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## GROWING THE ECONOMY

Lansing's blossoming marijuana business

See Page 12

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# CityPULSE

**VOL. 19  
ISSUE 51**

(517) 371-5600 • Fax: (517) 999-6061 • 1905 E. Michigan Ave. • Lansing, MI 48912 • www.lansingcitypulse.com



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**Cover Art**

Photo by Lawrence Cosentino

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## THIS MODERN WORLD

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by TOM TOMORROW

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THIS NATION IS UNDER **SIEGE**, CHET! WHAT MORE IMPORTANT IN AMERICA RIGHT NOW THAN PROTECTING OUR **STATUES**?

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YOU'LL MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN **AGAIN**, SIR!

**NEXT** HEY WHITE-HAIRED GUY! "PERSON, WOMAN, MAN, CAMERA, **TEEVEE**!"

HOW DO YOU **DO** IT, SIR?

TOM TOMORROW © 2020



# Swope rocking the vote

Every once in a while, an elected official comes along who does their job with a compelling combination of humility, humor, common sense and stone cold competence. In Lansing, that official is City Clerk Chris Swope. On the eve of the primary election, in the thick of a global pandemic, Clerk Swope is ready for anything voters may throw at his office next Tuesday and again in November. At a time when we all have a lot to worry about, the integrity of our local elections is not one of them, thanks to Chris and his talented team of election administrators.

First elected by Lansing voters in 2005 and reelected by overwhelming margins thrice since then, Swope, who serves as president of the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks, is a rock star among his peers. A trailblazer as the first openly gay municipal official in the state, he has earned voters' trust and repeated endorsement thanks to his relentless drive to make voting more accessible to all while ensuring accurate, timely and transparent results. He's also modernized and streamlined virtually every other aspect of the clerk's office, from issuing passports and business licenses to maintaining public records.

Thanks to 2018's statewide election reform ballot initiative, Michigan voters are able to cast absentee ballots for any reason and can register to vote on the same day the election is held. These proven strategies to increase voter participation were long overdue, but they are timely and impactful for another reason: With a deadly pandemic raging across the country, voters are understandably hesitant to gather at polling places. Without no-reason absentee voting, turnout for the election likely would be drastically reduced.

In the runup to next week's election, Clerk Swope has already mailed out more than 22,000 absentee ballots — triple the number from just two years ago — and predicts that 25,000 or more citizens will vote either by absentee ballot or at the polls, an astonishing number for a primary election. That figure is expected to more than double in November. Dealing with this massive surge in absentee voting is no easy task, but Lansing's clerk has risen to the challenge. Although it won't arrive until after the primary election, Swope has acquired a second state-of-the-



## The CP Edit

### Opinion

art tabulator that will ensure speedy processing of ballots for the general election. Even so, the final count is likely to take considerably longer than usual.

Barring technical glitches, any blame for counting delays certainly won't rest on Swope's shoulders. Despite pressure from Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson and local election officials across the state, the Michigan Legislature still has failed to pass measures that would expedite the processing and counting of absentee ballots. Senate Bill 757, sponsored by Ruth Johnson, the former secretary of state who chairs of the Senate Elections Committee, would allow clerks to open absentee ballot envelopes the day before the election. The bill was approved in committee but has languished on the Senate floor since the end of May.

Even more progressive legislation that would

allow absentee ballots to be opened — and tabulated — prior to Election Day remains stuck in committee, largely due to Republican claims that election results could be leaked to the public prior to the polls closing, influencing the outcome of contests on the ballot. Of course, nothing of the sort has actually happened in the dozen or more states that allow early absentee ballot counting, but facts have never been an obstacle when it comes to advancing the Republican's voter suppression agenda. We recommend that skeptical Michigan legislators reach out to their friends in Arizona, where Republicans have controlled the Legislature and Governor's Office for more than a decade, and where absentee ballots can be counted up to two weeks prior to Election Day. State law makes it a felony to release any results before the polls are closed.

We would be remiss if we didn't also mention the lies and hypocrisy of the current occupant of the White House, who regularly expresses his disdain for absentee voting and makes absurd claims about voter fraud, even as he and his feckless minions routinely cast their own ballots by mail. To help blunt the baseless claims that absentee ballots enable voter fraud and to alleviate more realistic concerns that a ballot could be lost in the mail, Clerk Swope has once again gone the extra mile, adding a unique barcode to every absentee ballot that allows it to be tracked as it moves through the postal system. Voters can even receive text or email updates on the delivery status of their ballot. These timely innovations are a credit to Swope and his superior performance as the city's chief elections administrator.

If you go to the polls next Tuesday, please mask up, be kind to the poll workers and maintain social distancing from your fellow voters. With the primary election less than a week away, if you have not already mailed your absentee ballot, you would be well advised to bypass the post office and deliver your completed ballot to the Clerk's office on the ninth floor of City Hall. You can also use the 24-hour dropboxes on the City Hall plaza or at the South Washington Office Complex. Not registered to vote? Stop by the Clerk's Office and get signed up to make your voice count.

**Send letters to the editor on this editorial or any other topic to  
letters@lansingcitypulse.com.**

**Please limit them to 250 words. See Letters to the Editor on page 6.**



# Lansing is prepared to answer the call to action

By **TERESA BINGHAM**

*(The author is a local attorney who is advising the city of Lansing on creating a racial equity and justice plan.)*

The City of Lansing is more than meets the eye. If you ask most lifelong Michigan residents, they'll mention Lansing being the Capital City, but may not mention the vast network of talented, equity-minded individuals who not only call Lansing home, but are committed to making Lansing better.



Bingham

The aftermath of what seems to be a national hymn, finally acknowledges how Black Americans and people of color are treated and often underrepresented in nearly every aspect of our society. Thus, we know that Lansing's call to action must be met with a complete solution aimed

at truly reaching the core of what people are demanding: Inclusion, transparency and positive results.

In collaboration with some of this city's most experienced talent-base in their ongoing leadership in various industries and their work towards racial justice and equity, Mayor Schor has launched the Mayor's Racial Justice and Equity Alliance (MRJEA), as one of the components to the many calls for change. Together, with input from the community at large, the work of the MRJEA, accompanied by various proactive moves by Mayor Schor and other city officials such as recent police reforms, equate to the answer — well, rather the process towards an answer to calls for real change that ring out from many of the city's social, political and faith based infrastructures.

It is my goal to work with MRJEA leaders to position our action as a clear example of unified interest between a city and its people as a best

practice for municipalities that seek positive change. Now is the time to do the right thing.

We want the public to know that the MRJEA needs community input during this critical process. We will consider all input provided by people who complete the electronic survey, and people who participate in town hall meetings and focus groups. We also invite people to call to provide input and to also feel free to send emails with your input. We are listening to issues and concerns that are raised. And we will continue to listen and want to hear more from as many people as possible.

I know that the elements that make up Lansing's emerging Racial Justice and Equity Plan only exist with public input and the presence of strong and trusted leadership. Since joining the City's efforts to address the underlying issues relative to racial justice and equity, I have had a very positive experience while working with City officials, including but not limited to Mayor Schor, Police Chief Daryl Green, Human Relations and Community Services Director Kimberly Coleman and others. They have not only demonstrated their commitment to MRJEA's process

and outcomes, but have embraced MRJEA members and prospective partners, and the community at-large, calling for inclusion and transparency as we all start this important work with the goal of achieving positive results for Lansing residents and for people who work in Lansing and visit the Capital City.

Moreover, Lansing's efforts toward evaluating and implementing change through racial justice and equity lenses, require a collaborative focus on the collective goal of closing equity gaps for and among Lansing residents and for people who work in and visit Lansing. Now is the time for Lansing's similar racial justice and equity efforts to move forward collectively. It's time for social and economic change and, oftentimes, change involves a new process and approach.

Now more than ever, Lansing is prepared to answer the call to action. And I'm confident that people involved in this action, inside and outside of city government, will do their part to achieve the goals of racial justice and equity while creating a great place for people of all cultures to live, work, play, pray and thrive in the Capital City.

## LETTERS to the editor

### Vote for Thomas Morgan

I'm writing in response to your recent article on the August 4th Ingham County Commission primary and in strong support of re-electing Democratic Commissioner Thomas Morgan.

Morgan has been one of the most effective county commissioners anywhere in Michigan. In just two years, he's written and passed mental health expansion, additional support for senior citizens, an increase in funding for the Refugee Development Center, ethics reform and much more.

In reading your article, I was also struck by Morgan's opponent's lack of knowledge of what county commissioners do, as well as his somewhat anti-tax attitude. Bob Peña seems like a nice enough guy, but we need strong, progressive leaders like Morgan who can get things done on behalf of working families and vulnerable populations.

Thomas Morgan has accomplished a lot in the past two years — and I'm confident he'll get even more done in the next two years. Re-elect Democratic Commissioner Thomas Morgan on August 4.

**Laura Hornshaw**  
Groesbeck Neighborhood

### How to embarrass unmasked customers

Meijer and others have greeters making sure customers wear masks. Customers who refuse aren't met with force or anything. I recently witnessed an absolute jerk at my local store yelling at that greeter, who had pointed out the mask is a government rule.. The jerk said «I don't care what the government says, this is AMERICA, I don't need a mask.»

I have a solution. Anyone entering a store without a mask, we have an employee follow them around, a respectful six feet away of course, and announcing "Stand back - unmasked shopper. Stand back - unmasked shopper. Stand back - unmasked shopper..." I figure after a few minutes of that, the customer would either put on a mask or just leave.

**Douglas "Enzo" McCallum**  
Mason

### Not funny, McGee

In the cartoon This Modern World by Tom Tomorrow, the creator mocks people he doesn't agree with like President Donald Trump and his supporters.

He does this by putting words in their mouths. Words and statements they have never, ever said!

Mr. Tomorrow seems to think it is

funny.

I consider it lazy writing and not humorous at all.

**Earl Ruhf**  
Lansing

### Slotkin could lead 'sensible' nuclear weapons effort

Last week, members of Beyond the Bomb and I met with Rep. Slotkin's staff member responsible for military and defense issues. As we asked her to urge Rep. Slotkin to rein in nuclear weapons spending (over the next 30 years, the United States is planning on spending \$1.7 trillion on nuclear weapons), the staffer made a wildly out of touch remark. She claimed that the U.S.'s inflated military budget and human rights were not mutually exclusive.

Military and police budgets are oppositional to human rights and security, particularly those of Black and Indigenous people of color. The money allocated towards nuclear weapons programs is allocated away from education, healthcare, and other essential and underfunded work. Amid cries to defund the police, we must also divert funds away from the military budget, and particularly nuclear weapons programs. Investing in communities and in constituents means divesting from state-sanc-

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

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- Fax: (517) 371-5800
- At [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com)

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

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

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

tioned violence and weapons that, best-case scenario, we'll never use anyway.

Slotkin comes from a military and intelligence background; she could lead the way for a sensible nuclear weapons policy and budget. Her voice would carry far, if she chooses to use it. I urge Rep. Slotkin to fight back against the new nuclear arms race, and to rein in nuclear weapons spending.

