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## Why Austin Blair still matters

See page 12



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Wanda Powell



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# CityPULSE

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Can you guess the location of this week's Eye for Design?



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Is Turner-Dodge haunted? Find out at FrankenFest



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New in Town: MexiTreats opens second location



**Cover  
Art**

Photo by Skyler Ashley

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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

SEE THE WORLD AS THE FORMER PRESIDENT'S SUPPORTERS SEE IT--WITH THE NEW, UPGRADED--

**Maga Goggles 2021!**

RECORD-BREAKING HEAT WAVES MIGHT BE CAUSING YOU TO WONDER IF CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL--IT CERTAINLY *SEEMS* AS IF THE SCIENTISTS WERE RIGHT!

--BUT IF YOU PUT ON YOUR **MAGA GOGGLES**, YOU'LL SEE THAT THE WHOLE THING IS STILL A **LIBERAL HOAX!**

OH, WAIT, NEVER MIND! THERE'S NO NEED FOR HUMANS TO CHANGE OUR BEHAVIOR IN ANY WAY **WHATSOEVER!**

OR PERHAPS YOU BELIEVE JOE BIDEN WAS THE LEGITIMATE WINNER IN 2020--HE WON THE ELECTORAL MAP AND THE POPULAR VOTE--UNLIKE SOME **REPUBLICAN** PRESIDENTS I COULD MENTION!

--IN WHICH CASE, YOU NEED TO STRAP THOSE MAGA GOGGLES ON YOUR HEAD **IMMEDIATELY!**

OH MY GOD, JUST LOOK AT ALL THE VOTER FRAUD! HOW DID I NOT SEE IT **SOONER?**

AND IF YOU'RE NOT PERSUADED THAT CRITICAL RACE THEORY IS A THREAT TO DEMOCRACY--IT'S JUST MORE GINNED UP CULTURE WAR OUTRAGE--AS THE CONSERVATIVE ACTIVIST WHO STARTED THE BALL ROLLING OPENLY **ADMITS!**

--YOUR MAGA GOGGLES WILL **QUICKLY** REVEAL THE EXTENT OF THE PERIL!

HOLD ON--I **SEE** IT NOW! AND I AM **OUTRAGED** BY THIS THING I HAVE ONLY RECENTLY HEARD ABOUT, AND OF WHICH I HAVE ONLY THE **VAGUEST** UNDERSTANDING!

SO GET YOUR NEW MAGA GOGGLES **TODAY**--AND SEE THE TRUTH THE LIBERALS WANT TO **HIDE!**

LOOK AT **THAT!** THE JANUARY 6 RIOTERS WERE ACTUALLY JUST **PEACE-LOVING TOURISTS!** AND/OR ANTIFA INFILTRATORS.

THIS ALL MAKES PERFECT SENSE TO ME **NOW**--THANKS TO MY **MAGA GOGGLES!**

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## PULSE

## NEWS &amp; OPINION

# Cops, crime and leadership

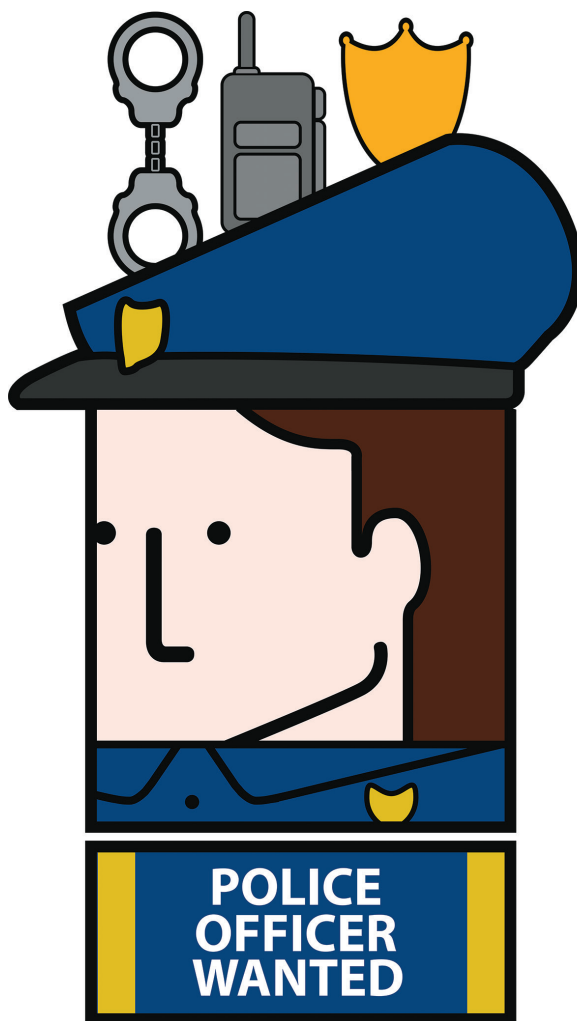
Last year's murder toll in Lansing — 22 lives lost to senseless violence — hasn't been seen in this town in three decades. One might think that such an epidemic of killing would have given city leaders a compelling reason to get as many police officers on the street as possible. Yet we've recently come to learn that Mayor Andy Schor and former Lansing Police Department Chief Daryl Green allowed 14 fully funded police positions to go vacant (now 15 with Green's recent retirement). As a result, LPD has had as few as eight officers on patrol across the entire city. That's not enough.

To make matters worse, the city received a federal grant last year to hire five more officers and didn't bother to accept the money until last week. The reason given for the delay? The Trump Administration's Justice Department suggested they wait until the "defund police" movement died down. We think it probably had more to do with the mayor's bid for reelection, when a well-timed announcement about hiring more cops would impress voters worried about violent crime as they cast their absentee ballots.

We understand it's been difficult to hire police officers in recent years, especially those who reflect the diverse demographics of our city. The COVID-19 pandemic created additional challenges for police agencies, constraining the in-person aspects of their hiring processes. Nonetheless, with violent crime spinning out of control, we think it would have been a good idea to double down on recruiting and hiring new officers.

In the midst of the pandemic, cities like Charlotte, North Carolina; Topeka, Kansas; and Naperville, Illinois, launched aggressive recruitment campaigns to hire more officers. In Naperville, job applications more than doubled as a result of those efforts. City leaders in all three communities viewed the pandemic not as an obstacle, but as an opportunity to attract people to the policing profession who were out of work and looking for a rewarding new career. We don't recall Lansing's leadership doing anything of the sort. Instead, the mayor instituted a hiring freeze that required the Police and Fire departments to ask for special permission to bring on new employees.

Mayor Schor says he will now move to fill the vacant police positions — by next February. With 16 murders already in 2021, a pace that's likely to make this year one of the deadliest in the city's history, Schor appears to be more interested in the



## The CP Edit

### Opinion

election year optics of hiring more cops than actually getting it done. We can't say we're surprised.

Speaking of optics, we still believe it's deeply unfortunate that the phrase "defund the police" became the mantra of a movement that wants to stop police from profiling, harassing and killing people of color. Make no mistake: We wholeheartedly support reforming police departments in Lansing

and elsewhere to address these vexing issues. Advocates for changing the way we approach public safety have played a critical role in elevating the discussion to a national imperative. State and federal lawmakers have responded by introducing progressive police reform legislation like the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. We applaud these efforts and hope the bills become the law of the land sooner rather than later.

At the same time, we recognize that any city needs a certain number of well-trained police officers on the street to maintain order and respond quickly to 911 calls. When police are nearly invisible, as they've been for much of the pandemic (ostensibly out of concern for officers being exposed to COVID-19), it sends a clear signal that no one is watching the store. There's little doubt in our mind that the lack of a visible police presence over the past year has contributed to the rash of street racing that plagues some of Lansing's major thoroughfares, endangering lives and disrupting nearby neighborhoods at all hours of the night. When the perpetrators have no fear of getting caught, it seems that anything goes. (See our related story on P. 9.)

Critics may claim there is a disconnect between our mayoral endorsement of At-Large Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar, who is running to unseat Schor, and her vote last week to reject the federal grant to hire more cops. We don't see it that way. First, we don't have to agree on every issue to believe Dunbar would do a better job as mayor than Schor. Moreover, we're confident that the deliberative process of working with the City Council and the community to chart a path forward will result in sensible public policy that makes the city safer.

Let's be clear: what we have now is a detached, reactive mayor who doesn't have the foresight and courage to make tough decisions, and for whom transparency and accountability are anathema. When you use the Trump Administration's guidance as an excuse not to hire more police officers; when you intentionally hide the fact that a man died in the city jail at the hands of your own employees; when you mislead the public about cutting the line to get your COVID-19 vaccine — it all adds up to an abdication of leadership and a disconcerting propensity to sweep bad news under the rug.

Lansing can do better.



# Can Andy Schor cram for his final and pass?

By **DEDRIA HUMPHRIES BARKER**



Barker

When I taught writing to college freshmen, I would remind students the key to success was steady work.

“This isn’t a class you can cram for,”

## OPINION

I warned students at the beginning of each semester.

But for some students the cram was their jam. They came to class looking like hell to show they worked hard. Last night.

I bet Lansing Mayor Andy Schor was that type of student because he’s that type of mayor. He reacts under pressure, and because of that, things happen too quickly to create a lasting understanding.

I don’t feel good about Schor. I have experienced firsthand his inconsistency, and that does not include his indifferent and clumsy approach to reducing city retirees’ health care benefits.

Street cleaning is an example. In May, for the first time in what seemed like forever, our eastside street was cleaned. Then in early June, Groesbeck neighborhood got its streets swept. The westside neighborhood was cleaned too. In daylight. Because street cleaning is a nighttime activity, my friend’s husband said, the mayor wants us to see this. Because its election season.

Will street cleaning be on a sched-

ule? Because Schor’s approach to operations is inconsistent.

I applaud Andy Schor as a politician. He knows how to establish himself in a new town. But I do not for one minute believe Andy Schor knows what it is like to be an African American in a new town. I do. I was that here in Lansing, and I was that when I started my daily newspaper career in a small town in Illinois.

I held staff writer positions with two Gannett Co. Inc. daily newspapers. The second was the Lansing State Journal. The first was the Commercial-News in Danville, Illinois. Danville was like Lansing: It was the big city of the area, with a Big Ten university, the University of Illinois, nearby.

My family and I were never “in.” Oh, I had a job, and attended church, and had kids in the public schools. But accepted as a part of the people who ran Danville, invited to stuff, introduced around? No. I was the black newspaper reporter. Period. It takes a lot of time and effort for a professional Black woman to be accepted. Judy Brown Clarke had a similar journey in Lansing.

A Black woman, Ms. Clarke graduated East Lansing High School in 1979. She attended MSU; won



Silver medals in track and field at the Olympics. She was employed by MSU. She moved to the city of Lansing and won election to the City Council. From there she ran for mayor against Andy Schor, but she wasn’t accepted. Now she lives on the East Coast.

Andy Schor won the Mayor’s Office, but did not understand the built-in responsibility to Lansing’s African Americans.

Andy Schor has lived in Lansing for 20 years. He was “in” politically within five years with his election to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners. He served a decade. Then he put in five years in the Michigan House of Representatives.

After election as Lansing mayor in 2017, he created the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council and appointed city residents to work on issues of social justice, including racial equity. He seemed intent on making a difference.

Randy Watkins, a Lansing resident, chairs that council. But, when the Black Lives Matter movement emerged in summer 2020, making demands and headlines, Schor’s knee-jerk reaction was to appoint an Okemos attorney, Teresa A. Bingman, to take over the effort of achieving racial equity in city government. There was no directive to her to cooperate with the council. Several council members — but not Mr. Watkins — quit in disgust at the ham-handed disrespect.

I dreaded dealing with students who cram, because, in their rush, they create problems. Bingman and

Watkins are both college-educated African-Americans, which is a somewhat small community in Lansing. Its success is based on relationships built in state government offices, in Black churches, Black fraternal organizations, and Black nonprofits, the Black Child and Family Institute, or Les Meres de Debutantes Club. These bonds help educate children at Black schools like Sankofa Shule and Shabazz Academy, or in less friendly public districts. Many relationships start at Michigan State University, where the best and brightest of Michigan’s cities — Detroit, Flint, Pontiac, Benton Harbor — matriculated in hopes of building a life at a high rung on the social economic ladder.

These carefully built relationships form a treasured network, and Schor trampled on it. His rush to do something about Black Lives Matter created tension and strain. He put Black people in opposition to each other, and it all played out in the media.

Some people take it as a matter of course that competition rules the public arena. But I am old-school, a Baby Boomer believer in the Black Power movement. I went whole hog on it, from studying Swahili in college, to studying African dance with Dorothy Harper Jones and the Pashami Dancers in Lansing. I hate to see my Black community get played by the inconsistent actions of Andy Schor.

Schor set up an unconscionable situation of publicly pitting African Americans against each other. By undercutting Lansing’s diversity council, and Mr. Watkins, he disrespected us big time. That’s a problem.

The thrill of cramming prevents Schor from doing his homework. He sacrifices time to assess and manage the situation, and, most disappointing, sensitivity. As in passing a writing class, keeping a diverse community going forward requires steady work. Consistency is a skill that I am not convinced Andy Schor has or can learn.

*(Dedria Humphries Barker, a Lansing resident, chairs the Andrew and Mary Jane Humphries Foundation and is the author of a book about education for girls, “Mother of Orphans: The True and Curious Story of Irish Alice, A Colored Man’s Widow.”)*

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Rezoning

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Lansing Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, July 21st, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. local time, in the Lansing Township Board Room at 3209 W. Michigan Ave Lansing, MI 48917. For the purpose of recommending approval or denial of the following requests:

Request for Rezoning – R-21-04

Applicant: Calvin McClinton, Address: 3707 W. Michigan Avenue

From: “D” Administrative to “A” Residential

Purpose: Return to Original Zoning of Residential

Request for Rezoning – R-21-05

Applicant: Denise Harig, Address: 3326 W. Saginaw St.

From: “D” Administrative to “A” Residential

Purpose: Return to Original Zoning of Residential

Tentative text and other information may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, 3209 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan.

Maggie Sanders, Clerk  
Charter Township of Lansing

CP#21-157



# Immediate action needed to address Delta 8 THC health, safety concerns

By **GREG MICHAUD**  
**OPINION**

*(Greg Michaud is CEO of Viridis Laboratories, a cannabis testing company in Lansing and Bay City. The company oversees testing services for more than 250,000 pounds of licensed cannabis products annually — or about 67% of all pot sold statewide over the last five years.)*



Michaud

Michigan's cannabis industry is at a crossroads. We're seeing tremendous growth among licensed operators, and thanks to our regulated cannabis industry, jobs are being created and money is being invested back into our local communities.

However, there is a growing threat to this burgeoning industry. As CEO of Viridis Laboratories, Michigan's leader in cannabis testing, I'm deeply concerned by the public health crisis brewing as we see an influx of untested and unregulated products ending up in the hands of Michigan consumers.

