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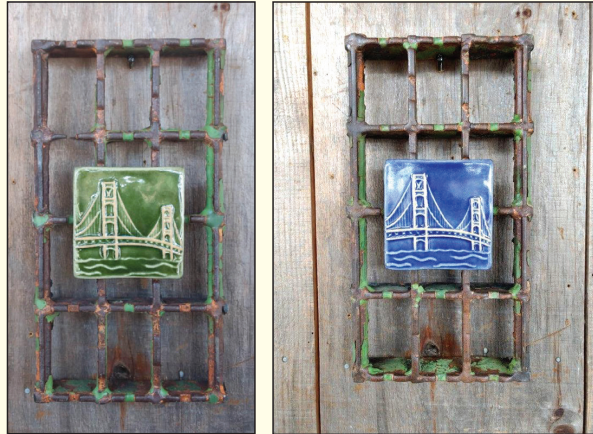
page 12

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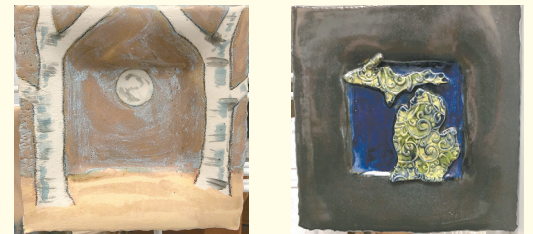
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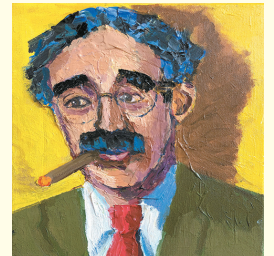
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CAPITAL OFFENSE

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

1. RIGHT WING POLITICIAN SAYS SOMETHING TERRIBLE. IF YOU ASK ME, SLAVERY WAS GOOD, ACTUALLY!

HEH HEH! THAT WILL TRIGGER THE SNOWFLAKES!

2. LIBERALS GET SUCKED INTO A BAD FAITH ARGUMENT. SLAVERY WAS MOST DEFINITELY NOT GOOD!

HISTORY MAKES CLEAR, IT WAS VERY, VERY BAD!

3. POLITICIAN IMMEDIATELY FUND-RAISES OFF THE CONTROVERSY. THE WOKE LEFT WANTS TO CANCEL ME! BUT I REFUSE TO BE SILENCED!

PLEASE DONATE GENEROUSLY SO I CAN CONTINUE MY QUEST TO OWN THE LIBS!

4. RIGHT WING MEDIA CHAMPION THE CAUSE. AN INDEPENDENT-MINDED PUBLIC SERVANT CAN'T MAKE A SLIGHTLY CONTROVERSIAL STATEMENT IN ORDER TO PROVOKE AN HONEST DEBATE--WITHOUT RUNNING AFOUL OF THE LIBERAL THOUGHT POLICE!

WHAT IS THIS COUNTRY EVEN COMING TO?

5. REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP FEIGNS IGNORANCE WHILE TRYING TO BLAME DEMOCRATS SOMEHOW. I DON'T HAVE TIME TO KEEP UP WITH EVERY RANDOM THING A MEMBER OF CONGRESS HAPPENS TO SAY! I HAVE WORK TO DO!

THE REAL ISSUE HERE IS THE RADICAL LEFT AND THEIR DIVISIVE CANCEL CULTURE!

6. ANOTHER WINGNUT POLITICIAN SAYS SOMETHING EVEN MORE TERRIBLE; CYCLE REPEATS. IF YOU ASK ME, WE SHOULD ROUND UP ALL THE POOR PEOPLE AND HUNT THEM FOR SPORT!

HEH HEH! THAT WILL REALLY TRIGGER THE SNOWFLAKES!

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CityPULSE

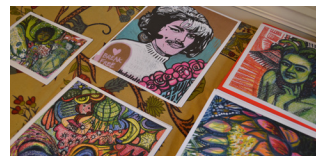
VOL. 22
ISSUE 7

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PAGE 10

CP Edit: Police review must lead to change



PAGE 23

Casa de Rosado features Rosa Lopez Killips' work



PAGE 34

She Ate He Ate: The crab crawl



Cover Art

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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Lansing wins \$2M in state funds for a performance hall

The Lansing area will receive \$2 million in state funding to go toward a future performance hall as part of the coming year's state budget.

The shot in state funding, when added to \$8 million in upfront revenue expected from the bonding of public, educational and government access (PEG) fees, is expected to give the city the \$10 million needed to get the ball rolling on a 1,200-to-1,500-seat center.

"This is going to happen," said Lansing Mayor Andy Schor. "Younger and older people alike who enjoy live music won't need to drive to Grand Rapids or Detroit as much to hear it."

Discussions on where the performance hall will be located and other details will begin in earnest with the state money on the way, said Schor, adding that he hopes to have more to announce in the next few months.

The performance complex would

include the Lansing Public Media Center, which has accumulated \$8 million in so-called PEG fees that can be put into the project, said Dominic Cochran, the center's director. Though operated by city government, the PEG fees are dedicated to use by the media center and cannot be appropriated for other city purposes.

The state funding is a big step toward some semblance of a performing arts center, a goal of successive city

administrations going back to that of Mayor David Hollister, who left office in 2003. In scoring the funding, Schor has made progress toward a goal that eluded former mayors Tony Benavides and Virg Bernero as well.

The performance hall would fill a void in Lansing, which has missed out on notable concert opportunities. Outside of the annual outdoor Common Ground festival — which

See Hall, Page 6

Schor: Prosecutor's gun policy gives a 'free pass' to criminals

Mayor signs petition against policy designed to curb racial discrimination

Amid a historically high spike in gun violence, Lansing Mayor Andy Schor is urging Ingham County Prosecuting Attorney Carol Siemon to rethink a recent "unwise" policy change that he contends only serves to give people a "free pass" to bring a gun to a crime.

"After speaking with many families of victims of gun violence, I believe that it is unwise for the county prosecutor to have a blanket policy of not charging for felony firearms if there are other crimes as well," Schor said in an emailed statement this week. "Crimes should be prosecuted based on the evidence collected and presented to the prosecutor. We are seeing an unprecedented amount of gun violence, and I, along with these other leaders in Ingham County, believe that the prosecutor should not give criminals a free pass to bring a gun to a crime."

That "free pass" is in reference to a seismic policy shift announced by Siemon's office last month. It dictates that those arrested for crimes that involve firearms will no longer be charged with a separate felony count for possession of a firearm in commission of the crime — except only in "the most extreme circumstances," according to the policy language.

A conviction on that particular felony charge carries a minimum two-year



Schor



Siemon



Wriggelsworth

prison stint and can only be levied as a companion to other (often much more consequential) criminal offenses like burglary or assault. Siemon has labeled the charge "overtly racist," largely because about 80% of those serving a sentence for that crime in Ingham County are Black.

Ingham County Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth has been the policy's loudest opponent. He distributed a petition last week through the county's "non-public alert system" that was signed by 22 mayors, township supervisors and village presidents in Ingham County that called for Siemon to immediately "reconsider" those recent policy decisions.

Schor penned his name at the top of the list.

Lansing mayoral challenger and City Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar said she was dismayed to see Schor's name on the recent petition and labeled him a hypocrite for denouncing the changes

while also simultaneously trying to mitigate racial discrimination concerns in the city.

She also intends to introduce a City Council resolution in support of Siemon's latest reforms.

"The premise of the sheriff's petition is based in fear-mongering, not fact," Dunbar said.

She added: "Contrary to its original purpose, studies show that mandatory felony firearm sentencing has not deterred gun violence. What it has done is create huge race disparities in sentencing, resulting in far more Black men incarcerated for longer periods of time."

In a statement, Schor said he doesn't necessarily agree with the mandatory minimum sentences outlined in state law, but he said he also doesn't think Siemon should use her discretion to sidestep the punitive bounds of the statute. Plus, it could send the wrong message to would-be criminals.

"The mayor, like the other 21 elected officials that signed this document, supports fighting against discrimination while reducing gun crime. Black and brown communities bear much of the brunt of gun violence, and their families need to be considered as well," said Schor's spokeswoman. "The mayor believes that the law needs to be changed to remove consecutive sentencing and mandatory minimums so situations can be addressed case-by-case, but laws are changed by the legislature. Criminals have now been publicly told by the prosecutor that they can bring a gun to a criminal act, and there will not be a felony firearm charge."

Siemon, for her part, hasn't budged. And she doesn't have any plans to reverse course.

"I've read this correspondence and appreciate these views," she said "At the same time, I have a responsibility to lead the Prosecutor's Office and have been twice chosen to do so by the people of Ingham County. The policies that we have developed were research-based and we will continue to incorporate ongoing data into the development of future policies. We have developed an ongoing set of reforms — addressing public safety, mass incarceration, and racial equity. I can assure the public we are not going to reverse course on bringing about change."

Still, Wriggelsworth and the major-

See Gun policy, Page 6

Gun policy

from page 5

ity of Ingham County's (mostly white) elected leaders think the changes do not "hold people properly criminally accountable" and boost "likelihood of additional gun violence in the communities we are tasked to govern, serve and protect," the petition reads.

The theory: Would-be criminals in Lansing could feel empowered to bring guns to a crime, knowing they'll likely face fewer consequences in Ingham County than elsewhere in the state.

And as gun violence continues to climb locally, Schor said he doesn't want to take that risk.

Lansing — among other cities nationwide — has tracked a spike in gun violence and homicides over the last two years. The city charted a record-breaking 21 homicides last year, the highest annual total in at least 30 years. Another 21 people have been killed so far this year, including a 17-year-old boy who was shot and later died from his injuries on Monday afternoon.

While those shootings continued this summer, Schor called together a "Gun Violence Task Force" that was composed almost entirely of his own staff and cabinet members. A press release in June detailed plans to "collaborate with community partners to address this violence."

Siemon said she quickly contacted

Schor to offer "considerable gun violence expertise" and encouraged him to expand the group beyond city staff to include assistant prosecutors, activists, gun violence survivors and other community stakeholders. But that offer was left on the table.

"No one from my office has yet been asked to participate," Siemon said Monday.

A statement from Schor's office Tuesday, however, offered a different narrative.

"Prosecutor Siemon indicated interest in participating in the task force and she is certainly welcome to join. City staff have been in contact with her staff," Schor's spokeswoman said.

Despite the pushback from elected officials, Siemon's policy shift is also hardly a novel concept. Dozens of prosecutors have implemented similar measures to reduce racial disparities. Siemon said last month that fear-based misinformation from local cops simply comes with the territory.

She added: "The 'free pass' language is standard for police association and police union responses across the nation, but I have no idea how Mayor Schor came to use the term."

Miriam Krinsky, the founder of the nationwide nonprofit Fair & Just Prosecution, told City Pulse last month that cops in Greater Lansing will eventually "back down" and recognize the necessity of the prosecutorial reforms. And if not, it won't matter too much. Only the prosecutor decides whether those arrested for felony charges will

actually be charged with them in a courtroom.

"It can feel counterintuitive to rein in any criminal charge that involves a gun. I get that emotional reaction for sure. But this is a race equity issue and does not actually involve public safety and protecting people," Siemon said. "I just wish people would do their research on this."

Siemon also emphasized that underlying charges like for robbery or home invasion have not been impacted by the changes. Taking the focus off felony firearm companion charges will allow prosecutors to focus on those more severe charges while also curbing discrimination, she said.

"If this charge didn't work to deter them before, it's probably not going to change anything," Siemon said. "It's not giving them a free pass. If someone carries a weapon and commits a crime, we're still going after them. Someone charged with assault — or any charge where we tack on the felony firearm charge — will still be charged with that bigger, underlying offense."

Illegally carrying a concealed weapon is also a separate criminal charge that will still be pursued, Siemon said. The key difference: Prosecutors don't plan to tack on another felony charge that carries a mandatory two-year prison term to run consecutively with the initial crime.

"It's overtly racist. Maybe it wasn't designed that way, but that's the impact," Siemon explained. "We need to develop trust so people are willing

to talk to the police and share information. If you don't trust the police, then you don't talk to them. If it has been the policy of the police to just stop a lot of Black and brown young men and search their vehicles, allegedly with their consent, then that doesn't help. The damage is that people don't see police as providing for their safety."

Meanwhile, Schor said that officers at the Lansing Police Department will continue to investigate crimes as usual, including sending up felony firearm charge requests for Siemon's inevitable denial. Wriggelsworth said that his deputies will also keep sending those charges up to Siemon.

"I hope she will review these per situation and make decisions based on evidence," Schor said in an emailed statement to City Pulse on Monday. "I expect that the prosecutor will review the evidence and consider whether a crime has been committed, and charge accordingly."

In addition to Schor, the petition's signatures include mayors and village presidents in Mason, Stockbridge, Leslie, Webberville and Williamston, as well as township supervisors in Lansing, Alaiedon, Aurelius, Bunker Hill, Delhi, Ingham, Leroy, Leslie, Locke, Meridian, Onondaga, Stockbridge, Vevay, Wheatfield and White Oak townships. East Lansing Mayor Jessy Gregg and Williamstown Township Supervisor Wanda Bloomquist did not sign on to the petition.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

Hall

from page 5

after declining to just one night this year has an uncertain future — there's no place to put them. The Wharton Center works well for live performances, but not a rock concert. Lansing has a dearth of concert space big enough for touring groups. Even bands with smaller followings are hard to accommodate. Once upon a time, Lansing hosted big-name groups at the old Civic Center. The Lansing Center took over the convention and meeting business, but it was not built for rock shows.

Legislative leaders Tuesday afternoon moved a massive \$50 billion budget out of a joint House-Senate conference committee. The plan is for the House and Senate to approve the spending plan in separate votes as soon as Wednesday.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has already signed off the on budget and is expected to sign it next week.

Amendments aren't accepted this late in the budget-making process, meaning that unless the Legislature votes the whole budget down and starts over or Gov. Gretchen Whitmer uses her line-item veto authority to strike the funding out, the \$2 million in going through.

It's highly unlikely either will happen.

The budget-making process at the state level has become an increasingly closed-door affair in which legislators cut side deals in exchange for their votes on a final spending plan.

Being the ranking Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee, Sen. Curtis Hertel, D-East Lansing, has much more leverage than your average legislator. He's scored millions of dollars for the Lansing area through this process and was the impetus for this \$2 million.

"The city of Lansing doesn't have a

performing arts center. We used to. This is a downpayment on getting it done," Hertel said. "I was proud to stake out \$2 million, and I was proud to be part of that process."

A longtime goal for a performing arts center has been to provide a home for the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, which largely performs at the Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, in East Lansing.

The director of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra said Tuesday she is looking to learning more details about the hall. Courtney Millbrook said the seating capacity could accommodate the LSO, but there are other considerations, such as stage size, that would also determine if the hall would be a good fit.

Rep. Sarah Anthony also worked to get a \$1 million for security cameras and heightened security around the Capitol. Lansing is also looking to get some extra money to solve cold cases.

Rep. Angela Witwer helped steer

some money to Delta Township for a ladder truck.

The roughly \$10 billion coming from the federal government in COVID-19 relief dollars and increased sales and income tax dollars also has legislators dealing with much more money than they typically have to spend.

— KYLE MELINN

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE 30TH CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE COUNTY OF INGHAM**
File No. 2020-197-CH
Hon. Wanda M. Stokes (P44485)

In re
CHRISTOPHER PFEIFER,
Petitioner.
Gene F. Turnwald (P46466)
Attorney for Petitioner
2160 Hamilton Road, Suite 100
Okemos, MI 48864

/
Thomas E. Woods (P22543)
Attorney for Mark Grebner
421 W. Ionia Street
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 487-0800

"A motion seeking to reopen case to set aside the May 26, 2020 order and request to intervene in the matter of Christopher Pfeifer, Ingham County Circuit Court Case No. 2020-197-CH, has been filed by Mark Grebner through counsel Cummins Woods. A hearing on Mark Grebner's motion is scheduled for October 5, 2021 at 4:00 P.M. before the Honorable Wanda Stokes. Notice is hereby given to Christopher Pfeifer of the pending motion. A copy of the motion is available for pickup by Christopher Pfeifer at the law firm of Cummins Woods, 421 W. Ionia Street, Lansing, MI 48933 during normal business hours, phone number (517) 487-0800."
Honorable Wanda M. Stokes
P44485

CP#21-208

**CITY OF LANSING
SUMMARY OF
ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1291**

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing by adding a new Section 888.35 for the purposes of providing for a service charge in lieu of taxes for two hundred and twenty (220) low income multi-family dwelling units in a project known as Cedar Place, pursuant to the provisions of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, as amended.

