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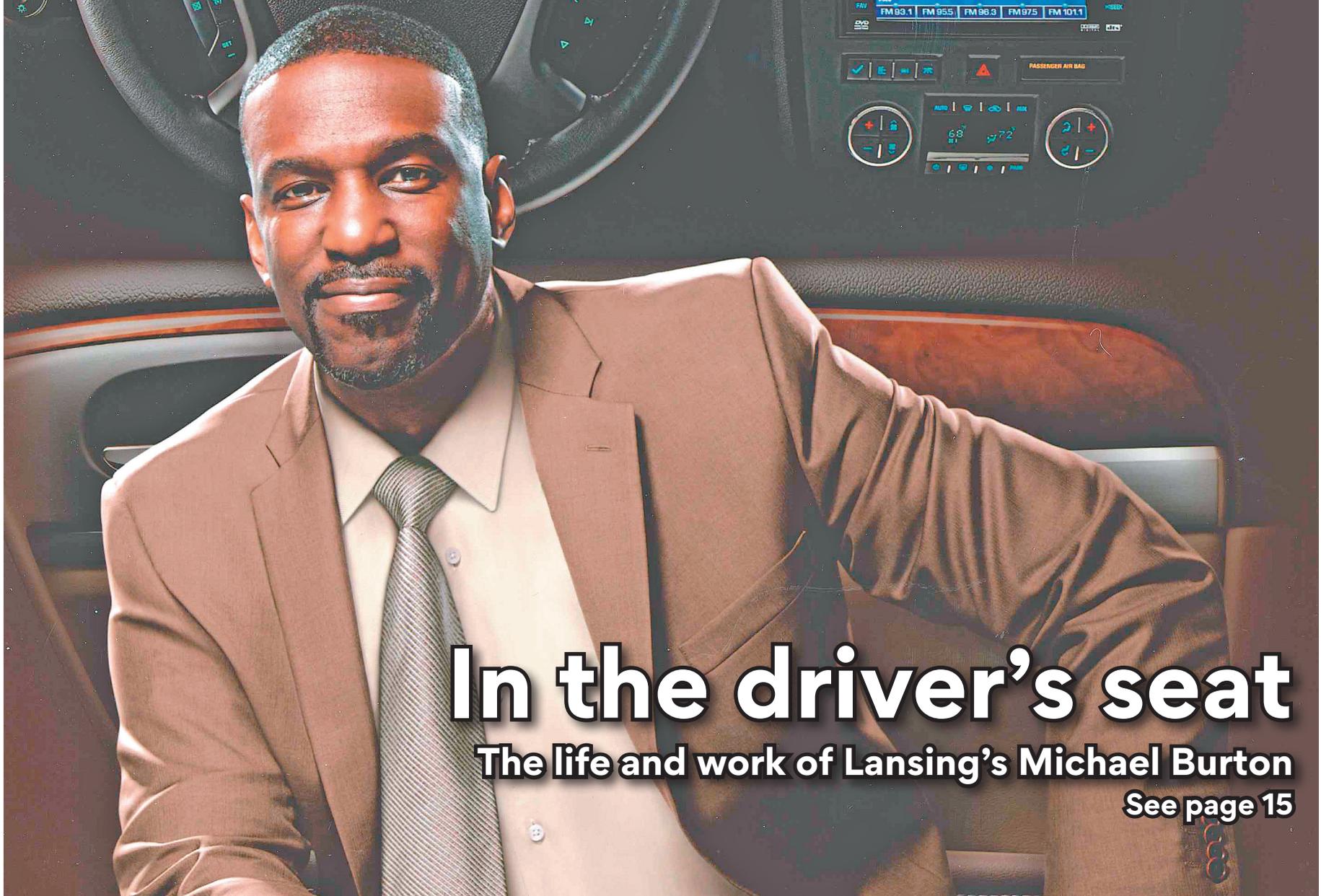
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February 3 - 9, 2021

City PULSE

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A newspaper for the rest of us



In the driver's seat

The life and work of Lansing's Michael Burton

See page 15

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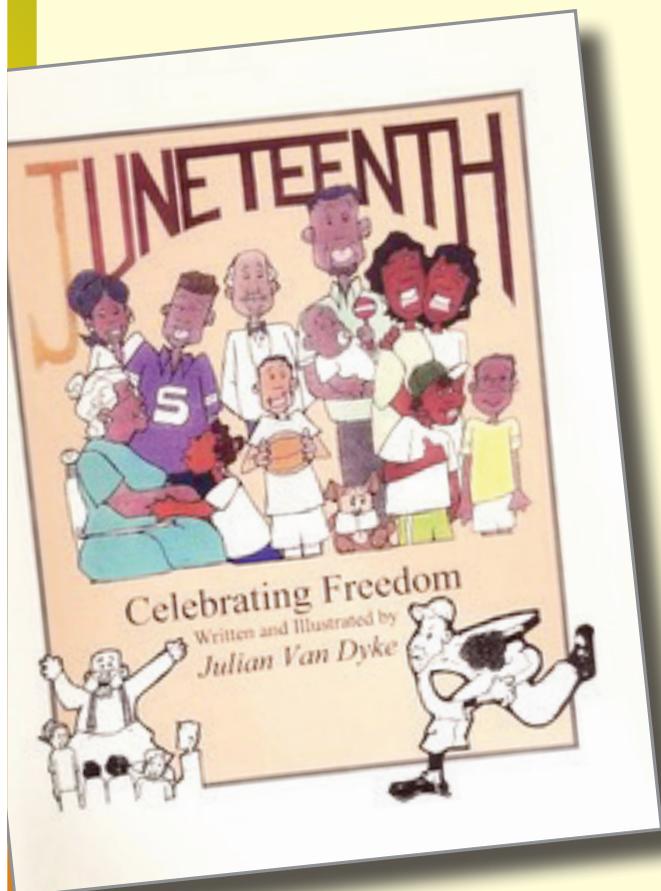
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month
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The Life Cycle of a CRAZY Idea

A GOP CONGRESSWOMAN SAYS WILDFIRES ARE CAUSED BY JEWISH SPACE LASERS. THE RESPONSE:

TRIVIALIZATION

YOU KNOW, JEWISH SPACE LASERS ARE MORE PLAUSIBLE THAN "CLIMATE CHANGE."

THEY ALSO SPREAD MARXISM.

ADOPTION

WE WILL FIGHT BACK WITH OUR ARYAN ATOMIZER.

TAKE THAT, SHEEPLE!

VIOLENCE

IVALO, FINLAND 2121

...AND THEN HALF OF HUMANITY PERISHED.

HOW COULD PEOPLE BE SO CLUELESS???

HISTORY LESSON

NEXT WEEK: THE STUDENT BECOMES A CLUELESS ADULT!

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CityPULSE

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Mayor Schor gives his State of the City address tonight

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Lansing's hip hop academy gets rappin'

PAGE 19



Flash in the Pan: Short Rib Pho

PAGE 30



Cover Art

Courtesy photo

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

INVISIBLE-HAND-OF-THE-FREE-MARKET MAN! BOY AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU! EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE SUPPOSEDLY INVISIBLE?

UGH, DOES ANYONE IN THIS CITY UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT OF A "METAPHOR"?

SO I'M COMPLETELY CONFUSED BY THE GAMESTOP THING!

SIGH, YES, OF COURSE YOU ARE. LOOK, IT STARTED WITH A BIG HEDGE FUND SHORTING GAMESTOP-- BORROWING SHARES TO SELL, WITH THE INTENTION OF BUYING THEM BACK AT A LOWER PRICE BEFORE RETURNING THEM TO THE LENDER.

THEY WERE SO CERTAIN OF THEIR BET, THEY ACTUALLY SHORTED MORE GAMESTOP SHARES THAN EVEN EXISTED! WHICH IS A LEGITIMATE THING THAT CAN HAPPEN, IN OUR COMPLETELY RATIONAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM!

BUT THEN, PARTICIPANTS ON A REDDIT FORUM NOTICED THE SHORT AND STARTED BUYING GAMESTOP-- DRIVING THE PRICE SKY HIGH! SINCE THE HEDGE FUND WAS STILL REQUIRED TO BUY BACK THE SHARES THEY'D BORROWED, THEY LOST BILLIONS!

SO IN OTHER WORDS, A PLUCKY BAND OF OUTSIDERS TOOK DOWN A GREEDY WALL STREET GIANT?

SURE, KID. WHILE OTHER WALL STREET GIANTS MADE A KILLING. ALSO, ONE OF THOSE PLUCKY OUTSIDERS WAS ELON MUSK. BUT OTHERWISE, TOTALLY DAVID AND GOLIATH.

YOU KNOW, I'M NOT REALLY GETTING THE MORAL OF THE STORY HERE.

CHRIST, I DON'T KNOW. TRUST THE WISDOM OF THE MARKET? I GUESS? JUST DON'T THINK ABOUT IT TOO MUCH.

IT'LL ONLY GIVE YOU A HEADACHE.

ARE YOU OKAY? YOU DON'T REALLY SEEM OKAY.

LOOK, WE'RE ALL A LITTLE ON EDGE THESE DAYS.

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A dose of deceit

What a tangled web they weave.

Mayor Andy Schor, City Council President Peter Spadafore and First Ward Councilman Brandon Betz all got caught cutting the line for the COVID-19 vaccine, putting themselves ahead of tens of thousands of frontline workers, vulnerable senior citizens and people with pre-existing conditions in getting the first of two injections that will protect them from the deadly disease. It was a profoundly selfish move. All three should know better. None has apologized. Instead, the three civic leaders chose to weave fanciful narratives and high-minded justifications to explain away their errors in judgment. Even worse, their stories and excuses are mutating nearly as fast as the coronavirus itself.

After City Pulse spilled the beans on his secret vaccination, Mayor Schor quickly dispatched his spokeswoman to issue a statement asserting that the mayor had received no “special treatment” even though it was obvious he got special treatment. Schor went on to explain that he took the shot to set an example for others. Since he didn’t publicly disclose that he had received the vaccine, we’re not sure who he thought was going to see him setting that example.

Schor then claimed the vaccine that he and 199 other city employees received would have gone to waste if they did not use them “within hours.” This is plainly false. We now know that the vaccination offer from Sparrow Health System was extended to the city by email on a Wednesday. The shots weren’t administered until the following Saturday. There is no plausible scenario under which Sparrow could know that several hundred doses of the vaccine would be going bad three days ahead of time. Let’s call Schor’s claim what it is — a lie.

As for Council President Spadafore, because he refuses to identify who provided him his shot, we are left to speculate about whether it was an urgent case of having to use an expiring vaccine, or if it was simply another case of preferential treatment. Spadafore’s lack of transparency on this point is yet another disappointment, on top of his attempted deception over having received a shot at all. After first denying to this newspaper that he got the shot, Spadafore called us back and changed his story. On his Facebook page, he then posted a lengthy rationalization — since deleted — which included the thoroughly absurd claim that he “ethically couldn’t say no” to taking the vaccine when it was offered. Quite the opposite, Mr. President. You had an ethical duty to decline the shot because you



The **CP** Edit
Opinion

weren’t eligible for it. You also had a moral obligation to ask your “private medical provider” to give the shot to a senior citizen or essential worker. You failed on both counts.

Sparrow Health System also has some explaining to do. The idea that one of the region’s top health care providers had to turn to the mayor and City Council members for a vaccine “pilot project” is laughable. We presume their real motive was using their access to the vaccine to provide preferential treatment to powerful public officials as a way to curry political favor. This sort of backroom dealing erodes public trust and falls far beneath the standards of integrity that should govern the institution. Those who made the decisions to enable the bad behavior of our public officials should

be held accountable.

To their credit, we note that six of the eight City Council members either missed or had the good sense to decline the opportunity to get the vaccination offered by Sparrow. Although we don’t often agree with her, long-time At-Large Councilwoman Carol Wood was the most forthright, noting that she declined the vaccination because she thought of the many senior citizens in Lansing who have yet to receive the shot. Kudos to Wood, who is eligible for the vaccine by virtue of her age, for putting the people she serves ahead of her own interests.

This debacle also gives rise to more serious concerns about the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine in our community and across the state. For folks who don’t have privileged access to the vaccine, signing up to get a shot requires navigating a complex system involving multiple agencies and multiple waiting lists. It is far more complicated than it needs to be. The lack of a coordinated, transparent and accountable system for vaccine distribution also contributed mightily to enabling high-ranking public officials to cut the line, a practice that we suspect is far more widespread than the public is aware.

Michigan officials should look to West Virginia for an example of how to do it right. Early on, the state established a statewide pre-registry to sign up for shots. They recently rolled out a statewide appointment system that provides a one-stop shop for people seeking the vaccination. Distribution of the vaccine is based on five regional hubs across the state and the National Guard is tasked with distributing the vaccines to each hub. From there, a network of local pharmacies works to get shots in arms, a process that began with the residents and staff of long-term care facilities and was completed before many states had even started their vaccination programs. The efficiency of the West Virginia system is the reason for its successful approach.

Whitmer would also be wise to counsel Lynn Sutfin, a spokeswoman for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, who glibly excused public officials cutting in line by saying it’s important to get shots in arms, even if it means going outside the priority system. This sends a dangerous message that vaccinations for the privileged few are just fine, so carry on.

Let’s be clear: it is not fine. It is a travesty and it needs to stop.

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

To become 'the city on the hill,' we must fight systemic racism

By **RON BACON**
Opinion



Ron Bacon was appointed last year to fill a vacancy on the East Lansing City Council, becoming the city's first Black councilman. Bacon is a Saginaw Valley State

University graduate and a manager at Genentech Inc. He has also chaired the East Lansing Human Relations Commission and has served on the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan.

How do you lead when a select group has decided that our common rules, laws and norms do not apply to them? This feels like the point of inflection in history that we must meet with great intentionality and an eye on the future. It appears that the forces of the past and a very dark history of America are literally on the march in this country. If we choose to not meet this moment, I fear those forces will repeat the atrocities of the past.

Based on my perception of where we actually reside at this moment, I will speak to the role that I need to play in my local community to promote a fair and equitable system for those still willing to participate in the system in an honest way that is also hinged in reality and facts.

When I consider my primary functions within my family and for the community of Greater Lansing more broadly, they are to lower the barriers to opportunity and to provide a voice and representation for people who do not have a seat at the table. I take it rather literally that if you are not at the table, you are probably on the menu.

It has also become abundantly clear that power will cede nothing without a concerted and focused effort. Therefore, in many situations either in business or politics, I may be the lone representative for a different racial or cultural perspective. When a diverse orientation of people is not represented in the halls of decision-making, the byproduct may range from benign to catastrophic,

but we are definitely not receiving the most complete picture.

In 2021, we are experiencing a wave of people of color being the first to reach some new stations and heights in this country. This representation demystifies and helps to unwrite some of the false and racist narrative that permeate our culture and shape many of our systems even today. Many of these stations are arrived at with no clear path, without firm mentorship and achieved through great personal risk and loss.

I am always looking for ways to bring greater equity, particularly for young people and those without access to power. By this, I mean seeking ways to lower the opportunity cost and shorten the journey. That is why I tend to focus my energy on the system rather than "hearts and minds."

Systemic racism and inequality so acutely damage the fabric of the American dream and destroy so much of our collective potential — particularly in the Black community. If we as a people are spending all of our time trying to figure out how to navigate systems of inequity, then we have squandered the opportunity for that same ingenuity to solve some of America's most daunting challenges.

I also want this to be the final generation of firsts. As a nation, we have a great affinity for firsts. We celebrate them and demarcate them in our history. Unfortunately, some firsts beg the question: How is this just now happening? If equity of opportunity and representation are the critical gateways to the future, how do we clear that path for members of underrepresented groups to dream bigger and often to escape the gravity of their current circumstances?

By lowering the systemic barriers to entry through representation, thus unleashing the untapped potential of our diverse citizenry. Greater Lansing broadly and my constituents in the city of East Lansing have a beautiful history of being out front in the quest for true equality. I hope we can all be more intentional in our efforts and truly live out the creed of a "shining city upon a hill."

Racial equity requires risk, painful truths and compromise

By **RANDY WATKINS**
Opinion



(Randy Watkins is an associate professor of political science at Lansing Community College, chairman of the Mayor's Inclusion and Diversity Advisory Council, member

of the Mayor's Racial Justice and Equity Alliance and the first vice president of the Lansing NAACP branch.)

When I was first asked to pen an opinion piece on racism in Greater Lansing, it was going to be optimistic. I had a belief that Lansing is not as "bad" as similarly sized cities. Growing up, I always heard that Lansing is subtle in how racism is practiced compared to other areas.

As I began to work on my draft, my intent was to provide a look at racism as a social construct — something invented so one group could feel superior over another, a means by which various myths could be perpetuated. However, an incident occurred that changed my direction.

So, do Greater Lansing residents want to move the dial? Do they want to see social equity?

I'm sure many do, but I'm not so optimistic. In any endeavor, people need to understand why it's important to them and others. We can't convince people to wear a face mask for their health and the health of others. How can we convince them to fight systemic racism?

