissioners Resolutions #02-263 and #02-283, respectively. **The work must be substantially complete by May 15, 2022**.

CP#21-140

A Lansing woman trains at a local shooting range.

Courtesy

Lansing braces for bloodshed amid another summer of gun violence

Police: Illegal firearms fuel 'epidemic' of gun violence

By KYLE KAMINSKI

Mike McKissic wants to end an epidemic in Greater Lansing.

McKissic's son Michael "Mikey" McKissic II, 23, was shot and killed in 2015. Today, local cops are still searching for clues. McKissic and his family have upped the reward to $50,000 for any tips that lead to an arrest.

And while he waits, McKissic is doing everything he can to stem the tide of gun violence in Greater Lansing and beyond — one local "kid" at a time.

His goal: ensure another local family doesn't have to shoulder the same grief as his own.

"We're just trying to turn the tragedy of what happened to my son into something positive," McKissic said. "Kids will listen to someone that has walked the walk. You might not be able to reach some of them, but you can try. That old proverb: It takes a village. That means having a safe and healthy society for youth to grow up in. There are a lot of ingredients to put together."

Last year, Lansing charted a record-breaking 22 homicides — the highest annual total in at least 30 years. In the first five months of 2021, the city has tracked at least a dozen more murders.

Paired with 29 nonfatal shootings and 544 gunshot reports to the Lansing Police Department, officials said the Capital City is on pace for another unprecedented summer of violent crime. And with nearly 600 illegal guns seized from the streets in the last 18 months, Police Chief Daryl Green has labeled the city's problems with violence as part of a nationwide epidemic.

"There are a lot more guns — legal guns and illegal guns — finding their way to the streets," Green said. "I have never seen this. I've been here for 24 years and I don't think I've ever seen this many guns on the streets of Lansing. The really violent shootings that we see? Those are mainly illegal guns being used. We truly have an epidemic of stolen guns. It's a real problem."

Lansing's rapid rise in violent crime is mirrored in cities across the United States and also correlates with a shopping spree on guns across the country. Precise gun ownership statistics are not tracked in any federal, state or local registries, but ownership trends can be extrapolated from rising rates of firearm background checks and county-level licenses for concealed pistols.

More than 1 million background checks for firearms were conducted in Michigan last year — an 84% increase from 2016. Another 120,000 background checks in January pushed that statewide total past 400,000 in the first four months of 2021. Licenses for concealed pistols are also rising statewide. More than 160,000 permits were issued statewide over the last year.

Ingham County doled out more than 4,200 permits last year — up from an average of about 2,600 in the three years prior. And the county is on track to nearly double that average in 2021.

Government officials and community leaders are quick to draw a distinction between registered firearms and the surplus of illegal guns that are finding their way onto the streets of Lansing, but the sheer number of weapons being seized in routine traffic stops is a key community concern.

And with the warmer summer months often correlating with an increase in violent crime, officials expect things could get (much) worse before any police intervention, gun control legislation or community-driven support networks have an opportunity to make a real difference in Lansing.

"I don't want to predict exactly what will happen, but historically, summer months are much more violent," explained Ingham County Prosecutor Carol Siemon. "People are just physically outside more often. It stays light longer. When it's hot, tempers can also get hot. People sit around drinking all day. Things happen. That's typical of gun violence and other forms of violence."

If violent crime rates stay steady, another 24 Lansing residents could be murdered by Christmas and 60 more could be wounded by gunfire. And everyone has a role to play in prevention.

"When we have elderly people in this community who are afraid to go outside because of gun violence, we have failed them as a community, and it's up to us, collectively, to come together and try to do the best we can," McKissic said. "I don't have all the answers. Nobody does."

Greater Lansing is all too familiar with how to handle an epidemic. Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail has guided the region for more than a year while it nears the final chapter of COVID-19. And gun violence can be eradicated following a similar approach, she explained.

But before any targeted interventions can make an impact, it's best to understand the problem.

"It involves policing, but it's not all policing," Vail said. "It's public health. It's community-based solutions, mental health and social work, substance abuse

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Courtesy photos

Guns

from page 13

and treatment and prevention. It's many, many things that fall into the category of what's causing these violent issues in Lansing."

Officials are quick to mention that 2020 was far from a routine year for law enforcement. The pandemic reduced contact between citizens and police. Local officers have struggled to rebuild community trust amid a wave of protests against racism and police brutality. Thousands of residents have been put out of work and have been cooped up at home — the "perfect storm," Green said, for unchecked mental health and substance abuse issues to become dangerous. Isolation can also breed depression, anxiety and idle hands that could be leading to more criminal behavior. The economic toll from the pandemic has also created a sense of desperation, made worse by relatively unfettered access to high-powered firearms nationwide.

Courtesy

Family members of Michael "Mikey" McKissic II, who was shot and killed at 23 in 2015, gather outside the offices of the Mikey 23 Foundation, which they started to prevent other such deaths. From left: Mikey's brother Corey, father Mike, mother Sherry and sister Imani.

Political unrest and a failed insurrection further fueled tempers. George Floyd's death in Minneapolis, subsequent Black Lives Matter protests and calls to defund police departments nationwide have only added to a growing sense of distrust. That social tension could also equate to an increased reliance on street justice to resolve interpersonal disputes, Vox reports.

Green suspects most of the gun violence locally has come from a small and violent subsection of the population — namely young Black men turning from fists to bullets in personal disputes, often in retaliation for other criminal behavior. Six of those killed so far this year are Black.

It's no different from statistics that are playing out in hundreds of communities across the U.S.

"When people look for the government, they look for the police," Green said. "They don't see City Council or City Hall coming into their neighborhoods. Primarily, their closest touch to the government is the police. The pandemic created this void where police couldn't get out of their cars and have the positive engagements that we normally have with community members."

Lansing cops typically connect with residents for "positive community engagements" about 400 times each year. Social distancing reduced that tally to fewer than 50 across Lansing last year.

"I'm optimistic that as things continue to open up and people get out of their houses that we'll see some of this reduced, but I have nothing that proves whether that's going to happen or not," added Mayor Andy Schor. "The proliferation of illegal guns is certainly a huge problem for us."

Green is confident that violent crime rates will decrease locally as his officers spend more time engaging with residents. An ice cream social or a pick-up game of streetside basketball with children can go a long way in developing a meaningful relationship between residents and cops.

Green also touted plans to ramp up community policing efforts where individual officers can form deeper relationships with certain neighborhoods. He also wants to make better use of data to track geographic and demographic trends on recent crimes for a more targeted response.

The Police Department, he said, doesn't get enough "credit" for its investigations of nonfatal shootings, which help to mitigate a dispute before they lead to deadlier consequences.

"That's the most critical aspect for me — not just the shot-fired calls but also nonfatal shootings," Green said. "Maybe they don't seek revenge, but maybe it's a friend or a family member. We try to intervene in those circumstances but we don't get any credit for that at all."

It's difficult to determine how many lives have been saved through targeted police interventions, Green explained. Bullet casings from nonfatal shootings, for example, can help investigators locate suspects before deadlier encounters can occur.

Schor told City Pulse last year that Lansing was "doing all that we can" to curb violence, namely by ramping up

See Guns, Page 15

(Left from top to bottom) The Mikey 23 Foundation fixed up this house on Sunnyside Avenue — pictured here before and after — as a way to connect children and young adults with licensed builders who mentor as well as offer paid apprenticeships. Completed homes go to impoverished seniors and homeless veterans.
King is a 15-year-old Lansing student involved with weekend programming through the Mikey 23 Foundation.
Local brothers Ke'ante and Shanar brush up on their table saw skills through the Mikey 23 Foundation.

Why buy a gun in 2021?

New gun owners explain what sparked their buys

By SKYLER ASHLEY

The chaotic pandemic year of 2020, as well as the first quarter of 2021, saw a record surge in gun ownership among Americans. Whether people were motivated by political tension, fear of increased crime during difficult economic times or just looking to further fortify their home defense, many have recently become first-time gun owners.

