

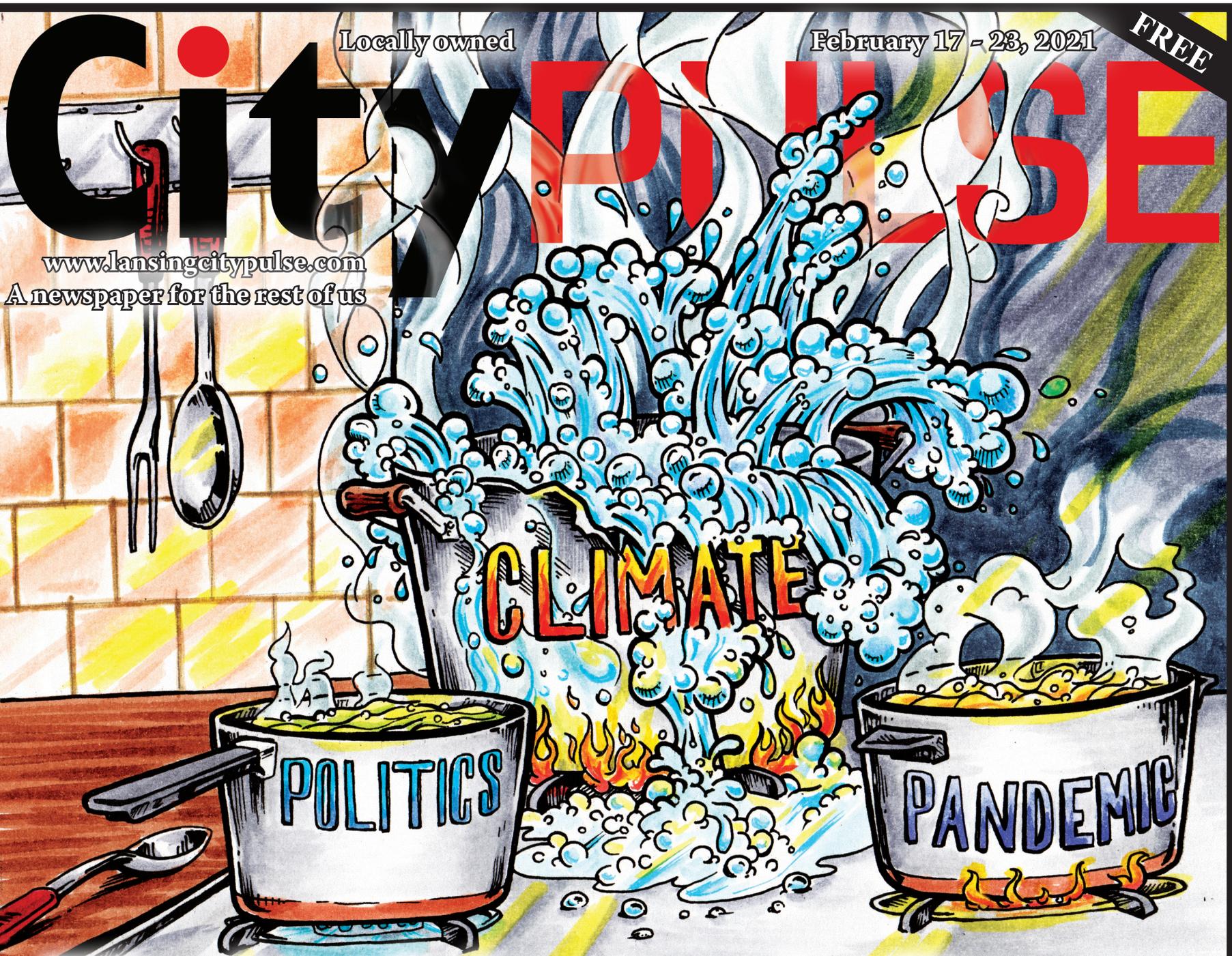
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February 17 - 23, 2021

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The back burner boils over Lansing tackles the climate crisis

See page 14

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**CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. during the regularly scheduled City Council Meeting, via ZOOM Conferencing, Meeting ID 859 4003 6219, MI for the purpose of considering:

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend Chapter 608, Section 608.04, to allow for consumption of alcoholic beverages on public property located in social districts established in conformity with state liquor control laws and to clarify that, if a state license or permit is obtained, alcoholic beverages may be consumed in a designated public area.

Note: Michigan Director of Health and Human Services Robert Gordon's Order of October 9, 2020 regarding Gather Prohibition and Face Covering, as well as states of emergency declared by the Mayor and approved by City Council have led to a closure of City Hall to public at this time due to COVID-19. Public observation and participation may be facilitated electronically in accordance with the Open Meetings Act as amended, in an effort to protect the health and safety of the public.

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

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

For more information, please call 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., on the day of the Public Hearing at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

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

CP#21-031

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
East Lansing Planning Commission**

NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 7:00 pm

**THE MEETING WILL ONLY BE HELD ELECTRONICALLY
FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Planning Commission of the City of East Lansing will hold a meeting and public hearing on **Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.** This meeting will only be held electronically pursuant to the Open Meetings Act and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Epidemic Orders. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider a special use permit application from Collegiate Catering East Lansing, LLC for the property at 133 Evergreen Avenue to allow for restaurant to serve alcoholic beverages. The subject property is zoned B-3, City Center Commercial District.

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

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

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

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

URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/87312294362?occurrence=1614211200000>

Webinar ID: 873 1229 4362
Call in Number: 312-626-6799
Toll Free Call in Number: 888 788 0099

3. **Contact Information.** For those people who desire to contact members of the Planning Commission to provide input or ask questions on the business that will come before the public body at the meeting, please contact David Haywood, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823, (517) 319-6861, TDD 1-800-649-3777 or dhaywood@cityofeastlansing.com, prior to the start of the meeting.

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

Dated: February 11, 2021
East Lansing, MI 48823

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#21-036

**CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**SLU-5-2020: 727 Sparrow Avenue,
Special Land Use Permit, Community Center & Residential Care Facility**

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., via ZOOM Conferencing, Meeting ID 859 4003 6219, to consider SLU-5-2020. SLU-5-2020 is a request by Child & Family Charities for a special land use permit to utilize the property at 727 Sparrow Avenue (St. Casimir Church & School) for a community outreach center and residential care facility (youth shelter) for up to 14 occupants, if a Special Land Use permit is approved by the Lansing City Council.

For more information, please call 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., on the day of the Public Hearing at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

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

CP#21-029

NOTICE

To mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to provide essential protections to vulnerable Michiganders and this State's health care system and other critical infrastructure, it is crucial that all Michiganders take steps to limit in-person contact, particularly in the context of large groups. Therefore, the Board of Review will be conducted via audio/video conference in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, as amended, in an effort to protect the health and safety of the public. The board will meet on March 08, 09, 10, 11, & 12 2021 at 9:00 AM to 12:00 NOON and 1:30PM to 4:00PM. **EXCEPT** for Wednesday, March 10 from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM and 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM to review the assessment roll and hear appeals from taxpayers. **Taxpayers are permitted to file their protest by letter and a personal appearance is not required.** Protest at the Board of Review is necessary to protect your right to further appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal if your property is residential or agricultural. **Letter appeals are strongly encouraged and must be received in the Assessor's Office by 4:30 PM, March 11, 2021.** City of Lansing will also hold its Organizational meeting on Tuesday March 2nd, 2021 at 2:00 PM; no appeals may be heard at this meeting. Please call the City of Lansing Assessor's Office at (517) 483-7624 for information about access to the meeting per via audio/video conference.

**RATIO AND TENTATIVE EQUALIZATION FACTORS FOR 2021
Ingham County**

Property Class	Tentative Ratio	Multiplier
Agricultural	N/C	
Commercial	48.57	1.02952
Industrial	47.01	1.0636
Residential	46.67	1.07136
Timber-Cutover	N/C	
Developmental	N/C	
Personal	50.00	1.0000

Eaton County

Property Class	Tentative Ratio	Multiplier
Agricultural	N/C	
Commercial	0.5126	.97542
Industrial	47.64	1.04954
Residential	45.91	1.08909
Timber-Cutover	N/C	
Developmental	N/C	
Personal	50.00	1.0000

Clinton County

Property Class	Tentative Ratio	Multiplier
Agricultural	54.91	0.9106
Commercial	45.8	1.0917
Industrial	51.2	0.98
Residential	N/C	
Timber-Cutover	N/C	
Developmental	N/C	
Personal	50.00	1.0000

CP#21-026

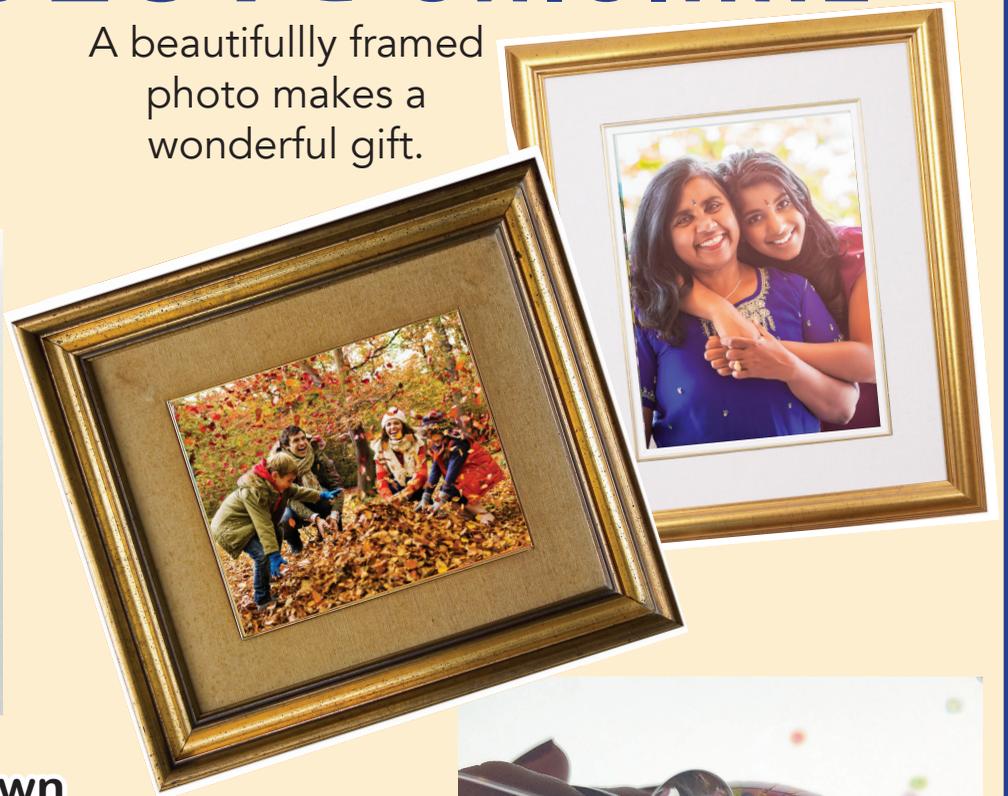
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Unique jewelry finds

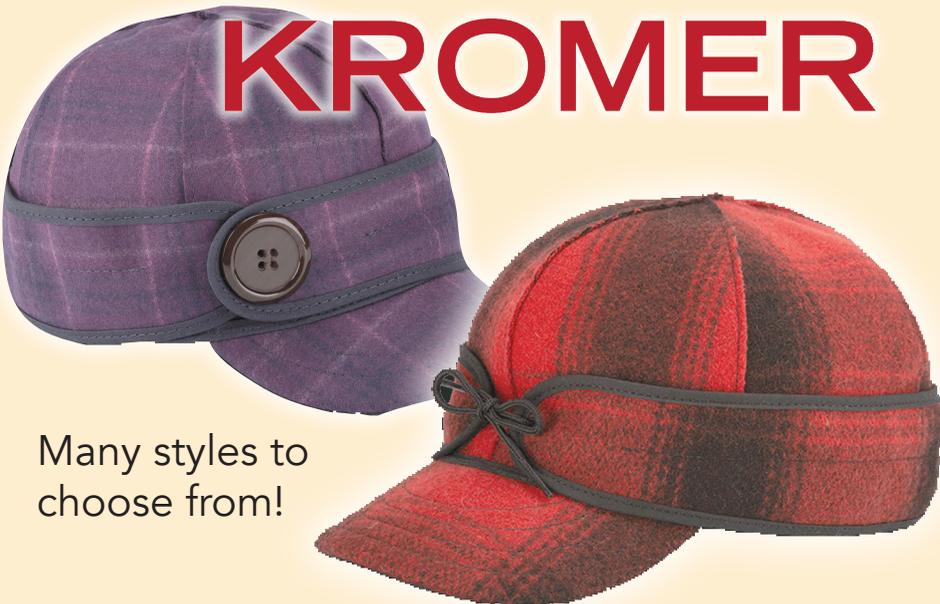


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IMPEACHMENT JURY DUTY QUESTIONNAIRE

You have been selected as a Republican juror. Please answer the following questions to determine your fitness to serve.

- ① Have you participated in the crime the defendant is accused of? Y N
- ② Are you aware that your role as juror may involve personal risk of:
 - a) losing your job? Y N
 - b) harm by mob? Y N



- ③ Are you open to performative doodling while being presented with damning evidence? Y N
- ④ Is there *any* crime so depraved it would cause you to vote against the defendant? Y N



Please submit your responses to the President-in-exile in Florida. He will be in touch.

SORENSEN

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CityPULSE

VOL. 20
ISSUE 28

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A piece of Lansing history "winds up" in Manhattan

PAGE 9



Downtown Lansing in winter

PAGE 18



New in Town: King Crab Cajun Seafood

PAGE 27



Illustration by Nevin Speerbrecher

Cover Art

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

EXCUSES FOR ACQUITTAL: THE SEQUEL

**2 PARTISAN
2 CONVICT**

OTHER PEOPLE DID OTHER THINGS

WHY ARE DEMOCRATS FIXATED ON THIS INCIDENT? WHAT ABOUT THE PROTESTS LAST SUMMER?

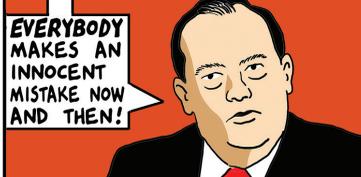


IT'S A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE
SPECIFICALLY, THE PRINCIPLE THAT WE'RE TERRIFIED OF ALIENATING TRUMP'S VOTERS!



WE MUST LET BYGONES BE BYGONES

OKAY, SO WHAT IF HE DID SEND AN ANGRY MOB TO KILL US ALL? THESE THINGS HAPPEN!



WE CAN'T RISK GOING DOWN THIS SLIPPERY SLOPE

IF WE HAD CONVICTED TRUMP, THEN EVERY LAWLESS PRESIDENT WHO INCITES AN INSURRECTION WOULD BE SUBJECT TO IMPEACHMENT!



NOTHING IS TRUE AND EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE

THIS WAS A RANDOM MOB WHOSE ACTIONS WERE DEFINITELY NOT INSPIRED BY ANYTHING TRUMP MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE SAID! LET ALONE ME!



HE IS NO LONGER PRESIDENT SO IT DOESN'T COUNT

EVERYONE KNOWS YOU CAN'T CONVICT SOMEONE OF A CRIME COMMITTED WHILE THEY HAD A JOB IF THEY NO LONGER HAVE THAT JOB!



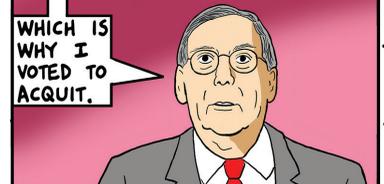
WORDS, WHAT DO THEY MEAN

THE PRESIDENT SAID IT WAS A NICE DEMOCRACY WE HAVE HERE, AND IT WOULD BE A SHAME IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO IT!



LOL NOTHING MATTERS

THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT TRUMP IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVOKING THE ATTACK! HE IS GUILTY, GUILTY, GUILTY!



TOM TOMORROW © 2021... THANKS TO JESS MCINTOSH FOR THE SECOND-TO-LAST PANEL!

Ending racially biased policing

A new report from the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office reveals a disconcerting pattern of police bias against people of color, who are many times more likely to be accused of crimes than white people in every jurisdiction reviewed, including Lansing, East Lansing and outlying communities within Ingham County. The worst appears to be in East Lansing, where Black residents make up only 7% of the population but accounted for 40% of the reported offenses.

These findings are consistent with data collected by the Lansing Police Department on traffic stops over the past 20 years through its Management Analysis of Traffic Stops (MATS) program. According to the 2020 MATS report, Lansing police officers stopped Black drivers more frequently than white drivers compared to their share of the city's population. Thirty-four percent of all non-accident traffic stops involved Black people, who make up 21% of Lansing's population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Only 47% of the stops involved white people, who make up 61% of Lansing's population.