(Beyond the Bomb is a grassroots movement working to prevent nuclear war. For more information, visit [beyondthebomb.org](http://beyondthebomb.org))

**Sarah Vamvounis**  
East Lansing



# Bernero redux?

Lansing's 'Angriest Mayor' is halfway there



POLITICS

Have you watched the fallout of COVID-19, the city's budget problems and the issues of tense race relations issues and dreamed back to the days of former

Mayor Virg Bernero? Well, you may get your wish.

Word on the street is Bernero is at least 50/50 set on running for his old job in 2021. Obviously, we're all thinking presidential politics these days, but Mayor Andy Schor has only about 17 months left on his term.

Asked directly about running again, Bernero said, "A number of community and business leaders have reached out to me with concerns about the direction of the city, asking if I would consider returning to the Mayor's office. I love the city of Lansing and the people here, and still

believe in our terrific potential. I have not ruled it out."

If Schor doesn't run (although all indications are that he will), the odds of a Bernero Redux go up. Although, Lansing's "Angriest Mayor" isn't afraid of running against Schor

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# Lansing Diversity Council members feel neglected

Advisory Council member quits: 'We are not here to make the mayor comfortable.'

Some members of an advisory council tasked with promoting diversity and inclusion for the city of Lansing feel sidelined after Mayor Andy Schor shelved their recommendations for months, only recently rolling out plans for racial justice without soliciting much of their input on the topic.

Those frustrations have already pushed one member to call it quits. And unless the role of the original Mayor's Diversity and Inclusion Council is amplified amid ongoing social unrest in the capital city, board members suggested that more resignations from the board could soon follow.

"As we have seen over the past months, the impact of this committee has been adulterated," board member Jennifer Carrera wrote in a fiery resignation letter last week. "We have not been listened to. We have begged repeatedly to have our modest recommendations acknowledged."

Schor's first executive order as newly elected mayor in 2018 was to establish the Mayor's Diversity and Inclusion Council. Until last week, it was the only appointed mayoral advisory board reporting to Schor specifically on issues like discrimination and racial justice in the city.

In the aftermath of George Floyd's death and amid a continued call for police divestment, Schor announced last week that his newly formed "Racial



Carrera



Courtesy City of Lansing

Attorney Teresa Bingman, who is advising the city on racial equity and justice, speaks at a press conference last week at which Lansing Mayor Andy Schor (left) announced plans for dealing with those issues. To the right are Human Resources Director Kim Coleman and Police Chief Daryl Green.

Justice and Equity Alliance" would now be tasked with examining many of the same city policies and racial biases for at least the next year.

And after suggestions for improvements have been ignored for months, some members of Schor's original task force are questioning the efficacy of yet another committee on diversity.

"We already have 12 committed individuals who want to push the city of Lansing in the appropriate direction," said Council Chairman Randy Watkins. "And while we are disappointed and frustrated with the way the process is going, we still believe we have a good role to play in this process. It would be unfair to deny that members of this board have some sincere concerns and there have been thoughts of resignations, but I also think we're willing to

stick this one out."

Carrera resigned last Thursday after the first of three city-organized Zoom calls, part of Schor's new "community input series" on racial justice and equity. Although Inclusion Council member Lori Adams Simon played host, board members said they were hardly involved in the process, only reviewing prewritten questions that were posed at the online event one day in advance.

"We were displaced from that process. Our contribution as a committee has been described as being basically complaining and not positive enough," Carrera wrote in her recent resignation letter. "Addressing racism and inequity is not going to be comfortable. It's not supposed to be. Our responsibility is to communicate what the community wants and needs and advise the Mayor

## Advisory members of the Mayor's new Racial Justice and Equity Alliance are:

Lural Baltimore	Elizabeth Battiste
Berton Brown	Melik Brown
Dr. Delsa Chapman	Dale Copedge
Susan Cancro	Bryan Crenshaw
Elissa Crumley	Paula Cunningham
Pamela Davies	Gregory Eaton
Joel Ferguson	Joseph Graves Jr.
Adam Hussain	Stanley Jenkins
Calvin Jones	
The Rev. Melvin T. Jones	
Alane Laws-Barker	Olivia Letts
Lorenzo Lopez	Angela Mathews
David Maxwell	Michael McKissic
Bill Reed	Jonathan Rosewood
Carrie Rosingana	Alfred P. Singleton II
Dr. LeKeeya Tucker	Carmen Turner
Linda Vail	Willard Walker
Randy Watkins	

on how to meet those needs. We are not here to make the Mayor comfortable."

More than 100 local residents tuned into the virtual meeting last week to voice concerns about discrimination within the capital city. Adams Simon and Police Chief Daryl Green posed questions about racial inequities to more than a dozen people who volunteered to speak. Schor gave brief remarks, but otherwise mostly sat back and listened. And the concerns were plentiful.

"I do believe that there is racism in Lansing," said Dominique Devereaux. "Do I believe that it is overt? No. But I do believe that it is very systematic. I do believe there is racism existing within the Lansing area, but it's more of a systemic racism than overt, person-to-person racism."

Local activist and firefighter Michael Lynn said he feels comfortable living but not working in Lansing, especially at the Fire Department. Lynn is suing the city for racial discrimination and

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# Council

from page 7

said he suspects that more work is being done to make Schor look good than to drive change.

Pamela Ford, in response to a question of whether the city hires and supports people of color, said she doesn't believe the city's workforce — especially in management positions — adequately reflects demographics in the community. Recruitment needs to change, she said.

Lansing resident Naudia Fisher said she believes some Black employees were hired in an act of "tokenism." Transparency within the recruitment process should help on those efforts, she said.

Many of those issues, Carrera said, have already been addressed — and have been ignored.

"The most important work that needs to happen around racial equity in this community is the work that this new task force is set up to address, and I would say our committee was designed to address," Carrera wrote. "We represent the community members. The task force represents leadership in powerful positions in the administration along with a smattering of community representatives and one member of our committee. Our efforts are being diluted and displaced."

Carrera, an assistant professor of sociology at Michigan State University, focuses on environmental justice as well as differential access to resources and its impact on the well-being of marginalized communities, according to her webpage. She's a literal expert in the field.

With Carrera's input, the Diversity and Inclusion Council last year suggested Schor hire a staff member specifically dedicated toward enhancing diversity and inclusion within city operations. The proposal was shelved for months before Schor revived and announced the concept in June.

"We have even not risen to the level of demanding that action be taken on our recommendations, just that we would be acknowledged," Carrera wrote. "It was only in the face of embarrassment during recent weeks after the Mayor's performance on the Black Lives Matter call that he responded to our recommendations, saying that they had been lost for months."

Schor, for his part, said he responded positively to the Council's proposal

for a diversity and inclusion coordinator in an email sent last year but that that email never made it back to the Council members. He didn't intentionally ignore the suggestion, he said. And budget constraints in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic only knocked it lower on the city priority list.

"I thought I had responded to those things in February, but either they didn't get it or I didn't send it. Then, we had the shutdown in March," Schor explained. "I thought communication was getting better. I'd like to see this Council work alongside the Alliance on a lot of these issues."

As part of the mayor's plans to assemble the city's first long-term diversity, equity and inclusion plan, Schor announced last week the formation of the Racial Justice and Equity Alliance. More than 40 people — all appointed by Schor — are now tasked with further developing city policies in tandem with attorney Teresa Bingman, who is being paid \$63,000 for her consulting services.

The newly formed alliance will be led by Schor, Bingman, Police Chief Daryl Green and Human Relations and Community Services Director Kim Coleman. Representatives from the mayor's cabinet, the boards of Fire and Police Commissioners, the Human Relations and Community Services Board and the existing Diversity and Inclusion Council will also reportedly pitch in.

Additionally, an "advisory committee" of 34 mostly Black community members have been appointed to one-year terms. (See p. 7 for a complete list.) Members include Lansing NAACP President Dale Copedge, Ingham Co. Health Officer Linda Vail and developer Joel Ferguson.

"Information and data obtained will be used to inform the revision of community-inspired police use-of-force policies and also develop a community-inspired racial justice and equity plan," Bingman said, noting brainstorming efforts would eventually develop into meaningful changes.

Watkins said some board members have questioned the integrity of those efforts, given that they've already been ongoing in the city for more than a year with little meaningful progress.

"I can't say I'm satisfied at this point either," Watkins added. "But really, this is just a first step. As the saying goes, every journey begins with a first step. I'd say there has been a lack of communication between the board and the mayor, but I think we're still on the right track."

In additional to racial bias training in

his office, Schor also pledged last month to reaffirm existing police policies on deescalating violence, exhausting non-lethal alternatives and reviewing use of force — all efforts that officials said have already long been in place at the Police Department.

Green also rolled out at least two policy reforms in the wake of recent social unrest. Local cops will no longer pull over drivers for minor infractions like broken taillights in an effort to curb unnecessary police contact. No-knock warrants have also been entirely banned.

But with secondary equipment violations only accounting for about 15% of traffic stops, and only three no-knock warrants included among 284 searches conducted over the last five years, the reforms made to date have only left a growing desire for truly meaningful operational changes.

Schor said the Diversity and Inclusion Council is designed to tackle broader, quality-of-life issues tied to social equity while the new taskforce carries a laser focus on curbing racism. Still, he understands how some of his original board could feel like their toes have been stepped on.

"This alliance is kind of a short-term group of people to focus on these racism issues," Schor explained. "They'll still work together. I also think we've had some good communication to bridge some of these gaps. I thought these communication issues had been getting better."

Schor said he had no personal involvement in the creation and organization of last week's virtual community meeting, but he said he thought the Diversity and Inclusion Council had been consulted. He also said his ongoing plans for the city are also subject to change as more input arrives.

"This is a working document. We're creating the roadmap to racial equity and we're adding to it as we move along," Schor said. "I've been to several of their meetings and worked with their leadership. I value their opinions and can absolutely review, evaluate and adjust as necessary."

Schor called in Watkins and other members of the Diversity and Inclusion Council for a private "discussion with staff about moving forward" earlier this week, a city spokeswoman said. City Pulse wasn't allowed to send a reporter, but a spokeswoman labeled it a "good conversation."

"They discussed concerns and ways to best move forward," she said without elaborating further.

— KYLE KAMINSKI



No one correctly identified the last Eye for Design as the windmill on the Diederich Berry and Produce Farm, 3537 Morrice Road in Webberville (below). But that place was hopping in June with strawberry lovers.

This week's Eye for Design (above) is a detail that can be spotted a bit closer to home. It can be found in downtown Lansing, not far from the State Capitol building. The circular shapes in the center of the gate give the design the look of a set of eyes gazing out on the street below. Like a wise old owl, it guards the entrance to this monument to knowledge in the heart of our capital city. Any guesses where this can be found? Email [carriesampson@micourthistory.org](mailto:carriesampson@micourthistory.org) and you could win an Eye for Design mug.

— CARRIE SAMPSON



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



# Bernero

from page 7

either.

Bernero has kept himself busy consulting some marijuana clients. He's still leading the Capital Area Manufacturing Council as executive director and he's tried his hand at doing a regular political podcast.

But some business leaders miss Bernero's decisive style, particularly when hooligans were smashing windows along Washington Avenue a couple months ago.

Would Mayor Virg Bernero have gone home when protesters were parading around neighborhoods in the afternoon and camping out in the city's downtown business district when the sun set? I doubt it.