One recent example: Hemp-based Delta-8 THC products and other intoxicants that provide a high similar to Delta-9 THC are readily available at gas stations, convenience stores and smoke shops.

The Michigan Marijuana Regulatory Agency does not regulate Delta-8 THC, an intoxicant that mimics the high of Delta-9 THC and is created by distilling and refining hemp plants. Delta-9 THC is the intoxicating compound found in cannabis plants and is regulated by the MRA.

All intoxicants that mimic a cannabis high must be tested and traced to promote the health and safety of all Michiganders.

The Michigan House recently passed legislation that would put Delta-8 and other intoxicants that mirror a cannabis high under MRA regulation

and testing requirements. I urge the Senate to pass House Bills 4740-4746 and House Bill 4517 without delay to address this growing public health crisis and help create a safe path for licensed farmers and processors to get these hemp-derived products safely to consumers.

In my previous role as director of the Michigan State Police Forensic Science Division, it was my job to keep Michiganders safe and help hold illegal actors accountable. Now, as CEO of the leading provider of cannabis testing in Michigan, I continue keeping Michiganders safe by helping ensure they have access to properly tested, high-quality cannabis products.

Before Michigan legalized cannabis use, we'd see a lot of home-based scientists synthesizing and adulterating cannabinoids to skirt the law, which created an enormous health risk for all Michiganders. As Michigan's regulated cannabis market continues to mature, we continue to see sophisticated processing of this plant, and it's unknown what health or safety dangers that might pose.

At Viridis Laboratories, we use our industry leading technology and experience to help businesses provide cannabis products that are consistently free of harmful chemicals, microbial contaminants and foreign matter.

We also provide potency and terpene analyses, taking great care to maintain these profiles through our accredited collection and analytical methods. Consumers rely heavily on this information just as they do on FDA labels to tell them what's inside their medicines.

This issue isn't unique to Michigan — at least 12 states have temporarily banned Delta-8 THC products. We must address this pressing issue today. The first step is requiring products containing Delta-8 and similar intoxicants to be tested and traced before reaching the hands of consumers.

# A question for MSU President Stanley: Does violence against Jews count?

By **ANNE LAWTON**  
**OPINION**

*(The writer is a professor emerita at Michigan State University College of Law.)*

In May of this year, I wrote an email to President Samuel L. Stanley and Provost Teresa Woodruff of Michigan State University asking them to speak out against the rise in anti-Semitic attacks occurring in the United States. The outbreak of hostilities in Israel and Gaza became an excuse for desecrating synagogues and attacking Jews in the United States. I mentioned in my email that President Biden had called the attacks "despicable," as they were. Yet MSU stayed silent and I received no response to my request. A month later, a friend and former writing professor at MSU sent Stanley an email with a link to a New York Times opinion piece by Matthew Bronfman. Bronfman urged university leaders to speak out against the rise in anti-Semitic activity on campus and to acknowledge the cost to Jewish students. Stanley did not respond to this email request, either.

Yet, over the past year, Stanley has sent emails to the MSU community about the university's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. In late April, he acknowledged the profound impact that the Derek Chauvin trial had had on members of the MSU community. Stanley spoke of his "steadfast commitment to rooting out racial inequities."

In mid-May, Stanley issued a statement in support of MSU's Asian Pacific Islander Desi American and Asian communities. He noted the increase in hateful rhetoric directed at Asian Americans and urged members of the MSU community to "combat racism and discrimination in all its forms."

But hate and violence against Jews merits no response. Why not? I suspect that part of the answer lies in the fact that such a statement would alienate certain segments of the MSU community. Speaking out against anti-Black or anti-Asian violence carries no such cost.

In May of this year, during the most recent hostilities between Israel and Hamas, a number of my former colleagues at the Law College signed The Palestine Solidarity Statement:

MSU Faculty United for Palestinian Rights. The statement roundly condemns Israel while explaining that critiques of Israel do not constitute anti-Semitism. Missing from the statement, of course, is any denunciation of Hamas or the fact that Hamas fired more than 4,300 rockets into Israeli territory. The solidary statement mentions the disproportionate number of deaths in Gaza, as if the disproportionate number signaled one side's restraint and the other's depravity. No mention is made of the Iron Dome.

Earlier this spring, the MSU branch of Students United for Palestinian Rights (SUPR) derailed the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism — a definition adopted by the United States and many other nations. After the Associated Students of Michigan State University's General Assembly had overwhelmingly passed a bill adopting the definition, the SUPR and other students called for reconsideration. The student sponsors of the original bill withdrew it. The SUPR considered adoption of the IHRA's definition a form of "political silencing."

Did Stanley make the same mistake of conflating condemnation of anti-Semitic violence with taking a side in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict? I do not know his thinking, but the anti-Israel rhetoric fashionable among some faculty and students no doubt made any such statement controversial during the most recent hostilities in the Middle East. Unfortunately, Stanley missed a teaching opportunity this past spring. He could have reminded members of the MSU community that criticism of Israel is no excuse for anti-Semitism. He could have used the opportunity to educate faculty and staff about Natan Sharansky's 3Ds as applied to Israel: demonization, double standards, and delegitimization. He could have denounced anti-Semitic violence. Instead, he remained silent. By doing so, he sent a powerful message about the University's stated commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion: Jews do not count.

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

**2.) Write a guest column:**

Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: [publisher@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto: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.)





Last month's Eye for Design detail can be found at the Alpha Phi House (below) on M.A.C. Avenue in East Lansing. Unfortunately, nobody identified it or won an Eye for Design mug. For those of you wondering, it is a limestone garden ornament sitting upon a pair of columns flanking the driveway of the house. Likely these are remnants of what was once a gate. The detail also appears on the opposite side of the house; perhaps on a balcony.

This month's Eye for Design (above) spells Freedom and is for the Fourth of July holiday. It can be found near the Capitol building in downtown Lansing. If you know where it can be found, send an email to [carriesampson@micourthistory.org](mailto:carriesampson@micourthistory.org) and win an Eye for Design mug!

— **CARRIE SAMPSON**



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

# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS



By **KYLE KAMINSKI**



### Lansing celebrates Fourth of July

Several dozen people gathered for a Fourth of July celebration in downtown Lansing on Saturday. A parade began at 11 a.m. and continued through the Capitol Loop by City Hall.

### Normalcy resumes at local courthouses

County offices and courtrooms in Mason and Lansing — including the downtown Veteran's Memorial Courthouse — have reopened to the public without any restrictions on face masks or social distancing. In-person hearings have resumed. Court filings may no longer be submitted via mail or fax. County offices in Mason have also opened and no longer require appointments. The Ingham County Board of Commissioners is also set to meet in person beginning next week.



County offices in Mason have also opened and no longer require appointments. The Ingham County Board of Commissioners is also set to meet in person beginning next week.

### Grants available for eviction prevention

The city of Lansing was awarded a \$20,000 "Eviction Prevention Boost Grant" from the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund to provide rental assistance and free, one-on-one financial counseling sessions geared toward preventing evictions for local residents via the Capital Area Housing Partnership, the Financial Empowerment Center and Cristo Rey Community Center.

### East Lansing searches for public art

The East Lansing Arts Commission is accepting applications for its annual Cultural Arts Grant program to support public art projects that encourage artistic expression and public participation. The \$17,500 in funding will be allocated specifically to projects that emphasize and promote cultural appreciation for Black, indigenous and people of color in the local community. Visit [cityofeastlansing.com/culturalarts-grant](http://cityofeastlansing.com/culturalarts-grant) for more details or to access a grant application.



### Lansing companies hiring talented women

The Women's Center of Greater Lansing announced plans

to host a job fair from 3-7 p.m. on Wednesday (July 14) in the parking lot of the Women's Center, 1710-1712 E. Michigan Ave. A variety of employers will be hiring participants on site, including Dart Container and MSUFCU. Call 517-372-9163 or email [melina@womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org](mailto:melina@womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org) for more details.

### Local cannabis brands join forces

Frederic-based cannabis cultivating and processing company Driven Grow purchased a 30% stake in the Lansing-based Redemption Cannabis brand, allowing the company to increase product offerings to 72 dispensaries, introduce new strains and expand into other states. Additionally, Kyle Corey — a member of the "Okemos 7" — bought a 4% stake.



### Nonprofit grants available in Ingham County

The Ingham County Community Agency is accepting grant applications from nonprofit organizations that are working to help local residents meet "basic needs" or serving vulnerable populations. Applications are due back by July 30. Visit [co.ingham.org](http://co.ingham.org) for more details.

### Drink coffee with East Lansing's top cop

East Lansing Police Chief Kim Johnson announced plans for a regular "Coffee with the Chief" series this summer. Residents can meet Johnson next from 9:30-10:30 a.m. on either July 15 at Grand Traverse Pie Co. or on Aug. 12 at the Foster Coffee Co. in East Lansing.



Johnson

### Former Lansing bishop abused young boys

Allegations of sexual abuse from two young boys against former Bishop James Sullivan were deemed credible by the Catholic Diocese of Lansing. Sullivan — who worked in Lansing from 1972 to 1985 — died in 2006. Both accusations stem from the mid-'60s when Sullivan was living at a parish in Lansing and involve inappropriate touching and sexual conversations.

### Animals seized from Mason farm

Ingham County Animal Control officers seized 18 horses and 61 fowl from a farm on the 3000 block of Harper Road near Mason as part of animal welfare investigation, reports the Lansing State Journal. Most of the animals need medical care. Criminal charges are forthcoming. Donations to cover food and veterinary care can be dropped off at the shelter in Mason.

### Rainy June nears record in Lansing

The downpour of 8 inches of rain that fell last month in Lansing was the sixth highest total ever recorded for the month — about 4.4 inches above normal, reports the Lansing State Journal. Still, the average precipitation for the year is still running about 1.1 inches below average.





# Unyielding noise: Residents speak out over traffic safety issues in Lansing

Records show dramatic decrease in traffic stops by Lansing Police

Jules Vander Galien often compares the streets of Lansing to a scene from a “Mad Max” movie.

Hordes of ATVs, motorcycles and modified cars are almost constantly racing and ripping through major thoroughfares and once-quiet neighborhood blocks. Stop signs and red lights, particularly in recent months, seem to be more a suggestion than mandate. The noise builds in the evening — especially as firework season in Lansing continues past the Fourth of July.

Vander Galien crafted a new name for the troubling (and noisy) phenomenon: “Aural assault.”

Vander Galien, 66, has lived in northwest Lansing for more than 15 years. And for the last several, that constant buzz of engine and exhaust noise has only ramped up her stress levels.

“My partner has chronic fatigue syndrome and she’s highly sensitive to these sounds,” Vander Galien added. “Sleep is an issue. Stress is an issue. She just cannot deal — even with the volume on the TV. I’m her caregiver, so this is becoming a really stressful, difficult situation.”

Even with gun violence also on the rise, the comparison between the Capital City and the level of sheer barbarity portrayed in the post-apocalyptic Australian action film series “Mad Max” is a bit of a stretch, Vander Galien admits. But her neighborhood near Groesbeck Golf Course is still becoming unbearable.

“It’s just constant, unyielding noise,” she added. “I’ve never seen it this bad in Lansing, and it just seems to be getting worse. We all need to address the issue and get this figured out quickly.”

Dozens of residents also reached out to City Pulse on Facebook over the last week with similar experiences. Multiple City Council members also said traffic safety — and noise — is the most frequent complaint from their constituents. The common thread: It all seems to be getting worse.

“There has been a constant drumbeat of complaints, but there has certainly been a crescendo in recent months,” said Council Vice President Adam Hussain. “Along with



Hussain

public safety and infrastructure, this is absolutely on the top of the list of things that we’re hearing from folks.”

Added Council President Peter Spadafore: “I’ve certainly seen plenty of emails on this issue. I’d say it’s among the top five concerns I hear, maybe second only to fireworks. It ebbs and flows based on the season, and we seem to hear much more about this during the summer months.”

Lansing Police Department records also vividly showcase the community concerns. Between 2016 and 2019, LPD conducted an annual average of 6,752 traffic stops. In 2020, local cops conducted 3,577 traffic stops amid the pandemic — about a 48% decrease from 2019.

And so far this year, LPD has only conducted 434 traffic stops, according to city officials. That sets pace for a record-low annual total of fewer than 1,000 traffic stops and even fewer tickets.

The city’s primary response plan: More cops. More enforcement. More visibility on local streets.

“Lansing residents are concerned about the dangers that come along with speeders on main roads and neighborhood roads, and are asking for police patrols,” according to a statement from Mayor Andy Schor’s office. “This is one of the reasons that the mayor proposed adding more officers, and is actively filling vacancies, in order to increase the number of police on patrol.”

Schor said plans to hire five new officers — and fill 15 other vacancies — by February will help mitigate ongoing traffic safety issues on neighborhood streets. Council members are also pushing for more speed bumps, traffic circles, speed wagons and other traditional solutions.

The conversations involve a search for innovative new answers to a long-standing problem, while also delicately balancing whether more cops should be part of the response.

Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar has been working with city officials to keep traffic signals active all night long on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard instead of switching to flashing yellow lights. Since those roadways are controlled by the state, any changes are out of the city’s jurisdiction.



Spadafore



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Many neighborhood complaints involving speeding and reckless driving are centered on a 45 mph stretch of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard near Moores River Drive and Mount Hope Avenue.

## LANSING POLICE DEPARTMENT TRAFFIC STOPS

YEAR	TRAFFIC STOPS FOR MOVING/EQUIP. VIOLATIONS	MOVING/EQUIP. CITATIONS ISSUED	MOVING/EQUIP. WARNINGS ISSUED
2016	4,998	4,218	677
2017	6,101	4,554	1,431
2018	5,360	4,197	1,097
2019	5,458	4,210	1,180
2020	2,920	2,183	697
2021	296	196	95

Source: Lansing Police Department

Some traffic stops for moving or equipment violations resulted in arrests or are missing their reported outcomes in LPD records.

Hussain said a “perfect world” would include working more with the state to reduce speed limits on certain roadways and add signage, speed bumps, traffic islands, roundabouts, speed trailers — along with more police officers stationed on city streets.

“This hasn’t been an incredibly popular idea, but maybe we should be working with the state to take another look at things like automated enforcement cameras,” Hussain added. “We don’t always need officers, but beefing up patrols with a more visible presence can play a role too. The truth is, we need that enforcement element too. Children’s lives are literally at stake.”

Some states — but not Michigan — allow automated enforcement of speed and red-light violations using cameras owned by private companies. State law only allows for tickets if cops actually observe the violation, investigate a crash or are otherwise authorized by a prosecutor.

Spadafore said the addition of new bike lanes could also serve as a deter-

rent for speeding, narrowing traffic lanes and forcing drivers to take more care in navigating local neighborhoods.

“I still think the biggest thing we can do is have a larger law enforcement presence,” he said. “I’m not unsympathetic to the calls to reform public safety, but the number of officers we have on the street right now just isn’t enough to do much more than be reactive and respond to calls.”

