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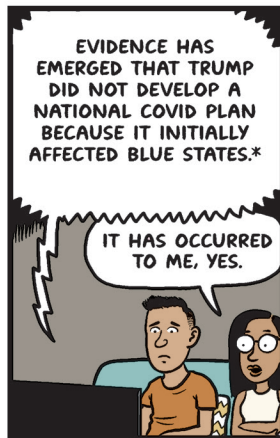
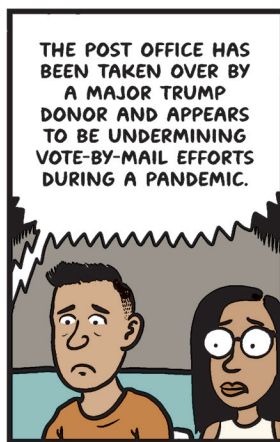
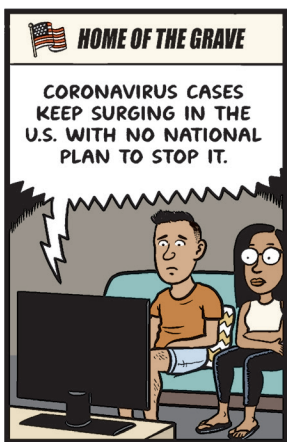
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Meet Bob Peña

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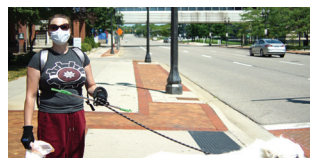
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Community members come together for #PickUpLansing



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New in Town: Cheesy D's in Haslett



**Cover Art**

Illustration by Nevin Speerbrecher

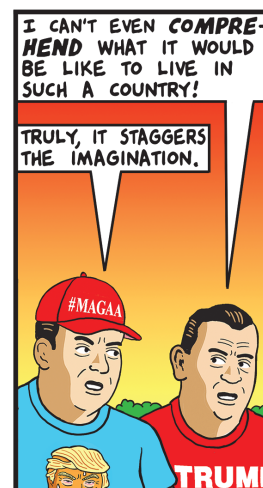
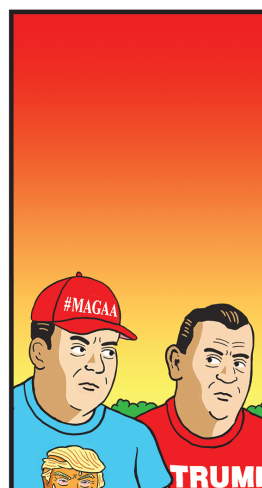
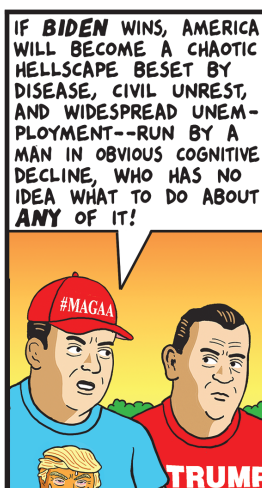
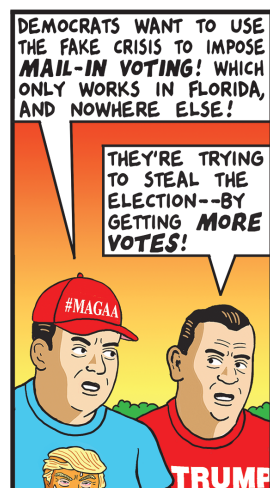
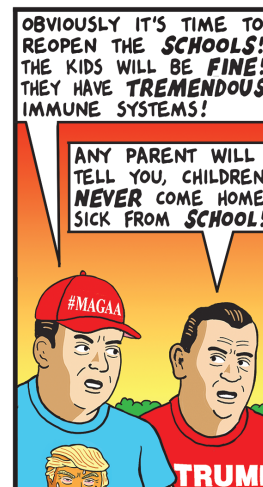
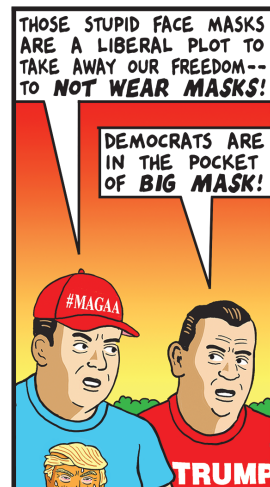
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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

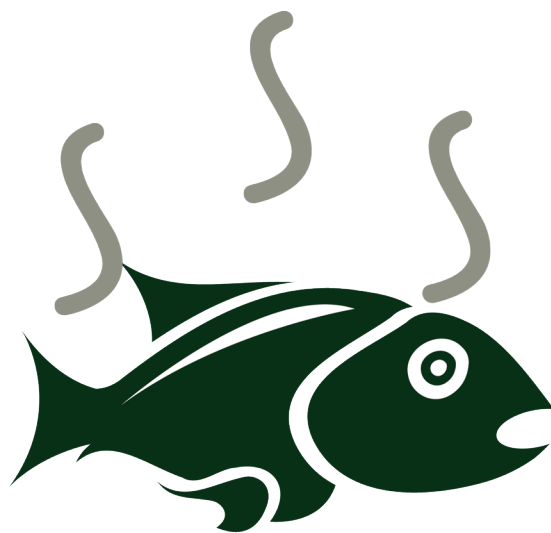


Tom Tomorrow © 2020

# PULSE

# NEWS & OPINION

## Fishy



### The CP Edit

#### Opinion

You may not have noticed an unusual aroma wafting around Lansing City Hall these days, the one that smells like an inside deal — funded by city taxpayers — to prop up Mayor Andy Schor at a challenging time in his tenure. We refer to the recent hiring of Teresa Bingman, who previously served as a high-level aide to former Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm and who is now employed by Vanguard Public Affairs, a Lansing-based public relations and political consulting firm. Bingman, an attorney, was ostensibly hired to help Schor develop a racial justice and equity plan in the wake of fierce criticism over his administration's handling of race-related matters, including the exodus of several Black city officials. On the surface, everything appears to be on the up and up, and for a good cause — making Lansing a more inclusive and equitable community. But there is more to the story.

In an amazing bit of happenstance, at the same time that Schor signed Bingman to her \$63,000 consulting gig, Vanguard decided to launch “Lansing NOW” — a pro-Lansing social media publicity campaign that supposedly has nothing whatsoever to do with polishing Schor's apple in the runup to next year's mayoral contest. When you have a moment, we also have some terrific lakefront property available for sale near downtown. Serious inquiries only, please.

The Lansing NOW campaign, whose name just happens to mirror Schor's “Lansing's Time is Now” slogan, will be funded by anonymous contributions to Vanguard's new 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization. For the unfamiliar, the tax-exempt 501(c)(4) “social welfare” organization is a popular political tool for collecting undisclosed, unlimited cash contributions — commonly referred to as “dark money” — then using the funds to run advertisements that aim to influence voters.

Social welfare organizations are not permitted to explicitly advocate for or against a candidate, but that's just a technicality. They can't urge people to vote for a particular candidate, but they can shower praise on a candidate — or savage them. When you see an ad that says, “Call public official X and tell them to stop wasting our money,” there is a good chance it was paid for by a dark money 501(c)(4). To be fair, Vanguard isn't the only organization that uses the 501(c)(4) approach to influence elections. The tax-exempt groups have sprouted like weeds in Michigan and elsewhere while the elected officials who benefit from them steadfastly refuse to rein them in.

Vanguard is no stranger to Lansing politics or to the mayor's race. In 2016, the firm's president,

a lucrative no-bid contract with the city. A few days later, Vanguard launched the Lansing NOW campaign. Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, “In politics there are no accidents. If it happens, you can bet it was planned that way.” So we can't help thinking that when Mayor Schor and Bucholz both say it was just a coincidence that Bingman was hired by the city while Vanguard simultaneously launched a 501(c)(4) dark money fund to spread positive vibes about Lansing, we truly have to wonder if they take us for fools. Schor's recent statement to City Pulse that he “didn't know much about” the PR campaign strains credulity.

Then there is the matter of how Bingman's contract was awarded. The city's purchasing ordinance generally requires city officials to seek competitive bids for contract services by issuing a Request for Proposals, or RFP. Bingman's contract skirted this requirement by running it through the City Attorney's Office, which is exempt from the purchasing ordinance when “hiring outside counsel or expert witnesses to assist the Law Director in legal matters.” Except that Bingman obviously wasn't hired for that purpose. She was hired to help Schor develop a racial justice and equity plan. While it is fair to assume there are legal issues intertwined in such a plan, using the City Attorney's Office to award a lucrative no-bid contract to Bingman strikes us as an end run around both the spirit and the letter of the purchasing ordinance.

We're surprised that City Attorney Jim Smiertka, a model of integrity and ethical conduct, would allow his office to be used to circumvent an important city ordinance. Even if there is no direct connection between Bingman's work and Vanguard's thinly veiled, pro-Schor fundraising and advertising campaign, the cozy relationships therein create the appearance of an improper quid pro quo, with Schor agreeing to hire Bingman and Vanguard agreeing to run political interference for the mayor.

To be clear, we are entirely supportive of the important work Bingman was hired to lead. She brings impressive credentials to the table, but she is far from the only consultant capable of doing the work. That's why the city should have issued an RFP to ensure that the awarding of a \$63,000 contract using taxpayer funds was offered transparently and competitively to any and all qualified bidders.

As the 2021 mayoral campaign season unfolds, we'll be watching closely for more political shenanigans from Vanguard and its dark money slush fund. You should, too.

T.J. Bucholz, was the spokesman for two shadowy, Facebook-based interest groups, Reform Lansing and No Secret Lansing Deals, that aimed to rough up then-Mayor Virg Bernero in the runup to the 2017 mayoral race, presumably to benefit Schor's expected entry into the contest. Bernero himself was well acquainted with the benefits of dark money slush funds. He caught significant flak (especially from this paper) for his apparent ties to Capital Region Progress, another shadowy 501(c)(4) organization that launched campaign attacks against City Council candidates he was hoping to unseat in 2015. Bernero claimed at the time that he had no connection to the group.