Compared to data compiled in the early years of the MATS study, it appears that biased policing in Lansing has actually worsened over time. In the 2007 MATS study, 25% of non-accident traffic stops involved Black citizens, who comprised 22% of the city's population at that time. Whites, who made up 65% of the city's population, were the subject of 63% of traffic stops.

The statistics released by Ingham County and Lansing's MATS data strongly suggest that racial bias continues to play a significant role in area policing. We don't believe that most police officers are racists, but we do believe that implicit bias — the unconscious tendency to act differently toward others based on physical characteristics like the color of their skin — is a major factor. When implicit bias is layered on top of situational police discretion, it can result in deadly outcomes. Faced with making an instantaneous decision on whether to use force against a subject, an officer's subjective assessment of the threat is key to determining how they will react. In that moment, their implicit biases against people of color can lead them to use force that they likely wouldn't use against a white person.

Where police spend their time is also a factor.



who receive training, but there is scant evidence to suggest it changes their actual behavior toward people of color. This finding suggests that we must do far more than simply provide police officers with implicit bias training.

Limiting officer discretion is another tool that can reduce the opportunity for implicit biases to affect decision making. Use of force is one area where this is especially important. As we have noted previously, the surest path to reducing fatal encounters with police is to change the policy that allows them to use deadly force merely because they perceive a threat. This standard all but guarantees that implicit bias against Black citizens will cause officers to perceive a greater threat than actually exists and to use force rather than de-escalating the situation or retreating to safety.

One of the most promising approaches to reducing implicit bias among police officers is known as "inter-group contact" — an academic term for the simple idea that biases can be reduced through face-to-face meetings, through increasing numbers of minorities in law enforcement, and through community-based policing that encourages officers and citizens to interact when no criminal activity is involved. When police officers see Black citizens as neighbors and peers rather than as suspects, attitudes and behavior begin to change. This also highlights the extraordinary importance of increasing the number of Black officers within area police departments. We have no illusions that this will be easy — the tense relationship between police and communities of color makes it exceptionally difficult to recruit and hire minority officers — but it must continue to be a top priority for local law enforcement agencies.

One thing we know for certain is this disturbing truth: Young Black men are vastly overrepresented in the American criminal justice system due to systemic racism that continues to permeate virtually every level of our society. In 2003, the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics projected that of men born that year, 6% of whites would be incarcerated at some point in their lives. For Black people, that number was 32%. Nearly two decades later, this remains the cold, hard and unjust reality of life in America for people of color. It is one of our greatest failures as a nation. We must all work together to change it.

The CP Edit

Opinion

When most of their patrol activity is focused on economically disadvantaged, minority-dominated neighborhoods, police officers tend to interact more frequently with people of color. Research suggests that these interactions can reinforce implicit biases, leading police officers to view and treat African Americans with an elevated level of suspicion.

Research and statistics are but one window into the reality of any situation. Lived experience is another. And one need only listen to the firsthand accounts of Black citizens in our community to understand that "driving while Black" is real. Being pulled over for no reason other than the color of your skin is even more common outside the City of Lansing than within it, an assertion supported by Ingham County's data, which shows that Black citizens are accused of crimes by county law enforcement at a rate six times higher than their share of the county population.

Now that we've identified the problem, what are the solutions? Much is made of implicit bias training that helps police officers recognize their unconscious tendency to treat people of color differently. But research on the success of these efforts is not encouraging. Awareness of implicit bias increases among those

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

Equity now — the only acceptable outcome

By **DAVID W. MAXWELL**
Opinion



(Bishop David W. Maxwell is the senior pastor of Eliezer Temple in Lansing and a founding member of the Church of Greater Lansing. He also serves

in Mayor Andy Schor's executive cabinet and heads up the Mayor's Office of Community & Faith-Based Initiatives in Lansing.)

The constant drum beat and clarion call for equity for African Americans must never be diminished by the euphemistic saying: "We have come a long way from where we were." The statement itself becomes problematic when juxtaposed against the urgency of equity.

We are not suggesting we cavalierly ignore significant attainments in the struggle for fairness, but rather that

the lion's share of our energy be directed toward the challenges that are still before us. The residue and stench of the horrific imposition of chattel slavery and its attendant psychological genocide is the substratum that American was built and continues to rest upon.

The eradication of the effects of this evil demands an urgency that provides no room for the stagnation of excessive celebration of milestones, such as the first Black president or the first Black female vice president. These watershed events often are used to sublimate guilt and advance a false narrative that their ascendancy is evidence of equity. This misconception allows for the perpetuation of systemic and structural racism through tepid response and inaction.

In consideration of Lansing's state of or lack of equity, our city is a microcosm of America, replete with racial marginalization — educationally, economically, governmentally and in its criminal justice system. Our pursuit of equity must begin with a cathartic

admission of the trans-generational impact of racism by acknowledging not just our successes but by clearly acknowledging our abject failures.

Over the 40-some years of my residency in Lansing, I have observed the propensity of residents to compare Lansing to other mid-sized cities, especially when it comes to crime, economics and racism. Countless times have I heard, "Lansing might have its issues, but it is not as bad as Flint," or "We might have some race problems, but we are not like Ferguson."

I personally have been guilty of comparing apples to oranges in my assessment of Lansing.

The reality is that Flint, Saginaw, Detroit and Ferguson are not relevant to the question of the state of equity in Lansing. What is germane is the empirical evidence of disparity in every sector of our city — be it disparate graduation rates, the lack of economic enfranchisement, employment, redlining, negative participation in the criminal justice system, housing, "driving while black" and other metrics of social and or civil inequity. We must not be satisfied with doing better than others, but rather strive to become the gold standard of equity.

The actualizing of equity will require more than feel-good assessments and superficially comparing our supposed best to other cities worse. If we are a microcosm of the malady of America, we must also be the catalytic microcosm of a dynamic positive change —

now.

In 2020, the scab of racism was ripped off by the boldness of white supremacy. A toxic mindset that was once relegated to the shadowy fringe of hooded Klansmen and the dark web now is being promulgated through mainstream cable network news and social media.

Former President Donald Trump's incendiary words and calculating injection of race into this theater epitomized the downward spiral of the nation. The removal of the scab not only exposed the infection, but also affords us an opportunity to apply healing salve to the consequence and societal damage reeked by that infection.

I challenge Lansing to distance itself from transactionalism by embracing the rightness of equity, looking for no return other than correcting what is wrong. To achieve this equitable state will require a massive investment in the educational and economic constructs that will help even the playing field. It is a true saying, "Put your money where your mouth is." Until our investment and policies exceed our current praxis, the social chasm will only deepen and render our rhetoric as clouds without water.

The state of our city is in labor. We can choose a stillbirth through inaction or become midwives of the birthing of a progressive, vibrant and equitable future by boldly embracing revolutionary change for the betterment of our citizenry.

City of East Lansing NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

THE MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING WILL ONLY BE HELD ELECTRONICALLY

The Historic District Commission of the City of East Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan ("Historic District Commission") a meeting and public hearing on Thursday, March 11, 2021. This meeting and public hearing will only be held electronically pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider a Certificate of Appropriateness from Ray and Sara Hernandez for the property at 533 Charles Street to rebuild the porch using composite decking and vinyl railing.

The Historic District Commission may also consider any business to come before it as permitted by law

View Agenda: <https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&Id=453>

Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Act 267 of 1976, the Historic District Commission also gives notice of the following:

1. **Reason for Electronic Meeting.** The Historic District Commission is holding this meeting by electronic means to prevent the spread of COVID.

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

Webinar ID: 895 3808 9566
Call in Number 312-626-6799**
Toll Free: 888-788-0099

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

URL to View the Meeting: <https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/>

The public may view the meeting via the City's public meeting portal (URL above) and City Council and Planning Commission meetings are also broadcasted live on Channel 22

3. **Contact Information.** For those people who desire to contact members of the Historic District Commission to provide input or ask questions on the business that will come before the public body at the meeting, please contact Jake Parcell at jparcell@cityofeastlansing.com, prior to the start of the meeting.

4. **Persons with Disabilities.** Persons with disabilities may participate in the meeting through the methods set forth in paragraph 2. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services in order to attend electronically should notify Rebecca Urdiales at ruirdial@cityofeastlansing.com within a reasonable time in advance of the meeting.

Dated: February 5, 2021

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#21-037

LETTERS to the editor

Shooting was justifiable

In regards to the shooting death of Aldric McKinstry Jr., it was tragic but was investigated to be justifiable by the prosecutor at the time, who was also Black. AJ was an 18-year-old man shooting a gun at police. You continue to fail to mention those facts. In addition, you keep running articles about Michael Lynn Jr. and how the city is always picking on him. This guy is nothing more than a sue-happy troublemaker. Talk with his fellow firefighters (those who are Black/brown) to see what a "good guy" he is. Mr. Lynn is claiming disability due to PTSD but walks out in public with a rifle. He wants a big cash payout and is a poor representative for the BLM movement.

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

Now have two ways to sound off:

1.) Write a letter to the editor.

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

2.) Write a guest column:

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

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

Disappointed to hear he has been elevated up in the organization.

**Tracey Bond
Lansing**

Allegiance to Trump puts a Lansing lawyer in the hot seat

Back in December 2016, Lansing lawyer Scott Hagerstrom's star was never brighter.

Hagerstrom is the former director of Michigan's Americans for Prosperity chapter who led Donald Trump's primary and general election victories in Michigan and several other states.

He heard credible information that the state Republican chairwoman, Ronna Romney McDaniel, would become the Republican National Committee chairwoman and the Michigan post would open up, and Hagerstrom felt his loyalty to Trump would put him in prime position to get the McDaniel's Michigan post.



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

Most recently, though, his allegiance to Trump has him sitting in a few pots of hot water — one that could cost him his law license, another that could cost him financially and a third that has him involved in a potential investigation into questionable payments at the Michigan Republican Party.

Going back to 2016, Team Trump didn't want Hagerstrom as MRP chairman. They wanted former ambassador Ron Weiser, the real estate mogul and MRP chairman from 2009-10. Hagerstrom took two calls from incoming Trump Chief of Staff Reince Priebus and a third call from Trump political adviser Steve Bannon.

They were publicly going to endorse Weiser, and Hagerstrom realized that without the fundraising connections Weiser brought to the job, it might be

better for everyone if he bowed out. Like a good Trump lieutenant, that's what Hagerstrom did.

"People can have the best ideas in the world and if you don't have the money to communicate your ideas and your vision statewide to millions of people, they're sort of useless," he said.

Weiser became chairman and offered Hagerstrom a job. And this is where things get sticky.

Hagerstrom insists that the special projects assignment was real work. He connected Weiser with grassroots activists. He worked on a special election House race in the U.P.

However, Hagerstrom's name appeared in the footnotes of a preliminary report from former Judge Jonathan Lauderbach from Jan. 15 that looked into an alleged payoff between Weiser and former secretary of state candidate Stan Grot.

It read that while on Mackinac Island in 2017, MRP official Henrietta Tow "encountered a visibly intoxicated Mr. Hagerstrom, who simultaneously boasted and complained that he was being paid \$80,000 by the State Party to do nothing. Ms. Tow confirmed that Hagerstrom's company, GSPLE, LLC, was paid \$81,500 between 2017 and 2018 without a written contract and without discernible services being provided in exchange for such payments."

With the secretary of state and possibly the attorney general now sniffing around into whether Weiser violated any laws in the alleged payoff to Grot, Hagerstrom finds himself sucked into someone else's drama.

Could this mean criminal charges? Requests to reimburse the MRP? It's too early to tell.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Dana Nessel is after Hagerstrom for lend-

ing a hand to attorney Sydney Powell on evidence she was collecting about claims of fraud in the 2020 election. She needed some Michigan attorneys to help her, and Hagerstrom was more than willing.

Based on what he saw in his years as an election observer for Republicans, fraud — particularly in Wayne County — wasn't some far-fetched theory.

Voters allegedly living in shutdown store fronts. Police harassment in Detroit. From the way he saw it, "The proper place to settle grievances is in the court. You have rules of evidence. You have a hearing to get discovery. Things can't be swept under the rug," he said.

If anything fishy was going on, the courts would flag it.

Well, no court found anything fishy going on. Now, Nessel wants Hagerstrom, Powell and two other attorneys to pay \$11,000 in sanctions for filing a "frivolous" lawsuit on bogus election fraud claims.

She also wants the Michigan Attorney Grievance Commission to disbar them.

Hagerstrom feels the whole thing is over the top, politically motivated and is sending a big a chill through the legal profession.

"It's a little scary having the most powerful people in the state using their powers to come after you," he said.

Yet, with the purity of Trump's intentions in serious question, some of those folks sucked into his vacuum of influence is find life a little rocky right now ...

As Hagerstrom is finding out firsthand.

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

ORDINANCE # 2622

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-4-2020
Parcel Number: 33-01-01-15-126-287
Address: 220 N. Pennsylvania Avenue

Legal Descriptions: Part of the North 1/2, Section 15, T4N, R2W, City of Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, being more particularly described as: Commencing at the North 1/4 corner of Section 15; thence S01°15'05"W, 40.00 feet; thence N88°31'40"W, 335.76 feet along the South line of East Saginaw Street; thence S01°52'00"W, 395.17 feet along the East line of "Jones & Porter's Addition to the City of Lansing", as recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, Page 20, Ingham County Records and the East line of "Fairview Subdivision to the City of Lansing" as recorded in Liber 3 of Plats, Page 46, Ingham County Records; thence N88°32'59"W, 940.21 feet along the South line of said "Fairview Subdivision to the City of Lansing"; thence S01°52'00"W, 942.18 feet along the East line of Pennsylvania Avenue to the Point of Beginning of the following described Parcel; thence N85°29'19"E 7.66 feet; thence S88°24'47"E, 158.60 feet; thence N88°39'04"E, 165.79 feet; thence S00°24'18"E, 35.16 feet; thence 125.62 feet along a 79.58 foot radius curve to the right, said curve having a central angle of 90°26'45" and a chord of S38°39'35"E, 112.98 feet; thence S89°11'28"E, 373.45 feet; thence S01°26'08"W, 268.86 feet; thence S88°41'53"E, 17.71 feet; thence N78°04'10"E, 85.00 feet; thence S88°16'29"E, 359.67 feet to the West line of "Gower's Addition to the City of Lansing", as recorded in Liber 3 of Plats on Page 31, Ingham County Records; thence S01°56'21"W, 239.02 feet along the West line of said "Gower's Addition to the City of Lansing"; thence N88°43'18"W, 552.36 feet; thence S01°17'55"W, 228.76 feet to the North line of Jerome Street; thence N88°44'59"W, 691.62 feet along said North line of Jerome Street to the East line of Pennsylvania Avenue; thence N01°52'00"E, 831.60 feet along the said East line of Pennsylvania Avenue to the Point of Beginning. Containing 15.92 acres, more or less, from "C" Residential district to "DM-4" Residential district.

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 February 8, 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#21-028

B/21/066 U-POSTS as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids electronically on line at www.mitn.info or at the City of Lansing Purchasing Office, 124 W. Michigan Ave 8th Fl, Lansing, Michigan 48933 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **FEB. 25, 2021** at which time bids will be opened. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 483-4128 email: Stephanie.Robinson@lansingmi.gov or go to www.mitn.info.** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#21-034

B/21/069 COUPLING REPLACEMENT as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids electronically on line at www.mitn.info or at the City of Lansing Purchasing Office, 124 W. Michigan Ave 8th Fl, Lansing, Michigan 48933 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **MARCH 4, 2021** at which time bids will be opened. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 483-4128 email: Stephanie.Robinson@lansingmi.gov or go to www.mitn.info.** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#21-038

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS



By KYLE KAMINSKI



Happy birthday, Lansing:

The city was incorporated on Feb. 15, 1859, making it 162 years old.



Dems consider urging Betz to resign over

Lynn ...

The Ingham County Democratic Party will consider a resolution this week that rebukes Lansing City Councilman Brandon Betz for inflammatory comments that he made to Michael Lynn Jr., co-leader of the Lansing chapter of Black Lives Matter. Similar to a resolution passed by the City Council, the resolution also “encourages” Betz to “consider resigning his position.” Speaking from his native state of Alaska last week, Betz told City Pulse that he was assessing whether to quit. Lynn also sent a cease-and-desist letter to Betz last week that warned Betz to retract “false and defamatory” statements that alleged that Lynn had threatened Betz and his family.



Betz

... while city aims at Lynn over conduct

In an unrelated dispute, Lynn was accused of misconduct for sharing the city-issued cell phone number of Lansing Police Chief Daryl Green to nearly 2,000 people on Facebook. The disclosure allegedly forced Green to change his phone number and “compromised the operational efficiency” of the Police Department “at a time emotions were running high,” records show. Lynn expects to hear back this week on discipline — which could include his termination.

Skating rink (still) coming

A synthetic ice-skating rink is still expected to be installed on the City Hall Plaza this month, albeit behind schedule from its initial “early February” opening. Officials didn’t have a precise opening date available this week. The 3,300-square-foot-rink — because it is outdoors — will be able to accommodate 66 skaters at any given time under state COVID-19 restrictions.