Should the city be draining its reserves right now? Couldn't the city budget get much worse?

Also, consider this: The issues that arguably chased him from the 2017 race are in the rearview mirror.

Who remembers the oddly timed firing of Peter Lark? The ice storm that put half of us in the deep freeze around Christmas? Janene McIntyre? Schor's has his share of personnel departures, too. The two are theoretically even-steven on that front... well, kind of.

Schor hit a rough patch during the George Floyd protests. But calls for his resignation have gradually quieted down as the reinforcements were marched in to right the ship.

Teresa Bingman, a former Gov. Jennifer Granholm attorney, is helping Schor draw up a diversity plan. Sliding Nik Tate into a chief of staff role made

a lot of sense.

All signs have Schor running for reelection in 2021, but I'm not expecting a final decision until year's end. He didn't give up time in the Legislature to be a one-term mayor. We'll see how the Police Department reforms are received and what type of autumn he has.

He's getting police out of the business of addressing a mental health issue or issuing tickets for fuzzy dice from the rearview mirror.

Schor's support within the city hasn't gone away. He's still the deliberative, calming presence in the Mayor's Office who would rather strike a deal around the table than pick a fight. Some like that approach better.

Also, there's no lineup of top-tier political types looking to take Schor out. Rep. Sarah Anthony has leadership potential in the Legislature and is a likely contender to replace term-limited Sen. Curtis Hertel in 2022. She is not showing any signs of switching to city politics.

City Council President Peter Spadafore hasn't shown much interest in running, either, particularly not against Schor.

If Schor does show signs that he's "one and done," I'd expect to see someone different to emerge. Certainly, an African American and most likely an African American woman. City Councilmember Patricia Spitzley has been mentioned, but a community leader or member of the business community is another real possibility.

Whoever it is will need to have the fire in the belly to win. Because if there's one thing we all know about Virg, he brings a lot of that to all of his races.

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



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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING  
SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD VIA A ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING UNDER THE GOVERNOR OF MICHIGAN'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-129 ON TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Hayes, Clerk Aten, Treasurer Rodgers  
Trustees: Broughton, Harris, McKenzie, Bankson

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Gresens, Attorney

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:  
Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.  
Approved minutes of the meeting held on June 23, 2020.  
Agenda approved with amendment.  
Introduced Ordinance 75.2: Amendments to Chapter 71B.  
Authorized fire chief to promote firefighter.  
Approved used car lot license renewal.  
Approved Claims.  
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor  
Susan L. Aten, Clerk

CP#20-175



# SOLD! Mid-Michigan experiencing real-estate sellers' market

The impact of COVID-19 on the economy might make people think it's a good time to sit on real estate because people aren't buying. But if you look around the mid-Michigan market, homes are going up for sale and often earning the coveted "SOLD" sign quite quickly.

"Different price points have different markets, but everything is quite strong," said Rob Campeau, CEO of the Michigan Association of Realtors. "I think it has to do with the low interest rates and people recognizing that 'home' means more now than ever."

Nationally, the average rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage is down to 2.98%. According to the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. — commonly referred to as Freddie Mac — that is the lowest in 50 years.

"It's almost free money," said Gary Naeyaert, a Realtor with EXIT Realty Home Partners. "This is an outrageously optimistic time for people to sell because we have a very aggressive sellers' market."

A balanced market, Naeyaert explained, is when buyers and sellers are on equal footing. In mid-Michigan, that might mean an inventory of 2,000 to 2,500 homes actively listed for sale. Instead, there are only around 800.


"We were already under-inventory and have been for about three years — but that generally means 1,000 to 1,500 homes available," Naeyaert said. "Our buyers are outnumbering our sellers 2-to-1 right now."

"If you have a newly listed home that is properly priced and well maintained, you're generally getting multiple offers over the list price within the first few days."

Naeyaert said that despite the restrictions placed on the real estate industry by COVID-19, the interest in seeing houses and making a purchase is incredibly high. He noted that some people are hesitant to list their homes for sale and have too many strangers walking through it. But if you're willing to go through that, you are likely to find offers quickly rolling in.

"On properly priced homes, I see five to 10 offers, and nearly everyone is over list price," Naeyaert said.

The industry has adapted to the pandemic, although it had a significant blockade for selling earlier this year when Gov. Gretchen Whitmer



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prohibited agents from showing homes for seven weeks.

Since the market has opened back up, however, the industry has adapted well, according to Tracey Hernly, broker-owner of Howard Hanna Real Estate Associates.

"Just like in everything else, it's a change, but I feel like we've all adjusted," Hernly said. "We're masking, sanitizing and practicing safely, and I think things are going well."

During the shutdown, virtual tours of homes became the norm, but it's not a practice expected to work well long term, according to Naeyaert.

"I sold two houses that way and both buyers backed out after seeing the houses in person," he said. "Nothing replaces touching the countertop and seeing the basement for yourself."

As a whole, Realtors have made some changes to the selling and buying of homes.

One is that buyers are now more frequently required to have a pre-approval letter for financing before someone shows them a house. And "open houses" have fallen by the wayside, replaced almost entirely by showings via appointment only and limited to no more than four people in a home at one time.

"Open houses used to be the No. 1 way people sold houses,

but that was before the internet changed everything," Naeyaert said. "Consumers have a lot more information available now before they think about looking at a home anyway. It's different, but it's all manageable."

Financing can be a problem if you're unemployed or even furloughed for as little as one day per week, as many state employees are right now. That is a hurdle in the mid-Michigan market, but lenders are working with people, and most are loosening up their programs.

"When going through a national pandemic, we don't really have anything to compare it to," Hernly said. "Still, there are people that have to sell and, more so, there are people that have to buy. They can buy stuff cheaper than they can rent because interest rates are so low."

Hernly noted that while that's helping the first-time homebuyer segment, others are selling to buy their next home that might offer more space or amenities.

Campeau said COVID-19 has, for many, pointed out problems with their current housing.

"We've all become intimately familiar with the inadequacies of our present home," Campeau said. "We're all spending much more time at home — and with no predicted end date to the pandemic — people see places as their home, but it's also their office

and it's their recreational environment."

Hernly pointed out that people working from home has led to a new question about internet speeds that hasn't always been asked by potential buyers before.

"There might be demand for a little more space, but you also have the issue of making sure you have the internet speeds you need," she said. "If you don't, you might not be able to move to the country. I had a few buyers that were ready to write offers, but they checked the internet speed and it wasn't able to handle their work-from-home needs."

Still, active inventory is down and average prices are up, so if you're interested in selling your home, there is a good market out there in mid-Michigan that seems to be growing stronger. The current average time on the market is 34 days, according to Hernly, who said that's down over 27% from June.

The more important question you may have to ask yourself is, "What next?"

"If people are interested in selling, it's a great time. You're going to sell at a good premium," Hernly said, "I would not deter people from waiting, but I would tell them to have a plan for what to do after they sell because you don't want to end up homeless!"

— ARI ADLER

## CITY OF EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

### NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 1483

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING USE DISTRICT MAP OF CHAPTER 50 -- ZONING -- OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING

Please take notice that Ordinance No. 1483 was adopted by the City of East Lansing City Council at their meeting held on July 14, 2020 and will become effective upon the expiration of seven (7) days after the publication of the following summary of ordinance.

### SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 1483

#### THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

Ordinance 1483, an ordinance to rezone the property at 3400 West Road from OIP, Office Industrial Park District, to B-5, Community Retail Sales Business District, and Conditional M-1, Manufacturing District, and 3401 Coolidge Road from OIP, Office Industrial Park District, to B-5, Community Retail Sales Business District.

The conditional rezoning agreement for the eastern portion of 3400 West Road allows the following limited land uses: wholesale businesses, painting, varnishing, or vulcanizing shop, cold storage plant, bottling works, manufacture of food products, public garage, motor vehicle repair shop, automobile paint and bump shop, or car washing establishment, tin shop or plumbing supply shop, light manufacturing and wholesale businesses, veterinary hospital or clinic, research laboratory. The agreement also requires that any future use of the property comply with the performance standards currently listed in Section 50-673(1) and (2).

A true copy of Ordinance No. 1483 can be inspected or obtained at the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan during normal business hours.

Jennifer Shuster  
City Clerk

CP#20-177

#### STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF INGHAM NOTICE OF HEARING FILE NO. 18-001409-GM-P33

In the matter of Liliana N. Edsall.  
TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on September 15, 2020 at 9:30 a.m., at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933 before Richard J. Garcia, for the following purpose: Guardianship Hearing. If you require accommodations to use the court because of a disability, or if you require a foreign language interpreter to help you fully participate in court proceedings, please contact the court immediately to make arrangements.

7/23/2020

Shawn Edsall  
900 Long Blvd., #452  
Lansing, MI 48911  
517-582-9683

CP#20-176



# 4 trustee incumbents face 3 challengers in Meridian Twp.

Four incumbents are facing off against three newcomers in next Tuesday's primary election for four positions on the Meridian Township Board of Trustees. All are Democrats, marking the further slide of the GOP in the township, where four years ago, it was able to field three candidates.

The elephant in the room is the COVID-19 crisis. Projects are stalled and residents and small businesses need relief. One thing is for sure: these candidates know that COVID-19 will be on most voters' minds when they cast their ballots.

## Incumbents

**Patricia Herring Jackson**, 56, is seeking her second term. She is a grandmother who has lived at the same address in Okemos since 1987. She earned a B.S. from Bennett College for Women and a PhD in biochemical pharmacology from Meharry Medical College. She worked various roles in the township government since 2000.



Jackson

Jackson cited her experience on the board producing and managing budgets. Jackson said she wants to focus on stabilizing and supporting projects that took a hit after the COVID-19 crisis began. She also promised to help maintain the township workforce — including public health and safety workers — now that the township is projecting reduced revenue and slowed economic activity.

Jackson also said that she supports expanding broadband access, updating local infrastructure and creating a more environmentally sustainable community.

To foster a more equitable community, Jackson said that she plans to bring community residents together so they can get to know each other. "Together, we can participate in making 'ONE MERIDIAN' more like we want it to become, from a diverse and welcoming community to one that is more inclusive and equitable for all involved," she said.

Jackson noted, "I believe I am a careful listener and always a student, first."

The Lansing Regional Chamber PAC and IBEW Local 665 endorsed Jackson's candidacy.

**Dan Opsommer**, 32, is seeking a second term. He received a bachelor's degree in journalism from MSU. He served as State Rep. Julie Brixie's chief of staff. Opsommer said that he is running again because — in these difficult



Opsommer

times — the community needs a sense of consistency. "If elected, I will roll up my sleeves and work to continuously improve our quality of life. You have my word," he promised.

In 2019, Opsommer worked to get voter approval for a project that would fund 147 miles of road in Meridian Township. After the COVID-19 outbreak, he assisted in efforts to spread relief through the community, including a COVID crisis hotline, small business grants and programs like Meridian Cares.

Opsommer said that one of his top priorities is protecting neighborhoods from encroaching development. He also said that he wants Meridian Township to use 100% renewable energy, hopefully by 2030. In addition, Opsommer also claimed to be in the process of drafting a thorough tree protection ordinance.