Council members Carol Wood, Patricia Spitzley, Brian Jackson, Jeremy Garza and Brandon Betz didn’t respond to questions from City Pulse about how local concerns should be handled.

Last April, law enforcement agencies across the country began to relax enforcement on speeding and other minor violations as the coronavirus continued to spread. State officials had also reported a significant reduction in traffic volumes, skewing any reliability on traffic stop data alone to indicate whether the rate of speeding and equipment violations was climbing or falling.



# What do court records tell us about the candidates in Lansing?

Over the last decade, the candidates who are facing voters in the August primary election have had an array of minor traffic tickets, parking fees and, in at least one case, a significant debt that has resulted in years of garnishments of the candidate's income tax refunds and paychecks.

**Melissa Quon Huber**, who is running for mayor, has had her income, bank accounts and tax refunds garnished by Unifund CCR since 2014, court records showed. And in 2011, Capital One Bank pursued repayment through garnishments until Huber's file was closed out last month.

Reached via Facebook messenger, Huber accepted "full responsibilities" for the choices she made that led to the debt, but said she believes families like hers would not face debts if elected officials cared more about the needs of disabled youth and "less about the wealth of insurance companies and other special interests." She also said she welcomed more in-depth conversations about the debt, noting that her experiences have only made her "a better leader."

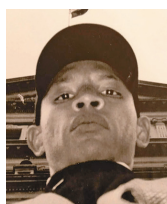
Mayoral candidate **Larry Hutchinson Jr.** is still paying fines on a recent DUI conviction in Clinton County. Records related to his property also reveal that he and his partner, Sharman Noka, have a combined total of over \$110 in unpaid utility fees associated with their property in Lansing. In addition, city records

show Hutchinson and Noka have outstanding payments of \$307.16 for winter 2020 taxes, \$915.90 for summer 2020 taxes and \$275.57 for winter 2019 taxes. County tax records show the winter 2019 debt — with a balance of \$248.87 — was transferred to the Ingham County Treasurer. The city charter prohibits anyone from taking office who is indebted to the city at the time they take office. Hutchinson's debt is only with the county.

Hutchinson also served time in prison in the 1990s for convictions of possession of a controlled substance, malicious destruction of police property and assault with intent to do great bodily harm. All were felony convictions in Genesee County and occurred more than 10 years ago.

Incumbent Mayor **Andy Schor** had a ticket in 2011 for speeding 1-10 mph over the posted speed limit. That was amended to unsafe start and he paid \$115 in fines. In 2015, he also paid a \$125 fine for speeding between 1-5 mph over the posted speed limit in Lansing.

Mayoral candidate and City Councilwoman **Kathie Dunbar** was cited by Meridian Township for failing to stop at a stop sign in 2012 and paid a



Hutchinson



Schor



Dunbar

\$145 fine. In 2011, she also was cited for speeding in Meridian Township and paid \$120. In 2013, she was cited for disobeying a traffic signal, resulting in a \$140 fine. And last month, she failed to stop at a red light, plowing into a 75-year-old driver and totaling both her and the woman's vehicle. She was not issued a ticket.

Mayoral challengers **Farhan Sheikh-Omar** and **Patricia Spitzley** had no recent court records.

At-Large Council candidate **Claretta Duckett-Freeman** has also been facing garnishments on her income and tax refunds from a 2017 debt case brought by LVNV Funding. Records show she lost the case by default. She was also charged in 2016 with domestic violence in 54-A District Court, but that case was dismissed. In 2016, she paid a \$120 fine for an expired vehicle registration. In 2018, she failed to pay an overdue ticket for an expired meter and paid \$75. Later that year, she was fined \$150 for an impeding traffic charge after being cited for speeding.

**D. Taft**, who is also running for an at-large seat, was charged with felonious assault in 2020. The charges were dropped by the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office after he argued self-defense. In 2017, he was cited twice for unlicensed dogs, with both cases later dismissed.

At-large Council candidate **Linda**

**Applying** had two eviction cases that were ultimately dropped.

Candidate **Linda Keffe** was booted in the '90s from the Ingham County Board of Commissioners after a judge found that she was not a resident of the district which she ran to represent. And in 2013, she was sued by residents of Windsor Township for failing to fulfill her duties as clerk.

The township ultimately booted her from office by declaring her seat vacant when she failed to meet the bond requirements established by the board. Keffe did not return calls to City Pulse last month and subsequently lied about the incident on a recent episode of the Facebook broadcast "Merica 20 to Life."

No records were found for **Rachel Willis**, **Peter Spadafore**, **Grant Blood** and **Jeffrey Brown**.

Fourth Ward challenger **Elvin Caldwell** has had a series of unpaid expired meter tickets in Lansing, as well as a license suspension and \$219 fine in 2019 for having no proof of insurance. In order to have his license restored, he had to pay \$2,250, according to court records.

Incumbent Councilman **Brian Jackson** was issued a speeding ticket in 2016 for going 1-5 mph over the posted speed limit and paid a \$125 fine.

Second Ward challenger **Oprah Revish** has had two parking tickets in East Lansing. No court records were found for Incumbent Councilman **Jeremy Garza** and challenger **Nicklas Zande**.

— TODD HEYWOOD

## Speeding

from page 9

Local data simply shows that significantly fewer people have been pulled over in Lansing. And based on neighborhood complaints, the city seems to be charting out a worsening problem.

Reports of widespread speeding and reckless driving started pouring in early last summer — reportedly leading to a disproportionate number of speed-related crashes and fatalities nationwide. LPD officials couldn't immediately provide any local crash data for Lansing.

Michigan State Police officials reported last month a 22% reduction in traffic crashes from 2019 to 2020 while also tracking a 10% increase in speed-related deaths in the same time-frame — a sign that speeding and reck-

less driving remained an issue, even with fewer drivers on the road.

Last July, former Lansing Police Chief Daryl Green announced a new policy: Local cops could no longer (and still cannot) initiate traffic stops for defective equipment violations — including cracked windshields, broken tail lights, tinted windshields and perhaps most notably, loud exhaust.

Accounting for about 15% of traffic stops annually, the change was billed as a way to reduce unnecessary contact with police and to curb any police discrimination against Black citizens.

In the six months that followed that announcement, city records show that local cops had conducted about 1,800 traffic stops and issued about 1,200 tickets for traffic or equipment violations — equating to roughly the same rate as the six months before the policy change.

And by last September, Schor

appeared ready to start cracking down on increasingly dangerous roadways with the announcement of "Operation Slowdown" — a direct response to complaints that redirected patrols to more aggressively target and ticket reckless drivers and speeders.

Since its inception, officers assigned to the initiative have conducted 278 traffic stops and issued 263 citations for things like speeding, improper passing, running red lights and more. A spokesman said the focus is "along primary roadways" in the "afternoon and evening hours."

The Police Department as a whole also conducted about 1,700 traffic stops and issued 1,400 tickets in the five months that followed that announcement — representing an 87% increase in traffic stops and an 82% jump in tickets issued compared to the five months that preceded it.

The LPD also joined forces with the

state Office of Highway Safety and at least 30 other police agencies in yet another regional speeding enforcement campaign for two weeks last month. Acting Police Chief Ellery Sosebee said those efforts are set to be "renewed" again later this year.

"The department takes all traffic complaints from citizens of Lansing seriously," according to an LPD spokesman. "Several complaints are quality of life issues, not only driving safety but neighborhood peace and quiet. Follow-up is the essential key to addressing these complaints."

Residents can also visit [lansingmi.gov/calmingpetition](https://lansingmi.gov/calmingpetition) to lobby city officials for new traffic calming measures in their neighborhoods. The proposed area must be a minimum of one block and the online petition form requires signatures from at least 25% of the nearby households.

— KYLE KAMINSKI



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The statue of Austin Blair, Michigan's Civil War governor, in front of the state Capitol, carries a rare message.



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse

# Lansing's most prominent monument says slavery was the cause of the Civil War. Why is that so unusual?

By **DUSTY HORWITT**

From the front, the statue of Austin Blair that stands outside Michigan's state Capitol looks like a conventional memorial according to Kirk Savage, professor of history of art and architecture at the University of Pittsburgh and the author of "Standing Soldiers, Kneeling Slaves" about Civil War monuments. Blair, who served as Michigan's governor during the Civil War, is depicted in bronze standing with his left hand resting on a Civil War battle flag. But walk around the back of the monument dedicated in 1898, read one of three quotes from Blair, and you'll see something that makes the monument almost one of a kind.

The quote reads: "All the blood and carnage of this terrible war, all the heart-rending

casualties of battle and the sad bereavements occasioned by them, have the same cause — slavery. The greatest, vilest criminal of the world; it must perish....Message 1863."

To determine how rare this quote is, Savage suggested I consult the online Smithsonian Art Museum Art Inventories Catalogue that catalogues public monuments and Contemporary Monuments to the Slave Past, a website documenting monuments related to slavery founded by Renée Ater, associate professor emerita of American Art at the University of Maryland. After searching for the term "slavery" and reviewing detailed descriptions of 150 monuments in these databases and consulting other online sources, I found that the Blair monument is one of only

about 50 in the country that include the word "slavery." Of these, 10 recognize ending slavery as one of the major accomplishments of the Civil War. But only two identify slavery as the cause of the war: the Blair Monument and the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., dedicated in 1922. "All knew that this interest [slavery] was somehow the cause of the war," reads a portion of Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address engraved in the memorial's north chamber.

"It is a really unusual inscription," Savage said of Blair's quote about slavery. "And it is really unusual for that period of time. It stands out for sure."

See Blair, Page 13



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# Blair

from page 12

I noticed the quote on Blair’s statue because I moved to Lansing last year, and I was coming to terms with Confederate monuments in my hometown of Arlington County, Virginia. My preschool, for example, was — and still is — located in a county-operated building named Lee Center, opened as the Robert E. Lee school in 1925. The name honors Lee, who led the Confederate army during the Civil War. The Confederates were fighting to preserve slavery in the South and to extend it to additional states so that they could continue to buy, sell and own as property people of African descent and exploit their labor under threat of violence. Other schools and roads in the county also honored Lee and other Confederates, including the high school where I played sports, Washington-Lee. In 2020, the Southern Poverty Law Center estimated that there were still almost 1,800 monuments for Confederates, including buildings and roads named after them, mostly in the South, even after more than 100 had been removed.

By portraying Confederates as heroic, the monuments disassociated them from fighting for something so horrific. I’m sorry to say that for decades neither I nor anyone I knew questioned these monuments even as I worked to uncover the forgotten history of school integration in Arlington. I finally opened my eyes after the racist violence at Charlottesville in 2017 that was prompted by an effort to remove a statue of Lee. I learned that names like Lee Center were consistent with a movement by white Southerners to reassert white supremacy following the post-Civil War Reconstruction era (1865-1877), during which Black Americans in the South temporarily gained rights and opportunities long denied including voting and the ability to hold public office.

Eric Foner, a professor of history at Columbia University who is a leading historian of Reconstruction, wrote in 2017 in The New York Times that “the great waves of Confederate monument building took place in the 1890s, as the Confederacy was coming to be idealized as the so-called Lost Cause and the Jim Crow system was being fastened upon the South, and in the 1920s, the height of black disenfranchisement, segregation and lynching.”

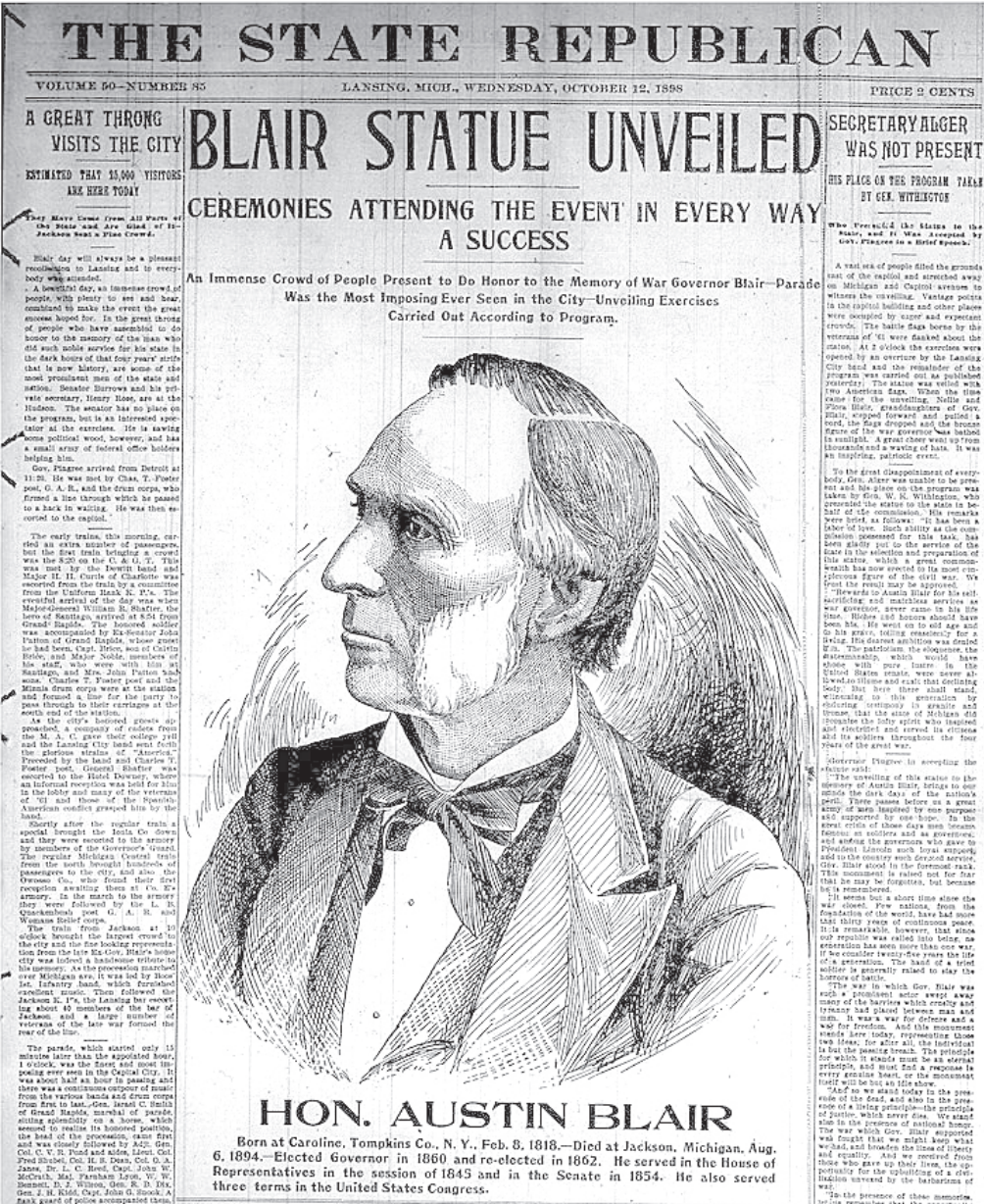
Therefore, while Southerners were falsely rebranding the Confederacy as a glorious military campaign (the Lost Cause) and imposing segregation, Michiganders were unveiling a monument to Blair that spoke a truth still so unusual that my jaw dropped when I first saw it.