The close relationship between Schor and Vanguard was also front and center during the 2017 mayoral contest. After Schor claimed that Vanguard “volunteered” to help with his campaign kickoff announcement, the firm was subsequently paid \$5,000 for its services. At about the same time, Schor hired Vanguard employee Chelsea Coffey to manage his campaign. Coffey was subsequently hired to work in the Mayor's Office.

Returning to the present case, let's connect the dots: Bingman is an employee of Vanguard Public Affairs. Bingman's law firm, a separate entity, landed

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Please limit them to 250 words

# James aligns with Republicans on threats to repeal the ACA

By **DIANNE BYRUM**

*(The writer is the state director of Protect Our Care Michigan.)*

As we approach the November election, one thing is crystal clear: Access to quality, affordable health care is a top priority for Michigan voters.



Byrum

The stakes are very high, and the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of high-quality, affordable health care for all Americans who face major economic challenges and health risks.

U.S. Senate candidate John James has repeatedly threatened to repeal the Affordable Care Act, saying it's a "monstrosity" that needs to be removed. The ACA has provided protections for affordable health care coverage to 4.1 million Michiganders with pre-existing conditions. With those protections at stake in the election, Michiganders deserve to know the details of James' health care plan.

Despite claiming to care about the health and safety of Michigan's vulnerable populations, James has yet to share a plan that ensures millions of hardworking Americans don't lose their health care. The ACA has provided millions of Americans, including hundreds of thousands of Michiganders, access to affordable coverage — all of whom would lose coverage and be subjected to astronomical health care costs if the landmark legislation is repealed.

Today the political reality is health care is an issue that follows party lines, and James clearly stands with President Donald Trump and Republicans in Washington. Right now, Republican attorneys general have filed briefs with the U.S. Supreme Court supporting the Trump administration to repeal the Affordable Care Act and the Democratic attorneys general have filed briefs opposing the Trump lawsuit. James has refused to oppose the lawsuit that would dismantle the ACA within a year and supported the GOP tax bill that served as the legal basis for the lawsuit. Meanwhile, the Democratic controlled U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation to strengthen and expand the ACA and the Republican controlled U.S. Senate has blocked action.

James has confirmed multiple times he's a staunch supporter of the president, despite Trump's cruel pledge to repeal the ACA and leave Americans without health coverage. James has even "scoffed" at bipartisanship, telling supporters the term is a buzzword that "makes me want to throw up." This is very troubling given the partisanship of health care and the polarization in our political discourse.

U.S. Sen. Gary Peters has shown time and again how he successfully works across the political lines to get things done. In fact, in June, Peters received the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Jefferson-Hamilton Award for Bipartisanship, which recognizes members of Congress who have demonstrated a willingness to work across the aisle.

It is clear James will not break from Trump and Republicans even as they continue to push their reckless lawsuit to dismantle the ACA. And to make matters worse, James has not released a plan to protect people with pre-existing conditions should the ACA be repealed.

Conversely, Peters and Congressional Democrats have fought tirelessly to protect and expand the ACA and to lower the cost of prescription drugs.

Since Peters' first term in Congress, when he cast his vote for the ACA, he has worked to protect and improve the comprehensive law that benefits millions of Michiganders.

Peters knows what's at stake for Michiganders and will take the fight to protect America's health care plan seriously. This is in direct contrast to Republicans who have pledged to strip health care from people who need it, even during this pandemic. Despite empty promises, James has made clear he will fall in line with his Republican allies to repeal the ACA.

It is not the time for political games. There's just too much on the line. The decisions we make now — starting with whom we elect to represent Michigan in the U.S. Senate on Nov. 3 — will have a lasting impact on our future.

More specifically, it will have a direct impact on the future of health care in America.

Michiganders deserve assurance their elected leaders in Washington are fighting to protect and expand the ACA, not dismantle it.

## LETTERS to the editor

### Quarantined by history

Because we are elderly, my wife and I are in long term voluntary quarantine, but for historical reasons as well.

My great grandfather was a mayor (of Batavia, Iowa) in 1918-19. His newspaper notice forbidding all public meetings appeared the same day, same page, as his son's obituary. My grandfather, already weakened by tuberculosis, had died of the flu. My wife's grandfather, weakened by the flu, lingered and died in the spring.

Because our family history affected generations, because of the current widespread failure of fellow citizens to observe basic safety measures, and because a functioning national leadership is absent, we see no alternative but to continue quarantining on our own.

**Bruce Curtis**  
East Lansing

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### Where are the thinkers?

Abraham Lincoln was once told by a reporter that another government official had sharply criticized him. Lincoln's response — 'I have great respect for the man, and if he has concerns about me, there must be some truth in it.' Sure wish we could elect such a thinker.

**Mel Holden**  
Mason

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# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS



By KYLE KAMINSKI



### Lansing considers ending overnight parking ban

The Lansing City Council Monday began consideration of an ordinance to allow free overnight parking, which is banned from 2 a.m. to 5 a.m. That would also end the permit system for overnight parking that was instituted last March. A hearing is set for Aug. 24.

### Masks made mandatory in downtown East Lansing

Face masks must be worn in both indoor and outdoor public spaces in areas of downtown East Lansing. Signs have been installed at entry points of the affected areas. The City Council was expected to extend the order at a scheduled special meeting Tuesday (Aug. 11) after Mayor Aaron Stephens used his emergency authority to mandate masks for a week ending Sunday. Violators could face a civil infraction and a \$25 fine. Michigan State University also decided on a similar mandate on campus. The city order was issued in anticipation of busier sidewalks as students return. Children under 5 and those who cannot medically tolerate a mask needn't wear one. Those seated at a restaurant also don't need one while eating or drinking, but they must wear a face covering at all other times in public.



### Big Ten cancels fall season

The Big Ten has canceled the 2020 college football season. Michigan and Michigan State — which both have physicians as presidents — voted to end the season this week. The move came after the Mid-American Conference can-



celed its season. Some have suggested the possibility of a spring football season, though no decisions have been made as the coronavirus pandemic lingers on through the end of summer. The Lansing School District has also canceled sports and extracurricular activities for this fall.

### Primary election brings upsets

Bob Peña is expected to slide into a two-year term on the Ingham County Board of Commissioners in the Nov. 3 General Election after narrowly defeating incumbent one-term Thomas Morgan in last week's Democrat primary election to represent the heavily Democratic east side. Peña blocked Morgan's second term by 52 votes. Incumbent Republican Commissioner Robin Naeyaert secured a third term last week after defeating challenger Gary Gierke by 29 votes to represent the Mason area. Democratic commissioner candidate Erin Graham narrowly defeated Pam Weil to represent East Lansing, replacing Carol Koenig, who is running for judge.



In another upset, Meridian County Clerk Brett Dreyfus was handily defeated by challenger Deborah Guthrie for the Democratic nomination, 6,716 to 2,517. Dreyfus only carried about 27% of the vote, handing the job to Guthrie, who is unopposed in November.

### 'Dark money' campaign to promote Lansing

Lansing NOW, a nonprofit established earlier this year, is designed exclusively to highlight and promote economic development in the city and to "educate citizens" on the progress that Lansing has made in becoming a "leading Midwest capital city," state filings show. Rules for a 501(c)(4) do not require reporting on who donated.



The nonprofit is run by the political consulting firm Vanguard Public Affairs and registered to TJ Bucholz, its CEO and appointed board member at Downtown Lansing Inc. It launched online just days after Schor's administration hired Teresa Bingman, a senior consultant at Vanguard, for \$63,000 to help orchestrate new racial justice and equity plans for the city. Bingman was hired without a request for proposals for the work. Instead, the city attorney hired Bingman, an attorney, to give legal advice, which does not require an RFP.

The campaign's exclusive focus on promoting the city of Lansing is eerily similar to Lansing Mayor Andy Schor's "Lansing's Time is Now" catchphrase. That and Bingham's hire are just coincidence, say School and Bucholz, who has political ties to the mayor.

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# Peña's victory and the east side's split personality

Google images for Thomas Morgan. You'll see a trim, bespectacled man in a suit and tie smiling at you.

Now, Google Bob Peña. You'll see a man with a pudgy face in work clothes holding a chicken.

That contrast offers one explanation for Peña's victory over Morgan last week in the race for the Democratic nomination to represent the east side of Lansing (and a little of East Lansing) on the Ingham County Commission. Voters on the east side are pretty much everywhere on the social spectrum, and by a 52-vote margin this time they went with a chicken farmer (Peña is raising five of them in his backyard for the eggs), turning out incumbent Morgan, who at 40 has staked out a piece of the Establishment pie.

That's no knock on Morgan. Even Peña is quick to say that Morgan "did great things" in his two years on the commission. For example, Morgan wrote the language for the seniors millage that Ingham County voters just approved by a wide margin. That's just one of a half-dozen solid accomplishments by him, a commendable track record for a rookie commissioner.

If, as expected, Peña beats Republican Kelly Christopherson Nov. 3 in the heavily Democratic 10th District, its residents will find out if an amateur chicken farmer with good intentions is right for the job.

Look for Peña to pursue two of his longtime passions: cycling and food distribution.

Peña, who cycles for transportation as much as possible, represents a large biking community on the east side. He plans to be cycling's voice on the county commission.

As for food distribution, Peña brings a personal awareness stemming from a family of migrant workers on his mother's side and tenant farmers on his father's. "Agriculture has been in the background in the development of my values," he said.

Those values were learned in a "humble background." His dad was in the military, so Peña grew up all over, with many stops in Asia. Peña, a first-generation college graduate, earned an undergraduate engineering degree at the University of Texas in Austin. For grad school in engineering, he chose MSU because of an excellent work program.