Effective date: Upon publication

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

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

CP#21-213

**CITY OF EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ADOPTION
ORDINANCE NO. 1506**

Please take notice that Ordinance No. 1506 was adopted by the East Lansing City Council at its regular meeting held on September 7, 2021 and will become effective upon publication of the following ordinance:

ORDINANCE 1506

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 8-133 OF THE CITY CODE
TO ALLOW FOOD TRUCKS DURING NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION BLOCK PARTIES**

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

Section 1. Amendment of Section 8-133

Subsection 7 of Section 8-133 of the City Code, entitled "Prohibited practices," is amended to add the following boldfaced text:

Occupying any space for the purpose of peddling, or soliciting, or as a transient merchant on any public place, streets, or adjacent public rights-of-way within business districts, except as follows:

(a) A concessionaire license may be granted by resolution of the city council or by the city manager pursuant to guidelines approved by city council within appropriate areas of the public rights-of-way or other city-owned property of the downtown business district. Concessionaires shall be limited to locations and times within the downtown business district, as determined by city council or city manager, and a concession fee shall be paid by each concessionaire in an amount to be established by council based upon such considerations as the profitability of the business, the anticipated sales volume, the areas to be occupied, the public convenience of goods or services to be provided, the taxable status of the concessionaire and the potential impact upon city services.

(b) If a recognized neighborhood association has received a permit for a block party under Section 38-37, then the neighborhood association may allow two or fewer food trucks to operate for up to four hours during the block party. A neighborhood association may only have food trucks at two block parties during each calendar year. A food truck operating under this subsection must first receive a concessionaire license from the City and pay any applicable fee established by resolution of the City Council.

Section 2. If any portion of this Ordinance is held invalid for any reason, that holding will not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance, which will continue in full force and effect.

Section 3. Any ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are repealed, but only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

A true copy of Ordinance No. 1506 can be inspected or obtained at the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan between the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#21-215



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world-renown pianist Michael Brown
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**CITY OF LANSING
SUMMARY OF
ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1292**

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Lansing Codified Ordinances by amending Chapter 658 Section 658.03, to replace willful annoyance with the prohibition that no person shall threaten another person by word of mouth, gesture, or other physical action that accosts, molests, or otherwise harasses the other person.

Effective date: Upon publication

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

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

CP#21-212

**CITY OF LANSING
SUMMARY OF
ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1290**

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing by adding a new Section 888.35 for the purposes of providing for a service charge in lieu of taxes for two hundred and twenty (220) low income multi-family dwelling units in a project known as Cedar Place, pursuant to the provisions of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, as amended.

Effective date: Upon publication

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Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/MiPMC
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CP#21-210

Budget concerns hamper shortstaffed police operations in Lansing

Independent review: Lansing Police effectiveness limited by financial concerns

Shootings. Fights. Property damage. Theft. In recent months, residents along the 800 block of Baker Street have been plagued by violence and crime. Some said they've watched Lansing Police Department officers respond, pick up a few spent shells with their bare hands, pocket them and leave. Others have offered up video footage, only to have local cops reject them.

Since January, the neighborhood has been afraid. And some are looking at selling their homes. This reporter spoke with five residents near Baker Street. None wanted to be named. But city officials said their experiences are a problem related to a confluence of issues including budget concerns, inadequate training and a wave of new cops who may be lacking experience.

Interim Police Chief Ellery Sosebee said those reports of bungled criminal investigations from Baker Street residents were "alarming" and that he wants to "hold officers accountable" for those concerns. But at the same time, he pointed to low staffing levels in the city, increased violent crime and constant pressure on officers to respond quickly to priority concerns across the city.

Mayor Andy Schor was also concerned. He said he believes more police training is necessary.

And those assessments are backed up by a comprehensive independent audit of the Police Department that Schor ordered. It was released last week by Legal Solutions Law Firm and Blue Line Law Firm.

The review found that local officers, while doing well in some areas, were also struggling in others — includ-

Visit lansingcitypulse.com to watch video interviews with Interim Lansing Police Chief Ellery Sosebee and Legal Solutions Partner Ann Charleus.

ing issues often tied to financial restraints. Among them: Inferior facilities for training and police operations, too few employees and a mishmash of incompatible technology.

Sosebee said LPD has 191 police officers on the road. When he started with the department 20 years ago, there were 260. But budget crisis after budget crisis in the state and city led to layoffs and dwindling law enforcement resources.

The department still had 20 vacancies this week. Nine of those are in the process of being filled.

Vacancies are also complicated by retirements. The independent report encouraged LPD to hire 25 more cops before the end of the year to compensate for expected retirements as well as officers who may accept employment in another municipality, perhaps one with less crime.

Sosebee said the hiring process is not only complicated by competition with other communities, but also a sense of social disdain for policing that has led to fewer applications in the last year.

While the Police Department is actively recruiting, the report found that its hiring process is only interfering with its ability to bring on new officers quickly and efficiently. After



Sosebee

they apply, it can take officers up to a year before they're formally hired into the department. That delay is then followed by months of classroom training before the officer ever has a chance to hit the street.

Perhaps most notably, the recent independent report also found that no more than 10 officers are on staff to patrol the city on any given night — sometimes even fewer when cops call in sick.

Asked if that is a public safety concern, Sosebee said "absolutely."

A shooting on the north side of the city, for instance, would typically require most (if not all) of the officers on duty to respond to the scene, set up a perimeter and assist in the investigation. Naturally, that would leave much of the city unpatrolled. And if there's another incident on the south side at the same time, then officers are forced to rush across the city in order to respond.

"Time is crucial in those situations," Sosebee said, noting that local cops may also have to rely on mutual aid another local agency — like Meridian Township — which "doesn't know the city" and may be responding to a scene that "they have never seen or haven't seen in a long time."

LPD has a \$47 million budget, but 36.2% of it is tied up in pensions and healthcare for retirees.

The recent report noted that the city has the ability to apply for grants — mostly through the federal government — but that potential is not being well utilized. Sosebee concurred, noting that writing grants "takes a lot of work" and that the city is working to onboard a new grant writer.

Police facilities are also a challenge, the independent report found. Training is often conducted in a barn which is no longer adequate, while operations are centered on the former Harry Hill High School — now the Alfreda Schmidt Community Center — on Wise Road. The downtown administrative building and lock-up at City Hall also needs substantial work, the report found.

Schor inherited a preliminary plan to move out of and repurpose City Hall into a hotel when he took office in 2018 but ultimately rejected the concept because there was no viable plan to address the Police Department facilities. That would have required about \$50 million, he said.

A renewed request for proposals issued by Schor's office in January still aims to find a new location for City Hall

while the building continues to deteriorate. Just two weeks ago, the top floors were closed after a cooling tower on the roof sprung a leak and flooded three floors down, forcing some employees to work from home and pushing the City Council to meet elsewhere.

Can the city come up with enough cash to figure out a solution?

"I don't know until I see proposals," he said.

Financing the project may require a combination of bonds and reinvesting proceeds from the sale of City Hall. But while legacy costs climb, financing those bonds may prove to be difficult. The city's bond rating was also downgraded this year, which could also drive up interest rates.

The report also identified the Police Board of Commissioners as a place for reform.

That eight-member body has the power to investigate allegations of police misconduct, including the ability to call witnesses and issue subpoenas. The board, however, has not used that authority and instead relies on the work of a police investigator. The board then approves an advisory opinion that is sent to the police chief, the only authority of officer discipline in Lansing.

The report recommended that the board begin using its power more effectively or instead consider launching an independent citizen review commission to review complaints in the city.

Both of those suggested reforms face obstacles before they can be implemented, Schor said.

While the City Charter enables subpoena power for the board, other legal determinations have since eliminated that power, he said. To address that discrepancy, the city would need to seek a charter amendment. Schor said he's willing to talk with police unions to explore that possibility.

Sosebee said he is not opposed to more reforms — including a possible citizen review board.

"Transparency is big with me," Sosebee said. "We don't hide anything. Civilian oversight is part of that. It's hard to establish civilian oversight, however, I am not opposed to it because — look, plain and simple — we are here the community. If the community wants oversight of their police department, that's OK. That's nothing to fight about or argue about."

Visit lansingcitypulse.com to view five takeaways or to read the independent report in its entirety.

— TODD HEYWOOD

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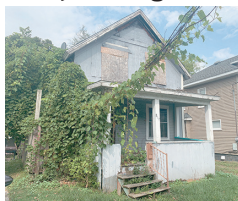


www.thereadingpeople.org

SORE OF THE WEEK

819 Cleveland St., Lansing

This column isn't just about trash talking seedy properties. It's much more utilitarian. Sometimes it inspires some of our city's lazier homeowners to get around to making repairs. It can also help to hold landlords accountable and can shine an optimistic light on upcoming local development.



That isn't the case with this property. Unfortunately, we'll all be stuck with this one for months — and there's nothing that the city of Lansing or Ingham County can do about it, according to County Treasurer Eric Schertzing.

"I'd love to tell you it's coming down this year, but we're probably looking at next spring," he said.

This two-story, single-family home, built in 1915, is tucked just north of Saginaw Street and just south of Oakland Avenue in northeast Lansing near Marshall Park.

Every window is boarded up. Fire damage appears to have the home on the verge of collapse. Plant life is swallowing the porch. It's also shedding paint like an Alaskan Malamute sheds fur.

The vacant property was foreclosed on last July for failing to pay taxes and has since been deemed as an "unsafe" structure by the Fire Marshal's Office at the Lansing Fire Department. And for more than a year, it has been awaiting demolition under ownership of the County Land Bank's Fast Track Authority — and "fast track" here is apparently a highly relative term.

Schertzing has cleared up some trees, shrubs and other "odds and ends" from the property, but neighbors will have to wait until the spring to actually see the eyesore bulldozed to the ground.

A city spokeswoman said Lansing hasn't had authority over the property in more than a year. Service staff can't even be bothered to remove the recycling bins from the side of the house.

As for the neighbors? Next spring can't come quickly enough. A man asked why I was taking a picture of the place last week: "Good. Fuck that place," he said as he strolled away with his dog.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

"Eyesore of the Week" is our look at some of the seedier properties in Lansing. It rotates with Eye Candy of the Week and Eye for Design. Have a suggestion? Email eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call it in at 517-999-6715.

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS



By KYLE KAMINSKI

Bernero fears release of salacious audio

Former Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero is trying to stop an audio recording from being used as evidence against him in a sexual harassment lawsuit levied by Liz Hart, a former intern who claimed Bernero sexually harassed and assaulted her when she worked as an intern in 2013 and 2014, reports WKAR. The recording reportedly includes a conversation in which Bernero called Hart a "little girl" and says there's "no question" he'd been "inappropriate" with her. Judge Wanda Stokes will decide whether to admit the recording as evidence at a hearing next month.



Bernero

Cops find gun at Everett High School

An unnamed 17-year-old student was arrested on Tuesday and will likely face criminal charges after authorities said he brought a handgun to school, reports the Lansing State Journal. The school went into an hourlong lockdown following reports that a student might have a weapon. By the time cops arrived, the student had reportedly been detained and the gun was recovered.

Delta Crossings opens on Saginaw Highway

The new shopping center just off I-96 celebrated its grand opening following approval of \$14.3 million in tax incentives from the Delta Township Corridor Improvement Authority. Its stores are TJ Maxx, Hobby Lobby, Bob's Discount Furniture, At Home and Sierra Trading Post. Developers also plan to construct an apartment building adjacent to the new shopping center.



New fire chief hired in East Lansing

Interim East Lansing Fire Department Chief Dawn Carson was selected to fill the position permanently following former Chief Randy Talifarro's retirement in June. Carson has worked at the Fire Department since 1994, was promoted to captain in 2013 and to deputy chief in 2016.

Billboards advertise outdated statistics

A regional advertising campaign from two local health departments declares that only "1 in 14 teenagers say they used marijuana in the past month." Those statistics, however, are outdated. A more recent state-funded poll found that about one in nine students said they smoked pot in the last month. *Read more about the latest stats on teen marijuana use at lansingcitypulse.com.*



Public access limited by new police radio system

A new radio system for local law enforcement agencies that went live on Sept. 7 has temporarily inhibited free access to online police scanner streams. Those radio communications can now only be accessed through a digital scanner, which retails for about \$400. County officials said they expect online scanner feeds to eventually return after they're upgraded to digital feeds.

Lansing celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

A proclamation from Mayor Andy Schor declared Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month in the Capital City. Of Lansing's 118,000 residents, about 14,000 are Hispanic or Latinx.



Commissioner resigns in Ingham County

The Ingham County Board of Commissioners is seeking applications to fill a vacancy after Ninth District Commissioner Erin Graham resigned nine months into her first term. Applications with resumes can be submitted online at ingham.org through 5 p.m. Oct. 1. Applicants must be registered voters of precincts 8,9,10,11,13,14 or 15 in East Lansing.

Fitness classes free at Rotary Park

Free fitness classes will continue through November at the AARP-sponsored outdoor fitness park in Lansing's Rotary Park. Classes include a one-hour circuit training workout and an eight-week series to get into a regular fitness routine. Visit fitlot.org/plan-a-fitlot for details.

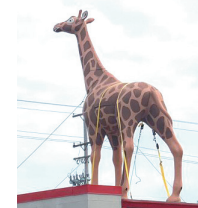


Lansing NAACP: Stop taxing tampons

The Lansing branch of the NAACP issued a statement in support of House Bills 5267 and 4270, which would eliminate sales and use taxes on feminine hygiene products in Michigan. The bills have passed through committee and are expected to go before the House for a vote this month.

Meijer giraffe moves indoors

The iconic giraffe statue that has long been perched atop the roof of the Meijer Express gas station on Saginaw Highway has been moved into the store's garden center for refurbishing. Company officials said the statue will return to the roof of the gas station it is renovating.



New segment opens on River Trail

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor cut the ribbon at the newly completed Bear Lake Pathway, a new segment of the Lansing River Trail that extends from Cavanaugh Road north to Forest Road.

Police review must lead to change

Give credit to Mayor Andy Schor for ordering a top-to-bottom, independent review of the Lansing Police Department's policies and procedures. It was the right move at a time when law enforcement fell under intense scrutiny across the nation following George Floyd's death at the hands of Minneapolis police officers last May. Mayor Schor is also the top dog in Lansing city government, so he's accountable for LPD's shortcomings as much or more than the chief of police. Unfortunately, the independent review's final report, made public last week, isn't a good look for Schor or the department.

First and foremost, as we've previously opined, LPD's persistent staffing shortages are all but a crime against the citizens of Lansing, who have a right to expect a well-staffed department that responds promptly to calls for service. Even as the city's murder toll is on trend to set yet another new record, the report reaffirmed that the department is critically bereft of officers, leading to longer response times, increased use of overtime and deteriorating morale among police personnel.

Moreover, Schor has often invoked the importance of community-based policing, in which officers are embedded in specific neighborhoods so they can form trusting relationships with residents, which in turn helps police get ahead of simmering problems that can turn into violence. Yet the report notes that only "approximately four" of the city's 12 community policing positions are filled because the officers are needed to fill gaping holes in the patrol roster. There is no quick fix that will correct the problem. It takes a long time to recruit, hire and onboard new officers. That's why more foresight would have been helpful in developing a much more aggressive plan to hire cops during the pandemic. As recommended by the report, an expedited effort to hire 25 new officers by year's end is imperative.

The report also casts a long shadow over police transparency in Lansing, specifically calling out the performance of Bob Merritt, the department's public information officer, who in our experience can be difficult to reach, slow to respond and less than forthcoming with the information we need to do our job as journalists. Our questions have too often gone unanswered by Merritt, so we have no qualms about calling for his replacement. The independent review didn't even men-



The CP Edit

Opinion

tion the outright deception perpetrated by Merritt and LPD over the circumstances of Anthony Hulon's death in the city lockup last year. That alone is reason enough to move in a new direction.

Finally, the report calls out the urgent need to upgrade police facilities, which is anything but a revelation. Forty-five months into the mayor's first term and there are still no solutions in sight for a new police headquarters or closing the city lockup. Would that Schor had moved quickly after he was elected to embrace former Mayor Bernero's plan to transform city hall into a new downtown hotel and renovate the former Lansing State Journal building as a new municipal facility, which would have created a sense of urgency behind solving the riddle of new police facilities and off-loading the jail to the county sheriff. Notwithstanding his now-apparent personal shortcomings, Bernero's preference for moving the chess pieces quickly to create the momentum and pressure needed to affect change is one of the things we miss most about his tenure. Should Mayor Schor win a second term in November, we hope he takes a more aggressive and agile tack in driving progress in the city.

In related news, we were disappointed to see the

mayor fall in with Ingham County Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth and his consortium of small-town, mostly white elected officials in attacking Prosecuting Attorney Carol Siemon's recent felony firearm policy changes, which are designed to reduce racial inequities in the county's criminal justice system. It turns out that 80% of the people charged with the additional two-year mandatory minimum sentence for using a firearm during the commission of a felony are Black. Siemon says this is prima facie evidence of racial bias and that the add-on firearms charge has no deterrent effect whatsoever. She emphasized that she will continue to prosecute the primary offense but will only pursue the secondary felony charge under extreme circumstances. We think she's right. Wriggelsworth's claim that her new policy will result in "bullet holes and body bags" is a catchy alliteration, but it's also hyperbolic horse manure.