“Slavery is in many ways the last great unmentionable in American discourse,” the Smithsonian’s secretary and founding director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Lonnie G.

Bunch III, told The New York Times this April. So how exactly were Michiganders able to mention this word prominently in 1898 and why is it so difficult to speak the same word today, particularly naming it as the cause of the Civil War?

Though Matt VanAcker, director of the State Capitol’s Tour, Education and Information Service, said there was no record of debate over the inscriptions on Blair’s monument, other historic records from the 1800s shed light on both questions.

“A vast sea of people filled the grounds east of the capitol and stretched away on Michigan and Capitol avenues to witness the unveiling” of Blair’s statue on Oct. 12, 1898, according to the Lansing State Republican. An estimated 25,000 people had arrived, many by train, to honor Blair, who had died in 1894. “The eventful arrival of the day,” the State Republican reported, “was ...Major-



Reports of celebrations for the Blair statue were published in The State Republican.



J.E.B. Stuart High School, named after a Confederate general, outside of the writer’s hometown, was renamed to Justice High School in 2017.



# Blair

from page 13

General William R. Shafter, the hero of Santiago [a Michigander and Civil War veteran]....” Santiago referred to the city in Cuba, where Shafter had won a battle in the Spanish-American War that had been fought earlier that year.

The keynote speaker, former U.S. Sen. John Patton, a Republican, established that building a monument to Blair without mentioning slavery would have been virtually unimaginable, a position shared today by the state Capitol’s VanAcker.

Patton recounted how Blair was born in New York, in 1818. “Coincident with his birth was precipitated the debate on slavery which raged until its final abolition,” Patton said.

He explained that the delicate political balance between the North, where slavery was outlawed, and the South, where it was central to the economy, was maintained through a hotly debated practice in which new states joined the Union alternately “as representing either slavery or freedom,” that is, states where slavery was permitted and states where it was prohibited.

Patton said that during his early years, Blair was influenced by the anti-slavery sentiment in New York. He imagined that Blair might have learned about an exchange between two members of the U.S. House of Representatives:

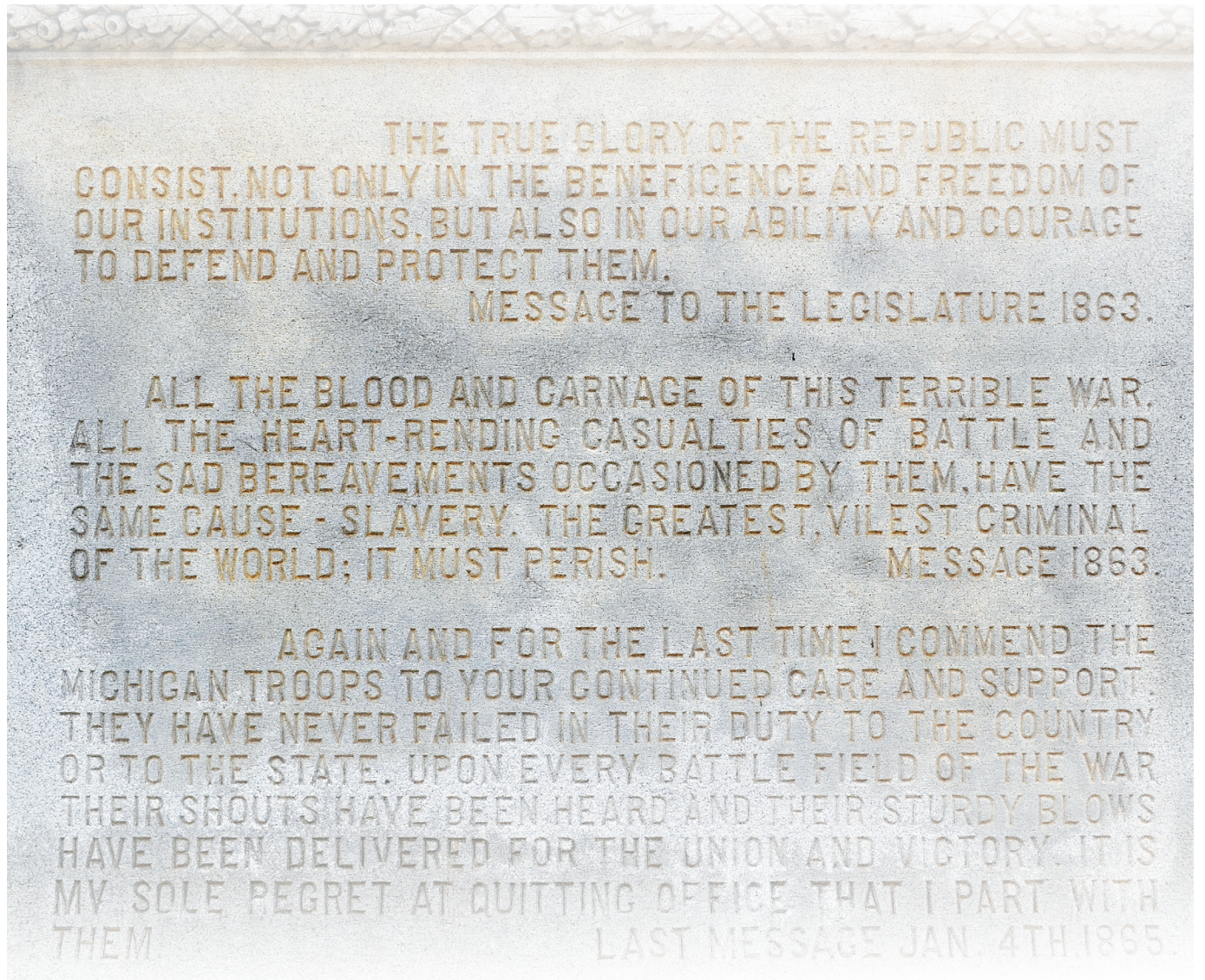
“Who,” said Josiah Quincy [Mass.] to John Randolph [Va.] ...‘was the most eloquent orator you ever heard?’ ‘The most eloquent orator I ever heard,’ replied Randolph, ‘was a woman, a slave, a mother, and her rostrum was the auction block’....“This orator appealed straight to the liberty-loving heart of Austin Blair,” Patton continued.

Patton told the crowd that in 1845, after moving to Michigan and becoming a member of the state Legislature, Blair, a lawyer, had tried to remove the word “white” from the state Constitution so that Black Michigan men could vote. “Remember, he did this against the advice and pleadings of his timid friends who said it would defeat him at the next election, as it did,” Patton recalled.

But Blair made a political comeback. In 1854 in Jackson (Blair’s hometown), Patton said, Blair helped found the Republican party, which opposed expansion of slavery into additional states. Though this platform stopped short of calling for abolishing slavery in the South, it was anathema to white Southerners.

The party’s founding was a key event in U.S. history because it led to Abraham Lincoln’s election as president in 1860. Lincoln ran on an updated Republican platform that included the party’s original call for a prohibition on slavery in new states. Lincoln’s election was the final act that led the Southern states to leave the Union, form the Confederacy and go to war in 1861.

Finally, Patton recounted that Blair gave everything to the war, a view echoed in a book about early Lansing history, “Pioneers, Reformers, & Millionaires,” by Elizabeth A. Homer, former curator of the Michigan Women’s Historical



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

The inscription on Blair’s statue carries three quotes. The middle quote cites slavery as the root cause of the Civil War, an unusual message on a Civil War statue.

Center and Hall of Fame and Turner-Dodge House. “When Blair left office in 1864,” Homer wrote, “he was almost destitute, having expended much of his personal wealth in support of the war effort.” Blair helped organize troops, supported laws to care for the families of soldiers who remained on the home front and visited soldiers in hospitals, Patton said. “He earned the title of ‘Soldiers Friend,’ he added, “and no letter ever came from the humblest private which remained unanswered.”

Patton’s audience, among them “gray haired veterans,” would likely have agreed with the inclusion of the anti-slavery quote on Blair’s monument. Thanks in large part to Blair’s leadership, 90,000 Michiganders, 44 percent of Michigan’s adult male population between the ages of 15 and 49, served in the Civil War, including Black and Native American Michiganders, according to “Michigan’s War: The Civil War in Documents,” edited by Shippensburg University history Professor John W. Quist. Almost all of them were volunteers as opposed to draftees. As the book further explains, “many of Michigan’s Civil War soldiers, like their counterparts from other Northern states, initially opposed emancipation, but most changed their minds after viewing slavery themselves, usually for the first time [4 million people were enslaved in 1860]. Believing that slavery was the cause behind a war that they were eager to finish, Michigan soldiers often attributed the differences they observed in the South to slavery and became even more convinced regarding the rightness of their cause.”

Yet simultaneous political movements reflected in Patton’s closing

remarks would ensure that Blair’s quote would remain almost unique on public monuments.

The first, as detailed by Flint native and Yale University history Professor David W. Blight in his 2001 book “Race and Reunion,” was a movement to emphasize reconciliation between North and South. To accomplish this goal, proponents sought to avoid the issue of slavery. An example was the then-influential magazine *The Century*, which beginning in 1883 published a series of reminiscences of the Civil War featuring firsthand accounts of key battles. One of the two supervising editors said that the magazine’s goal was to “soften controversy” by “exclusion of political questions.” The editors saw their mission as attempting to heal the nation, Blight wrote, but “the issues of slavery and race were resoundingly silent.”

Simultaneously, white Southerners were advancing a white supremacist recollection of the Civil War, the Lost Cause, that intertwined with the reconciliationist view. Savage has written that white Southerners knew that “the South had to be reconstructed, but not along the lines contemplated by the Northern victors. In this process of reconstruction, slavery disappeared but, in a peculiar way, remained central.”

The effort began almost immediately after the war, Blight recounts, with publication of Edward Pollard’s book “The Lost Cause” in 1866. Pollard argued that the South should continue the fight it had lost on the battlefield with a “war of ideas.” Pollard followed up in 1868 with “The Lost Cause Regained,” in which he advo-

cated reconciliation with conservative Northerners on Southern terms. “To the extent of securing the supremacy of the white man,” Pollard wrote, “and the traditional liberties of the country...she [the South] really triumphs in the true cause of the war.”

The Confederacy’s war president, Jefferson Davis, “set the tone” for Lost Cause mythology in his memoir published in 1881, Blight writes. “In language that became almost omnipresent in Lost Cause rhetoric, Davis insisted that slavery ‘was in no wise the cause of the conflict, but only an incident.’” Davis argued that the South was merely trying to defend itself against the “unlimited, despotic power” of the federal government. He also contended that the enslaved had been “trained in the gentle arts of peace and order and civilization ...,” and that “the tempter [the North] came...and decoyed them with the magic word of ‘freedom.’ He put arms in their hands” 200,000 Black Americans served in the Union Army — “and trained their humble but emotional natures to deeds of violence and bloodshed.”

Blight adds that in 1878, Davis presented the Southern triumph over Reconstruction “as an explicit element of Lost Cause ideology.” This “great victory” resulted after Southern whites violently overturned legal rights and protections for the newly freed Black Americans and persuaded the North to withdraw troops sent to protect them. In perpetuating these ideas, Blight writes, diehard Lost Cause advocates, many of them high-ranking officers and political leaders of the Confederacy, forged



# Blair

from page 15

one of the most highly orchestrated grassroots partisan histories ever conceived.” This disinformation campaign included books, magazines, lectures, monuments, organizations such as the United Daughters of the Confederacy and eventually, movies, most famously “The Birth of a Nation.”

In 1935, historian W.E.B. Dubois wrote in “Black Reconstruction in America”: “In propaganda against the Negro since emancipation in this land, we face one of the most stupendous efforts the world ever saw to discredit human beings, an effort involving universities, history, science, social life and religion.”

Central to these efforts was elevating Lee, rather than Davis, as the true leader of the Confederacy. “With Lee as the major historical actor,” Savage writes, “the story of the Lost Cause became a glorious military record rather than a political struggle to secure a slaveholding nation.” The key moment in this transition came in 1890, five months after Davis died: the unveiling in Richmond of a 60-foot-tall statue of Lee astride his horse, witnessed by as many as 150,000 people.

This event resonated across the nation, including in Michigan. The Detroit Free Press published a long, glowing account of the monument’s dedication on its front page. Included in the coverage were lengthy excerpts of remarks by the keynote speaker, Colonel Archer Anderson, who began by placing Lee in the pantheon of American heroes. “[T]o-day in every part of America the character and fame of Robert Edward Lee are trusted as ‘possession for all time,’” Archer said. Archer spoke of Lee’s “personal honor,” “knightly valor,” “military genius,” and “heroic constancy.” He presented South and North as moral equals when he recounted Lee’s surrender to Union General Ulysses S. Grant as showing “the magnanimity of the conqueror, not less than the fortitude of the vanquished.”

The coverage was more balanced in the Benton Harbor Daily Palladium. That paper quoted Archer as saying “millions of our countrymen...will this day confirm our solemn declaration that the monument to George Washington has found its fitting complement and companion in the monument to Robert E. Lee.” Then the newspaper provided a different perspective. “In striking contrast to that extraordinary claim [comparing Lee to Washington] is the voice of the colored men of New York city who on that same day issued an address...in which they said ‘you cannot cheer at the same time for Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee.’” (There is no record of coverage of the Lee monument’s unveiling in the Lansing State Republican.)

But dissenting views were drowned out by white America’s desire to reconcile North and South and by the Lost Cause. The Spanish American War, fought just prior to the unveiling of Blair’s monument, accelerated this process.

“Southern support for the war and

[territorial] expansion became an overwhelming force by which reunion trumped appeals for racial justice, no matter how eloquently made,” Blight writes. Some Black Americans saw what was happening, he noted. The Black newspaper, the Norfolk Reporter, wrote in 1898, that “the closer the North and South get together by this war,” the harder Black Americans would “have to fight to maintain a foot-

ing.” Against this historic backdrop, Patton concluded his speech much like Archer’s address at the Lee Monument’s dedication. He portrayed those who had fought to preserve slavery — including Lee, himself — as heroes equivalent to all other American soldiers. Patton’s remarks suggest, too, that Blair, despite a lifelong commitment to racial equality as documented by Homer, had come to embrace reconciliation on Southern terms.

Blair “was great in war, and like the greatest, he was magnanimous in peace,” Patton said. “...we have witnessed the fulfillment of his prophecy made in an address in 1871 when he said: ‘The soldiers of the Union will shake hands with those of the Confederacy under the flag of a country that is free enough and great enough for all. They are all descendants of the men who fought side by side in ‘76 and 1812.’”