I became further depressed when I read that 999 people were shot and killed by the police in 2020. We should all be outraged when one person is shot, but we're not. We find ways to justify the shooting or say "they deserved it" because of the individual's history. Reports state that 3.9 million guns were purchased in June 2020 during the height of the Black Lives Matter protests.

My heart sank further.

So, is Lansing moving forward? Possibly. It is taking steps to recognize the problems and create solutions that should have been done years ago. Minorities are still unable to get home loans at the same rate

of non-minorities. Black and brown drivers are still stopped and searched at a rate higher than non-black and brown drivers. We knew these things 10 years ago.

So why should this time be different?

One difference is the apparent recognition by the government that something finally needs to be done. The creation of the Mayor's Inclusion and Diversity Advisory Council and the Racial Justice and Equity Alliance are steps in the right direction. Problems will be identified and solutions proposed, but the fundamental question remains: How do you convince residents this is a problem that affects all of us; and as such, that we all need to work on a solution?

You can provide training to city employees, but even they need to know why it's important so the training is not just window dressing. Anyone who cares about the Lansing area needs to recognize that we are much better together. To achieve that, we have to be part of the solution.

However, we live in an age of misinformation and mistrust. How else do you explain the armed intrusion of the Capitol and attempted kidnapping of our governor and the insurrection in D.C.?

Truth needs to be told, no matter how painful. We may be more aware, but we are more fearful.

Our country is more fractured now than at any point I can remember. It would be easy to write a piece celebrating the achievements of Black Americans and how through many adversities they carried on, how Black and white leadership in Lansing is addressing the urgent issues facing us. The dial may have moved, and there may be more optimism. But we have been here before.

The key with any problem is identifying what the real problem is and what information you need to resolve that problem. Further, you have to be willing to take risks to resolve the problem. Compromise is a necessity. If you're not willing to compromise, then all the protests, councils or alliances will amount to nothing. And we will be protesting again and asking how we got here.

Whither our congressional district?

Five scenarios in play for Lansing

We've known U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin for two-plus years here in Lansing, but what are the odds we'll get a chance to vote for her in 2022?

The short answer is more unlikely than likely.



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

Every 10 years, after a U.S. census is conducted, states need to rejigger their congressional lines in a way that better reflects where people live. That's this year.

Projections have Michigan losing one of our U.S. House of Representatives seats, going from 14 to 13. That would follow the downward trend we've seen since the 1970s as population has increased in southern states. Michigan had 19 members of the U.S. House in 1971, 18 in 1981, 16 in 1991, 15 in 2001 and 14 in 2011.

Redistricting warhorse Ed Sarpolus a while ago drafted up a map of what Michigan's congressional lines could look like with 13 districts. His first crack doesn't have Slotkin representing Ingham County at all.

The 8th District would include Troy, Madison Heights and Oakland County's most southeastern suburbs. Ingham and Clinton counties would join U.S. Rep. Peter Meijer's 3rd Congressional District.

It's possible. The political considerations about saving specific members' territories is out the window with this new redistricting commission.

Instead, "communities of interest" is a central focus. Lansing, being located in the center of the state will be swallowed up by a districts to the north, the west, the south, the east or even the northeast. Lansing simply isn't large enough to anchor its own district without causing geographical problems elsewhere.

Here are five scenarios that could realistically play out as the commission breaks up the state into 13 different areas. This assumes the commission keeps the two predominately Black districts in adherence with the Voting Rights Act, which splits Detroit in half and expands the district held by U.S. Rep. Brenda Lawrence north into

Macomb County and the one held by U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib further south into Wayne.

1. Lansing stays with Slotkin. Since at least the 1930s, Ingham County and Livingston County have been almost always in the same district. Starting in the 1980s, northern Oakland County was added to the mix. The redistricting commission could use that model, but Slotkin would need to lose Rochester Hills and possibly other parts of Oakland as Lawrence's district swells northward. Under this scenario, Shiawassee and/or Clinton would need to rejoin the 8th — as was the case in the 2001 maps.

The question the commission will need to answer, however, is whether northern Oakland County and Lansing are "communities of interest."

2. Ingham, Jackson and Eaton are roped in together. As Tlaib's district is pushed south, U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell's district is pushed more into Washtenaw County, which is experiencing exploding growth. If Dingell's district includes Monroe, the commission could rope Ingham into what is now the 7th District. Jackson and Ingham are in the same media market, after all. Ingham and Jackson were together in the 1960s and '70s maps, too. Can't imagine conservative U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg would like it, but he doesn't get a vote ... Shoot, under this scenario, his Tipton home might not be in the district anyway.

3. Kent and Ionia grab Ingham through Clinton. Under the first Sarpolus map, Grand Rapids would join Holland, Muskegon and Grand Haven into a Super West Michigan district. Suburban Kent County, Ionia and Montcalm would stretch to the east and we'd all become the 3rd District, which is represented by Meijer. This would create a I96 district, which is a link.

4. Flint and Lansing. As recently as the 1950s, Ingham and Genesee counties were in the same district through Livingston County. These days, that trio would exceed the population threshold for a congressional district, but linking the two with Shiawassee County — creating an I69 district — would probably not. Flint and Lansing has some similarities although, again, this would merge a couple media markets. Considering the other alternatives out there, our new U.S. representative, Dan

Kildee, would be thrilled with his new bright blue district.

5. Midland and points north. This is the most unlikely of the scenarios, but it's not improbable that U.S. Rep. John Moolenaar, R-Midland, sees his district pushed a little further north into Lansing from Clinton County, which is in his 4th District. If the West Michigan-based 2nd remains a shoreline district, as it is today, Moolenaar's district is limited in where it can go.

U.S. Rep. Jack Bergman's Northern Michigan 1st District is basically immovable. Meijer's district could go north into Newaygo and Mecosta — which is the same media market. That pushes Moolenaar into Lansing, at least, potentially splitting the county. There's no good direct route from Midland to Lansing, but it could be done.

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

LETTERS to the editor

Not a joking matter

Kyle Melinn should stop asking public officials to joke about their power. Last week, Melinn criticized former Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services Robert Gordon for failing to chuckle when Melinn asked if Gordon felt "like you're the most powerful person in the state." Melinn's question was referring to Gordon's signing of orders to pause indoor entertainment to prevent the spread of COVID-19 after a decision by the Michigan Supreme Court had limited the authority of Governor Whitmer ("Why the Gordon Era Came to an End," Jan. 27).

On WKAR-TV's "Off the Record" last week, Melinn asked a similar question of state Sen. Curtis Hertel, who is married to Gordon's successor. Melinn asked if Hertel and his wife were "the new power couple in town." Hertel did not laugh either.

As Melinn recognized in City Pulse, government officials are trying to navigate a pandemic that has killed thousands of Michiganders and put thousands more out of work, not to mention extreme political division and the continued threat of insurrection. There is no humor here. Melinn should find other ways to question public officials.

**Dusty Horwitt
Lansing**

City Pulse compared to dictators

The January 13-19 City Pulse opinion column "Only the beginning" is truly great literature!

It belongs next to several other great writings such as "Mein Kampf," "Das Kapital" and "Mao's Little Red Book"!

No quarter. No compromise. No mercy. Uncle Joe Stalin would be proud.

**Earl Ruhf
Lansing**

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

Now you have two ways to sound off:

1.) Write a letter to the editor.

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

2.) Write a guest column:

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

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

LSMFT means bad news for CP

I have been very impressed with the progressive stances and hard-hitting reporting you have exhibited on your editorial pages. But then you seem to undermine them by accepting full-page ads from, of all people, LUCKY STRIKE! My initial reaction was that this was a setup for a story on the continuing influence of big tobacco. How wrong I was.

As an old guy (83) I remember the ad campaigns for LSMFT. There was a reason that cigarettes were known as "coffin nails," even by those who were hooked on them. As the son of parents who died from emphysema, having been smokers all of their lives, I cannot believe that the fresh voice of reason in Lansing would bow to corporate advertising of this nature. I realize that finances are very tough, but you can and must do a lot better than this.

**Neil O. Leighton
Professor of Political Science
Emeritus
University of Michigan-Flint**



Campbell's Market Basket

547 E. Grand River Ave.,
East Lansing

This month's Eye Candy is Campbell's Market Basket on Grand River Avenue in downtown East Lansing. The building in which the new grocery store is located is nondescript: a two-story painted brick structure built in the 1940s. However, the aesthetic flourishes that Campbell's has added make it a standout. One of the first things visitors notice are the wooden trellises framing the front window. In better weather, these host flowering vines. The three panels of the storefront window between the trellises are used to showcase what the business offers. In a bright blue-green script, the top states that it is a market; the grab-and-go offerings are spelled out at the bottom of the window (sandwiches, soups and salads). In between these words, the store's wares--variously bushel baskets of local produce, seasonally appropriate pumpkins and gourds, or a mass of houseplants--are on display. It is almost like what is featured is part of an exhibit in a sidewalk-level museum. But perhaps that's because also reflected in the window is the very real Broad Art Museum, designed by the iconic Zaha Hadid, across the street. The fluted-edge farmhouse-style hanging lights inside the store, that can be seen through the front window, and outdoors above the front door further connect the store to its mission as a purveyor of locally produced foods.

— CARRIE SAMPSON

"Eye Candy of the Week" is our look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates with Eyesore of the Week and Eye for Design. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call Berl Schwartz at 999-5061.

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS



By KYLE KAMINSKI

Bernero plans another mayoral run

Former Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero said he plans to run for a fourth term against Mayor Andy Schor in November after his campaign sent out a fundraising letter over the weekend which included the new catchphrase: "Together, a better Lansing." Besides Schor and Bernero, Lansing City Councilwoman Patricia Spitzley has also said she plans to run. None has filed ahead of the April 27 primary election deadline. If three or more candidates run, the top two vote-getters would face off against each other in November. Mayoral elections are nonpartisan.



Bernero

public health uncertainties remain to confidently plan an in-person festival until later in the summer, according to a release.

Schor seeks vacant-land development

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor issued a request for development proposals this week for projects on three city-owned properties. The initiative aims to dispose of and meaningfully develop a vacant lot at 1020 W. Hillsdale St, two parking lots at 500 E. Kalamazoo St and the former Life O' Riley property at 6726 S. Washington Ave. Development proposals are due later this month.

AG seeks sanctions for Trump lawyers

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel filed motions for sanctions in federal court against four lawyers, including Scott Hagerstrom of Lansing, who pushed false narratives of election fraud in recent legal proceedings, including a lawsuit against Gov. Gretchen Whitmer that was deemed frivolous. Besides Hagerstrom, the motion requests Novi attorney Greg Rohl, Detroit attorney Stefanie Junttila and Texas attorney Sidney Powell be disbarred. Hagerstrom was the state director of Donald J. Trump's campaign in 2016.



Nessel

Report: QD dinged over sanitation

A bombshell report from the Lansing State Journal shows that federal regulators warned Quality Dairy last year to deal with unsanitary conditions at its central processing facility after inspectors found insects, bacteria and unclean conditions. Quality Dairy officials said they've worked with the FDA to resolve shortcomings at its plant on Diamond Reo Way in Lansing, which reportedly included cockroaches, flies and a dead mouse and traces of listeria in food preparation areas.



Man freed after decades in jail for pot

The Michigan Cannabis Freedom Coalition and Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist celebrated the release of Michael Thompson, an inmate who had served more than 23 years in prison on marijuana-related charges and was granted clemency by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in December. Thompson was arrested for selling three pounds of cannabis to an informant in 1994 and while no guns were used during the sale, officers later found guns locked in a safe at Thompson's home — leading to a draconian sentence of 52-75 years in prison for the combined charges.

Potterville receives \$25K landscaping grant

The city of Potterville received a \$25,000 grant this week that will fund a large landscape project along Vermontville Highway. The funding will cover more than 100 ornamental trees, shrubs and perennials that will be installed along the boundary between the city and Lake Alliance Park.

East Lansing postpones Art Festival

The East Lansing Art Festival has been postponed until the weekend of Aug. 7-8 "given the current status of the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccination rollout," city officials said this week. The festival was originally scheduled for May, but far too many



Groovy Donuts gears up for Fat Tuesday

Groovy Donuts shops in East Lansing and Williamston are in the process of reorganizing their dining areas to allow for the largest socially distant amount of customers to pick up donuts on Fat Tuesday, Feb. 16. Last year, the company produced about 5,000 packzies for the holiday. Orders can be placed online at groovydonuts.com/products. Dine-in service is not available.

Charlotte church named as 'hate group'

A report from the Southern Poverty Law Center listed Christ the King Reformed Church in Charlotte as a white nationalist group. Pastor Brett McAtee wrote in a blog that the white race is "without dispute superior," also describing indigenous groups as "cannabals" and African people brought in during the slave trade as "savage," reports FOX 47.



McAtee

Lansing Council members dodge donations

The Lansing City Council passed a nonbinding resolution last summer to donate 10% of their paychecks back to the city, but three of them have yet to do so, reports the Lansing State Journal. Council members Kathie Dunbar, Brian Jackson and Brandon Betz hadn't made those donations by Monday, which would have amounted to about an extra \$8,000 for the city.

COVID-19 Town Hall coincides with State of the City address

Ingham Co. Health Department schedules vaccines for ages 65-69

Representatives from the Ingham County Health Department will participate in a “COVID-19 Town Hall” event from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. today (Feb. 3), giving local residents something else to watch instead of Lansing Mayor Andy Schor’s annual State of the City address at 7 p.m.

Hosted by the “Merica 20 to Life” show, which streams live on Facebook, the event will include a panel discussion on the coronavirus vaccine with Ingham County Medical Director Dr. Adenike Shoyinka, journalist Andrea King Collier and Dr. Alane Laws-Barker, a top official at Sparrow.

Questions will be answered live and can be submitted via email to merica20tolife@gmail.com.

The Health Department started offering COVID-19 vaccination appointments to people 65 to 69 years old on Friday, but officials caution that the demand still outpaces current supplies.

The latest county data shows that about 12,500 vaccines have been distributed through the Health Department to first responders, teachers, healthcare workers and those ages 70 and older. Still, officials estimate there are still about 80,000 people eligible for the vaccine in Ingham County and the Health Department can currently only vaccinate about 2,000 people each week.

People 65 to 69 and others who have been waiting for appointments will receive emailed links to schedule an appointment on or after Feb. 9, provided they registered to receive a shot. Visit hd.ingham.org or call the vaccine hotline at 517-887-4623 to set up an appointment.

About 4,700 more people are expected to be vaccinated in Ingham County within the next week.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced this week that the state has administered over 1 million COVID-19 vaccines to date, ranking Michigan seventh in the country in vaccine distribution. In the announcement, Whitmer also called on lawmakers to pass a \$90 million appropriation of federal funds that would continue to ramp up distribution in hopes of giving 50,000 shots daily.

The state’s newly formed Protect Michigan Commission also met for the first time this week, unveiling the state’s strategy to get 70% of Michiganders ages 16 and older vaccinated “as quick-

ly as possible” while ensuring equitable access to shots and transparency in distribution.

A batch of Moderna vaccines shipped to Michigan in mid-January that was believed to have been damaged after falling outside of its temperature range was deemed viable this week, adding another 8,900 doses back into Michigan’s supply amid concerns of a shortage.

In related news...

The East Lansing City Council adopted an emergency ordinance last week requiring compliance with public health orders after officials accidentally allowed the existing ordinance to lapse. Those who violate a public health order from the state or county could also face a civil fine of \$500 under the newly renewed ordinance. This version is also set to remain in place indefinitely.

Michigan State University announced a two-week “enhanced physical distancing” period for both on- and off-campus students following reports of a rise in cases on campus this week. Students are ordered to stay inside their homes and avoid gatherings until at least Feb. 13.

Local health officials reported a higher raw number of cases and rate of positive tests in East Lansing than anywhere else in Greater Lansing on Tuesday. Most infected are ages 20-29.

Violations of the order could result in \$500 civil fines in the city and other discipline from MSU.

Students on University of Michigan’s Ann Arbor campus have also been told to stay home except to attend a reduced amount of in-person classes for at least the next two weeks.

Meanwhile, East Lansing Public Schools announced that preschool and elementary students can begin returning to in-person classes on Feb. 22. High school and middle school students are also set to return to physical classrooms after several months of online learning on March 1.

National public health experts — like Dr. Anthony Fauci — are now recommending people layer up on two or even three masks to better protect themselves against COVID-19 in the wake of several more contagious variants of the virus from the United Kingdom, Brazil and South Africa. Guidance now suggests that wearing two masks (or a KN95 mask) are better than wearing one.

A CDC order issued late last month also required face masks be worn on all public transportation systems, including on rail, van, bus and motorcoach providers nationwide.