Audit report dings Lansing

An independent audit shows a series of “material weaknesses” were tied to the budget for the city of Lansing last year — including a list of misstated financial records, a lack of internal oversight and an increased risk of fraud. City officials said some issues have been corrected, but others are likely to persist for years while the pandemic thrusts the city into a lingering state of financial uncertainty. Read details about the report at lansingcitypulse.com.

Okemos man named to state board

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer appointed Dean L. Anderson, of Okemos, to serve on the State Historic Preservation Review Board. Anderson most recently served as the state archaeologist in the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office and retired in 2019.



Anderson

LEAP launches equity department

The Lansing Economic Area Partnership announced the creation of a new Department of Equitable Economic Planning, which is designed to expand opportunities for low-income people and communities of color in Greater Lansing. Empowering historically disenfranchised communities can help grow jobs and diversify wealth in the community, said Tony Willis, who heads up DEEP as LEAP’s newly promoted chief equity development officer.

National groups push for gay equity

Dozens of national organizations, including the ACLU, joined together last week to call on Michigan lawmakers to adopt a bill for LGBTQ equality being advanced by Fair and Equal Michigan. Following a petition drive, state lawmakers must either pass the bill or send the question to voters on the 2022 ballot. It formally defines “sex” within state anti-discrimination laws to include sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. Organizers said it would “finally prohibit LGBTQ discrimination” in employment, housing, education and more.

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Z-9-2020: 3534 and 3538 W. Jolly Road
from “CUP” Community Unit Plan to “DM-1” Residential district

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., via ZOOM Conferencing, Meeting ID 859 4003 6219 to consider Z-9-2020, a request by 2163, LLC to rezone the properties at 3534 and 3538 W. Jolly Road from “CUP” Community Unit Plan to “DM-1” Residential district. The purpose of the rezoning is to permit additional residential development on the subject properties.

Note: Michigan Director of Health and Human Services Robert Gordon’s Order of October 9, 2020 regarding Gather Prohibition and Face Covering, as well as states of emergency declared by the Mayor and approved by City Council have led to a closure of City Hall at this time due to COVID-19. Public observation and participation may be facilitated electronically in accordance with the Open Meetings Act as amended, in an effort to protect the health and safety of the public.

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

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

For more information, please call 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., on the day of the Public Hearing at the City Clerk’s Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

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

CP#21-030

ORDINANCE # 2623

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-5-2020
Parcel Number: 33-01-05-03-352-431
Location: Northeast corner of E. Miller Road & Orchard Court
Commencing 445.5 feet East of the Southwest corner of Section 3, thence North 238 feet, East 115 feet, South 238 feet, West 115 feet to the point of beginning; Section 3, T3N R2W, from “F” Commercial district to “DM-3” Residential district.

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 February 8, 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#21-027

All wound up and somewhere to go

Historic Lansing clock finds new life in Manhattan

A mechanical post sidewalk clock was cutting edge tech in Lansing in 1910. In 2021, it's a dark visitor from the Victorian era, a cast iron counterweight to the digital blur of New York City.

"It's sort of weird that downtown Manhattan is now connected to main street Lansing, Michigan," Tribeca resident Victoria Weil said.

After standing sentinel for 70 years in front of Morgan's Jewelers on South Washington Avenue, enduring a vulgar neon makeover and languishing for 20 years in a shop in Canada, a 14-foot-tall sidewalk clock from Lansing has been granted a second life in a new park in the heart of Tribeca.

Residents and curious onlookers gathered when the gorgeously restored clock was delivered and installed Dec. 14, capstone to the new Bogardus Plaza at Hudson Street and West Broadway. After workers hook up the power, the clock will light up at night.

It took 12 hours for technician Peter Nunes and a two-man crew to wrestle the beast into place.

Among those present was Marvin Schneider. As the city's clock master since the late 1970s, Schneider's job is to look after the few mechanical clocks remaining in New York, repair them as needed and crank them forward and backward for Daylight Savings Time.

"What makes it unusual is that this street clock is going to be completely original," said Schneider, 81. "Street clocks used to be mechanical and hand wound. Street clocks in the city, and



The clock is the centerpiece of Bogardus Plaza, a new park at Hudson Street and West Broadway.

there are not many of them, are all run on electricity. This will be a return to the past, an acknowledgment of the history of clock making and the art of horology."

The clock was listed for \$265.21 in the Seth Thomas Clock Co. order book for May 19, 1910 — about \$8,000 today, adjusted for inflation. It was installed that year in front of H.B. Morgan's Jewelers at 121 S. Washington Ave., next to the present-day Peanut House in Lansing. Around mid-century, the clock lost its Victorian dignity when it was electrified and neon letters reading "Morgan's Jewelers" were added.

A local horologist, Karl Barathy of Haslett, serviced the clock for Morgan's until the store went out of business around 1979. Barathy took the clock in lieu of payment when the store went under.



By the 1960s, the clock was tricked out with neon letters luring customers to Morgan's Jewelers.



(Left) The clock was installed Dec. 16 in Manhattan's Tribeca neighborhood.

(Below) The clock awaited restoration for 20 years in clock collector Hugh Sinclair's Ontario workshop.



Hugh Sinclair, a clock collector with a shop in Chatham, Ontario, bought the clock at an auction between 2000 and 2010.

Around that time, residents in the vicinity of tiny Bogardus Garden were looking for a centerpiece for a new park, where West Broadway and Hudson Street converge in a "v"-shaped plaza, about four blocks from the World Trade Center.

In 2010, New York's Transportation Department blocked off the end segment of Hudson Street to stage equipment for a reconstruction of Chambers Street. Volunteers who tended the ivy patch and London plane trees in the little triangle proposed that the city keep the last block of Hudson Street closed to traffic and make it a permanent plaza.

The idea dovetailed with New York's master plan calling for more places where residents could sit and enjoy the city. The nonprofit Friends of Bogardus Plaza got a \$2 million grant from the New York's plaza program and raised \$200,000 of its own to qualify for the grant. The plaza cost over \$4 million, of which about \$500,000 came from private donations. Among the plaza's amenities are large, egg-shaped sculptures that recall the butter and egg merchants who worked the area in the 19th century.

Weil, president of the Friends of Bogardus Plaza, thought a clock would make a fine capstone to the project. The park's namesake, James Bogardus, was a clockmaker and inventor as well as the father of cast-iron architecture. Residents fondly remembered a grand old clock on the façade of 16 Hudson, at the north end of the plaza.

Jeremy Woodoff, a horologist who

works in the historic preservation office of the city's Department of Design and Construction, urged Weil to buy an antique clock rather than a reproduction.

There aren't many historic clock restorers around, so it didn't take long for Woodoff and the Friends to find Sinclair's Lansing clock in Ontario and buy it for \$40,000.

Sinclair stripped and repainted the clock and massaged the original motion-work mechanism behind the dials into working order. He replaced the electric movement at the base of the clock with an original Seth Thomas movement, a steampunk symphony in green and gold, beautifully restored by Ben Orszulak of Toronto.

"Even the screws in the body of the clock match the period," Weil said. "They're flat head, not Phillips head. The attention to detail is just wonderful."

Sinclair topped the clock with a spiky new cast-iron finial made from an original pattern. He found an original part from another clock to replace a missing door lock and provided the Friends of Bogardus Plaza with four new winding keys. Four members of the group take

Local officials seek to avoid racial disparities in vaccinations

Nationally, African Americans are being inoculated at far lower rate than whites

Dr. Joneigh Khaldun has been knee-deep in coronavirus data for nearly a year. As the state's chief medical officer, she has weighed racial disparities, partnering with Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist last spring to remove barriers related to race as the virus hammered the Detroit metro area.

"Good public health meets people where they are at," Khaldun said last week.

Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail agrees with that assessment and has been driving to make sure racial equity remains a priority as the county transitioned from testing to vaccination.

That is not what is happening nationally, though.

Black people make up 13.4% of the U.S. population, yet they accounted for only 5.4% of the vaccines administered during the first month, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. White people are 59.7% of the population and received about 60% of those first-round shots, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Localized data hasn't yet been made readily available.

"When you look at the prioritization that had to happen first, it's not surprising that when you look at a lot of communities right now that they are behind in basically vaccinating their people of color versus the white population because that is where they were guided," Vail explained.

To move forward equitably and make sure that racial equity is front and center with vaccine distribution, Vail said

Social Vulnerability Index*

Livingston: .0089
Clinton: .0490
Eaton: .2954
Shiawassee: .2442
Kalamazoo: .4110
Kent: .5043
Ingham: .5715
Jackson: .5950
Genesee: .6940
Muskegon: .7822
Wayne: .8682
Oceana: .8281

*The SVI Measures social and environmental factors that create higher risks, as measured on a progressively worse scale of 1 to 10.

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

the county works alongside an ethicist who specializes in the field. That ethicist is Jeffrey Byrnes, a professor of philosophy at Grand Valley State University.

"Those first tiers were really quite proscriptive. There wasn't a lot of room for interpretation," Byrnes said. "That requires us to think about who we reach out to and how we reach out to them. There's sort of two categories: First is who is most likely to suffer from it. The second is who is most likely to encounter it. We have to take both into account."

Since the beginning of the pandemic, COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted people of color — particularly Black people — nationally, statewide and in Greater Lansing. Vail said that's because those communities are impacted by more issues that make them more vulnerable.

Such vulnerabilities can range from where people live and environmental impacts like coal-burning emissions to poverty, pre-existing conditions, food deserts and education disparities.

"All those together make for a more vulnerable population," Vail added.

And that vulnerability, Khaldun said, is part of how the state is determining how many vaccine doses to distribute in Michigan's 83 counties. The state uses the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index. The tool establishes the social and environmental factors that create higher risks in any given community. The SVI is a scale of 0 to 1. Ingham county's 2016 index, the most recent publicly available number, was .5715. That means Ingham has a moderate to high vulnerability.

Khaldun said those counties with higher SVIs receive more vaccines. In addition, each county is allotted a certain number for particularly vulnerable communities such as the elderly, people of color and people with underlying health conditions — like heart disease, diabetes and HIV.

Despite the drive for racial equity to vaccinate people of color, however, there is no way to monitor how well the state is reaching communities of color. Officials are building a data collection system to capture racial demographic data on those vaccinated, but it isn't ready.

Vail said Ingham County has been collecting racial demographic data on vaccine applications. But because the state's vaccine tracking database system does not collect that data, county officials do not have a clear picture of how racially diverse the distribution of vaccines has been.

Still, that's not preventing the county from taking actions that they know will result in a deeper reach to more vulnerable populations, such as people of color. Vail said popup clinics can be used to specifically target those communities — like in zip code 48911, which is 28% African-American.

That south Lansing zip code also has

the second-highest number of cases, after East Lansing's 48823, which has been experiencing student-driven outbreaks since August. Zip code 48911 also became an early concern after outbreaks hit immigrants living in high-density rental communities — specifically those working at Herbruck's Egg Farm and the Meijer warehouse in Eaton County. Targeted testing and interventions have since driven those case numbers down.

Byrnes said using zip codes acts as a starting place, but it isn't necessarily fool-proof science.

"You have to use that zip code specific data to look deeper," he said. "That means not just looking at the number of cases, but who has the cases. You make a decision about who is more likely to be harmed if they get it. That is not likely to be students."

Byrnes said county vaccine distribution also has to compensate for the over-representation of white community members early on — as well as those who have jumped the queue, like the 200 city of Lansing employees who received early access to the vaccine last month.

Vail noted that communication errors revolving around Sparrow Hospital in Lansing allowing that misplaced city clinic to occur were a "mistake" that has since been discussed and resolved.

Byrnes also noted that the American healthcare model has led to a self-empowerment system that drives people to search out the best care. But they haven't faced a situation where the care — in this case the vaccine — is in limited supply. That clearly creates new challenges, he said.

"It's hard to wait in a line, but that's what we have to do," Byrnes added.

— TODD HEYWOOD

Clock

from page 9

turns winding the clock each week.

A photo of the clock awaiting restoration in Sinclair's shop shows a faceless circle of cast iron. With the mechanical works in place, Sinclair went to Eric Ryback of the St. Louis Clock Co. for the grand finale. Ryback made two tempered glass dials with bold, silk-screened numbers, protected by tempered glass outer dial covers and held in place by two gorgeous cypress wood rings, or bezels.

Weil and other Friends of Bogardus

Gardens believe it to be the only free-standing mechanical (weight driven, not electrified) clock in New York.

Weil can see the clock from her apartment window. When it's her turn to wind the clock, she takes a 30-second walk across the street, opens the winding box and fits a winding key "that's more like a wrench" into the keyhole.

"This huge weight slowly rises up and it's good for another week," she said. "It's fun and satisfying. Who can complain about winding a clock once a week? We don't do that anymore. All we do is fast forward through life."

This is New York, so residents have done their share of kvetching about the Bogardus Plaza project's delays and expenses, but Weil said the clock has

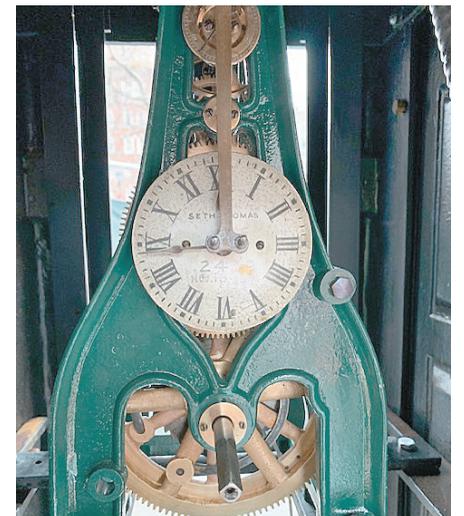
been universally welcomed.

"It's been hard to set and was running fast for a while," she said. "I think it's good now and should be only off by one minute per week. That's easy to adjust, though."

The highest compliment to the project, to Weil, is that many visitors from other parts of New York, and even some neighborhood residents, assume that the clock was always there.

"It just adds a weight to the neighborhood that's authentic," Weil said. "It reminds us that it's not always about the here and now. It's like old, good jewelry. It has weight. Corners aren't cut. It just feels so solid and right. I'm a little bit in awe of it. You should come and visit."

— LAWRENCE COSENTINO



Local residents take turns winding the mechanical works every week.

Big plans for Schor's panel on race ... but action?

Lansing residents received their first glimpse into the otherwise secretive work of Mayor Andy Schor's Racial Justice and Equity Alliance this week. And while an online presentation charted some big plans toward racial equity in Lansing, it was relatively slim on any actual changes.

"All the alliance members have been working hard over the last few months, using community feedback and meeting in their workgroups to put together a list of recommendations for their final plan, which they'll present later this year," Schor said to kick off Tuesday's presentation.

Translation: Everyone has been busy for seven months making plans to eventually make a plan.

In the aftermath of George Floyd's death and amid a continued call for police divestment, Schor announced in July that his newly formed Racial Justice and Equity Alliance would be tasked with cracking into the foundations that have led to widespread racial inequities in Lansing.

Among them: Data shows Black drivers are significantly more likely to be stopped and searched by local cops. Schor has also faced repeated accusations of racial discrimination since he took office, including in the form of at least three federal lawsuits. Systemic barriers have also been identified in other areas that continue to inhibit socioeconomic advancement for people of color in Lansing — including in education, economic development, health, housing and much more.

The alliance includes more than 40 people who have worked in tandem with Teresa Bingman, an attorney and diversity consultant hired by the city to steer a wide array of systemic reforms.



Bingman

All of its members have been asked to sign "confidentiality agreements" that prevent disclosure of their discussions until a final written report can be assembled by the end of May. This week marked the first time that members of that alliance have been able to speak about their work.

And the update only skimmed the surface of any real operational changes underway in Lansing.

Here's an overview:

Criminal justice and public safety

While a call for police divestment helped trigger the formation of Schor's alliance last year, the concept of reducing funding to the Lansing Police Department wasn't mentioned Tuesday. Instead, members said they're more focused on continuing to "build trust" between cops and residents.

Local immigration attorney Pamela Davies heads up the criminal justice and public safety workgroup alongside the Rev. Melvin T. Jones, president of the Greater Lansing Clergy Forum. She said that members of Schor's alliance are reading a book about police accountability and researching "best practices" of police departments

across the country. Eventually, that will lead into a series of recommendations on how officers can better de-escalate violent situations.

Davies said that cops needed clearer policies regarding how to peacefully interact with residents and that they should be rewarded (beyond their paycheck) for calming down "volatile situations." And of course, more training on correcting problematic police behavior was heavily emphasized.

"Often with stressful situations they encounter, their skills can erode," Davies added.

The goal — which also included the possibility of a citizen-led review board of police misconduct complaints — is to create a "police culture" where officers intervene to prevent misconduct, Davies explained. She also mentioned plans to review data on traffic stops for racial disparities.