Delbert Newcombe purchased his first firearm shortly after the coronavirus pandemic shutdowns began. His roommate had introduced him to shooting, bringing Newcombe along to local firing ranges for the first time as a way to have fun. Newcombe's first firearm purchase was a Smith & Wesson Bodyguard 380 semi-automatic pistol, which he says is primarily for home defense.

"It was a spur of the moment thing from a brand I trusted," Newcombe said. "It was inexpensive."

But beyond home defense, Newcombe said he was also heavily motivated to purchase his second firearm, a Ruger AR-556 rifle, by the displays of violence coming from right-wing protesters and supporters of former president Donald Trump.

"Between the coalescence of Trump supporters and anti-maskers and them getting more and more chaotic, it made me concerned," Newcombe said. "To put it gently, I took notice of it."

After acquiring his first firearms, Newcombe began to learn more about gun culture for the first time. Most of all, it's fun to fire an AR-15 at the range. Prior experience had him informed on many of the social norms of visiting a firing range.

"I had previously shot guns when I was in Boy Scouts in my early teens. I knew some of the safety protocols and range etiquette, such as never pointing a gun at anybody regardless if it's not loaded," Newcombe said.

But what had surprised Newcombe as a first-time gun owner was the relative ease of acquiring both of his firearms. He expressed concern that he faced little in the way of background checks for both his pistol and his rifle. Both of his guns were purchased at Sportsman's Warehouse between Lansing and Grand Ledge.

"To be honest, I was surprised at how relatively easy it was to purchase them," Newcombe said. "The pistol required a background check to come through, but I was able to buy the rifle a lot quicker."

Newcombe believed it was a little too easy for him to get both of his guns and says he supports measures for increased background checks and the closing of potential exploitable loopholes that might allow somebody to get a second-hand gun from a friend with no formal background check.

"It's mind-blowing," Newcombe said. "There needs to be barriers, because it's dangerous." Newcombe said his experience at firing ranges has been very positive. Despite the range he frequents displaying right-wing political posters he does not agree with, Newcombe said everybody he's met there so far has been "friendly and cordial."

Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

Dane Kowalk with his Mossberg hunting rifle.

Newcombe said he has no interest in earning a concealed weapon license because he believes always having a gun on him might cause more problems than it solves.

"The good guy with a gun is either not likely to act, or in the worst-case scenario they make an incident worse," Newcombe said.

Dane Kowalk purchased his first handgun, a Kimber Micro 9 pistol, just six weeks ago. Kowalk, who purchased his first home in 2020, wanted to feel protected from home invasion scenarios. He already owned a Mossberg hunting rifle, a Christmas gift from two years ago but deemed it inappropriate and unwieldy for home defense situations. Kowalk said that his rifle is primarily used for big game hunting and is no good for a close-range encounter.

"We bought our first house over a year ago. I have a rifle that I wouldn't dare shoot in the vicinity of other people because of how loud and dangerous those things are," Kowalk said. "With such a high-powered rifle, you don't know where that bullet is going to go."

Kowalk and his girlfriend, Yulanda Sheridan, who lives with him, took a training class earlier in 2020 at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. Kowalk took the class with Sheridan, who had never fired a gun before. He wants the both of them to be prepared to use the handgun if necessary. "She was comfortable with the idea, but she had never shot a gun before. I wanted to take her to that class so she could learn how to shoot," Kowalk said. "Once we got our stimulus checks, we had the extra money to purchase a handgun."

Kowalk said he doesn't yet feel the need to always have the handgun on his person, so he hasn't worked toward getting his permit to carry it with him concealed in public. He said the political hysteria in response to the pandemic was not a huge influence on him; he was more worried about the possibility of an increase in crime as people face financial dire straits and turn to desperate means.

"There's a bigger financial crisis going on now. It does make me fear that somebody might break in, trying to make some money. So many people are doing crazy, random stuff. That definitely rushed the urgency for me," Kowalk said.

Guns

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patrols in "hotspots" on the city's south side and going door-to-door trying to convince residents and businesses to snitch about recent crimes and to register their surveillance cameras with the Police Department. Partnerships with other police agencies — like the Ingham County Sheriff's Office — have also helped in solving several violent crimes.

The sounds of Michigan State Police helicopters circling Lansing as part of the city's Violent Crime Initiative have also become increasingly common and are set to continue this summer.

In recent months, the City Council also voted to eliminate some ordinances — like one that bans loitering in areas where drugs are known to be sold — to help rebuild trust and reduce any unnecessary contact between citizens and cops. Green also put policies in place last year that prevent his cops from stopping drivers solely for certain traffic infractions like a busted taillight.

Attempts to reduce funding to the Police Department have repeatedly failed under the Schor administration, which recently increased the police budget by $600,000, which includes a second and third social worker and another staffer to process records requests. Green also has a pipe dream of adding 50 more officers to the streets to mitigate crime, which Schor said he would be willing to support — if the city can find enough cash to make it work.

"I wouldn't take it off the table, but we just don't have the money for that now," Schor said.

Added Green: "There's an economic piece to this as well. People have to get back to work. Particularly young adults, they need to get back to work — and in decent paying jobs as well. I believe that economic stability has to increase for this to work. The economy is tied to crime."

The city is also planning to partner with the county to launch the Advance Peace initiative in Lansing this year, which will partner about 25 residents who are most likely to get involved with gun violence with local mentors who, in turn, can then connect them with various social services and job opportunities over 18 months. Recruits will also be paid monthly cash stipends.

Two new community health workers will also be stationed at the Fire Department this summer to help connect residents with social services rather than sending in cops and paramedics for calls to address issues such as homelessness, substance abuse and unchecked mental illnesses.

The Council also set aside funding for a new quarterly expungement clinic to assist residents with clearing misdemeanor convictions from their records and policy language that directs next year's mayor to consider additional funding to better investigate unsolved homicides in the city.

A partnership with the national Gun Safety Consortium could also bring the Police Department biometric "smart guns," which require a passcode or fingerprint to be unlocked. While the city hasn't had problems with cops losing their guns, Schor said the concept is focused on encouraging gun manufacturers to create weapons that cannot end up in the wrong hands.

The Police Department is also exploring a program called ShotSpotter that uses strategically placed acoustic devices to alert officers to the sound of gunfire in real time.

"We're doing our best to get in front of this and intervene in that small population of those causing violence," Green said. "There are still opportunities for community members to engage that youthful population. We welcome that. I don't think this is just a police issue. This is a community issue as well. I think we all have a responsibility to deescalate the violence."

McKissic — like many other activists in Lansing — takes that responsibility to heart. He launched the Mikey 23 Foundation after his son's death with the goal of preventing others from meeting a similar fate. He said local kids and young adults, particularly in the last year, have found themselves with far too much time on their hands and nothing productive to do.

"Police can't reach the youth like real people in the community," McKissic said. "A lot of these kids don't have any sort of guidance in their lives — no fathers or positive role models. We try to give them that at Mikey 23. We also try to teach the importance of giving back to our society."

The Mikey 23 Foundation, named in honor of McKissic's son, connects licensed builders, electricians and plumbers with local youth for hands-on apprenticeship opportunities for self-development and growth, "empowering young people to reach their full potential," McKissic said. Together, they renovate homes across the city and turn them over to those in need.

A local scholarship program also gives kids a chance to write an essay about how to reduce gun violence. Mikey 23 also partners with other groups in the city — like The Village Lansing, The Advocates, Siblings Against Guns, Moms Demand Action and Brotherhood Against Drugs.

This year, Mikey 23 was among 10 benefactors of an annual fundraiser from Michael Bloomberg's nonprofit Everytown, which usually hosts "Wear Orange" marches in recognition of National Gun Violence Awareness Day, which occurs on the first Friday in June. This year's annual event was totally virtual.

"It's not going to be a magic potion, but it should help make inroads," said Katie See, who helps lead the Greater Lansing chapter of Moms Demand Action and retired from Michigan State University after a 32-year career teaching courses and authoring books on topics like comparative race, ethnic relations, social stratification and political sociology.