“Thank God,” Patton continued, “we may now write the names of Lee and Wheeler [Confederate generals] and Hobson [Union general] by the side of Dewey and Shafter and Schley [U.S. military leaders in the Spanish-American war] and we are again one country, under but one flag, with one destiny.”

Almost 125 years later, the anti-slavery statement on Blair’s monument is a testament not only to slavery’s evil and

Blair’s courage but also to the forces that make the statement so rare. The Lost Cause and the desire to reconcile the nation are among these influences. But there are others.



Blair

The University of Maryland’s Ater wrote in 2010 in the journal American Art that, “we find it difficult as a nation to place slavery into our national story of freedom ... . The anguish of this past encourages us to forget it, and, yet, it is deeply woven into the fabric of who we are as a nation.”

Savage said in a telephone interview last year that “dealing with slavery openly is like opening Pandora’s box and dealing with all these other issues,” such as the failure to provide reparations for formerly enslaved people after the Civil War, violence and racial segregation that followed, and discriminatory lending practices and ongoing inequality, “which is probably the key reason you don’t see this word on public monuments for nearly a century.”

An important step forward is understanding that the culture of avoidance around slavery is rooted in our past. “Black and white people have an opportunity to talk about slavery in a non-confrontational way if only they would learn the history,” City Pulse columnist Dedria Humphries Barker said in an interview this spring. Perhaps part of this learning could include understanding the history of Austin Blair and his generation of Michiganders — both their heroic fight for freedom and the pernicious influence of the Lost Cause that is still with us today.

*(The author, a recent transplant to Lansing, consults on climate change and other health and environmental issues. He wishes to thank Matt VanAcker and the Capital Area District Library for research assistance.)*

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

East Lansing Planning Commission

NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING

July 28, 2021 at 7:00 pm

THE MEETING WILL ONLY BE HELD ELECTRONICALLY FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Planning Commission of the City of East Lansing will hold a meeting and public hearing on **July 28, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.** This meeting will only be held electronically pursuant to the Open Meetings Act and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Epidemic Orders.

A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1501, an ordinance to amend the Zoning Use District Map of Chapter 50 – Zoning – of the Code of the City of East Lansing to conditionally rezone the property at 3225 West Road from RA, Residential Agricultural District, to B-5, Community Retail Sales Business District. The condition proposed will require the property to revert back to RA, Residential Agricultural District if the applicant does not purchase the property by 3/1/2022.

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

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

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

URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85624084417>

Webinar ID: 856 2408 4417

Call in Number: 312-626-6799

Toll Free Call in Number: 888 788 0099

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

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

Jennifer Shuster

City Clerk

CP#21-159



# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## FrankenFest lumbers into the Turner-Dodge House

By SKYLER ASHLEY

A new festival is coming to Lansing that aims to prove just how fun the paranormal can be. Even though FrankenFest, hosted at the historic Turner-Dodge House, features ghosts hunters, true crime podcasters, macabre artists and horror-inspired cosplayers, co-founder and organizer Jerry Jodloski stresses he's more interested in spreading joy than scares. Think a little more "Monster Mash" instead of "The Exorcist."

"Halloween can have so many different genres attached to it. I'm on the fun side. It stems from growing up being a kid having fun decorating the house, your mom making handmade costumes and having those magical memories that stick with you," Jodloski said. "In our house, it was the best time."

FrankenFest hopes to scratch that nostalgic Halloween itch with more than 70 individual artists, vendors and creatives whose work encompasses a wide range of mediums. Guests wandering inside the Turner-Dodge House and around its grounds will be able to do more than purchase spooky art and gifts, there will also be a multimedia "Frankenstein" exhibit, aerialists, replicas of vehicles like Ecto-1 from "Ghostbusters" and several other attractions.

While art vendors will dot the Turner-Dodge House lawn, the house's interior will feature multiple food vendors and a cash bar. Revenue collected from the food and beverages will benefit Make-a-Wish Michigan and The League of Enchantment, a charity operation that features cosplayers dressed as superheroes that entertain children at local hospitals.

Visitors that head inside the house will also get to check out a paranormal investigation crash course presented by Southern Michigan Paranormal, a group of ghost hunters that check out infamous haunted sites across the state. The presentation will teach attendees about the tools of their trade and the different techniques used to determine whether a location is home to ghostly spirits.

Southern Michigan Paranormal will also share the results of its investigation of Turner-Dodge House, which will be completed the night before FrankenFest.

"It will be an introduction to the world of the paranormal. They'll run through everything they go through to investigate a house or site," Jodloski said. "There will be lots of stories for them to tell."

If tracking down ghoulish specters doesn't strike your fancy, FrankenFest has also brought along Kayse Gale and Elan Bridges creators of the Sinister, Strange and Suspicious Podcast.

"They have a huge following with their podcast, and we're delighted they're coming," Jodloski said. "It's amazing we've become interconnected."

FrankenFest is hardly Jodloski's first foray into the realm of larger-scale events that join together hor-



Jodloski



Johnston



During FrankenFest, Southern Michigan Paranormal will share results of their paranormal investigation of the Turner-Dodge House

ror hounds of all ages. He's also worked on spooky gatherings like How-To Halloween, Lansing Zombie Walk and The Killer Car Show. FrankenFest, however, is not a Jodloski solo operation. This time, he has an important helping hand and partner, his sister Krista Johnston. Many of Jodloski's childhood memories of the Halloween season are shared directly with Johnston, the two of them growing up learning to love the spooky side of life. Johnston also has experience working on festivals: She runs the DIY Street Fair, an annual weekend-long artist exhibition in Ferndale.

"This is a brother and sister team event. We've talked for years about joining forces and for lack of a better term, Frankensteining our events together," Jodloski said. "Between the two of us, we have almost 15 years of experience doing festivals."

Jodloski said FrankenFest

is a culmination of his many years working the local horror-themed event and festival circuit. Many of the artists, vendors and exhibitions were booked thanks to connections Jodloski built while working on past projects. He wanted to curate the best of the best in order to make FrankenFest a living highlight reel of the most fascinating elements from past events that Jodloski booked or appeared at like How-To Halloween, Capital City Comic Con and The Killer Car Show. Just as the actual Frankenstein monster is composed of a grab-bag of body parts gathered from several different graves, FrankenFest too is a stitched together amalgamation.

"It's a matter of cultivating these relationships over the years. It's scouting out events and meeting people. I try to help out my guests as much as I can. It's a great community, these people are amazing," Jodloski said.

"These groups have grown along with our events. I'm thrilled to be a part of their origin story."

FrankenFest is not the first of its kind to appear at the Turner-Dodge House. In 2019, it hosted Festival of Oddities, a similarly flavored event that also featured scores of paranormal guests and horror-themed artists and vendors, including Jodloski, who attended the festival to promote How-To Halloween.

Festival of Oddities founder Jenn Carpenter, who also writes the "Haunted Michigan" series, claims she was told by Turner-Dodge House management and the Lansing Parks and Recreation Department that the event was simply too big for it to be booked there once again, so she moved it to the historic Eaton County Courthouse, in Charlotte. She says Turner-Dodge House treated her unfairly and that Jodloski's FrankenFest is a copy of her event.

"I was told they didn't want to be associated with the paranormal and they couldn't host an event that large. I was bummed because I wanted to keep the festival in Lansing, that was really important to me," Carpenter said. "There are ways another spooky festival could have been brought to Lansing without doing an exact copy of my event."

While Turner-Dodge House event planner Barbara Loyer declined to comment, Jodloski responded to Carpenter's allegations by stating that neither he nor Carpenter invented the concept of a paranormal-themed festival. He denies that he plagiarized her event, stating that FrankenFest has been years in the making. Jodloski added that he wishes Carpenter well and said it's "a positive thing" for the Greater Lansing region to have multiple events that celebrate the Halloween niche.

"None of us have invented the spooky festival. They've been around for a long time. I wish her well. I'm not sure how she had a falling out with Turner-Dodge, but this is something we've worked on for years," Jodloski said. "I wish her the best. I think they've found a good home in Charlotte. There should be many shows for artists to sell their work."



**FrankenFest**  
Saturday, July 10, 11 a.m.  
Turner-Dodge House  
100 E. North St., Lansing  
[FrankenFest.com](http://FrankenFest.com)



# The second biggest stoner holiday cometh

## Local dispensaries roll out dank deals for ‘Dab Day’

By KYLE KAMINSKI

You don’t have to smoke pot to know about 420. It’s the single biggest holiday in marijuana culture — a day usually dedicated to putting on some Bob Marley or Sublime, getting as ripped as mentally possible, maybe watching a Cheech and Chong movie and then eating a lot of food.

July 10 (or 710) is a relative newcomer to the world of cannabis festivities, though it can be celebrated in roughly the same way. One difference: This is a holiday only for ultra-potent concentrates and oil products. The date was adopted because 710 spells “OIL” upside down. And local pot shops have fully embraced the holiday with an array of new products and deals.

For the uninitiated, cannabis concentrates are crafted by distilling down only the most desirable parts of the marijuana plant — cannabinoids and terpenes — into various types of oils (and goo) that can be consumed on their own, sprinkled into a joint or torched with a bong attachment.

Please, do yourself a favor: Read a beginner guide or two before you head to the store for any of these pricey products. They’re also about four times stronger than your average bag of weed.

### The Botanical Co.

The Botanical Co. is quickly making a name for itself as one of the most mindful cannabis brands in Greater Lansing after recently purging its inventory of all products from companies affiliated with the Michigan Cannabis Manufacturers Association, an anti-caregiver trade group.

Read more about that controversy in a story published last week at [lansingcitypulse.com/news](https://lansingcitypulse.com/news).

BoCo is celebrating Dab Day in Lansing with a series of giveaways (only for every 10th customer) from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. as well as shaved ice and other on-site vendors from 4-8 p.m. The most knowledgeable budtenders in the city also recommended a few new in-house products from Franklin Fields, the cultivation arm attached to the rear end of the Botanical Co. in Lansing.

### Sugar ‘N Sauce (Member Berry)

Price — \$45/1g

THC content — 63.89%

Member Berry is a jazzy hybrid cross between Mandarin Sunset and Skunkberry, predominantly known for its electric, euphoric and uplifting effects.

### Lansterdam in Review: 710 Guide



Condensed into a glittery bronze chunk of terpy cannabis sugar, the earthy sort of blueberry flavor in this strain is even more pronounced.

The tart terpene punch — which tests above 10% — made me break a sweat after just two incredibly smooth (and coughless) hits. And for the next few



hours, I felt like I was floating. Pro tip: Take it easy on the torch. Lower temperatures work better with such a high terpene content.

### Cured Resin RSO Dart (OG Kush)

Price — \$40/1g

THC content — 74.36%

Rick Simpson Oil is slightly thicker than maple syrup and can either be swallowed, mixed with foods or squirted directly onto a banger for dabs. Named after its creator, RSO is typically a medical item at dispensaries because of its sheer potency. At BoCo, it’s available recreationally.

OG Kush is one of those strains that has been bastardized several times over since it was first cultivated in the ear-

ly 90s. Still, even in all its variations, this skunky and citrusy throwback has remained one of my favorites for more than a decade. The concentrated format just makes it more potent, discreet and versatile. I slurped it, squirted some in my tea and smoked a bit too.

About 1,000 mg of THC in each small syringe is roughly equivalent to 10 pot brownies. So, tread lightly with a small sliver similar in size to a grain of rice. I doubt you’ll need much more.

### Lume Cannabis Co.

Lume is always offering promotional discounts. Check out [lume.com](https://lume.com) for the latest deals.

### Live Rosin Jam (Jenny Kush)

Price — \$75/1g

THC content — 73.6%

The latest drop from Lume is liquid

See Dab, Page 18

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### Sozo – Apricot /Hybrid/ Effect: Relaxed, Euphoric

Crossing Legend OG, and Orange Apricot, this strain tastes and smells like bold citrus. Smoking Apricot will help you shut off your brain and relax. This strain usually comes with a thick coating of trichomes.

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HYBRID			

Available for adult use. Cannot be combined with any other offers or discounts. Offer valid 7/5/21-7/11/21, while supplies last.

### Pure Options Moonbow /Hybrid/ Effect: Relaxing, Analgesic, Anti-Anxiety

Moonbow is a fragrant sativa hybrid that sends consumers over the stars with its delightful fruity aroma and sweet candy taste. This cultivar combines Zkittles with Do-Si-Dos for a focused, creative and social effect. Expect Pure inspiration.

26-33% THC	<b>\$50</b>	NET WT.
HYBRID		<i>1/8</i> OUNCE

Available for medicinal and adult use. Cannot be combined with any other offers or discounts. Offer valid 7/5/21-7/11/21, while supplies last.

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# Refuge Recovery aids recovering addicts through Buddhism

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

During the pandemic, alcohol sales had several drastic spikes, according to market data from Nielsen. To make matters worse, folks who were already in recovery found themselves unable to meet in-person with their support groups.

Refuge Recovery Lansing persevered through it all, finding ways to stay in touch with tools like Zoom and Facebook.

“Initially, it was tough because we are so used to our routine. Meeting at certain places every week can be a comfort,” said Stephanie Fox, president of Refuge Recovery Lansing. “I think that people quickly became accustomed to meeting on Zoom.”

She said that some people in the group even began to prefer Zoom over in-person meetings.

Still, it wasn't easy trudging through a pandemic that basically encouraged people to isolate themselves. For an addict, isolation can sometimes lead to relapse. Staying in touch with a group of supportive folks is of the utmost importance.

“Unfortunately, we did have some

## Nonprofit News



This is an occasional feature highlighting events and milestones at local nonprofits. If you would like

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



To find out how you can attend a Refuge Recovery meeting, go to [facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing](https://facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing).

relapses in the group,” said Fox. “But they came back to the group and worked through it and survived to continue on the path of sobriety.”

While many people may be familiar with Alcoholics Anonymous — the

12-step recovery group founded way back in the mid-'30s — Refuge Recovery is a bit newer on the scene and less well known. It was founded in 2014.

Refuge Recovery utilizes the core tenets of Buddhism to help struggling addicts maintain sobriety. Each meeting includes a 20-minute meditation session and readings from the group's foundational text. At the end of the meeting, in a manner similar to your typical AA meeting, people have a chance to respond to the reading or share openly about the struggles they are facing.

“We do breathing meditations, meditations about awareness, love and kindness, equanimity,” said Fox. “One of our guiding principles, though, is that this isn't a replacement for your daily practices. I'm not a Buddhist teacher or a guru.”

Fox believes in the power of meditation. Even in AA, daily meditation is encouraged. It encourages people to slow down their thoughts and live in the present moment. For an addict, the ability to guide one's mind towards serenity is essential.

“An addict's mind can be a busy mind. Always thinking about the past or the

future. It can be really fraught with struggle,” said Fox. “Meditation is a wonderful way to settle the mind, settle your breath. You can bring your cortisol levels down with just breathing and mindfulness.”