Police Chief Daryl Green also expressed a desire to embed more social workers into the Police Department, but only if they have access to armed officers to handle dangerous situations.



Green

"We also need more crisis stabilization centers," Green added. "We can teach police officers to recognize mental health issues and de-escalate those situations, but the only other option we have in most occurrences is to take them to jail without some type of crisis stabilization center."

Green also touted procedural reforms from last year that prevent officers from stopping drivers for secondary traffic infractions — about 15% of the stops made in 2019 — and to no longer conduct no-knock search warrants. Only three of those were conducted in the last five years.

"Policy is ensuring we have the best practices. Training is reinforcing those practices," he said.

History of Lansing

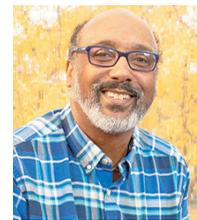
Another workgroup of the alliance is focusing on a history of racial inequity in Lansing. Paula Cunningham, director of Michigan AARP and a former president of Lansing Community College, heads up the group, summarizing its mission in one sentence: "You can't move forward unless you understand where you've been in the past."



Cunningham

Members of that workgroup of the alliance are tasked with identifying "indicators" that have contributed to racial inequities in Lansing dating back to 1850 with the goal of better understanding their impact on the growth and development of the city today, she said.

That group also plans to conduct a series of



Watkins



Schor

Advisory board turns on Schor amid fight against inequities

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor faced criticism from another one of his own advisory boards this week, which claimed that Schor ignored recommendations for social equity and hasn't done enough to address "rampant issues of racism and discrimination."

The Mayor's Inclusion and Diversity Advisory Council — which formed two years before the Racial Justice and Equity Alliance — passed a resolution this week that slammed the mayor for refusing to take "real action" to mitigate systemic racism in Lansing. It also called for the City Council to formally reestablish the advisory board outside of Schor's direct purview.

"The mayor mostly ignored a series of detailed recommendations MIDAC provided to help address systemic racism in the city of Lansing, both within and outside of city government," according to a statement. "Absent real action from the Schor administration, MIDAC's resolution also calls on the Lansing City Council to work with MIDAC to introduce and pass resolutions and ordinances that finally address systemic racism in the city of Lansing."

Frustrations have long simmered among members of the advisory council after Schor sidelined the group last year and told its chairman, Randy Watkins, to suspend its meetings and combine forces with his newly appointed alliance. As a result, at least six of its members have resigned.

Schor then explained that "one unified effort" would lead to more meaningful reforms. But now, members of that board would rather answer directly to the City Council rather than the mayor.

"MIDAC's resolution also requests that the Lansing City Council take steps to formally establish MIDAC as an official city board, rather than a mayoral advisory committee, and appoint its long-serving members to the official board," according to this week's statement from the board.

The original advisory board also painted members of the newer alliance as "40 high-profile local political players, corporate CEOs and campaign donors." Bingman, in response, said she was "disappointed" that Watkins appeared to be making "another effort to derail" the alliance's work.

"The work or the MRJEA will continue and I hope that you and others who have a sincere interest in moving forward with candor, strength and courage will join the positive momentum that has been launched," Bingman wrote in response to Watkins' criticism.

Bingman also serves as a consultant at Vanguard Public Affairs. That firm helped with fundraising and other Schor election efforts. Bingman said she wasn't involved in that work.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

State launches program to enhance vaccine equity strategy

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services announced a program this week designed to reach more residents with safe and effective doses of the COVID-19 vaccine — including broader access to people with disabilities and lower incomes and minority groups.

Currently, those 65 and older are eligible for vaccines statewide. Under the new plan, healthcare providers with specific plans geared toward removing socioeconomic and race-related barriers tied to vaccine access will also be allowed to request vaccinations for people 60 and older.

Mortuary service workers who routinely work with infectious materials were also added to part of the first 1A tier of priority groups for the vaccine this week. Additionally, about 79,000 workers in food processing and agricultural settings will be able to receive vaccines beginning on March 1.

State officials recently announced a strategy to vaccinate 70% of Michigan residents ages 16 and older as “quickly as possible” by providing more transparent data and equitable access to shots. As part of those efforts, at least 41 federally qualified health centers that target low-income or minority

populations in under-served communities were also provided with vaccines this week.

In related news...

A mass vaccination clinic scheduled on Tuesday through the Ingham County Health Department was canceled after a snowstorm blanketed the Greater Lansing region. Officials said those who had appointments will be rescheduled over the next three days via telephone or email. The initial doses that were secured for scheduled appointments will still be available.

The Capital Area Transportation Authority, Eaton and Clinton Transit are scheduling free or discounted rides this week for people with written proof they have an appointment to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. CATA charges a \$5 fare, accepts Spec-Tran passes and may offer discounts to those who request them. Rides with Eaton and Clinton Transit are free.

Call 517-394-2283 to book a ride with CATA. Eaton can be reached at 517-543-4087. Clinton County residents can call 989-224-8127 to schedule a ride through Clinton Transit anytime.

Meijer also announced last week that it was planning to ramp up

CORONAVIRUS IN MICHIGAN BY THE NUMBERS...

WEEK 48

Michigan				Eaton County			
	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.	
2/9/21	569,980	14,965	1,339,129	5,471	142	15,171	
2/16/21	576,264	15,177	1,634,609	5,534	143	19,802	
Weekly Change	↑1.1%	↑1.4%	↑22.1%	↑1.2%	↑0.7%	↑30.5%	

Greater Lansing				Clinton Co.			
	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.	
2/9/21	24,668	460	63,647	4,322	64	9,875	
2/16/21	25,042	472	82,378	4,363	65	12,380	
Weekly Change	↑1.5%	↑2.6%	↑29.4%	↑0.9%	↑1.6%	↑25.4%	

Ingham County			
	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.
2/9/21	14,879	260	38,601
2/16/21	15,145	264	50,196
Weekly Change	↑1.8%	↑1.5%	↑30%

The “Vaccines” category refers to the total number of doses administered to patients that reported living within each jurisdiction, according to state data. Patients require two doses.

COVID-19 clinics at its stores across Michigan, with plans to administer up to 25,000 COVID-19 vaccines this week. Those doses are allotted for people 65 years and older who pre-register for a shot at a local clinic.

Meijer has not released the specific locations of its clinic locations. Walk-ins are not available.

Visit lansingcitypulse.com for continued updates.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

Race

from page 11

interviews with senior residents to better understand historic inequities in Lansing. Four college students are also assisting with research.

Training

One alliance committee is focused specifically on diversifying Lansing’s workforce and “building a culture” where current employees can treat each other with more respect and inclusivity. Part of those efforts will include ongoing training efforts designed to bolster in-house diversity.

Last year, Schor’s staff and cabinet participated in a two-day diversity training. Other programs — including at the Police Department — are in the works for later this year, officials

said.

Human Resources Director Linda Sanchez-Gazella said that work also includes a demographic review of Lansing’s workforce, which will be reviewed and assembled as part of the final report.

City Pulse conducted a similar assessment in 2019, which found Lansing employees were predominately white men. Less than 16% of city staff identified as African American despite accounting for 22% of the city population. Disparities were also evident among Hispanic staff.

Education and youth development

Delsa Chapman, who co-chairs the Lansing School District’s Board of Education, is also keeping the alli-



Sanchez-Gazella

ance focused on continued support for Lansing children — particularly through the development of programs that are focused on bolstering racial equity in public education.

She said recommendations will include partnerships with community organizations to “broaden opportunities” for employment skills that lead students to a “future grounded in equity.” Part of that work involves bolstering access to scholarships, internships and financial assistance.

Carmen Turner, who co-chairs the Boys and Girls Club of Lansing, said the alliance is also focused on reducing violence in local neighborhoods through the development of after-school community center programming that targets at-risk



Turner

youth in Lansing, ultimately reducing the need for cops.

“There’s a lot involved with our youth and making sure they are on the right track,” she added.

Jobs and economic development

Another committee of the alliance is focusing on finding ways for low-income people — primarily people of color — to survive, recover and adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic. The end goal, officials said, is to help increase minority representation in business ownership in Lansing.

Tony Willis, who was recently promoted to lead a diversity-focused department at the Lansing Economic Area Partnership, said the work will include individualized business support to empower disenfranchised entrepreneurs and advocate for “progressive” business practices.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

New classes start now through April.



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COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**

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MSU prof slams Trump lawyers for misusing his research

A longtime professor at Michigan State University's College of Law is frustrated after he said attorneys for former President Donald Trump mischaracterized his research to argue that the president was legally incapable of impeachment after he left office.

But he doesn't suspect it played a role in lawmakers' decision to acquit Trump on Saturday.

"I'm not confident there were very many senators interested in doing the legal analysis and coming up with the best answer," said Brian Kalt, who is on sabbatical but usually teaches torts and administrative law at MSU College of Law, where he has worked as a full-time professor since 2000. "They weren't reading law review articles. This involved listening to hot takes and op-eds."

One year after Kalt arrived at MSU, he penned a research article titled "The Constitutional Case for the Impeachability of Former Federal Officials." In it, Kalt explores various legal theories on whether elected officials, like the president, could be impeached after they left the job.

The piece didn't take sides, per se. It simply explored the constitutional underpinnings of how impeachment would be decided in what was then considered a rare and altogether unlikely scenario like the nation watched unfold last week. Trump's attorneys cited it at least 15 times.

And Kalt immediately took issue: "I'd say at least 13 of those citations had problems," he said.

"The problem isn't that I reached a different conclusion. It was 124 pages and included as much evidence as I could find on both sides of the issue.



Kalt

This was not an easy issue, but some items in the brief were taken out of context or were just flat-out wrong. Even the citations were sloppy."

Trump's attorneys, for example, argued that "when a President is no longer in office, the objective of an impeachment ceases," citing Kalt's article in a footnote. The full text of that research, however, only suggests it as one interpretation with plenty of other weaknesses.

"The constitutional case for late impeachment has more strengths and fewer flaws than the case against it," according to a line in Kalt's research, which was only designed as objective analysis.

Kalt searched the Trump briefs when they were released, expecting to see his name. And he said he "wasn't real happy" about seeing his work so widely misinterpreted and slanted.

Other lines also cited Kalt rather than the source material that he used to create his research.

"It was pretty obvious to me that the only recourse I had was to call them out on it," Kalt said.

Kalt took to Twitter last week to call out Trump's lawyers for "flat-out misrepresentations." He also had an op-ed published in The Washington Post. The New York Times picked up the story.

"They didn't have to be disingenuous and misleading like this," he wrote on Twitter.

In a post-acquittal interview with City Pulse, Kalt said many senators didn't appear bothered with whether the Senate even had jurisdiction to try an ex-president. According to his analysis, only about 30 senators took issue with jurisdiction — not exactly a linchpin in the vote for acquittal.

"It wasn't just cherry-picking parts of the article. It was sloppiness," Kalt added. "Most of the time people can miss the point or ignore parts. It's another thing for someone to cite me for the complete opposite of what was written. I can't say that has happened to me in practice before." Kalt's research also wasn't the only time that Trump's attorneys were accused of taking information out of context to peddle their defense of the former president last week.

Michigan State Rep. Cynthia Johnson, D-Detroit, released a statement on Friday after defense attorneys

played a montage of videos that included a Facebook Live video of Johnson discussing death threats received in the wake of a committee hearing on election integrity.

"My comments are being taken out of context in a weak attempt to justify the riot," she said, noting that "alt-right new outlets with an agenda" only skewed the footage out of context.

"We've already seen the entirety of what Trump is and what he stands for. We've seen that for four years, and it led to death threats, armed militias entering our state capitol and a deadly attack on our nation's Capitol," Johnson said in a statement released before Trump's acquittal.

Kalt said he has received quite a few emails since publicly criticizing Trump's attorneys ahead of the trial's conclusion. And contrary to some of the more conspiratorial beliefs, Kalt pointed out that his research on impeachability was written more than a decade before Trump took office.

"Obviously, none of this was based on what I want to happen or not happen to Donald Trump," he added. "I see that a lot, especially on Twitter. It's like OK: Yeah, back in 2001 I was playing the really, really long game on how we can figure out how to impeach Trump after he left office."

— KYLE KAMINSKI

ORDINANCE # 2624

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-6-2020
 Parcel Number's: 33-01-01-05-427-101, 33-01-01-05-427-111, 33-01-01-05-427-121, 33-01-01-05-427-131
 Addresses: 2420, 2432, 2442 & 2506 N. Grand River Avenue
 Legal Descriptions: Lots 13, 14, 15 & 17, Assessor's Plat No. 57, from F" Commercial, "J" Parking, "A" Residential, "D-1" Professional Office and "G-2" Wholesale to "H" Light Industrial.

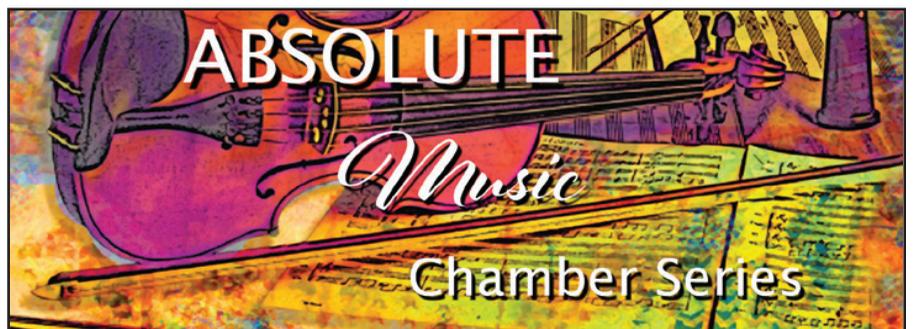
Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions hereof are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance was duly adopted by the Lansing City Council on February 8, 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#21-032



Thursday, February 25 ♦ 7:30 p.m.

Divertimento in D Major	J. Haydn
Sonata Op. 99 in F Major	J. Brahms
Adagio and Rondo	C. M. von Weber
Sonata Op.40 in D Minor	Shostakovich

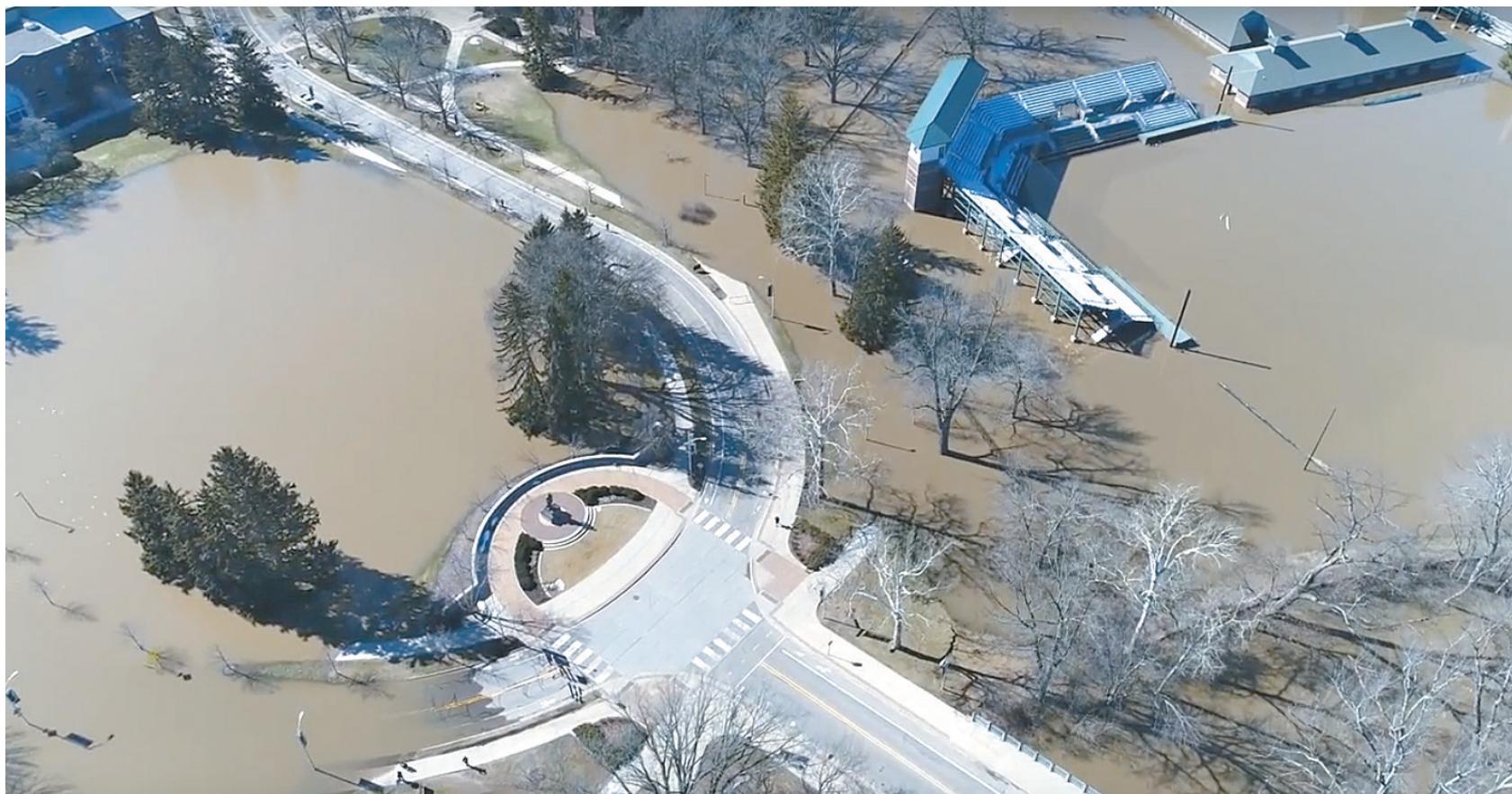
Featuring Suren Bagratuni, cello and Hrant Bagrazyan, piano

In the midst of Covid-19, we need music more than ever! Enjoy beautiful, healing classical music livestreamed from Lansing's Urban Beat, free to the public, complete with our usual guides to the music and Q & A with musicians.