He well remembers arriving by railroad in East Lansing on Valentine's Day



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse

(Left) Bob Peña, who won the Democratic nomination to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners from the east side, in front of Eastern High School.

(Below) Peña and one of his chickens.

1986. "I had nothing when I got off that train" that didn't fit in a backpack.

Peña spent 35 years working for the state Department of Transportation as an engineer before retiring.

"I did a lot of policymaking for the way MDOT did testing and designed new details in road and bridge construction. I can offer those skills to the commission," he said.

Four years ago, Peña decided to see if voters wanted him to. In 2016, he ran second to incumbent Brian McGrain for the Democratic nomination, losing 59% to 41%. Two years ago, Morgan and Peña took on Dennis Louney, who was appointed to finish McGrain's term after he stepped down to join the Schor administration as development director. Morgan prevailed, but Peña came in a strong second, getting 34% of the vote versus 40% for Morgan and 26% for Louney.

And this year, Peña beat Morgan by 52 votes, with less than 1% of the vote dividing them.

One factor may have been Peña's support from the same set of progressives who helped put Brandon Betz on the City Council, replacing Jody Washington (Morgan's mother-in-law). She held down the more conservative end of the Council with Carol Wood. In choosing Betz, voters opted for a proud socialist. While Peña has not made as much of it, he too identifies as a socialist.

"He was 100% there for my campaign," said Betz. "I wanted to return

the favor." He and fellow progressives volunteered for Peña.

The pandemic limited all-important door knocking, but Peña still got around on foot to at least leave campaign literature. Morgan did the doors multiple times two years ago, but for safety sake used the mails this time, part of the \$15,000 in expenses he said he incurred. Peña, meanwhile, pledged to keep his campaign fund below \$1,000, allowing him to opt out of reporting requirements.

Betz lauded Peña as the "nicest, most wonderful person on the east side." No one else I talked to disagreed with that. But the others wondered if Peña knows what he has gotten himself into.

"There so much unsexy, behind-the-scenes stuff," said one public servant who lives on the east side. "You don't realize all the detail. It's a one-term learning curve."

Still, the end goal is how to improve the lives of residents, and Peña has a handle on the problems facing east sides struggling in a quickly worsening economy. Peña, who lives alone in a neat bungalow in the Foster neighborhood, said the pandemic has been hard on the many waiters and cooks living on the east side, particularly in his neighborhood, which is near Frandor, and in Urbandale on the other side of Michigan Avenue.

How he translates that into action as a commissioner remains to be seen. Meanwhile, though, he will continue his volunteer work, which right now



includes serving on the Capital Area Food Council, which he described as a consortium of local farmers and institutions trying to get fresh local produce into schools, hospitals and restaurants. "The community is asking for better stability of the food supply chain," he said.

Another concern he brought up was cycling safety.

"Right now, one of the biggest concerns for the bicycling community are the underpasses on Kalamazoo Street beneath 127," he said. "They're horrid, really tough to ride, and there's a huge contingent that lives west of that and works and goes to school at the university. It's just not safe. We could improve that. These are the kinds of things that get left by the wayside."

Peña has two years to figure out how to get such issues front and center.

If he doesn't, Morgan may try to convince voters to let him pick up where he left off. He said Monday he does not rule out running again.

— BERL SCHWARTZ



# Opposition builds against Lansing police divestment plans

## ‘Significant’ portion of NAACP members against defunding

A plan to reallocate millions of dollars from the Lansing Police Department to social services faces an uphill struggle as both city officials and local activists push back against the concept.

Among the latest skeptics: the Lansing branch of the NAACP.

“Although we have not discussed the use of police funding in a forum or a meeting, there are a significant number of members who do not support the concept of reducing funding,” said NAACP President Dale Copedge.

“We believe dialogue is good, and it can lead to solutions if movement isn’t hurried as a result of what’s happening on a national level across the country.”

Amid social unrest tied to George Floyd’s death, city officials have been scrambling to identify and repair longstanding racial injustices and social inequities. Black Lives Matter and other activists are demanding immediate cuts to LPD’s \$46.5 million budget and a broad social reinvestment into Black neighborhoods.

In response, Lansing Councilmembers Brandon Betz and Kathie Dunbar proposed slashing LPD’s budget by 50% over five years, starting with a 20% cut next year. That cash would be redirected to social services for the homeless, those with mental health or substance abuse issues and more.

The LPD divestment proposal is in the City Council’s Committee on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion for review and changes before it heads off to the City Council. Whatever plan emerges would be subject to review by a new committee that would include citizens.

But that’s assuming the plan even gets rolling. Opposition is building.

Lansing Police Chief Daryl Green blasted the proposal at a public input session last week. Mayor Andy Schor and most of the City Council also haven’t thrown total support behind police divestment.

And this week, opposition became apparent within the Black community.

“Lansing is different than other communities that are experiencing more extreme racial discrimination resulting in the loss of life. However, Lansing is not completely removed from discriminatory practices,” Copedge said, noting that some type of police reform is still required.

Pushback is not-so-much based on an unwillingness to drive meaningful reforms and bridge racial divides, but on a refusal to build those social safety nets on the backs of local police departments. And Lansing, as statistics show, doesn’t carry as great disparities as other cities nationwide.

“Branch members like the ideas of additional support services,” Copedge added. “If the city administration sees value in these services, then they can be allocated in the budget, and not rushed into existence



Kyle Kaminsky/City Pulse

Lansing Police Chief Daryl Green, speaking at a news conference Tuesday in front of City Hall. To his left is Mayor Andy Schor.

without fully vetting consequences if funding is redirected.”

Green condemned the plan last week, claiming crime would invariably increase if officers were cut. Besides, his department doesn’t have much room for cuts. Millions of dollars are tied up in retiree pensions and contractual services that must be paid, he added.

Records show that personnel costs account for about \$39 million of LPD’s \$46.5 million annual budget. Of that, salaries account for about 39.2% of expenses. Another 36.2% is tied up in legacy costs, including pensions, retiree health benefits and other expenses. The divestment proposal from Dunbar and Betz wouldn’t be able to touch many of those items.

That leaves LPD with an actual “operating” budget of about \$7.5 million. The majority of those dol-

lars — about \$4 million — are spent on information technology and equipment rentals. The rest is divided between things like uniforms, gasoline, office supplies, utilities and maintenance.

Green told residents last week that even a modest funding reduction would create a “drastic and lasting impact on the safety of all people that visit, work and reside in the city of Lansing.” He also said it would lead to an increase in sexual assault, human trafficking, homicide and more.

“Using an untested, cookie-cutter budget reduction model is dangerous,” Green declared. “To further make cuts at this point would definitely jeopardize the safety of residents.”

Green said LPD had 260 officers on staff when he joined the department in 1997. That’s down to 206, and additional cuts would force an already lean staff into dangerous levels of overdrive, he said. Betz’ proposal would leave only 86 officers on the job, Green estimated.

Schor said “a lot of people” are telling him their concerns about public safety if police funds are cut. “I would have some tremendous concerns with reducing half of the funding to the Lansing Police Department,” he added.

The Mayor’s Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion is designed to advise Schor on social issues like equity and racial justice. Its chairman, Randy Watkins, also doesn’t see a need to reduce funding at LPD — nor does he see a politically feasible avenue for it to happen.

“I don’t see why we need to look at the police budget by itself to promote these programs,” Watkins added. “I’m concerned about the group of people who haven’t spoken up. I don’t think we want to move too fast in terms of taking funds away because there’s a silent majority out there — the ones who aren’t protesting — who are already comfortable with police in Lansing.”

Betz countered that Green and Schor are attempting to use “smoke screens” to overshadow underlying problems of systemic racism in the city’s Police Department and beyond.

“The real issue is about protecting Black lives in Lansing and not looking at how much of the budget we can pull out. We know we’re going to cut officers from the street. That’s inevitable,” Betz said. “Legacy costs will change over time. Contractual obligations will change over time. This is about starting from the ground up to fix systemic racism within the Police Department.”

Betz, unlike BLM, intentionally stops short of calling for Schor’s resignation, but he said the mayor has repeatedly demonstrated an unwillingness to recognize and drive changes on racial equity.

“Divestment and reinvestment are simultaneous. We’re talking about reinvesting in the community — and we know where it needs to come from. We’re reinventing public safety, and that must be done through removing funds from a department that contributes to the problem. The police are violent. Police, as an institution, was founded in racism. They don’t prevent crime.”

— KYLE KAMINSKI

**NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND  
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

-----

**August 12, 2020**

**City of Lansing  
316 N. Capitol Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48933  
(517) 483-4040**

**These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Lansing, MI.**

**REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS**

**On or about September 1, 2020 the City of Lansing, MI will submit a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the release of Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-383) as amended and HOME Investment Partnerships Programs under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C 12701), to undertake the following projects:**

**Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title: Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnerships**

**Purpose:** The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program provides funding for community revitalization purposes and activities must meet at least one of the three National Objectives: Benefit to persons of low and moderate income, elimination of slum and blight, urgent community need. The HOME program provides funding for down payment assistance, new construction and housing rehabilitation.

**Location:** The City of Lansing

**Project/Program Description:**

**CDBG Single-Family, Owner occupied Rehab Program/Public Improvements**

Includes loans and grants for rehabilitation of owner-occupied housing units through city sponsored programs, and in conjunction with affordable housing efforts sponsored by nonprofit housing corporations, public and private developers, and other state and federal agencies. Includes funds to meet lead hazard reduction regulations in rehabilitated structures, funds to assist in emergency housing rehabilitation, market analysis activities and technical assistance to nonprofit housing corporations, contractors, and low- and moderate-income households. Includes loans and grants for owner-occupied single-family units through city sponsored programs, loans to rehabilitate historic homes in conjunction with rehabilitation of the unit, and loans or grants for ramps, hazard remediation or weatherization. Includes staff, office space, technical assistance, training and other direct project costs associated with delivery of Community Development Block Grant, HOME, Emergency Solutions Grant and other State and Federal Programs.