Meditation can also allow members of the group a chance to take their mind off their own problems. Doing this can be a welcome reprieve from focusing on one's own day-to-day struggles, according to Fox.

Sometimes, the hardest part about getting into a recovery program is taking the first step. Fox has simple advice for those who are on the fence about coming to a Refuge Recovery meeting: “Just try it out.”

In a Zoom meeting, it's easier to discreetly show up and get a sense of what the meetings have to offer you. You don't even have to turn on your camera, if you'd rather retain complete anonymity.

“Everyone goes to their first meeting at some point. We've all been there,” explained Fox. “We're a very welcoming, tight-knit community. Being nervous is understandable. But there's no pressure here. We hope people give it a chance.”

## Dab

from page 17

gold. This premium “Gold Label” extract lineup is made from live hash rosin — fresh plants that are plucked, frozen and quickly pressed into a solventless potion of THC goodness that explodes with terpenes, is potent as hell and as pure as possible.

Named after the late cannabis activist Jenny Monson, this smooth and golden goo carries some initial earthy floral notes that quickly transform into sweet citrus flavors on the exhale and provide a soothing and uplifting buzz. Immediate and long-lasting cerebral sort of head rush; Not much body high. My kitchen smelled like a pine tree for two hours after I smoked this stuff.

**Live Rosin Cartridge (Ice Cream Cake)**  
Price — \$60/0.5g

**THC content — 78.4%**

Firing up a blow torch and measuring



out a sticky pile of cannabis batter can be inconvenient. Luckily, the cannabis wizards over at Lume have a solution in the form of live rosin vaporizer cartridges. They're sleek and easy for on-the-go tokes and taste (mostly) just like the real deal.

This indica-dominant hybrid is a cross between Gelato 33 and Wedding Cake with a creamy, cheesy and sherbert-like smell and taste — sort of like a custard long john donut. A few tokes offer a relaxing and dreamy type of high, perfect for kicking back on the couch and taking a nap.

**First Class Cannabis Co.**

The most affordable pot shop in Lansing is ready to impress for the holiday dab season with “Baller Buckets” of terpene-packed concentrates for only \$100 — once again setting a new pricing standard in the city of Lansing with a wide menu of cheap and potent cannabis products.

**Baller Bucket (Tropical Truffle)**

Price — \$100/3.5g

**THC content — 62.78%**

Tropical Truffle is an energetic sativa



blend of Tropicana Cookies and Mint Chocolate Chip, known mainly for inducing a sunny state of mind, deep conversations and pure bliss. There's also some extra joy in being able to scoop massive dabs that won't break your wallet either.

**Skymint**

Every Skymint store — including all three in Greater Lansing — is giving away two “Big A\$\$ Baller Jars” that are loaded with a quarter-ounce of sugar concentrate. Through Saturday night, customers will be automatically entered for a chance to win one for each transaction they make. Winners will be notified on Monday (July 12). Visit [skymint.com](http://skymint.com) for more details and other deals.

**Edgewood Wellness**

In addition to several summer specials, Edgewood Wellness is offering several promotions on Saturday (July 10). Among them: Four grams of select Fresh Coast Extracts resin badders for \$120 and five live resin cartridges for \$100. All other full-priced dabbable products are 25% off.

Platinum Vapes are also on sale for 3/\$100; DRiP cartridges are 4/\$100. Choice Chew gummies are BOGO for



\$1. Noble Road's hash rosin-infused gummies are also on sale, BOGO 50% off.

**Pure Options**

All customers will be automatically entered into a raffle to win a Levo II Infuser. Lansing shops will also be offering a variety of discounts on vaporizer cartridges and other extracts. Brands include: CannaBee Extracts, North Coast Extracts, Wyldfire Concentrates, Element, G Pen, MKX, Monster Xtracts, Platinum Vape and Redbud Roots. Grams of concentrates will be available for as low as \$33. Vaporizer cartridges will be on sale for as low as \$22 each.

**Local Roots Cannabis**

Local Roots in Laingsburg is offering 20% off all concentrates including RSO. Live rosin concentrates will be 30% off. Redemption Cannabis cartridges are also on sale, three for \$100.

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



# Wake up and smell the lilacs with authors Sue Allen and Jeff Young

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Each June, Mackinac Island's thousands of lilac bushes go in bloom and transform the island into a majestic profusion of purples, whites and pinks. However, unless you are a full-time resident of Mackinac Island, an early-arriving cottager or a lucky tourist, it is unlikely you have seen the lilacs in their full glory and been delighted by their fragrance.

"This year was the first time in 17 years that the lilacs bloomed according to schedule. They're sometimes after and sometimes early," said Sue Allen, co-author of the new book "Lilacs: A Fortnight of Fragrance on Mackinac Island."

Allen, a summer cottager, co-authored the 152-page book with lilac expert Jeff Young. Primary photography was done by fellow cottager Jennifer Wohletz. The book was published by Mackinac Memories and underwritten by the Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau. "Lilacs" is printed in full color with more than 200 photographs to capture the majesty of Mackinac Island's lilac bushes. All proceeds for the book will go toward the Mackinac Island Lilac Preservation Fund.

Allen said the team had the book ready to go last year, but it was held up due to COVID. Several local poets were recruited to write poems for the book and Allen contributed the verse "How Not to Prune a Lilac."

The book is organized into eight chapters, which covers such topics as "The Old Giants," "The Baby Boomers," "The Lilac Festival" and "The Future of Mackinac Island's Lilacs."

Mackinac Island's lilacs can be traced back about 150 years. They were likely brought by English and Dutch farmers

coming from the East Coast. "Popular myths trace the introduction of the lilacs to French explorers and missionaries, but that has been disproven," Allen said. "Some of the tour guides still tell that story, though."

Each year, Mackinac Island has a Lilac Festival, featuring a parade that has no shortage of horse-drawn floats and includes the crowning of a queen and princess. The festival can be traced to 1948, when island merchants hoped to extend the tourist season to early June. According to the book, islanders Evangeline "Ling" Horn and Stella King were inspired by the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington. The season traditionally ran from the

Fourth of July to Labor Day.

"It now runs from May to October," Allen said. "This year, tourism is kind of crazy with people wanting to be outside."

The Lilac Festival has also been issuing a commemorative poster each year since 1993, when Marlee Brown created a painting of the lilacs in Marquette Park. Island artist Richard Wolfgang created posters until he stepped down in 2008. A chapter in the book shows each of the posters, which now grace the walls of many of the cottages on Mackinac Island.

"Everyone on the island has a lilac story," Allen said.

The book is peppered with these

stories, as well as detailed information about Mackinac Island's 300 varieties of lilacs. One mother tells how her son gives her a lilac every Mother's Day. Other families also plant lilacs as markers of major life occurrences. Some residents have even named their lilacs in honor of relatives or important events.

"Everyone has a little bit of knowledge about growing lilacs and is willing to share it," Allen said.

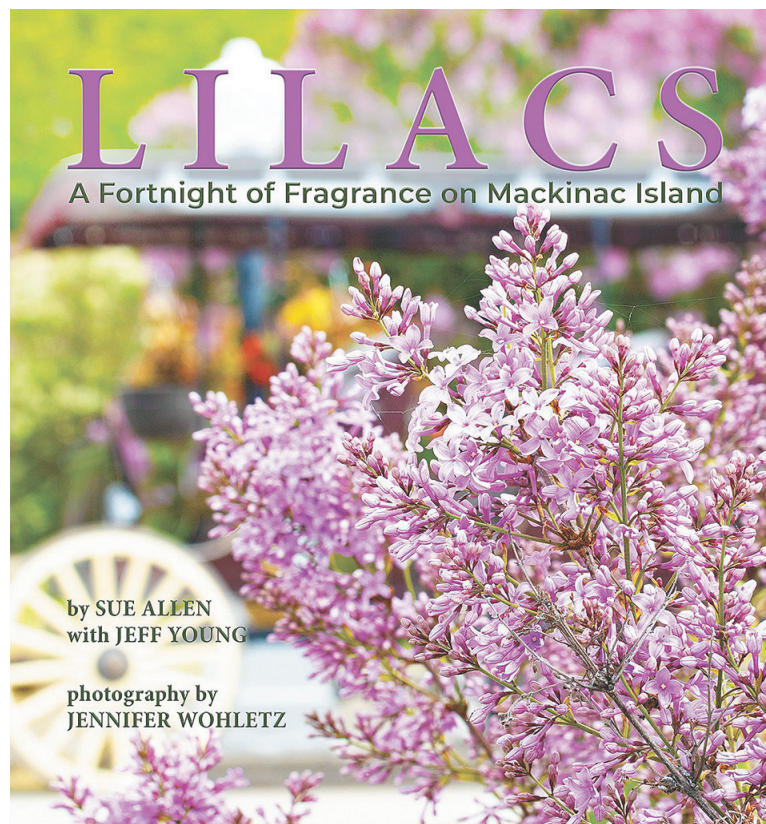
Allen says lilacs are almost indestructible. Although the lilac is technically a bush, some grow as big as a tree on Mackinac Island.

"The bushes are everywhere. You can find them in the alleys, in front and back yards of cottages — just about anywhere," Allen said.

The biggest profusion of lilacs can be seen from the ferry in Marquette Park on Mackinac Island's main street as the day trippers come to visit. The park, which was originally a garden for the military on Mackinac Island, is now a public gathering place that has more than 75 varieties of lilacs planted in 13 beds.

Mackinac Island's oldest lilacs can be seen at the Harbour View Inn on Main Street. The inn was the original home of Magdeline La Framboise, who ran a fur trapping business and lived there from 1822 to 1846. The book also points out some interesting history, such as famed writer Henry David Thoreau's visit to Mackinac Island in 1861. He wrote in his notes: "Apple in bloom and lilacs."

Allen said her favorite sighting of lilacs on Mackinac Island is on British Landing Road. "You can smell the lilacs coming over the hill. Then you see the lilacs, the lake and the smell of lilacs. It is transcendental."



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# Favorite Things



## Aaron Anthony Aikman and his custom KITT Trans Am

*Aaron Anthony Aikman is known around town for his vivid recreation of famous fictional vehicles, whether that's Ecto-1 from "Ghostbusters" or one of the transports from "Jurassic Park." But, his favorite creation of all is his faithful replica of KITT, a talking Pontiac Trans Am famously driven by David Hasselhoff in "Knight Rider."*

I had just finished building the Mystery Machine and I had always wanted KITT. I found a 1988 Pontiac Trans Am in Coldwater for relatively cheap. They accepted my offer over the phone and later that night I went and picked him up. That's the thing, the car is a character in the show so you have to refer to KITT as a "him." It took me three months before I started building him. I had to wait for the parts to arrive from Italy.

I've been in love with "Knight Rider" since I was a kid. I never thought I could own KITT, let alone build him. It was supposed to take two years, but because I refinanced one of my cars, I was able to do it quicker.

Most of the good parts come from Italy; everything is handmade. The dashboard is fiberglass and it slips over the existing dashboard. That alone was \$5,000. Brand new it's \$8,000, but I got lucky and found a used one. The same guy who sold me the dashboard sold me the proper rims and a steering wheel, which comes from an airplane. The interior wasn't correct, it came grey and KITT's interior from the TV show is tan. It also required a Pontiac Motor Division replacement seat. You have to have that, or it just doesn't look

correct. I've never done upholstery either, so that was a nice learning experience. It took two paint jobs, and I paid \$500 for the nose cone. The nose of KITT is more predominant than the regular Trans Am nose. It points out more. It's much nicer looking.

I've always loved cars. I started working on cars when I was 14. My father was a mechanic, but he passed away when I was only a 1 year old, so I never got to know him. I think that's one of the reasons why I love them, because he was a mechanic. In 2014, I sold my limousine, so I could purchase some coffins and build my version of Grandpa's Dragula from "The Munsters." The reason I say "my version" is mine has a second coffin, so my wife has somewhere to sit when we drive it to car shows.

"Knight Rider" was so cool because of the car. Who doesn't love a talking car? It did all sorts of stunts, never got damaged and it's a Trans Am. The plotlines were stupid, but I still loved it. David Hasselhoff was great. I was 11 years old when it came out, I loved it just like I loved "The Dukes of Hazzard."

KITT is a lot of fun to drive. He gets a lot of looks around town, when people realize who he is they go hog wild. I get thumbs up everywhere and people ask me to pull over so they can get pictures. I love to show off my toys, especially because I built them.

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

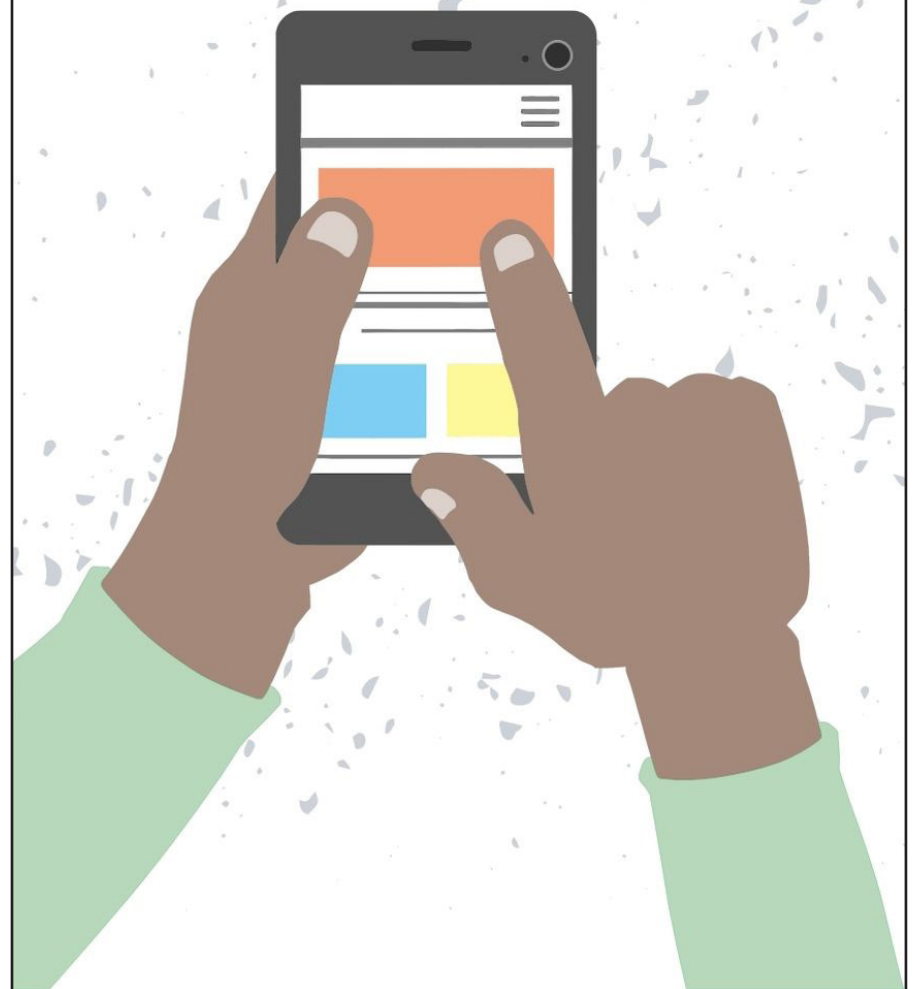
# CityPULSE

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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

**"Pretty Cool"---from the outside.**

**by Matt Jones**

**Across**

1 "25" singer

6 "No thanks"

11 "Awesome!" (and the letters seen on the outside of each theme answer)

14 Cartoon cat with a "bag of tricks"

15 "Same here"

16 Fight of the Century participant

17 They're coming to save the day

19 Downside

20 Announcer Hall

21 Hardly sympathetic

23 Noble partner?

26 "A ... crawly thing!"