— **KYLE KAMINSKI**

CORONAVIRUS IN MICHIGAN						
BY THE NUMBERS...						WEEK 47
MICHIGAN						
	1/26/21	2/2/21	WEEKLY CHANGE			
CASES	552,556	562,510	^2%			
DEATHS	14,405	14,672	^2%			

GREATER LANSING				EATON CO.			
	1/26/21	2/2/21	WEEKLY CHANGE		1/26/21	2/2/21	WEEKLY CHANGE
CASES	23,552	24,169	^3%	CASES	5,239	5,394	^3%
DEATHS	431	455	^6%	DEATHS	127	137	^8%

INGHAM CO.				CLINTON CO.			
	1/26/21	2/2/21	WEEKLY CHANGE		1/26/21	2/2/21	WEEKLY CHANGE
CASES	14,123	14,511	^3%	CASES	4,190	4,264	^2%
DEATHS	245	255	^4%	DEATHS	59	63	^7%

**CITY OF LANSING
SUMMARY OF
ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1272**

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing by amending Chapter 1279, Appendix D of the Zoning Ordinance to expand the W. Saginaw Street Overlay District.

Effective date: February 24, 2021

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

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

CP#21-021

**ABANDONED VEHICLE SALE
CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN**

Sealed bids marked **S/21/059, ABANDONED VEHICLES** will be accepted at the City of Lansing Purchasing Office, 124 W Michigan Ave 8th floor, Lansing Mi. 48933 until but no later than, **1:00 PM, local time in effect WED. MAR. 10, 2021.** Questions regarding this sale may be directed to Stephanie Robinson Buyer, at (517) 483-4128 or email: stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov - 30 DAY NOTICE – ALL VEHICLES MUST BE TOWED OUT.

Vehicles may be inspected **WED. MAR. 10, 2021**, as follows:

SHROYER’S, 2740 Eaton Rapids Rd., Lansing, MI 48911	8:30 AM
SWIFT TOWING, 2347 N. Cedar, Holt, MI 48842	9:30 AM
PJ’S, 1425 Rensen, Lansing, MI 48910	10:00 AM
NORTHSIDE TOWING, 226 Russell, Lansing, MI 48906	10:45 AM
H&H MOBILE TOWING, 1500 Haslett Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823	11:30 AM

ABANDONED VEHICLE SALE MARCH 10, 2021

NORTHSIDE		SHROYERS		PJS TOWING	
YEAR	MAKE	YEAR	MAKE	YEAR	MAKE
2011	BUICK	1997	TOYOTA	2005	SATURN
2020	OTHER	2007	CHEVROLET	2019	MOPED
2005	CADILLAC	2014	KIA	1996	OTHER
2003	BMW	2012	NISSAN	2006	CHRYSLER
2010	FORD			2010	NISSAN
2009	DODGE				
2011	FORD				
2004	GMC				
2018	HONDA				
2015	DODGE				

CP#21-022

200 city workers jump line, get vaccinated through Sparrow

None were eligible, says county health officer

Two hundred city of Lansing employees, including Mayor Andy Schor and two members of the City Council, jumped the line in January to be vaccinated against COVID-19, putting them ahead of 40,000 other Ingham County residents qualified to inoculate them.

Schor said that he and 199 other city employees accepted private invitations last month from Sparrow Health Systems to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. They did so despite failing to meet any state eligibility criteria for a shot, according to the Ingham County health officer.

Councilman Brandon Betz, who represents the east side, and Council President Peter Spadafore, an at-large member, also received inoculations. Betz was one of the 200 city employees to receive it, while Spadafore apparently received his apart from the Sparrow program for city employees.

Sparrow officials told City Pulse last week that vaccines were offered to city staff in a pilot program ahead of widespread distribution. Schor also said the city was offered vaccines on a “use it or lose it” basis, claiming doses would have otherwise gone wasted.

Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail has since labeled that invite-only pilot program a “mistake,” noting that none of those 200 employees were properly classified as Priority 1B individuals — like essential frontline workers and those over 75 — under federal guidelines.

Schor and Betz are decades from senior status under vaccine distribution guidelines. In Ingham County, the focus is specifically on those over age 70 because of the high mortality rate in that age group. Shots for those over 65 only just started last week. Vaccines are otherwise only available for emergency first responders — like healthcare personnel, firefighters, ambulance crews and police officers — and “essential employees” like teachers and grocery store staff.

After that news broke, City Pulse contacted all Council members to ask if any had been vaccinated.

Spadafore twice denied he'd been inoculated, then called a reporter to “come clean,” as he put it. He said he received early access through an entirely separate invitation from a “private healthcare provider” that he declined to identify by name. Sparrow and McLaren



Schor



Betz



Spadafore

Greater Lansing are the only private providers in Lansing with access to doses of the vaccine. The other source is the Ingham County Health Department.

Officials at both hospital providers didn't respond to questions about vaccine distribution irregularities.

Like Schor and Betz, 35-year-old Spadafore failed to check the boxes that would have made him eligible for a shot last month. There is no specific carve-out in state guidelines on administering vaccines in the interest of continuity of government. Accordingly, East Lansing Mayor Aaron Stephens and other officials at Meridian Township said they haven't yet had vaccines.

Meanwhile, the six other members of the Lansing City Council — Kathie Dunbar, Jeremy Garza, Adam Hussain, Patricia Spitzley, Brian Jackson and Carol Wood — said they either didn't receive or declined the recent invitation from Sparrow to skip the vaccine distribution queue.

Dunbar said she had issues with her email and missed the invitation till it was too late but would have declined the offer. Spitzley said she was invited on Wednesday, Jan. 13, to schedule an appointment for the following Saturday, but she didn't check her inbox until after the shots had already been administered to 200 employees.

Spitzley, 56, also said that she would have tried to give her appointment to her senior citizen mother or frontline employee sister and, at her younger age, would have declined to take the shot.

“I wouldn't have ever considered taking the vaccine before either of them could,” Spitzley said, labeling both the Sparrow invitation and the city's distribution plan as a “missed opportunity” and expressing disappointment that more effort was not taken to get those shots in the right arms.

Wood, 69, said that she declined the shot and that she would “wait her turn.” But as the executive order of the senior citizens' service organization RSVP, she would have “moved heaven and earth” to secure those vaccines for local senior citizens rather than the city's top offi-

cial.

Hussain, 37, declined the offer but is eligible for the shot through Waverly Community Schools.

Schor, Spadafore and Betz have each described their private invitations as time sensitive — suggesting doses would have been wasted if not for their willingness to receive them. Schor said he also took one to set an example, though he never publicly announced his intention.

An email sent to Lansing employees from the Human Resources Department appears to have offered vaccine appointments on a first-come, first-serve basis without regard for whether they were considered “frontline essential workers” that had prolonged contact with the public.

Schor has also said that list included parking enforcement and code enforcement officers.

In hindsight, city officials should have sought out senior citizens and other at-risk people who had been waiting in line for the shot, Schor told Dave Akerly at 1320 WILS on Friday. Spadafore also expressed regret, though noting he incorrectly thought he was eligible at the time.

Both have said that a shot in the arm — regardless of eligibility — is a shot put to good use.

Before receiving the vaccine, all healthcare providers signed a “provider agreement” with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control that spells out an obligation to administer doses “in accordance with all requirements and recommendations” of the CDC — including the prioritization schedule. It also notes that federal funding will be withheld to any organization that fails to comply with those priority guidelines.

Records show that nearly all of that clinic's 1,000 appointments for second shots are booked.

“I can't speak to what they're doing at all,” Vail said of Sparrow and McLaren. “I don't know what they're doing or how they're handling their strategy, but it's imperative that we all stick to guidance on vaccine priorities for these groups. Usually, these doses are easy to manage.”

Vail also said she doesn't have insight into why top city officials have been able to cut the line.

And while she “cannot guarantee” that some vaccines administered through the Health Department also could have made their way to people who weren't eligible to receive them, she stressed that multiple “checks and balances” are in place to prevent those errors.

The deep-cold-storage Pfizer doses administered locally must be used in five days once refrigerated and within seven hours once they reach room temperature, Vail said. Unlike Sparrow and possibly McLaren, the Health Department hasn't had any issues finding the right arms.

Of late, the biggest concern has instead been focused on fueling a steady supply of vaccine to meet the demand. At least 40,000 eligible Ingham County residents were still waiting in line for their appointments this week as state and federal officials scrambled to ship more doses.

Sparrow officials told the Lansing State Journal that the hospital system is doing its best to prioritize people who are actually eligible for the vaccine, which reports vaccinating more than 22,000 people since December. It's unclear how many of those people fit priority guidelines.

Sparrow officials told the Lansing State Journal that the city “sent who they sent” to the clinic.

Regardless, there also appears to be no real oversight — and no consequences — from the state to ensure that healthcare providers bother to stay in line with the current prioritization schedule. A Department of Health and Human Services spokeswoman, Lynn Sutfin, explained:

“We do not want providers to waste vaccines and would rather they provide vaccines to someone outside of the prioritization groups as opposed to throwing it out if it comes down to it,” Sutfin said in a statement, refusing to answer questions. “No shot in the arm is ever wasted as getting this vaccine is our way out of the pandemic and returning to some sense of normalcy.”

Betz said he also plans to start knocking on doors later this month to discuss the economy with local residents after he receives the second dose of his vaccine. Health officials encourage everyone that received their first dose to receive their second, regardless of priority line. Those who have been vaccinated are still advised to stay six feet from others under CDC guidelines.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

COVID-19 forces Michigan to face another crisis: Racial inequity

Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist discusses state action to reduce disparities

As the novel coronavirus began to hit Michigan last spring, the disparity of whom it was killing quickly came into stark relief. Black Michigianians represented less than 14% of the state's overall population, but in that first month they represented at least 41% of the deaths.

"We were concerned about this disparity potentially being present," Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist said in an exclusive interview with City Pulse, "and that's why Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, our chief medical executive, before we even had our first case, she worked with local health departments and hospital systems to outfit our public health infrastructure to even track demographic data that included race and ethnicity. Then once we saw these disparities that were so rampant and so deadly, Michigan became a leader in the nation."

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer quickly realized the disparate outcomes and burden required a state response, leading to the creation of the Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities. Gilchrist, Michigan's first black lieutenant governor, was tapped to lead it.

Task forces like this often move along doing the research and putting together reports with recommendations, but "people were dying in real time," he said. It required some quick moves.

"I was getting text messages and



Gilchrist

calls and emails about friends, family, former colleagues, passing away from COVID-19 every single day," he said. "Throughout this pandemic, I've said goodbye to 27 people from COVID-19. So it was important that we actually recommended and enacted interventions in real time to stop people from getting sick and for saving lives."

The task force moved with speed, identifying not only the underlying structural causes of the disparate outcomes, but finding ways to eliminate or reduce those barriers.

Officials quickly realized they faced a daunting task of addressing not only the immediate inequities driving an extraordinary disparity between outcomes for people of color and white people in Michigan who contracted COVID-19, but that it was staring

down the systemic barriers that created an unequal health outcome in the first place.

To address the crisis immediately, the task force drove recommendations to increase testing in communities of color by actually going into those communities instead of relying on the communities to come to them. Those neighborhood testing sites conducted nearly 25,000 tests from the end of August and Nov. 16, when the task force interim report was released. The red tape associated with testing — such as cost, insurance and the requirement that a doctor order the test — were all waived.

"We did this partnership with Ford Motor Co. for these specially outfitted mobile vehicles that could drive testing to a vulnerable community, to a church, to a jail, to a park, to a homeless shelter, a flexible platform, to a farm where migrant workers needed to be tested," Gilchrist said.

And that wasn't all. Using the state insurance program, the task force developed systems to connect communities of color with insurance coverage and primary care. By doing that, the disproportionate impact of underlying diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure and asthma could be addressed, reducing the potential impact on a person if they got COVID-19.

In June, the task force pushed the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to highlight the race of people being tested and testing positive for the virus in weekly statistical data updates. The percent of people whose race was unknown

went from 30 percent to 20 percent, even as the number of tests ramped up in October.

But the task force also found that communities of color were also more likely to be facing food and housing insecurity, work low wage frontline jobs and to have less access to personal protection equipment to prevent getting coronavirus. Leveraging federal dollars, the state partnered with 31 community organizations to leverage \$32 million to address those needs.

Data shows it is working. In the last three months of 2020, the task force's interim report tracked far fewer Black deaths than what was reported at the onset in March and April. Gilchrist said that rate plunged from 41% to less than 10% of deaths tracked among people of color.

"Michigan has shown that when you focus on addressing racial disparities, you can improve them," Gilchrist added. "So we've made progress. That progress is fragile."

Gilchrist noted that state officials are working to push out demographic data on vaccine distribution as well, although no timeframe currently exists, he said.

"We have to remain vigilant," he said. "We are making sure that we're using the same source of targeting measures when it comes to social vulnerability and things like that with our vaccine rollout that we were using with our other strategies with the task force. We hope that that will bear fruit there as well."

— TODD HEYWOOD



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It's time for Schor's fourth State of the City address.

How did 2020 pan out for him?

Analysis: Pandemic partially stalls Schor's progress since the 2020 State of the City address

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor delivers his fourth annual State of the City address today (Feb. 3). Officials said only a very small, socially distanced crowd will be allowed to watch the event live from the city's South Washington Street office complex.

Two challengers have already surfaced as Schor faces the end of his first term. And depending on how things pan out in November, this could mark his final State of the City speech.

But before the mayor can take the virtual stage, let's look back at 2020. Last year's remarks were delivered about one month before the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in Michigan. It also included several major announcements. Here's an overview of how those have panned out:

The city hired an environmental sustainability manager. We haven't heard much since.

Last year, Schor emphasized that "something" still needed to be done to address climate change in Lansing and hoped a full-time sustainability manager would help figure it out.

In April, Lori Welch, an environmental specialist for Capital Area Recycling and Trash, was promoted to the new position to review, revise and implement the city's sustainability plans — like a grant-funded study commissioned in 2016 to help create an energy management plan. The position pays \$78,000 a year.

In July, Schor asked local residents to cut back on needlessly using water as part of a competition between other cities that offered participants a chance to win a new Toyota.

In October, the city rolled out a 27-page "Action Plan" on climate change and Schor announced the Mayor's Advisory Commission on Sustainability to build on Welch's planning efforts. It doesn't appear that Schor ever appointed anyone to the commission. It may have never met.

The plan itself included broad goals to reduce the city's carbon footprint through obvious things like increased

energy efficiency, reduced waste and plans to "look at other areas" to save costs. Specific operational changes were scarce. Schor is relatively skilled at planning to make plans.

And like many other city issues, any real adjustments relied on recommendations and input from yet another mayoral advisory board. The plans also included an executive order in which Lansing joined a "Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy" — an "alliance of more than 10,000 cities" that will reportedly help hold city officials accountable to environmental goals.

Part of Welch's role is tracking data to better understand how the city can adjust its operations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Much of that initial work is about assessing benchmarks and setting goals. Additional details will be provided as they become available, officials said.

The only mention of the word "climate" in Schor's annual report in 2020 referenced the "heightened political climate and racial tensions" that kept Lansing in the headlines last year.

A flashy new program — BOLD Lansing — was announced.

At last year's address, Schor

announced the creation of BOLD Lansing. It was billed as a "break-through concept" that brings together city programs and local partners to provide step-by-step financial education and planning for high school students and their families.

The program essentially amounted to a website that aggregated resources for residents, like Lansing SAVE — a partnership with MSUFCU that helps open savings accounts for kids and links to free financial counseling through the Cristo Rey Community Center. Schor's office reports that 19 students attended 29 sessions. Seven of those participants earned \$90.

In September, the city also announced that 300 local high school graduates had been awarded scholarships through the Lansing Promise program "in concert" with BOLD Lansing. Like sustainability efforts, the BOLD Lansing program wasn't mentioned in Schor's annual report.

More public artwork arrived in Lansing.

Last year, Schor said that artwork — and especially public artwork — had been a "significant focus" of his administration. The pandemic and a tense election might have shifted focus and

local priorities, but the artistic culture in Greater Lansing certainly hasn't been lost in the fray.

Schor's wife, Erin Schor, has served as chairwoman of the Mayor's Arts and Culture Commission, which has been busy since 2018 awarding Arts Impact grants and breathing new life into otherwise mundane concrete spaces throughout the city. That included 19 ARTpath installations over the last year, which stretched over three miles of the Lansing River Trail.

Among them: A portrait of George Floyd by Isiah Lattimore that was later damaged by graffiti.

The Durant Park Tree Project was approved and initially set to proceed over the summer, but has since been postponed until 2021. The commission also worked with the Lansing Economic Area Partnership for a permanent art installation at Reutter Park that hasn't yet materialized.

Other projects included a stunning scale projection mapping that was displayed downtown during an abbreviated Capitol City Film Festival. Schor also announced the winner of the 2020 Arts Impact grant for a ceramic tile project that will cover parts of the



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Mayor Andy Schor delivering his 2020 State of the City address at the old Michigan School for the Blind.

State of the City

from page 12

The annual State of the City address will be broadcast live on City TV (Ch. 12 on Comcast) and livestreamed at www.lansingmi.gov/sotc2021.

Shiawassee Street bridge.

A \$75,000 grant also helped fund a Southwest Lansing Arts Impact Project at the corner of Pleasant Grove and Holmes roads, livening up the parking lot of a southside liquor store.

Officials said an art project will be installed at Reutter Park in the spring.

The pandemic delayed improvements to a local neighborhood.