Made possible by the generosity of FAM members & concert sponsors:

- The James D. Noble Charitable Trust
- Blüthner USA
- MSU Federal Credit Union Desk Drawer Fund
- Reeder Pianos
- The William Fullmer family in memory of Mary

Visit absolutemusiclansing.org for livestream details.



Courtesy of MSU

The Red Cedar surged up to Sparty (lower left) and MSU's McLane Baseball Stadium (right) in a February 2018 flood. The past decade

has been the wettest on record in mid-Michigan, the most conspicuous local effect of climate change.

Alarm and 'awakening'

Regional network forms to fight climate change

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

To help her fight the gravest crisis facing world civilization, Lansing's new sustainability manager, Lori Welch, jokes that she has a staff of three: "me, myself and I."

"I'm going to be hiring an intern soon, so that's very exciting," she added.

Welch is an optimist by nature. It doesn't hurt that she's found a lot of kindred spirits since she took office last summer.



Welch

The Capital Area Sustainability Partnership, a budding coalition of cities, townships, businesses, nonprofits, environmentalists and other parties from the tri-county region, began to meet in mid-January, with Welch on board. A nine-member city sustainability commission will be named "soon," Welch said. Ingham County declared a climate emergency in July. East Lansing, Meridian Township and other local jurisdictions are ramping up plans to curb carbon emissions. The growing local buzz mirrors a renewed sense of climate urgency at the federal level, as the Biden administration takes over.

Shrinking the region's carbon footprint to mitigate climate change, and preparing for the changes that are too late to stop, is a job that knows no boundaries.

"There's definitely an awakening," Welch said. "In a way, there's nowhere to go but up. We can only get better at this, and it's not a choice."

At 6 p.m. Monday (Feb. 22) climate change and sustainability initiatives will be on the agenda at a public Zoom meeting of the Ingham County Board of Commissioners' Human Services Committee at <https://ingham.zoom.us/j/88500480307>. The board will take public comment on conducting a greenhouse gas audit and reviving the county's dormant Environmental Affairs Commission. More information at www.ingham.org.

Grand totems of this awakening are visible at all three of greater Lansing's most venerable pillars — MSU, state government and General Motors. Acres of solar carports shelter 5,000 parking spaces on MSU's south campus. A labyrinth of deep pits sloshing with liquid glycol will soon bring geothermal energy to the state Capitol. This year, General Motors made a commitment to power its facilities, including its LEED certified Delta Township plant, with 100 percent renewable energy and convert its production to electric vehicles by 2034.

Those are big dots, but there's a lot of connecting to be done.

Happening now

Jeff Andresen, a professor of meteorology and climatology at MSU, spends much of his time explaining the local effects of climate change as a member of the university's climate outreach team.

"The changes are happening now," Andresen said. "We're living it."

To catalogue the world's cascading climate catastrophes — from melting polar ice, wildfires, hurricanes and floods to the Himalayan glacier that slid away last Sunday, crushed a dam and killed over 30 people — would probably dampen your will to read this much further, so we'll keep it local.

Record-high Great Lakes water levels and shoreline erosion have had a "major, major" economic impact on the Great Lakes, Andresen said, although drier conditions in late 2020 have slowed the damage for now. Most of the warming so far in Michigan has been measured at night and in the winter and spring, but hotter extremes in summer are likely coming.

"Relative to other parts of the U.S., and other parts of the world, Michigan has a fairly low frequency of weather and climate-related problems," Andresen said. "We don't have hurricanes, there's less of a risk of wildfires."

However, Andresen reported that Michigan is averaging 10% to 15% more rain and snow a year, mostly rain, than 10 years ago.

"That's a lot," he said. All the wettest years on record, save one or two, came in the last 10 to 15 years, with 2019 the wettest year on record. The all-time record for heaviest 24-hour precipitation event in state history was set in Mason County in July 2019 — just under 13 inches. The old record, set in 1914, was 9.7 inches.

"We didn't just break the record, we shattered it," Andresen said, sounding almost too excited.

See Climate, Page 15

Climate

from page 14

He ticked off a “wettest hits” of recent Michigan floods, starting with the most expensive weather related disaster in state history, the August 2014 floods in Detroit and southwestern Michigan, and ending with last May’s dam-bursting floods in Midland.

That’s only a preview of things to come if the world conducts business as usual, according to Western Michigan University biologist David Karowe.

And Michigan is in a relatively sweet spot. Karowe doesn’t let a single climate lecture go by without stressing that a “very strong ethical and social justice issue” underpins the crisis. Developed countries in North America, Europe and Asia are spewing most of the greenhouse gases, by far, while relatively sheltered areas like the American Midwest escape most of the harm.

“The people who are causing the problem are not the same people who are suffering the adverse impacts,” Karowe said.

Still, if “business goes on as usual,” the Great Lakes region will experience more than 50 days a year over 95 degrees by 2100, according to Karowe.

Longer growing seasons sound great, but they will be offset by pre-frost “false springs” that have already devastated the state’s cherry and apple crops. Ice-free lakes sound like a plus, too, until freighters start bottoming out on unseen shallows.

Hang on tight while climate journalist David Wallace-Wells takes the story from there. Terry Link, a consultant and the founder of MSU’s Office of Sustainability, uses a scary clip by the author of “The Uninhabitable Earth” when he visits local groups to talk about climate change.

If the climate continues to warm unchecked, Wallace-Wells warns, the world is facing \$600 trillion in damage from climate change induced disasters such as hurricanes, mudslides, droughts and wildfires— more than double the wealth in the world that exists today.

“We’ve already left the world we grew up in,” Wallace-Wells declares. “The planet is now at its hottest point in human history. Just how bad it will be will always be up to us.”

Red alert

Lori Welch isn’t used to fighting invisible, world-burning gases. Her interest in the environment began when she was a kid, pitching in for a Grand River cleanup. Before Mayor Andy Schor named her Lansing’s first sustainability manager on April 22, 2020 (Earth Day), she worked on recycling, compost, waste management and storm water in Lansing for over 20 years.

The last girder on the Lansing Board of Water and Light’s \$500 million natural gas fired power plant in Delta Township went into place August 7. The plant is expected to go on line next year.



Courtesy of Lansing Board of Water and Light

Navigating the complexities of a greenhouse gas audit is a long way from pulling galoshes out of a river. Welch admits it’s a “jump” for many people to wrap their heads around the largely unseen changes swirling through the planet’s atmosphere, land and water.

“It can be overwhelming, but more and more people are realizing a huge sense of urgency,” she said.

“I’m on red alert over here,” Ingham County Commissioner Chris Trubac said. “The urgency is enormous, and I think the other commissioners agree with me.”



Trubac

Trubac said he’s made it a “top priority” to reduce the carbon footprint of county facilities, beginning with a full energy audit. He wants to see the county set firm timelines for getting its facilities to 100 percent renewable energy, zero emissions and carbon neutrality.

“We have a lot of square footage in our facilities,” he said. After nearly two years on the job, he’s still finding new county departments and buildings. “With that comes a lot of responsibility and a lot of opportunity.”

Welch, Trubac, East Lansing environmental services director Cathy DeShambo and other area leaders are still hammering out the framework of the Capital Area Sustainability Partnership. As the group grows and sorts out who specializes in what, it will break into units tackling energy, water, waste and other issues.

In most cities — including Lansing — the building and transportation sectors emit the most greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change, according to Welch.

“I’d like to see us make existing facilities more efficient and create solar arrays and other renewable energy sources on some of them as well,” Welch said. She also would like to see Lansing’s fleet move to electric vehicles.

Andresen said the action is welcome and long overdue.

“Some communities have begun, for the first time, to consider the climate piece of their policy,” he said.

Meridian Township is a step or two ahead of Lansing, with an energy team, an environmental commission and a “green team” specializing in recycling and waste reduction, all citizen-led. There are conspicuous solar arrays at the township hall, South Fire Station and Marketplace on the Green. Meridian is a complicated jurisdiction with 85 separate utility accounts. With the help of the experts, township sustainability coordinator LeRoy Harvey expects the township to complete a full-scale greenhouse gas audit soon.



Courtesy of MSU

Data collected by MSU climatologist Jeff Andresen (pictured) and other scientists show that Michigan is getting warmer and wetter and needs to build “resilience” in the face of climate change.

Scaling up

The only way to deal with a large-scale crisis is to respond on a large scale. Welch’s plan to develop cross-departmental sustainability programs in Lansing, and the broader Capital Area Sustainability Partnership, are early efforts to scale up local response to climate change by pooling ideas, people and resources.

Some of the area’s major economic players have already begun to take advantage of their capacity to invest in big new projects.

General Motors signed a purchase agreement Sept. 30 for a massive 180 MW solar project in Arkansas that will supply 100 percent of power for Lansing Delta Township Assembly by and the Wentzville Assembly plant in Missouri, “with the remaining power allocated to Lansing Grand River Assembly,” according to GM spokeswoman Erin Davis. When the solar project comes on line in 2023, GM estimates it will be 60 percent of the way toward its goal of getting 100 percent of its electricity for U.S. sites from renewable sources by 2030. This follows the automaker’s dramatic January pledge to stop manufacturing gasoline-powered vehicles by 2035.

In the past two years, through summer heat and winter ice, workers have bored over 272 holes, each 500 feet deep, around the state Capitol. The \$4 million geothermal heating system, part of a \$70 million Capitol Infrastructure Upgrade, will save an estimated \$250,000 to \$300,000 annually antiquated heating and cooling system.

Another regional heavyweight, MSU, has erected 45 acres of solar carports that are expected to generate about 15 percent of the campus energy demand, with more to come.

But what about the little guy? Heather Douglas, an MSU associate professor, has been working on energy issues for over 25 years. She moved to the area about two years ago from Waterloo, Canada, where she ran a de-carbonization project as associate director of the Waterloo Institute for



Douglas

Climate

from page 15

Sustainable Energy.

Douglas has made it her business to help individual households scale up their own response to climate change as best they can.

“There’s this sense that it’s all systemic, it’s about policy, and that’s important,” Douglas said. “But about a third of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions come from what we do with our households. It’s about our personal choices in the coming decades.”

Douglas has developed an eye-opening website that graphically demonstrates the carbon footprint of your life at <https://greenhouse.cal.msu.edu>.

Type in basic information such as where you live, the make of car you own and the approximate number of miles you drive and the site will calculate your carbon footprint. (Douglas said the site does not collect information or check on what you input, so “feel free to lie.”)

The fun part of the site is a “playground” where you change inputs and watch the results. Add solar panels, buy an electric car, move to a place where the utility uses more renewable energy, switch out your old refrigerator and the squares indicating energy use turn a satisfying green.

“It’s a big part of the national picture, something that can literally and figuratively empower people to make changes,” Douglas said.



Courtesy of Meridian Township

An Oct. 3, 2020, tree planting highlighted Meridian Township’s many sustainability initiatives, which include solar arrays near municipal buildings, land conservation and a township-wide greenhouse gas audit.

Elephant in the room

As the climate crisis comes to a head, environmentalists have pushed Lansing’s Board of Water and Light to move away from fossil fuels as fast as possible, with mixed results.

Construction on the utility’s \$500 million new gas-fired Delta Energy Park will be “substantially finished” by fall, according to BWL General Manager Dick Peffley, although the plant will be available for limited use

as early as May.

The utility says it will phase out coal by 2025, generate 100 percent “clean energy” (renewables plus energy efficiency) by 2030 and reach carbon neutrality by 2040.



Peffley

The coal-fired Eckert Station is dark already, with no turbines running. (One of Eckert’s six units is being held in reserve until May in case of a “regional emergency.”) The BWL’s other coal-burning plant, in Delta Township, is on track to close in 2024.

But the decision to bridge the coal and renewable eras with a large gas plant was deeply troubling for members of the Lansing Environmental Action Team and other climate-conscious citizens. Burning natural gas is widely estimated to result in 50% to 60% less greenhouse gas emission than burning coal, but that’s far from zero, and recent research suggests that the harmful impact of methane, a component of natural gas, may be grossly underestimated. Terry Link said BWL’s new plant is the “result of decision-makers not recognizing that the climate emergency is upon us.”

Peffley responded that BWL’s investment in solar and wind arrays like the Ranger Power array, under construction in Shiawassee County, is growing so fast that by “with the sun shining and the wind blowing, by next year, we’ll be able to supply about 50 percent of our summer peak load with renewables.” As battery technology improves and the energy collected in summer can be stored in winter, Peffley expects the Delta Energy Park to settle into a permanent role of backup for cheaper renewables.

If that’s the case, Heather Douglas is willing to give the utility the benefit of the doubt.

“I know some of my colleagues in the Lansing area are really despairing that BWL is building a new gas plant,” Douglas said. “But the BWL is

thinking about that time in January when suddenly it’s super cold, the wind stops blowing and the sun angle is so low there’s no electricity.”

As the climate crisis reaches a head, Douglas and many others plan to hold the utility’s feet to the fire.

“Natural gas is a nice backup, but it can’t be your base load,” she said. “Given how inexpensive they are, it’s irresponsible for utilities not to move their base load to renewables.”

Un-changers

After a hope-incinerating climate lecture from David Karowe or David Wallace-Wells, it’s hard to accept optimism as a renewable resource. But for the growing network of climate un-changers in greater Lansing, there is no workable alternative.

“I have a 12-year-old and that is a big motivator for me to work on these things,” Heather Douglas said. “I have moments of grief for the hard impacts we’ve seen, but I don’t see cause for abject despair. We have 10 years now to really make an impact and the technology is there.”

“Optimism is part of the solution,” Meridian Township’s LeRoy Harvey said. “Living in fear is not the answer. We need people not to go out and do the things they are inspired to do.”

Ingham County’s Chris Trubac has been oscillating between pessimism and hope since his undergraduate days.

“Nothing leaves you with despair more than going through a few years of studying conservation,” he said. “But with the federal government ready to take this on, there’s never been a time for greater optimism, and we have officials at the local level who feel the same way. If we give in to despair, we’ve already lost. We might as well give up and play PlayStation.”



Harvey

2021 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE Charter Township of Lansing, Ingham County

The Lansing Charter Township Board of Review for March 2021 will be held by electronic remote access, unless by the dates of the March Board of Review meetings it becomes lawful under state agency rules and statute for an in-person meeting to be held. Electronic remote access, in accordance with Michigan law, will be implemented in response to COVID-19 social distancing requirements and limitations on the number of individuals in a meeting hall.

If in-person meetings become a lawful option, then the meeting will be held both in person at the Lansing Charter Township Hall, 3209 W Michigan Avenue and via electronic remote access.

The public may participate in the meeting through electronic remote access via Zoom access by computer, smart phone/device using the following link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2315421280>

Meeting ID: 231 542 1280
Passcode: LansingTwp
One tap mobile
+16465588656,,2315421280# US (New York)
+13017158592,,2315421280# US (Washington DC)
Dial by your location
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
Meeting ID: 231 542 1280

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcoDJDYU>

Taxpayers are able to protest by letter or email, sent to: Board of Review, 3209 W Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48917.

Or to DeeAnnO@lansingtowship.org, provided protest is received prior to March 12, 2021.

The township will post the information confirming whether the March BOR will meet in person on its notice (*board, sign, window*), and the township’s website.