See's group focuses largely on raising awareness of the underlying causes of gun violence, teaching people how to be safe with their firearms and also lobbying for additional regulations — like more stringent universal background checks to help reduce easy access to illegal guns.

Despite some attempts at reforms, local Democratic lawmakers like State Rep. Sarah Anthony and Sen. Curtis Hertel said they don't expect much progress on gun control in Michigan's

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Republican-led legislature. Attempts for federal changes have also met sweeping opposition.

That leaves Lansing — at least for now — relying on police and community-driven support.

"There are groups like Mikey 23 that aren't directly addressing gun violence, but directly addressing the conditions that give rise to gun violence locally," See said. "That's crucial."

Former firefighter and local Black Lives Matter coleader Michael Lynn Jr. is among those leading the charge on community-based support. His nonprofit, The Village, regularly works with schools and local families to identify concerns and funnel donated resources to the frontlines.

His other organization, The Advocates, focuses on gun safety with classes that offer training on gun safety and tactical self-defense. Lynn's newest initiative offers anyone turning 21 in Lansing this year a chance to take a class, head to the range and receive their CPL permit at no cost.

"We don't do the abstinence approach. We know these kids are going to find guns and encounter guns with friends. This is about teaching them the safe way to do it," Lynn said. "These kids are going to carry. Let's make it legal for them. Let's show them the right way."

James Henson launched the Young Black Panthers Party last year with a similar mentality. In addition to teaching Black history and promoting Black independence, he also wants to ensure that every young person of color in Lansing understands how to safely handle a firearm.

His Facebook feed is routinely filled with images and videos of him with high-powered rifles.

"I want people to learn about guns — not just shooting them and learning how to shoot them, but about safety," he said. "We're helping people the best way we can by teaching our people what to do and what not to do so they don't have to continue to die these horrific deaths."

Larry Johnson, brother of basketball star Earvin "Magic" Johnson, also plans to speak at every school in Lansing this fall to stress the importance of avoiding drugs, alcohol and gang-related crimes — all pitfalls that he faced before he founded Brotherhood Against Drugs in 1995.

The sole mission of the organization is to help people who are struggling with addiction through sharing recovery stories inspired "with the power of God's love" to guide them in a turnaround. In volunteering with the Ingham County Youth Center, which provides temporary custody for up to 24 juvenile offenders, Johnson realized how closely drugs and gun violence are connected.

Courtesy

(Above) Young people learn how to handle guns in a class offered by The Advocates, a nonprofit stated by former Lansing firefighter Michael Lynn Jr., a coleader of the local chapter of Black Lives Matter.

(Left) Lynn is offering free classes for concealed pistol licenses to any Lansing resident turning 21 years old this year. If local residents are going to carry guns, they might as well learn to do it safely, he said.

"They go hand in hand. Back in the day, I carried a pistol. I was also selling drugs. That all rolls into one," Johnson explained. "I tell them: You have to change your mindset. Carrying a gun doesn't make you a big guy. It makes you a target. We have to go into the hood. We can't be afraid to go into the hood and talk to these young people. We can't be afraid to listen to them."

Added Anthony: "I think other cities have done a much better job at recognizing this as a public health crisis — not just declaring resolutions and giving fiery speeches. I just don't think this community has ultimately decided that this is a true public health crisis and that we're going to need all hands on deck to treat this like a public health crisis. We just haven't done that yet."

HIRING

The community mental health movement in this country was founded on the belief that mental health services are best provided in the community in which the person receiving such service lives. In keeping with this philosophy, Community Mental Health provides a wide range of community-based services. Annually, the organization serves over 11,000 persons at 122 sites throughout the tri-county region.

In an effort to make the most of this community's resources, Community Mental Health recognizes the value of, and is committed to, hundreds of partnerships with a wide range of parties. These partnerships, carried out in the form of multiple party collaborative efforts and two-party agreements, are fundamental to the provision of comprehensive and seamless mental health care service delivery.

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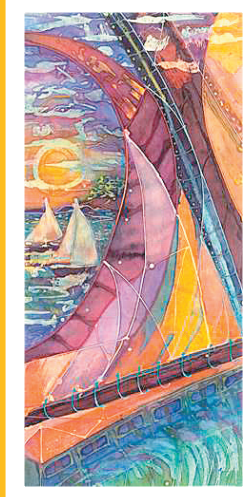

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Four times is the charm as Art Path returns to River Trail

Public art project continues to expand

By SKYLER ASHLEY

The Lansing Art Gallery's public art project Art Path is back for its biggest year yet, featuring 20 new installations along the Lansing River Trail from artists all across Michigan.

Art Path 2021
Learn more and find out where to view Art Path at lansingartgallery.org/artpath

Katrina Daniels, Art Path co-creator and Lansing Art Gallery exhibition director, said the sheer amount of high-quality submissions received by the gallery marks this year as by far the most competitive in Art Path's four-year history.

"I think that each artist chosen by our jury panel is really exceptional. The lineup is really diverse in terms of medium, messaging and where the artists come from," Daniels said. "One of the things that is unique about this year is that we have a mix of local artists and artists from around the state."

Courtesy

(Left) "The Ascension of Abel," by Isiah Lattimore, is one of the new pieces for Art Path 2021.

(Below) Lansing artist Wendy Shaft (right) works with her husband, Donald Bixler, on recreating her Art Path installation, which was damaged by vandals.

Much of the artwork featured by Art Path has a socially conscious message behind it. In 2018, one of the featured pieces was a sculpture of destroyed human bodies constructed out of water bottles created by Jjenna Hupp Andrews, which served as a clever visualization of the suffering endured by Flint residents throughout the city's water crisis. Several of the pieces in this year's Art Path exhibition touch upon social issues as well, such as "Engraving," by Nancy Joy, which addresses environmental stability.

Courtesy

Daniels says Art Path isn't purposefully curated to address social issues, explaining that Art Path just has a knack for attracting multi-dimensional artists that insert deeper subtexts behind the already strong visuals of their creations.

"I think artists are amazing reflectors of what's happening in modern times," Daniels said.

A new mural by Isiah Lattimore, the artist behind the George Floyd mural installed in 2020, was modified after the coronavirus pandemic to feature a mask on the image of a woman laying down.

"We don't ask for art with social conscious messages, I think it's a marker of this point in time, and artists are reacting to that," Daniels said.

Art Path is also expanding its community outreach efforts. Throughout the summer, Lansing Art Gallery has scheduled artist talks, where attendees can meet the Art Path artists and have in-depth discussions with them, as well as workshops, where guests can actually learn neat tricks to use for their own art creations.

"These give people not only the opportunity to learn, but to engage with our artists," Daniels said.

One of the pitfalls of running an outdoor exhibit is vandalism. One vandal has already struck, despite this year's Art Path debuting only one week ago. The perpetrator destroyed work created by Lansing artist Wendy Shaft.

The community responded by booking an event where volunteers could gather and help recreate and repair Shaft's work in order for it to be reinstalled in its original form. Daniels said the event was an act of "positive resistance."

ArtPath has also increased accessibility, by making all of the artwork available in the form of a digital gallery, complete with artist statements, on the Lansing Art Gallery's website and creating an easy to use online map, which marks all of the art installations and gives instructions on how to reach them.

"It's been really exciting to see Art Path grow and hear from the community that they are excited when it comes back. It feels good knowing this is becoming a tradition," Daniels said.

The Fledge merges many Lansing communities

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

Founder Jerry Norris started The Fledge with just $1,200 and a dream. Since its inception, the organization has grown in size and scope. It provides free food, guideship for beginning entrepreneurs, cryptocurrency advice, a space to hold political rallies or a quiet room for local recovering addicts to meet up.

Housed in an old church building on Eureka Street, you can pass by The Fledge at any time on any day and see people from all walks of life.

"Our food security efforts have increased tenfold since the beginning of the pandemic," said Norris. "We give away a lot of food now. Much more than before the pandemic."