Schor named a new “Neighborhood of Focus” in 2020 following improvements made in the Baker-Donora Neighborhood and southwest Lansing. In 2021, properties near Willow and Walnut streets in the Comstock Park neighborhood were named the next target for the city.

That goal, like in the Baker-Donora Neighborhood, was to reduce crime in the area while focusing on both aesthetic and functional improvements like parks and bus shelters, and partnerships with entities like Habitat for Humanity to help rehabilitate neighborhood homes.

Officials said that work was paused during the pandemic and will resume this spring.

A mental health task force was supposed to help Lansing’s most vulnerable residents.

Schor created a “mental health taskforce” last year that was set to help address a growing mental health “crisis” in the city with new solutions

— like creating an inventory of local organizations, making recommendations on how to streamline services and forming a “communications matrix” so that city officials can better understand mental health treatment.

That task force formed in partnership with Michigan State University shortly after Schor’s speech. That local listing is available online and includes dozens of local nonprofit organizations from across Greater Lansing, but that group doesn’t appear to have done much else in 2020.

Members of the task force said last year wasn’t the most productive. When asked this week, a spokeswoman for Schor’s office also didn’t provide details about that group’s accomplishments.

Lansing didn’t forget about its older residents.

Last year, Schor appointed City Councilwoman Carol Wood to lead a new “Age-Friendly Community Steering Committee” to help develop a more walkable city for senior citizens. The city also joined AARP’s Age-Friendly Communities network to assist with accessibility.

That committee also never met due to AARP’s offices’ being closed during the pandemic, a spokeswoman explained this week. Still, some benchmarks in a report submitted to the committee have been met regardless — including retrofitted CATA bus stops and River Trail connectors. The city also installed

a “Fit Lot,” an outdoor fitness park along the River Trail.

Wood said the task force redirected its attention to more urgent needs of seniors after the pandemic arrived. The group plans to meet virtually for the first time this month, she said.

“Our main concern was making sure people were receiving essential services, more so than making sure that parks had senior-friendly amenities,” Wood said, noting the group will still explore issues like transportation, housing and food security for seniors.

COVID-19 obviously derailed progress.

Schor closed all city buildings to the public in March and sent a large portion of the city’s workforce home due to the coronavirus pandemic. It can be difficult for anyone to live up to their goals from February, especially with how quickly cases spread afterwards in Greater Lansing.

While many worked from home, police officers, paramedics and firefighters still responded to tens of thousands of calls. Public Service staff finished 14 miles of road repairs, more than 1,200 tree trimmings and cleaned out more than 66 miles of storm and sanitary sewer pipes.

Trail work was completed through millage funds. Parks staff partnered with the Lansing School District to host online learning labs. Lansing saw the opening of a long-awaited

grocery store downtown. An attached hotel is poised to open later this year. Construction is also moving along at the former Red Cedar Golf Course and at McLaren Greater Lansing’s new eastside campus.

Schor said the community — and his staff — have kept up in the face of an “invisible adversary.”

“This will be a tough year both, budgetarily and mentally,” Schor said in his latest annual report. “As the distribution of vaccinations continues, I hope we are able to move closer to a time where we can be back in each other’s company enjoying all the great things our city has to offer.”

— KYLE KAMINSKI

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Rising domestic violence in pandemic worries transgender community

By **BRANDON CHEW**
Capital News Service

Domestic violence reports in the United States increased in 2020 in correlation with COVID-19 stay-at-home orders.

This trend identified in the American Journal of Emergency Medicine alarms the LGTBQ community because its members are more likely to experience domestic violence, advocates said.

“LGBT survivors of this type of violence are put into these situations because power and control differ more than in cisgender or straight relationships,” said Brooke Lindley, a field manager for Equality Michigan, a Detroit-based political advocacy organization.

“Power and control can look a bunch of different ways, but when you’re specifically talking about a community of people who have always been viewed as less than, it’s so much easier to have more power over people who are already considered ‘other,’” Lindley said. “Transgender victims experience hate crimes and physical violence at a greater rate.”

Anti-transgender hate crimes increased by 20% in 2019 compared to 2018, according to the FBI’s Uniform Crime Report released in November.

Lindley and other advocates say the pandemic has amplified the problems marginalized communities experience and that trans women are among the country’s most marginalized groups.

“Trans women more so are financially reliant on a live-in partner, and that can trap people in unsafe domestic situations,” said Morgan Doherty, a coordinator for the LGBT Resource Center at Michigan State University.

“Because of the financial crisis accompanying the pandemic, incidences of domestic violence have increased across the board, and trans people are less likely to have another place to go,” Doherty said. Trans people often find it difficult to reach out to domestic violence services.

At least 37 transgender people were murdered in the U.S. in 2020, according to the Human Rights Campaign. That’s the highest number of confirmed trans homicides the LGTBQ advocacy group has ever recorded.

Not everyone agrees violence against trans women has increased. Some believe this violence has always been underreported.

“I challenge the statistics that say there’s been an uptick in violence,” said



Jazz McKinney, the interim director of the Grand Rapids Pride Center.

“Was there really an uptick or is it just that it’s being reported more? Crimes against LGBTQ people are typically underreported,” McKinney said.

Any data that indicates an increase in violence against LGBTQ people can account for only reported incidents, McKinney said. “But even then, we know there’s a lot more murders that are happening.”

McKinney said it can be difficult for trans people to find steady work that allows them to freely express themselves. Additionally, trans people have a harder time finding stable housing, which McKinney said makes them especially vulnerable to abuse.

Between 31% and 50% of trans people in the U.S. will experience intimate partner violence, according to a 2015 report by the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law. Intimate partner violence includes physical and sexual violence, as well as stalking and psychological aggression.

The ability of LGBTQ people to report incidents of violence can further be complicated by current discrimination laws in Michigan.

“There’s a whole bunch of missing components in existing Michigan law that we can update to provide stability to a community that disproportionately experiences hardships,” said Sen. Jeremy Moss, D-Southfield.

“We need to put into our existing hate crimes statute, protections so that a trans person can report a hate crime and be treated seriously about it,” Moss said.

The law ought to provide a safety net to protect trans people in domestically abusive environments, he said, citing difficulties finding stable employment and housing, particularly during a pandemic, as contributing to the unstable environments trans people live in.

“When you don’t have stability in your employment, and when you don’t have stability in your housing and you don’t have stability in picking out services, you really do live in a different world than everybody else,” he said.

“When you can be fired without notice, when you can be kicked out

of your house just because somebody doesn’t like who you are, it creates a lot of stressors for somebody and it puts them in unstable environments.”

Moss suggested that inclusion of a gender-identity category into Michigan civil rights law could improve the housing and working conditions of trans people.

The Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination in employment and housing for marginalized communities but doesn’t protect against discrimination based on gender-identity and sexual orientation.

“Creating opportunities through amending the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act would go a long way to address the violence that trans women, and specifically trans women of color, have to endure,” Moss said. “We have been advocating as a community for 30-plus years to add sexual-orientation and gender-identity to the existing protected classes.”



ORDINANCE # 2621

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN, PROVIDING FOR THE REZONING OF A PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN AND FOR THE REVISION OF THE DISTRICT MAPS ADOPTED BY SECTION 1246.02 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES.

The City of Lansing ordains:

Section 1. That the district maps adopted by and incorporated as Section 1246.02 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing, Michigan be amended to provide as follows:

To change the zoning classification of the property described as follows:

Case Number: Z-7-2020
Parcel Numbers: 33-01-01-16-228-033 & 33-01-01-16-228-291
Addresses: 500 N. Cedar Street and 514 Erie Street
Legal Descriptions: Lots 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 & 17, also commencing at the Northeast corner of Lot 10, thence West 14.5 feet, South 30.5 feet, West 22.5 feet, South 19.5 feet, East 37 feet, North 50 feet to the point of beginning, Scofield Subdivision, also Lots 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 33, 34 & Lot 3, except the North 33 feet of the East 40 feet; Assessors Plat No 33, from “H” Light Industrial to “G-1” Business

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions hereof are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance was duly adopted by the Lansing City Council on January 25, 2021, and a copy is available in the office of the Lansing City Clerk, 9th Floor, City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect on the 30th day after enactment.

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

CP#21-020

New classes start now through April.

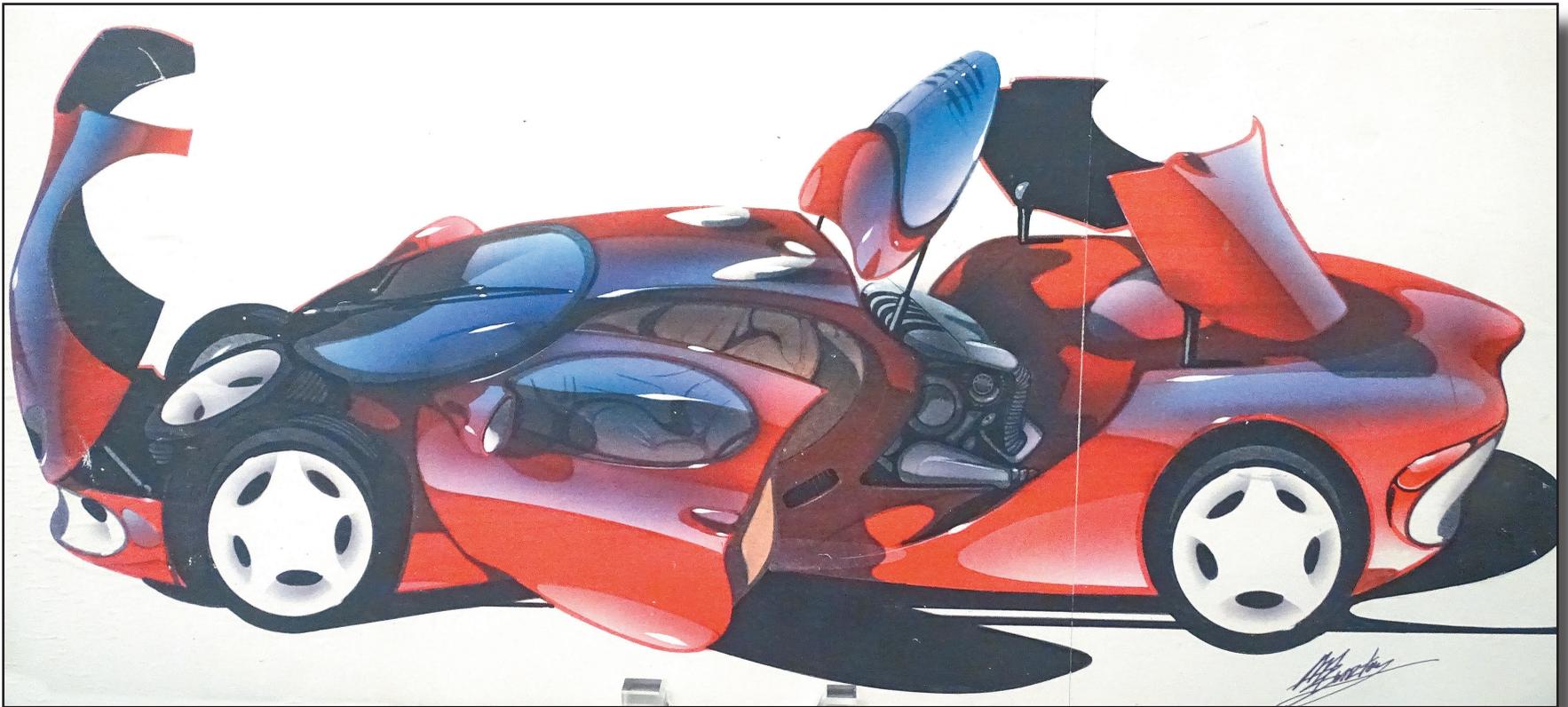




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Heaven on wheels

Exhibit celebrates Lansing-born auto designer Michael Burton

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Ralph Riddle had the TV on one night in May 2007 when a quietly confident baritone voice took over the room.

“We designed it to wake up the senses, to please your eye and invite your touch.”

Riddle knew that voice. He first heard it in the early 1970s, growing up on West Main Street on Lansing’s near south side.

Back in the day, Riddle would walk half a block to see his friend Adolph Burton on nearby St. Joseph Street. Adolph’s quiet younger brother, Michael, was usually off to the side someplace,

drawing cars on a sketchpad.

Nearly 40 years later, Michael Burton, the first African-American to design automobiles for Ford, Chrysler and GM, was star of a high-end Buick Enclave TV spot, at the peak of his power as an artist, industrial designer and suave screen presence.

“I look up and I see him shaving,” Riddle recalled. “And I’m like, ‘What?’ That guy is just *savoir faire* everywhere, man.”

In the spot, Burton wakes to morning sunshine streaming into a mid-century-modern house. A sleek dashboard panel winks to life.

“We designed it to move you,” his voice beckons.

For a golden 30 seconds, Burton pitches wheels and woo, capping his rise from blue-collar Lansing to the highest echelons of the design world. A garage door opens to the joyful throb of “Feeling Good,” immortalized by Nina Simone: “It’s a new day, it’s a new life for me, and I’m feeling good.”

The shifter knob alone is a concerto in leather, brushed metal and wood. Burton picks out a watch that matches it, lightly caresses the steering wheel and drives off into the sunrise. Design and designer are one.

“I’m Michael Burton,” he signs off. “We designed it for you. Buick Enclave. The finest luxury crossover ever.”

Riddle was amazed, but not surprised. No matter how successful Michael Burton became, nobody who knew him was surprised at his success. Even his mother named him Michael Angelo Burton, expecting great things.

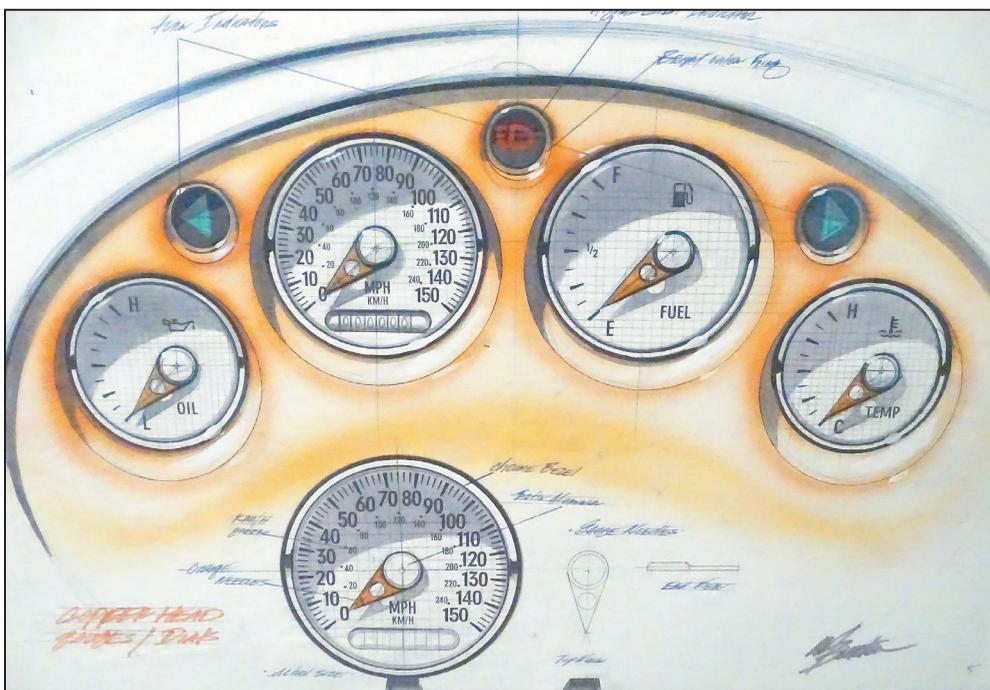
Now his work is in an art museum.

‘I called him Spock’

From Jan. 15 to Aug. 15, the lower level of MSU’s Broad Art Museum is home to a ravishing set of original Michael Burton drawings, tied to the museum’s massive exhibit on car culture, “Interstates of Mind.”

The exhibit opens with a quote from Burton: “Your first reaction when you see a car is how it makes you feel, how it strikes you from an emotional perspective.”

It’s a shock to see Burton’s brief lifespan in cold print. He was born in 1957 and died of cancer in 2016.



Courtesy photos

(Top) Micheal Burton's design for a 2007 concept car, the Dodge Copperhead, steals the show at an exhibit of Burton's original work at the MSU Broad Museum.

(Above) Console of the Copperhead. Original drawing now on exhibit at the MSU Broad.



Michael Burton
Director of Interior Design - Enclave



“w Day” Commercial



Three rows of first class seating

Courtesy photos

A poised model and voice-over artist, Michael Burton seduced potential buyers in a stylish 2007 Buick Enclave spot, declaring “we designed it for you.”

Burton

from page 15

But the sketches show how brightly he burned. His red-hot rendering of the Dodge Copperhead, in solidified waves of dragon breath, shows the designer in virtuoso seduction mode. The Copperhead concept car debuted at the 1997 North American Auto Show in Detroit. It never went into production, but it steals the show at the Broad exhibit, a selection of Burton's Chrysler and GM designs from the 1990s.