General street, sidewalk, water/sewer improvements, including assistance to income eligible owner-occupants or those in CDBG-eligible areas for special assessments related to new improvements. Includes improvements to neighborhood parks, recreational facilities; public neighborhood, medical and community facilities in CDBG priority areas.

**Proposed funding amount: \$1,293,549**

**CDBG Rental Rehab Program**

Includes loans and grants for rehabilitation of rental housing units through city sponsored programs. Includes funds to meet healthy housing standards and/or lead hazard reduction regulations in rehabilitated structures.

**Proposed funding amount: \$1,000**

**Acquisition**

Includes acquisition, maintenance and security of properties acquired through programs, and activities related to acquisition, disposition, relocation and clearance of dilapidated and blighted structures. Funds may also be used to acquire and clear properties in the flood plain. Includes staff time associated with this activity.

**Proposed funding amount: \$100,000**

**New Construction/HOME Rehab/Development Program**

Includes funds for loans and grants for housing construction and rehabilitation with non-profit and for-profit developers, including CHDOs.

HOME funds allocated for housing developed in partnership with the city, including Supportive Housing Program (SHP) and Acquisition, Development and Resale (ADR) activities. Projects may include new construction and rehabilitation activities with non-profit and for-profit developers, including CHDOs. Funds may be used for staff time associated with these activities.

**Proposed funding amount: \$600,393**

**CHDO Set-aside (15% minimum required)**

Reserved for housing developed, sponsored or owned by CHDOs in partnership with the City. 2 Proposed units

**Proposed funding amount: \$ 112,799**

Tier 2 site specific reviews will be completed for those laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review for each address under this program when addresses become known.

**Level of Environmental Review Citation:**

**CDBG Single-Family, Owner occupier Rehab Program/Public Improvements - 24 CFR Part**

58.35(a)(3)(i)

**CDBG Rental Rehab Program - 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(3)(i)**

**Acquisition - 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(1)**

**New Construction/HOME Rehab/Development Program - 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(4)(i)/24 CFR 58.36**

**CHDO Set-aside (15% minimum required) - 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(4)(i)/ 24 CFR 58.36**

**Tier 2 Site Specific Review: The site specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review:**

**Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits (if any):**

Tier 2 site specific reviews will be evaluated individually and any outstanding issues requiring mitigation measures/conditions/permits will be addressed in the environmental review.

**Estimated Project Cost: \$2,107,741.**

**The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements per 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(3)(i), 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(1), 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(4)(i) / 24 CFR 58.36**

**An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at**

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/environmental-review-records>

**and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:00 A.M to 5:00 P.M..**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**The City of Lansing, MI has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at City of Lansing, Department of Economic Development and Planning, 316 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing, MI 48933, and may be reviewed on the City of Lansing's website at [www.lansingmi.gov/development](http://www.lansingmi.gov/development)**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Lansing Department of Economic Development and Planning, 316 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing, MI 48933, Attn: Doris Witherspoon, Senior Planner, or e-mail to [doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov](mailto:doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov). All comments received by August 27, 2020 will be considered by the City of Lansing prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION**

**The City of Lansing certifies to the Department of Housing and Urban Development that Andy Schor, Certifying Officer, in his capacity as Mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The Department of Housing and Urban Development's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Lansing to use HUD program funds.**

**OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS**

**The Department of Housing and Urban Development will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of Lansing's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Lansing (b) the City of Lansing has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development offices at 477 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, MI 48226. Potential objectors should contact the Department of Housing and Urban Development – Office of Community Planning and Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.**

**Andy Schor, Mayor, City of Lansing, Certifying Officer**

Note: The fifteen or eighteen-day public comment periods are the minimum time periods required by regulation prior to submission of a Request for Release of Funds and Certification (form HUD-7015.15) to HUD/State. The Responsible Entity may choose to allow a longer comment period. 24 CFR Part 58 requires, at Section 58.46, "Time delays for exceptional circumstances," a 30-day comment period for controversial or unique projects or those similar to projects normally requiring preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. The fifteen-day objection period is a statutory requirement. The objection period follows the submission date specified in the Notice or the actual date of receipt by HUD/State, whichever is later.

Following completion of the comment period recipients may FAX the form HUD-7015.15 to HUD/State together with a copy of the public notice and a cover letter stating whether comments were received and, if so, how the recipient responded to the comment. The Request for Release of Funds and Certification should not be submitted before the recipient has responded. If the request is sent by FAX, the original signed form should be mailed to HUD/State. The date of receipt by FAX will be counted as the submission date. However, HUD will not issue the 7015.16 "Authority to Use Grant Funds" until after the original signed form is received.

# 4 ways to prevent super delays On Election Day in Michigan

No statewide ballot questions? No competitive statewide political race? Very few compelling races anywhere?

No matter. A record 2.2 million Michiganders voted



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

secretary of state lets people register on-line now. It seriously couldn't be easier.

2.) Preparing ballots to be counted ahead of time. Florida, Ohio, California and Arizona are among the states that allow local clerks to open absentee ballot envelopes before Election Day. It may sound like a small thing, but flattening ballots, and getting them ready to feed into the Machine is apparently a huge a time saver.

Michigan would need to change state law to make this happen. Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey wasn't hot on the idea in February, but he was supposed to speak with Benson on it this week, so it's still a possibility. The clerks are pushing for it. Former Republican Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, now a state senator, is pushing for it.

Shirkey is worried about fraud or someone taking a sneak peek at the results, but if protections are put in place, it's possible he will have a change of heart.

3.) Don't count on the U.S. Postal Service. At least 1,000 primary ballots showed up at local clerks offices after the 8 p.m. Aug. 4 deadline to turn in ballots. In the grand scheme of how many people voted, this is a sliver of a percent. Still, the postal service is scaling back overtime to cut costs and, some ballots post-marked on Aug. 1 didn't make it in time to be counted.

Benson and Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum is urging voters to drop their ballots in the mail at least a week before. If you're a Lansing resident, you can track your ballot through the mail online.

4.) Drop boxes make a lot of sense. With COVID-19 continuing to be a concern for particularly older residents, Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope said the city's drop boxes outside of City Hall or outside the 2500 South Washington Election Unit received plenty of use, particularly close to Election Day.

If you're voting absentee, that may be the way to go.

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

**OPINION**

in last week's primary.

Last year, the Republicans and Democrats had a competitive gubernatorial race going on. The Republicans had a U.S. Senate primary to work through. That race brought in 2.1 million ballots.

This year had none of that. A couple of congressional districts didn't even have primaries on either side.

Is it President Donald Trump? COVID-19 boredom? Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson mailing out absentee ballot applications? A combination of all three? Either way, people wanted to cast ballots and they did.

The surge in interest has elections officials projecting turnout as high as 6 million in November. For some context, the highest number of souls to ever cast ballots in Michigan was 5 million in 2008. That year 66.2% of the state's voting age population cast a ballot.

It took the city of Detroit until 6:30 a.m. to report usable primary election results last Wednesday. Kalamazoo finally reported its absentee ballot results around 5 a.m. Some Wayne County communities weren't done until after lunch the next day.

That's with 2.2 million ballots. If we have 6 million ballots and we hope to have results by breakfast Nov. 4, a few things will need to happen.

1.) Not registering on Election Day. Maybe with Michigan State and a bunch of other colleges not having a lot of in-person classes, this won't be as big of a deal. But hordes of 18, 19, 20 and 21-year-olds showing up at East Lansing City Hall after class on Nov. 3, hoping to register to vote AND cast a ballot could stretch the process well into the night.

I know same-day registration is a thing now, but just because you can do it doesn't mean you should. The

## CRIMINAL DEFENSE



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**Thank you for your support in the primary!**

**The General Election is November 3!**



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### Notice of Public Hearing

The Ingham County Housing Commission has developed its 2020 Annual and 2020 – 2024 Five Year Agency Plan in compliance with the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998. The Plan is available for review at the Housing Commission Office located in Carriage Lane Apartments, 3882 Dobie Rd. Okemos, MI. The Housing Commission office hours are Monday – Friday 8am-5pm. Please call 517-349-1643 for an appointment. In addition, a public hearing will be held on Thursday September 10, 2020 at 6:00 pm in the Multi-purpose room of Carriage Lane Apartments. Public is welcome.

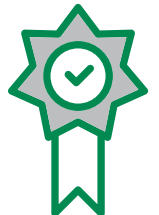


Shanda Johnston  
Executive Director

#20-186

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# CityPULSE



## LOCAL EXPERTS

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Or email [publisher@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:publisher@lansingcitypulse.com)  
for details.

### GAMBLING

#### Legal Online Gambling in Michigan

Michigan's gambling landscape is undergoing a truly unprecedented transformation, and by the end of next year, both legal sports betting and online casinos will be open for business statewide.

If you're a Michigan sports fan (and let's be real, if you're reading this you probably are), you probably already know how sports betting can add a whole new dimension of excitement when you watch your favorite teams in action. But it's a big market with a lot of players, so it can seem daunting to a rookie sports bettor.

Michigan Sharp is an online gambling and sports betting site aggressively covering the latest news on sports betting and online gambling. Whether you're an experienced sports bettor or a curious bystander, Michigan Sharp can help you cut through the weeds, find the right sign-up bonus, and start placing bets.



[michigansharp.com](http://michigansharp.com)

**Stay safe – play at legal and licensed online casinos & sportsbooks that are launching in late 2020 (Oct/Nov).**

### GIFTS

#### 3 Points to Consider When Framing

- Always consider the value of the piece you are going to frame. The value should be considered both emotional and economic. Also consider how easy it would be to replace the piece you wish to frame; and how long you anticipate having the piece. If it is something that can not be replaced, spend more money on the framing. A reputable framer should “do no harm” and everything should be completely reversible for how they handle the piece.

- Use of quality materials. There are various grades of materials on the market today. Chemistry is also very important in framing. “Archival” is a legally regulated term by the Library of Congress and therefore is a better gauge for the quality of materials you are using. Higher quality materials tend to be worth the added cost, in my honest opinion.