**Kathy Ann Sundland** is seeking a second term. She did not respond to requests for comment.

Sundland has a bachelor's degree in human resources from Michigan State University and worked in HR with the State of Michigan for 26 years. "I feel like that makes me a very qualified candidate," she said.

Sundland emphasized that her top priority is promoting sustained growth within her community.

"We need to do it in a careful, thoughtful manner," she said. According to Sundland, this means focusing on sound land use and continued infrastructure development.



Sundland

**Courtney Wisinski**, 44, was appointed to fill a board vacancy last year. She has lived in Meridian Township for 17 years and has two kids enrolled in Okemos Schools. She has a bachelor's degree in natural science from MSU and a master's in public health management from Creighton University.



Wisinski

Wisinski became involved in the community through coaching and extracurricular activities. She also took a position on the township's park commission in 2017 and began leading an equity and inclusion taskforce this year.

Wisinski decided to run for trustee this time around to utilize her background in environmental science and public health management to "contribute to her community."

"I've gotten used to local government, and I feel confident enough to run now," said Wisinski. She said that her main priority is continuing unfinished projects from the last four years, including the road millage and redevelopment projects in Okemos and Haslett.

## Challengers

**Mary Waller** has withdrawn.

**John Esser**, 72, has lived in Meridian Township for 33 years. He graduated from MSU with a bachelor's in economics. Then, he worked in Michigan's Office of Insurance and Financial Services for almost 25 years, reviewing insurance/health products and how they were marketed in Michigan.



Esser

Esser became interested in the position after spending nine years with his neighborhood watch. Esser's work with them — combined with the onset of COVID-19 and the economic difficulties it created — motivated him to jump in the race.

Esser said that his top priorities are equality and diversity, improved communication with the communi-

ty and environmental sustainability. He proposed adding lessons about equality and sustainability to the curriculum in local schools, in addition to diversity training for government employees, local business and the community.

"We are living in uncertain times," said Esser. "We need new voices on the Meridian Township board, so that important decisions that will affect current and future residents are made only after a fact-based review of the information, and the input of all the interested parties is considered."

**Mike Kieliszewski**, 44, has lived in Meridian Township his entire life.

He graduated from Okemos High School, then MSU. As a lifelong resident, he claimed that he has a unique understanding of local politics and the way that they affect his family, quality of life, and the broader community.



Kieliszewski

Kieliszewski asserted that the local government needs more citizen input and more transparency. According to him, without transparency, taxpayer money ends up going to projects that they don't want or need.

Kieliszewski said that his top priority is managing and recovering from the COVID-19 crisis.

"That's priority 1, 2 and 3 to me. Doing this in a way that's safe and responsible and puts value in human life," he said. "As this global COVID-19 pandemic is highlighting, we are all in this together and those of us with the means and ability to assist others have a duty to do so."

"My experience and my skills can help out a few of those projects, when it comes to environmental contamination happening in downtown Okemos and Haslett," she explained. "As well as our current doomsday situation. We have to make sure our entire community's healthy by all means."

**James D. Salehi** did not respond to requests for comment, nor does he have a campaign website with his stated positions.



# ‘The Jack Daniels of Cannabis’

Recreational marijuana market thrives in Michigan — even during a global pandemic



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Michael Doherty, founder of Rebel Industries, on the roof of the old John Bean Building, on South Cedar Street, which he is in the process of converting into one of the largest marijuana growing operations in the world.

## Seed-to-sale entrepreneurs plant millions of dollars in Lansing as local pot industry blossoms

By KYLE KAMINSKI

Thousands of pot plants are quickly multiplying inside one of the largest and most historic buildings in Lansing as Michael Doherty quite literally grows his own empire along Cedar Street.

Doherty, 41, of Lansing, said his company, Rebel Industries, plans to become “the Jack Daniels of cannabis” over the next decade as he and his 40 employees push forward with a massive growing and processing operation at the iconic John Bean building, 1305 S. Cedar St.

Seemingly endless rows of pot plants — some leafy, towering giants and others still budding — are springing to life

inside. An in-house processing facility, growing rooms and office spaces are still being built. Grounds crews are excavating mountains of dirt. An electrical grid that could power more than 1,400 homes is being rewired into the basement. The rest is still under repair.

Licenses have also been conditionally approved for two Rebel brand dispensaries.

“We want to be a national player in this market,” Doherty explained. “I’m not gouging customers or giving them shitty products. We’re proud of what we produce, and want people to be excited when they buy it. We’re in this for the long haul, really building a brand to stand the test of time.”

The company’s flashy, boldface “REBEL” billboards have caught attention south of I-496 for months. Local eyes — and noses — have been enticed by his mysterious, all-black building across from

Art’s Pub for years. Inside, Doherty has been keeping focused on his mission.

“We’re just on the verge of a very exciting new industry. This industry has been here a long time, but the commercialization of cannabis is one of the most exciting things on the planet, and I’m proud to be a part of this,” he explained. “We’re talking about a \$100 million investment here.”

Doherty is one of dozens of entrepreneurs in Greater Lansing looking to monopolize a flowering recreational marijuana market that, even amid a global health crisis, manages to stay lucrative. And controlling as many aspects from seed to sale is the key to their success, they explained.

“I think Lansing is poised to be one of the biggest players in the long term,” said Alex Martin, co-owner of Lemonati Family Farms, a Lansing-based company licensed

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# Cannabis

from page 12

or conditionally approved to both grow and process — and eventually sell — cannabis products locally.

“There are a ton of benefits to being vertically integrated,” he said. “It’s about being able to control the product supply to your own store, and your own customers. Especially with some of the product shortages we’ve seen in the last year, controlling your own supply is essential.”

State records show that recreational marijuana sales climbed more than eight-fold since December and have rested at more than \$10 million weekly since last month. Medical sales have also skyrocketed in recent weeks and also landed just under \$10 million from June 8 to 14.

And the city of Lansing is quickly cementing itself as a major player in that statewide market.

Records show at least 28 recreational marijuana growing licenses and 105 medical marijuana growing licenses have been approved or conditionally approved across the city, enabling the production of tens of thousands marijuana plants to feed into Michigan’s flowering pot market.

Many of those licenses are stacked in a single growing facility and are operated by companies, like Green Peak Innovations, Apex Ultra Worldwide and Homegrown Cannabis Co., that also have processing and retail licenses to push out products to consumers. The vertical integration model cuts out the middleman, provides more entrepreneurial control and higher profit margins.

At least 49 licenses have also been approved or conditionally approved for medical and recreational retail sales. Shops must carry two licenses for both medical and recreational sales.

“A lot of people went and got their stores



open first,” Martin added. “We wanted to focus on our cultivation facility in order to bring on the retail location. We were able to finish up our construction just prior to the beginning of the pandemic, so things have been moving quickly.”

City officials have also either approved or conditionally approved four recreational consumption lounges, two micro-businesses that can grow and sell their own products and 46 separate processing plants. Many have yet to open pending formal approval from state regulators, but the stage is set for the capital city to complete its transformation into a veritable pot powerhouse.

Jeff Hank, manager at Edgewood

Wellness, is working on plans that would turn the dispensary into a consumption lounge, art gallery, marijuana museum and large special events space. At 18,000 square feet, the store is the biggest pot shop east of the Mississippi River, Hank said.

“We have been delayed a little bit on the other two stores with COVID holding up plans for a launch of our Michigan Avenue store and our MLK store-grow-processing facility,” Hank added. “Nonetheless, progress continues. Lots of exciting things on the horizon in the capital city.”

Rehbel is conditionally approved to

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Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse  
(Above) At Lemonati Family Farms on East Kalamazoo Street, plants are grown hydroponically, without soil. The Lansing-based company is licensed or conditionally approved to both grow and process — and eventually sell — cannabis products locally.



Courtesy photos

(Left) A selection of cured buds from Green Peak Innovations that either are or soon will be available for purchase at Skymint stores across Michigan.



# Cannabis

from page 13

grow thousands of recreational and medical marijuana plants that can later be packaged at its in-house processing facility. The company is also conditionally approved for at least two dispensaries in order to control all aspects of production.

Doherty is already supplying medical pot to dispensaries statewide, but vertical integration, he explained, is a major factor in the success of his business model. Incorporating sales and processing into cultivation provides more control — and much higher profit margins.

It's a monopolistic sort of tactic also shared by Green Peak Innovations, a vertically integrated cannabis company that's headquartered in Dimondale that holds the title of the single largest license holder in the state. The company operates two massive growing facilities, its own in-house processing plant and 10 retail locations that operate under the brand name Skymint.



All told, Green Peak is licensed to grow 32,000 plants across two locations in Greater Lansing. Two Skymint dispensaries are open in Lansing. More are coming in East Lansing and Okemos.

Vice President Joe Neller said vertical integration not only provides for higher profit margins by cutting out middleman processors, but it allows his team to manage

quality control from the ground up. Developing a trusted brand in a new industry requires absolute consistency, he said.

"We knew Michigan would be a challenging market, and we thought it was important that we had access to our own product supply for retail, but also robust wholesale distri-

See Cannabis, Page 15

Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Bazonzoes plans to open a dispensary attached to a growing facility across from Deluca's Pizza on W. Willow Street in Lansing.

# #WeGO Together Vote

## DeKeea Quinney-Davis Ingham County Clerk August 4<sup>th</sup>

- Former Ingham County Deputy Clerk, 2012-2015
- Fair, Honest, and Respectable
- Working to make a more inclusive Ingham County





# Cannabis

from page 14

bution,” Neller said, noting Green Peak grows enough to supply every Skymint store, with plenty of surplus.

“At this point, we don’t carry anyone else’s flower in-store,” Neller added. “We only carry third-party edibles, vapes, tinctures — that sort of stuff — and a lot of different accessories.”

In addition to operating a popular dispensary on South Pennsylvania Avenue, HomeGrown Cannabis Co. also holds several city-issued licenses for both medical and recreational growing and processing, as well as another conditionally approved retail location on South Cedar Street.

PG Manufacturing Group, the corporate name behind Lansing pot shops like Pure Options and Stateside Wellness, is also approved for growing and processing operations. The company is also navigating the city’s licensing system for a second dispensary on Lansing’s northside.

Local entrepreneurs said vertically integrated companies can quickly adjust to meet customer demand, whereas standalone growers and retailers are dependent on the supply chain. And while more control over the growing, processing and sales systems obviously requires a larger upfront investment, some of the larger players in Lansing expect it’ll generate a bigger payout.

Some entrepreneurs do choose to specialize in growing or retail sales,

but why not do both?

“It takes a lot of money to build these facilities, buy the equipment, bring on the staff,” Neller explained. “I think Lansing, even before the licensing act was put into place, has always been open to the cannabis business. We’ve sort of been a pioneer in the state in that regard.”

And with cannabis an “essential” business in Michigan, COVID-19 has done little to stall growth.

Apex Ultra Worldwide also plans to open a pot shop across from Deluca’s Pizza called Bazonzoes. Licensing records show it is attached to a large facility capable of growing and processing thousands of plants in-house. Those products only leave the building for testing.