27 Fivesome on a clock face

28 Gathered

30 "Semper Paratus" org.

32 Cereal box activity, maybe

33 Easy two-pointers

36 Tire filler

39 "Carmen" composer

41 "La \_\_\_\_" (Debussy opus)

42 "Gandhi" character

44 "Angry Anymore" singer DiFranco

45 "The Wizard of Oz" setting

48 Illuminating gas

49 Financial subj.

51 \_\_\_\_ souchong tea

53 Get hold of

55 Come up short

58 "Sir, this is a \_\_\_\_"

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14						15						16		
17						18						19		
			20				21				22			
23	24	25					26				27			
28						29			30	31				
32					33		34	35				36	37	38
39				40		41				42	43			
44				45	46				47		48			
			49	50					51		52			
53	54				55	56	57		58					
59				60					61					
62				63				64				65	66	67
68				69						70				
71				72						73				

(fast food-based meme response)

59 Rookie

61 It gets spilled, so to speak

62 Singer Rita

63 Colorful final track in most Mario Kart games

68 Make a dent in

69 Kemper who plays Kimmy Schmidt

70 Avoid skillfully

71 Button on some flip phones

72 "Black Velvet" singer Alannah \_\_\_\_

73 Suffix with poly

**Down**

1 2nd-largest continent, for short

2 River in Scotland that sounds like a letter

3 See 57-Down

4 Franchise operator

5 Gives off

6 Proofs of age

7 Raise, as curiosity

8 Carry \_\_\_\_

9 Compare

10 Vending machine drink

11 Leaving competitors in the dust

12 Privately

13 Fender flaws

18 Automotive disaster of the 1950s

22 Sinbad's giant egg-layer

23 "La \_\_\_\_" (Ritchie Valens hit)

24 At full speed, on the sea

25 What "Dolittle" won in the category of Worst Prequel, Remake, Rip-off or Sequel, in 2021

29 2017 Kendrick Lamar album

31 Taxpayer's no.

34 Positive feedback

35 Mountain range separating Europe and Asia

37 O. Henry's specialty

38 Ladder parts

40 Ring decision

43 Gets tangled up

46 Deviation

47 Handled, as a matter

50 "Hockey Night in Canada" broadcaster

52 TV "Playhouse" name

53 Lawn figurine

54 Put on TV again

56 Brecht's "Threepenny Opera" collaborator

57 With 3-Down, golf legend from South Africa

60 City NNW of Provo

64 Wanna-\_\_\_\_ (copycats)

65 On vacation

66 Sports drink suffix

67 "Dawson's Creek" actor James Van \_\_\_\_

Beek

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Answers on page 25

SUDOKU

Advanced

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

**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 Brezсны

July 7-13, 2021

**ARIES (March 21–April 19):** Poet Joshua Jennifer Espinoza writes, "I name my body girl of my dreams / I name my body proximity / I name my body full of hope despite everything." I love her idea that we might give playful names and titles and descriptors to our bodies. In alignment with current astrological omens, I propose that you do just that. It's time to take your relationship with your beautiful organism to a higher level. How about if you call it "Exciting Love River" or "Perfectly Imperfect Thrill" or "Amazing Maze"? Have fun dreaming up further possibilities!

**TAURUS (April 20–May 20):** The English language, my native tongue, doesn't ascribe genders to its nouns. But many languages do. In Spanish, the word for "bridge" is "puente", which is masculine. In German, "bridge" is "Brücke", which is feminine. A blogger named Tickettome says this is why Spanish speakers may describe a bridge as strong or sturdy, while German speakers refer to it as elegant or beautiful. I encourage you to meditate on bridges that possess the entire range of qualities, including the Spanish and German notions. In the coming weeks, you'll be wise to build new metaphorical bridges, fix bridges that are in disrepair, and extinguish fires on any bridges that are burning.

**GEMINI (May 21–June 20):** Académie Française is an organization devoted to preserving the purity and integrity of the French language. One of its ongoing missions is to resist the casual incorporation of English words, which the younger generation of French people is inclined to do. Among anglicisms that don't have the Académie's approval: podcast, clickbait, chick-lit, deadline, hashtag, marketing, timelapse, and showrunner. The ban doesn't stop anyone from using the words, of course, but simply avoids giving them official recognition. I appreciate the noble intentions of the Académie, but regard its crusade as a losing battle that has minimal impact. In the coming weeks, I advise you to refrain from behavior that resembles the Académie's. Resist the temptation of quixotic idealism. Be realistic and pragmatic. You Geminis often thrive in environments that welcome idiosyncrasies, improvisation, informality, and experimentation—especially now.

**CANCER (June 21–July 22):** Cancerian author Vladimir Mayakovsky wrote a poem about how one morning he went half-mad and conversed with the sun. At first he called the supreme radiance a "lazy clown," complaining that it just floated through the sky for hours while he, Mayakovsky, toiled diligently at his day job painting posters. Then he dared the sun to come down and have tea with him, which, to his shock, the sun did. The poet was agitated and worried—what if the close approach of the bright deity would prove dangerous? But the visitor turned out to be friendly. They had a pleasant dialog, and in the end the sun promised to provide extra inspiration for Mayakovsky's future poetry. I invite you to try something equally lyrical and daring, dear Cancerian.

**LEO (July 23–Aug. 22):** A blogger named Bunny-Gal writes, "I almost completely forgot who I was there for a while. But then I dug a hole and smelled the fresh dirt and now I remember everything and am okay." I recommend you follow her lead, Leo—even if you haven't totally lost touch with your essence. Communicating with Mother Earth in the most direct and graphic way to remind you of everything you need to remember: of the wisdom you've lost track of and the secrets you've hidden too well and the urgent intuitions that are simmering just below the surface of your awareness.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22):** I can't understand the self-help gurus who advise us to relentlessly live in the present moment—to shed all awareness of past and future so as to focus on the eternal NOW. I mean, I appreciate the value of doing such an exercise on occasion for a few moments. I've tried it, and it's often rejuvenating. But it can also be downright foolish to have no thoughts of yesterday and tomorrow. We need to evaluate how circumstances will evolve, based on our previous

experience and future projections. It can be a deadening, depleting act to try to strip ourselves of the rich history we are always embedded in. In any case, Virgo, I advise you to be thoroughly aware of your past and future in the coming days. To do so will enhance your intelligence and soulfulness in just the right ways to make good decisions.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22):** Psychotherapist and author Clarissa Pinkola Estés poetically refers to the source of our creativity as "the river under the river." It's the deep primal energy that "nourishes everything we make"—our "writing, painting, thinking, healing, doing, cooking, talking, smiling." This river beneath the river doesn't belong to any of us—is potentially available to all—but if harnessed correctly it works in very personal ways, fueling our unique talents. I bring this to your attention, Libra, because you're close to gaining abundant new access to the power of the river beneath the river.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21):** In formulating personal goals, Scorpio author Brené Brown urges us to emphasize growth rather than perfection. Trying to improve is a healthier objective than seeking flawless mastery. Bonus perk: This practical approach makes us far less susceptible to shame. We're not as likely to feel like a failure or give up prematurely on our projects. I heartily endorse this strategy for you right now, Scorpio.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21):** In a letter to Jean Paul Sartre, author Simone de Beauvoir described how she was dealing with a batch of challenging memories: "I'm reliving it street by street, hour by hour, with the mission of neutralizing it, and transforming it into an inoffensive past that I can keep in my heart without either disowning it or suffering from it." I LOVE this approach! It's replete with emotional intelligence. I recommend it to you now, since it's high time to wrangle and finagle with parts of your life story that need to be alchemically transformed and redeemed by your love and wisdom.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19):** In one of his poems, Capricorn-born Kenneth Rexroth complains about having "a crooked guide on the twisted path of love." But in my view, a crooked guide is the best kind. It's unwise to engage the services of a love accomplice who's always looking for the simplest, straightest route, or who imagines that intimate togetherness can be nourished with easy, obvious solutions. To cultivate the most interesting intimacy, we need influences that appreciate nuance and complexity—that thrive on navigating the tricky riddles and unpredictable answers. The next eight weeks will be an excellent time for you Capricorns to heed this advice.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18):** Aquarian singer Etta James (1938–2012) won six Grammy Awards and is in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Grammy Hall of Fame, and Blues Hall of Fame. She testified, "Most of the songs I sing have that blues feeling in it. They have that sorry feeling. And I don't know what I'm sorry about." Wow! I'm surprised to hear this. Most singers draw on their personal life experience to infuse their singing with authentic emotion. In any case, I urge you to do the opposite of Etta James in the coming weeks. It's important for the future of your healing that you identify exactly what you're sorry about.

**PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20):** "Sometimes you win, sometimes you learn," writes Piscean self-help author John C. Maxwell. His statement is useful, but it harbors a problematic implication. It suggests that you can experience either winning or learning, but not both—that the only time you learn is when you lose. I disagree with this presumption. In fact, I think you're now in a phase when it's possible and even likely for you to both win and learn.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Brezсны'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

CONSPICUOUS BYSTANDERS DROP 'LIES TO PACIFY'



On July 2, the Conspicuous Bystanders released its new LP, "Lies to Pacify." (photos by Liberty Fets)

## Lansing-based outfit delves deeper into rock 'n soul on second LP

Now on its second LP, the Conspicuous Bystanders continue to perfect its brand of dramatic rock 'n roll that is powerfully gritty yet dynamically soulful. The new LP, "Lies to Pacify," which was recorded at Willis Sound near Ann Arbor and pressed on blue vinyl, offers up eight perfectly executed tracks that effortlessly teeter back-and-forth between blistering rock and delicate ballads.

This new disc is a follow-up its 2018 debut, "You Can Have It All," which also features band members

Guitarist Emmet McGuire, lead vocalist Jenna Roark, drummer Zachary McKinney and bassist Duncan Tar. For location information on the group's secret release show on July 10, visit [conspicuousbystanders.com](http://conspicuousbystanders.com) or find the Lansing-based band on Facebook. Roark chatted with City Pulse, here's what she had to say.

**What inspired the title of the new record, "Lies to Pacify"?**

Jenna Roark: It's a lyric that sort of popped off the page. When looking to name the album, one line stood out more than any other with its ability to encapsulate the running theme,

"We're sold lies, meant to pacify our minds, but we gotta fight." It seemed such a natural fit, and when listening to every song the title becomes more defined.

**How does this new one compare to "You Can Have it All," your first record?**

I think most people will find it to be a much harder and heavier, yet somehow cleaner, experience than the first. The motifs found in the second album can definitely be seen even back with the first album in songs that grapple with depression, like "Down on my Luck." However, the frivolousness of songs like "Buttons and Electric Ladies Man" that can be found more abundantly on "You Can Have It All," as well as the joyful ignorance experienced in our first album are harder to find in "Lies to Pacify." Also, this new album was recorded in a studio, unlike our first, but in typical Conspicuous Bystanders fashion, there was no shortage of DIY recording techniques used to pull this one together.

**Listening back to your album now, do you notice any themes or trends — lyrically or musically?**

Lyrical, the first thing that comes to mind is the Nas quote, "Life's a bitch and then ya die, that's why we get high, 'cause ya never know when you're gonna go." There is a painful awareness among all of us in the band that life is indeed very difficult, but we also see the value and importance of friendship and family, in order to make it through this life with at least some degree of happiness. Musically, our biggest trend is that we apparently love to write long songs, and we love to experiment with different sounds. I would say we have a very free sound, interpret that as you will.

**Who all plays on the new album?**

It goes without saying that all four members of Conspicuous Bystanders play on our latest LP, all members doing what they do best. Additionally, we were able to get a few special treats in this time, including the amazingly talented Jim Alfredson playing keys on "21st Century Blues." Also, some truly incredible horn players Walter Cano on trumpet and Ben Stocker tenor sax play on the song "Loose."

**Why did the band want horns on**

**this one?**

Emmet was super into Fela Kuti at the time, which inspired an idea to write a song with an afro beat vibe. Lyrical, I took that vibe and ran with a fantastical story about what it's like to get your party on in a party palace as fabulous as Versailles. Between the song's whimsical sound and lyrics, we knew it only needed one final ingredient to reach its full potential. Duncan and Zach had the idea to bring in their fellow Michigan State University alumni to do the horns. Duncan wrote the horn parts with a little help from Zach. Walter and Ben proceeded to rip it up with their talent.

**Did the pandemic influence or inspire any of the tracks?**

It's hard to say for sure, but it is likely that "Tryn 2 Survive" was inspired by the feelings of being stuck in the same shitty situation as the rest of the world. But, if I'm being honest, I think the message rings true both before and after the pandemic, so who knows. We do have a new track in the works which will be on our next album that more directly references pandemic experiences.





The Lansing Record and CD Show is back after a hiatus due to COVID.

# Lansing Record and CD Show

Saturday, July 10, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Quality Inn University

3121 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing  
Facebook.com/LansingRecordShow

Lansing's record and CD collectors and music fans in general can finally rejoice. Not only are concerts slowly coming out of the woodwork as part of the growing normalcy in the waning days of the COVID pandemic, so are fan gatherings like the Lansing Record and CD Show.

The Lansing Record and CD Show gathers local music aficionados and other sonic obsessives to create a massive market with more vinyl, cassettes and CDs to peruse than your average trip to the record store. Exploring the labyrinthian setup, which takes from a deep pool of genres including classic rock, punk, jazz and even those great obscure forms of metal, is a great way to eat up an afternoon and add some vital albums to your collection.

Considering that the dealers have had more than a year to bolster their wares, surely there are some great finds to be had. To celebrate the show's return, it's been dormant since March 2020, there will be raffles for \$15 gift cards and other prizes being given out throughout the day. Admission is free starting at 11 a.m., but those who want first crack at the dealers can pay \$7 for early admission at 8 a.m.

# OUT on the TOWN

## Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week!

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

### Wednesday, July 7

**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 & Education Center, 119 N Washington Sq, Ste 101, Lansing. 517-374-6400. [lansingartgallery.org](http://lansingartgallery.org).