It appears that in joining Wriggelsworth's anti-Siemon jihad, Mayor Schor has made an election-year calculation that it's better to be seen as being tough on crime than aligning himself with the prosecutor's progressive approach to eradicating racial biases in policing. It wouldn't be the first time Schor has demonstrated his propensity to marginalize concerns over racial justice, and we're afraid it won't be the last. We note that East Lansing Mayor Jesse Gregg and Williamstown Township Supervisor Wanda Bloomquist both say they have no intention of signing on with Wriggelsworth's vanilla posse comitatus. Kudos to them for putting their principles ahead of politics.

As the conversation continues on reforming police practices to eliminate bias, increase transparency and accountability, and deepen community engagement, it is critical that the civilian leaders who oversee local police agencies set the tone for that dialogue by demonstrating their commitment to racial justice and equity. Publicly chastising Siemon for taking important steps toward achieving these goals only serves to undermine Schor's commendable efforts to identify race-related problems and find solutions through his equity and inclusion task force. For this reason, we call on the mayor to reconsider his criticism of the prosecutor's new policies — and get to work on hiring more police officers to keep the city safe.

**Have something to say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages?
Now you have two ways to sound off:**

1.) Write a letter to the editor: E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com or mail: City Pulse 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
Fax: (517) 371-5800 • 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.)

Decriminalization of magic mushrooms introduced in state Senate

As Ann Arbor readies for a one-year anniversary celebration of its decriminalization of psychedelic plants and fungi, state lawmakers are considering a similar move that would apply to the entire state.

It would drop the punishment for possessing and using entheogenic plants and fungi that contain naturally occurring psilocybin, mescaline, ibogaine, psilocyn, dimethyltryptamine and other hallucinogenic compounds.

Sens. Jeff Irwin, D-Ann Arbor, and Adam Hollier, D-Detroit, recently introduced the legislation. The bill would be the first step in encouraging research and understanding about these controversial substances that have medicinal and religious value and a low propensity for abuse, Irwin said.

“To me, it makes a lot of sense to focus on these substances and decriminalize them because locking people up and spending police time and resources trying to ruin people’s lives over use of these substances makes zero sense,” he said. “We need to end the war on drugs.”

In 2016, Michigan spent \$860.3 million to enforce drug control, according to the Cato Institute. Irwin said he wants to refocus this effort on helping people with programs and therapy, a strategy for drug control that a handful of other cities, states and countries have followed.

Sen. Roger Victory, R-Hudsonville, who chairs the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee, has not scheduled it for a hearing.

“It’s not on my radar screen,” he said. “There’s a lot to consider.”

There is more research and clinical testing to do, said Victory, who wants to review scientific studies before taking it up.

EntheoFest will be held Sept. 19 at the University of Michigan Diag in Ann Arbor, hosted by the Student Association for Psychedelic Studies. The goal of this event is to advocate for statewide decriminalization with a variety of speakers, including Irwin.

Michael Williams, the co-director of Decriminalize Nature Michigan, an advocacy group that lobbied Ann Arbor to decriminalize entheogenic plants, said that any substance carries a risk.

These substances are largely non-addictive and safe, said Williams, who credits them with helping end his drug addiction.

“You just need to weigh the risk with the benefit,” he said.

Psychedelic drugs have been used with therapy to help patients suffering

from depression, anxiety and substance abuse, according to Decriminalize Nature.

Especially helpful are psychedelic mushrooms containing psilocybin, which binds with several serotonin receptors, according to a study in the *Mental Health Clinician*.

With these substances being illegal, people are “constantly having to make that choice about whether or not to take a product that helps relieve their pain or their stress and breaking the law,” Irwin said.

But critics worry about the impact on impaired driving.

As there is no set chemical test to give someone suspected of being under the influence of a hallucinogenic drug, a certified drug recognition expert is required to make an arrest, said Robert Stevenson, the executive director of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police.

There are only 100 certified drug recognition experts in Michigan, and certifying more is a lengthy process, Stevenson said. Drivers suspected to be under the influence of a hallucinogenic drug also require a blood test, which requires a search warrant.

After the legalization of recreational marijuana, there were similar concerns about an increase of drug driving.

“We haven’t seen the surge they had expected,” said Marquette County Sheriff Greg Zyburt. “Originally, everyone thought the sky was going to fall in, and we haven’t seen that.”

Advocates of decriminalization argue it’s unlikely that impaired driving rates will increase, as it’s unlikely that recreational use will increase.

“If someone is impaired and they are unsafe to be on the road, that’s going to come out in the examination on the roadside,” Irwin said. “There’s a relatively small number of users, and people who do use usually use much less frequently.”

As Michigan is looking to decriminalize only entheogenic plants, Irwin said “part of the beauty of decriminalization, for its limitations, is that it doesn’t require any enforcement.”

Decriminalizing psychedelics has been on ballots around the country several times with varying success.

Advocates are looking for a way to end former President Richard Nixon’s 1971 war on drugs.

“We need to end the war on drugs.

The war on drugs is the granddaddy of all big government failures,” Irwin said.

— CAMERYN CASS
Capital News Service

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on **Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

1. A public hearing will be held to consider a request from Anthony Kuch for the property at 528 MAC Avenue to remove the walkway and expand the steps on the south side of the property.
2. A public hearing will be held to consider a request from Joseph Loskill for the property at 365 North Harrison Road to build a wheelchair lift and install a new screening wall.
3. A public hearing will be held to consider a request from Lori Proctor for the property at 442 MAC Avenue to rebuild the front steps.

Materials related to the request are available for viewing at the East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to Historic District Commission, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to Raphael Kasen, Historic Preservation Officer, at coelhistorictdistricts@cityofeastlansing.com.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services should write or call the Planning Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823. Phone: (517) 319-6930. TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777.

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and published in compliance with the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, 2006 P.A. 110.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

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Kyle Melinn's
column will return
next week



POLITICS

The biggest job

Labor shortfall challenges employers to make it all worthwhile

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Like green shoots growing back after the eruption of Mt. St. Helens, signs of a post-pandemic economic rebound are springing up everywhere in greater Lansing.

Those signs usually say “Now Hiring.”

“The sheer numbers of jobs and internships flooding the market is mind boggling,” marveled Shelley Lowe, director of career services at Davenport College.

Job postings rocketed from 4,897 in August 2020 to 17,395 in August 2021 at MSU’s Career Services Network, according to spokeswoman Karin Hansen.

Employers are dangling all sorts of enticements, from higher pay to bonuses, flexible shifts and in-house training, but the labor shortage is still acute.

And it probably won’t ease up soon, according to Tim Daman, president and CEO of the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce.

“Talking with employers, they don’t anticipate any bump in the next 45 to 60 days,” Daman said. “Some of them have told me that if they could see a bump by Thanksgiving they’d be surprised.”

That’s because the employers have the biggest job of all.

To bring in more workers, they’ll have to face a formidable blast of economic, social and psychological headwinds unleashed by the pandemic.

The problem has been building for decades, as jobs with a solid future, many of them union jobs, were gradually swamped by dead-end, low-paying jobs that leave workers unable to meet basic living expenses.

As if in spite, the pandemic flipped many of these beleaguered employees into the role of “essential workers” — the hospital orderlies, grocery store cashiers, delivery personnel and bus drivers who kept things going, in spite of health risks, compounded by daily abuse from angry mask haters and COVID deniers.

Going back to business as usual, with the same old pay and benefits, is hard to square with that experience.

“The minimum wage was artificially low, and we all know it wasn’t a living wage,” declared Keith Lambert, chief operating officer of the Lansing Economic Area Partnership, or LEAP.

It’s no wonder that many service sector workers who lost their jobs during the pandemic are going back to school, training for a better job, staying at home to take care of kids or aging parents, or simply seizing upon a rare opportunity to rethink life.

In greater Lansing, opportunities for workers looking for greener pastures than Walmart or McDonald’s may never have been richer.

“The talent issue is not new,” Daman said. “Going back over the last five years, surveys of our members showed that talent and work force have been at the top of concerns for employers. It’s just been compounded by the challenges of COVID.”

Background figures

The current labor shortage began with the economic equivalent of a volcano.

“April of 2020 was the worst economic period in the history of the United States,” Lambert said. “It was hard to know where unemployment really was. A lot of people were detached from their employers and they didn’t really know if they had a job or not. It was the craziest spike we’ve ever seen.”

A year and a half later, Lambert said, the economy is still “definitely in uncharted territory.”

The unemployment rate in the tricity region of Ingham, Clinton and Eaton counties stood at 5.31 in July 2021, down from 7.41 percent in 2020, but still above the pre-pandemic rate of 3.33 percent in 2019, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and other agencies.

Unemployment rates have declined in Michigan — and Greater Lansing — for eight straight months. Last month, the state’s unemployment rate was down to 4.7%, well below the national average and the lowest rate tracked since last March, according to state economic officials.

Michigan’s economy also grew by 7.6% in the first quarter of 2021 — the best in the Midwest. The state also continues to lead the country in automotive manufacturing.

If Michigan is leading the Midwest in economic growth, greater Lansing is leading the nation by another measure: its proportion of pandemic-resistant “durable jobs.”

“Durable jobs are in fields such as government, higher education and financial services, including the insurance industry, and that’s a large part of our Lansing economy,” Lambert said.

The Lansing metro area ranks first in the nation in durable jobs, according to a May 2020 report by Yardi Matrix, a global real estate market data firm.

State capitals, especially those with a major university, are most abundant in such jobs. The report says that 44 percent of Lansing’s jobs are in government, finance or professional and technical services. (Washington, D.C., came in second, at about 42 percent, followed by Sacramento, San Francisco and Austin, Texas, all under 35 percent.)

If your position is durable, you are fortunate in more ways than one.

“You have a strong job, you’re a little bit higher educated on average, you’re earning a higher income and you’re probably more likely to be able to work at home,” Lambert said.

The overall jobs market is so competitive that even many durable jobs are going begging. Daman said the rise of remote work is complicating the picture, as health care units, financial services and insurance firms struggle to secure I.T. personnel.

“Those are the folks that probably have the capability of doing 100 percent of their work remotely,”



Jobs

from page 12

Daman said. “The ability for an I.T. professional living in Lansing to work for a company in Austin, Texas, Silicon Valley or Boston is greater than it’s ever been.”

But Lansing’s economy, like the nation’s, tells a tale of two cities: the durable and the vulnerable.

“The jobs that were most heavily displaced and affected by the pandemic were lower income, lower skill set,” Lambert said. “The people affected, in general, have less savings and are less able to weather an economic shock.”

In Ingham, Clinton and Eaton counties, the spring 2020 shutdowns wiped out about half of the 11,000 jobs in the hospitality industry, which includes restaurants, bars, hotels and transportation, according to Julie Pingston, president of the Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors’ Bureau.

It’s uncertain how many of these workers will come back, or how soon. Evidence is mounting that many of them won’t.

Dropping out

Hidden underneath the current jobs surge is a strangely persistent drain at the bottom of the labor pool.

The labor force participation rate — the percentage of working-age Americans who were either employed or looking for work — dipped sharply when the pandemic hit in spring 2020, from 63.3 percent before the pandemic to nearly 60 percent, the most drastic drop since 1948. As soon as August 2020, the rate rebounded to 61.7 percent, but it has been stubbornly stuck since then, coming in at 61.7 again in August 2021, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Many business leaders trace the labor shortfall to the availability of enhanced unemployment benefits, which lapsed Sept. 4.

“We can debate about this, but with the unemployment benefits, people were incentivized to stay home in some instances,” Daman said.

But Davenport’s Shelley Lowe said there are “many more layers to the onion.”

“People are staying out of the workforce for a broad number of reasons,” Lowe said. “It’s not just, ‘I’m collecting unemployment right now and I don’t want to work.’”

At Capital Area Michigan Works!, CEO Carrie Rosingana has received “a lot of reports about the number of women who have dropped out of the work force, with schools being virtual and lack of availability of childcare.”

Lowe described the situation this way: “People have simply left because they have other responsibilities, and in their mind, the stars all lined up and they should just stay home, and that’s mostly the female side of the equation,” she said. “They’re taking care of kids, they’re taking care of parents.”

Hansen is finding that for many MSU students, work is coming in “second, third or fourth” after other priorities, as they make the adjustment to the return to in-person classes and campus life.

Each semester, Lowe gets a sheaf of data on gradu-

ates who are not working, “whether they cannot find a job or for whatever reason.” She follows up on the survey with phone calls to each respondent.

“Usually, I know there’s a reason — ‘I’m not getting interviews,’ ‘I don’t know where to start,’” she said. “But that’s not what we’re hearing right now.”

Some responses confirm the trend toward a mass exodus from low-paying service jobs to career tracks.

“We’re seeing more people getting a higher degree or going into a completely different area, but they’re not working while they’re doing it,” she said.

But Lowe is also hearing from graduates who are re-evaluating their lives.

“For the last year, I’ve been hearing a wider range of reasons, from ‘I’m just not motivated to go find a job right now’ or ‘I just don’t want a job right now’ to ‘I’m rethinking what I want to do,’” Lowe said.

She has found that many of them, working or not, are “weighing their effect on the global environment or the environment around them.” Many have told her they are holding out for environmentally conscious employers or companies in which to invest.

“The pandemic made everyone reflect on their life, their trajectory, what they’re doing,” Lambert said. “It was a reason for a lot of people to back to school. Why go back to that job making 10 bucks an hour?”

Moving up

The autumn influx of students would, under normal circumstances, help fill the thousands of unfilled restaurant, retail and service jobs in the area.

But from what MSU Career Service’s Karin Hansen is seeing, don’t hold your breath.

“Because there are so many opportunities available, they are holding out for opportunities that align with their career goals, as opposed to taking a position that just pays the bills,” Hansen said.

She’s seeing more students than ever choose unpaid internships, entry-level positions in the type of firm they hope to work for someday, or jobs that train them in skills they will someday need, over slinging hash or serving coffee for near-minimum wage.

Rosingana is seeing the same trend at Michigan Works.

“With safety as a concern, we’re seeing a lot of people looking for other training opportunities and skill sets they can transfer from their work in hospitality, because there are a lot of job opportunities right now.”

The tri-county area is not lacking in opportunities for such workers. McKesson, a major pharmaceutical distributor, held a series of job fairs this summer and hired 100 workers for its new complex in Holt in the last month alone.

In 2020 and 2021, MWC Glanbia hired over 200 people, despite the pandemic, to work at its giant new cheese and whey manufacturing center in St. Johns.

Shyft Group, a builder of commercial fleet and specialty vehicles, hired over 500 people from March to June for its manufacturing campus in Charlotte, at starting rates ranging from \$15 to \$22 an hour. (Demand for Shyft’s output was turbocharged by the need for more parcel delivery vehicles.)

“These are examples where someone with minimal education and experience but is hungry and willing to maybe get a six-month certification at LCC — they can access some of these jobs that have more clear upward mobility than a job at a restaurant,” Lambert



See Jobs, Page 14

Jobs

from page 13

said.

Hansen has taken a roller coaster ride since she came to MSU in 2008, at

the onset of the Great Recession, when the job market is “the opposite of now,” she said.

This fall, she is in a position to offer students and employers a set of opportunities unprecedented in her tenure.

Employers are pouring extra syrup and butter, even on entry level service jobs. “The hourly wages of service jobs

have increased,” Hansen said. “I just got a call from Wal-Mart yesterday, talking about their wage increases and asking her what they could do to attract more talent from campus.”

Starbucks is raising its entry-level wage to \$12 to \$15 an hour this fall, part of a plan to reach a minimum wage of \$15 for all workers in two to three years.

On Hansen’s desk is a flier from a local pizza place offering \$20 an hour in combined wages and tips, with a guarantee to make up the difference if the tips don’t come through.

But Hansen is finding that many students are passing up such blandishments for something more rewarding.

In fall 2021, MSU has held many more career events, and marketed them more heavily, than it ever has.

“To have 37 career fairs in one fall semester is just unheard of,” Hansen said. In contrast to mass suit-and-tie cattle calls of the past, this fall’s events are targeted to specific fields such as marketing, sales, packaging and so on. It’s more work for the employers, but Hansen said targeted communication pays off for both students and employers.

“It makes it feel like a very special jobs posting — a personalized message, almost like they’re being invited to apply,” she said.

Employers are also offering more flexibility. Last week, Hansen fielded a call from Manitou Pontoon Boats, a manufacturer based in northwest Lansing, touting flexible schedules and night shifts to accommodate student schedules.

“The service industry is competing against higher wage jobs like that, that students may not have been able to consider in the past, because it was eight-hour day shifts with no flexibility,” Hansen said.

Many mid-Michigan employers are launching or expanding in-house

training to “capture” workers who want to move out of their old service sector jobs.

There’s financial help from the state for such firms. Capital Area Michigan Works! handles the Going Pro Talent Fund, which helps large and small firms pay for in-house training that leads to “a credential for a skill that is transferable and recognized by industry.”

Between 2014 and 2021, the fund made over 4,100 awards averaging about \$31,000, mostly to companies with fewer than 100 employees.