“It’s difficult to define your own existence, which is the core of my whole company,” Doherty added. “Sometimes you have to question the world around you, not be afraid to ruffle a few feathers. You have to keep

a moral compass the whole time. My brand is called Rehbel for a reason. It’s not a blind rebellion, but having the courage to question and find your own way.”

Big talk for a weed farmer. But Doherty, like others, envisions his company as much more than that. He wants his flower, tinctures and edibles in every retail pot shop in America. He plans to hire 20 more people this summer and wants to employ thousands over the next several years.

“We’re attempting to take on at least 10% of the Michigan market in this facility alone,” he said. “A Jack Daniels type of brand headquartered in this city is a pretty awesome thing.”

Officials at the Lansing Board of Water & Light also couldn’t be happier. General Manager Dick Peffley

said he expects the local pot market to dump untold millions of dollars into electric service over the coming years as the commercial market continues to expand and stabilize in Michigan.

BWL officials said the John Bean Building, for example, could eventually use up to 40 million kWh of energy annually, or about 2 percent of last year’s electricity for the entire city of Lansing.

“It was mission impossible to take on a project this size, but I knew it would be an awesome business move if I could actually pull it all off,” Doherty added. “This building used to be a real powerhouse back in the day, and a big part of this is bringing it back up to its former glory.”

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- 18 years Okemos Public School parent
- 16 years Meridian Township Planning Commission (2 terms as chair)
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- 2 years Meridian Township, Supervisor “Pro-Tem”

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## Documents of gratitude

## 'Acts of Care' project marks return of MSU Broad Art Museum

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

There are unselfish (and selfish) reasons to get in on "Acts of Care," a community-based art installation that will mark the Sept. 1 reopening of MSU's Broad Art Museum.

A splashy reopening, with Jeff Koons balloon animals, Beaujolais

**'Acts of Care'**

MSU Broad Art Museum  
Opens Sept. 1  
To contribute, go to:  
Broadmuseum.msu.edu/  
exhibitions/acts-of-care  
Submissions due by Aug. 2  
to be included in first round

wine and bal-  
lyhoo, would  
not suit these  
queasy times.  
A demon-filled  
descent into  
Bosch-style  
chaos would be

too close to what we have already.

So the Broad is taking a positive tack, asking everyday people from greater Lansing to write a "statement of gratitude" about a person, organization or place that has helped them get through the first four months of the COVID-19 pandemic and quarantine, with an accompanying image.

The professionals at the Broad will work the submissions up into a massive, poster-like mosaic of good vibes, starting in the education wing and spilling over into other halls and galleries if the project takes off.

"The museum community is hyper-aware that this is a pivotal moment in our history," Broad Museum spokeswoman Morgan Butts said. "Our responsibility as a museum is to document this."

The horrors of 2020 will be processed, in art, music and literature, for many years to come. Images of anger, alienation, isolation, death and despair are no doubt forthcoming.

But not quite yet. "Acts of Care" promises a positive, if partial, early snapshot of life during the pandemic and a gesture of broad inclusion to the greater Lansing community.

That leads to the selfish part: It's a rare (perhaps never to be repeated) chance to have something you wrote,

and a picture you took, exhibited at one of the world's major contemporary art museums. (You can submit an entry anonymously if you want.)

The project's aim is to recognize any "acts of care" people have noted this spring, by health care workers, teachers or anyone else who has helped the community hold it together, including those who have worked to teach and take action against racial inequality and injustice.

Submissions can be made at [Broadmuseum.msu.edu/exhibitions/acts-of-care](http://Broadmuseum.msu.edu/exhibitions/acts-of-care).

Submissions must be received by Sunday (Aug. 2) to get into the first round of the exhibit.

Like most public institutions across the country, the Broad Museum has hovered in a strange stasis since it closed March 13. Even the Broad's new director, Monica Ramirez-Montagut, is doing her job via Zoom and email while waiting, surrounded by boxes, in her New Orleans home, for a safe time to call up the movers and schlep to her new digs in East Lansing. Butts said her new boss is aiming to make the move soon.

Since the Broad closed March 13, the entire museum staff has been working at home, except for a daily walk through by museum registrar Rachel Vargas and chief preparator Brian Kirschensteiner to check on the building's temperature, humidity and other physical conditions.

Physically, everything is OK, but without visitors, the Zaha Hadid-designed Broad Museum and the art inside is a lonely place.

"Art needs to be viewed," Butts said. "It reminds me of some videos I've seen from aquariums and zoos — 'the penguins miss you, the rhino misses you.' Well, the art misses you."

The Broad's reopening, Sept. 1 is timed to coincide with the start of fall classes at MSU the following day. When MSU President Samuel Stanley's announced that in-person classes would be held this fall, the Broad staff wanted to be open to serve them.

"We've been in constant consul-



This image is from Fenner Nature Center. I would like to thank the many park rangers, attendants, and other staff and volunteers who care for the natural spaces around Mid-Michigan region. I am indebted to these individuals for the moments of solace their hard work have offered me during these difficult times.

Courtesy photo

An early entry in the MSU Broad Museum's community installation, "Acts of Care," marking the museum's reopening Sept. 1.

tation with health experts and university physicians, following CDC guidelines," Butts said.

Arts professionals are anxiously watching data on attendance as museums reopen across the country, but it's still too early to discern a general trend. The Detroit Institute of Arts reopened July 10; the Chicago Art Institute reopens Thursday (July 30) and the Museum of Science and Industry reopens Saturday (Aug. 1).

The question that is uppermost on the minds of most arts leaders is, will pent-up demand lead to a surge in attendance or will caution keep people away?

Colleen Dillenschneider, a market specialist who writes a blog on the subject, advises arts leaders that during and immediately after the pandemic, attendance at cultural sites will likely be "redistributed." Parks, botanical gardens and other open-air spaces will see an uptick in attendance; symphony halls, theaters and other "enclosed spaces with limited movement" will suffer the most.

Museums are generally airy places where people move around, so they sit somewhere in between. The huge galleries and state-of-the-art ventilation at the Broad Museum, which was seldom crowded anyway, will likely make it an attractive pandemic-era haunt, not just for art seekers, but for people who are bored and are fleeing quarantine.

"We also want to continue online engagement for those who aren't

comfortable with visiting in person," Butts said. A variety of classes, talks and hands-on workshops can be accessed at the Broad's Web site.

Besides the "Acts of Care" exhibit, visitors to the Broad Art Museum in September will see the full 2020 MSU Master of Fine Arts exhibit, installed in March and waiting for an audience until now. The MFA show is always a panoply of advanced student work in many genres and media and has become an annual tradition at the Broad. Also in place this September is a complete series of provocative video works, collectively titled "Situation," by filmmaker John Lucas and poet Claudia Rankine. The films revolve around the theme of race-based aggressions, both large and small.

The Broad's sprawling lead exhibition since January, "Never Spoken Again: Rogue Stories of Science and Collections," was scheduled to run until Aug. 23 and can't be held over, because it is a traveling exhibition and it has to be moved to its next scheduled location.

"Unfortunately, some exhibits didn't get the life we envisioned for them," Butts said.

She hopes "Acts of Care" will take on a life of its own once people see it in person and get ideas for their own submissions.

"We're still going through this, so this project is ongoing," Butts said. "I don't think anyone is looking at the world and saying, 'Oh, this is going to end soon.'"



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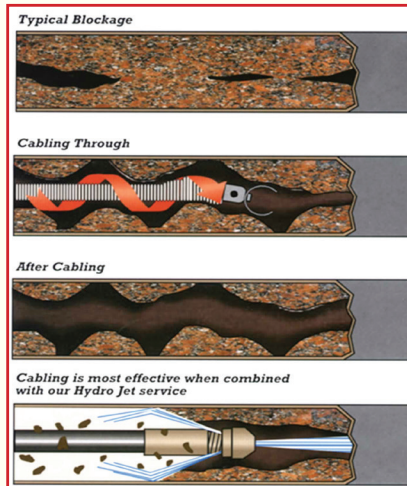


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# Cereal-flavored weed, more dabs and the Lansing River Trail

Cured resins offer more flavor, less mess than traditional waxes

By KYLE KAMINSKI

**Crunch Berries Pre-Rolled Joint**

Price — \$15/0.75 gram

THC content — 18.7%

Warning: Crunch Berries seems to be a creeper. Despite clocking in at among the higher THC percentages available on the local market last week, this strain didn't hit me very quickly. Rather, it seemed to work more in the background — increasing in potency about an hour after I smoked it.

Research shows this variety is an indica-heavy mix involving the Triple OG X blueberry strain. One downside to the pre-rolled joint is you don't get to inspect those crystal-covered buds.

Obviously, it gets its name from the Cap'n Crunch cereal — and for good reason. I immediately picked up on the creamy smoothness and subtle berry flavors rolled up inside. It wasn't overpowering by any stretch of the imagination, but just enough to draw a clear connection.

The other downside: The joint burned up way too quickly. It left me wanting another.



Naturally, I followed this cereal joint up with a couple of Saturday morning cartoons. And it was a perfect combo. Combined with coffee, this relaxing strain slowly builds into some nice get-up-and-go effects that won't to-

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tally wash away the productivity of the rest of your afternoon.

**Element Cured Resin — Watermel-**

**on Lifesaver x Sunset Sherbert**

Price — \$44/gram

THC content — 68.3%

Cured resin, among many types of cannabis concentrates, is an extract of dried marijuana and registers at the same astonishing THC levels as traditional waxes. They're just not nearly as sticky, making them easier to dab. They also tend to have much more complex flavor profiles.

Experts will talk a lot about terpenes and trichomes. I just know they get you stoned. Quickly.

These smooth little golden nuggets carried a pungent, yet pleasant, citrusy sort of taste. I didn't pick up on any watermelon or sherbert notes, but can understand the namesake. Maybe I'm getting better with the new torch setup, but this stuff also didn't burn up as quickly as the wax. The resulting flavor was also more enjoyable. My usual dab-induced coughing fit was more subdued. Bright, floral and fruity — almost like fresh produce compared to canned vegetables.

Four energizing tokes later, I was out the door and headed to the River



Trail. Don't expect to be couchlocked on this stuff. I spent about two hours listening to some weird lo-fi jazz playlist and following around my dog as he pissed on every single bush in the city of Lansing. Good times.

This is a great product to relieve stress and anxiety without totally numbing your mind. It's perfect for a downtown stroll, a beachside sunset at Rotary Park and then nine hours of sleep.

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

## Favorite Things

### Julie Canfield and her mother's thrifty treasure collection

After weeks of thinking about my favorite thing, I realized I couldn't come up with just one item. Instead, I decided my favorite things are actually all the numerous items that my mom had given me through the years or items that were my mom's. Her "treasures."

My older siblings are 8 and 11-years older than me, so I basically had my parents to myself growing up. I was essentially raised as an only child. My mom always referred to me as her "coffee drinking buddy." She'd tote me along to her visits with friends and coffee dates. Because of that, I grew to love coffee at a ridiculously young age. We also frequently visited yard sales, flea markets and antique shops together. She was a collector of vintage items and I loved seeking out these items with her. Throughout the years, she collected



numerous items: tins, vintage linens, Delft Blue Dutch Pottery and even pottery that coincidentally had the same name as hers, Claire Wilson — just to name a few.