- Glass should NEVER touch what's in the frame. Think of glass as being a living thing. Ultimately it will stick to whatever it is touching. There should always be at least a 2mm space between the framed piece and the glass; the larger the piece, the more space that should be allowed as the glass bows toward the artwork in the middle. Acrylic pieces do not require this spacing.



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### WELLNESS

#### Manage stress with knowledge of your brainwaves

Do you struggle to manage your day, due to stress and anger? Are you sad all the time? Does your brain seem to turn on and get busy right when its time to sleep? Or, do you have trouble focusing and/or staying on task?

Research from the 1960s showed that brains with too many slow waves or fast waves could manifest in a variety of cognitive, physical and emotional disorders. The researchers soon learned that clients could learn to create healthier and more efficient brainwave patterns on their own, through sound, visual or other “feedback” that helped the clients to know when they were producing more desirable frequencies.

Henry was a successful businessman but encountered a panic attack out of the blue one day. Through Neurofeedback, he learned his brain had too many fast waves, which can contribute to anxiousness, anger, and sleep difficulties. Neurofeedback helped him reduce the fast waves, and he gradually felt less anxious. Things that used to set off his panic were barely noticeable anymore.

Positive changes from Neurofeedback are generally long term to permanent, and it is endorsed by the Mayo Clinic and the American Academy of Pediatrics.



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### INSURANCE

#### Car Insurance and Your Mental Health

After making serious inroads into my sundry existential anxieties, my counselor finally felt emboldened enough to bring-up the “elephant in the room.”

“Why do you want auto insurance?” Like Matt Stafford bracing for a sack, I nervously stammered, “What do you mean?”

The trained professional, soldiered on, “Do you want auto insurance to protect you or because the law says that you have to have it?”

Cleverly, I responded with, “Um...”

“Well,” she continued, “Insurance is the biggest waste of money until you need it. If you don't care about an instance when you'll need your insurance, and you do nothing more than get a proof of insurance, you can save a lot of money by buying limited coverages.”

“Yeah,” I responded, “That one! Save money!”

“Okay, but what if your car is damaged? What if you get hurt? Badly?” (That she would ask this IMMEDIATELY after assuaging those aforementioned existential anxieties was kinda mean)

“Well, I want the one that fixes my car and me!”

“That's going to be more expensive,” she reminded me. “You really should speak with your agent. You really do have some important things to process.”

Yeah, I knew that she was right. I had choices to make. But how do I tell her that I'm my insurance agent?



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# the CHEAP ISSUE

## Getting back into the thrift shop spirit

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

For almost 125 years, Volunteers of America has helped at-risk groups across the country, including veterans, recovering addicts and the elderly. It depends on sales at its thrift stores to fund these charitable efforts. The coronavirus crisis shut down its stores temporarily, but now they're back. Donations are being accepted, and the shops are open for browsing.

"We have our thrift stores to fund our social services. We're the largest private provider to veterans, and we also have affordable housing sites for seniors and families. We also have a car donation program," said Laura LeBlanc, 28, vice president of development and communications for Volunteers of America Michigan.

The lockdown didn't hit VOA too hard because it was still able to accept donations. "Our stores closed temporarily, but we were able to successfully continue," LeBlanc said. "We're very thankful for community support. Donations are critical. Because donations to our store make our mission work."

Quarantine didn't slow down donations, either, according to LeBlanc. In fact, people started donating more than before. "Our donations have soared through the roof," LeBlanc said. "With everyone being at home, this was a perfect time for people to take time to clean out their closets." She's not wrong; I cleaned out my closet just last week.

Some VOA shops have seen a stunning 50% increase in donations since the start of the pandemic. If you're an avid thrifter, now might be a good time to go.

Reopening the shops was vital and necessary for VOA. And lockdown hit them hard in that aspect. Without people milling about in its shops and making purchases, VOA can't function. "When we had to shut down for a short amount of time, that really im-



LeBlanc

acted our capacity to help homeless veterans and elderly people around the state," LeBlanc said. "We take this really seriously because it has a serious impact in the community."

LeBlanc recognized the dangers of opening a thrift store during a pandemic. "We try to go above and beyond to make sure our customers feel safe when they walk in the store," she said. As part of VOA's COVID task force, LeBlanc helped formulate a safe way to keep the shops open.

VOA has plexi-gaurds set up around the checkout lines and hand sanitizer stations placed around the store. Employees sanitize high-touch points throughout the store every hour. Donations get placed in a holding process before they are sorted. In the midst of a pandemic, even thrifted clothes need to quarantine for two weeks.

"In case anyone with the virus dropped this stuff off, this helps keep our staff safe," said LeBlanc. After the items have gone through lockdown, they go out on the shelves. "We just

For the Cheap Issue this year, City Pulse has decided to keep things indoors. These aren't the kind of deals that involve canvassing all across town hunting down different shops to find special-priced, trade secret wares. Rather, these are the kind of deals best enjoyed from the comfort of your own home.

Yes, you may have to drive out to purchase a few things within this section but if you mask up and practice social-distancing, you should be able to promptly return to your place and safely hole up with your cheap video games, movies, and maybe a little bit of weed, all while staying snug as a penny-pinching bug.



Courtesy

The new Volunteers of America Thrift Store at 5900 W. Saginaw Highway.

want our customers to feel safe with the items that they're bringing home."

LeBlanc also acknowledged the anxiety of VOA employees coming back to work. Is my family going to be safe? Am I putting myself or others at risk? "Those questions, that anxiety, that's why we're so strict about our procedures," said LeBlanc. Employees must do a temperature check and a daily screen of symptoms. If they display any COVID-19 symptoms, then they are disqualified from working that day.

"We're serious about taking care of

them," said LeBlanc. "As important it is for us to stay open, we also know that we have our own role in reducing the spread and flattening the curve."

LeBlanc said that VOA has been following all of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's executive orders and trying to stay up-to-date on COVID-19 news. Because if its stores aren't open, it has no money to help people, to house people and get them off the streets.

"When we reopened, we took it really seriously because we wanted to stay open," said LeBlanc. "

# the CHEAP ISSUE

## Stream for free: Quarantine films for bored homebodies

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

Stuck inside with nothing to do? Well, you don't have to pay for Netflix or Hulu to find entertainment online. There are plenty of ad-based, free streaming services available online. This short list presents a selection of movies to watch instead of staring at the wall wondering when a vaccine will finally be available.

**"Rumblefish" (directed by Francis Ford Coppola, 1983, rated R)**

peacock

Rusty James (Matt Dillon) is a greasy kid who longs to go back to the days of gangs and street fights. But the people he used to run around with are all moving on. So, he's trapped living a way of life that doesn't exist anymore, the world barely recognizable. Angular cinematography and flamboyant performances make this simple coming-of-age film a classic.

**"Do The Right Thing" (directed by Spike Lee, 1989, rated R)**

peacock

This is one of the most incendiary movies of the 20th century. Police brutality, race riots, scorching hot summer days and explosive anger. Each element of this movie is recognizable today if you just look out the window. If you're constantly angry about injustice, racism and police violence, then this is the movie for you. "Do the Right Thing" shows that the world hasn't changed much in the past few decades, but it's

still important to fight for progress.

Watch *"Rumblefish"* and *"Do The Right Thing"* on Peacock.com

**"The Host" (directed by Bong Joon-Ho, 2006, rated R)**

tubi

In "The Host," a careless American scientist forces his Korean colleague to dump formaldehyde down the drain. The consequence: a gigantic, chemical-infused sewer lizard rampaging through Korea. Park Gang-du (Song Kang-Ho) must unite with his family to save his daughter after the monster takes her hostage.

**"Magic Mike XXL" (directed by Gregory Jacobs, 2015, rated R)**

tubi

Watching this film in theaters with an audience composed mainly of elderly women is one of my most cherished cinematic experiences. They were hootin' and hollerin' every time a shirt came off. And you can't blame them. The Magic Mike boys know how to please an audience. In an era of isolation and constant social distancing, the raucous party scenes and dirty dancing in this movie may have you feeling nostalgic for a time when it was safe for more than 10 people to be in the same room.

Watch *"The Host"* and *"Magic Mike XXL"* on Tubi.com

**"Stuck" (directed by Stuart Gordon, 2007, rated R)**

Cult horror director Stuart Gordon passed away earlier this year.

IMDb TV

He's most well known for "Re-Animator," but his directing career was packed with oddities that got less attention. "Stuck" tells the story of a nurse who hits a man with her car. Instead of calling an ambulance, she drives home with the man sticking out of her windshield. It's a gruesome, disgusting movie that truly captures the horrors of unwilling confinement.

**"Battle Royale" (directed by Kinji Fukasaku, 2000, rated R)**

IMDb TV

It's like "The Hunger Games" — if "The Hunger Games" was violent enough to get banned by the government. In "Battle Royale," the Japanese government forces students to fight to the death, and it's all broadcasted on television. But unlike its YA counterpart, "Battle Royale" offers no chance for revolution. Just survival. Be warned, this movie is quite violent.

Watch *"Stuck"* and *"Battle Royale"* on IMDbTV.com

**"But I'm a Cheerleader" (directed by Jamie Babbit, 2000, rated R)**

VUDU

When this film came out, it almost got slapped with an NC-17 rating. It's the story of a young lesbian shipped off to conversion camp. There, of course, she finds love with another

er beleaguered girl. It's an oppressive movie, where every room feels like a waiting room or an interrogation room. The movie's bright, cheerful colors and quirky tone offset the tragic nature of the story. It looks and feels like a John Waters movie for teens. Also, to its credit, it is chock full of one-liners and visual gags that make it so you never get bored. **"Blow Out" (directed by Brian de Palma, 1981, rated R)**

VUDU

Conspiracies are all the rage right now. QAnon, Bill Gates, the Clintons, Jeffrey Epstein. Many people seem convinced that something is going on behind closed doors, in smoky rooms or on private jets. "Blow Out" is a masterpiece of paranoia and corruption. When Jack Terry (John Travolta) accidentally records a political assassination, he becomes involved in a scandal that leads all the way up to the White House.