The fund helped 19 companies from the tri-county area in fiscal year 2021 with grants ranging from \$5,000 (for Capital Steel & Wire) to \$150,000 (for automotive seat manufacturer Bridgewater Interiors in Lansing).

Michigan Works’ Rosingana encourages employers to volunteer information about company culture, especially COVID practices, to “help calm some of the nerves of job seekers right now.”

“Safety is still at the forefront for job seekers looking to go back to work,” Rosingana said. “It’s not just service employees who can’t work remotely, we’re seeing it and hearing it across industry sectors. People who work in an office setting want to see what the safety protocols will look like.”

Rosingana urges short-staffed employers to adopt a “people first model” and trumpet their niceness on social media and other platforms.

“Job seekers want to know they’re being taken care of,” she said.

Experts like to say that the jobs market is heading toward a “new equilibrium,” but nobody knows just when, or how, the curves of labor supply and demand will meet. “I wish there were a silver bullet that could solve the issue, but I don’t see that,” Daman said. “Employers are going to have to be innovative and probably doing things they never thought they would be doing, pre-COVID.”

**CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF REGISTRATION
FOR THE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2021 ELECTION**

To the qualified electors of the City of Lansing:

Please take notice that the City of Lansing will hold an Election on Tuesday, November 2, 2021.

For the purpose of electing candidates to the following offices:

City: Mayor, City Clerk, Council Member At Large (2), Council Member Ward 2, Council Member Ward 4

Any qualified elector who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the Lansing City Clerk, the office of their County Clerk, a Secretary of State Branch office, or other designated state agency. Registration forms may be obtained at www.Michigan.gov/vote and mailed to or dropped off at the office of the Lansing City Clerk. Any qualified elector that has a Michigan Driver’s License or Personal ID can also register to vote at www.Michigan.gov/vote. Voters who are already registered may update their voter registration at www.Michigan.gov/vote.

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the Lansing City Clerk’s Office is **Monday, October 18, 2021**. After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the following locations and times:

Location	Address	Regular Business Hours
Lansing City Clerk – City Hall	124 W Michigan Ave Lansing, MI 48933	Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm
Lansing City Clerk – Election Unit	2500 S Washington Ave Lansing, MI 48910	Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm Wednesdays 8am – 7pm

Additional times outside of the above listed regular business hours are as follows:

Location	Address	Additional Hours
Lansing City Clerk – Election Unit	2500 S Washington Ave Lansing, MI 48910	Saturday October 30 11am - 7pm Sunday October 31 11am - 4pm Election Day November 2 7am – 8pm
Lansing City Clerk – City Hall	124 W Michigan Ave Lansing, MI 48933	Election Day November 2 7am - 8pm

ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS

Any registered voter may request an Absent Voter Ballot. No reason required.

The Lansing City Clerk’s Office must have an application to issue an Absent Voter Ballot. Applications are available at the locations referenced in the above tables or by visiting our website at www.lansingvotes.com.

Monday, November 1, 2021 at 4:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot except for those who register to vote on Election Day. Ballots issued on Monday, November 1, 2021 must be requested and voted in person at the Lansing City Clerk’s Office, locations referenced in the above table.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, November 2, 2021, are eligible to receive an absent voter ballot at the Lansing City Clerk’s Office, locations referenced in the above table.

Chris Swope, MMC/MiPMC
Lansing City Clerk
Phone: 517-483-4131
Email: city.clerk@lansingmi.gov
Website: www.lansingvotes.com
www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#21-214

**CITY OF LANSING
SUMMARY OF
ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1289**

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing by adding a new Section 884.13 for the purposes of providing for an extension of a Service Charge in Lieu Of Taxes for Seventy-Five (75) low income elderly dwelling units in a project known as Apartments West, pursuant to the provisions of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, as amended.

Effective date: Upon publication

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

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

CP#21-211

Need a job? Here are 10 Greater Lansing employers hiring now.

By KYLE KAMINSKI

Need a job? There are plenty of local companies looking to attract new talent. And that's evidenced by the "now hiring" signs lining just about every road in Greater Lansing.

Here are a few places where you can apply for job right away:

Sparrow Health System

Sparrow Health System is hosting a job fair from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. today Thursday (Sept. 22-23) at 1400 E. Michigan Ave. Dozens of positions are available. On-the-spot interviews and offers will be available. Sign up online at signup-genius.com/go/jobfairsparrow.



McLaren Greater Lansing

McLaren Health System has a whopping 233 available job opportunities in Lansing listed on its website, most full time. Among them are slots for more than 70 registered nurses paying about \$35,000. Registered respiratory therapists and nursing assistant positions are also in hot demand.



Entry-level technician jobs have also served as a pathway to becoming a medical assistant. If you're hired, you can also complete a 26-week medical assistant course at Ross Medical Education Center in Lansing and pass a series of tests to become a registered medical assistant. Attending class and taking tests occasionally can interfere

with a full-time schedule, but managers there are reportedly plenty accommodating for employees in training.

Visit mclaren.org/main/careers for more information.

Ingham County Sheriff's Department

Want to protect and serve? Ingham County has several openings in law enforcement. Deputies respond to all kinds of service requests from the public, as well as basic patrol duties that involve a variety of complaints and criminal calls. Some even get to ride horses and motorcycles or partner with a dog to help sniff out drugs. Deputies earn \$39,000 to \$62,000, based on experience.



Among the posts are corrections deputies, who help oversee about 450 jail inmates. Duties include observing and detecting unusual or prohibited behavior, distributing medication, conducting inmate counts, responding to calls and writing incident reports. Corrections deputies can expect to work in 12-hour shifts with an annual salary of \$39,000 to \$62,000 annually, depending on the level of experience they bring to the job.

Openings are also available for lobby deputies at the jail, who are paid an hourly rate of \$18.22. Those staff assist in meeting inmates needs, monitor all movement in secure areas of the jail, maintain equipment, attend court and report rule violations and other incidents as necessary.

Visit sh.ingham.org for more information.

And Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth likes to start recruiting cops at an early age. Explorer Post No. 133 — a division of Boy Scouts of America — provides people ages 14-21 an opportunity to "explore" a career in law enforcement. Meetings are at the Sheriff's Office in Mason on the first and third Wednesday of every month and include training on domestic violence, felony traffic stops and more. At least 18 staffers were former explorers.

Dean Transportation and Capital Area Transportation Authority

Bus drivers are in hot demand here and just about every other city in Michigan. Dean Transportation was reportedly searching for up to 30 drivers ahead of the school year last month. Drivers with a Class B CDL license can earn an hourly wage of up to \$21 with a sign-on bonus of up to \$750, as well as other cash incentives for those who drive students from the Lansing School District. The only caveat is that you must hold down the job for four weeks.



Openings for school bus drivers were still widely available last week for districts in Charlotte, Dansville, East Lansing, Eaton Rapids, Lansing, Olivet, Owosso, St. Johns and Webberville.

The local public transportation system is recruiting for dozens of jobs ranging from human resources assistant and accountant to mechanic and,

of course, bus driver. Although drivers might not make as much overtime in years past due to union contract changes, CATA still reportedly still offers outstanding benefits to its workforce — including \$17.50 hourly during training and a \$2,500 signing bonus. A drug test and a clean driving record are required.

Visit deandifference.com/careers and cata.org/drive for more information.

Quality Dairy

There seems to be a "now hiring" sign on the front of every QD in Greater Lansing nowadays. More than 100 positions were available at qualitydairy careers.com last week — including store clerk, assistant store manager, bakery delivery drivers and production workers, administrative professionals, maintenance staff and more in Lansing and beyond.



The family-owned company has been a Lansing staple for more than 84 years. Staff reportedly earn up to \$18 an hour and receive a sign-on bonus along with paid time off, health benefits, a 401k package, premium wages for third shift. Staff are also provided uniforms along with some added benefits on their QD Rewards card. Clerks also may be able to take home the old donuts.

See Lansing employers, Page 16

YOUR FUTURE BEGINS AT McLAREN.

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Visit www.mclaren.org/careers.



DOING WHAT'S BEST.



Lansing employers

from page 15

Ingham County Medical Facility on Dobie Road

The Dobie Road just wrapped up a hiring fair last week for dozens of health-care jobs



for memory care, long-term care, short-term rehabilitation, outpatient therapy and general wellness. And plenty of positions were still available on its website this week, including dining service and maintenance technicians, door screeners, physical therapists, resident assistant, nurses, speech-lan-

guage pathologists and certified nursing aides. Perks include paid holidays, retirement and medical benefits, tuition reimbursement, quarterly bonuses for perfect attendance, weekend-only schedules, an on-site fitness center and overtime opportunities.

Salaries range widely depending on the position. Door screeners start as low as \$10 an hour. Certified nursing assistants will receive a \$1,000 bonus after both nine and 18 months of work.

Michigan's leisure, hospitality, professional and business services industries reported 36,000 new jobs since 2020 — the largest single year gain tracked in Michigan to date, officials said.

Check out dobieroad.com for more details.

Saddleback BBQ

This award-winning BBQ joint —

like seemingly every other restaurant in town — is hiring at its Okemos location, searching for hard workers to join a growing team of mostly hosts, cashiers, cooks, BBQ pitmasters and dishwashers. Experience is obviously preferred, but attitude, willingness to learn and a desire for professional growth is valued more.

A big bonus: Unlike other places that use a “tipped minimum wage” to pay their staff as little as \$3.67 an hour, Saddleback guarantees a standard hourly rate of at least \$9.65 an hour, plus a share of tips. In May, that meant every employee at the restaurant made at least \$15 an hour.

People also seem to like working there. Data shows that the average restaurant worker only sticks around for fewer than two months before they quit. At Saddleback, the average retention rate for staff is just less than a year. The staff also gets discounts on food and free beverages.

Michigan Department of Transportation

Full-time permanent and seasonal road construction jobs are widely available across Michigan — including in Greater Lansing. MDOT is also hosting a series of virtual career fairs to get those positions filled quickly. Text “MDOT” to 25000 or visit <https://olivi/rrp65> for more information.

The department needs more than 100 limited-term winter maintenance workers, which only require a Class B CDL license and can serve as a great entry point into the department and lead to future full-time opportunities. All other training will be provided for seasonal employees.

Other available positions include electrician, transportation engineer, planner and technician, maintenance worker and other skilled trades and professional positions. Check out michigan.gov/MDOTjobs or email MDOT-recruitment@michigan.gov for more information.

The state of Michigan also listed at least 35 other government jobs available last week, including forensic laboratory technicians, policy analysts, executive secretaries, IT technicians and even an archaeology specialist who can work for



the State Historic Preservation Office. The Department of Natural Resources also reportedly has dozens of jobs open for the fall season.

Jobs in Michigan's trade, transportation and utilities industry rose for the third consecutive month in August. Over the last year, more than 26,000 jobs were created in that sector.

Burger King

OK. We know. This one admittedly doesn't pay too great. Corporate officials also wouldn't provide us with a starting salary, but it's probably not much above minimum wage for new hires.

That being said, you also can probably get hired there today. And there are dozens of restaurants still hiring including in Dewitt, Holt, St. Johns and six locations across Lansing. Last week, there were full- and part-time openings for more than 30 managers and team members.

Fast food jobs can help build character and also work well for a first job or entry-level position. Vacation time doesn't accrue until one year of full-time employment but several local restaurants offer a convenient “work today, get paid tomorrow” program through an Instant Pay app.

City Pulse

We couldn't put this list together without a little **CityPULSE** shameless self promotion. City Pulse is looking for an arts & entertainment editor to oversee a substantial portion of our weekly news coverage. A journalism background is preferred, but we can train the right person. This is also an equal opportunity job search with competitive wages; Diverse candidates are encouraged to apply. Send a cover letter, resume and up to five writing samples to publisher@lansingcitypulse.com.

Don't have any writing chops? City Pulse is also looking for a driver to deliver our weekly print edition to businesses in downtown Lansing and East Lansing on Wednesday mornings. Shifts start at 7:30 a.m. Reliability is essential. Applicants must have their own vehicle, proof of insurance and a valid driver's license. Paychecks are determined based on mileage and the number of stops. For more information, call 517-999-6704 or email suzi@lansingcitypulse.com.



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Using apps to turn hobbies, talents into side hustles

By SKYLER ASHLEY

In uncertain economic times, it's never a bad idea to seek out ways to get some extra cash in your pockets. Fortunately, there are many ways you can utilize apps and digital marketplaces to turn your hobby into a potentially lucrative side hustle without spreading yourself too thin. Here are a few simple and easy ways to turn your passion projects into nifty new revenue streams:

Depop

Depop was launched in 2011 and has grown into a widely popular online fashion marketplace. Users of the app can buy and sell used clothing from all over the world, and there's plenty of cash to be made if you have old clothes eating up space in your closet.

Considering that Depop attracts a younger, edgier demographic, users can be quick to purchase anything that looks even remotely grunge or punk rock. Have a denim jacket that's no longer your vibe? Tattered jeans you no longer fancy? Or maybe a band T-shirt



that no longer fits? You can easily turn those into \$15 or \$20 apiece on Depop. Vintage clothes from the '60s through the '90s — no matter how dorky — are also hot commodities.

Better yet, it's also possible to make a decent chunk of dough by flipping cheap clothes from Goodwill or Volunteers of America. You can sometimes find valuable brands like Ralph Lauren, Nike or Tommy Hilfiger buried in the racks of thrift shops. Buy them up and then list them on Depop for an easy profit. If you're creative, you can exponentially raise the value of old jackets, T-shirts and pants by customizing them with spunky DIY touches such as patches, studs, pins, buttons or screen-printed graphics.

Etsy

Etsy was founded in 2005, gained a lot of traction from 2010 to 2019 and then totally exploded in popularity during the coronavirus pandemic. What separates Etsy from other online marketplaces such as Amazon or eBay is that



it focuses on goods handcrafted by its users.

Etsy is not about selling old junk — save that for Craigslist or a garage sale. You'll want to set up an Etsy shop if you have a special talent like painting, woodworking, quilting and pottery — or just about anything else you can possibly think of. With an Etsy shop, you'll have a convenient place to sell and market your creations.

The booming global popularity of Etsy gives you the potential to attract a much larger audience than you ever could at a local flea market or through your personal Facebook profile. Whatever it is you create, there's more than likely an audience for it on Etsy. Even if you don't strike gold and become the next Etsy sensation, you certainly have nothing to lose by putting some faith in your craft.

Fiverr

OK, so maybe your skillset doesn't involve creating tangible items that you can list for sale, but you're experienced in a field such as photography, musical composition, creative writing or graphic design. What should you do for some extra cash? You should check out a gig

economy app like Fiverr.

Fiverr was created in 2010, and allows you to create a profile that advertises whatever service you offer and then connects you with other users that need that service provided to them. You can customize your rates and negotiate prices with potential clients, so you're in total control of what you'll earn and won't have to deal with being lowballed or getting flat out ripped off.

Since its launch, Fiverr has attracted millions of users, which means there's a huge pool of potential customers waiting to hire you for your next side gig. Like Etsy, there's an audience for just about anything. You can find high school students who need essays written for them, web show producers that need soundtracks, or perhaps you'll get hooked up with somebody that needs photographs of their puppy.

As long as your rates are reasonable, it shouldn't take you too long before you start collecting some sweet side hustle cash.



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Higher education is key to a better job

By **CARRIE ROSINGANA**

(Carrie Rosingana is the CEO of Capital Area Michigan Works! Visit www.camw.org to connect with the Capital Area Michigan Works! team for assistance with career exploration or staffing needs. Capital Area Michigan Works!, a partner of the American Job Center Network, offers services in Ingham, Clinton and Eaton counties at its Lansing, St. Johns and Charlotte American job centers.)



Rosingana

As Michiganders lost their jobs during the pandemic, there was a rise in need for skilled workers in many industries. It pains me to say it, but many who lost their jobs will find it hard to replace them at the same level, all while employers in high demand industries — such as agribusiness, health care, IT and manufacturing — are struggling to

find talent.

Why? We have a crisis-level mismatch in college enrollment, workers with college degrees and jobs that can support a person or family.

Our postsecondary education attainment levels — 49.1% in Michigan, according to the Lumina Foundation — haven't kept up with the steep rise in demand for highly skilled workers. Individuals seeking work don't have the skills needed to meet employers' needs. And it's not getting better.

Michigan's postsecondary institutions are seeing lower enrollment. According to EducationData.org, 22.5% fewer students were enrolled in Michigan colleges as of March 2021 than a decade prior.

The math is simple in theory. The more education you have, the higher likelihood you have to work a salaried job with benefits and higher salary. According to the 2021 ALICE report, if two adults worked the most common occupation in the state, a retail salesper-

son, at its median hourly wage of \$11.78, they would not make enough to cover household essentials.

Yet, postsecondary education is a significant undertaking. Long before I was a CEO, I worked directly with unemployed and underemployed individuals within our agency to help them overcome the challenges preventing them from finding, securing and keeping jobs that could support them and their families. I sat across my desk time and time again with people in dire circumstances, and often there was no easy path forward without addressing education as a foundation within their next steps.