This was a tradition we carried on throughout my adult years. She would make biweekly trips into

Lansing and we would always go for lunch and shopping together. Without fail, we'd end up at some type of flea market or antique store to finish our day treasure hunting. Even on days when I wasn't in the mood or didn't feel like shopping, or stopping at that garage sale that she

saw, she always told me I would look back and laugh at the memories we shared doing this.

In August of last year, my mom passed away from a long battle with metastatic breast cancer. Now, I understand why my mom called all her finds treasures. Throughout our house are items that remind me of her. Small items, like the pictured strawberry, I remember from my childhood. Other items she crafted or were gifted to me after she passed away. I have too many in my possession to pick just one, but it's so nice to have constant reminders of her pop up throughout my day. I don't look at them as things, but as memories we shared together.

*(Words by Julie Canfield. Edited by Rich Tupica. If you have a suggestion for Favorite Things, email skyler@lansingcitypulse.com.)*



# East Lansing artist starts work on original tarot deck

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

In these uncertain times, wouldn't you like to have a better picture of the future? For some, tarot cards offer a supernatural sense of knowing and control. Shuffling the tarot deck and picking cards at random is like putting all of your faith in fate, letting go and hoping for the best.

Noah Boyd, 24, who uses they/them pronouns, started producing their own tarot cards last year. Boyd bought a deck using the Hot Topic employee discount years ago as a bored kid working at the mall. It sat dormant for a long time before Boyd decided to learn the secrets that lay within it.

"It was something in my possession and I wanted to get into it. I originally approached it from a creative aspect, hoping to make my own tarot deck," Boyd said. "Learning about the cards and what they represented then gave me an appreciation for tarot as a whole."

Boyd honed their graphic design skills in high school computer classes and during their studies at Lansing Community College. Boyd works primarily with Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, employing digital manipulation effects and bright colors to create trippy visuals inspired by neo-futurist/cyberpunk aesthetics à la "Blade Runner."

So far, Boyd has made 10 cards out of 70 right. Like many artists, they have a large stockpile of unfinished projects lingering in the depths of their computer.

Boyd's design process is basically nonexistent. Instead, they tend to go with the flow. "With my designs, I mostly shoot from the hip. I would look for a card that struck me and start from there," Boyd said. Still, Boyd seemed hesitant about the quality of their artwork. Or, at least, they seemed determined to make sure that their vision is realized perfectly. Boyd has admittedly high standards.

"I have a folder of like 90 cards that I have started on and then started over from scratch. I wish I could show you, it's so many," laughed Boyd. "A couple have been daunting to me, like my favorites."



Cole Tunningley/City Pulse

Local artist and tarot card enthusiast Noah Boyd holding The Fool and The Magician.



Boyd's rendition of the VIII of Swords.

Boyd's favorites include the Five of Cups and the Fool. They said that they like the Five of Cups specifically because it looks "emo," and it has the same aesthetic of a typical mid-'00s rock album cover. Boyd has an affinity for emo bands of the era, such as My Chemical Romance.

Their relationship to the Fool is more personal. "It's always had an interesting

effect on me. It's resonated with me for a long time."

Boyd also learned how to properly give tarot readings. They started learning online, then moved to books. "Books are more consistent. There's a lot of weird information online," they explained. "There are a couple sites I trust, like BiddyTarot. It will give you an all right idea of the symbolism of the cards."

Boyd said that it's entirely possible to be bad at tarot readings. To learn how to do it right takes time and dedication. Even they haven't finished learning the symbolism behind every single card in the deck. "Some cards have art on them that are pretty easy to draw symbolism from. Sometimes the cards are more complex," said Boyd. "A lot of it is intuition, practice, getting to know your own deck and how you can work with it."

For beginners, Boyd recommended keeping a journal after each reading.

"To get the best reading out of tarot, you should have confidence in yourself and be in the right state of mind," they said. "A lot of stress and anxiety can affect your tarot readings. Everyone will be kind of bad off it right off the bat, unless you have some sort of innate psychic ability."

## Virtual visual arts

Lansing Art Gallery's summer camp goes online

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Following suit with countless other institutions making the digital pivot, Lansing Art Gallery and Education Center's summer camp programs for children are now tending to its budding artists virtually.

### Lansing Art Gallery Youth Camp

To learn more and register visit:  
lansingartgallery.org/  
youth-camps

Digital campers are given access to five days of pre-recorded, step-by-step lessons to follow along with on a computer or tablet. The camps also supply students with a wide range of supplemental materials and connect students with teachers, so they can reach out for direct instructions and assistance, in case they find themselves stuck or frustrated. To keep with tradition, a virtual gallery with the students' best work will be hosted online once all of the camps are completed.

Subjects and courses include "Tan-

talizing Textiles," a course that teaches

students the basics of block printing and how to use surface design to turn household objects such as pillowcases into works of art, and "Animal Antics," which uses animals as subjects to inform artists on sketching techniques and painting composition.

While at first hopeful that the status of the pandemic in Michigan would improve enough to allow for in-person sessions, Lansing Art Gallery leadership quickly realized that its traditional camp would not be feasible. Since the pandemic hit, the gallery has made several detours, and its space on Washington Square is still not open to the public.

"We already had our teachers contracted to do in-person classes, so we had conversations like, 'If we can't be in-person for whatever reason, what would that look like?'" Lansing Art Gallery education director Michelle Carlson said. "Then, we made the decision that the gallery wouldn't be open

to the public. That's when we worked hard to get things online."

Lansing Art Gallery began collaborating with its teachers to come up with the best possible plan of action for a summer camp that was still fun, informative and, most importantly, worth the effort. They concluded the lessons needed to meet two criteria: simple lesson plans and accessible supplies.

"We tried to keep the lessons fairly simple, or not as involved as they would be in-person because we can't have that immediate one-on-one connection with a student if they need help," Carlson said. "We also needed to keep the supplies simple and available to everyone."

Art supplies are being handled through a partnership with Odd Nodd Art Supply, a locally owned art shop in the REO Town Marketplace that opened last year. Camp attendees can choose to either use their own supplies or visit Odd Nodd to pick up one of the prepackaged art kits put together by the gallery.



Carlson

Carlson and the teachers decided the best route was to put together a simple lesson for each day of camp, using pre-recorded video instead of live chats, to help circumvent technical errors and to avoid the chaos of a dozen people talking over each other. Pre-recorded classes also give students more control in accessing the lessons, but if all else fails, they can schedule a private video conference with a teacher.

"Students can access the lesson whenever they choose during the day. We thought, 'Are kids going to want to sit in front of a screen after doing online school all spring?'" Carlson said. "We also questioned if kids could do live Zoom class meetings at 9 a.m. without assistance from their parents."

The virtual camp is Lansing Art Gallery's staff and camp teachers first foray into online education. The process has been very challenging, Carlson said. The education director has spent the past few months learning video production and mastering communication platforms such as Google Classroom.

"My forte is not video production or editing. I'm the only staff person working on the camp and providing this content, so I had to learn a lot. Thankfully there's a lot of resources available," she said.



# Karen Dionne crafts a spellbinding Upper Peninsula murder mystery

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Karen Dionne's new book, "The Wicked Sister," is proof she is not a one-hit wonder. She has crafted a worthy and exciting followup to her 2017 debut, "The Marsh King's Daughter." Both books are taut psychological thrillers that will keep you up reading well into the night.

Like "The Marsh King's Daughter," Dionne's new book is set in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where Dionne and her husband lived for 30 years before moving back to the Lower Peninsula.

"The Wicked Sister," as readers soon find out, has a strong undercurrent of magic realism, which, in the early chapters, might be misinterpreted as the ramblings of a disturbed mental patient.

The book's protagonist, Rachel Cunningham, has been institutionalized for 15 years at an Upper Peninsula psychiatric hospital after the apparent murder-suicide of her parents. Cunningham, who was traumatized by the incident, has flashbacks that lead her to believe she was responsible; however, those observations are gradually changing as her memory comes back.

The spiders at her window tell her she had nothing to do with the death of her parents, and their death might not be what it seems. Rachel, asking the spider how it knows the truth, answers, "I know. We all know."

The Upper Peninsula backdrop is changed out for this outing. Dionne, who used the Upper Peninsula's notorious marshes as the backdrop for her first thriller, has now moved to the rugged inland forests. She promises her next thriller will take place on the shores of Lake Superior.

When Rachel is faced with evidence that she may have not killed her parents, she releases herself and returns to a family lodge, where she reunites with her aunt and her sister Diana. Growing up, Rachel's parents were research biologists who found a home in the Upper Peninsula after a tragedy in Ann Arbor forced them to move north.

Her older sister Diana has been fraught with behavioral issues since childhood, but Rachel must return to her home and confront the past. A young journalist, who has a brother in the same institution and wants to write her story, assists her in the dangerous quest.

Dionne uses childhood fairy tales

as inspiration, drawing on the Brothers Grimm retelling of "The White Snake" and "Snow White and Red Rose." There are of course other parallels, including the rival sisters, a wicked aunt and an enchanted raven that assists Rachel on her search for truth.

Dionne has also made Michigan's black bear a central figure in the book, which aligns with Rachel's love of the natural world. Both the raven and the bear are important to the book's dramatic ending.

The author has also drawn from her past to incorporate a psychopathic child. In her past, Dionne befriended a couple that adopted three siblings. One of these siblings was institutionalized to protect the other two.

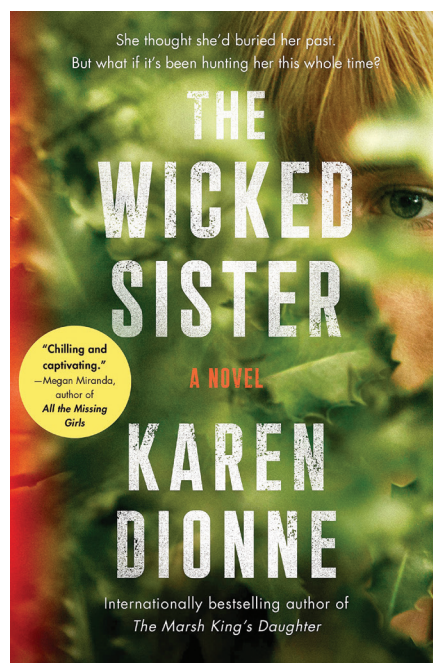
"The Wicked Sister" sees Dionne writing in multiple voices, which she said is not that difficult to pull off. The book alternates between past and present, and mother and daughter.

Dionne's first novel, "The Marsh King's Daughter," has been optioned for a movie, but she's happy to leave the filmmaking experience to others. She said the rights have just been optioned for the fourth time and include an A-List movie star.

Her next book is already underway and takes place in a small town on the shore of Lake Superior between



Dionne



Grand Marais and Whitefish Point. Michiganders might know this region as the "Graveyard of the Great Lakes."

She says that may be a hint about what the book is about. "The book will allow me to explore small town life, and the anonymity across towns in the Upper Peninsula," Dionne said.

Dionne, who is now experiencing the glory of being a bestselling author, is not new to the writing profession. The author, who began writing in 2001 while still living in St. Ignace, wrote several mildly successful apocalyptic environmental thrillers before she tackled psychological thrillers.