The Lansing Charter Township March Board of Review will meet on the following dates:

- Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 11:00 a.m. - **Organizational Meeting**
- Monday, March 8, 2021, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - **Appeal Hearing**
- Monday, March 8, 2021, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. - **Appeal Hearing**
- Wednesday, March 10, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - **Appeal Hearing**
- Friday, March 12, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - **Appeal Hearing**

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2021 are as follows:

*Commercial.....	49.76%.....	1.00000
*Residential.....	46.88%.....	1.06656
*Industrial.....	48.54%.....	1.03008
*Personal Property...	50.00%.....	1.00000

Americans With Disabilities (ADA) Notice

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ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Despite pandemic, Impression 5 gets hands-on with students

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

Dissecting a frog, making a potato clock, building baking soda volcanoes. Hands-on learning is key to a memorable education in STEM. In a school year where most kids were stuck in a virtual learning environment, students missed out on valuable educational experiences

Impression 5 Science Center

200 Museum Dr., Lansing
Check online for reduced hours
(517) 485-8116
impression5.org

Beginning in February and continuing through the year, Impression 5 Science Center will be distributing STEM — which stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics — education kits every other month to Head Start ages 3 to 5 who live in the tri-county area.

“STEM education creates critical thinkers, increases science literacy and enables the next generation of inno-

Nonprofit News



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

like to submit a suggestion please email skylar@lansingcitypulse.com

vators,” said Erik Larson, executive director of Impression 5. “We want to encourage STEM education during the pandemic with our kits.”

Grants from the Delta Dental Foundation and the Dart Foundation will fund the project. Over the course of the year, 900 to 1,600 kits are going to be sent out.

Larson stressed the importance of hands-on learning. Experimentation and exploration are essential in helping young students absorb the material

they’re studying. “It helps solidify their understanding of whatever concept they’re studying,” he explained. “Being able to manipulate certain interactive devices gives them a deeper connection to the experience.”

The kits were designed to follow along with a typical Head Start curriculum. Each one has a theme like recycling & Earth Day for April or math & oral health for February.

To encourage interactive learning, each kit includes different objects for the child to hold and interact with, plus an activity that they can complete with the help of their parents or caregivers.

Larson said that parents and teachers have been doing everything they can to make sure that children in virtual school are still getting a good education. But still, students are missing out on the opportunity to socialize with their teachers and peers.

“We know that teachers are doing

their best to provide learning opportunities in a virtual environment,” said Larson. “We felt like we could try and supplement that with activities for the entire family to engage in.”

Impression 5 is also open to visitors at reduced hours and reduced capacity. Families can reserve a spot to visit the science center ahead of time. Impression 5 will gradually open up to more visitors as infection rates go down.

At the science center, Larson and his colleagues have been discussing ways to keep students engaged while they’re learning virtually. His advice is pretty simple: play. That’s it.

“Children are natural scientists,” said Larson. “They test, they take risks, they experiment with things all the time while they’re playing. So we’ve been encouraging families to provide time for their children to just play. It doesn’t even need to be guided by a certain curriculum.”

Musician returns home to mentor Lansing youth

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Chadwick “Niles” Phillips is a multi-talented artist and educator hailing from Lansing who made an impression in the music industry after moving to New York City and eventually Minneapolis. Now, he’s returning, albeit virtually, to help educate Lansing youth using lessons he’s learned as a hip-hop musician.

Running through May 26, Phillips is teaching a class as part of the Lansing nonprofit youth education program Building Child and Family Initiatives, which has worked with local families since 1986. He is connecting with middle-school-aged children via virtual classes to guide them through artistic talents such as rapping and poetry, but also to connect them to life lessons and skills Phillips picked up while growing up in Lansing.

“I think about the youth now — there’s nothing new under the sun — some of the things they’re going through are the things I went through,” Phillips said. “Understanding them makes me want to be there for them.”

While the program has a strong focus on the arts, Phillips said he believes



Phillips

sharing his real-life experiences with the students is of even greater importance. Phillips plans to guide children on how to respect cultural differences, gain self-confidence and learn anger management and positive thinking.

“I don’t think you’re too young to be told to do the right thing. And you’re never too young to dream. As much as we want to be successful and picture ourselves in a great future, you have to prepare well,” Phillips said.

Phillips is very familiar with Building Child and Family Initiatives; he used to attend classes as a child when the organization was still called the Black Child and Family Institute. He also fondly remembers Lansing programs such as Dr. Tucker’s Basketball Camp. Phillips was brought on board after meeting with BCFI executive director Marian Bryant. Phillips is leading his class from his home in Minneapolis via video con-

ferencing.

“In the middle of a pandemic, you’re more than a teacher, you’re a guiding light. It’s about giving them the positive energy to understand they can carry on. There’s no better time for me to be in this position,” Phillips said.

Phillips, 38, comes to BCFI with an extensive and impressive background. The self-described Renaissance man is the son of longtime Colorado Symphony Orchestra bassist Sam Gill, and grew up with a fascination for music, which was also inspired and encouraged by his older brother, Segrin. Phillips graduated from Michigan State University in 2006 with a bachelor’s degree in communications and moved to New York City, spending three years working in the film industry.

His first break as a musician came after winning a talent search put on by New York City’s Hot 97 radio station in 2007. Winning the contest gave him the opportunity to record a single with Koch Records, “This Time,” produced by Alrad “Boola” Lewis, who is known for recording tracks with artists on Jay Z’s Roc-A-Fella label. Phillips would eventually open for hip-hop legends like

Rakim and Raekwon.

In 2010, Phillips moved to Minnesota and began working as an educator, teaching at afterschool artist development workshops. He developed his own curriculum, which he calls Hip-Hop, History and the Arts, and his program was picked up by several schools, including the University of Minnesota.

“Hip-Hop, History and the Arts comes from my inspiration to lead and guide the next generation the right way. It’s a great degree of honor to give back to the youth,” Phillips said.

In 2014, Phillips took on another project, starting The Avant Garde, a production company working with a variety of artists and musicians in Minnesota’s Twin Cities.

Though he’s spent many years finding success while reaching far beyond the scope of his home city, he still finds it humbling to give back and contribute to the Lansing community.

“I always wanted to give back to the youth from my home town. To travel the nation and do all of these things, it all comes full circle when you come back,” he said. “When I look at these kids, I am going to see who I used to be.”



A rare daze of winter sunlight

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Thursday afternoon Lansing received a rarity as far as February is concerned, a piercing wave of sunlight that interrupted the usual gray and overcast veil of winter.

I walked across downtown to a place that I know catches light exceptionally well, Rotary Park. Usually, it's a spectacle at night thanks to its forest of lights, but my early afternoon walk proved the park is also beautiful by day.

The place famously has a mock beach, which is now blanketed in snow. The image of a sandbar made of snow set before a large body of ice is loaded with a certain irony.

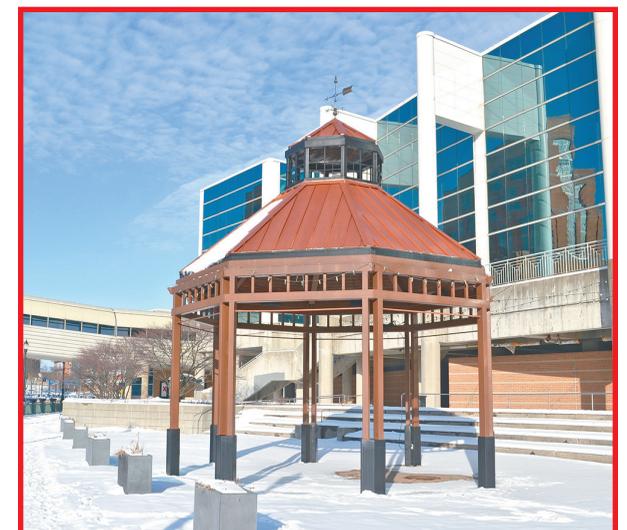
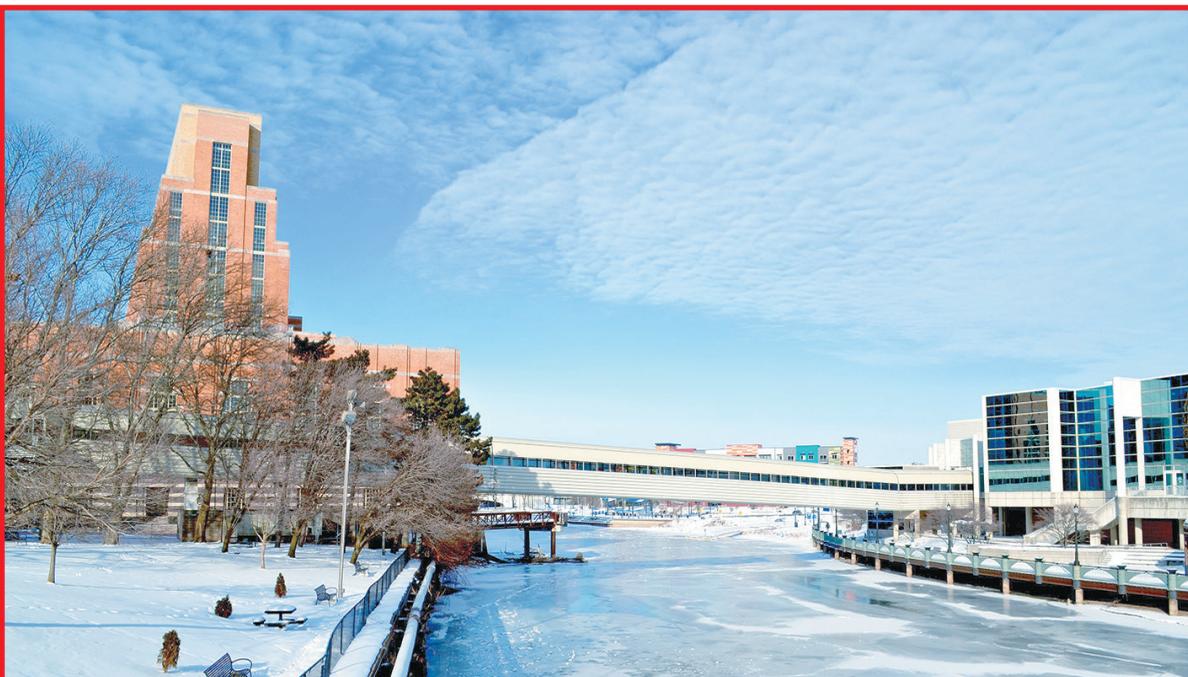
Golden rays of sun enhance the beauty of the Midwest in a much different way than they do for our neighbors on the West Coast of California.

Rotary Park's bendy metal art sculpture appeared radiant from its basin near Shiawassee Street, and the Old Ottawa Street Power Station (now the headquarters for the Accident Fund insurance company) looked majestic as it towered above the glowing sheet of ice. I even spotted a few other people enjoying the view as well. Lansing isn't so ghostly, now is it?



Photos by Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

(Clockwise) Boji Tower catches some rays. Signs declare love and peace at Rotary park. Rotary park's opulent sculpture. A gazebo absorbs sun beside the Lansing Center. Glowing sun reflects across the ice of Grand River.



Tom Springer's lifetime journey through the natural and spiritual worlds

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Tom Springer's new book, "The Star in the Sycamore," was 12 years in the making, but it was worth the wait. It's been a long time in writer years since Springer's first book, "Looking for Hickories: The Forgotten Wildness of the Rural Midwest," introduced his views on the natural world.

Springer said his new book was delayed by life. There was a new job and raising a family, he told City Pulse from his home base of Three Rivers, where he has lived with his family for decades.

"I've always been a proponent of what I call the wild-nearby. We tend to

compartmentalize nature. There's the Upper Peninsula, the Redwoods and Yosemite," he said rather than exploring nature in one's back yard.

Springer said nature came to the forefront during the coronavirus shutdown.

"It really hit home for me during the shutdown. The machines went silent, and we were shown how resilient nature is. People saw the Himalayas for the first time," he said.

Also, he points out how wildlife began to creep back into urban environments.

"Everything from shutting down streets to encourage outdoor dining to installation of bike lanes — the shutdown really shook up our consciousness. Not all changes will stay the same, but we may not go back to the way were," Springer said.

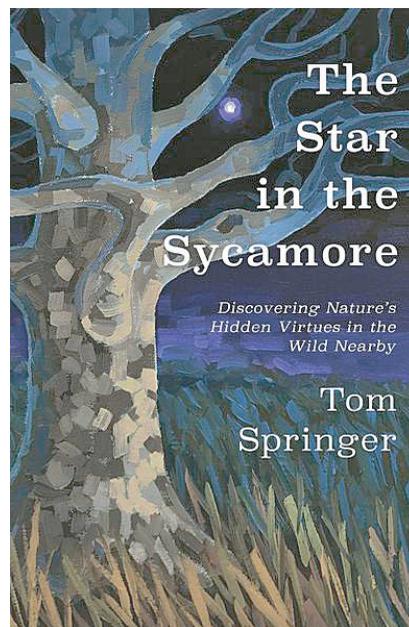
In his 36 essays, he helps readers contemplate the seasons in ways they may not have thought of before. Springer, by intent, doesn't apply the rigor of winter, spring, summer and fall in a traditional way. He looks more to nature for example to tell us when summer arrives. For example, summer starts for him when the wild strawberries ripen.

As he recalls his days of yore, which he says felt like "Lord of the Flies," he sees it differently as a 60-year-old.

"In the span of two generations, that childhood knowledge and interest in the wild nearby has fallen off markedly."

Parents and grandparents worry about this. One solution may be to read books like Springer's or Aldo Leopold's "A Sand County Almanac," and then begin trekking to nearby nature preserves or into one's backyard.

Springer also realizes that things of his childhood have changed dramatically. In his essay, "Blackberry Mornings to Goldenrod Afternoons," he writes of the nostalgic summer days as a child



Springer

on the Portage River at the Boy's Dam. Returning to the same area as an adult, he writes: "I realized what was something more existential. There were no boys (or girls) at the Boy's Dam."

I asked Springer what his favorite essay may be. He didn't hesitate to point out one of his last essays, "From War to the Woods," which is based on a November business flight when he sits next to a combat veteran returning home to Michigan. The wizened combat veteran on a 15-day leave from Afghanistan is still juiced from combat, talking about battles in staccato sentences.

Springer writes how he asks if he's going deer hunting; the soldier tells him he'll be going bow hunting. "I don't want to touch a gun while I'm home."

The conversation moves onto a mutual appreciation of Michigan's Northwoods. Springer writes: "You could almost hear the whir and rustle of white pines creep back into his vocab-

ulary."

This particular essay is not only moving, it's almost a mystical experience that Springer was chosen to sit next to this veteran. You'll have to read the essay to learn why.

Springer also writes about a new generation of those who seek solace and healing within nature in his essay, "Gut Checked: The Natural Redemption of Lisa Rose."

Springer began writing about Lisa Rose Starnier nearly a decade ago, after taking a foraging class from her. She's written "Foraging in Michigan," and Springer's essay has captured her absolute love of nature and its healing properties or dangers, like when she cautions Springer against using mullein for toilet paper. She tells him, "Don't ever use that for TP. See those little hairs on the leaf. Those are like fiberglass." But then she proceeds to tell him about the plant's positive characteristics, it's a "quick picker-upper" when it's taken orally in a drink and filtered.

Springer beautifully tells the story of Starnier from her successful running of a nonprofit to painful setbacks to her renewal through the natural world. It's one of the many inspirational stories that define his new book.

Not all of Springer's stories are about finding a new life in the natural world. The vast majority center on enjoying the natural world and its many mysteries.

For those who want to follow his path, he has some advice for modern day "trampers."

"Stay close to home; do what appeals to you naturally and don't think you have to be an expert; learn slowly by identifying trees and birds," he said.

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POETRY + MUSIC NIGHT WITH GEOFF FIELDS AND EMILEE PETERSMARK

February 17 · 7pm

It's a great night for a night in as author Geoff Fields shares his new book of poetry, *Unspoken Thoughts of Birds*. He'll be joined by Emilee Petersmark, its illustrator, and incredibly talented singer/songwriter best known as the co-lead singer of the local indie-folk band The Crane Wives.

An Evening with Bestselling Authors BRITTANY CAVALLARO AND EMILY HENRY

February 23 · 7pm

Brittany Cavallaro is joined in conversation by fellow author Emily Henry to discuss her new book *Muse!* You must register at cavallariohenry.eventbrite.com to receive the Zoom link the day of the event. We hope you'll join us from wherever you are!

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Favorite Things Henry Kwok and a bottle of Pappy Van Winkle bourbon



Henry Kwok is the owner of the Meridian Township restaurant Asian Buffet and the adjacent bar, Henry's Place. When he's not cooking up delicious food and sharing it across Greater Lansing social media, he might be enjoying a taste of his favorite thing, a coveted bottle of Pappy Van Winkle's 20-year Bourbon, valued well above \$1,000.

My favorite thing right now is my bottle of Pappy Van Winkle 20-year Bourbon. It's one of the most prized bottles of bourbon you can find. If somebody can track that bottle down, it's one of those coveted bottles. Most bourbons are usually aged six to nine years, that's the sweet spot. This one is aged for 20 years, so it's got a very complex flavor to it. It's very unique, as far as being an outlier to normal bourbons.

I first started delving into exploring bourbons since I opened my bar back in 2015. I wasn't really too exploratory before then. There's a lot of things out there right now, that I notice that I didn't know before. There's a lot of good stuff out there, and this is one of those bottles that are very rare now. Ten years ago, it was fairly available, but it's becoming more and more rare. One of the joys of bourbon hunting is finding one of these especially coveted bottles.