To ensure a stable income and benefits, individuals need postsecondary education, and I know that can feel insurmountable for those who need it the most.

But it's not without hope. There are a wealth of resources if you know where to look — and I'm here to help you know where to look. Capital Area

Michigan Works! and our state partners offer support such as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Skills to Work, Futures for Frontliners and Michigan Reconnect programs. Our partners at LEAP support entrepreneurs looking to grow and develop skills to create stronger futures for themselves, and to create jobs for others. The Michigan College Access Network leads networks across the state — including the Capital Area College Access Network — in supporting students and adults interested in exploring postsecondary options and funding.

No matter the path you take, we need Michiganders to continue their education beyond high school.

Higher education attainment is integral to Michigan's success and prosperity, but more importantly, it's integral to individual and family success and prosperity. While our economy is facing a college enrollment crisis, many are facing their own crises, but you are not alone.

Together, we can change the course for our economy, and our families.

Healthcare apprenticeships via LCC are a win for students and employers

By **STEVE ROBINSON**

(Steve Robinson is the seventh president of Lansing Community College.)



Robinson

The pandemic has shown us the critical necessity for healthcare workers. Even before the pandemic, the realities of an aging population required an influx of new healthcare workers to address rising care needs. Now, in the midst of the most critical public health event of our lifetimes, healthcare professionals are even more essential.

Training healthcare workers is a careful process. It has to be, because healthcare work has little margin for error. Students who work toward careers in the healthcare industry have to balance rigorous academics with clinical practice. At Lansing Community College, healthcare students work closely with local hospitals and doctors to gain operational proficiency.

One strategy to address the critical need for healthcare workers is through registered apprenticeship programs with the U.S. Department of Labor. An apprenticeship is an "earn-and-learn" model whereby students, as apprentices, are paid employees of a healthcare organization while progressing through an LCC academic program. They earn an industry credential and become fully

qualified to serve the workforce needs of their employer.

The "earn-and-learn" aspect of LCC's healthcare apprenticeships is essential because income allows students in medical fields to focus on their studies. Will Emerson, director of apprenticeships and external partnerships at LCC, knows the impact earning during apprenticeships makes for students.

"College is demanding on its own, and learning for work in medical fields can exacerbate this," Emerson said. "Through an apprenticeship, students earn a wage while they complete their studies. This prepares students twofold: they learn the ins-and-outs of their craft, and they learn how to manage a paycheck and their personal economy. Because they are so immersive, apprenticeships really prepare students for the work they're going to do. With a paycheck added, their preparation is all the more holistic."

Apprenticeships, long a mainstay in manufacturing and other industries, are relatively new to healthcare. Both state and federal government strongly support USDOL healthcare apprenticeships through funding that benefits employers and apprentices. By funding programs that make healthcare apprenticeships possible, USDOL increases the number of healthcare professionals ready to help our communities.

Jan Karazim, dean of health and

human services at LCC, understands the great potential of apprenticeships in healthcare.

"In an effort to serve employers and build capacity, LCC's HHS division has established the Office of Apprenticeship and External Partnership funded by the USDOL's Strengthening Community College grant," Karazim said. "The purpose of the office, led by Dr. Will Emerson, is to work on behalf of employers with the USDOL to establish apprenticeship programs that address their specific workforce needs."

Once an employer establishes an apprenticeship program, Emerson's office will assume the responsibility of tracking and reporting apprenticeship data as required by the USDOL, relieving employers of this often time and labor-intensive work. To assist with matching apprentices with employers, Emerson and his staff will collaborate with LCC's recruitment and career services professionals, as well as Capital Area Michigan Works! to identify individuals for employers to interview and hire for apprenticeship programs.

"Healthcare apprenticeships are great opportunities for students and for our communities," Emerson said. "By providing apprenticeships for future healthcare workers, we accelerate their acclimation to patient care, and their ability to step in and help."

LCC's HHS division provides training for Sparrow Hospital's USDOL reg-

istered apprenticeship program in medical assisting. Further, LCC has established a collaborative option of its medical assistant program to be offered through the Michigan Community College Association educational programs. The flexible structure and delivery model of this program appeals to a wide range of healthcare employers interested in establishing apprenticeship programs with flexible online and virtual learning to better fit an apprentices' work schedule.

By extending opportunities in medical education to include apprenticeships, LCC is helping medical employers make care more accessible for all. Apprenticeships accelerate the prepared professionalism of health care students, which allows them to focus and develop the skills required of their positions. With LCC's apprenticeship programs, healthcare providers benefit from hands-on work from invested employees who are learning specifically to work in healthcare industries.

LCC's HHS division intends on leveraging medical apprenticeships to help employers fill workforce needs in any of their open positions, from nurses and surgical technologists, to radiographers and EEG technologists, and many others. Employers interested in USDOL apprenticeship programs should contact Will Emerson at emersow1@star.lcc.edu for more information.

MASTERWORKS 01 : GATHERING TOGETHER

BRIGGS, BERNSTEIN, TCHAIKOVSKY

OCTOBER 9 | WHARTON CENTER



Employers and job seekers can be optimistic for 2022

By **KEITH LAMBERT**
AND **VICTORIA MEADOWS**

(Keith Lambert and Victoria Meadows are the chief operating officer and chief strategic officer at the Lansing Economic Area Partnership.)



Lambert



Meadows

In the Lansing area, there were 15,275 unique job postings in September of 2020. That figure steadily climbed 44% over the following 12 months to 22,042 in August 2021. This impressive shift is likely tied to the large number of people that had left the workforce for various reasons over the past 18 months, including longer-term unemployment benefits lessening the financial pressure to return to work, hesitancy surrounding the pandemic and its effect on working conditions, perceived or actual risk of COVID-19 infection and family safety, schooling circumstances and childcare availability.

Each person and family have been considering the opportunity cost around working relatively low-wage jobs, and many have concluded that it is not in their best interests for now — creating a new labor gap.

For instance, we know the region's labor force participation rate dropped from 78.7% in 2019 to under 75% in the first quarter of 2021, and grew only

marginally to 75.4% by July. We also know from national data that this labor force participation rate drop was disproportionately women. Nationwide, there are 1.8 million fewer women in the labor force than before the pandemic.

Of late, the sense is competitive pressures have been driving up wages for low-skill jobs. Wage pressures have been felt strongly by industries that pay the bulk of their employees under \$20 an hour, such as retail, hospitality and restaurants, wholesalers and distributors, manufacturers, healthcare and social services. The Washington Post reports that the average pay topped \$15 an hour at U.S. restaurants over the summer. Sign-on bonuses and referral bonuses are more commonplace from restaurant chains such as Papa John's, Chipotle, Subway and Panera Bread to lure in new employees.

These same industry sectors make up a large portion of the Lansing region's 12,608 unemployed individuals as of July 2021: 15% in health care and social assistance; 12% in manufacturing; 11% in retail; 9% in accommodations and food services; and 8% in wholesale trade. Those five industry sectors alone constitute over half of the region's unemployed.

While these wage pressures are a reality for businesses in such industries around the country, and very much so for businesses in the Lansing region, we see positive signs of prominent companies doing large hiring events with suc-

cess. Examples include MWC operating as Glanbia Nutritionals in St. Johns, the world's top producer of American-style cheddar cheese blocks, which has hired over 250 people over the past two years, coinciding with the operational launch of their new facilities in October of 2020.

In January 2021, LEAP announced Shyft Group's plans to expand manufacturing operations at their Charlotte campus and create hundreds of jobs. McKesson, which just announced its new cutting-edge distribution center in Delhi Township last spring, has had early success with monthly hiring events since June as it seeks to hire over 100 new employees. LEAP worked with all these companies to understand the local labor market and connect to the tapestry of workforce development resources and support organizations, including Capital Area Michigan Works!, Lansing Community College and Michigan State University.

The companies we see finding the most success focus on company culture, adequate and competitive compensation and benefits, building a talent pipeline through partnerships, and leveraging available workforce resources and tools. LEAP is constantly connecting companies with our many partners in those spaces. We expect a new labor equilibrium to emerge in the coming months after the rapid change and evolution witnessed over recent months. Extended unemployment benefits ended in early

September, childcare capacity and ample financial support for both providers and parents should be in place in 2022, and schooling policy is likely to be more consistently in-person.

As long as we as a society continue to make positive strides in the battle against COVID-19, we are optimistic. As an economic development organization with a mission to build inclusive prosperity across the Lansing tri-county region, we recognize increased wages create buying power and wealth opportunities for people of all skill sets and educational levels, but know the shift must be gradual to be sustainable. It will be interesting to watch the sectors comprising most of those lower wage jobs over the coming months.

Our region is blessed with a certain degree of stability as the historic seat of state government and home to Michigan State University, alongside a booming insurance industry growing at 10 times the national average. Yet manufacturing and technology employment growth and diversification continues to be a priority to elevate our economic trajectory, and we face an intensely competitive landscape.

Broad-based economic mobility requires building more pathways across industries for individuals to elevate themselves. LEAP and our partners are laser-focused on projects, programs and initiatives to make that happen in the Lansing area.



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Pandemic's silver lining? Labor's renewed strength

By **MATT SCHNEIDER**

(The author is the financial secretary of Local 652 of the United Auto Workers. This first appeared in the Lansing Labor News.)



Schneider

As I thought about the many relevant events affecting our members in labor, I kept returning to one topic. It's been something I have been thinking about for a while but hesitated to write about because how does one share the brighter side of a pandemic which has caused so much hardship for the membership and for our country? This hesitation began to wane as it became apparent that many of our fellow Americans in the working-class were getting caught in the trap set by big business and special interests: divide and conquer.

As the pandemic took hold, everything from public health mandates to just plain self-preservation triggered a tidal wave of layoffs, resignations and quits. While businesses small and large were trying to deal with the above-mentioned obstacles, worker illness and supply chain disruptions dealt another blow. It would be several months of these challenges before public safety measures, new treatments and the plain cyclical nature of viruses teased us with relief. It was during that time of relief this glimmer of hope appeared for working class people and for the labor movement.

In that time of relief, it was apparent that a labor shortage was brewing. As is typical with most things, the cause of this labor shortage is not singular: It was and is multifaceted. People not only fell ill or passed away, they took stock of their situation and made bold moves. It's true that many feared COVID-19 and made the decision to stay home, but many also saw how fragile life was and took buyouts or retired. Others took the opportunity to receive further training and changed careers. Yet others did the math and realized staying home was a better option than expensive and

hard-to-find childcare. Did people also choose to abuse social safety nets and stay unemployed after job cuts? Yes. Was it a majority? No, it rarely is. More important, did many marginalized workers decide they were worth more? Absolutely they did.

It is this realization of worth which makes up the brighter side, the part of this pandemic the working class and labor should embrace as a tool to create power. As we work to harness this power, there are challenges to overcome. Professional provocateurs of politics, big business and social media are trying to lead us down the path of blaming poor or marginalized people for the issue. We must stare that challenge in the face and realize we've been given an opportunity to regain the courage to be powerful and charge toward the path of correcting income inequality. Riding this wave, we can overcome the setbacks created by policy set since the 1980s or change legislation and Supreme Court verdicts which have harmed the working class. We can make the decision to be civically engaged again, to fulfill our obligation as citizens so that lobbyists and campaign millions no longer dictate our path to success. It will take hard work, but it is possible. If only we would open our eyes, we could see there are already pockets of success.

This success is not only national: just look around the Lansing area to see what is possible. Many local worksites are offering bonuses, adjusting pay or modifying collective bargaining agreements to improve workers' positions. Workers are finally using supply and demand to their benefit. We are realizing the power behind our own words, "But without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn." As employers are being pushed closer to a day of reckoning, we cannot fall into the trap of fallacies which blame and shun workers for wanting what they deserve. This is our time, and while the concept of spring-boarding from a devastating pandemic for the greater good of labor can be unsavory to some, we cannot allow this opportunity to pass us by.

Long-term solutions depend on building a 'talent pipeline'

By **STEVE JAPINGA**

(Steve Japinga is a vice president at the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce.)



Japinga

For employers in the Greater Lansing region, the focus on attracting and retaining talent has been a priority and challenge even before the global pandemic. For the past several years, the annual Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce membership survey has shown that talent and workforce development is the No. 1 priority for regional businesses.

The three things we hear consistently from businesses are:

- They need help now.
- How do we provide skills in the short term?
- How do we build a talent pipeline for the future?

The LRCC is doing multiple things currently to help businesses address these issues.

The LRCC launched its new online job board for LRCC members to use and share their job openings with those seeking employment. The Member Job Board is located on the LRCC website under the "talent" tab and can be accessed at members.lansingchamber.org/jobs.

Additional employer resources are available through regional organizations, including Capital Area Michigan Works!, Lansing Economic Area Partnership, Lansing 5:01, the Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau and AARP. Those resources including job searches and job listings, assistance in preparing for interviews, addressing regional needs today and more.

The need for professional trade talent has never been greater. Highly skilled individuals are in high demand for careers in health care, information technology, advanced manufacturing, construction and the automotive industry. Professional trades leverage talent, work ethic, and know-how to keep Michigan's economy and workforce healthy, solid and growing. Also, these careers often require less schooling and less debt than a traditional four-year degree.

There have also been several programs and policies that the LRCC has supported at the state level to assist businesses with helping workers gain new skills in an economy that continues to change at a rapid pace.

The Michigan Reconnect is a scholarship program that pays workers to attend in-district community colleges and offers a significant tuition discount if attending out-of-district community college. The scholarship is to complete an associate degree or a skill certificate program.

The Futures for Frontliners is a state scholarship program for Michiganders without college degrees who worked in essential industries during the state Covid-19 shutdown

last spring. This scholarship provides these frontline workers with tuition-free access to local community colleges to pursue an associate degree or skills certificate, either full-time or part-time — while working.

The Sixty by Thirty is the state's initiative to increase working-age adults with a skill certificate or college degree from 49% today to 60% by 2030. The initiative works to close the skills gap, increase opportunities for better jobs and make the state more competitive for economic growth.

The LRCC also works closely with our regional partners, specifically those in educational institutions, from K-12 to higher education, because the long-term solution is to create a future talent pipeline.

Teach. Talent. Thrive. is a network of connected assets supporting education and talent development in Michigan's capital area. T3's partners work to ensure all students are reading at grade level in the third grade, increase high school graduation rates to guarantee all students are college and career ready and increase the number of people who have the education and skills needed to support our continued prosperity into the future. T3 is committed to helping the capital area become the exemplary science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics region in America.

Launch Michigan is another unprecedented partnership of business, education, labor, philanthropy, and civic leaders, as well as parents, all of whom care deeply about education and our state's collective future. Launch Michigan wants a high-quality, student-centered system — one that helps every student succeed in school, careers and life. The organization understands implicitly that a robust, thriving public education system is the cornerstone of successful kids, prosperous communities and a strong economy.

The Michigan College Access Network works to encourage Michigan residents to earn postsecondary certificates and degrees. The organization not only helps individuals earn more and promote their well-being, but it also strengthens Michigan's talent pool, retains and attracts businesses to the state and stimulates Michigan's economy in the process.

The LRCC also works closely with our partners in business and labor to promote several outstanding apprenticeship opportunities that are helping build the skilled workforce this region will continue to need in the future.

The LRCC is committed to building and retaining talent in Greater Lansing. We know how critically important it is to our employer's future success. As the trusted voice of business, we are constantly developing new ways to build the workforce our region needs to be competitive and remain dominant in the global marketplace.



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ARTS & CULTURE

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Casa de Rosado exhibit honors late Rosa Lopez Killips

By SKYLER ASHLEY

After a mostly dormant 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, the latest exhibit at Casa de Rosado is a touching tribute to a woman who helped build what started as a humble house venue into an impressive independent art gallery and cultural center. “¡Siempre Aquí!” remembers the late Rosa Lopez Killips, who died last year, with artwork produced by Killips herself and creations by seven other Michigan-based Chicano, Latino and Indigenous artists.

The idea for the exhibit first came about when Theresa Rosado, founder and head of Casa de Rosado, was asked by Lansing Community College if the gallery would have an exhibit that could become a stop on an artist scavenger hunt the college’s Cesar Chavez Learning Center organized in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, now through Oct. 15.

“A lot of people don’t realize that she was an artist as well. We decided

Siempre Aquí

Runs through Sept. 26
Casa de Rosado
204. E. Mt. Hope
Ave., Lansing
Saturday-Sunday, 11
a.m. to 5 p.m.
Facebook.com/
Casaderosado

to pay tribute to her and show a few of her pieces,” Rosado said.

Painting was just another of Killips’ many talents. She was a renaissance woman who worked tirelessly with several Latino nonprofit organizations and the Lansing School District as a community outreach program director and was well known for her achievements as a Mexican folk dancer, educator and activist. There are many communities in Lansing who fondly remember Killips for her lifelong dedication to empowering women and propping up marginalized groups — including the LGBTQ+ community and impoverished families.

“Rosa was instrumental in sharing her time, patience and love with students in the Lansing School District and encouraging them to pursue a higher degree and the arts. This is an exhibit in her spirit,” Rosado said.