The Fledge changed course to adapt to the pandemic in more ways than one. Several rooms were converted to accommodate virtual appointments. Norris also plans to have artists from the community paint murals on the inside and outside of the building.

"At this point, I have an army of volunteers," said Norris. "We're working on so many new projects." New people ask Norris if they can volunteer almost every day.

Coming up soon is an event for kids called Learn About Plants. Children who participate will learn planting, transplanting, tending to their gardens, composting and more.

"We love to see victory gardens in the community. The Eastside is the home for community gardens and urban farms in Lansing," said Norris. "We want to see more of that. More people should be doing it — especially in underserved communities."

Watching people come together during the pandemic warmed Norris' heart. He saw how communities support each other when they're governments won't. The pandemic turned him into even more of an anarchist than he was before.

"There's been a lot of harm and a lot of struggling," said Norris. "The fact that we give out so much food is not a positive thing to me. It's a negative indicator. So many people are struggling with mental health issues and poverty. Our city has a long way to go."

Claire Powers found out about The Fledge two years ago when she was attending Unity Spiritual Center. Unity caught fire, so Norris walked over and offered to let them use The Fledge.

"When I was there, I saw how much The Fledge was doing for the community," said Powers. "It's the place to go if you'd like to act in service of your community. And it's a place to go if you need support. From basic physical stuff to support in your recovery to help starting a small business."

Volunteer Marshall Kelly — who uses they/them pronouns — said that The Fledge is everything to them. They have used The Fledge as a spot to record music for their band, Flower Trauma.

The space has been like a second home to them for years. They feel fully and truly accepted when they're there.

"The Fledge is important to me because it has given me a space to be authentically myself, to create whatever I can think of," said Kelly. "It has never shown me anything but love and how to work for what I want."

Cole Tunningley/City Pulse

The Fledge's community garden.

Nonprofit News

This is an occasional feature highlighting events and milestones at local nonprofits. If you would like to submit a suggestion, please email skyler@lansingcitypulse.com

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It isn't just individual volunteers getting work done at The Fledge. Local nonprofit organizations frequently partner with Norris. Some organizations borrow volunteers from The Fledge, while others use it as a workspace.

Passion in Power — an organization that helps people reenter society after stints in prison — uses the Fledge as its base of operations. CEO Katy Kelly founded Passion in Power after her husband was released from prison. She saw that the criminal justice system in this country is broken.

"When I came to The Fledge in 2018, it was the lowest point of my life. My husband and I couldn't see each other. We were both homeless," said Kelly. "The Fledge was a safe place for us to be together as a family."

Being around The Fledge and hearing people talk about their projects gave Kelly the confidence to bring her own idea to life. After months of research, Kelly applied for and received a grant from The Hatching, an organization that aids local entrepreneurs.

Kelly came to The Fledge at rock bottom. Now, she feels like she's actually doing something with her life.

Photos by Cole Tunningley/City Pulse

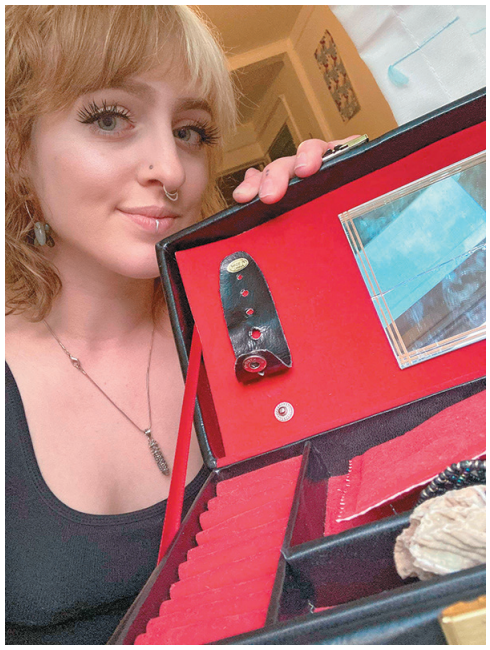
(Top) The Fledge was once an old chuch.
(Above) The Fledge's free community drop-off and pick-up donation box.

"I wake up and I'm there at 8 a.m. or 9 a.m. every day. I'm actually excited to wake up and come work on Passion in Power. It's what I actually wanted to do," said Kelly. "Without the Fledge, Power in Passion would never have been anything."

Favorite Things

Mandi Peterson and her mother's jewelry box

One of Mandi Peterson's prized possessions is her late mother's jewelry box. Since her mother's passing, the little heirloom has been a powerful tool for Peterson to reconnect with her memories and experience a warming sense of comforting nostalgia.



My mother passed away two years ago, and my sister and I split up her jewelry. I've got two of her boxes. I picked the ones I had the most attachment to. One of them had a fake lock on it, which I believe my mother thought was really funny. I would try to sneak into her room when I was little and get into them. I thought it was a real lock, so I could never get into it. I eventually figured out it was fake when I was 7 or 8. My parents didn't like me sneaking into their room, they were private and secretive, but that's why I wanted to. I was very curious.

The one with the fake lock is black leather with red velvet inside. It has places to hold rings, and she kept weird little trinkets in there too. The other has trinkets like my grandmother's lipstick case/holder. It smells kind of weird. It smells like crayons. I didn't know my grandmother very well, but my mom used to tell me that I reminded her of her. I guess when I put on makeup, I made the same faces as she did. I have random memories like this attached to the things in the box.

I'm pretty weird about it. I don't really keep my own stuff in these boxes. I'm really sentimental, I don't even like really wearing anything in there. It's pretty much a keepsake for me. I got quite a bit of my mom's jewelry, my sister and I split it up pretty evenly. I gave her whatever she wanted to have.

My mother loved jewelry and went to fashion school for a little while. One of the pieces of jewelry in there is a black necklace with beads. I remember my dad giving it to her on New Year's. I don't know why but it's really cute. My parents really liked New Year's and would always have parties with their close friends. Holding the necklace reminds me to look forward to New Year's. It's a tradition I've carried over into my own life.

I have a little end table by my bed, and I also have a little altar with my witchy stuff on it. I keep one of them with the altar and the other I keep near my bed on the end table. I used to not be able to look at any of this stuff at all, but now I've reached a point where it's really nice to look at it again.

I'm very sentimental and so was my mom. These boxes make me very nostalgic. It just makes me happy to have little things to connect me to those times and my mom in a physical way.

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

Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Blooming Botanicals co-founders Sarah Birney and Bryan Madle.

This Lansing company wants to restore your 'bliss system' with CBD

Herbal infusions offer therapeutic twist on full-spectrum cannabidiol craze

Lansterdam in Review: Blooming Botanicals
bloomingbotanicalshemp.com

By KYLE KAMINSKI

Last month, this column featured local glassblower Ben Birney and some of the extravagant bongs being produced at his studio on the north side of Lansing. When I heard that his sister Sarah Birney and her husband, Bryan Madle, were running a CBD production laboratory in the same building, I just had to return to find out more about this local cannabis-focused family.

Madle and Birney launched Blooming Botanicals in 2016 when they returned to Lansing from living abroad in Costa Rica. There, they studied the health benefits of herbs and superfoods with a focus on environmental sustainability. And as it turns out, that hippy stuff translates well to the cannabis business. They expect to get products into the hands of 2,000 customers this year.

Blooming Botanicals tinctures and balms are available for direct purchases or wholesale orders at bloomingbotanicals.com. Several products are also on the shelves at dozens of yoga studios, gyms, chiropractic offices and pot shops statewide — including Bazonzoes and Botanical Co.

"We wanted to put something out there that was actually going to target the issues where people needed help and that's inflammation, anxiety and sleeplessness," Birney explained.

Cannabidiol — or CBD — is the second most prevalent of the active ingredients in marijuana, derived directly from the hemp plant. Taken alone, don't expect it to get you high. But plenty of research supports its effectiveness in treating anxiety, muscle inflammation, insomnia and more.