Like all authors, her plans for a whirlwind promotional tour came to an abrupt end when the pandemic struck. With all promotional events now online, she constantly has to be

camera-ready. "I clean up nicely," she said.

Most of her writing is done out of her 18x24 writing shed, which was constructed after she received a \$1 million advance for "The Marsh King's Daughter."

"My office is bigger than the cabin we lived in back in 1974," Dionne said.

She's also pleased that Yoopers have embraced her new favorite genre.

"They thanked me for getting all the geography right; treating the Upper Peninsula lifestyle with respect and saying, 'I can totally see it happening,'" she said.

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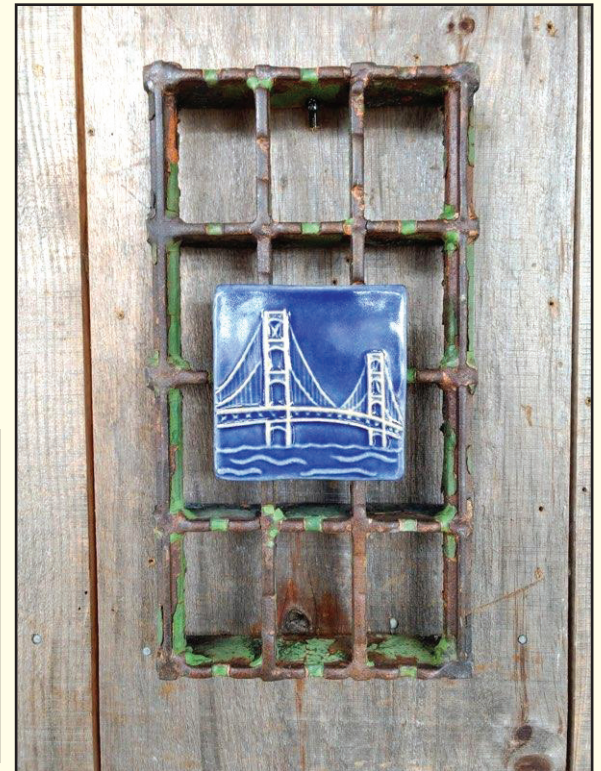


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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"R-ationing"--it's three for the price of one.

By Matt Jones

Across

- 1 "RuPaul's \_\_\_ Race"  
5 Twitch streamer, often  
10 Ride around town  
13 Drink brand with a lizard logo  
14 San Antonio mission, with "the"  
15 Rescue team, briefly  
17 Pictures of surrealist Joan's work?  
19 Fortnite company  
20 One way to sit by  
21 "And here's to you, \_\_\_ Robinson ..."  
22 Arrange alphabetically  
23 Mountaineer's vocalization  
25 Manzarek of The Doors  
26 Stereotypical person who might demand to speak to the manager of this puzzle  
27 End of Wikipedia's URL  
28 Sound from a meadow  
30 "Hansel and Gretel" setting  
31 Villain who only wears his purple suspenders and "W" hat two days at a time?  
35 California city near Stockton  
36 Muralist Rivera  
37 "Won't do it"  
41 Comedy duo of scientist Marie and singer Burl?  
44 It may be served in a spear  
47 Bonding words  
48 Sixth sense, supposedly  
49 Got up  
50 Baha \_\_\_ ("Who Let the Dogs Out" group)  
52 Element #5

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- 54 Cruise destination  
55 Die maximum, usually  
56 Rapidly disappearing storage medium  
57 Actress Kendrick of the Quibi series "Dummy" setting  
58 Program again onto an antiquated computer storage format?  
62 Bank's property claim  
63 Last letter in the Greek alphabet  
64 Rival of Visa or MC  
65 Dishonorable guy  
66 Intro show  
67 Budget allocation

Down  
1 Psychiatric reference book, for short  
2 French monarch  
3 Like smaller dictionaries  
4 Crystal-filled cavity  
5 No longer fresh, as venison
- 6 Pie \_\_\_ mode  
7 Igneous rock, once  
8 Abrasive manicure substance  
9 Monica's brother on "Friends"  
10 Chef Boyardee product that had to be renamed for a "Seinfeld" episode  
11 Ballpark figure?  
12 "Whose Line ..." comic Ryan  
16 What some dryer sheets have  
18 "Well \_\_\_!" ("Fancy that!")  
23 Feline wall  
24 Cookie that released an egg-shaped version for Easter 2019  
25 Projections from a hub  
26 Backyard pond fish  
29 Tennis's Agassi  
30 Palm leaf  
32 It does a hold-up job in the parking lot

33 Teensy  
34 "Teletubbies" shout  
38 Defeat  
39 Chilean cash  
40 "Pardon the Interruption" network  
42 Glob or nod ending  
43 "The Many Loves of \_\_\_ Gillis"  
44 Vatican-related  
45 Like some twists of fate  
46 Pupil protector  
50 Home of the Dolphins  
51 Throw out  
53 NATO alphabet vowel  
55 Octagonal road sign  
56 "Aw, fiddlesticks!"  
59 Cause of conflict, maybe  
60 Hang-out room  
61 Abbr. after a telephone number

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SUDOKU

Beginner

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

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 25

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsný

July 29 - August 5, 2020

**ARIES (March 21–April 19):** Aries poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti is renowned for his buoyancy. In one of his famous lines, he wrote, "I am awaiting, perpetually and forever, a renaissance of wonder." Here's what I have to say in response to that thought: Your assignment, as an Aries, is NOT to sit there and wait, perpetually and forever, for a renaissance of wonder. Rather, it's your job to embody and actualize and express, perpetually and forever, a renaissance of wonder. The coming weeks will be an especially favorable time for you to rise to new heights in fulfilling this aspect of your life-long assignment.

**TAURUS (April 20–May 20):** I live in Northern California on land that once belonged to the indigenous Coast Miwok people. They were animists who believed that soul and sentience animate all animals and plants as well as rocks, rivers, mountains—everything, really. Their food came from hunting and gathering, and they lived in small bands without centralized political authority. According to one of their creation stories, Coyote and Silver Fox made the world by singing and dancing it into existence. Now I invite you to do what I just illustrated: Find out about and celebrate the history of the people and the place where you live. From an astrological perspective, it's a favorable time to get in touch with roots and foundations.

**GEMINI (May 21–June 20):** "When I look down, I miss all the good stuff, and when I look up, I just trip over things," says singer-songwriter Ani DiFranco. I wonder if she has tried an alternate approach: looking straight ahead. That's what I advise for you in the coming weeks, Gemini. In other words, adopt a perspective that will enable you to detect regular glimpses of what's above you and what's below you—as well as what's in front of you. In fact, I suggest you avoid all extremes that might distract you from the big picture. The truth will be most available to you if you occupy the middle ground.

**CANCER (June 21–July 22):** The Italian word "nottivago" refers to "night roamers": people who wander around after dark. Why do they do it? What do they want to accomplish? Maybe their ramblings have the effect of dissolving stuck thoughts that have been plaguing them. Maybe it's a healing relief to indulge in the luxury of having nowhere in particular to go and nothing in particular to do: to declare their independence from the obsessive drive to get things done. Meandering after sundown may stir up a sense of wild freedom that inspires them to outflank or outgrow their problems. I bring these possibilities to your attention, Cancerian, because the coming days will be an excellent time to try them out.

**LEO (July 23–Aug. 22):** "Notice what no one else notices and you'll know what no one else knows," says actor Tim Robbins. That's perfect counsel for you right now, Leo. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, your perceptiveness will be at a peak in the coming weeks. You'll have an ability to discern half-hidden truths that are invisible to everyone else. You'll be aggressive in scoping out what most people don't even want to become aware of. Take advantage of your temporary superpower! Use it to get a lucid grasp of the big picture—and cultivate a more intelligent approach than those who are focused on the small picture and the comfortable delusions.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22):** "Look on every exit as being an entrance somewhere else," wrote playwright Tom Stoppard. That's ripe advice for you to meditate on during the coming weeks. You're in a phase of your astrological cycle when every exit can indeed be an entrance somewhere else—but only if you believe in that possibility and are alert for it. So please dissolve your current assumptions about the current chapter of your life story so that you can be fully open to new possibilities that could become available.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22):** "One must think with the body and the soul or not think at all," wrote Libran author and historian Hannah Arendt. She implied that thinking only with the head may spawn

monsters and demons. Mere conceptualization is arid and sterile if not interwoven with the wisdom of the soul and the body's earthy intuitions. Ideas that are untempered by feelings and physical awareness can produce poor maps of reality. In accordance with astrological omens, I ask you to meditate on these empowering suggestions. Make sure that as you seek to understand what's going on, you draw on all your different kinds of intelligence.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21):** "I always wanted to be commander-in-chief of my one-woman army," says singer-songwriter Ani DiFranco. I think that goal is within sight for you, Scorpio. Your power over yourself has been increasing lately. Your ability to manage your own moods and create your own sweet spots and define your own fate is as robust as I have seen it in a while. What do you plan to do with your enhanced dominion? What special feats might you attempt? Are there any previously impossible accomplishments that may now be possible?

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21):** Your meditation for the coming weeks comes to you courtesy of author and naturalist Henry David Thoreau. "We can never have enough of nature," he wrote. "We must be refreshed by the sight of inexhaustible vigor, vast and titanic features, the sea-coast with its wrecks, the wilderness with its living and its decaying trees, the thunder cloud, and the rain which lasts three weeks and produces freshets. We need to witness our own limits transgressed, and some life pasturing freely where we never wander." Oh, how I hope you will heed Thoreau's counsel, Sagittarius. You would really benefit from an extended healing session amidst natural wonders. Give yourself the deep pleasure of exploring what wildness means to you.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19):** Author and activist bell hooks (who doesn't capitalize her name) has taught classes at numerous American universities. She sometimes writes about her experiences there, as in the following passage. "My students tell me, 'we don't want to love! We're tired of being loving!' And I say to them, if you're tired of being loving, then you haven't really been loving, because when you are loving you have more strength." I wanted you to know her thoughts, Capricorn, because I think you're in a favorable position to demonstrate how correct she is: to dramatically boost your own strength through the invigorating power of your love.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18):** Aquarian author Langston Hughes (1902–1967) was a pioneering and prolific African American author and activist who wrote in four different genres and was influential in boosting other Black writers. One of his big breaks as a young man came when he was working as a waiter at a banquet featuring the famous poet Vachel Lindsay. Hughes managed to leave three of his poems on Lindsay's table. The great poet loved them and later lent his clout to boosting Hughes' career. I suspect you might have an opening like that sometime soon, Aquarius—even if it won't be quite as literal and hands-on. Be ready to take advantage. Cultivate every connection that may become available.

**PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20):** Author Faith Baldwin has renounced the "forgive and forget" policy. She writes, "I think one should forgive and remember. If you forgive and forget, you're just driving what you remember into the subconscious; it stays there and festers. But to look upon what you remember and know you've forgiven is achievement." That's the approach I recommend for you right now, Pisces. Get the relief you need, yes: Forgive those who have trespassed against you. But also: Hold fast to the lessons you learned through those people so you won't repeat them again later.