The main wall of the exhibit features



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse

Tableaus painted by Ana Holguin.

Killips’ own original work. These pieces were picked out of storage by her husband, Robert, and her brother-in-law and fellow dancer, Lorenzo Lopez.

“She was particularly a graphic designer, but she loved to layer images that reflected her Chicana heritage,” Rosado said.

Rosado enlisted seven other artists, including herself, to round out the rest of “¡Siempre Aquí!” Featured artists Esmeralda Perez Gonzalez and Nora Chapa Mendoza are familiar faces at Casa de Rosado, having had past exhibits of their own at the gallery. “This is really all from decades of working together,” Rosado said.

Other contributing artists include Elton Monroy Duran, Ana Holguin, Diego de Leon and Kimberly Lavon. Holguin crafts vibrant tableaus of celebrities like Freddy Mercury and Dolly Parton, Leon sketches characters with a punk rock edge inspired



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse

Rosa Lopez Killips’ artwork at the Casa de Rosado exhibit “¡Siempre Aquí!”

by the likes of Robert Crumb, Lavon makes linocuts with a hardboiled pop art flavor and Duran is a talented muralist scheduled to lead a Casa de Rosado exhibit of his own in the future. Rosado’s own contributions include her original paintings and miniature coffin sculptures.

“¡Siempre Aquí!” is the first exhibit since Casa de Rosado was closed to the public throughout the coronavirus pandemic. The home was used during this period as a space to tend to Rosado’s late father-in-law, who required at-home care before his death.

“This has been a real transition,” Rosado said.

With October on the horizon, Rosado is preparing for a large Día

de Los Muertos event featuring live entertainment at the One Love Global community center on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Through the remainder of September, Casa de Rosado is hosting sugar skull making classes each Saturday and Sunday. After the holiday, Casa de Rosado will keep the momentum going with even more exhibits.

“After Día de Los Muertos, we have other exhibits slated that we’re working on,” Rosado said. “You’ll see us become a 501c3 next year and get the proper funding for live music and performances and we’ll start to have a budget for a full COVID safety plan, which will allow us to do even more.”

Favorite Things

Tyler Dykema and his electric wheelchair

Tyler Dykema is an author, artist and advocate for accessibility at music venues for people who aren't able-bodied. Dykema has a unique and special relationship with his favorite thing, his electric wheelchair.

When you asked me to be a part of the Favorite Things column, my mind raced around which item to talk about? Maybe my dad's Testament "Souls of Black" tour T-shirt I inherited, maybe my 4-foot sword, maybe my refrigerator that's covered with about a million drawings by my nieces, nephews and my friends' kids. Nah, it had to be my electric wheelchair. Outside of conversations about it with my friends, my chair is rarely seen the way I see it.

I've used electric wheelchairs since I was a kid — it's all I've ever known. My current one is the most special to me so far. Not only is it the most comfortable — it's a perfect fit for my body — but it's also been with me for some of both the toughest and coolest parts of my life. I've had it for just over four years, and the other day the odometer on it rolled over 1,312 miles. That's so much adventuring together. There's a very real bond in that.

It's weird to me how outsiders will medicalize my chair when it honestly just looks so cool. It's undeniable. It's custom black on black-on-black paint and wheels. It's adorned with stickers and pins of all my friends' bands and brands and is entwined with fake flowers from my partner and best friend. While acting as my legs, it doubles as an extension of my daily expression of both my personality and interests. And it has a name, Marquis, after one of my favorite basketball players.

I sit in and roll with Marquis for nearly 16 hours a day, seven days a week. I have made literally



hundreds of pieces of art on this wheeled throne. We've been to over 200 shows together, ranging from house venues and stadiums to weekend tours with buds. That's more than most people's shoes will last.

The scuffs in the paint and the squeaks of the suspension are a testament to what Marquis and I have been through together. In this seat I've experienced deep love and brutal loss. I've had quiet nights in, and reckless nights out spent raging. I get tattoos, Marquis gets coffee spills or new sticker slaps.

To live in an electric wheelchair, it's impossible to not build a relationship with it. It, Marquis, is my friend. We look out for each other. I maintain it with regular cleanings, new tires and batteries. It gets me where I want to be, helps me reach the things I need and supports my body where it can't support itself. For all of that, this divine, punk rock, adaptive object deserves endless love, respect and a shift in how it's viewed. My wheelchair is my favorite thing.

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

Lansterdam

from page 24

givers only be grown indoors and also be tested for product safety at a licensed laboratory. The legislation also sets up a new process for caregivers to sell their overages to licensed retailers and requires the state (and individual municipalities) to sign off on a new "Specialty Medical Grower" license.

The bipartisan bills were introduced by state reps. Jim Lilly, R-Park Township; Ronnie Peterson, D-Ypsilanti; TC Clements, R-Temperance; and Richard Steenland, D-Roseville. If the legislation makes its way out of the House Committee on Regulatory Reform, it will require a supermajority vote among lawmakers because they seek to amend a voter-approved initiative.

The proponents:

The Michigan Cannabis Manufacturers Association, the trade group leading the charge on proposed changes, is led by Steve Linder, a lobbyist and longtime GOP operative with a history of advocating for more stringent cannabis regulations. Among its board of directors are executives with High Life Farms, Skymint, LivWell and Common Citizen, which Linder has described as the "General Motors, Fords and Chryslers" of the weed business.

A public relations firm hired by the MCMA has refused to specifically identify its members.

The new rules are designed to promote safety, transparency and accountability for those participating in the state's regulated cannabis market. They would also "rein in" the unlicensed cannabis industry, which "threatens the health of all Michiganders," Lilly said in a statement.

The bills have also been sold as a way to cut back on "black market" sales, which account for more than \$2 billion

in unreported revenue annually, according to an MCMA-funded study.

The MCMA also funded a recent poll of 577 likely voters that found 82% of respondents had supported additional testing for caregivers, as well as 78% of respondents also supporting subjecting caregivers to the same level of state regulation as medical and recreational retailers.

The opponents:

At least 300 cannabis companies across Michigan have come out swinging against any changes. Several companies have also distanced themselves from the MCMA after its plans went public — including Pleasantrees CEO Randy Buchman, who resigned from its board.

The state Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs is not promoting any changes. The Michigan Cannabis Industry Association (and its 300 members) also vowed in June to oppose the legislation before it was introduced. MCIA Director Robin Schneider said brands affiliated with the MCMA are "idiots" — namely for "spending a bunch of money and trying to ruin other people's lives and your brands simultaneously," she said on an episode of Jazz Cabbage Cafe.

Activists have argued that there is very little (if any) evidence to suggest that untested caregiver-grown pot creates any sort of public health risk. Rick Thompson, owner of the Michigan Cannabis Business Development Group, said the bills were instead motivated by greedy corporate cannabis brands who would rather not have the competition from caregivers.

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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Life of Muhammad Ali gets Ken Burns treatment

By **BILL CASTANIER**

This month on PBS, acclaimed documentary filmmaker Ken Burns takes viewers on a trip inside the heart and soul of Muhammad Ali. The four-part series is available for streaming at PBS.org through Oct. 11.

Ali was a stunning, larger-than-life figure. He lived up to his own hype when he arrived on the national scene after winning a Gold Medal in the 1960 Olympics. He would win his first world heavyweight championship on Feb. 25, 1964, against Sonny Liston — a date I won't forget since it was my 16th birthday.

Two Lansing men, Gregory Eaton, owner of Gregory's Soul Food, and Bob Every, a former boxer and LCC softball coach who heads the Lansing Sports Hall of Fame, have close connections with Ali that they will never forget.

Just inside Gregory's on Lansing's north side is a photo of Eaton as a 24-year-old. Posing with Eaton are Ali — then known as Cassius Clay — Malcolm X and Eaton's uncle Charlie Brown. The photo was taken in Miami

at the Hampton House Hotel in 1964, just before Ali won the heavyweight championship in a fight against Liston. Eaton had accompanied Brown, an avid fight fan, to Miami and they stayed at the Hampton House Hotel, which was one of the few hotels to accept people of color during the Jim Crow era.

As a young Golden Gloves boxer, Bob Every would watch Friday night fights and read books and magazines on boxing to improve his skills. Naturally, Every said he was attracted to the brash boxer who "had more than mouth." In 1970, while banned from boxing due to his refusal to be inducted into the United States Army, Ali went on a speaking tour, which included Michigan State University. Every, who had just taken up photography, snuck backstage at the MSU Auditorium.

"I was standing stage left and Ali just happened to walk off that way. I told him I was a boxer and knew William Beeler, who trained with Ali in Louisville. I realized he could have ignored me and not stopped. After the event, he went backstage where there



Bill Castanier/City Pulse

Gregory Eaton with the photo of him, Muhammad Ali, Malcolm X and his uncle.

was a private reception. I followed him and was stopped at the door. Ali told the doorman to let me in," he said.

The serendipitous meeting led to a lifetime friendship. The two began writing letters back and forth, which continued for decades. Every cherishes the mementos given to him by Ali but cherishes the private times he spent alone with Ali the most.

Like many, I followed Ali's long boxing career and his developing social activism, such as his refusal to be drafted in 1966. I deeply admired his courage and bravado. I admired him from afar, until 1990, when I was in Houston for a friend's wedding, and I ran back to the room for a camera battery.

As I waited for an elevator, the door opened and out stepped Ali with a wide smile on his face. Looking quite confused, he told me he had lost track of his

wife and was searching for her. I said the best thing we could do was sit and wait for her to find him, otherwise they would repeatedly pass each other in the elevators. We sat down and chatted for about 15 minutes, until his wife exited the elevator, relieved to have finally found him.

It's not often you get to thank a major celebrity for their contributions, but there I was. I told Ali that without his refusal to be drafted and the 1971 Supreme Court decision, which allowed conscientious objector status for philosophical reasons, I probably would have moved to Canada. I said, "Thank you" and just like that, he said, "You're welcome."

Ali died in 2016 from complications due to Parkinsons Disease, but he will always be "The Greatest."

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Big theater plans for the small town of Williamston

By **DAVID WINKELSTERN**

Williamston Theatre has finally revealed its 2021-'22 season. This year, the small-town company known for its Big-city productions is giving audiences a lineup comprised of five very different plays.

"We've learned from our audience and artists that that they're hungry for live theater again, and that they're willing to take the necessary safety precautions," Williamston Theatre artistic director Tony Caselli said. "And I love the lineup of productions we're sharing with our patrons this year."

"Being in a room with each other and experiencing these things together is a communal experience that cultivates joy, builds empathy, builds community and brings us together in ways that can be life-changing," Caselli said.

Williamston's staff is vaccinated, and patrons must either be vaccinated or have proof of a recent COVID test. Masks will be mandatory. Expect intense cleanings between shows and air purifiers and hand sanitizer in the lobbies.

"Our HVAC has been updated with special ion wave technology for killing viruses and improved air circulation in the theater space," Caselli said.

With all that in place, Steve Murray's theatrical version of "It's a Wonderful Life," runs Nov. 18 through Dec. 19. Broadcasts of the 1946 Frank Capra movie version starring Jimmy Stewart is still a Christmas tradition.

"This Wonderful Life" will be Williamston's first live show since Caselli directed "900 Miles to International Falls" in February 2020. John Lepard will reprise his role as George Bailey.

Heather Raffo's "9 Parts of Desire" runs from Jan. 27 until the end of February. The one-woman show features Sarab Kamoo detailing the lives of nine Iraqi women during decades

of American occupation. The play reveals what it's like to be a woman in a country overshadowed by war.

"The Cake," by Bekka Brunstetter, hits the stage in March and April and promises to be a funny and emotional play. It tells the story of Delta, a religiously conservative woman from North Carolina known for her baking. She is forced to reexamine her marriage beliefs and for once, she must decide on her own.

Caselli returns to directing for Stephen Kaplan's "Tracy Jones." The comedic play about a lonely woman with an outrageous plan has touching and chaotic moments. The May-June showing of "Tracy Jones" is a world premiere.

"I'm always particularly fond of our world premieres," Caselli said. "It's exciting to have a hand in bringing to life something that has never existed before to add to the America theater canon."

The July-August production of "The Hat Box" is another world premiere. John Lepard will direct the Eric Coble comedy about a hidden box that takes two sisters on a crazy and nostalgic

ride filled with unexpected twists and turns.

Williamston's last production to yield revenue was a streamed version of "These Mortal Hosts" in April 2020. "Fortunately, we were able to get some survival grants from the government," Caselli said. "And our patrons have been generous during the pandemic. We have not been idle the last 18 months. We've been strategizing and making careful decisions to ensure a safe reopening."

New seats have been installed in the theater and the ticket system has been upgraded. A new website is also about to be launched. Building renovations are ongoing.

"We recognize that our place in the community is an important one and

Check out Williamston Theatre's full schedule at williamstontheatre.org/ 2021-2022-season

we're honored to be charged with providing unique communal storytelling experiences," Caselli said.

Like most area theater companies, a false start would be devastating to Williamston.

"Most of us don't have the resources to survive a second shutdown," Caselli said. "All the theaters trying to reopen have to be fluid and flexible as we can in order to survive."

When asked if Williamston had a "Plan-B" if new restrictions are put in place, he knew what to say. "We've gone through the alphabet about two and a half times with new plans since the pandemic began," Caselli said. "I think we're on Plan Q-3, now."



Williamston Theater Artistic Director Tony Caselli.

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TOP OF THE TOWN 2021 IS ON



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VOTING ENDS SEPT. 28



Shelby & Jake

**Thank you for your consideration
In the 2021 City Pulse FOX47 Top of the Town Contest!**

Your Votes Are Appreciated!

Say Hello

Friday, October 15th • Beerfest at the Ballpark 6-7:30pm

Saturday, October 23rd • Uncle John's 1-4pm

Sunday October 24th • Uncle John's 1-4pm



shelbyandjake.com



Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Home Repairs"—visiting some unusual places.

by Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Submarine acronym
- 6 Batting game for little kids
- 11 Cousin in 2021's "The Addams Family 2"
- 14 "Fingers crossed"
- 15 Vietnamese capital
- 16 Pasture grazer
- 17 Replaces, as with a charged battery
- 19 Local response to "Want some Irr-Bru?"; perhaps
- 20 Android alternative for smartphones
- 21 Doctor who's a playable character in "Overwatch"
- 22 Choir member
- 24 "Let's get together sometime"
- 29 "That's the one"
- 30 Was on the radio
- 31 Actress Menzel of "Wicked"
- 34 Not well
- 36 Singer Rita
- 39 More than enough at the buffet
- 43 Come-____ (enticements)
- 44 Princess in L. Frank Baum books
- 45 Bug persistently
- 46 Like TV's "Batman"
- 49 Buffoon
- 50 They may involve blue material
- 56 Not fully upright
- 57 Org. for Pelicans and Hawks
- 58 Losing tic-tac-toe line
- 60 Seafood restaurant freebie
- 61 Major book publishing company (or what the

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60				61	62	63			64	65		
66				67					68			
69				70					71			

- circled squares contain)
- 66 Easy "Card Sharks" card to play from
- 67 "The Beverly Hillbillies" star Buddy
- 68 Poe's middle name
- 69 "Totally tubular"
- 70 Causing jumpiness, maybe
- 71 Ibsen heroine Gabler
- 10 Roadside rubbish
- 11 Complaint that may prompt words of encouragement
- 12 "Happy Birthday ____"
- 13 Annoying sibling, maybe
- 18 Some insurance groups, for short
- 23 Letters on a wide wedge, maybe
- 25 "Auld Lang ____"
- 26 Pick up aurally
- 27 Country cottage, in Russia
- 28 M as in NATO?
- 31 "Where did ____ wrong?"
- 32 Home refuge
- 33 Put a message on, as jewelry
- 34 Hostess snack cake
- 35 Philosophy suffix
- 37 "Messenger" material
- 38 Competition hosted by Terry Crews, for short
- 40 Faux pas comment
- 41 Grateful Dead bass guitarist Phil
- 42 El ____ TX
- 47 Word before hours or fours
- 48 Units to measure London's Shard, e.g.
- 49 " ____ !!" ("Same here!")
- 50 Title elephant of children's lit
- 51 City on the Mohawk River
- 52 Preposition with mistletoe?
- 53 John H. Johnson's magazine
- 54 "What ____ it take?"
- 55 "A pity"
- 59 TV's "Warrior Princess"
- 62 "Supermarket Sweep" network
- 63 Codebreaking org.
- 64 "Likely story!"
- 65 Stadium chant for Marta, e.g.