The endocannabinoid system — otherwise known as the body's "bliss system" — stretches through the entire body. When we feel stress, pain, anxiety or negative feelings, our body releases enzymes that block

See CBD, Page 21

CBD

from page 20

endocannabinoid receptor sites and shut down the bliss system.

CBD helps to remove those harmful enzymes and get the system back into working order.

When you smoke a blunt, those cannabinoid receptors are also what enable you to feel stoned. So, in addition to helping with stress and other ailments, don't be surprised if you feel a bit higher than usual after taking a weeklong regimen of CBD supplements and hitting the bong.

"We also decided very early on with this health mindset that we weren't going to use any artificial flavors or sweeteners, fillers, dyes. All of these things are common to make it more of a tasty, sugary snack. These are also the same ingredients that cause inflammation — the same things we're trying to combat," Madle added. "We focused on synergy rather than additives."

Because the FDA hasn't signed off on CBD's ability to diagnose, treat or cure any diseases, Madle and Birney always caution customers to do their own research. And when they talk about the potential health benefits of their products, they never make promises — only suggestions.

After six days of regularly taking a tincture dose once in the morning and once at night, however, I can vouch for the benefits firsthand. I've had a much easier time falling asleep, less stress from balancing my usual workload at City Pulse and a bit more buzzed after a joint.

The latest product lineup includes tinctures infused with natural herbs like turmeric and black pepper to ease inflammation and lavender to ease anxiety and promote a restful night's sleep. They each come in varying sizes and strengths. There's even a variety specifically for pets.

Madle said those testimonials have served as the strongest evidence of its benefits. Some customers will feel the placebo effect of CBD regardless of whether it truly helps. But when a dog or cat stops limping after only a few doses, it can be difficult to question the efficacy.

"Sometimes pets can be the gateway to convincing family members to try it out," Madle said.

Blooming Botanicals is hosting an event from 3-7 p.m. on June 18 at The Botanical Co., 3535 Capitol City Blvd. Free CBD samples will be available, as well as a live glass blowing demonstration from Ben Birney. Email info@bloomingbotanicalshemp.com for more details.

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

(Right) A selection of Blooming Botanicals' products.

Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

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Lev Raphael revisits the murderous world of Nick Hoffman

By BILL CASTANIER

Okemos writer Lev Raphael has once again mined the academic community, which he knows so well, in his 10th novel featuring amateur detective Nick Hoffman. The department Hoffman now heads has seen so many murders that it is called the "department of death," which also serves as the book's title. Although Raphael spent six years as a professor at Michigan State University, the fictional State University of Michigan is an amalgam of universities.

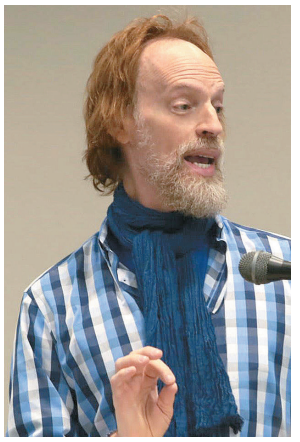
In "Department of Death," Hoffman has just been elevated to interim chair of the university's English and Creative Writing Department, when a student tells him in confidence that his parents paid a $250,000 bribe to get him admitted.

Unsurprisingly, Hoffman and his husband, Stefan Borowski, find a dead body on the campus of SUM soon after. Hoffman, who had been heard arguing with the murder victim shortly before his death, becomes a primary suspect.

If bribery wasn't enough for SUM to deal with, the university's administrators have adopted a surveillance environment where students and faculty are tracked through email, listening devices and online apps.

"The book's themes are in essence ripped from the headlines," Raphael said. "These are hot topics in higher ed. Lots of schools have implemented polices where students are observed and tracked. So why not track faculty? We live in a surveillance state to begin with, so of course it would also be taking place in higher education."

"I was absolutely inspired by reading articles on the admission scandals, and thought this would be a great basis for a murder mystery. It had greed, larceny — it just grabbed me," Raphael added.

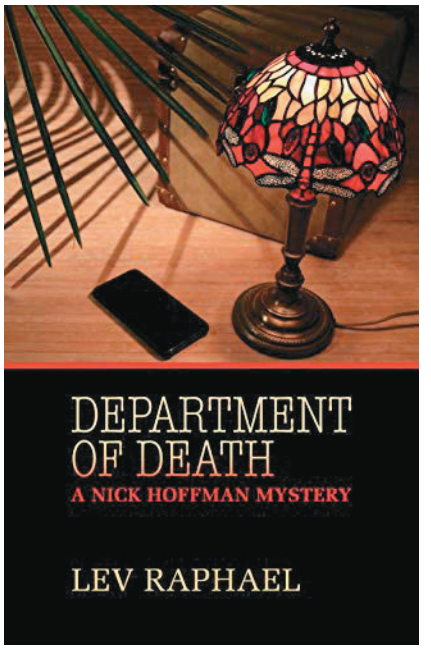

Raphael

As he has done in his previous Hoffman mysteries, Raphael has taken what he calls "the high-minded goals of higher education faced with dirty reality" and turned it into an engaging whodunit. Raphael also has the knowledge to create an erudite mystery by dropping literary tidbits throughout the book. When faced with the reality of doing the right thing and reporting the alleged bribe, Hoffman quotes a Hart Crane poem: "I am not ready for repentance, nor to match regrets."

"The wildest things you can imagine happen in academia. The book is a satire taken to the extreme," Raphael said.

Raphael, who stepped down from full-time teaching at Michigan State University, has not let moss grow under his feet. He now spends his time mentoring writers through his online portal writewithoutborders.com.

"You get to work with writers intently, as opposed to having 25 students in a creative writing class; you can provide more input. I always enjoyed teaching — it was a blast, but you can see more progress online and you are free from the policies of the university,"



Raphael said.

The author said he is always studying. He has learned Swedish, Dutch and is taking voice lessons. He is also brushing up on his German for a posting at the University of Leipzig as a Picador Guest Professorship for American Literature.

Raphael said this is likely his last Hoffman mystery, but he's said that before.

"Every good writer finds a world they can write about, and the SUM mysteries are just a different form of the classic closed world theme where you can learn its secrets," he said.

In "Department of Death," Raphael may have taken some of the absurdities to the extreme but he has woven some academic hot buttons, such as using social media to harass people, into an engaging mystery.

For those who want to read more by Raphael, he has written some superb nonfiction, including "My Germany," which is about being the son of a Holocaust survivor. He also has written extensively about gay and lesbian issues. In 2010, the MSU Library Special Collections acquired a complete collection of manuscripts, letters, fan mail and everything else connected to his long writing career.

"They even have the short story I wrote in second grade," he said.

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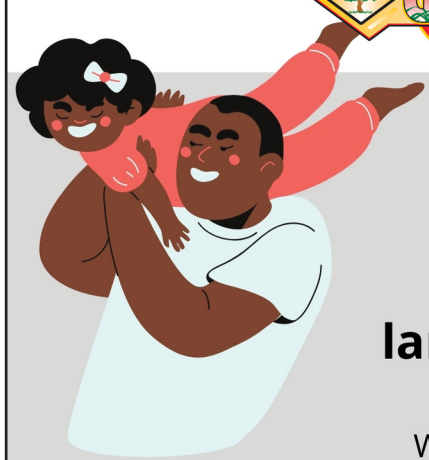
Tell us what makes your dad special!
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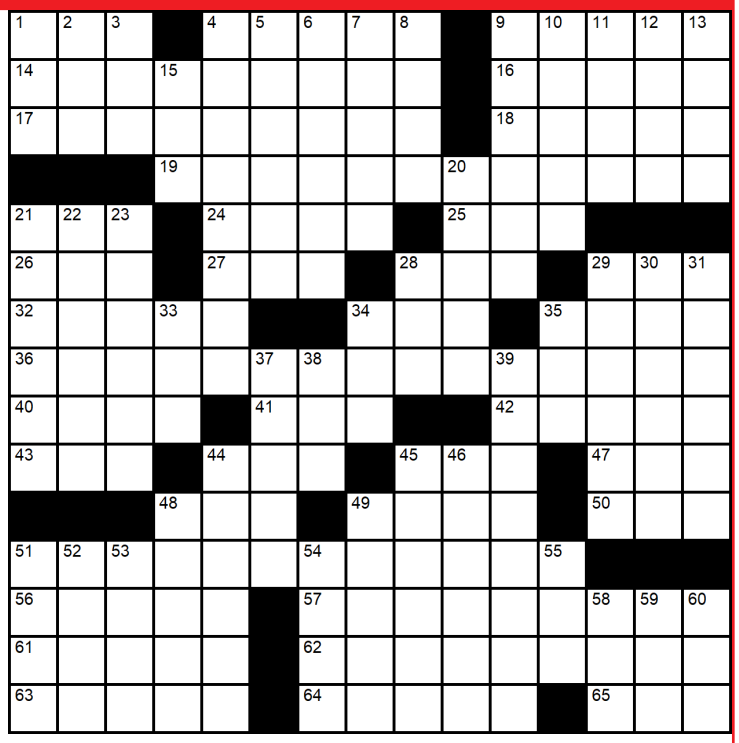
Winners will be chosen June 14
Father's Day is June 20