Broad Museum Curator Stephen Bridges jumped at the chance to showcase Burton's work, on loan from his family.

“The draftsmanship and skill of these drawings is just unbelievable,” Bridges said. “Even that minivan — that's a sexy minivan.” He shook his head, surprised at his own words. “You look at a Michael Burton minivan and you say, ‘Dang.’”

Some roads are straighter than others. In the early 1970s, Burton and big brother Adolph Burton sat on the porch and watched the big auto carriers head west from the GM plant on St. Joseph Road, toward the nearby Howard Sober trucking plant, on their way to be shipped across the United States.

At first, they'd point and say, “That's my car,” but the game quickly got more specific: “That's my Cutlass 442, that's my GTO.”

At 5, Michael spelled out “O-L-D-S-M-O-B-I-L-E.”

Diane Sulayman, Burton's oldest sister, said their mother had a premonition he was going to be an artist.

“When he was barely learning to talk, he'd stand up in the back seat and say, ‘Lin-kin Co-co-nental,’” Sulayman said.

Growing up, Adolph Burton tried to lure Burton into mischief, to no avail.

“I'd say, ‘Mike, Susie likes you. Come outside,’” he recalled. “We got a great pickup game going. He'd just put his head down and keep drawing. I thought, ‘What's the matter with you? You don't like sports? You don't like girls?’ He was always in a different place.” He laughed. “Now I kind of wish I was him.”

LeAyne Nash, one of Michael's two younger sisters, recalled struggling with a homemade kite for a Girl Scout Brownie kite contest.

“Michael kind of took over,” Nash said. “He painted it and drew graffiti letters on it that said ‘Katie the Kite.’ It was beautiful. I won the contest.”

Years later, Burton's older sister, Lisa Williams, spent hours hanging in his room, soaking up his brother's reassuring presence and watching “Star Trek.”

“I called him Spock,” Williams said. “He was cool with it. He was always older than his years.”

Williams puts her brother in the firmament of Black icons, along with “Black Panther” star Chadwick Boseman, film legend Cicely Tyson and Nichelle Nichols, who played Lieutenant Uhuru on “Star Trek.” She named her daughter Nichelle, after Nichols, and picked Burton to be her godfather.

Deuce and a quarter

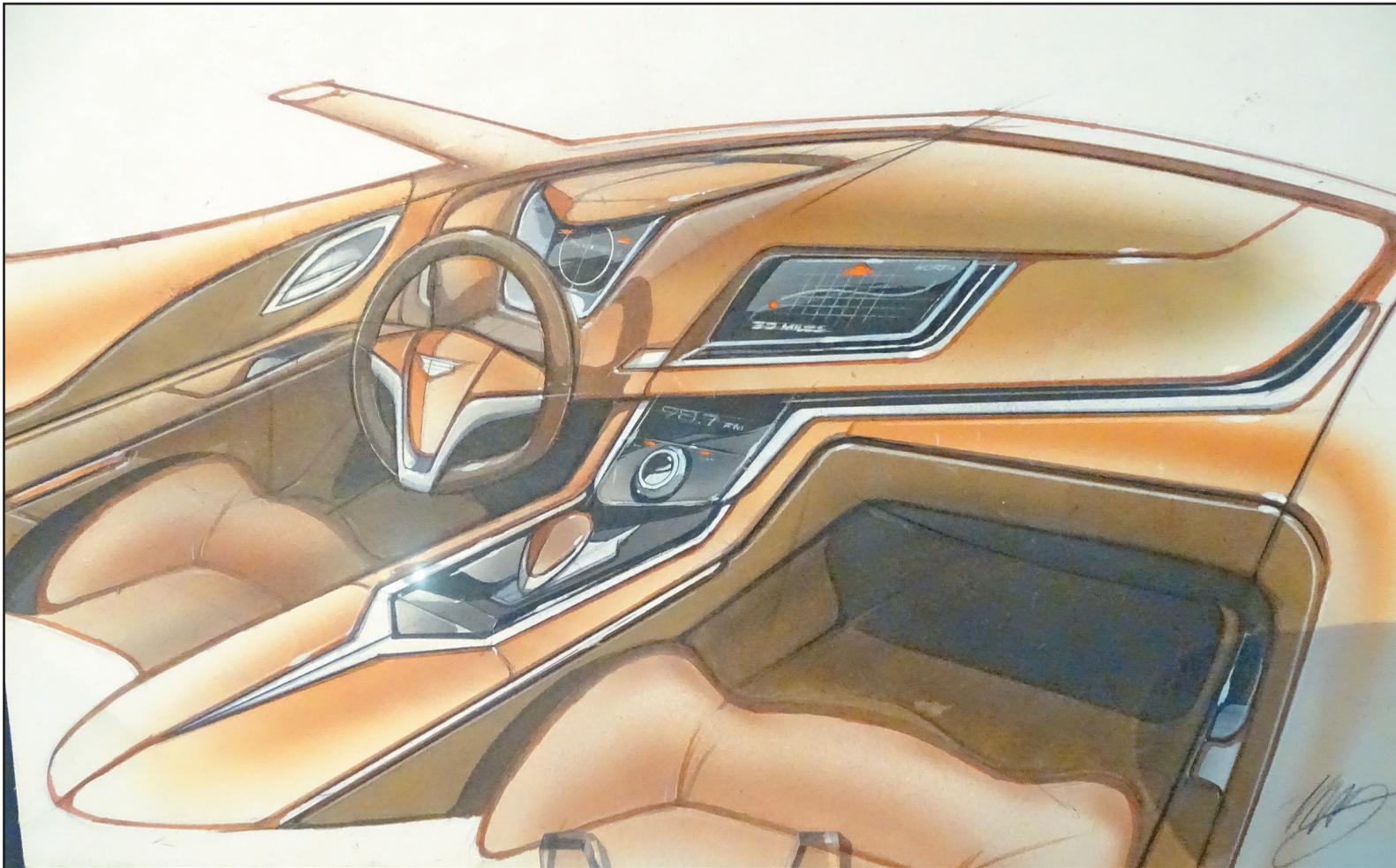
The vibrant Black neighborhood that centered on Main Street (now Malcolm X Street) and Logan Street (now Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard), was all but wiped out by the I496 freeway in the late 1960s, but when the Burtons were growing up, the neighborhood was home to many pioneering African-American professionals, from physicians to insurance agents.

Nevertheless, the neighborhood was overwhelmingly blue collar. Hourly pay was often good, but the work was punishing.

Michael's mom, Jessie Richardson, worked at GM until she hurt her back lifting a fender. His dad, Penison Burton, worked long shifts at Federal Drop Forge, where GM brake parts were hammered out. After a shift at Federal, he would come home, arms scarred from flying sparks, ears ringing from the forge. He opened a newspaper at the dinner table and fell asleep with food still on his fork.

The forges pounded like an anvil chorus all over Lansing, day and night. A white-collar job seemed

See Burton, Page 17



Burton's angular design for a 1990s Cadillac interior at the Broad exhibit hints at his love of "Star Trek."

Courtesy photo

Burton

from page 16

beyond the reach of most south siders. But Burton's stepfather, Frederick Richardson, was a pioneering African-American who worked in the GM front office. He brought home heavy miniature model cars that fascinated Michael.

Burton's sisters agree that in his religious and moral steadfastness, he modeled himself after a beloved grandfather, Jessie B. Green, a minister everyone called Papa.

But if Burton was a straight arrow in his personal life, his design work pushed some hot buttons. A very un-Spock-like relative, "Uncle Pete" from Detroit, may have influenced Burton's penchant for high style.

"He was one of those black dudes who was just the opposite of Michael," Brother Adolph Burton said. "He was flashy, he was debonair, he was the man."

Uncle Pete drove a Buick Electra 225.

"He pulled up in that deuce and a quarter, Michael's jaw was on the floor," Burton said. "He had a sparkle in his eye and you knew right then, when he was about 12, something would happen with Michael and cars."

Full circle

As a young teen, Burton built a portfolio of impressive drawings that drew the attention of Robert Riddle, director of the Urban League's Labor Education Program.

"Uncle Bob" steered Burton toward drafting classes and suggested the bold step of writing directly to GM. He offered to help Michael with spelling, but insisted that it had to be in the boy's own handwriting — a sure attention grabber for a busy executive sifting through mountains of mail.

A GM rep wrote back to Burton, praised the sketches and advised him to go into industrial design, a subject he'd never heard of.

On a scholarship from the Ford Motor Co., Burton earned a degree in industrial design at Detroit's Center for Creative Studies. He went straight from school to work at Ford, only to be "restructured" out of a job when the domestic auto market bottomed out in 1980.

Burton took that setback as a sign to follow his deeply felt calling to the ministry. He studied at Rhema Bible Training Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma, designing letterheads and other graphics to exercise his artistic muscles while working as a janitor and "busting suds" (washing dishes) to make ends meet.

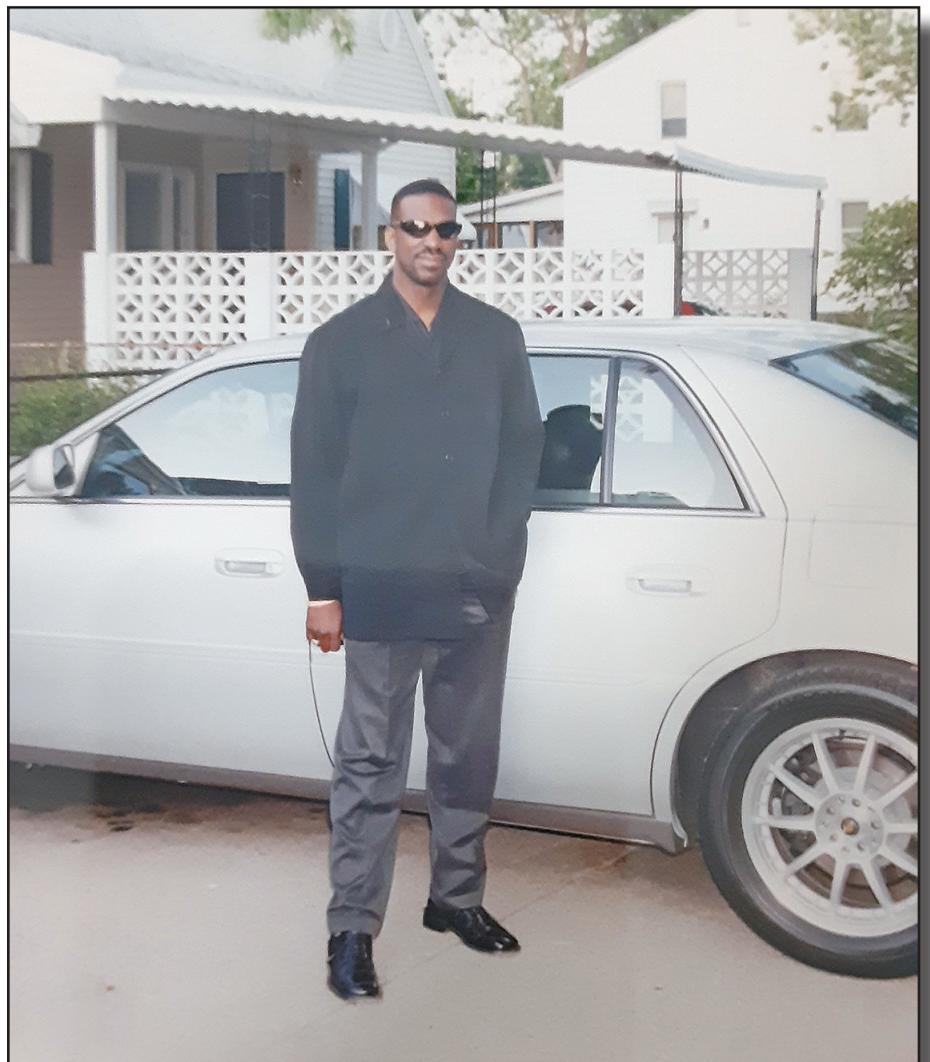
To Burton's surprise, an old friend from Detroit checked

in with him in 1984 and told him there was still a lot of buzz among the automakers about his design abilities.

Burton took that as another sign, came back to Michigan and interviewed with all three automakers. Lee Iacocca's resurgent Chrysler Corp. took him on.

As the first African-American designer at Chrysler, Burton worked on the Dodge Intrepid, the experimental Copperhead and several other models. His stylish and distinctive designs, whether they went into production or not, began to get national attention.

See Burton, Page 18



Courtesy photo

Burton stopped for a snapshot around 2007 on a visit to his family in Lansing with the Cadillac STS he designed.

Burton

from page 17

Burton was featured in a USA Today story on up-and-coming African-American auto designers.

"African American designers have provided their John Coltrane, Michael Jordan, and Basquiat touch to the designs of the brand new Ford Taurus, the Chrysler 300C, and Chevrolet Malibu," declared a story in Regal magazine in 2010.

Burton's work at Chrysler in Auburn Hills attracted the attention of GM chief designer Ed Welburn. GM made Burton a dream offer — a generous salary, a new GM car of his choice every six weeks and condos in Las Vegas and Florida.

After signing with GM, Burton was the first African American to work as a designer at all three domestic automakers. For Burton, it was just as meaningful for to play a key part in GM's roaring reboot of Lansing auto production, at a new Grand River facility, only two years after GM nearly left Michigan's capital for good.

It's called 'it'

Michael Burton's design style was a heady blend of fine art, material science and human psychology, with a hint of OO7.

One week, he mystified his brother by showing up in a Mercedes Benz. Another week, it was a Jaguar.

"You're going to shoot yourself in the foot," Adolph said, chiding him for disloyalty to GM.

"No, man, they gave me this car to see how it drives," his brother explained. "Then they tear it all up to see how it's made, put two crash dummies into it and crash it into a brick wall. Until then, I get to drive it."

Filtering the feel of the most stylish cars in the world through his own artistic sensibility, Burton's brush conjured richly appointed crossover cabins that drew national notices. Automotive critics held the Enclave's high styling up to high-end European competition.

Burton made a mark on several GM divisions, as lead exterior designer for the Cadillac SRX and STS, design manager for GM's prestige and performance platforms, interior design director for extended range electric vehicles and director of interior design for the front-wheel drive platforms of GMC, Saturn and Buick.

Adolph Burton compared his brother's work to that of an architect or a clothes designer.

"You have to know about textiles, color, material, down to locks and door handles," Burton said. "It's more than drawing a box with wheels on it."

The dark arts of high style had to harmonize with life-and-death practical requirements. A speedom-

eter placed too far to the left or to the right would be a distraction. Controls had to be reachable and intuitive.

At the Broad exhibit, Burton's sketches for interior consoles and pedals lovingly detail every rubber friction bump. A sequence of three preliminary drawings, with slight variations, shows the head-spinning array of choices Burton faced at the drawing board.

"It's a glimpse into the studio, the mind of the artist, and that's really special," curator Stephen Bridges said. "Usually all we see is the finished product."

"Should it be copper, aluminum, or steel?" Adolph Burton mused. "Leather or cloth? Should it be round or oval? Hub caps or spinners? You have to have an eye for it and a feel for it. That's what makes you Michelangelo or Leonardo da Vinci. You can't teach it, you can't buy it, you can't sell it. It's called 'it' and Michael had it."

Burton put a top note on his life's major chord when he married his wife, Darnell, in Detroit in 2005.

"They had a beautiful relationship," Michael's sister, Lisa Williams, said. "She is such a sweetheart, and he totally loved her."

At the wedding, Burton's family and friends weren't at all surprised to find him playing and singing a nuptial song he composed. From an early age, Burton was almost as avid a musician as well as he was an artist.

"He excelled in gospel, R&B and jazz," Adolph Burton said. "He played mostly in the church, but he did some side stuff on his own. He didn't want to be Michael Jackson, but he was good at it."

The success never went to his head. His loyalty to friends and family, and his religious faith, were rock steady. He never refused when mothers called him and asked him to mentor their sons.

"He was the best of us," Sulayman said. "I'm the oldest and I should know."

Twice as good

There is no hint of struggle, other than the artistic striving for excellence, in Michael Burton's work at the Broad. The accompanying text does not mention racial discrimination or prejudice.

That's how Burton



An early cardboard design by Burton (at left) with younger sisters Llsa at the wheel and LeAyne, standing by in the pit.



Burton poses with some early design work in the 1980s.

and his proud family prefer his story to be told. Burton's work stands on its own, not as a civil rights parable.

But Adolph Burton readily recalled that by the time his brother made it at GM, he'd been through the "college of hard knocks."

"He went through all the racism and bigotry of getting to the glass ceiling," he said. "We're supposed to be the ones that make the cars and drive the cars, not draw the cars. You can work in the factory all you want, but there's no way we're going to get you into a suit and tie. But he did."

The formula goes that if you are Black in corporate America, you have to be twice as good to get half as far, even if you're Michael Burton.

"And he was," his brother said. "But the good thing is, he didn't know he had it. He thought of himself as just another nerd from Lansing."