Watch *"But I'm a Cheerleader"* and *"Blow Out"* on Vudu.com

You can find many more movies and television shows to watch for free on sites like YouTube, Crackle and Redbox. This isn't endorsing escapism, of course. It's still important to keep up with the news and stay in touch with reality. But... with no end in sight to lockdown, why not zone out and watch something for 90 minutes? You'll still have time to stare at the wall some more.

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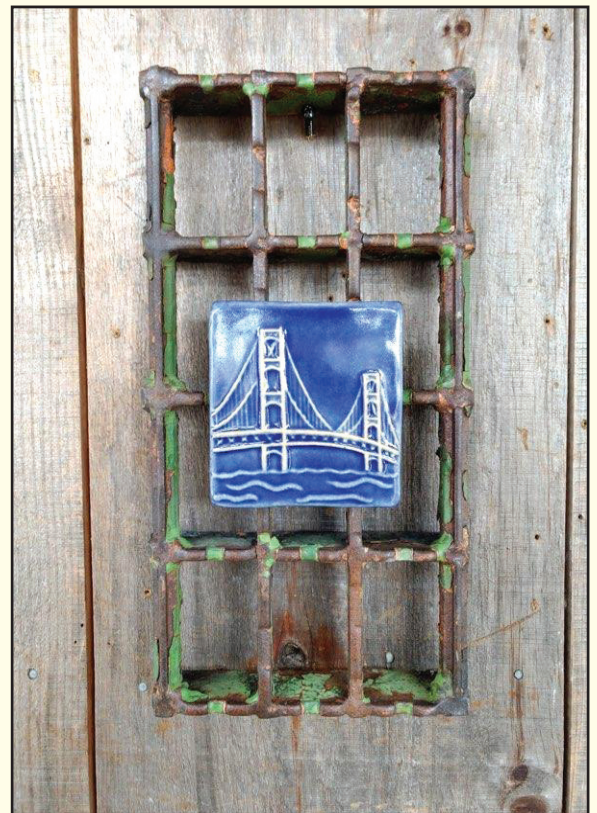


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**the CHEAP ISSUE**

**How to score some cheap books**

By **BILL CASTANIER**

First, know that new books aren't cheap. Not unless you consider the cost in relation to the hours you spend reading, which would make reading cheap entertainment.

A new hardback book can easily cost \$30. Amazon does discount most new books, but you will have to pay \$25 for "A Private Cathedral," the new Dave Robicheaux mystery by James Lee Burke.

So where can you get cheap books? The local public library is still the best place to get books. Most libraries are now open for curbside service, which in some ways makes it easier than actually going into the library itself. You request a specific book(s) and they are awaiting you at the door. What could be easier? Besides, if you are a homeowner you are already paying for the service through a millage. If you have a computer you can also download e-books and audiobooks.

What's missing is you can no longer browse library stacks and serendipitously discover a new author or book. It will be a while before libraries reopen their facilities to patrons.

Don't forget bookstores. Schuler has a large selection of used books, which are deeply discounted from the original price, and Barnes & Noble always offers what are called remaindered books, which are books that didn't sell as well as projected. These choices are likely to be about a fourth of the cost of new books and bookstores still offer the browsing experience. You can also find quality used books at Everybody Reads Books and Stuff.

Don't expect recently published books, however, to be deeply discounted. If you want to read a new book by James Patterson, John Grisham or Daniel Silva expect to pay near the jacket price. An exception is "Where the Crawdads Sing," which can be had in hardback for about \$9.50 on Amazon. A little trivia: "Crawdads," by first-time author Delia Owens, is number one again on the New York Times Best-Sellers list. Despite being on the list for 99 weeks, it still lacks a paperback edition.

East Lansing also has a couple of fine used bookstores. Curious Books and Archives Books, which feature most-



A free book table at a garage sale.

ly older published books, are always reliable. Ray Walsh, proprietor of both stores, said that Curious Books features an outdoor bargain rack of cheap used books and unless a book is collectible, used books are generally a bargain. Both stores are now open to browsers.

Many books, especially classics by authors like Charles Dickens, are online and available for free by downloading them on a computer. You can pretty much find any book that is out of copyright, generally published before 1924, and read it for free online.

One of the best ways to read books for free is to make friends with readers who will lend you their books when they are finished. One way to do this is to join a book club. Unfortunately, most book clubs have been vaporized by the coronavirus and are meeting only on Zoom.

If you want cheap books and don't mind not buying locally, go to Amazon.com or Abe.Books.com for the best deals. For example, James Lee Burke's early books, used in paperback, usually run a dollar and change with postage added. When buying from private booksellers, check their ratings and expect to wait a week or two, because most send books at what is called "book rate,"

which has lower priority. Auction site eBay is also another option and often you can find an entire run of a specific author and series at a fixed price.

If you are really down and out, look for those little free book stations dotted around town, but be reasonable and leave some books for others. When you are finished, please actually return it to the book station.

Another good source is estate sales and rummage sales, where you can find books running 50 cents to \$5. Typically, the Lansing area has several good estate sales each week with a wide selection of books offered. You never know what you will find. I know a picker who found a first edition of "To Kill a Mockingbird" at an estate sale. You can follow estate sales at EstateSales.net for free.

Don't be afraid that you will be competing with pickers. Most pickers are looking for rare or unusual books and are not looking for reading copies of recent books. You pretty much will have them to yourself. You never know where you'll find your next reading adventure. Just this past weekend a homeowner in Lansing posted a picture of a table loaded with books. All free. Happy hunting.

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# the CHEAP ISSUE

## Cheap weed: Skymint rolls out discount two-packs — for charity

Pre-rolled two-packs fuel monthly donations to Last Prisoner Project

By KYLE KAMINSKI

**Two Joints — Sherbnado (Indica)**

**Price — \$28/2 Pre-rolled Joints**

**THC content — 14.4%**

**Quantity — .7 grams each**

I was skeptical when Greater Lansing's largest pot producer launched its new marijuana brand called "Two Joints" earlier this year. The concept was simple: Skymint repackages some of its less popular pre-rolled joints into two packs and offloads them to customers at a \$2 discount.

In my experience, cheaper weed is usually just that — cheap weed. But as it turns out, Skymint isn't simply trying to make a quick buck on selling some crappy weed. This bud may be cheaper, and maybe slightly lower quality compared to other products, but it still left me pleasantly baked.

Plus, because it's a partnership with the Last Prisoner Project's clemency initiative, customers can also get that warm and fuzzy feeling from knowing that a portion of their sale will head back to the project's efforts to sup-



**Lansterdam in Review: Skymint**

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port inmates charged with nonviolent, weed-related convictions.

Shoppers don't get to pick their specific strain; they can only choose between indica or sativa.

Sherbnado, like all other strains sold at Skymint, is harvested locally at its parent company, Green Peak Innovations. Inside each tube are two joints, the perfect sharable pack for friends.

And Sherbnado didn't really fit the indica-branded namesake. This weed really had me buzzing.

The first hit was layered with a rich, herby sort of creaminess with undertones of a dull-but-sweet fruitiness. Those underwhelming flavors were muted by the third or fourth draw, and this joint burned more quickly than I liked, but I really can't complain about its potent effects.

A quick smoke session of Sherbnado was the ideal complement to a Saturday afternoon boat ride down the Muskegon River with several overplayed classic rock songs. A few hours



later, I was ready to smoke another joint, but I have no complaints about the smooth and brief buzz from Sherbnado. It's a chatty and energetic strain, perfect for some fun in the summer sun.

**Two Joints — Tropicana Cookies (Sativa)**

**Price — \$28/2 Pre-rolled Joints**

**THC content — 18.2%**

**Quantity — .7 grams each**

I was excited to see that Two Joints had incorporated Tropicana Cookies into its sativa-based lineup. I sampled this otherworldly, dark purple bud a few weeks ago for this column and it was among my favorites on the market at the time. It was also among the most expensive strains.

In pre-rolled form, however, it tasted stale and muted compared to my original samples. A cross between Tangie and Girl Scout Cookies, this strain is

designed to taste like lemons and alert the mind like ice water. But this time, it was like the ice had just melted in lukewarm lemonade.

Again, however, I can't necessarily complain about the effects. About 20 minutes after smoking, I was off the boat, obsessively tending to the campfire and walking my dog around the campground. Expect early, onset cottonmouth and an extreme case of munchies — perhaps best quelled by two or three hot dogs over the fire and an entire bag of barbecue potato chips.

All told, Two Joints is a satisfying smoke but perhaps not the best choice for experienced stoners who will inevitably notice the subtle nuances between older, cheaper weed and the fresher, more potent strains available on the market. Pre-rolled joints can be a real mixed bag.

While the charitable concept behind the brand is a worthy cause, I'd suggest Skymint reel back their prices and offer a more meaningful discount to keep those products moving off shelves. In the meantime, I'll turn my attention back toward some of the more potent products in Lansing.

*Lansterdam in Review is a new column written by Kyle Kaminski, 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.*

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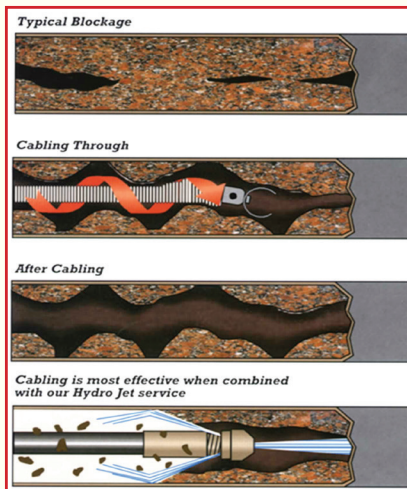
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# the CHEAP ISSUE

## Ultra cheap deals for the discerning video gamer

By SKYLER ASHLEY

The chaos of 2020 has been extraordinarily cruel to a number of industries. This is evident by a tsunami of unemployment and business closures. One faction of business that has been treated kindly by the millions now stuck at home is the video game industry. There has never been a better time in our lives to absorb fantasy and live vicariously through characters not dealing with this bullshit. And in honor of the Cheap Issue, I've scoured around to find the cheapest ways possible to squeeze out some escapism.