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Go No Further"--better off without it.

by Matt Jones



Across

1 Org. with an Octagon
4 " ___ bleu!"
9 Peace out
14 What a Cessna can hold
16 Gear part
17 "Follow me"
18 It's a block ... house (and it's mighty mighty ... cold)
19 Concern for the production designer of the show "30 Giant Rock"?
21 Highest-rated
24 "The Book of Mormon" co-creator Parker
25 Says yes to
26 Out ___ limb
27 First name in talks?
28 The Great Gatsby
29 "Plush" rock band, initially
32 Chill-inducing
34 Z, in New Zealand
35 Hanauma Bay site
36 Auto manufacturer's second-place prize?
40 Ethereal
41 Half of a Nickelodeon duo
42 Gets closer
43 A TD earns six
44 Lincoln, familiarly
45 Mid-2000s Sony handheld console, briefly
47 "That's impressive!"
48 551, at the Forum
49 Just skip it
50 They do copy (abbr.)
51 What beauty may be in, if you're indecisive?
56 Interior design focus
57 Sign starter on some old restaurants, maybe
61 Repair wrongs
62 From Ulaanbaatar, e.g.
63 Like diamonds and gold
64 Actor Charles of "Whose Line ..." and "Nashville"
65 "Without further ___" (or what the theme answers are missing)

Down

1 Bars on product labels, briefly
2 Progressive character?
3 Zoom need
4 Furry marine mammal
5 Attract
6 Put in the fridge
7 "Toy Story" composer Newman
8 Microsoft browser
9 Like glue
10 Dances by jumping up and down
11 Goof off
12 "Am ___ late?"
13 "___: Love and Thunder" (2022 movie)
15 Lincoln's loc.
20 They may have forks
21 Shoe reinforcement
22 Kind of musical wonder
23 Potato-peeling tools
28 Rapid transit
29 Brutal
30 Eric's moniker
31 Prize amounts
33 Wall climber
34 Satori-seeking discipline
35 Matador's motivator
37 Trip around the world
38 Spike in filmmaking
39 Hardly remote
44 Bruce Wayne's butler
45 Having a kick
46 Spill absorber
48 "Lorna ___" (1869 novel)
49 Some used cars
51 Ball-shaped cheese
52 Cryptozoology figure
53 MBA course
54 Browser button
55 ___ points (2021 Eurovision ranking for United Kingdom)
58 Actress Vardalos
59 Uncouth fellow
60 "Achtung Baby" co-producer Brian

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Answers on page 25

SUDOKU

Intermediate

		6			4	7		
				8	7		1	5
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7		5						

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 25

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsny

June 9 - 15, 2021

ARIES (March 21–April 19): Aries actor Leonard Nimoy became mega-famous by playing the role of Spock, an alien from the planet Vulcan in the *Star Trek* franchise. He always enjoyed the role, but in 1975 he wrote an autobiography called *I Am Not Spock*. In it, he clarified how different he was from the character he performed. In 1995, Nimoy published a follow-up autobiography, *I Am Spock*, in which he described the ways in which he was similar to the fictional alien. In the spirit of Nimoy's expansive self-definition, Aries, and in accordance with current astrological potentials, I invite you to make it clear to people exactly who you and who you aren't.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): The poet Rumi declared, "A lover has four streams inside, of water, wine, honey, and milk." With that in mind, Taurus, I will recommend that you seek a boost in the honey department. Your passions and feelings have been flowing along fairy well, but lately they've lacked some sweetness. As a result, you're not receiving as much of the sweetness you need from the world around you. So your assignment is to intensify the honey stream within you! Remember the principle, "Like attracts like."

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): I'm glad you're not on the planet Saturn right now. The winds there can blow at 1,000 miles per hour. But I would like you to feel a brisk breeze as you wander around in nature here on Earth. Why? Because according to my interpretation of the current astrological omens, winds will have a cleansing effect on you. They will clear your mind of irrelevant worries and trivial concerns. They'll elevate your thoughts as well as your feelings. Do you know the origin of the English word "inspire"? It's from the Latin word *inspirare*, meaning "blow into, breathed upon by spirit." Its figurative meaning is "to inspire, excite, inflame." The related Latin word *spiritus* refers to "a breathing of the wind" and "breath of a god"—hence "inspiration; breath of life."

CANCER (June 21–July 22): Cancerian author Franz Kafka put his characters into surreal dilemmas. In his novella *The Metamorphosis*, for example, the hero wakes up one day to find he has transformed into a giant insect. Despite his feral imagination, however, Kafka had a pragmatic relationship with consumerism. "I do not read advertisements," he said. "I would spend all of my time wanting things." In accordance with astrological omens, I invite you to adopt his earthy attitude for the next two weeks. Take a break from wanting things, period. Experiment with feeling free of all the yearnings that constantly demand your attention. Please note: This break in the action won't be forever. It's just a vacation. When you return to wanting things, your priorities will have been realigned and healed, and you'll feel refreshed.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): Author Umberto Eco declared that beauty is boring because it "must always follow certain rules." A beautiful nose has to be just the right shape and size, he said, while an "ugly nose" can be ugly in a million different unpredictable ways. I find his definition narrow and boring, and prefer that of philosopher Francis Bacon, who wrote, "There is no excellent beauty that hath not some strangeness in the proportion." Poet Charles Baudelaire agreed, saying, "That which is not slightly distorted lacks sensible appeal: from which it follows that irregularity—that is to say, the unexpected, surprise and astonishment—is an essential part and characteristic of beauty." Then there's the Japanese concept of wabi-sabi, which reveres beauty that's imperfect, transitory, and incomplete. Beginning now, and for the rest of 2021, Leo, I encourage you to ignore Eco's dull beauty and cultivate your relationship with the more interesting kind.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): One of the more evocative passages in J. R. R. Tolkien's novel *The Return of the King* is about the warrior Éowyn. It says, "Then the heart of Éowyn changed, or else at last she understood it. And suddenly her winter passed, and the sun shone on her." I'm predicting a comparable transformation for you in the near future, Virgo. There'll be some fundamental shift in the way your heart comprehends life. When that happens, you will clearly fathom some secrets about your heart that have previously been vague or inaccessible. And then the sun will shine upon you with extra brilliance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): Libran actor and author Carrie Fisher had more than the average number of inner demons. Yet she accomplished a lot, and was nominated for and won many professional awards. Here's the advice she gave: "Stay afraid, but do it anyway. What's important is the action. You don't have to wait to be confident." I hope you'll employ that strategy in the coming weeks, dear Libra. The time is favorable for you to work hard on your number one goal no matter what your emotions might be at any particular moment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): Scorpio author Fyodor Dostoevsky (1821–1881) had a gambling addiction for many years. At one point, he lost so much money betting on roulette that he had to take drastic measures. He wrote a novella in record time—just 16 days—so as to raise money to pay his debt. The story was titled *The Gambler*. Its hero was a not-very-successful gambler. Is there a comparable antidote in your future, Scorpio? A gambit that somehow makes use of the problem to generate the cure? I suspect there is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): In her poem "Escape," Michelle Tudor addresses a lover: "Inside of you: a dream raging to be set free." She implies that she would like to be a collaborator who provides assistance and inspiration in liberating her companion's dream. The coming weeks will be an excellent time for you to make a similar offer to an ally you care for—and to ask that ally to do the same for you. And by the way: What is the dream inside you that's raging to be set free? And what's the dream inside your comrade?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): Author Martha Beck has helpful counsel for you to keep returning to during the coming weeks. "It isn't necessary to know exactly how your ideal life will look," she writes. "You only have to know what feels better and what feels worse. Begin making choices based on what makes you feel freer and happier, rather than on how you think an ideal life should look. It's the process of feeling our way toward happiness, not the realization of the Platonic ideal, that creates our best lives."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): Aquarian author James Dickey celebrated "the holy secret of flowing." But he added, "You must be made for it." In other words, he implied that the secret of flowing is a luxury only some of us have access to. And because we "must be made for it," he seemed to suggest that being in possession of the secret of flowing is due to luck or genetics or privilege. But I reject that theory. I think anyone can tap into the secret of flowing if they have the desire and intention to do so. Like you! Right now! You're primed to cultivate a robust relationship with the holy flow.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): Why do humans enjoy much longer life spans than other higher primates? Here's one reason: grandmothers. Anthropologists propose that earlier in our evolution, families with elder females especially thrived. The grandmothers helped care for children, ensuring greater health for everyone as well as a higher rate of reproduction than grandmother-less broods. Their longevity genes got passed on, creating more grandmothers. Lucky! Having older women around while growing up has been key to the success of many of us. In accordance with astrological omens, I invite you to celebrate and honor the role your own grandmothers and female elders have played in your life. And if you're a grandmother, celebrate and honor yourself!