When people see this bottle, they get very excited. They want to take

a picture of it. It's a great talking piece. We like to start out with this bourbon first, because it's rich in flavor and smell. So you want to start with that and then go off and try other things. It's one of those things where it's like, you can drive a Kia or you can test-drive a Lamborghini.

Whenever I'm in the restaurant and somebody asks me about the bottle, it's always a nice conversation.

People are mesmerized by it, and we always delve into talking about other bourbons. It's a great ice breaker. With other bourbons, there's great stories but nothing kickstarts a conversation like this one.

Bottles of Pappy Van Winkle are very few and far between these days. I drink very little of it. If I am going to drink it, it's got to be a special occasion. I have to appreciate how fine it is. I probably won't find another bottle of this that I can obtain for another five to 10 years, so I am going to cherish it.

I last brought it out when we re-opened the dining area of my bar. I thought it was a celebratory moment because we had been doing takeout and the numbers weren't there. The first week we re-opened, we were really busy. So I felt it was a real justified moment.

If you have a suggestion for Favorite Things, please email Skyler@Lansingcitypulse.com

MSU's 'Audio Anthology': Drama heard, not seen



By DAVID WINKELSTERN

COVID-19 stifled the Michigan State University Theatre Department's ability to offer live shows, but the pandemic has not muted student creativity. The "Audio Anthology" collection, available at theatre.msu.edu/dei_audio/, demonstrates how the department is continuing to create imaginative projects during restricted times.

"Audio Anthology" has a deliberate focus on diversity, equity and inclusion. The five, sound-only segments are mini audio plays inspired by dozens of poems from diverse artists. Each play is a genuine teaching moment.

Students worked virtually to discuss the variety of poems that were the starting point for plays that focus on separate issues. Deric McNish is the faculty coordinator who oversaw the process.

"Audio Anthology" sounds like radio shows of the past — complete with sound effects, background noises and occasional music. Each show examines the prejudices and barriers to inclusion. None of the recorded conversations sound like mere readings. Being able to access the original scripts onsite is an added bonus.

"So Close, Yet" was written by Cole Dzubak and Sam Carter. Carter, Kayla Katona and Nate Davis are the voices. The nine-minute and 21-second play spotlights some failures of American public school's sex education, displaying how the sex information needs of women and LGBTQ members are often ignored.

Mary Claire Zauel's, about-six-minute "For Detroit" shows the ignorance of a white Traverse City boy who's on a first date with a Black Detroit native.

Dzubak plays the boy and Keturah Heath is his date. Her pride for her home — and for who she is — is lost on her clueless companion.

The five-minute "Missing Link" opens our eyes to dilemmas multi-race people face. The play's author Nealmonté Alexander struggles with being intimate and being "Black enough" or "Latino enough." His conversation with Laura Sansoterra reveals the layers of difficulties the character encounters.

Sansoterra, Davis and Jason Dernay collaborated on the six-minute and 20-second "She's the Wo(Man)." Sansoterra, Davis and Zauel perform in the sound skit about a broadcast interview where the host asks very different questions to a woman and a man — both successful business people. "She's the Wo(Man)" reminds us how unfairly women are treated and regarded compared to men in similar roles.

The fifth "Audio Anthology" play, "Now Say Hello," combines different scenarios in eight minutes and 47 seconds about a gay man's search for self-love. Four settings reveal his anguish with strangers, his mom, teachers and himself. The play exposes how difficult coming out can be.

Ben Barber is the author and Barber, Dernay, Zauel, Katona, Heath, Carter and Ian Klahre complete the cast. Like all the segments in the "Audio Anthology," "Now Say Hello" features realistic conversations that aren't always easy to listen to but always make us think.

As McNish puts it, "If one person listens to one of these plays and becomes a little bit more empathetic, if they become a little bit more kind — maybe if they just listen a little bit better, this will be time well spent."

Cookies? Skittles? Gummies? Is this a candy store or a dispensary?

Gage rolls out potent — and delightfully sweet — cannabis in Lansing

By **KYLE KAMINSKI**

Gage Cannabis Co. opened on Lansing’s southside in May — right in the middle of what Lansing Facts lovingly refers to as the “world’s premier fast food architectural preserve.” If you can navigate the dizzying maze of parking lot cones for curbside service, it’s a convenient location to grab some quick bud and quick food and then get home and get really, really baked.

My order was based entirely on staff recommendations, which turned out to be great choices.

Cookies — Zkittles Kush Mints

Price — \$40/3.5g

THC content — 21.16%

Cannabis genetics never ceases to amaze me. This strain is a cross between Kush Mints and Zkittles. Zkittles is an indica-dominant mix of Grape Ape and Grapefruit. Kush Mints is a hybrid cross of Animal Mints and Bubba Kush. And you can truly taste little bits of everything in here.

The overt fruitiness of the Zkittles — which took first place at the 2015 Cannabis Cup in Michigan — blends perfectly with the mild mint tingle that permeates the Kush Mints. The result is a tropical explosion that seems to pack the flavors of seven sweet and citrusy fruits into one.

I can see where it gets its name: It’s like a glass of fruit punch with a sprig of mint leaves for garnish. And these buds were absolutely laminated in trichomes. I’d recommend setting aside the grinder for a small pair of scissors here or you’ll end up with an abundance of leftover kief.

The effects were an exceptional balance of indica and sativa. The genetics — and the ability to unproductively lounge around the house for three hours after a joint — suggest it’s more indica. But the mental stimulation and alertness that accompanied those vibes pointed me toward sativa. I’ve decided it’s the best strain around for a psychological thriller or mystery movie: just enough to chill while also being able to keep up with the twists and turns of an evolving plotline.

Afternoon Delite — Sour Assorted Gummies

Price — \$16/10 Gummies

THC content — 100 mg

I don’t pick up edibles too often anymore, largely because I feel like



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Lansing
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gageusa.com

they tend to produce the same effects regardless of the brand or whether it’s a cookie or a gummy bear. Still, following staff recommendations on “gummies that were actually pretty good,” I gave these a chance.

This jar was filled with 10 gummies, each clocking in at 10 mg of THC — perfect for someone cautious about going overboard with their high. It’s best to start with one and work your way up. I gobbled down the whole package at about 4:15 p.m. on a Friday,



just enough time for the effects to kick in as I finished winding down my at-home workday. My apologies to anyone that tried to call me after 5 p.m. — including our publisher. I really tried to time this one strategically.

The quarter-sized gummies were tangy and sour — but not overly sour — and also held their shape. Some

gummies tend to get mangled into a melty ball in the package. These were firm.

A wave of relaxation carried me through most of the evening, even as my fiancée frantically cleaned up a small plumbing issue in our basement. I stood by for dazed moral support. Don’t expect to be too productive with these. They’re great for (totally) unwinding and not much else.

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



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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Half-Human"—
—a short list of
hybrids.

by Matt Jones

Across

- 1 ___ Xtra (Dr Pepper rival)
- 5 Group of eight
- 10 Do really badly
- 14 Out on the open water
- 15 Done for one, for one
- 16 Skate park fixture
- 17 Bremner of "Trainspotting" and "Wonder Woman"
- 18 Gives the ax
- 19 Competently
- 20 Political position that's half-human, half-horse?
- 23 Easy basketball shot
- 24 "Agnus ___"
- 25 Swiss peak
- 28 Gallery works
- 29 Standard pinball feature
- 33 "8 Seconds" venue
- 35 Bar activity with request slips
- 38 Stick with a spring
- 39 Carnival attraction that's half-human, half-goat?
- 43 Former Montreal ballplayer
- 44 Of food regimens (like 36-Down)
- 45 One-named supporting actress on "Parks and Recreation"
- 47 Salsa ___ (red condiment)
- 48 Bar brew, briefly
- 51 Rain-___ (gumball brand)
- 52 Roasting receptacle
- 55 World Cup 2022's host country
- 57 Seasonal greeting that's half-human, half-bird?
- 62 Mariska Hargitay's longtime costar

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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		57	58				59	60	61			
62	63				64					65		
66					67					68		
69					70					71		

- 64 Triple Seven, for one
- 65 "That's ___!"
- 66 Purplish ingredient of bubble tea and milk tea
- 67 Poet Federico Garcla ___
- 68 Neighbor of Wisc.
- 69 Part of a goblet
- 70 Type in
- 71 Stuffing herb
- Down**
- 1 Rice dish made with saffron
- 2 "Honestly!"
- 3 Short-sleeved Hanes product
- 4 African linguistic group
- 5 "Carmina Burana" composer Carl
- 6 In fashion
- 7 Car part, in Britain
- 8 Improve on
- 9 Villa ___ (estate near Rome)
- 10 Bavarian title
- 11 Common breed for guide dogs
- 12 It may be essential (but isn't actually essential)
- 13 Paper layer
- 21 Winfrey in "A Wrinkle in Time"
- 22 Bubble wrap component
- 26 "The ___ Movie 2" (February 2019 release)
- 27 Low-grade
- 30 Former Yankee nickname
- 31 Haleakala locale
- 32 Tough puzzle
- 34 Grand Ole ___
- 35 Shoelace issue
- 36 Regiment with a high-fat focus
- 37 Key with four sharps, for short
- 39 "Phineas and ___"
- 40 Ice skating jump
- 41 Where you may have had it?
- 42 From Basra, perhaps
- 46 May preceder (abbr.)
- 48 Napoli's nation
- 49 Like most customers
- 50 Former Arsenal manager Wenger whose nickname is "Le Professeur"
- 53 Gwyneth Paltrow's daughter
- 54 1930s DuPont fabric invention
- 56 First presidential surname to appear twice
- 58 Molecular unit
- 59 Playwright Moss or lyricist Lorenz
- 60 Not again? the Family" producer Norman
- 62 Opening word of "Monty Python's Flying Circus" episodes
- 63 Grumpy ___ (Internet celebrity with the real name Tardar Sauce)

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Answers on page 25

SUDOKU

Beginner

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

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 25

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

February 17-23, 2021

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Atheists like to confront religious people with accusations like this: "If God is so good, why does he allow suffering in the world?" Their simplistic, childish idea of God as some sort of Moral Policeman is ignorant of the lush range of ruminations about the Divine as offered down through the ages by poets, novelists, philosophers, and theologians. For example, poet Stéphane Mallarmé wrote, "Spirit cares for nothing except universal musicality." He suggested that the Supreme Intelligence is an artist making music and telling stories. And as you know, music and stories include all human adventures, not just the happy stuff. I bring these thoughts to your attention, Aries, because the coming weeks will be a favorable time to honor and celebrate the marvelously rich stories of your own life—and to feel gratitude for the full range of experience with which they have blessed you. PS: Now is also a favorable phase to rethink and reconfigure your answers to the Big Questions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Blogger Rachel C. Lewis confides, "I love being horribly straightforward. I love sending reckless text messages and telling people I love them and telling people they are absolutely magical humans and I cannot believe they really exist. I love saying, 'Kiss me harder,' and 'You're a good person,' and, 'You brighten my day.'" What would your unique version of Lewis's forthrightness be like, Taurus? What brazen praise would you offer? What declarations of affection and care would you unleash? What naked confessions might you reveal? The coming days will be a favorable time to explore these possibilities.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It's a good time to become more of who you are by engaging with more of what you are not. Get in the mood for this heroic exercise by studying the following rant by Gemini poet Adam Zagajewski (who writes in Polish), translated by Gemini poet Clare Cavanaugh: "Read for yourselves, read for the sake of your inspiration, for the sweet turmoil in your lovely head. But also read against yourselves, read for questioning and impotence, for despair and erudition, read the dry, sardonic remarks of cynical philosophers. Read those whose darkness or malice or madness or greatness you can't yet understand, because only in this way will you grow, outlive yourself, and become what you are."

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You're on the verge of breakthroughs. You're ready to explore frontiers, at least in your imagination. You're brave enough to go further and try harder than you've been able to before. With that in mind, here's a highly apropos idea from Cancerian novelist Tom Robbins. He writes, "If you take any activity, any art, any discipline, any skill, take it and push it as far as it will go, push it beyond where it has ever been before, push it to the wildest edge of edges, then you force it into the realm of magic." (I might use the word "coax" or "nudge" instead of "force" in Robbins' statement.)

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): In her story "Homelanding," Margaret Atwood writes, "Take me to your trees. Take me to your breakfasts, your sunsets, your bad dreams, your shoes. Take me to your fingers." I'd love you to express requests like that. It's a favorable time for you to delve deeper into the mysteries of people you care about. You will generate healing and blessings by cultivating reverent curiosity and smart empathy and crafty intimacy. Find out more about your best allies!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You're about to reach the end of your phase of correction and adjustment. To mark this momentous transition, and to honor your ever-increasing ability to negotiate with your demons, I offer you the following inspirational proclamation by poet Jeannette Napolitano: "I don't want to look back in five years' time and think, 'We could have been magnificent, but I was afraid.' In five years, I want to tell of how fear tried to cheat me out of the best thing in life, and I didn't let it."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): It's not a good time for you to be obsessed with vague abstractions, fear-based fantasies, and imaginary possibilities. But it is a favorable phase to rise up in behalf of intimate, practical changes. At least for now, I also want to advise you not to be angry and militant about big, complicated issues that you have little power to affect. On the other hand, I encourage you to get inspired and aggressive about injustices you can truly help fix and erroneous approaches you can correct and close-at-hand dilemmas for which you can summon constructive solutions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "The most beautiful things are those that madness prompts and reason writes," declared author André Gide. As a writer myself, I will testify to the truth of that formulation. But what about those of you who aren't poets and novelists and essayists? Here's how I would alter Gide's statement to fit you: "The most beautiful things are those that rapture prompts and reason refines." Or maybe this: "The most beautiful things are those that experimentation finds and reason uses." Or how about this one: "The most beautiful things are those that wildness generates and reason enhances." Any and all of those dynamics will be treasures for you in the coming weeks.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The poet Nayyirah Waheed has some advice I want you to hear. She writes, "Be easy. Take your time. You are coming home to yourself." I will add that from my astrological perspective, the coming weeks will indeed be a time for you to relax more deeply into yourself—to welcome yourself fully into your unique destiny; to forgive yourself for what you imagine are your flaws; to not wish you were someone else pursuing a different path; to be at peace and in harmony with the exact life you have.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "The chief object of education is not to learn things but to unlearn things," wrote author G. K. Chesterton. He was exaggerating for dramatic effect when he said that, as he often did. The more nuanced truth is that one of the central aims of education is to learn things, and another very worthy aim is to unlearn things. I believe you are currently in a phase when you should put an emphasis on unlearning things that are irrelevant and meaningless and obstructive. This will be excellent preparation for your next phase, which will be learning a lot of useful and vitalizing new things.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943) ultimately became one of the 20th century's most renowned composers. But his career had a rough start. "Symphony No. 1", his first major work, was panned by critics, sending him into a four-year depression. Eventually he recovered. His next major composition, "Piano Concerto No. 2", was well-received. I don't anticipate that your rookie offerings or new work will get the kind of terrible reviews that Rachmaninoff's did. But at least initially, there may be no great reviews, and possibly even indifference. Keep the faith, my dear. Don't falter in carrying out your vision of the future. The rewards will come in due time.

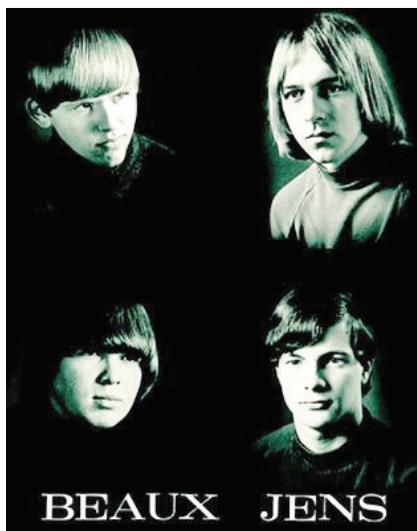
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Ancient Greek playwright Euripides was popular and influential—and remains so to this day, 2,400 years later. But there's a curiously boring aspect in five of his plays, "Andromache", "Alcesteis", "Helen", "Medea", and "The Bacchae". They all have the same exact ending: six lines, spoken by a chorus, that basically say the gods are unpredictable. Was Euripides lazy? Trying too hard to drive home the point? Or were the endings added later by an editor? Scholars disagree. The main reason I'm bringing this to your attention is to encourage you to avoid similar behavior. I think it's very important that the stories you're living right now have different endings than all the stories of your past.

TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

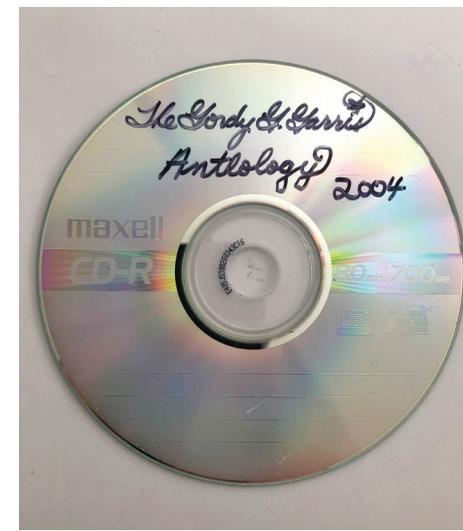
REMEMBERING A LEGEND: GORDY GARRIS OF THE FROST, BEAUX JENS



Gordy Garris (top right) performed with The Beaux Jens, a '60s Grand Ledge-based band. (courtesy photo).



Gordy Garris (center) performs with The Frost at the Grande Ballroom. (courtesy photo)



The handmade CD-r Gordy Garris gave to Rich Tupica in 2004.

Gordy Grant Garris: June 7, 1949–Feb. 5, 2021

The Lansing area is home to a small number of local rock legends, one of whom was the late Gordy Garris, who died Feb. 5 at age 71.

Back in 2004, I was standing inside a tiny vinyl shop in Saginaw called Records & Tapes Galore. The guy behind me in line saw my fresh stack of Michigan-made LPs and said, "Hey, I think you might like my music—here you go." The unknown man hands me a CD-r with "The Gordy Garris Anthology" handwritten on it in permanent marker. Being a Michigan music fan, I immediately recognized Garris and was amazed to be in his presence. Over the years, he'd been a man of mystery, not to mention his rock 'n roll resume.

While he is best known as the bassist for The Frost, a prominent Michigan-based band launched by the legendary guitarist Dick Wagner in 1968, Garris first entered the local music scene as a teenager in The Beaux Jens. Formed in 1966, amid Beatlemania, The Beaux Jens were one of Grand Ledge's biggest bands, alongside Tonto & the Renegades.

In its brief existence, the band cut one 7" record, the original song "She Was Mine" / "Trouble Baby," a single via the Sound of the Scenen, a vanity label operated by The Scenen, a teen club the Beaux Jens frequently packed. Years after its release, the primitive 1967 45 rpm steadily became a garage-rock classic, especially after being featured on the third volume of Crypt Records' acclaimed "Back From The Grave" series. The sporadic screams and haunting organ on "She Was Mine," the band's ethereal signature tune, set it far apart from other cheery tunes of the times. The group quickly became a priority for the Grand Ledge teens.

"None of us were great students," said keyboardist Toby Bates in 2013. "The more success we got as a band, the more we all kind of fizzled out on academics. But we had a great following at our high school. Along with our rivals, Tonto & the Renegades, we were all in the same circle. After we released the 45, we had a fan club between Grand Rapids and Flint."

However, not long after its release,

Garris, who co-wrote both sides of the disc, left The Beaux Jens after being offered a spot in a new band being formed by Wagner, formerly of The Bossmen.

"When we lost Gordy, our bass player, to Dick Wagner's band, The Frost, it was the beginning of the end. We tried to replace Gordy with two people, and it still didn't work," said keyboardist Toby Bates. "So two months later it all fizzled out and everyone went their own directions."

While Garris was used to performing in front of hundreds of local teens, his time in The Frost allowed Garris to perform in front of thousands. Often sharing stages with fellow Mitten State rockers like The Stooges, MC5, and Amboy Dukes, The Frost quickly became rock royalty. Along the way, the group also played with the Jeff Beck Group, The Byrds, Jefferson Airplane, Pink Floyd and dozens of other national acts. From countless hazy gigs at The Grande Ballroom in Detroit to high-profile shows at The Whiskey A Go Go in Los Angeles, Garris realized his childhood dream

and became a successful, full-time musician.

Perhaps his biggest show was at the Goose Lake International Music Festival (aka "Michigan's Woodstock"), which drew around 200,000 hippies thanks to a laundry list of now-iconic bands. And while Wagner was the key figure in The Frost, Garris did contribute some writing and co-writing credits along the way, including "Through the Eyes of Love" and "Baby Once You Got It."

After he left The Frost, Garris continued to write and release some solo music— including 1980's self-released "I Need Your Love" single. While the late Garris no doubt left behind an impressive stack of records, my favorite will always be the handmade CD-r he handed me 17 years ago inside a tiny vinyl shop in Saginaw, Michigan.

Also, last week, Garris' son, Gordy Garris Jr., released a heartfelt tribute single via YouTube called "Disappear" in memory of his father. Be sure to seek that out, and revisit Garris' remarkable catalog.

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 17

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

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.

It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia Trivia - Join us on the heated patio 6:30-8:30pm! 6:30 p.m. Ellison Brewery + Spirits, 4903 Dawn Ave, East Lansing.

Thursday, February 18

Color Your Own Snowball - Kids can color their own snowball this year! 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Pickup your kit at Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main, Eaton Rapids. erdl.org

February Lansing Economic Club - Join the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce at the virtual upcoming Lansing Economic Club. 11 a.m.-noon. lansingchamber.org

Jackbox Games: Quiplash XL - Play via Zoom and the jackbox.tv website. Two screens required. 7-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library. gladl.org

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

Studio (in)Conversation: Santiago Montoya - Instagram Live as Studio Educator Britta Urness visits studio of artist Santiago Montoya. 8-9 p.m. broadmuseum.msu.edu

Friday, February 19

ABK The Hatchet Warrior Livestream - 8 p.m. Mac's Bar, 2700 E Michigan Ave, Lansing. 517-484-6795. macsbar.com.

Book Tour Stop with Tim Fielder - Tim Fielder discusses his newest work "Infinitum: An Afrofuturist Tale". 1 p.m. MSU Museum virtual event. museum.msu.edu

Broad Underground: Petrocinema, from Wheels of Progress to Auto-apocalypse - Cinema has an enduring fascination with cars. 7-9 p.m. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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 20

Free Online Roast of Willy Wonka - 9 p.m. frontrowfilmroast.com.

Hunter Park GardenHouse Presents: Seed Saving - In this talk, learn the basics of seed saving and how to ensure successful stewardship practices for your garden's bounty. 10-11:30 a.m. allenneighborhoodcenter.org

Haven House Pancake Palooza 2021! Annual fundraiser. Community members compete to help homeless families. For info and to sign up <https://havenhouseel.org/>

Ice Safari 2021 - Visit the zoo Feb. 20 and experience our Ice Safari! There will be animal ice carvings displayed throughout the zoo. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing. 517-483-4222. potterparkzoo.org.

Mae Jemison Science - 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. sessions. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. Register at impression5.org.

Mini L.A.B.S. Camps | Impression 5 Science Center - Learn about basic science in STEM-themed day camps! impression5.org

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

Virtual Poetry Workshop: Writing the Land with Dr. Laura Apol, Lansing's Poet Laureate - 3-4:30 p.m. p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library. gladl.org

Sunday, February 21

Discord Book Group: What The Eyes Don't See - 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library. eradl.org

Monday, February 22

Jump Into Reading - Join Ms. Anna on our Facebook or YouTube channel for a favorite story time read aloud and activity. 11-11:30 a.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library. eradl.org

Music Bingo - Come join us for an amazing night of music, prizes, food, and drink specials. 7-9 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. crunchyseastlansing.com.

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

Tuesday, February 23

Battle of the Books: Individual Book Trivia Game - Join us via Zoom for a Kahoot trivia battle! 6:30-7:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library. gladl.org

CROSSWORD SOLUTION From Pg. 23

P	I	B	B	O	C	T	A	D	F	L	O	P				
A	S	E	A	R	H	Y	M	E	R	A	I	L				
E	W	E	N	F	I	R	E	S	A	B	L	Y				
L	E	F	T	O	F	C	E	N	T	A	U	R				
L	A	Y	U	P	D	E	I	A	L	P						
A	R	T	R	A	M	P	R	O	D	E	O					
				K	A	R	A	O	K	E	P	O	G	O		
F	A	U	N	H	O	U	S	E	M	I	R	R	O	R		
E	X	P	O	D	I	E	T	A	R	Y						
R	E	T	T	A	R	O	J	A	I	P	A					
B	L	O	P	A	N	Q	A	T	A	R						
				H	A	R	P	Y	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	S
I	C	E	T	P	L	A	N	E	A	L	I	E				
T	A	R	O	L	O	R	C	A	M	I	N	N				
S	T	E	M	E	N	T	E	R	S	A	G	E				

SUDOKU SOLUTION From Pg. 23

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

B/21/061 BALLISTIC VESTS PROJECT as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids electronically on line at www.mitn.info or at the City of Lansing Purchasing Office, 124 W. Michigan Ave 8th Fl, Lansing, Michigan 48933 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **FEB. 25, 2021** at which time bids will be opened. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 483-4128 email: Stephanie.Robinson@lansingmi.gov** or go to www.mitn.info. The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#21-035

B/21/065 TREE REMOVAL PROJECT as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids electronically on line at www.mitn.info or at the City of Lansing Purchasing Office, 124 W. Michigan Ave 8th Fl, Lansing, Michigan 48933 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **FEB. 25, 2021** at which time bids will be opened. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 483-4128 email: Stephanie.Robinson@lansingmi.gov** or go to www.mitn.info. The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#21-033

Ingham County Animal Shelter

To adopt one of these pets, visit the ICAS at 600 Buhl St., Mason, call (517) 676-8370 to make an appt. or go to ac.ingham.org.

Sponsor a pet on the next Adoption Page for only \$35, \$6 goes to the shelter. To sponsor, call 999-5061 now!! Adopt a pet on this page and Soldan's will thank you with a \$10 gift certificate. Contact (517) 999-5061 after you adopt.



Horton is a handsome long haired older guy. He is gentle and loving but would prefer a quieter home. He should be fine with calmer cat savvy children and gentle animals.

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DeWitt
12286 Old U.S. 27
Charlotte
515 Lansing St.



Broccoli is a sweet, submissive girl who loves to play with her toys. Takes her a bit to warm up but then she is your snuggle baby. She seems afraid of cats but would be ok with dogs with a slow introduction.

Sponsored by Anne & Dale Schrader



Bellaire is a sweet senior girl who appears to have had a hard life but is still a happy friendly girl who wants lots of cuddles and could use some TLC.

Sponsored by City Pulse



Eugene is a handsome, outgoing tabby. He loves people and will happily roll over for a belly rub. He does have a sensitive stomach so needs special food to keep him healthy.

Sponsored by Schuler Books



Odessa is a friendly, petite little girl who has had a rough time recently. She is healing nicely and ready to find a home. She should be fine with kids, cats, and possibly dogs.

In memory of Rodica's cats

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

How to milk an oat

By **ARI LeVAUX**

"It's like milk, but made for humans. Wow, wow, no cow," Toni Petersson said.

In what was perhaps the most unusual and divisive Super Bowl advertisement of the year, the CEO of Oatly, which makes oat-based foods and heavily promotes the oat-based lifestyle, sang two verses in a field of oats.

There is a lot of inside baseball for the food and agriculture nerds to geek out upon in that catchy lyric. It references,



of course, the dairy industry's decades-long campaign to push the FDA to enforce its very delicious-sounding definition of milk: "The lacteal secretion, practically free from colostrum, obtained by the complete milking of one or more healthy cows."

FDA also recognizes goat's milk and sheep's milk, and the dairy industry is fine with that, but not with the use of milk for beverages made with nuts and grains.

There are signs the dairy industry might be winning, as Scott Gottlieb, former commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, recently telegraphed in a 2018 interview, "An almond doesn't lactate, I will confess." Meanwhile, the Supreme Court's recent rulings suggest a First Amendment approach could benefit the grain and nut-milkers. The situation is fluid. And milky.

Whatever we call it, the milky beverage made from oats has a leg up on most other nut and grain-based milky

drinks, because it has this amazing viscosity, thanks partly to those beta-glucans. And vegan coffee drinkers are coming around to it as the latte milk of choice.

The raising of cows and consumption of milk and meat, of course, are problematic for a host of environmental and ethical reasons, and the impact of cattle includes all of the acres of corn and soy that's grown to fatten it. By making oat juice directly from grains, we can cut the cows, and their greenhouse gases, out of the loop.

Oats contains an impressive amount of protein, minerals and, most famously, fiber. The daily bowl of oats, so known to keep the bowels regular, owes its effectiveness to beta-glucan, a type of soluble fiber. Beta-glucan has also been shown to improve cholesterol levels of both "bad" and "good" types, reduce blood sugar levels, improve gut microbial health and make you feel full.

All of that, and more, packed into a little bitty song. And by creating a debate about its weird commercial, Oatly got those in the know to explain it to those late to the oat party.

Meanwhile, the company has been at it for 30 years, giving it a significant head start on its competitors, which of course put a target on its back.

Oatly's rivals even forced the company to list added sugars in its oatmilk, even though no sugar is added. As part of its oatmilking process, Oatly uses enzymes to snip the long starch molecules found in oats into sweet little sugar molecules. By adding those enzymes,

Oatly is essentially adding sugar, its accusers claim — sugar that was locked up in those oats. Wow, indeed.

Since I learned about Oatly's enzymes, I've been obsessed with making my own oat drink. I figured they would want to help me in my quest to tell the people how to make oat drink at home, and reached out to the company. I promptly heard back from a bubbly "Sara," who was grateful for my inquiry. She cheerfully and apologetically declined to discuss the enzymes.

I began ordering enzymes, like amylase, the main enzyme in saliva, and several more digestive enzymes, and mixing them with water and oats that I'd pulverized in the Vitamix. My counter is littered with jars of milky fluids like the chemistry lab of a mad scientist. I was trying to imitate Oatly's sweetness and creaminess, and my amylase did improve the sweetness. But it was watery, not creamy; with thick sediment at the bottom that I believed held the key to my missing creaminess.

That sludge makes oat drink nearly impossible to filter. Even a colander will clog. I once brought a jar of homemade oat drink on a car camping trip and discovered that if you let it settle, you can just pour off the non-gunky part. I also found that you could use the gunk at the bottom to patch a punctured water jug, if necessary. The fibers are that strong. Especially, I presumed, those beta-glucans.

The quest for oatmilk will continue, and I am making progress, trust me. My wife thinks I'm crazy, but that just means I'm onto something. Just wait until I get my new enzyme arrives. My beta-glucanase will be the game changer.

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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New seafood joint brings Louisiana flavor to Lansing

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

Just in time for indoor dining's return, King Crab Cajun Seafood opened its doors on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The restaurant serves a wide variety of fried and boiled seafood available in single-serve and family portions.

"Our main dish is the boiled seafood dinner," said owner Eko Dananjaya. "We have many different types of seafood including crawfish, lobsters, crabs. It's Louisiana, Cajun-style food."

About eight months ago, Dananjaya began perfecting his craft, learning to craft the perfect meal. According to his first round of customers, he did a good job. So far, he's received positive reviews on Facebook and from customers who visited the restaurant in person.

"The customers have only said kind words so far," Dananjaya said. "It's been booming. It's been busy."

Dananjaya is proud of the work he's doing. While he recommends the whole menu, he pointed out that the seafood boil is "amazing." With their order, customers get their choice of seafood, their choice of seasoning, corn and potatoes.

King Crab also serves a selection of the classic Louisiana sandwich, the Po'boy. Customers can pick between seafood as their sandwich meat or fried chicken tenders.

"We want to create a seafood experience that people never forget," Dananjaya said.

Dananjaya hopes that the people of Lansing give him and his restaurant a chance. Being the new restaurant on the block can be difficult. But with enough word-of-mouth buzz, he thinks that King Crab has the chance to flourish.

"I want people to try it out just so I can show them what we do," Dananjaya said. "I want to prove that we can do Cajun seafood better than any other place in the area. That's our main goal."



King Crab Cajun Seafood
3218 S. MLK Blvd.
Lansing
517-220-2169
kingcrabcajun.com
Monday-Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sunday Noon to 9:30 p.m.



TOP 5

DINING GUIDE

THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN
GREATER LANSING AS DECIDED
BY CITY PULSE READERS

BEST FRENCH FRIES

- 1. Hopcat**

300 Grove St. East Lansing
517-816-4300 • hopcat.com
- 2. Zoobie's Old Town Tavern**

1200 N. Larch St. Lansing
517-897-3563
zoobiesoldtowntavern.com
- 3. Five Guys Burger & Fries**

623 E. Grand River Ave.
East Lansing • 517-332-3483
restaurants.fiveguys.com
- 4. Olympic Broil**

1320 N. Grand River Ave.
Lansing • 517-485-8584
olympicbroil.com
- 5. Dagwoods Tavern & Grill**

2803 E. Kalamazoo St.
Lansing • 517-374-0390
dagwoodstavern.com



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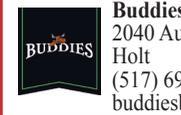


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 Holt • 2040 Aurelius Rd #13 • (517) 699-3670
 Monday - Saturday: 11am to 2am • Sunday: 9am to 1am
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