**Making Mason Memories Light Pole Contest** - It's time to brighten up the summer nights with a light pole decorating contest! [business.masonchamber.org](http://business.masonchamber.org).

**Michigan Young Birders Network Virtual Meeting** - via Zoom. 7-8 p.m. Michigan Audubon, 2310 Science Parkway, Suite 200, Okemos. [michiganaudubon.org](http://michiganaudubon.org).

**Summer Reading Program at GLADL** - Enjoy summer activities and earn prizes for reading! Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**Threads of Wisdom: Besom** - In-person or on Zoom. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Weavers of the

Web, ATC, 809 Center St., #7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

### Wednesday Workdays at CCBS

- 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Capital City Bird Sanctuary, 6001 Delta River Dr., Lansing. [michiganaudubon.org](http://michiganaudubon.org).

### Thursday, July 8

**Bath Farmers Market** - 3-7 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13753 Main St, Bath. [shopbfm.org](http://shopbfm.org).

**Dimondale Farmers' Market** - 3-7 p.m. 136 N Bridge St, Dimondale. 517-230-0520. [villageofdimondale.org](http://villageofdimondale.org).

**In-Person Picnic Playdate at the Playground: Wacousta**. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Wacousta Community United Methodist Church, 9180 Herbison Rd., Eagle.

**Meridian Community Band** - Williamston Summer Concert Series 7-9 p.m. McCormick Park, 200 N Putnam, Williamston. 517-490-2813.

**Mid Michigan Art Guild Spring Art Show** - Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple, Lansing.

**Owl Pellet Dissection** - 1-2:30 p.m. Playground Of Dreams, 100 Howe Dr., Eaton Rapids.

**Reach Virtual Meet-up: Arts Incubator for Young People**. 4-5 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. [reachstudioart.org](http://reachstudioart.org) for zoom link.

**South Lansing Farmers Market** - 3-7 p.m. 800 W. Barnes Ave, Lansing. 517-374-5700.

**Studio (in)Process: Upcycle Edition** - we're making Upcycled Electronics Cord Plant Hangers! 8-9 p.m. MSU Broad Art Lab, 565 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu/rtlab](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu/rtlab)

**Weekly Hiring Fair** - 12-4 p.m. Community Mental Health of Clinton-Eaton-Ingham Counties, 812 E Jolly Rd. Lansing. [ceicmh.org](http://ceicmh.org)

**Williamston Summer Concert Series** - Betty B & the Ropewalkers - Swing, Jazz and early R&B. 7-9 p.m. McCormick Park, 200 N. Putnam, Williamston. 517-490-2813.

### Friday, July 9

**Advanced Video Game Science** - 4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Amusement Park Science** - 4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Common Ground presents Blink 182** - 5-11 p.m. Cooley Law School Stadium, 505 E Michigan Ave, Lansing. 517-483-7400.

**First Stop of the Root Doctor Farewell Tour** - 7-9 p.m. McClintock Park Band Shell, 255 E. McClintock Park, Laingsburg.

**In-Person Picnic Playdate at the Playground: Strange School**. Stories, songs & activities. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Strange



# Events

from page 24

School (Playground), 8981 Oneida Rd., Grand Ledge.

**Madcat's Midnight Blues Journey and Dennis Stroughmatt et L'Esprit Creole** - From the Archives: Audio from Madcat's Midnight Blues Journey. [tenpoundfiddle.org](http://tenpoundfiddle.org).

**Mason Jar Painting** - Paint your own mason jar! Register at [eradl.org](http://eradl.org). 2-3 p.m. Playground, 100 Howe Dr., Eaton Rapids.

**Space Explorers** - 4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Sparrow Covid Vaccine Clinic** - hosted by Faith Lutheran Church, Okemos 3-6 p.m. Faith Lutheran Church, 4515 Dobie Rd., Okemos.

**Summer Concert Series** - Free, live music every Friday at 7 p.m. Ann Street Plaza, corner of Albert & M.A.C. avenues, East Lansing. [cityofeastlansing.com](http://cityofeastlansing.com).

**TGIF Weekly Friday Dance** - Everyone welcome! 7 p.m.-midnight. Hawk Hollow Golf Banquet Center, 15101 Chandler Rd., Bath. 734-604-5095. [tgifdance.com](http://tgifdance.com).

**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](http://gladl.org)

**What's in the Box?** - 4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Saturday, July 10**

**Ceramics Workshop:** Wall-mounted Seed Vases. 1-4 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**FrankenFest** - Abnormal art and monstrous creations brought to life. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Turner-Dodge House, 100 E North St, Lansing. 517-483-4220. [frankenfest.com](http://frankenfest.com).

**Symbiosis and Interspecies Collaborations** - Ladislav Hanka Exhibit, July 10-Aug. 21. Lansing Art Gallery, 119 N. Washington Square, Lansing.

**Sunday, July 11**

**East Lansing Farmers Market** - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 280 Valley Court, East Lansing. [cityofeastlansing.com](http://cityofeastlansing.com).

**Monday, July 12**

**Comedy Night** - 9-11:30 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. [crunchyseastlansing.com](http://crunchyseastlansing.com).

**Inside Me!** - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Jump Into Reading** - Join Ms. Anna for stories, songs, and activities. 11-11:30 a.m. Playground Of Dreams, 100 Howe Dr., Eaton Rapids. [eradl.org](http://eradl.org).

**Making Music** - 8 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

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

**Secret Formulas** - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Techno City** - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Tuesday, July 13**

**2021 Michigan Young Birders Camp** - Michigan Audubon, 2310 Science Parkway, Suite 200, Okemos. [michiganaudubon.org](http://michiganaudubon.org).

**4-H Animal Science SPIN Club!** Learn animal science through hands-on activities. 3-4 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**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:** for kids of all ages. 11-11:30 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org)

**Mi Bird-Friendly Communities Lunch & Learn Webinar Series:** 12-12:45 p.m. Michigan Audubon, 2310 Science Parkway, Suite 200, Okemos. [michiganaudubon.org](http://michiganaudubon.org).

**Potter Park Zoo Visit** - 1-2 p.m. Playground Of Dreams, 100 Howe Dr., Eaton Rapids.

SUDOKU SOLUTION								
From Pg. 22								
4	9	1	6	8	7	2	5	3
7	2	6	3	1	5	9	4	8
3	8	5	9	2	4	7	1	6
9	5	4	8	6	2	3	7	1
8	6	7	4	3	1	5	9	2
2	1	3	5	7	9	8	6	4
5	3	8	7	4	6	1	2	9
6	7	2	1	9	3	4	8	5
1	4	9	2	5	8	6	3	7

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

A	D	E	L	E		I	P	A	S	S		R	A	D
F	E	L	I	X		D	I	T	T	O		A	L	I
R	E	S	C	U	E	S	Q	U	A	D		C	O	N
			E	D	D		U	N	C	A	R	I	N	G
B	A	R	N	E	S		E	E	K		O	N	E	S
A	M	A	S	S	E	D		U	S	C				
M	A	Z	E			L	A	Y	U	P	S		A	I
B	I	Z	E	T		M	E	R			N	E	H	R
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# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

### The morels have stories

By **ARI LeVAUX**

At the farmers markets of the West, it is common to find morel mushrooms for sale in little baskets. They have a brainy, honeycomb look that beckons with the promise of woodland flavors. This stubborn species of fungus has refused all efforts at domestication and only grows where it chooses. This means every single morel you will ever see was hunted and harvested by hand in the wild. The vast majority are plucked from the



charred ashy landscapes left behind by forest fires. From such rough and tumble upbringings, you can bet those morels have stories.

I have got a few morel stories myself.

Like the time I got chased by a punky moose, a scrawny juvenile delinquent testing his limits. I turned the tables with some rocks and sticks and sent the bully running. And there was the time I got lost and ran out of water. I got so loopy I had to drink from a swamp just so I could think straight, only to follow the sound of my partner Evan honking on the horn of my pickup to guide me back. Good times.

Nobody is sure how or why morels appear after a fire. One downside of a wilderness-dependent industry is there does not seem to be much research money available to study it. Most of the knowledge of morel ecology is known to the pickers themselves, who are, suffice it to say, less inclined to share what they know than most scientists.

Some buyers are known to be squirrelly, while the pickers, who can be cagey, gruff, even hostile, are the ones who



Ari LeVaux

Fresh, wild morel mushrooms spotted by Ari LeVaux.

will haul you out if they find you in the woods with a broken ankle. When two healthy pickers bump into each other in the field it is an awkward, mutually disappointed truce. Back at camp it is a different story. I will never forget the time Lady Jess leapt over a rather large fire when some fool would not pass the bottle of Yukon Jack. That was a few days before I woke to the sound of gunshots in the 2 a.m. arctic dawn. A mushroom buyer shot up a raft that had capsized and dumped thousands of dollars' worth of fresh fungus into the West Fork of Fortymile Creek. At least he blamed the raft and not the poor, shivering Filipino kid who was riding the ill-fated craft.

That season, 2016, took place on 6 million acres of forest that had burned the year before between Tok and Chicken, Alaska. The pickers swarmed in from all points south. The Filipino kid, a native Spanish speaker, was part of a crew of Mexican pickers, who were legendary around town for how deep they would go. You would see their red van parked by the side of the road, with no attempt to pull off into some discreet location because they knew that nobody else would walk as far. Despite losing that literal boatload of fungus — and to this day I do not know who took the loss — the red van had some five-figure days.

It turned out I was in it for the mushrooms themselves. Every time I sold them, I felt like I was selling my children. These fun guys were my friends, and much to the chagrin of Black Dog, the buyer at Camp Happy Mosquito, I quit selling. I turned my Subaru into a mushroom dehydrator and brought home trash bags full of dried morels.

Today, next year's morel habitat is being created by this year's fires. And

last year's fires left a bumper crop in certain western states. They might not be for sale in your farmers markets, but you can find them in your local fancy produce section, and you can be sure that they were picked wild from some burned forest.

Those dried morels I brought back from Alaska served me for years and never did lose a step of flavor. Cooking with dried mushrooms

is an art I will address another time, because now, when the fungus among us is fresh, there is no need.

Whether you went through the trouble and adventure of picking the morels yourself, or forked over your hard-earned cash, the expense and adversity will melt away when this recipe shepherds your mouth to a burnt forest, the exact location of which only the morels know. And they are not telling.

#### Morels in Sherry Cream Sauce

*The ingredients are measured per half-pound of fresh morels, sliced lengthwise. You can also add thinly sliced button mushrooms to stretch out the morels without diluting the flavor. For each half-pound of button mushrooms, add the ingredients below as well. So, if you were to use a half-pound each of fresh morels and buttons, double the quantities below.*

*2 tablespoons butter  
 ½ medium yellow onion, minced  
 ¼-½ cup dry sherry  
 zest and juice of one quarter lemon  
 A pinch of nutmeg  
 ½ cup heavy cream  
 Salt and pepper to taste*

*Melt the butter in a heavy bottom pan. Add onion and mushrooms. Cook together until onions are translucent and the morels give up their moisture — about 10 minutes. Add sherry, and let it cool off. Add nutmeg, lime zest and juice. Stir it around and cook a moment, then add the cream. Cook five more minutes, season with salt and pepper and serve.*

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

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# MexiTreats opens second location just in time for summer

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

Looking for the perfect place to cool down after a long day at the beach? Do you hear the sweet, siren song of an ice cream cone calling out your name? Well, MexiTreats — a quaint eatery offering ice cream, fresh fruit smoothies and more — just opened up its second location in downtown Lansing right next to Happy's Pizza on Saginaw Street.

The restaurant offers a plethora of Mexican sweets and treats ideal for summertime consumption.

"I've been selling pizza for 16 years," said Francisco Flores. "In the summertime, business slows down because people are going to the lake and or hosting cookouts. I told myself that I should start selling ice cream so I can survive year-round."

Starting with the basic idea of opening up an ice cream parlor, Flores expanded the menu to include desserts native to Mexico and the American South. He said that people from countries all around the world appreciate the inclusion of tropical fruit drinks that they may not be able to find elsewhere in Lansing.

"People just love the tropical fruits. The Mangonada is one of the best-selling drinks we have," said Flores. "It's very popular in southern countries, in China and other places across the world. If you go down to Texas or California, they sell this type of stuff."



A fresh fruit smoothie and a fruit bowl from Lansing's newest ice cream shop, MexiTreats.

Flores delights in bringing hard-to-find delicacies to the Lansing community. Another best seller is his street corn — a piece of corn-on-the-cob impaled on a stick and covered with spices, plus a layer of mayo.

In big cities, you can find street corn sold at stands dotting the busy sidewalks. But in Michigan, it's more of a rarity.

"People always tell me, 'Oh, I would have to drive to Chicago or go to Los Angeles to find this,'" said Flores. "It's a very popular thing. We are happy that we can sell it here. We got the good stuff, so you don't have to travel."

Introducing Lansing residents to foods that they may have never seen before is part of the fun for Flores. When

people ask him about a certain menu item, he encourages them to give it a shot. For all they know, it could be their new favorite food.

"I don't know what to tell you. Just try it," said Flores. "People are tired of fast food, and they really want to taste new things. Some of my customers come back for more before they've even reached their car."

Flores is hoping for a busy summer season. Last year, with



**MexiTreats**  
400 Block of Saginaw Street,  
Lansing  
Daily, Noon to 9 p.m.  
Facebook.com/MexiTreats  
(517) 220-2983

most people staying in quarantine and less big events happening in the city. Now that the city is opening back up, he hopes people come by and pay him a visit.

"What are you in the mood for? Ice cream, a shake, a smoothie made with fresh fruit?," said Flores. "Whatever you're in the mood for, we have it, and it's all fresh."

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### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. IN COMPLIANCE WITH MICHIGAN PUBLIC ACT 254, THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM PLATFORM.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Supervisor Hayes, Clerk Sanders, Treasurer McKenzie  
Trustees: Harris, Brewer, Broughton, Ruiz

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Michael Gresens, Attorney  
Scott Cunningham, Assessor  
Karen Lancaster, WoodHill Group  
Aaron Stevens, Maner Costerisan  
Mike Woodbury

#### ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.

Approved minutes of meeting held on June 8, 2021 as amended.

Agenda approved as amended.

Untabled discussion for the financial advisor and agreement.

Approved Financial Advisor Agreement in substantial form and authorized Township Supervisor to sign the Agreement.

Adopted Resolution 21-10: Charter Township of Lansing Flexible Benefit Plan (FSA).

Approved Upper Cut Tree Service bid for tree removal.

Approved moving into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation: NCG Inc. vs. Lansing Charter Township, Michigan Tax Tribunal Docket #20-003080; and attorney-client privileged communication.

Approved returning to Regular Session.

Approved Township Attorney and Township Assessor to settle the NCG Inc. vs. Charter Township of Lansing, Michigan Tax Tribunal case, Docket #20-003080 within parameters discussed during Executive Session.

Approved claims as presented.

Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor  
Maggie Sanders, Clerk

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