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.

TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

A LOOK BACK AT THE LATE, GREAT LEE TALBOYS

The late Homer "Lee" Talboys was a music fixture for decades in Lansing and beyond. He also appeared on many hit T.V. shows during his long career. (courtesy photos)

From Harlem Globetrotters games to venues across Lansing, Talboys always entertained

Aside from Don Lee Bloomquist and The Blue Echoes, another Lansing music pioneer was Homer "Lee" Talboys, a supper-club entertainer who sang and played a variety of instruments, including sax and organ.

Sure, he was not churning out wild rock 'n' roll, but his signature easy listening pop tunes, paired with a pleasing baritone vocal delivery, allowed him to press up stacks of records, like "Ladder of Love," from the early '60s through the 1980s.

Some of those tunes are streamed on YouTube, like the bubbly 1962 track "Lovin' Lies" on Palladium Records and the uber smooth "Baby Baby" 7-inch single on the Spinning Records label. Some even gained commercial success. "Lovin' Lies" knocked off Brian Hyland's "Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polkadot Bikini" as the number one song on the WILS music chart in August 1960.

Aside from performing and releasing 45s and LPs on the Royalty Records imprint, he also owned his own restaurant, Coventry Inn, in Mason from 1971 to 1981. There, Talboys was known to entertain the patrons as they dined.

Talboys, who died in 2009 at age 79, started his musical journey at age 15. He was born in 1930 in Stockton, Illnois. Along with his parents, Claude and Alice Talboys, the soon-to-be performer moved to Boyne City, where the family opened a restaurant.

After graduating from Boyne City High School, Talboys attended Michigan State University, where he also played on the football team. Following his East Lansing stint, he was stationed in Germany while serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. After returning to his hometown, in July 1952, he married his wife, Margaret A. Tomkins. The couple would ultimately have two sons and one daughter.

Over the following years, he worked at Metropolitan Life Insurance, and then later at Fisher Body. In 1992, he retired from the State of Michigan where he administered the Deferred Compensation Program for state workers. Through all of that, writing and performing music was his true passion.

As a teen, he played tenor saxophone with big bands around the Michigan area. But his talents took him far beyond the Great Lakes State. During the early 1960s, he toured across the United States with the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team for three years. During halftime, he entertained the crowd along with his longtime friend Don Lee Bloomquist and (the nationally known entertainer) Clayton "Peg Leg" Bates. Legend has it, Talboys is the one who nicknamed the bald-headed Golbetrotters' great Fred Neal "Curly" — a nod to "The Three Stooges'" great Curly Howard.

Lee also co-wrote several songs with Detroit Tigers announcer Ernie Harwell, including a collaboration on their "Soft, Quiet Lovin'" LP. Over the years, Talboys made some high-profile appearances on "The Tonight Show starring Johnny Carson" and "The Merv Griffin Show," "Mayberry R.F.D.," and "Hee Haw," where he appeared as his comedic down-home character, Homer T. Barfarkle. Beyond that, he also had a recurring role on "The Doctors," the NBC daytime soap opera, as Dr. McKenzie.

All through his life, right up until his hospitalization in early 2009, Lee booked gigs at venues all across Michigan, including the old Elks club on Moores River Drive. One of the last shows was at the University Club at MSU. Outside of music, Talboys was a member of the Mason First United Methodist Church, the Scottish Rite, the Mason Optimist Club, and was a "Worshipful Master" at the Mason Masonic Lodge #70. In 2009, he was honored with the "Citizen of the Year" award from the Mason Area Chamber of Commerce. It's nice when an entire town not only appreciates, but also recognizes fine musical talent.

OUT ON THE TOWN

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

Wednesday, June 9

33rd Annual Meals on Wheels Charity Golf Outing - 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Forest Akers West, 3535 Forest Rd., Lansing. tcoa.org.

Allen Farmers Market - Open 2:30-7 p.m. May-September at 2100 E Michigan Ave. Lansing. 517-999-3911.

ArtPath 2021 - through August 31. 20 works by Michigan artists! Lansing Art Gallery, 119 N Washington Sq, Lansing. 517-374-6400. lansingartgallery.org.

Comedy Night - 10pm. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. crunchyseastlansing.com.

Lansing Bike and Seek - Bicycle treasure hunt around Lansing, through June 20. Info at bikeandseek.org.

Live Music with Mike Eyia - 5-10 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St. Old Town, Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild 12x12 Show - through June 30th. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Framer's Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave, Okemos.

Threads of Wisdom: Wheel of the Year - Join us on Zoom for a discussion of the Wheel of the Year. 6:30-7:30 p.m. weaversoftheweb.org.

Wednesday Workdays at CCBS - Invasive Species Informational Session - 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Capital City Bird Sanctuary, 6001 Delta River Dr., Lansing. michiganaudubon.org.

Thursday, June 10

Bath Farmers Market - 3-7 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13753 Main St, Bath. shopbfm.org.

Dimondale Farmers' Market - 3-7 p.m. 136 N Bridge St, Dimondale. 517-230-0520. villageofdimondale.org.

June Lansing Pagans Night Out - 5:30-8:30 p.m. Weavers of the Web, ATC, 809 Center St., Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

Live Music with Charlie Richardson - 5-10 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St. Old Town, Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Weekly Hiring Fair! CMHA-CEI is doing on the spot hiring for multiple Residential Technician positions. 12-4 p.m. in our main lobby at 812 E Jolly Rd., Lansing.

Friday, June 11

"Happendance Through The 80's", a celebration of pop music from the decade. Contemporary, jazz-funk and old-school hip hop dances to 80's classics. Friday 7pm, pay-what-you-can, Saturday 7pm, $15, at Adado Riverfront Park Salt Shed Amphitheater, corner of Grand and Saginaw.

Summer Take-Home Crafts @ GLADL - Kits available first come, first serve, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. gladl.org

Saturday, June 12

8th Annual Lansing Beer Fest - 4-9 p.m. REO Town - Washington Ave. between Elm St. and South St., 1147 S Washington Ave, Lansing.