Riddle remembers him the same way. "He was so quiet and introverted, you could never imagine he had all of that inside him," Riddle said.

In mid-January, members of Burton's family gathered in front of the glass vitrines at the Broad Museum to kick off the exhibit and celebrate Michael's legacy.

Michael's younger sister LeAyne Nash was there. "It melted my heart. I was just full," she said. "Michael was very modest. A lot of those pictures, we had never even seen."

Riddle, who was reluctant at first to leave the house because of COVID, was glad he made it.

"The fact that his name is Michael Angelo Burton makes me feel there's some divinity involved here," Riddle said. "For somebody we know to have an exhibit at the Broad is just beyond my imagining."

He thought for a few seconds.

"Well, Michael could have imagined it."

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Hip-hop academy enriches local youth with rap culture

By SKYLER ASHLEY

When Lansing musician Ozay Moore formed the All of the Above Hip Hop Academy, he wanted to create a learning center for youth to absorb all of the rich cultural teachings hip-hop has to offer. More than a decade later, he's helped build one of Lansing's most unique nonprofit youth extracurricular programs, where Lansing students learn to express themselves positively through rhyming, breakdancing and beat production.

Moore, originally a touring musician by trade, moved to Lansing from the Pacific Northwest in 2006, and

All of the Above Hip-Hop Academy

Learn more at:
Alloftheabovehiphop.org

Moore didn't anticipate it would become his permanent home. "Touring life was no longer conducive to my personal values and what I wanted to do with my life outside of music. Being from Seattle, I had a different perspective on how hip-hop culture can be an asset to the community," Moore said.

Stepping back from constant touring and settling into Lansing with his family, Moore decided he wanted to create an original afterschool program that could help with community development through artistic expression. He

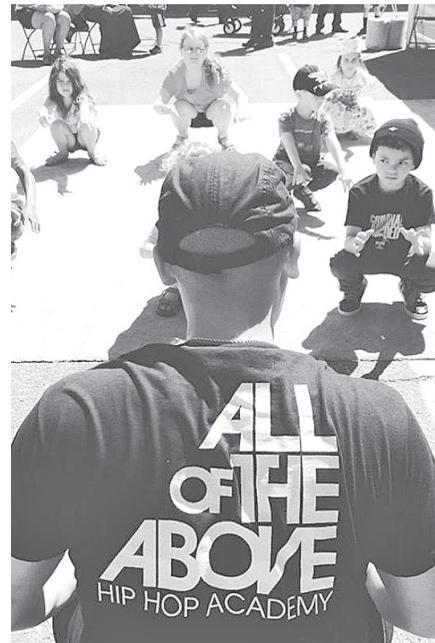
believed that teaching Lansing youth the core elements of hip-hop: emceeing, deejaying and dancing, could make a deeper positive impact on the city.

"While we give youth a platform and appreciate what they bring to the table, we as elders can provide additional layers as to where the culture comes from," Moore said.

When it came time to gather a team of instructors and volunteers that could make Moore's vision for All of the Above Hip Hop Academy a reality, he drew from his experience in the music scene. Moore met academy instructors, such as James Gardin, Sareem Poems and Ess-Be, during his time performing shows in the Lansing hip-hop scene. Moore also received a helping hand from longtime Lansing civil rights activist, John Duley, who provided All of the Above Hip Hop Academy a space to host its first summer program.

"That was our shot. That's how we worked out the kinks and figured out what we were doing," Moore said.

Students immediately took to a curriculum that sharpened their rhyme skills on the microphone; taught them how to produce their own beats using computer software and even showed them how to create their own graffiti-inspired artwork. Moore said kids



Courtesy

Ozay Moore working with students at the All of the Above Hip Hop Academy.

that didn't fit in with other school programs or sports, finally found a place where they felt at home.

Instructor and program coordinator James Gardin said the trick when working with kids at the All of the Above Hip Hop Academy is to help im-

prove and constructively critique their art without erasing their original voice and style.

"When it comes to teaching them how to create music, I really believe they have the creativity inside them and it's my job to help pull it out," Gardin said.

Though the coronavirus pandemic immediately shutdown all in-person instruction, the program isn't going anywhere. Like countless other learning institutions, the academy has taken to reaching out to students through Zoom video conference calls. The academy also received important grants from organizations such as the Arts Council of Greater Lansing and the Lansing Economic Area Partnership. Gardin said the energy of a Zoom call isn't quite as electric, but it's still important to stay connected with the kids. "We're finding workarounds and we're still making great records with our students," Gardin said.

While All of the Above Hip Hop Academy grows, Moore continues to learn more about the music and culture's ability to positively influence a city and its youth. "The cultural pieces lend themselves to providing a platform and voice for those who otherwise feel voiceless," Moore said.

Coffee shop opens first retail location on south side

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

James Defrees started 517 Coffee Co. in his basement about seven years ago. He only had six hundred bucks to get from those humble beginnings, and he established himself as a wholesaler — selling his beans at multiple locations across Lansing.

517 Coffee Co.

6030 S. MLK Blvd,
Lansing
Open Monday to Friday,
7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
(517) 574-5573
517coffeecompany.com



It was always part of his plan to open a retail location. This year, that plan finally came to fruition. Defrees is satisfied with the new location. It's close to the area where's he lived for almost two decades. There's no other place he would rather have opened up shop. So far, the community seems happy to have a new coffee shop.

"At least once a day, we have someone come in and tell us that they're glad we're here," Defrees said. "That's the response we were looking for."

The local coffee brewer explained that one of his other primary goals with 517 Coffee Co. is to provide employment and training opportu-

nities for the youth. By summertime, Defrees hopes to establish one or two internship programs.

Making the transitions from coffee roaster to cafe owner and barista wasn't too difficult for Defrees. For the past few years, he has practiced brewing and serving coffee at different farmers' markets.

He doesn't begin roasting coffee with the goal of making a light, medium or dark roast. Instead, he starts with a fresh, green coffee bean and then tries to get the best flavor possible out of it.

"Typically, that is in the light-to-medium range. But the goal isn't where

the roast level is at," Defrees said. "It's to make sure that the coffee is best represented."

517 Coffee Co. serves a combination of hot and cold coffee drinks, teas, hot chocolate and pastries. You can order online from the 517 website for in-store pickup, curbside or delivery. Delivery is free within the Lansing area.

Defrees emphasized that the menu is constantly evolving. This is only its first iteration. But he's always thinking of new items to add to the roster. "That's just how we do things. We're going to keep building," he said.

Lansing pot shop puts the ‘high’ in higher education

Everett High School senior wins full-ride scholarship to MSU

The latest state projections suggest Michigan’s cannabis market will generate nearly \$1 billion in annual revenue by the end of the fiscal year — including \$100 million in tax revenues for public schools. But apparently that just wasn’t enough for Homegrown Cannabis Co. in Lansing.

Owner Tom James announced this week that his company has awarded a full-ride scholarship to Ridwan Sheikh-Omar, a 17-year-old senior at Everett



Lansterdam in Review:
Homegrown Cannabis Co.
5025 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Lansing
(517) 708-7729
hgcannabisco.com

High School in Lansing, to attend Michigan State University in the fall. The scholarship contest was announced last September.

And with four years of all college expenses paid, the award is valued at more than \$200,000.

“We wanted to be able to award at least one scholarship to a Black student in Lansing, which was mainly in response to the Black Lives Matter



Sheikh-Omar

that wants to make a social change.”

Sheikh-Omar described herself as a proud young Somalian and African American woman who primarily desires to help her community. In this case, she plans to give back to local residents with

movement,” James said. “We thought the biggest impact we could have would be to invest in the education of our African American community right here in Lansing, especially for someone

Check back next week to read about some of the latest strains from Pure Options in Lansing.

a major in biomedical science and plans to specialize in pediatric medicine. It’s a field that captured her interest after frequenting the hospital as a child for her own treatment, she said.

“My main priority is to always give back,” Sheikh-Omar explained. “As of right now, all I have to give back is knowledge. I am a teen tutor, so I guide the upcoming youth into the right path.”

Sheikh-Omar said that without the scholarship, she wouldn’t have been able to cover the costs. She described the full coverage of books, tuition, housing and meals as “honestly amazing.”

“This scholarship would mean that I would be one step closer to the future that is so close to my heart,” she wrote in a letter attached to her scholarship application. “This scholarship means that I can, and will, make a difference as a pediatrician fighting for social justice in healthcare.”

About 40 people applied for the scholarship after it was announced, James said. Applicants were required to maintain a 2.75 GPA and study something that would “impact social justice or social change.” Sheikh-Omar is both the valedictorian and vice president of the class of 2021.

James said he considered making the scholarship focused on the cannabis industry, considering that data shows that only 3.8% of Michigan retailers are owned by Black people. Ultimately, he decided to pick the only applicant that “really knocked our socks off,” he said.

“One way I plan to improve my community’s quality of life is to fight the social inequalities in health care,” Sheikh-Omar said. “I plan to become a pediatrician specialist, so I can open up a practice where families of all walks of life can come with no fear, no worries, and most importantly, no regrets. No human beings should avoid a hospital because of medical bills.”

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

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Riverwalk Theatre returns with a strong online production

Digital production of 'A Doll's House' begins Friday

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

"Many times we bypass classics because we assume they're not relevant to modern audiences," Brian Farnham said. "In the case of 'A Doll's House,' this couldn't be further from the truth."

Farnham is the director of Riverwalk Theatre's first full-length production since COVID-19 closed playhouses last year. Between Friday (Feb. 5) and Feb. 14, Henrik Ibsen's 1879 play "A Doll's House" is available for weekend viewings online for \$20 per device.

"A Doll's House"

\$20
Weekends, Feb. 5 through
Feb. 14
Viewable on
Riverwalktheatre.com

"He really was ahead of his time," Farnham said. Despite Ibsen's denials that "A

Doll's House" was meant to be a play about female liberation, its story of a woman struggling to be herself in a man's world has been an iconic feminist play for 142 years.

"The swearing-in of our first female vice president within close proximity of the opening of this show speaks volumes for its modern-day relevance," Farnham said.

The main character in "A Doll's House" is Nora — a Danish woman dissatisfied with being a wife to a condescending husband. Rachel Daugherty, who plays Nora, agrees with Farnham. "The struggle between being a 'good woman' and being yourself is timeless," she said.

"This show is a great example of when society forced women into this mold," Daugherty said. "I can't tell you how many times I was asked, 'when am I getting married?' or told to 'marry

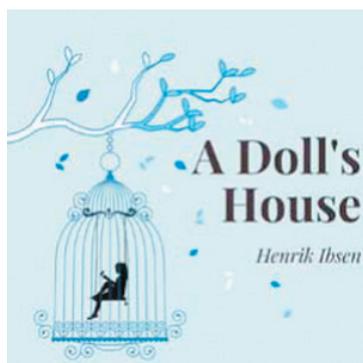


Courtesy

Rachel Daugherty dressed as Nora in "A Doll's House."

rich' because I had an interest in pursuing the arts."

The Riverwalk production, which lasts two and a half hours, also features Kate Dickinson as Christine, Nora's long-ago school friend. Christine's old flame, Krogstad, is played with extra meaning by Dickinson's real-life fiancé, Joe Clark.



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Jace Harper plays Nora's husband, Torvald. Bob Puroscky plays the role of Dr. Rank, and Abbie Tykocki plays both a maid and nurse. Amanda Macomber provided costumes and Angie Constien-Schwab contributed music. Matt Ottinger did the final editing.

For the six acting roles, 24 people auditioned virtually from as far away as Detroit and Chicago. "I had really tough choices to make during casting," Farnham said. Farnham added that the talent of the chosen cast, which features several people he never got to meet in person, was impressive. "They rolled with every punch."

Auditions were held last October and the cast rehearsed about three days a week since. Besides interruptions for holidays, the many technical elements Farnham insisted on stretched out the Zoom production.

"I personally hate it when theater delivered over Zoom looks like a conference call," he said.

For "A Doll's House," Farnham blocked the show as if the audience was

sitting in the middle of the room. Five different spaces were made to look like areas of the same room. Gloria Valda and Michele Booher-Puroscky helped him with set pieces and props.

Unlike most Zoom shows that show only headshots, "A Doll's House" shows upper torsos and more. "This added a ton of complexity but ultimately, I feel the production rings more true to live theater," Farnham said.

"I will remember the ways we had to get creative to make a Zoom performance work," Daugherty said. On her set inside a small apartment, work lights were strung up through a Christmas tree and around a ceiling fan to eliminate background shadows. "A lot of us had to sit on pillows and blankets to achieve the right heights on screen," she said.

Napoleon and Merlin, Daugherty's "very big, very cuddly" cats, caused regular complications. "They like nothing more than to interrupt Zoom meetings," she said. "We had many rehearsals interrupted by bad cat behavior."

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Favorite Things Ryen Reynolds and her spooky barn print

When Ryen Reynolds, who uses they/them pronouns, isn't working as a receptionist for a small local company, or playing smooth indie rock basslines, they are out collecting vintage art and other oddities from various thrift shops. Their favorite thing is a strange painting of a barn that seems to give off a spooky vibe.



My favorite thing is this little framed print of a barn that I got at the REO Town Marketplace around two years ago. I don't know exactly why it is my favorite thing, but I just know that when I asked myself that question, my first thought was this little picture of a barn. When I first saw it, I said, "I want to look at this thing forever." It's just so spooky and so beautiful. It's my favorite kind of art style and I found it serendipitously. It also has a cool frame that came with it.

The print looks really old, but it was actually made by a current local artist. When I bought it, it didn't have a price tag on it, so I

wasn't sure if it was actually for sale. I took it to the counter of Thrift Witch, which was the specific booth in the marketplace I believe I found it at. The owner told me the artist's name, but I can't remember it. She had to text him to ask him how much she should sell the print for, because it wasn't listed. I've had it hung by my front door ever since.

It definitely is a decrepit barn, and it's in black and white. I can't quite tell the method he used to create it. It kind of looks like a lithograph, almost, but it could be done with ink and a brush. I'm not really sure. It looks like a really old faded photograph of a decaying barn from the '30s or something like that. I feel like if you walk in on the right night, you would get freaked out.



I have a theme running through my house of objects that represent different kinds of homes. This is like the first piece in that motif. I love looking at it because it reminds me of growing up on my aunt's farm. I would always try to convince my parents to drive me out there. It radiates a feeling of warmth and nostalgia. I guess I love it. It just looks sick!

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

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Lansing theater community looks back on Carmen Decker

A shining jewel in local theatre

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

Just past midnight on Jan. 30, Lansing and beyond lost a theater icon. Rosalyn Carmen Decker, a gifted actress who always deserved a spotlight but never sought one outside the stage, died at Sparrow Hospital from pneumonia.

The 97-year-old touched anyone who experienced her and leaves behind an unparalleled legacy. Like most Lansing theatergoers, I knew Decker primarily from her performances at BoarsHead Theatre. Decker could cackle or purr — or communicate volumes with a look or a wave of her hand.

Anytime I tried to catch her after a performance for a comment, the closest I got was seeing her speed off in her two-door red Buick Skylark.

Decker was a secretary when hired to act in BoarsHead's "Hay Fever" in 1973. The following year, Decker joined the company as a seasonal player.

BoarsHead started in 1966 and abandoned its South Grand Avenue location in 2010. Decker, who went by Carmen, shared the stage over 40 times with John Peakes — a BoarsHead co-founder who died in 2017 at 83. "Their passing marks the end of an era in Michigan theater," Katie Doyle said.

Doyle worked with Decker in different capacities for as many as 50 BoarsHead shows. Doyle directed Decker in "Driving Miss Daisy" in 2009. "She was authentic, she was ferocious," Doyle said. "If Carmen were alive in the Old West, she'd be the sheriff, the madame and the mayor."

Decker thought she would teach and not act after earning theater degrees from Knox College and the University of Iowa. Even though she decided a teaching career wasn't for her, Decker's performances were always teaching moments.

"She was our Grande Dame," Patricia York said. York worked backstage at BoarsHead as set designer and more. She was Decker's dresser in "Valentines and Killer Chili." Decker's wardrobe switch in the show from a beehive and skintight leopard pants to straight hair and a kimono brought the house down every night, York said.

Despite her short stature, Decker was larger than life, Roger Rochowiak said. As an actor and then a playwright, he's been part of Lansing theater since 1959. Rochowiak once attended a play with Decker and overheard an audience member who recognized Decker exclaim, "She's much smaller off stage than she is on stage!"



Courtesy

Those who knew Decker appreciated how fun she was. Leonore Helder, who's worked with local theater since being a cue lady for the Lansing Civic Players in 1957, once shared a house full of actors in Port Huron. The collection included Decker and the late Bill Helder, who were performing "Plaza Suite" together. "She was just as funny offstage," Helder said.

The Helders got to see Decker act with James Whitmore in Peterborough, New Hampshire. "She was every bit his equal," Helder said.

Decker also worked in Pennsylvania, Florida, South Carolina, Off Broadway and Chicago. In 1982, she won Chicago's equivalent to a Tony for best actress in "Clara's Play" — a show she did first at BoarsHead. Decker also traveled with the BoarsHead Co. around Michigan in 1894 to perform "Letters From

Bernice."