# TURN IT DOWN!

BY RICH TUPICA

## LOCAL MIX: A TRACKLIST OF OBSCURE MICHIGAN-MADE GARAGE-ROCK SONGS

### The Black Watch "I Wish I Had the Nerve" — 1967

The small town of Cedar Springs produced one of the most spectral-sounding teenage love ballads to come out of the West Michigan scene, "I Wish I Had the Nerve," by The Black Watch. Paired with a more upbeat A-side, "Left Behind," the Fenton Records band — like many from this era — only stuck around for one single and then vanished into adulthood. The group, originally known as The Nomads, comprised bassist Bob Rayce, Jon Grannis (lead guitar/ vocals), Glenn Stout (rhythm guitar/vocals), Brad Bassett (drums) and keyboardist Bill Shaw.



### The Sheffield's "Nothing I Can Do" — 1965

"Nothing I Can Do," released in May 1965, is one of a string of jangly melodic-garage nuggets penned by The Sheffield's guitarist John Dunn. The Holland-based band also comprised bassist Dale Knoll, Ron Gibson (lead guitar), Rodney Mullett (drums) and lead singer Gary Teall. The Sheffield's recorded three other singles for Fenton Records and Destination Records, "My Lovin' Days Are Through" (November 1965), "Do You Still Love Me" (May 1966), and the band's final stab at a hit, "Fool Minus A Heart," which arrived in March 1967. In its prime, the band packed out popular local venues like the Holland Armory and The Factory. In 1986, about 20 years after the band's breakup, they played a well-attended reunion gig at The Holland Civic Center, but haven't played since.



### The Quests "Shadows in the Night" — 1966

The Quests' "Shadow's in the Night" is stacked with some mean fuzz guitar, sure, but it's also dynamically complemented with soaring, Brian Wilson-inspired vocals. The flipside of the Fenton single is the frantic and galloping track, "I'm Tempted"

— making it one of the best-rounded singles on the label. The band's first 7-inch, 1966's "Scream Loud," hit No. 2 on WGRD and later became the title track of the impressive 2007

Fenton Records boxset, a three-LP collection called "Scream Loud!!!: The Fenton Story." After the band split, guitarist Bob Fritzen and keyboardist Ron Sieracki formed another band, The Sound Investment. In 2007, the band issued a CD of its songs, "ReQUESTed: Back to the Garage." The disc includes the singles and some previously unreleased tunes. Last year, a deluxe picture-sleeve reissue of the "Shadows of Night" single was released via Hyperlook Records.



### The Poor Boys Pride "Fall of a Town" — 1967

Formed in 1966, The Poor Boys Pride were on their way up after landing a booking and promotion company. But, like all of these bands — it didn't last long. The group consisted of Rick Clark (drums/vocals), Jim Crowell (guitar/vocals), Ken Saum (guitar/

vocal), Floyd Walker (bass/vocal) and Lowell Webster (keys/horn/vocal). The Poor Boys Pride released its bizarrely morose 1967 single, "Fall of a Town" b/w "The Place," on its own Swade imprint. The B-side was, of course, a tribute to The Place, the notable local teen club. When the band was preparing for a three-week tour, two of its members were drafted into the Vietnam War. The band's 1968 single "I'm Here" (backed with the Bo Diddley-beat-driven "But Yes Who Cares") was one of the last Fenton Records singles to be pressed. In 2013, the band released a CD retrospective compiling its singles and previously unreleased tracks.

### Peter & the Prophets "Don't Need Your Lovin'" — 1966

In April 1966, Peter & the Prophets' polished-pop treasure "Don't Need Your Lovin'"

(b/w "Johnny of Dreams") started scoring airplay on WLAV and soon reached No. 17 on WGRD. It also landed them a lip-synching spot on McKay's Place. The East Grand Rapids-based high school band, which formed in 1965, comprised Pete Samuelson and John Kay on guitar and vocals, Mike Boylan playing lead guitar, Jeff Boylan on bass and Dan Kimball on drums. After the band called it quits, Kay and Samuelson joined another garage-pop group called The Everyday Things and cut one private-press single on its Briton label.



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## CITY PULSE'S MITTEN MUSIC QUIZ

1. Bob Seger changed his early band's name after realizing it sounds too similar to "The Last Turd."
2. This late singer, actress and ordained minister performed under her real name, Delloreese Early, in the Mediations Singers — a 1940s-1950s Detroit gospel group.
3. In the 1990s, this East Lansing singer-songwriter released a string of satire-infused folk albums, including "Songs About Stuff."
4. John Lennon wrote a song named after this Michigan poet and activist, and performed a 1971 "Freedom Rally" concert in his honor, as well.
5. At age 15, this Michigan rock star took up his other passion: upholstery

Answers on page 24





# OUT ON THE TOWN

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

**Wednesday, July 29**  
**2020 East Lansing Kiwanis “Virtual BBQ”** - 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. For info and tickets: [elkiwanis.org](http://elkiwanis.org).

**4-H Children’s Gardens Butterfly School Virtual Tour** - for info go to [4hgarden.msu.edu/butterflies](http://4hgarden.msu.edu/butterflies)

**4-H Children’s Gardens Virtual Tour** - for info go to [4hgarden.msu.edu](http://4hgarden.msu.edu)

**Allen Farmers Market** - 2:30-7 p.m. Allen Farmers Market 2020, 2100 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

**ARTpath | Public Art on the Lansing River Trail** - 8 a.m.-9 p.m., ongoing, along the Lansing River Trail. 517-374-6400. [lansingartgallery.org](http://lansingartgallery.org).

**Farmers’ Market Wednesdays** - 3 p.m. Meridian Township Farmers’ Market, 5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos.

**Mythology Trivia** - Please join us for Mythology Trivia! 6-7 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, go to [eradl.org](http://eradl.org).

**Summer Impact 2020** - The Office of Diversity and Inclusion at Lansing Community College invites area 11th and 12th graders to participate virtually. To register, [lcc.edu](http://lcc.edu)

**Virtual Code Club** - on Zoom. Coders can chat about coding. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library Facebook page.

**Thursday, July 30**  
**Bath Township Farmers Market** - 3-7 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13751 Main St., Bath. [shopbfm.org](http://shopbfm.org).

**Curious GLADL** - Virtual Science & STEAM. This week we are learning how to make Oobleck from home! 3 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org)

**Dimondale Farmers’ Market** - 3-7 p.m. Village Square, 136 N Bridge St, Dimondale. 517-646-0230. [villageofdimondale.org](http://villageofdimondale.org).

**Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual)** - 6-7 p.m. [facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing](http://facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing)

**South Lansing Farmers Market** - 3-7 p.m. Casimir Catholic Church, 800 W Barnes Ave, Lansing.

**Friday, July 31**  
**Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual)** - 7:30-8:30 p.m. [facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing](http://facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing)

**Saturday, August 1**  
**Meridian Township Farmers’ Market** - 8 a.m. Meridian Township Farmers’ Market, 5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos.

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

**Williamston Sunrise Rotary** invites you to join a FUN-raising non-fundraising scavenger 2020 Rotary Duck Safari August 1-14. Register and learn more at [williamstonrotary.org](http://williamstonrotary.org).

**Sunday, August 2**  
**East Lansing Farmers Market** - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 300 Valley Court, East Lansing. [cityofeastlansing.com](http://cityofeastlansing.com).

**Monday, August 3**  
**Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual)** - 6-7 p.m. [facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing](http://facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing)

**Tuesday, August 4**  
**Michigan Songbirds** - Please join us for “Michigan Songbirds,” presented by Gary Willis, Department of Natural Resources. 2-3:30 p.m. Michigan Songbirds on Facebook.

**Tech Tuesday** - Tech Tuesday is an online event. 5:30-7 p.m. Eaton Rapids District Library. For link go to [eradl.org](http://eradl.org)

**MITTEN MUSIC QUIZ ANSWERS**

1. Bob Seger & the Last Heard
2. Della Reese
3. Wally Pleasant
4. John Sinclair
5. Jack White

**SUDOKU SOLUTION**  
From Pg. 22


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

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**  
From Pg. 22

D	R	A	G		G	A	M	E	R		B	U	S
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	C	A	D		P	I	L	O	T		R	E	N

**VOTE BRUCE PORTER FOR EATON COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER**

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- Be accessible daily to land owners, municipalities and staff by being a full time Drain Commissioner. I will attend drainage board meetings, hearings and township meetings.
- As Drain Commissioner, I am a member of the Eaton County Park Board and will attend all monthly meetings as per state statute.
- Sealed bids will be obtained to reduce the cost of mowing detention basins. The Drain Commission will also reduce costs of other maintenance projects by receiving sealed bids for work.
- All staff members shall be certified by EAGLE (MDEQ) to do soil erosion inspections and also to review soil erosion plans and issue permits. EAGLE records indicate the current drain commissioner has not passed the test to be certified to review plans and issued permits.
- I will stop all Drain Consolidation Petitions. These are big money makers for attorneys and engineering firms and cause unfair assessments. The current Drain Commissioner spent over \$130,000 for legal fees and engineering fees on one of these projects, 87% of this was spent after the petition was turned down by the Board of Determination.
- Use county maps to assist land owners with FEMA Flood Insurance Waivers, this could save millions of dollars yearly for land owners.
- When Roads are flooded, I will correct the problem as soon as possible. Flooding problems have lasted for over 5 years before our current commissioner tried to solve the problem of tree roots. After 7 years, replacement would have been much cheaper than the maintenance cost for 2015 thru 2019. The new tile would have had a flow capacity of 200% of the existing tile when it was new.

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## Brisket Sandwich from 517 BBQ

By SKYLER ASHLEY

517 BBQ is one of Lansing's newer barbecue joints, opening over the summer last year. And it seems to be a case of "so far, so good," I've had the restaurant recommend to me several times, by complete strangers (via Facebook) and by close friends whose food opinions I know I can trust. They did not fail me. The brisket sandwich and cornbread I ordered for delivery were excellent.



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517bbq.com

The food was packaged very neatly, I'm sure we are all familiar with how messy barbecue can be. Thankfully, I didn't have to deal with a soggy, sauce-soaked bun or with cornbread that was ruined by stray barbecue sauce. The sauce for the brisket was kept separate in little plastic containers. I sampled the sauce and then slathered it onto the sandwich. The sauce was great, smoky with just the right amount of tang. The meat was



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse

517 BBQ's brisket sandwich and cornbread

savory, tender and, for the lack of a better term, juicy. It was everything you'd want or expect from a delicious slab of brisket.

The cornbread was the lunch's secret weapon. People joke about being obsessed with garlic bread, but why doesn't cornbread get the same amount of love? Cornbread lovers need to unite to get cornbread the attention it deserves. Anyway, 517 BBQ's cornbread had a deliciously crumbly texture that paired perfectly with bites of brisket.

So there you have it. If you haven't tried 517 BBQ and are looking for something new, give it a shot.

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<b>GRAVITY SMOKEHOUSE &amp; BBQ</b> <b>Gravity Smokehouse</b> 1850 Cedar St, Holt (517) 258-4900 www.gravitysmokehouse.com	<b>HUNGRY FOR SOMETHING UNFORGETTABLE?</b> Delicious, mouthwatering barbeque like no other. Perfectly cooked meat that falls off the bone and sauce so good you'll want to take some home. We have a food truck and cater events as well!
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