"Happendance Through The 80's", a celebration of pop music from the decade. Contemporary, jazz-funk and old-school hip hop dances to 80's classics. Saturday 7pm, $15, at Adado Riverfront Park Salt Shed Amphitheater, corner of Grand and Saginaw.

Hybrid Mayor's River Walk and Run - 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Potter Park, Lansing. Info: lansingmi.gov.

Sunday, June 13

East Lansing Farmers Market - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in Valley Court Park, 280 Valley Court, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Monday, June 14

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

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

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

Make with Wood - 8 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

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

Tuesday, June 15

Board Game Meet Up - for ages 18 & up. Everyone welcome! 6:30-10 p.m. Spare Time Bowling Alley, 3101 E Grand River, Lansing.

In-Person Picnic Playdate: An Outdoor Family Storytime - 11-11:30 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. gladl.org

Jug & Mug Meeting for Active, Single Adults - 6-8 p.m. Social hour at 6 p.m., followed by meeting 7 p.m. Tony M's, 3420 S Creyts, Lansing.

FAST FORWARD

UPCOMING EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS COMING TO LANSING

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Michael J. Reed at Urban Beat

Saturday, June 12, 7 p.m.
UrbanBeat
1213 Turner St., Lansing
Facebook.com/UrbanBeatEvents

Jazz drum virtuoso Michael J. Reed is bringing his talents to Urban Beat in Lansing's Old Town neighborhood. Reed has carved out a name for himself by playing through the Midwest and East Coast with several big-name artists and bands. You'll be able to enjoy great music in an excellent atmosphere.

The Ultimate Throwdown Concert

Friday, June 11, 9 p.m.
Adado Riverfront Park
201 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing
Facebook.com/WarNationEntertainment

Several of Greater Lansing's most powerful death metal bands are joining together for a free evening of brutal guitar riffs and metal mayhem. This outdoor concert includes performances by Recorruptor, Let it Rot, Ruin, Revelation Pain and Fearless.

Gizzard Fest

Friday and Saturday, June 11-12, 9 a.m. to midnight
Downtown Potterville
120 W. Main St., Potterville
Facebook.com/GizzardFest

If you make the approximately 15-minute drive out to Potterville, you will able to enjoy a cavalcade of delicious fried food and family entertainment, including carnival rides, a flea market and live music.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 25

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 25

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Bok choy redemption

By ARI LeVAUX

I had given up on bok choy, because I was caught in a rut, adding it to my soggy stir-fry and not much else. I felt bad about it, because the truth is, I wasn't giving up on bok choy. What's there to give up on? Bok choy is delicious, versatile and blameless.

I was giving up on myself. Because there are jillions of ways to cook this striking plant, with its white, crunchy, stalks and dark green leaves. I know I'm not the only one haunted by bok choy. There are others like me with geriatric specimen in their fridges, perhaps courtesy of a weekly impulse purchase. You see those curves, and that sharp white dark contrast, and next thing you know it's in your cart. We latch onto one halfway decent way to prepare it, and call off the search. Next thing you know, you're bored out of your mind.

When you're in a rut, it's not like the larger world doesn't exist, it's just that you can't see it. With enough determination, you can probably crawl out. But sometimes a little bump is all it takes to push you over the top and into a well-lit world full of possibilities.

In the case of my bok choy problem, that catalyst came in the form of a farmer at the market. Nancy is from northern China, has limited English and a great garden. I was there for some garlic chives and nothing more, but she chose that morning — just days after my having given up on bok choy — to give me the hard sell on some heads she had languishing.

She calls it Bai Chai, which means something along the lines of white cabbage, and she sealed the deal with a soup recipe called Bai Chai Tum, which means Bok Choy soup. It's mostly bok choy and potatoes, with a few seasonings. Thanks to the language barrier, I wasn't able to get a perfect read on how she makes it, but with what I understood, adjusting as I saw fit, it was a hit. The only ingredient I use that probably wouldn't be found in Nancy's northern Chinese version is butter. But hey, it works.

Nancy recommends adding tofu as a protein. I've also tried it with egg, shrimp, scallops, browned ground lamb and Chinese barbecue pork, each of which becomes a new ream of flavor to play in. And if you add it all together at once ... hey, that's not bad either!

But before you go crazy, I recommend starting with this simple base. Get a feel for the core flavor of this soup and then build slowly from there.

Bok choy and potato soup, with a whole bok choy core visible.

Ari LeVaux

Bok Choy Potato Soup

This soup comes together in just a bit more time than it takes to boil some potatoes.

Serves four

1 lb potato, diced into ½-inch cubes
1 tablespoon bouillon paste
1 tablespoon butter
1 teaspoon toasted sesame oil
1 teaspoon red pepper flakes
1 teaspoon black pepper
2 tablespoons soy sauce
½-oz crushed ginger
1 small crushed shallot or part of an onion
1 tablespoons oyster sauce
1 tablespoon fish sauce
1 lb bok choy, washed and trimmed
Optional proteins: Tofu, seafood, meat. You can also crack an egg in and let it cook

Garnishes and condiments: Hoisin sauce, chives, chile paste, mayo, salt to taste

Heat 2 quarts of water to a boil. Add the bouillon paste and potatoes. Simmer for about 15 minutes, until they are soft.

While the potatoes simmer, clean the bok choy, as it can be dirty near the base. If you have baby bok choy, submerge them whole in clean water and drain them, repeating as needed.

For large bok choy, pull off each stem — or leaf, however you see it — and wash it separately. Then cut the white halves from the leafy halves of each unit, roughly in half. Chop the leaf part coarsely. Chop the stem part into sections of about an inch in length and keep separately. Trim the bottom of the base and slice it if you like, but definitely use it as it's particularly flavorful.

When the potatoes are soft, add the butter, sesame oil, soy sauce, fish sauce, oyster sauce, pepper flakes, black pepper and the white parts of the bok choy, including the bases, (if using baby bok choy add the whole things), along with any protein you may care to add. Cook for five minutes at a simmer. Add the bok choy leaves and cook for another 2 minutes.

(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.)

Soup Spoon's South of the Border

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

THE DRINK

Soup Spoon Café
1419 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Monday-Saturday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
(517) 316-2377
Soupsooncafe.com

The cocktail has a distinct flavor you might cherish, or the smoky highlights will remind you of badly burnt campfire meals. I found the Soup Spoon's South of the Border concoction to be a titillating mix of compelling nastiness and paradise.

The primary ingredient, mezcal, is the kind of agave beverage that is known for its smoky flavor. Tequila uses only the blue agave. A mezcal blends 30 varieties of the Mexican succulent known for its leaves. The etymology of "mezcal" reveals that it comes from two words that translate into "overcooked agave."

But don't be turned off by that. The twice-distilled Del Maguey Vida Mezcal featured in the South of the Border uses wood-fire copper stills. They bring out fruity aromas and sweet notes — including hints of cinnamon, honey, and vanilla. The combination quiets the harshness of the smoke taste.

A splash of Genepi Des Alpes liqueur also acts as a "flue damper." Its sweetness and herbal traces, much like chartreuse, help block the campfire flavor.

Adding Aperol, with its high sugar content, gets us even farther from the campsite and closer to paradise. Aperol is like a less alcoholic and less bitter Campari. It also gives the South of the Border its characteristic rosiness, not unlike a southern sunset. Fresh lime juice and a crescent of lemon peel add tartness and the illusion of a setting sun.

David Winkelstern/City Pulse

Soup Spoon Cafe's South of the Border cocktail.

The combination of burnt, sweet, sour and aromatic aspects give the drink an intriguing appeal that's certainly worth a try.

The South of the Border is a creation of the Soup Spoon's newest bartender, Carrie Longoria. The experienced mixologist fled Manhattan to Michigan when COVID was closing down the city.

When local pandemic restrictions began to loosen recently, she applied at the Soup Spoon. "I hired her on the spot," manager Keith Buchele said.

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