One of Decker's earliest local performances was in "Under the Yum Yum Tree" at the Ledge's Playhouse in Grand Ledge in 1961.

In 1972, Decker won a Barney Award for

"Mother Courage." That was the year Jane Zussman appeared in "Sweet Charity" at the Okemos Barn Theatre. Zussman has been active in local theater ever since.

"Carmen was a star to me then, and proved star-worthy in every show I saw her in," Zussman said. She appreciated how Decker could make the most of all her roles, from the comic to the serious.

"Even when things were going a bit south in a show, she never lost her humor," Michael J. Mitchell said. He was recruited from Chicago to join BoarsHead's 06-07 season. "She made you a conspirator with her," Mitchell said. "She made you feel part of a gang. That was her superpower."

Decker's last performed in "Kimberly Akimbo" at the Stormfield Theatre in 2011 and in Lansing Community College's "Vigil" with Tim Busfield in 2012. Melissa Kaplan, now LCC's Outreach Coordinator, said she was honored to have Decker at the college. "I loved working with her," Kaplan said. She found Decker kind, wickedly funny and unassuming offstage.

Michelle Raymond knew Decker especially well. They met and bonded at BoarsHead while Raymond worked behind the scenes. "She was so smart, witty, and still had a razor-sharp mind," Raymond said. "She remembered every show, actor and director she ever worked with. She loved to play and pick on me. In return, she loved it when I played back. Even in the final hours, we played."

Paul Wozniak contributed research for this article.



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Ilyasah Shabazz crafts an engaging young adult book about her father

By **BILL CASTANIER**

“Wake up Malcolm” is the common thread pulling together Ilyasah Shabazz’s second historical novel, “The Awakening of Malcolm X,” which probes the life of her father Malcolm X. Each time Malcolm X is jarred awake, reality rushes into his consciousness. He is either 20 and in Charlestown Prison serving a 10-year sentence for robbery or he is home and his mother is gently waking him.

In prison, his circumstances are bleak and his dreams are filled with fond memories of his family and growing up in Lansing with his brothers and sisters. Malcolm’s dreams bring back both delight and desperation. He remembers delicious family dinners and being read to by his mother and father, Earl and Louise Little, but his dreams also recall the violent death of his father when he was six and the gradual mental decline of his mother who was ultimately institutionalized in Kalamazoo.

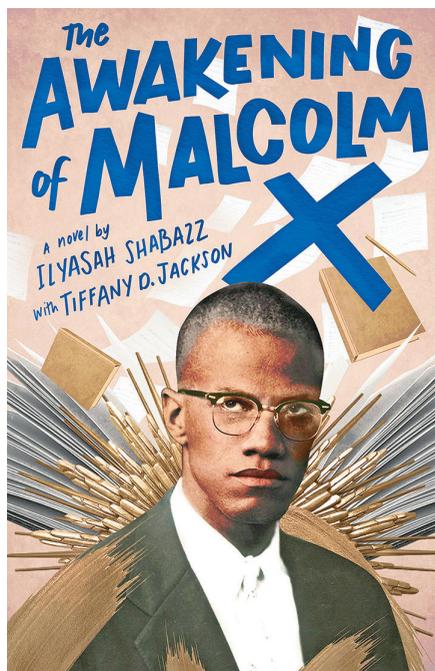
For Shabazz, the books are more than just a literary venture. They are a journey to understand and to know her father, who was assassinated when she was 3, and her paternal grandfather and grandmother, who died before she was born.

Shabazz said her mother, Betty Shabazz, who went out of her way to preserve family memories for her and her siblings, enriched the journey. Previously, Shabazz wrote about her mother in the book, “Betty: Before X.” Ilyasah shares authorship of the young adult book, “The Awakening,” with award-winning author Tiffany D. Jackson.

Malcolm X was born in 1925, in Omaha, but Earl and Louise Little, both followers of Marcus Garvey, moved the family to Milwaukee following threats from the Ku Klux Klan. In 1929, they moved the family to Lansing, where the Black Legion burned the Littles’ home down. Two years later, Earl Little, according to the book, is killed by the Klan when he is thrown under a streetcar on Lansing’s east side.

Shabazz said writing the book was cathartic. “My dad had shared his feelings in his autobiography, but some of those feelings may have been inaccurate, since the book was co-written and published after his death,” she said.

“My goal was to put the significance of his work and family in perspective,



especially as it relates to his age. I also wanted to show how important his family was to him. After all, when he and my mother decided to marry, he returned to Lansing, his home,” she said.

Regarding his time in prison, Shabazz said that the details were significantly aided by the research of another biographer, Patrick Parr, who had access to Malcolm X’s prison files.

While at Charlestown, older prisoners shepherded him and encouraged him to read. At Charlestown, he began copying the dictionary word-for-word, but it was his short time at Norfolk Colony Prison where he began to soar — refining his speaking skills, which would become one of his post-prison strengths. While at Colony, he joined the elite debating team, which competed and won against Ivy League schools.

“His prison training helped him understand the etymology of words — he understood their totality. He was the star of the debate team, and in a final debate, although it was clear Colony had bested the competition, white judges gave the victory to the competition,” she said. “He was crushed and returned to Charlestown.”

Shabazz also details Malcom’s transformation through his acceptance of the teachings of the Nation of Islam. He became one of its ministers after his incarceration.

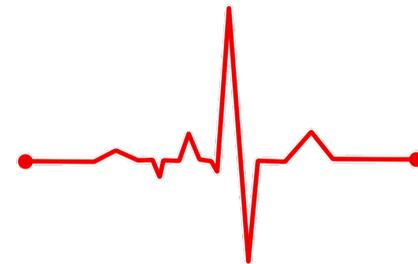
Shabazz gives the proper dues to Malcolm X’s fellow prisoners, who helped him thrive despite the “Bastille” type experience of Charlestown. One man, Elton Bemby, was serving time at the Norfolk Colony, an experimental prison, which encouraged rehabilitation and had more of a college-like campus atmosphere. Bemby took a stand on principle regarding prison rules and he was sent to Charlestown, where he would meet Malcolm X.

“It was remarkable. You could see the destiny of the situation. Their paths of destiny crossed while in prison,” Shabazz said. “Because of my mother and Malcolm’s oldest sister, Hilda, we all knew who our father was. I learned of his love of nature, history, religion and philosophy from them.”

One of her favorite keepsakes of her father’s is his butterfly collection, which she treasures. Shabazz said she now intends to work on film and animation projects relating to the life of her father.

In addition to her book, other projects exploring the life of Malcolm X is the new biography, “The Dead are Arising,” which won the National Book Award, and a new film, “One

Night In Miami,” which is a fictionalized version of the night Malcolm X, Cassius Clay, Jim Brown and Sam Cooke gathered to talk about civil rights following Clay’s 1964 victory over Sonny Liston.



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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Quiet Onset"--I can't hear you.

by Matt Jones
Across

- 1 Life force, to an acupuncturist
- 4 One of the Three Musketeers
- 10 Consumer protection gp.
- 13 "___ Wiedersehen!"
- 14 Like the opening letter of each of the four longest answers
- 15 "Dog Barking at the Moon" artist Joan
- 16 Magazine whose website has a "Find a Therapist" feature
- 19 "Away!"
- 20 Stunned state
- 21 How hair may stand
- 22 Maritime patrol org.
- 25 "The mind ___ own place ..." (John Milton)
- 26 Offer on eBay
- 28 Japanese grills
- 32 "Common" chapter of history
- 33 Flavor on a German schnapps bottle
- 37 Rank between marquis and viscount
- 39 Bell or whistle?
- 40 "Peter Pan" henchman
- 41 Device that records respiration
- 44 Went nowhere
- 45 Tightly cinched
- 46 "How We Do" singer Rita
- 47 "Fun, Fun, Fun" car in a '60s hit
- 49 British mil. decorations
- 51 Breezes (through)
- 52 Scrooge's comment
- 55 Filmmaker Ephron
- 58 Math conjecture regarding a quadrilateral inscribed in a circle

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58					59			60	61		
62					63					64	
65					66					67	

- 62 "I identify," in online comments
- 63 Ear ailment
- 64 Baseball stat
- 65 "Bill ___ Saves the World"
- 66 Hastily arrive at, as a conclusion
- 67 Celebrity chef Martin
- Down
- 1 Pen parts
- 2 Period of quiet
- 3 Haunted house challenge
- 4 Hearth leftover
- 5 Brazilian beach city, briefly
- 6 "It was ___ blur"
- 7 "Feed me or I'll knock your drink over"
- 8 "Splendor in the Grass" Oscar winner
- 9 Piglet's home
- 10 High-end hotel amenity
- 11 Fiber-rich cereals
- 12 "Cheers" bartender Woody
- 15 Philosophies that regard reality as one organic whole
- 17 Lettuce variety
- 18 "___, With Love" (Sidney Poitier movie)
- 23 Golden State traffic org. (as seen in an Erik Estrada TV show)
- 24 Philbin's onetime morning cohort
- 25 "It's Shake 'n Bake!" "And ___!" (old ad tagline)
- 26 Pager noise
- 27 Persian Gulf country
- 29 Arctic floaters
- 30 Burning
- 31 B equivalent, in music
- 34 Contraceptive phrase
- 35 A few feet away
- 36 Greek consonant
- 38 Happy fun Ball?
- 42 Code where B is ...
- 43 Some TVs
- 47 Frayed
- 48 Ecological community
- 50 "Be My Yoko ___" (Barenaked Ladies song)
- 51 "Wheel of Fortune" action
- 52 Eight bits, computerwise
- 53 One side of the Urals
- 54 Address abbreviation
- 56 Country star McEntire
- 57 Former dictator Idi
- 59 "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- 60 Battleship score
- 61 That, in Madrid

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Answers on page 29

SUDOKU

Intermediate

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				4				9
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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 29

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

February 3-9, 2021

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Herman Hesse's novel Siddhartha is a story about a spiritual seeker who goes in search of illumination. Near the end of the quest, when Siddhartha is purified and enlightened, he tells his friend, "I greatly needed sin, lust, vanity, the striving for goods, and the most shameful despair, to learn how to love the world, to stop comparing the world with any world that I wish for, with any perfection that I think up; I learned to let the world be as it is, and to love it and to belong to it gladly." While I trust you won't overdo the sinful stuff in the coming months, Aries, I hope you will reach a conclusion like Siddhartha's. The astrological omens suggest that 2021 is the best year ever for you to learn how to love your life and the world just as they are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Taurus physicist Richard Feynman said, "If we want to solve a problem we have never solved before, we must leave the door to the unknown ajar." That's always good advice, but it's especially apropos for you in the coming weeks. You are being given the interesting and fun opportunity to solve a problem you have never solved before! Be sure to leave the door to the unknown ajar. Clues and answers may come from unexpected sources.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): When we want to get a distinct look at a faint star, we must avert our eyes away from it just a little. If we look at it directly, it fades into invisibility. (There's a scientific explanation for this phenomenon, which I won't go into.) I propose that we make this your metaphor of power for the coming weeks. Proceed on the hypothesis that if you want to get glimpses of what's in the distance or in the future, don't gaze at it directly. Use the psychological version of your peripheral vision. And yes, now is a favorable time to seek those glimpses.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If the apocalypse happens and you're the last human left on earth, don't worry about getting enough to eat. Just find an intact grocery store and make your new home there. It's stocked with enough non-perishable food to feed you for 55 years—or 63 years if you're willing to dine on pet food. I'M JOKING! JUST KIDDING! In fact, the apocalypse won't happen for another 503 million years. My purpose in imagining such a loopy scenario is to nudge you to dissolve your scarcity thinking. Here's the ironic fact of the matter for us Cancerians: If we indulge in fearful fantasies about running out of stuff—money, resources, love, or time—we undermine our efforts to have enough of what we need. The time is now right for you to stop worrying and instead take robust action to ensure you're well-supplied for a long time.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "Judge a moth by the beauty of its candle," writes Coleman Barks in his rendering of a poem by Rumi. In accordance with astrological omens, I am invoking that thought as a useful metaphor for your life right now. How lovely and noble are the goals you're pursuing? How exalted and bighearted are the dreams you're focused on? If you find there are any less-than-beautiful aspects to your motivating symbols and ideals, now is a good time to make adjustments.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): I invite you to try the following experiment. Select two situations in your world that really need to be reinvented, and let every other glitch and annoyance just slide for now. Then meditate with tender ferocity on how best to get the transformations done. Summoning intense focus will generate what amounts to magic! PS: Maybe the desired reinventions would require other people to alter their behavior. But it's also possible that your own behavior may need altering.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Author Marguerite Duras wrote these words: "That she had so completely recovered her sanity was a source of sadness to her. One should never be cured of one's passion." I am spiritually allergic to that idea. It implies that our deepest passions are unavailable unless we're insane, or at least disturbed. But in

the world I aspire to live in, the opposite is true: Our passions thrive if we're mentally healthy. We are best able to harness our most inspiring motivations if we're feeling poised and stable. So I'm here to urge you to reject Duras's perspective and embrace mine. The time has arrived for you to explore the mysteries of relaxing passion.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Author Karen Barad writes, "The past is never finished. It cannot be wrapped up like a package, or a scrapbook; we never leave it and it never leaves us behind." I agree. That's why I can't understand New Age teachers who advise us to "live in the now." That's impossible! We are always embedded in our histories. Everything we do is conditioned by our life story. I acknowledge that there's value in trying to see the world afresh in each new moment. I'm a hearty advocate of adopting a "beginner's mind." But to pretend we can completely shut off or escape the past is delusional and foolish. Thank you for listening to my rant, Scorpio. Now please spend quality time upgrading your love and appreciation for your own past. It's time to celebrate where you have come from—and meditate on how your history affects who you are now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Luisah Teish is a writer and priestess in the Yoruban Lucumi tradition. She wrote a book called Jump Up: Seasonal Celebrations from the World's Deep Traditions. "Jump up" is a Caribbean phrase that refers to festive rituals and parties that feature "joyous music, laughter, food, and dancing." According to my reading of the astrological omens, you're due for a phase infused with the "jump up" spirit. As Teish would say, it's a time for "jumping, jamming, swinging, hopping, and kicking it." I realize that in order to do this, you will have to work around the very necessary limitations imposed on us all by the pandemic. Do the best you can. Maybe make it a virtual or fantasy jump up. Maybe dance alone in the dark.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "Perhaps we should know better," wrote poet Tony Hoagland, "but we keep on looking, thinking, and listening, hunting that singular book, theory, perception, or tonality that will unlock and liberate us." It's my duty to report, Capricorn, that there will most likely be no such singular magnificence for you in 2021. However, I'm happy to tell you that an accumulation of smaller treasures could ultimately lead to a substantial unlocking and liberation. For that to happen, you must be alert for and appreciate the small treasures, and patiently gather them in. (PS: Author Rebecca Solnit says, "We devour heaven in bites too small to be measured." I say: The small bites of heaven you devour in the coming months will ultimately add up to being dramatically measurable.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Aquarian author Alice Walker writes, "In nature, nothing is perfect and everything is perfect. Trees can be contorted, bent in weird ways, and they're still beautiful." In the coming weeks, I hope you'll adopt that way of thinking and apply it to every aspect of your perfectly imperfect body and mind and soul. I hope you'll give the same generous blessing to the rest of the world, as well. This attitude is always wise to cultivate, of course, but it will be especially transformative for you in the coming weeks. It's time to celebrate your gorgeous idiosyncrasies and eccentricities.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "Though the bamboo forest is dense, water flows through it freely." I offer that Zen saying just in time for you to adopt it as your metaphor of power. No matter how thick and complicated and impassable the terrain might appear to be in the coming weeks, I swear you'll have a flair for finding a graceful path through it. All you have to do is imitate the consistency and flow of water.

TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

A LOOK BACK AT PLAIN BROWN WRAPPER



PLAIN BROWN WRAPPER

PLAIN BROWN WRAPPER
(A. G. S.)

LANSING, MICHIGAN (1 517) 485-0576



The Plain Brown Wrapper lasted from 1966-1974, and in that time grew into a massive stage show that included horn sections and soaring vocal harmonies. (courtesy photos)

Lansing's prog-rock pacesetters almost made it big

Aside from a small batch of limited-run singles, Plain Brown Wrapper is now cemented deep within Lansing's murky '60s and '70s rock folklore. Those who were around to experience the band live on stage have hazy memories of the stage-filling ensemble cast of local musicians that made up Plain Brown Wrapper (PBW). From scorching guitars, to jazzy horns, the group slowly evolved from primitive arrangements into a colossally progressive wall of sound. When a group rolls up on stage with two trumpets, a flute and trombone, you know it's not your typical band.

Built from the garage-rock ashes of The Plagues (another legendary Lansing band), PBW took shape in 1966, after Plagues frontman Bill Malone left the group and headed to Hollywood. Malone began a job at Don Post Studios where he molded masks for films, including the iconic Michael Myers mask for the original "Halloween" slasher. He later became a full-on director, with a resume that includes 1999's "House on Haunted Hill" remake.