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Answers on page 33

SUDOKU

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TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 33

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

September 22-28, 2021

ARIES (March 21–April 19): Aries author Steve Maraboli says, "The best way to love someone is not to change them, but instead, help them reveal the greatest version of themselves." If that strategy appeals to you, the next eight weeks will be an excellent time to put it to maximum use. You're entering a phase when you can have an especially beneficial effect on people you care for. You'll be at peak power to help them unleash dormant potentials and access untapped resources.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): It's a good time to ruminate about things you wish could be part of your life but aren't. You will be wise to develop a more conscious relationship with wistful fantasies about impossible dreams. Here's one reason why this is true: You might realize that some seemingly impossible dreams aren't so impossible. To get in the mood for this fun exercise, meditate on a sample reverie: "I wish I could spend a whole day discovering new music to love. I wish I owned a horse and a boat and a vintage brown and orange striped bohemian cardigan sweater from the 1970s. I wish I knew the names of all the flowers. I wish I felt more at ease about revealing my hidden beauty. I wish I could figure out how to eliminate unnecessary stress from my life."

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): Poet, essayist, and translator Anne Carson calls her husband Robert Currie the "Randomizer." His role in her life as a creative artist is to make quirky recommendations that help her avoid being too predictable. He sends her off in directions she wouldn't have imagined by herself. Here's an example: At one point in her career, Carson confessed she was bored with her writing. The Randomizer suggested, "Let's put dancers into it." In response, she repurposed the sonnets she had been working on into a live theatrical performance featuring many dancers. I think you would benefit from having a Randomizer in your life during the coming weeks. Know anyone who could serve? If not, look for one. Or be your own Randomizer.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): If you so desired, you could travel to Munich, Germany and eat beer-flavored ice cream. Or you could go to Rehoboth, Delaware and get bacon-flavored ice cream. If you were in Taiwan, you could enjoy pineapple shrimp ice cream, and if you were in London, you could sample haggis-flavored ice cream, made from sheep innards. But my advice right now is to stick with old reliables like chocolate, vanilla, and strawberry ice cream—which are still delicious even if they're not exotic. What's my reasoning? In general, the astrological aspects suggest that during the coming weeks, you're most likely to thrive on trustworthy standbys and experiences you know and trust.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): Celebrated novelist Jane Austen (1775–1817) wrote, "Sometimes I have kept my feelings to myself, because I could find no language to describe them in." People who aren't as articulate as Austen experience that problem even more often than she did. But the good news, Leo, is that in the coming weeks, you'll be extra skillful at expressing your feelings and thoughts—even those that in the past have been difficult to put into words. I invite you to take maximum advantage of this grace period. Communicate with hearty poise and gleeful abandon.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): "When you know what's important, it's a lot easier to ignore what's not," writes author and life coach Marie Forleo. Let's make her thought the basis of your work and play in the coming weeks. Get vibrantly clear on what is of supreme value to you, which influences bring out the best in you, and which people make it easy for you to be yourself. Then compose a second list of trivial situations that are of minor interest, influences that make you feel numb, and people who don't fully appreciate you. Next, Virgo, formulate long-term plans to phase out the things in the second list as you increasingly emphasize your involvement in the pleasures named in the first list.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): Happy Birthday sometime soon, Libra! As gifts, I have collected six useful mini-oracles for you to meditate on during the rest of 2021. They're all authored by Libran aphorist Yahia Lababidi. 1. Hope is more patient than despair and so outlasts it. 2. Miracles are proud creatures; they will not reveal themselves to those who do not believe. 3. A good listener is one who helps us overhear ourselves. 4. One definition of success might be refining our appetites, while deepening our hunger. 5. With enigmatic clarity, life gives us a different answer each time we ask her the same question. 6. Temptation: seeds we are forbidden to water, that are showered with rain.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): Pioneering psychologist Carl Jung wrote, "I must also have a dark side if I am to be whole." But it's important to add that some dark sides tend to be destructive and demoralizing, while other dark sides are fertile and interesting. Most of us have a share of each. My reading of the planetary omens suggests that you Scorpios now have extra power to upgrade your relationship with the fertile and interesting aspects of your dark side. I hope you will take advantage! You have a ripe opportunity to deepen and expand your wholeness.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): Sagittarian poet Rainer Maria Rilke was a complicated person with many mysterious emotions and convoluted thoughts. And yet, he once wrote that life occasionally brought him "boundless simplicity and joy." I find it amazing he could ever welcome such a state. Kudos to him! How about you, dear Sagittarius? Are you capable of recognizing when boundless simplicity and joy are hovering in your vicinity, ready for you to seize them? If so, be extra alert in the next two weeks. I expect there'll be a visitation or two. Maybe even three or four.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): Baltasar Gracián was not a 21st-century New Age self-help teacher. He was a 17th-century Jesuit philosopher born under the sign of serious, diligent Capricorn. I hope you will be extra receptive to his advice in the coming weeks. He wrote, "Know your key qualities, your outstanding gifts. Cultivate them. Redouble their use." Among the key qualities he gave as examples were disciplined discernment and resilient courage. I bring his thoughts to your attention because the coming weeks will be a rousing time to heed his counsel. It's time for you to identify and celebrate and give abundant expression to your key qualities.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): After studying the genes that create feathers in birds, scientists found that humans have all the necessary genes to grow feathers. (I read about it in "National Geographic" magazine.) So why don't we grow feathers, then? Well, it's complicated. Basically, the feather-making genes are not fully activated. Who knows? Maybe someday, there'll be technology that enables us to switch on those genes and sprout plumage. I bet my Aquarian friend Jessie, whose body has 30 tattoos and 17 piercings, would take advantage. In the coming weeks, it might be fun for you to imagine having bird-like qualities. You're entering a high-flying phase—a time for ascension, expansion, soaring, and seeing the big picture from lofty vantage points.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): Are there sensual and erotic acts you've never tried and are curious about? Are there experimental approaches on the frontier of your desires that would be intriguing to consider? Might there be lusty experiences you've barely imagined or don't know about—but that could be fun to play with? According to my analysis of the astrological omens, the coming weeks will be a favorable time to explore such possibilities. Be safe and prudent, of course. Don't be irresponsible or careless. But also be willing to expand your notions of your sexuality.

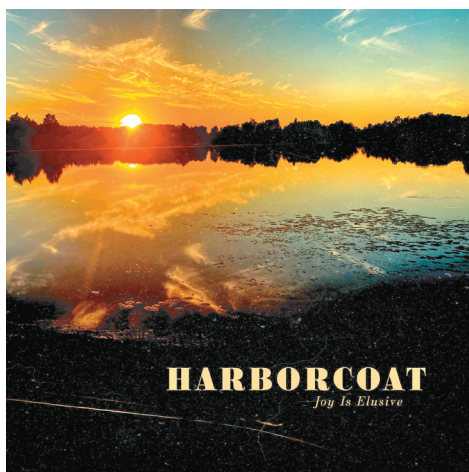
Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsky's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.

TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

Q&A: MATT CARLSON TALKS NEW HARBORCOAT ALBUM



Matt Carlson, also of The Stick Arounds, has a new Harborcoat LP, "Joy is Elusive." (Photos by Michael Boyes)

'Joy Is Elusive' LP features all-star Lansing lineup

Matthew Carlson, the chief songwriter in Harborcoat, is a familiar face in the Lansing music scene. For more than a decade, he led The Pantones, and he currently is a member of The Stick Arounds — a genuine power-pop band.

Beyond that, the singer/guitarist also recently formed Phonophore Record and is getting set to release Harborcoat's sophomore LP, "Joy Is Elusive," on CD and deluxe blue vinyl. Locals can pick it up at the Oct. 2 album release show at The Avenue Café.

Harborcoat, which Carlson formed in 2016, also comprises drummer Joel Kuiper, Johnny Aimcrier (guitar, lap steel), David Baldwin (guitar, keys, trumpet), Nate Moore (keys, mandolin) and bassist Ian Walker. Fans of early R.E.M., Wilco, Teenage Fanclub or Billy Bragg might want to check out this steadily growing catalog.

City Pulse recently caught up with Carlson.

You've said these songs "don't fit" with The Stick Arounds. How are they different?

These stories feel much more personal and specific than the Sticks songs. I think of the Harborcoat stuff as short stories with chords. The songs on the record were really all built around the theme of joy being elusive and difficult to see. They're about people who are often unseen or invisible. People living on the edges of society, often chiseling out meager lives filled with

self-medication, depression, anxiety and a lack of hope.

While these songs are fictional, they're based in part on my own experiences with mental illness and living a life in a small Midwestern town where lots of folks are leading lives like the ones described in the songs. Sonically, there is a lot more ground being covered than on most of the Sticks recordings. This band is a six-piece outfit, and we have textures galore. On the recording, and even in a live setting, there are keys, mandolin, lap steel, horns and layers of harmonies. As a player, the album, and our live show, feels like a pretty immersive experience. I hope we can make the audience feel that way as well.

Given the pandemic, was this batch of songs affected by that mess at all?

The songs themselves really weren't informed by the pandemic in terms of themes or structure. The themes were pretty well defined before lockdown occurred. However, working from home for months on end allowed me the time to write for longer periods each day and gave me a chance to really focus on the structure and contents of each tune.

Lockdown did severely affect our ability to rehearse and record the album. By July of 2020 we managed to find a way for three of us to get together at a time and work out the bare bones of the songs. Then, we made plans to record at my family's cabin for a week

in September as a four piece. A few weeks before our scheduled recording date, my dad died very suddenly. That of course threw everything into chaos and there was a period of time where it looked like we'd have to abandon things for a while.

What inspired you to keep working on the record?

Thankfully, my family and friends convinced me to follow through and spend the week recording. That week was a huge relief in so many ways. It felt great to be creating something with people I love at a time when the world felt filled with loss and fear. I'm not sure if the average listener can hear the dimensions of grief and gratitude on the finished recording, but those of us who were there, you can feel it in the corners of the recordings.

Looking back, when and where did you first start playing and writing music?

I was a late bloomer with musicianship. I didn't end up really learning guitar until I was like 20. What really motivated me was the desire to write my own songs. I'd grown up listening to a lot of '60s folk — like Donovan, Dylan and Simon & Garfunkel. Of course, The Beatles loomed large as well, but it was really Billy Bragg and R.E.M. that made me believe I could do it for myself.

Almost as soon as I had learned how to play a few basic songs, I was writing my own. Looking back nearly 30 years later, they seem pretty childish and sim-

ple, but it was a huge step to have the confidence and ability to bring a new thing into the world that hadn't existed before I wrote it. There was something almost magical to it.

Over the past year you've been growing your label, Phonophore — what's next?

We have a few irons in the fire. In addition to the Harborcoat album, there will be new Stick Arounds material in 2022. Jeff from the Sticks has a solo country project he'll be releasing sometime next year and we're set up to release some stuff in the coming months with The Royal Scene. We're always talking to our friends and colleagues looking for how we can help.

I'd also mention to anyone reading this that even a small purchase from a local or regional band that you dig makes a huge difference. Buy a digital record. Pick up a T-shirt at the show. Every dollar makes an impact. Capitalism is kind of gross, but without that income we can't keep making records and playing gigs. The scene needs you. Do what you can to help.

Harborcoat
"Joy is Elusive" Release Show
 w/ Drinking Mercury, Flatfoot.
 The Avenue Café
 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
 Saturday, Oct. 2
 8 p.m., FREE
phonophorerecords.com

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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.



Brad Wenzel at the Salsa Parlor

Saturday, Sept. 25, 9 p.m.

The Salsa Parlor

\$10 suggested donation

1101 Burcham Drive, East Lansing

[Facebook.com/SalsaParlor](https://www.facebook.com/SalsaParlor)

The Salsa Parlor is a raucous comedy venue that's operated out of the living room of an East Lansing house that's occupied by a group of aspiring local standup comedians. Gigs at The Salsa Parlor tend to have a house party atmosphere, thanks to the relaxed setting and the choice of pizza and beer for the audience.

This time around, The Salsa Parlor has booked comedian Brad Wenzel. Wenzel is making a name for himself in the national comedy scene after cutting his teeth in Detroit and moving to Los Angeles. He has since made three appearances on CONAN and has released an album, "Sweet Nothings," on Jack White's label Third Man Records. Wenzel is known for his non-sequitur style of joke telling, offbeat one-liners and unassuming presence.

Wednesday, September 22

Allen Farmers Market - Allen Farmers Market from 2:30-7 p.m. at 2100 E Michigan Ave. 517-999-3911.

Birds of a Feather Art Show by Rebecca Case - through Sept. 27. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Framer's Edge and Gallery, 1856 W. Grand River Ave, Okemos. 517-347-7400. framersedge.net.

Music at the Market Concert Series - Free. 6-8 p.m. 1995 Central Park Dr., Okemos. meridian.mi.us.

PeaceQuest Greater Lansing 2021 - a community-wide celebration in the Greater Lansing area, through Sept. 29. For locations and times, go to peacequestgreaterlansing.org or call 517-896-2834.

Poetry Book Launch of A Fine Yellow Dust by Laura Apol - 6:30-7:30 p.m. Erickson Hall, 620 Farm Lane, East Lansing.

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

Wheel of the Year: Mabon - In-person or on Zoom for a discussion of Mabon on the Wheel of the Year, as well as preparation for Saturday's ritual. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Weavers of the Web, ATC, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

Thursday, September 23

Cristo Rey Church - Food Booth Fundraiser - 3-7 p.m. South Lansing Farmers Market, 800 W. Barnes St., Lansing.

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

Haiti Baby Box & Soaring Unlimited Benefit Rummage & Bake Sale - 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Sheet Metal Workers Association Hall, 4931 Contec Drive, Lansing. 517-214-7517.

Ladies Silver Blades Skating Club - 9:30-11:30 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. ladiessilverblades.org.

REACH Virtual Meet-up: Arts Incubator for Young People - Sara Gothard. 4-5 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

Sara/Eli @REACH - 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

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

Friday, September 24

Grand Opening of Funny Is Funny Comedy Club - Special event with "Tony Roberts Live" Two shows. One night only. 10:30-11:59 p.m. Greenwood District Studios/Funny is Funny Comedy Club, 921 Mall Drive

W. (former Lansing Mall Cinema), Lansing. 517-449-3866. funnyisfunnycomedyclub.com.

Haiti Baby Box & Soaring Unlimited Benefit Rummage & Bake Sale - 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Sheet Metal Workers Association Hall, 4931 Contec Drive, Lansing. 517-214-7517.

Spartan Upcycle Fridays: Junk Journals - drop in to the Art Lab and create your own custom junk journal. 12-6 p.m. MSU Broad Art Lab, 565 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. broad.msu.edu

TGIF Weekly Friday Dance - All welcome! 7 p.m. Hawk Hollow Golf Banquet Center, 15101 Chandler Rd., Bath. 734-604-5095. tgifdance.com.

Yellow Room Gang - 7:30-10 p.m. University United Methodist Church (UUMC), 1120 S. Harrison, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Saturday, September 25

All Holiday Sale - 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Okemos Masonic Center, 2175 Hamilton Rd., Okemos. 517-999-3089.

Bottom of the Hill Blues Festival - 4-11 p.m. Twilligers Tavern, 116 E. Grand River, Laingsburg. 517-651-9911.

Brewtoberfest at LBC - The ultimate autumn celebration is BACK! Drink Oktoberfest, don your lederhosen, & rock out to live polka music during Brewtoberfest 2021! 3-10 p.m. Lansing Brewing Company, 518 E.

Shiawassee St., Lansing. 517-371-2600.

Family Deal Drives for Impression 5 - 8 a.m. LaFontaine Buick GMC of Lansing, 3625 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing.

Haiti Baby Box & Soaring Unlimited Benefit Rummage & Bake Sale - 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Sheet Metal Workers Association Hall, 4931 Contec Drive, Lansing. 517-214-7517.

Mabon Ritual - Celebrate the Second Harvest with Weavers of the Web with a feast, ritual, and silent auction! 4-9 p.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mt. Hope, Lansing. 517-483-4224. weaversoftheweb.org.

Mason Farmer's Market - 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Austin Park pavilion, 300 block W. Ash St., Mason. business.masonchamber.org.

Michigan Anishinaabe Heritage Day - Celebrates Michigan's rich Anishinaabe/Indigenous history and culture, past and present. 10 a.m. Michigan Historical Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo, Lansing. michigan.org.

Waverly Class of 1981 Reunion - 6-11 p.m. Country Club of Lansing, 2200 Moores River Dr., Lansing.

World Rhino Day - Join us in celebrating the 12th annual World Rhino Day at Potter Park Zoo! 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301

Events

from page 32

S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing. 517-483-4222. potterparkzoo.org.

Sunday, September 26

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

Embroidery Workshop: Interdisciplinary lecture and workshop will highlight ways artists meld old and new technologies. MSU Broad Art Lab, 565 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu/artlab

Lansing Out of the Darkness Walk - 1 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Adado Riverfront Park, 201 E Shiawassee St, Lansing. afsp.org.

Public Philosophy Journal: Respond to Incarceration in the US, Session I. Drop-in workshop for community members. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu

Sacred Geometry Workshop with Mel Hill - Learn how the underlying forms of nature are represented geometrically and how to apply them to your mandalas, 3-5 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540.

Monday, September 27

Comedy Night - 9-11:30 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. crunchyseastlansing.com.

Tuesday, September 28

Alan Hewitt & One Nation - 7-10 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner Street, Lansing. 517-214-2149. www.facebook.com.