### For the PC gamers

There is no single marketplace more effective at gathering cheap entertainment on a computer than Steam. If you're unfamiliar with Steam, it's software that lets you purchase essentially every computer game known to mankind. At first glance, we can rattle off

some games that are only \$5 or less and are not too demanding on your hardware. "Fallout: New Vegas," "Elder Scrolls: Oblivion," "Plants Vs. Zombies," "Binding of Isaac," and "Papers Please" are all critically acclaimed games you could sink literally hundreds of hours into. Just don't confuse the wastelands of "Fallout" for the world in which we currently live.

If you've seen your friends become obsessed with "Animal Crossing: New Horizons" on their Nintendo Switches, but cannot afford a Nintendo Switch, you need not worry. There is a farming lifestyle game equally as fine-crafted and addictive known as "Stardew Valley." It features old-school pixel graphics, making it accessible to literally any computer built after 2008. You can purchase it on Steam for \$12. Go download it — you'll love it. There, I just saved you several hundreds of dollars.

### For those with a modern console: PS4, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch

I'm writing this assuming you already have your hands on one of these units and are looking to dust it off. There isn't really a cheap way to obtain one of these consoles without turning to crime. That said, let's run through some PlayStation 4 deals. Amazon is shipping "Kingdom Hearts 3" for \$17.49 and GameStop is carrying "Final Fantasy 7 Remake" for \$39.99. Meanwhile, Best Buy has "Code Vein," "Assassin's Creed Odyssey" and "Nino no Kuni: Wrath of the White Witch" for \$14.99. To avoid leaving your house, you can also shop on the PSN Store; just sort by price lowest to highest and you can find all sorts of greats games below \$20. Right now, you can score "Batman: Arkham Collection" for \$14.99, "The Witcher 3" for \$11.99, "7 Days to Die" for \$7.49 and "Dragon Ball Xenoverse" 2 for \$9.59.



On the Xbox side of things, Amazon has "Spongebob: Battle for Bikini Bottom" for \$20.41, "Tom Clancy's Ghost Recon: Breakpoint" for \$9.99 and "Kingdom Hearts III" for only \$7.99. For digital purchases straight to your console, you can acquire "Fallout 4" and "Dragon Ball FighterZ" for \$9.

If you were lucky enough to get your hands on a Nintendo Switch before the ludicrous price gouging, fire up the Nintendo eShop and reap the benefits of the Switch's massive back catalog of previous generation selections. A notable free choice is the massive demo of "Dragon Quest XI." Unlike most 20-minute demos, this lengthy demo takes you through a 10-hour RPG adventure. You should take advantage of the Switch's status as the king of dirt-cheap indie games. There are dozens of games on the eShop you can acquire for less than \$5.

### Where else can you buy cheap video games in Lansing?

Your primary stop for all cheap video games across all generations and platforms should be Disc Traders, 5835 W. Saginaw Highway. The standard price of a title at this shop — even the brand-new ones — is usually at least 20 percent cheaper than retail. Disc Traders also carries a wide array of video games from the past for sale. If you still have your Xbox 360 or PlayStation 3, you can get your hands on basically every major title without spending more than \$20. Video games for the Xbox Original and PlayStation 2 are even cheaper. Another great shop for bargain video games is the locally owned Replay Entertainment Exchange, 536 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue in Old Town (which is temporarily closed), which has shelves and shelves of cheap used games.

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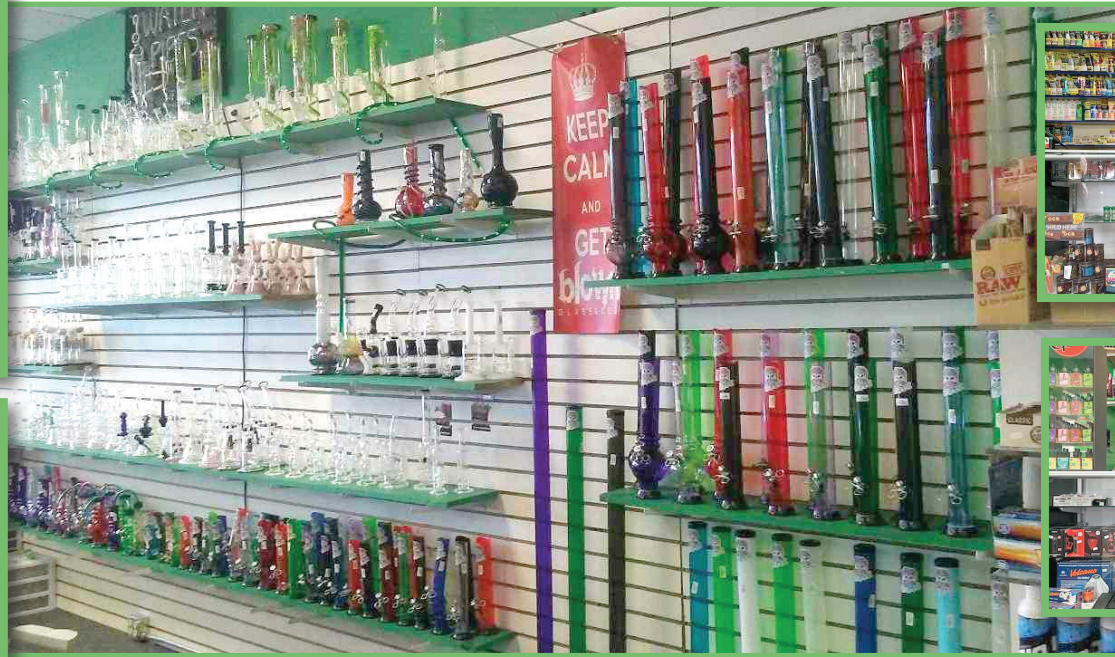
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# ARTS & CULTURE ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## Keeping the city clean with #PickUpLansing

Local social media group combats litter

By MARY CUSACK

Although Big Gretch shut Michigan down in March to decrease the spread of the coronavirus, she didn't order everyone to become literal shut-ins. In fact, Executive Order 2020-21 specifically allowed people to leave their homes to "engage in outdoor activity, including walking, hiking, running, cycling, or any other recreational activity." The desire to stave off coronavirus lethargy inspired a movement when a pair of friends compared notes on what they observed when took advantage of their freedom to enjoy the great outdoors.

Lansing residents Omar Karim and Michael McCallum are the organizers of the #PickUpLansing movement. "Trying to exercise a little more during the pandemic, I've been walking a lot and noticing a lot of trash around," McCallum said. Karim felt that something was needed to rebuild community in the face of mounting negativity and divisiveness. "Lansing doesn't stop being Lansing, and needing us, her residents, to take care of her," Karim said.

With his background as an independent filmmaker and owner of Rebel Pictures, McCallum knew that marketing would be key to build interest in the movement. The pair reached out to illustrator Paul "MexOne" Vetne, who also owns of REO Town Tattoo Co., to design the #PickUpLansing logo. McCallum also tapped Ann Arbor editor/developer/writer Eric Shalayko to produce a promotional video featuring McCallum and Karim explaining the genesis of the movement. In addition, a #PickUpLansing Facebook page went live on Saturday.

#PickUpLansing kicked off its inaugural event last Saturday as volunteers met at the Michigan State Capitol building. McCallum popped his trunk to display the tools of the trade: heavy-duty trash bags, gloves and mechanical grabbers. We grabbed our gear and hit the street.

Picking up trash becomes surprisingly addictive. First, there is the chal-



Photo by Eric Shalayko

Volunteer Spring McKeever and #PickUpLansing "mascot" Oliver.

lenge of mastering the mechanical trash-grabber. I've heard it said that a person has mastered chopsticks when they are able to pick up a single grain of rice. Likewise, a person has mastered the grabber when they can pick up a single cigarette butt, particularly one that is wedged into a crack in the sidewalk. Another challenge is picking up items in the rain gardens, and manipulating the item through the bars of the fences without dropping it. After two hours of picking up items big and small with the grabber, I felt sure that I could win my prize of choice in any coin-operated claw machine.

REO Town resident Spring McKeever heard about the event online and brought along her dog Oliver, who quickly became the event mascot. Nothing attracts attention like a giant fuzzy dog with a sweet disposition. So as people approached to pet Oliver, McKeever promoted the movement.

The original plan had been to spend one hour picking up trash, moving from the Capitol to Stober's Bar. Time flew by, and just as my almost-full bag was about to lose structural integrity in front of the Family Dollar, McCallum announced that it was 2 p.m., and that we should finish the block and head to

the dumpster.

After dumping our finds, volunteers shared stories of their most interesting finds. McKeever chose the full bottles of electrolyte drinks we found in a rain garden, DeQuinn Boykins picked a tire rim and McCallum said his was a tie between a bicycle seat and a nice gym bag that was stuffed full of trash. Some of these items were mysteries, and we developed hypotheses for why these things would end up as trash on the street. One unsolved mystery: How does a stove burner drip pan end up in a rain garden in front of a barber shop?

While some finds were amusing, there were some disturbing finds. In front of Cooley Law School Stadium, sitting on a newspaper stand, I found a Speedway cup half-full of some orange beverage that had several syringes floating in it. Shalayko was with me when I found this treasure, and we debated whether I should put it in my bag or just leave it alone. Ultimately I felt responsible for the cup of what we dubbed "heroin juice," and put it my bag, hoping beyond hope that the lid would hold.

It's no surprise that the most common item was cigarette butts, followed by plastic water bottles and plastic bags. One particular problem with plastic trash in streets is that it clogs up storm drains, leading to street flooding during heavy rains. This was the case for the two storm drains in front of the Stadium. Both were covered with plastics, and one had additional blockage from a discarded, desiccated University of Michigan T-shirt.