Meanwhile, back home in Michigan, his bandmates Van Decker (guitar/keys), Phil Nobach (drums) and James "Hoz" Hosley (guitar/bass)

joined up with Scott Durbin and, later, Steve Allen, and rebranded as Plain Brown Wrapper. The group, which fully embraced the new psychedelic sounds of the late-'60s, saw many lineup changes until its 1973 breakup. But, at its core, the outfit followed a basic equation.

"The Wrapper was influenced by American groups like the Beach Boys, Motown and some jazz artists," Decker said. "(The sound) had a lot to do with Scott Durbin, who was an experienced jazz musician. Scott's trumpet playing and piano talents made it possible to explore a much wider variety of styles, which carried over into our original material."

Hosley confirms, The Wrapper preferred to test the limits, and each other, every time they performed together at local venues like The Brewery, The Dells, MSU Shaw Hall, The Stables and Club Roma. Talented new PBW members, like Chuck Sweitzer (guitar) and Gary Story (drums), also pushed the band to higher heights.

"The band loved to jam, as in jazz improvisation, or blues riffing, and that showed-up often, as the band would stretch-out and allow a soloist to play-on," Hosley said. "Or, there

might be a duelling 8-bars jam, one soloist trying to stump the other or just put down a good lick."

Back in 2016, some of the PBW members reunited for a concert in Laingsburg. It was the first time the band performed since its previous reunion in 1994. Sharing the 2016 bill was The Plagues, and a cast of other bands from that fruitful, shaggy-haired scene, which also comprised countless other notable rockers from across Michigan.

"The whole thing was a trip," said Dave Livingston, bassist/trumpet player for PBW. "We played a lot of concerts with guys everyone's heard of, Bob Seger, Ted Nugent, MC5. There were a lot of great bands in the state, outdoor summer concerts were a big deal."

Sure, PBW shared stages with hard rockers, but its sound was far left of that typical riff-driven band. The Wrapper always stuck to its horn-heavy jazz-rock sound — similar to Chicago or Blood, Sweat and Tears. Unfortunately, the band recorded three albums that were never released, so, for now, that experimental sound remains shelved.

During its impressive run, PBW toured various parts of the country in

a converted school bus, with a setlist of both originals and revamped covers.

Beyond that, the band of longhairs even inked deals with Beachwood Music (a Capitol Records subsidiary) and Wooden Nickel Records (an RCA subsidiary). Both deals fizzled out and so did the band, according to Livingston. Another "almost famous" scenario — though the band went out in grand fashion.

"Our final concert was at the old Lansing Civic Center with a 200-voice choir and a full orchestra," he recalled. "After that concert, we parted ways in the spring of '73."

Today, some of the band's catalog is streamed on YouTube, like the soulful "Real Person" and "You'll Pay" (an early, stripped-down single). Give 'em a search and listen to the traces of sonic brilliance these local cats left behind.



OUT ON THE TOWN

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

Wednesday, February 3

Allen Farmers Market - We are back at 1629 E. Kalamazoo! 3-6:30 p.m. 517-999-3911.

Encompass Series Celebrating Black History Month: The Art of Protest: Mandela In Chicago. 7-9 p.m. MSU Libraries. Visit lib.msu.edu

Future Present Exhibition - MSU's Science Gallery Detroit debuts exhibition in E. Broad Art Lab, 565 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing, through April 11th. Info and reservations: detroit.sciencegallery.com.

Lansing Catholic High School Prospective Family Open House - 6:30-8:30 p.m. Visit lansingcatholic.org for info and to register.

Michigan Young Birders Network Virtual Meeting - 7 p.m. via Zoom. 7-8 p.m. michiganaudubon.org.

MiLibrary Quest Mystery Edition - A thief plans to steal a Michigan landmark on Valentine's Day! Who? What? Where? All week. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. gladl.org

Ritual Etiquette and Financial Report - Join us on Zoom for a discussion of Ritual Etiquette. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Weavers of the Web. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

Thursday, February 4

Capital Area Audubon Society monthly meeting - Presentation by Doug Tallamay on "A Guide to the Little Things that Run the World." 7-8:30 p.m. For zoom link: capitalareaaudubon.org.

Jackbox Games: Fibbage 2 - The fib-till-you-win trivia party game! Fool your friends, and find the (usually outrageous) truth. 7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library. For Zoom link and info go to gladl.org

Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual) - 6-7 p.m. facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing

Virtual Refugee Foster Care Information Session - via zoom. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Go to Samaritas.org for info and to register.

Friday, February 5

Blaze's 1 Less G N Da Hood 20 Year Anniversary Show Livestream - 8 p.m. Mac's Bar, 2700 E Michigan Ave, Lansing. 517-484-6795. macsbar.com.

Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual) - 7:30-8:30 p.m. facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing

Virtual Preschool Family Storytime - 11-11:30 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, Go to gladl.org for link.

Saturday, February 6

Hunter Park GardenHouse Presents: Indoor Plant Care w/ 1991 Greenery - Learn about practical plant care. 10-11:30 a.m. alleneighborhoodcenter.org/gardenhouse

LED Circuits & More! - 9 AM and 1 PM Mini L.A.B.S. Camp sessions. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr., Lansing. Register at impression5.org.

Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual) - 10:30-11:30 a.m. facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing

Sunday, February 7

Future Present Exhibition - MSU's Science Gallery Detroit debuts exhibition in E. Broad Art Lab, 565 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing, through April 11th. Info and reservations: detroit.sciencegallery.com.

Monday, February 8

Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual) - 6-7 p.m. facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing

Tuesday, February 9

The Poetry Room x FireCracker Presents The Future is Lit! - Tonight we affirm what is ours! Tonight is a night of affirmations. 7:30-9 p.m. [Facebook.com/The517PoetryRoom](https://facebook.com/The517PoetryRoom)

The Trouble with Trilobites - with Dr. Danita Brandt - Join us for a virtual talk. 12-1 p.m. MSU Museum. Go to museum.msu.edu for link.

February 3, 2021

City of Lansing, MI
316 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933
Donald Kulhanek, Development Manager (517) 483-4040

On or about February 15, 2021 the City of Lansing, MI will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant Program (LBPHC) is authorized by Section 1011 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (Title X of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992, 42 U.S.C. 4852) and funding is provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, approved December 20, 2019 (Public Law 116-94), and the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2019, approved February 15, 2019, (Public Law 116-16). The Healthy Homes Supplemental funding is authorized under Section 502 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (12 U.S.C. 1701z-2), with funding approved by the same Appropriations Acts, for the following multi-year program/project: The City of Lansing Development Office requests \$4,589,940 in federal funds from the 2020 HUD Lead Hazard Control Grant for Lansing's Lead Safe Lansing Program. Lansing will contribute \$761,490 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds toward administrative and direct costs including program delivery salary and fringe and lead paint remediation activities. The total community investment of the Lead Safe Lansing program including the LHRD share and match funds is \$5,351,431. The target area is the entire City of Lansing who will partner with the Ingham County Health Department (IChD) to prioritize households with children or pregnant women, including households where children have had a lead test above 0. Lansing will complete 210 LIRA's and will implement a strategy of abatement on exterior surfaces and interim controls on interior surfaces, and will remediate lead-based paint hazards in 189 rental and owner occupied housing units. Lansing will provide funds for training 50 contractors and workers as Lead Abatement Supervisors, increasing the contractor capacity. Lansing will reimburse 50 Landlords and maintenance workers for the EPA's RRP program, which will teach them how to safely maintain lead painted surfaces into the future. Lansing's sub recipient, the Ingham County Health Department, will provide Community Health Workers to interact face to face with 500 target households, providing education and assistance with application submission, to provide Lansing with a pipeline of applicants. The City of Lansing, MI is requesting the release of \$4,589,940 Lead Hazard grant (\$761,490 CDBG, total funds LHRD/Match \$5,351,431)

The proposed hazard control activities to be funded under this/these program(s) is/are categorically excluded from the National Environmental Policy Act requirements, but subject to compliance with some of the environmental laws and authorities listed at § 58.5 of 24 CFR Part 58. In accordance with §58.15, a tiered review process has been structured, whereby some environmental laws and authorities have been reviewed and studied for the intended target area(s) listed above. Other applicable environmental laws and authorities will be complied with, when individual projects are ripe for review. Specifically, the target area(s) has/have been studied and compliance with the following laws and authorities has been achieved in this Tier 1 review: Airport Clear Zones, Floodplain Insurance, Coastal Barriers Resource Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, Air Quality, Contamination and Toxic Substances, Endangered Species Act, Explosive and Flammable Hazards, Farmlands Protection, Sole Source Aquifers, Wetlands Protection, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and Environmental Justice. Site-specific environmental reviews will include compliance with the following environmental laws and authorities for proposed projects funded under the program(s) listed above: Historic Preservation, Floodplain Management, and Noise Abatement. Should individual aggregate projects exceed the threshold for categorical exclusion detailed at §58.35(a), an Environmental Assessment will be completed and a separate Finding of No Significant Impact and Request for Release of Funds published. Copies of the compliance documentation worksheets are available at the address below.

An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project, and more fully describes the tiered review process cited above, is on file at the City of Lansing, MI Department of Economic Development and Planning, 316 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing, MI 48933, www.lansingmi.gov/development

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Doris Witherspoon, City of Lansing at doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov. All comments received by February 12, 2021 will be considered by the City of Lansing prior to authorizing submission of a Request for Release of Funds and Environmental Certification to HUD.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of Lansing certifies to HUD that Andy Schor in his official capacity as Mayor, City of Lansing, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the City of Lansing to utilize federal funds and implement the Program.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the City of Lansing certification for a period of fifteen days following either the anticipated submission date (cited above) or HUD's actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if the objections are on one of the following bases: (a) that the Certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Lansing, MI; (b) the City of Lansing, MI has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the City of Lansing, MI has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58), and may be addressed to HUD and sent to the email address as follows: Karen M. Griego, Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, Program Environmental Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development LeadRegulations@HUD.GOV Potential objectors may contact HUD directly to verify the actual last day of the objection/comment period.

Andy Schor
Mayor
City of Lansing, MI

CP#21-019

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 27

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 27

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FOOD & DRINK DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Game stock

By ARI LeVAUX

Blame it on the news cycle, but last week I found myself simmering a stock of bones from last year's hunt. A game stock, as it were.

Earlier that day I had purchased a "put" option on GameStop for my IRA, a modest investment in the possibility this particular stock might crater. Sure, three hedge funds had lost their shirts, and a combined \$3 billion, on precise-



ly the same bet just one week before. But I had structured my investment so the maximum loss would be limited to \$44, whilst my gains, if the Game were to Stop in short order, would be in the thousands of bones.

You don't need GameStop in your portfolio, of course, and you don't need game bones to make a bone stock, when beef, chicken or basically any other bones will do.

When I noticed that my elk bones had achieved a rich umami bronze, I put them in an Instant Pot — one of those electric pressure cookers that doesn't rattle and hiss on the stovetop like it's about to blow up a la Melvin Capital. (Any pressure cooker will do, or a big kettle and a longer time horizon.)

I was ready for dinner, but dinner was not ready for me. Making game stock means playing a long game of cooking, and I had to let it cool to room temperature, and then skim the fat.

And then I had my stock, a versatile enhancer of flavor and mouthfeel, fortified with minerals and dissolved connective tissues. These glorious, pro-



tein-rich materials feel like fat, despite being mostly amino acids. Add this protein creme to sauces, soups, stir-fry and curry, or this recipe for Short Rib Pho with Squeezed Lime.

As for my bet against GameStop, that short squeeze is old news. What goes up must come down.

Whatever the game — be it stocks, bonds, bears, bulls, hunting, gathering, wheeling and/or dealing in the game of life — the quest for survival guides our decisions and has sculpted our bodies, increased our mental processing capacity and sharpened our instincts through the ages. Managing my IRA, in other words, is the closest thing to being both predator and prey that I can think of, next to a Texas wild boar hunt.

Short Squeezed Lime Rib Pho

(Serves 8)

For the broth:

2 lbs beef short ribs

2½ star anise pods (20 robust points, total)

1 3-inch piece of cinnamon

3 whole cloves

A chubby, 2-inch section of ginger, peeled, thickly sliced, bruised

1 large yellow onion, halved and thickly sliced

2¼ teaspoons fine sea salt

1 apple, cut into quarters

2 tablespoons fish sauce

Added separately to each bowl:

10 oz. dried, narrow rice noodles

Cooked meat from the pot

½ small red or yellow onion, thinly sliced against the grain and soaked in water for 10 minutes

2 thinly sliced green onions, green parts only

¼ cup chopped fresh cilantro

Black pepper, to taste

2 limes, quartered, or more to taste

Optional: bean sprouts, chile slices, mint, Thai basil, hoisin sauce, sriracha sauce

Rinse ribs. Brown them under the broiler on the bottom shelf to melt off some fat, because ribs have so much.

Toast the spices on medium heat in the pressure cooker for a few minutes, shaking or stirring, until fragrant. Add ginger and onion; stir until aromatic and slightly charred.

Add 4 cups water to stop the cooking process. Add the ribs, salt, apple fish sauce and 5 more cups of water. Lock the lid and pressure cook for 20 minutes at 15 psi or higher.

While the broth cooks, soak the noodles in hot water until pliable and opaque. Drain, rinse and drain again. At serving time, dunk the noodles in boiling water to ensure they're hot and cooked.

Divide among bowls. Add rib meat, along with the onion, green onion, cilantro and other herbs if desired. Heat the broth to a simmer and ladle into the bowls. Add condiments to tweak flavor. Finish with a big squeeze of lime.

Adapted from "The Pho Cookbook" by Andrea Nguyen, the James Beard Award-winning pho-nom.

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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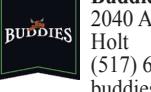
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	<p>Goodfellas Bagel Deli 625 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing (517) 203-0096 goodfellasbageldeli.com</p>	<p>STOP IN AND GRAB A BAGEL or The Lucky - a waffle sandwich with egg, bacon, spinach munster cheese and chipotle aioli. Vegetarian friendly options, too. Large variety of bagel and cream cheese flavors. Hot coffee, juices and more! Open for pickup.</p>
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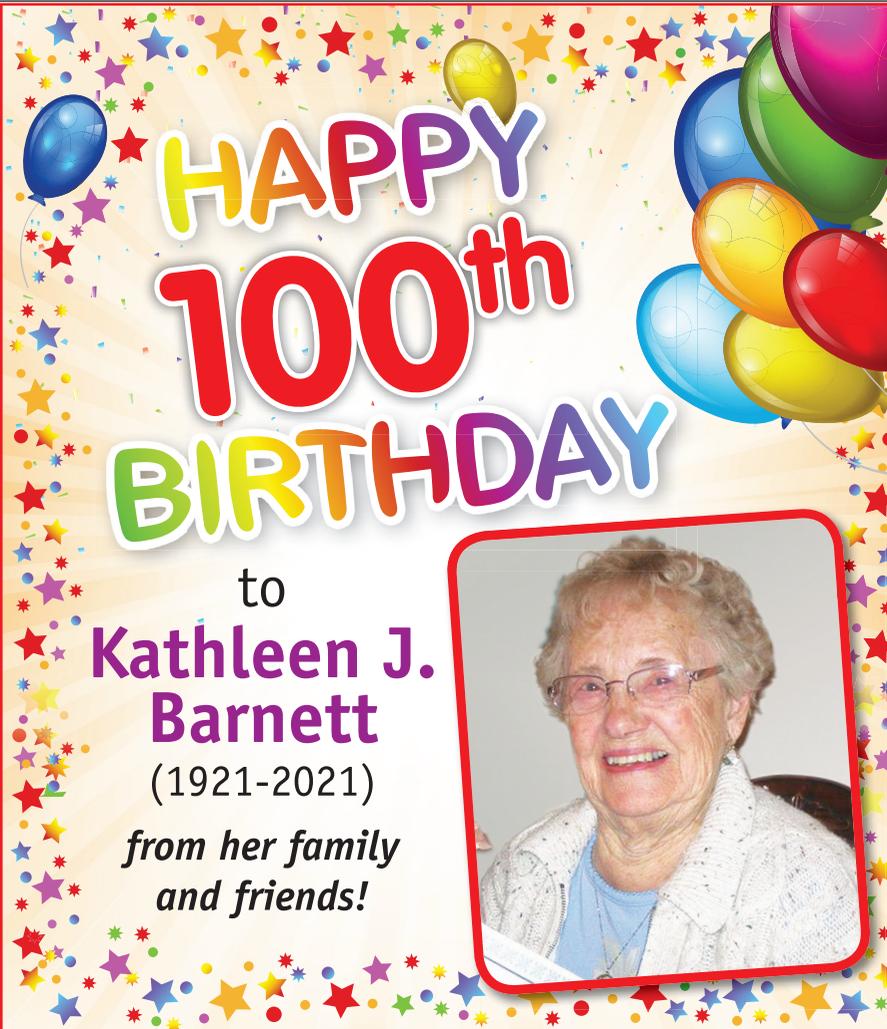
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