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

Paint a Pot, Plant a Lily - 6-8 p.m. Old Chicago, 1938 West Grand Avenue, Okemos. 517-220-0058. paintyourpoison.com.

Williamston Alley Fest - featuring art, crafts, food and live music, held in the Alley next to D&W Fresh Market in Williamston.

Youth Arts Alliance Cyanotype Workshop - 90-minute cyanotype workshop. MSU Broad Art Lab, 565 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu/artlab



As Seen On the Cover of CityPulse

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SUDOKU SOLUTION
From Pg. 30

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION
From Pg. 30

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employee owned | established 1917

MT. HOPE MONUMENT

LORRI MILLER

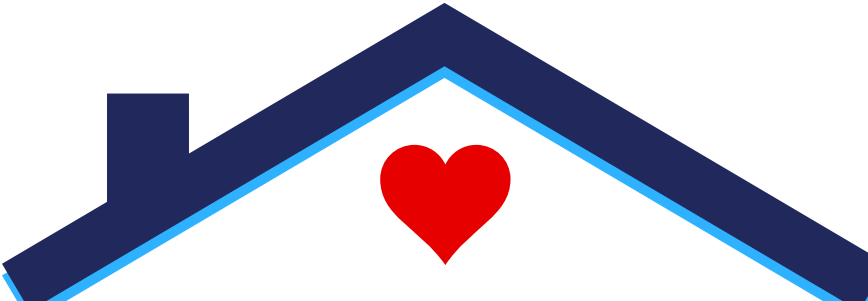
“The Granite Lady”

2529 E. Mt. Hope Ave.
Lansing

One mile east of Pennsylvania on Mt. Hope

(517) 482-6266

mt-hopemonument.com



KEEP YOUR HOME

RENT, MORTGAGE & UTILITIES RELIEF FOR INGHAM COUNTY RESIDENTS

BEHIND ON YOUR RENT, MORTGAGE OR UTILITIES?

Help is available to eligible Ingham County residents who have fallen behind on their rent, mortgage or utilities as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information and to apply, contact Holy Cross Services at (517) 657-8145.

APPLICATION MATERIALS AVAILABLE ONLINE:


Renters:
ceraapp.michigan.gov

Homeowners:
capitalareahousing.org/pandemic-relief

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

Advent House Ministries
Capital Area Housing Partnership
Holy Cross Services
Ingham County

Legal Services of South Central Michigan
Michigan State Housing Development Authority
City of East Lansing
City of Lansing



FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

The crab crawl

By **GABRIELLE LAWRENCE**

“Don’t be scared. Jump in.” If I were the proprietor of a seafood restaurant, I would strongly consider these words as my tagline.

As it stands, I work in an office, but these words can apply to so many different situations. Maybe you are writing your first restaurant review after an 18-month hiatus, when many of your favorite places closed their doors for good, the country mercifully got a new president, and you got a new job and a new writing co-contributor. I have known Bryan Beverly for more than 20 years and he and I have enjoyed so many meals together, in restaurants, in board rooms and in our own homes. I’m excited to work with him in a new capacity and keep having fun together.

Throughout the pandemic, we saw so many food trends. Banana bread, sourdough, Dalgona coffee (not recommended), birria tacos, hot chocolate bombs and all kind of bowls: grain bowls, protein bowls, horrifying KFC copycat fried chicken bowls. Locally, we’ve seen a trend that I did not see coming and that continues to titillate and confuse me — seafood restaurants that specialize in crab boils. Don’t know what that means? Dive in. (See what I did there?)

Seafood boils originated in the Louisiana Gulf or South Carolina Lowcountry areas. Large stockpots are filled with corn on the cob, red potatoes and a variety of sausage and seafood, and frequently spiced with Old Bay seasoning and other Creole flavors. The restaurant version includes kicking this delicious concoction up a notch and smothering everything in a butter sauce, customizable as to your preferred flavor and spiciness level.

For our visit to the Ocean Crab, we chose a combination of headless, shell-on shrimp and black mussels. The boil also included a half ear of corn and redskin potato per person. I have made seafood boils in the past and have always discarded the watery, flavorless liquid base that the food was prepared in, and this garlic butter base was an unexpected bonus. Not to put too fine a point on it, the garlic butter base was begging to be sopped up with a crusty baguette. My



Lawrence

preferred method of mainlining the liquid was to pick up a mussel shell, eat the mussel, then use the empty shell to scoop up more melted butter and deliver it to myself.

The next week, we visited Tangy Crab and included king crab legs in our boil. Tangy Crab is on the west side of Lansing, across the street from Horrocks and in the same location that used to house a T.G.I. Friday’s. If those walls could talk, they would tell you that I used to spend Friday evenings there with my high school girlfriends eating Oreo Madness desserts and Jack Daniel’s chicken, because what is more fun than going to T.G.I. Friday’s on Friday night when you are 17? Nothing.

Our final leg on this crab crawl sent us to Crazy Crab, and the mix this time included crab legs and shrimp. To be honest, all three stops on the tour left us wondering why we didn’t eat seafood boils more frequently, as they are delicious and fun. The corn was chronically overcooked, and I could eat more corn and potatoes and imagine that would be a relatively inexpensive way for the restaurant to bulk up the dish a bit more. The menu at the Crazy Crab left me wanting more, and I intend to go back and sample some stir-fries and a lobster tail combination boil.

In these days when it’s so important to support local businesses, but many of us are still hesitant to engage in potentially risky behavior, finding fun activities to do at home can be challenging. These restaurants are great at packaging take-out orders to minimize mess and at walking you through questions on the menu. When COVID is a thing of the past, I propose a citywide giant seafood boil at Rotary Park. I’ll bring the baguettes.

By **BRYAN BEVERLY**

I love seafood. It’s my absolute favorite. So, when I learned that our first She Ate/He Ate assignment would be a crab crawl, I was beyond excited. Yes, I have dined

at a few crab boil establishments in Washington, D.C., and Las Vegas, but I had never been to any local Lansing restaurants. While three crab boils in a month might seem rather daunting, particularly for any sane person’s cholesterol levels, I was more than happy to take one for the team.

My approach to the crawl was straightforward. I would order a boil with similar ingredients at each one, with the only change being the heat level in the boil, which I based on my dining partner’s tolerance. I also planned to enjoy some of the individual specialties they offer. For the crab boils, I ordered snow crab legs, lobster tails, head off shrimp, sausage, corn and potatoes. While I know many believe that traditional seafood boils must include crawfish, clams or a particular

crab, I recognize these beliefs are rooted in regional preferences — typically Gulf Coast, Carolina Lowcountry, Chesapeake or New England. I’m happy to share that no matter your personal preference, nearly every place along our crawl offered options to satisfy.

My overall favorite was Ocean Crab. The restaurant had a clean and spacious setting, and the wait staff was helpful. I ordered the Ocean 3 boil, which had the ingredients I was seeking. The boil arrived so quickly that I barely had time to enjoy the tasty appetizers — Ocean Juicy Wings and calamari, both of which were battered and fried nicely. My companion ordered the catfish and shrimp basket, which came out with three pieces



Beverly

of fish. As the waitress was setting it on the table, she stated that the chef wasn’t pleased with the size of one of the pieces and was frying another piece, which also arrived quite promptly. The Ocean 3 was delicious, with crab legs cooked to perfection — you can crack them and pull the meat out in a single piece. The Ocean Juicy sauce is a combination of all the other options: butter, garlic, lemon, pepper and Cajun seasoning. I was grateful for the provided bib because I wanted to dive right into it. Eventually, my face, hands and the mountain of used napkins told a tale of a happy diner.

Coming in second was Crazy Crab, tucked into a mini mall on South Waverly Road. Although not very focused on the dining atmosphere, Crazy Crab concentrated on its colossal menu. There is something for everyone at Crazy Crab: boils, fried food and Asian-inspired dishes. My dining companion and I tried a little of everything. The catfish and shrimp basket arrived with a nice cornmeal crust, it wasn’t too heavy or greasy. The house fried rice was rather basic, with subdued flavors. The star of this show was the Crazy Boil, with garlic butter sauce and mild heat. The crab itself was a bit overcooked — the meat nearly crumbled when I cracked a leg, but the flavor was amazing. The single best bite of all the visits was the corn in this boil — savory and sweet at the same time in the best way. The sauce almost made me forget that they forgot the sausage.

Tangy Crab took last place. It has managed to replicate the sensory overload décor of the former T.G.I. Friday’s, but with a nautical theme. My companions and I planned to enjoy both boils and some fried fare. The Old Bay fried wings were delicious all by their lonesome, as were the brown sugar and cinnamon sweet potato waffle fries. The single saddest bite came from the soggy Krab Fries. This dish uses imitation crab, despite pictures on the menu suggesting they come from the real thing. The Juicy Special boil was solid, but rather uninspiring. The crab legs and lobster tails were all cooked nicely, but the seasoned garlic butter with medium heat lacked the creole or Old Bay punch of the other boils.

The crab crawl was an overall success, I’m sure my blood still has a tinge of garlic butter in it.

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Espresso exceptionalism

By **ARI LeVAUX**

When I go to the coffee shop, it's usually not for the coffee. Only one or two spots in town can brew a better cup than I. They have expensive, well-maintained espresso machines, carefully roasted beans and baristas who know



how to shoot a shot. But unless they are on top of their game, I can still out

brew them with my stovetop Moka pot.

My snobbery translates into money in the bank, because my level of consumption would cost about \$10 per day at the espresso bar, while I can stay properly caffeinated at home for about \$15 per week.

I respect the gentle complexity of a pour-over and the thick intensity of the French press, but espresso is exactly what I want in a sip of coffee. The flavor is clean and sharp, and a little goes a long way. I drink the other stuff too quickly, but espresso is strong enough to slow me down. I'll nurse my little cup

for hours, sometimes adding a little hot water. With a price point in the mid-two-figures, a Moka pot pays for itself in about a week in my house.

If the home barista plays their grounds right, the final teaspoons of espresso will emerge with a golden foam of small bubbles called crema. It has a sharp, velvety flavor and appears when you have just the right amount of heat, pressure and steam in the coffee grounds.

A Moka pot espresso maker consists of three pieces: a lower chamber, to which you add water, a filter basket in the middle, where the grounds go, and a collection chamber on top, which has a spout in the middle from where the espresso and crema bubble through.

The ideal cup of coffee happens when just the right number of grounds are confronted with just the right amount of water, and a small dark shot ends with a flurry of crema. Too much water and crema will be followed by a blast of weak, off-tasting coffee, as steam continues to rush through the spent grounds. Too many grounds in the filter basket and steam won't be able to push through, and so much pressure will



Courtesy of Ari LeVaux

Ari LeVaux uses a Moka pot setup to brew delicious gourmet coffee at home.

build in the lower chamber that a little valve will hiss steam as the over-packed grounds burn in the filter basket. The second half of the coffee is full of bad flavors, and nothing good.

Good espresso depends on fine, evenly ground coffee beans, and the best way to obtain them is to grind your own immediately before brewing. Whether you want a coarse grind for a French press, a medium grind for drip coffee maker or a finely ground espresso, consistent particle size will make your equipment run properly. If you're using the all-too-common spinning blade type of grinder, you might as well be bonking your beans with a frying pan. The only type of grinder to consider is a burr grinder, which crushes the beans to a uniform size between spinning metal spools. Otherwise, you might as well get your coffee at the gas station.

My Baratza Virtuoso burr grinder lists for \$250 and is worth every penny. The Cuisinart it replaced was loud and awkward, but basically got the job done. Hand-held burr grinders, which can grind as well as my Virtuoso, start at about \$15. That spinning blade grinder is great for grinding spices, so you don't have to throw it away.

As for the beans themselves, you need a local roaster, preferably with skills. You want to grind and brew your coffee

within two weeks of when the beans are roasted, so freshness is of the essence. I like a lighter roast than most, and Kat McCamant of Fire Ridge Coffee Roasting in Missoula, Montana, is a genius with delicately roasted Ethiopian and Central American beans that make my Moka pot sing.

My current Moka pot and two exes have all been different sizes, but they all make the best coffee with about half the recommended amount of water. In my Bonvivo, I use a tad less than a cup of water and three tablespoons of fine grounds, loosely added. I recommend the same ratio for larger or smaller amounts of water. For a more intense concentrated shot, use even less water — as little as a half-cup per three tablespoons of grounds. This is a very efficient use of coffee — a \$12 pound of beans will make about 20 cups per week.

As it heats, watch the little espresso machine like a hawk. The first fluid to emerge will be diluted like cola but will soon darken. When you see that golden crema, it's basically done. Turn off the heat and wait until the bubbling stops.

After pouring the coffee, add some water to the collection chamber to prevent buildup. Enjoy your smooth, strong, beautiful cup of coffee. Rinse. Regrind. Repeat.

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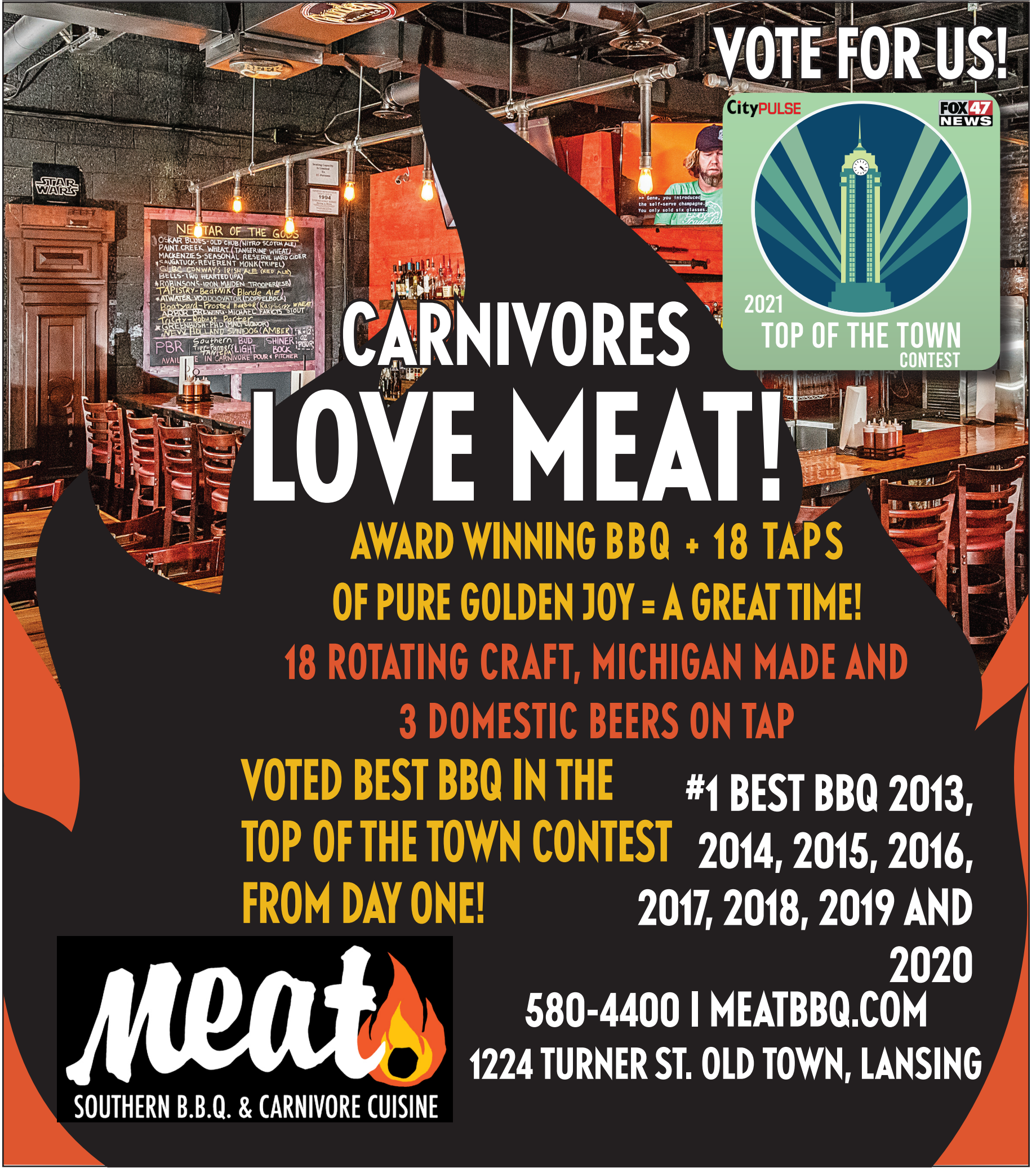
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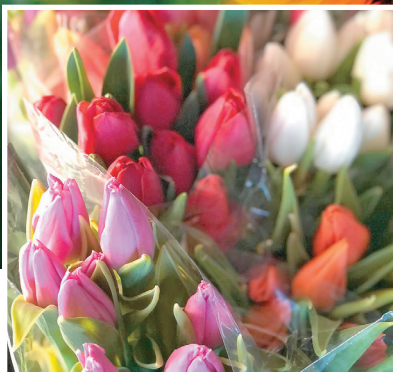
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