Movements like #PickUpLansing not only build community, but need community to be successful. Supplies

**To find a schedule and learn more about volunteering search #PickUpLansing on Facebook. The next event is Aug. 22; volunteers will meet in front of the Capitol at noon.**

were donated by DeLisa Raye, the city's interim neighborhood resource coordinator, and Paul Brogan, operator of River Town Adventures and founder of Lansing Earth Project, which focuses on cleaning Lansing area waterways. The management of Stober's Bar agreed to let #PickUpLansing use its dumpster for disposal. In a random act of kindness, as McKeever was picking near Goodfellas Bagel Deli, an employee offered Oliver a bowl of water and McKeever a glass of lemonade.

Although volunteer turnout for the first event was small, McCallum is optimistic that the movement will grow. "There are some really cool people that really do care about the community," McCallum said. McKeever has participated in other clean-up efforts around the city, and was eager for future #PickUpLansing opportunities. "I'm a civil servant, I work for the State, and I feel like it's my civil duty to look after the city I live in."

#PickUpLansing will continue with bi-weekly events organized by Karim and McCallum. Initially the pick-up efforts will concentrate on the Michigan Avenue corridor from the Capitol to the eastern border of Lansing. As the number of volunteers grows, McCallum hopes that the pick-up can branch out to side streets along Michigan Avenue, as well as REO Town and Old Town.

The movement doesn't have to only be this one biweekly effort. Karim and McCallum hope that with each individual effort the movement will grow, and there trash to be picked up almost anywhere. "Even if you couldn't make it out to this, just take part of an afternoon and do it in your own neighborhood," said McCallum. "Take some pictures, use the hashtag, post it on Facebook."

# *Favorite Things*

## Jacob Nevin and his most 'metal' outfit

When I was approached, put on the spot, and asked, "Do you wanna be in the City Pulse? We need somebody for 'Favorite Things.'" I knew immediately what to write about: My soundbar. It has all the features. A subwoofer. A remote control.

I'm just kidding.

Some metalheads will complain about other metalheads looking the look, but not walking the walk. "It's passion, not fashion" is a favorite line of the poser patrol. To me, you can't have one without the other.

When I was grabbed by metal in my early teens, it was Judas Priest that grabbed me hook, line, and sinker. When I first heard "Painkiller," I didn't realize music could be like that. The drums, the guitar, the screaming vocals of Rob Halford. It drove me wild!

As I delved deeper into their catalog, the ideologies of metal were all there in their unphased, rugged independence. Along with the ideology were the coolest clothes I had ever seen in my life. Leather black as night with the blinding glint of steel.

My parents had been really supportive of me with music even when I was too angsty to appreciate it. One particularly symbolic gift of their support came from my mother when I was just graduating high school. I think I had said something about how cool it would be to dress like Rob Halford and she jumped up and said, "I think I have some old leather pants in my closet!" I didn't believe her, but she came back with leather pants and passed them on to me. When I found out they fit, I was over the moon.

It wouldn't be until a few years later and I moved out of small town Michigan that I would assemble the rest of the look. I had transferred to Michigan State Uni-



versity and I finally found my first black leather biker jacket in a thrift store. I took it back to the dorm and demanded to have my photo taken immediately. There's still a dorky picture of me with Mexican flag aviators standing proud in my friend Louis' dorm room.

Putting on "the look" made me feel all the excitement of first hearing "Painkiller." A connection to my metal gods and it was something physical and real. In order to capture a small piece of this wherever I go I carry a "British Steel" razor blade on my keychain and I use it to envision myself draped in the blessing of the metal gods.

I cannot wait until this pandemic is behind us so I can strut my stuff around The Avenue Café and Mac's Bar.

*(Words by Jacob Nevin. Edited by Skyler Ashley. If you have a suggestion for Favorite Things, email [skyler@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:skyler@lansingcitypulse.com))*

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# Turn, Turn, Turn

Monologues from Ixion's Wheel Writing Group

# Monologue series 'Turn, Turn, Turn' marks the return of Ixion Theatre

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Since the wave of theater cancellations due to the coronavirus, Ixion Theatre Ensemble is finally hosting an in-person, open-air live show at the Sharp Park amphitheater on Elmwood Road.

## "Turn, Turn, Turn"

Free  
6 p.m. showtime  
Friday, Aug 21 - Sunday, Aug. 23  
Sharp Park  
1401 Elmwood Road, Lansing  
ixiontheatre.com

The show, "Turn, Turn, Turn," is a succession of monologues written by 13 different

actors and actresses, many of whom are taking on the role of playwright for the very first time.

"All of these scripts are by local writers. They are monologues and because of social distancing, we were able to have a much larger cast, which is wonderful. We are also working with a lot of new faces that we haven't see at Ixion before," Jeff Croff, artistic director of Ixion Theatre Ensemble, said.

The monologues are "snapshots of life" and were rehearsed remotely via

Zoom. Croff described the experience of rehearsing with an extra degree of separation.

"It's definitely challenging. Obviously, theater is a very collaborative experience. The actors are certainly getting feedback from the authors and myself — seeing and hearing our reactions via Zoom," Croff said. "Acting is a whole body experience, sitting at a desk tethered to a microphone is not quite the same as actually getting up and doing your rehearsal."

Croff said the members of Ixion Theatre have been itching to get out and perform. Ixion has not held a live performance since October's "Apples in Winter." The theater company was also right on the cusp of performing "The Skeleton Crew" in March, which despite being fully rehearsed had to be shut down because of the pandemic. "The Skeleton Crew" is expected to finally hit the stage by March 2021.

"The actors are very much excited to get out there regardless of how socially distanced we have to make it. The writers have been working on their monologues for more than a year as we've been preparing for this," Croff said. "Theater does not exist without an audience. This is a chance to finally get all of the components together."

Croff said Ixion Theatre Ensemble is amid a period waiting, quietly observing how the pandemic unfolds and patiently awaiting opportunities to book more performances that will be safe for both the performers and the audience.

"Currently, we have scheduled shows at The Robin — obviously those are all tentative at this point. We would hope that our next performance will go off in November, but again — depending on all of the various constraints regarding COVID-19 — it makes it really tough."

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with Ms. Bev and Friends  
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# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Getting Free K"--reaching #1000! I say 28 Across!

By Matt Jones

**Across**

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

- 1 They're out to pasture
- 10 Words before "your mother" or "your father"
- 15 Prepared statement
- 16 Slip
- 17 Verdi opera originally titled "La maledizione" ("The Curse")
- 18 \_\_\_ Selma, highest-scoring Finn in NHL history
- 19 Short gamut
- 20 Measures of loudness
- 21 Change direction sharply
- 23 Does a dairy duty
- 27 "Them!" creature
- 28 Cry of accomplishment
- 30 WWE wrestler \_\_\_ Mysterio
- 31 Iconic "Lady and the Tramp" song whose title means "Beautiful Night"
- 33 Elemento numero 79
- 34 CLE player
- 35 Middle of a French Revolution motto
- 36 Pharmacy chain with unusually long receipts
- 37 Card seen in skat
- 38 Risky purchase
- 40 Places for Whoppers, briefly
- 41 Frigid ocean areas that can be seasonal or permanent
- 42 Site for mil. planes
- 43 Record producer Mike \_\_\_, or actress \_\_\_ Kaye
- 44 Go with the flow, maybe?
- 48 Minimal
- 50 Hull backbone

- 51 Rod Stewart's "Lost \_\_\_"
- 52 Extended
- 57 Make grime pay?
- 58 Moved forward, perhaps
- 59 River through France and Belgium
- 60 Vacation purchase with a possibly aggressive sales pitch
- Down**
- 1 Harness part
- 2 Nation where kreyol aisyen is spoken
- 3 Bush or Clinton, informally
- 4 Game for NFL all-stars
- 5 Daughter of Loki
- 6 One of the saisons
- 7 Dirty groove?
- 8 "The 5,000 Fingers of \_\_\_" (1953 Dr. Seuss film)
- 9 \_\_\_ Caps (movie candy brand)
- 10 Increases in difficulty, like a hike
- 11 Vowel-rich cookie
- 12 Category for Styx and (arguably) the Stones
- 13 "Wow, that was rude!"
- 14 Cereal on "The Simpsons" where Bart ingested some jagged metal
- 22 Small-screen movie, quaintly
- 23 One in charge
- 24 Admire excessively
- 25 Told, as a secret
- 26 \_\_\_ Bachika ("Gurren Lagann" anime character who I just found out is a human and not a cat)
- 29 \_\_\_ De Spell ("DuckTales" character voiced by Catherine Tate in the 2017 reboot)
- 31 Place for neighborhood gossip
- 32 Samuel L. Jackson movie that Roger Ebert called the best film of 1997
- 34 Adherence to mystic doctrines
- 39 Wisconsin city known for kids' overalls
- 45 Yiddish gossip
- 46 "I gotta go feed the \_\_\_"
- 47 Hitch in haste
- 49 \_\_\_-chef
- 52 1-800-CALL-\_\_\_ (bygone collect call service)
- 53 "What \_\_\_ know?"
- 54 DeLuise in many outtakes with Burt Reynolds
- 55 Get by, with "out"
- 56 \_\_\_ EFX ("Mic Checka" hip-hop group)

©2019 Jonesin' Crosswords (jonesincrosswords@gmail.com)

Answers Page 29

# SUDOKU

# Advanced

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

## TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 29

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

August 12-18, 2020

**ARIES (March 21–April 19):** Motivational speaker Les Brown says his mission in life is to help people become uncomfortable with their mediocrity. That same mission is suitable for many of you Rams, as well. And I suspect you'll be able to generate interesting fun and good mischief if you perform it in the coming weeks. Here's a tip on how to make sure you do it well: Don't use shame or derision as you motivate people to be uncomfortable with their mediocrity. A better approach is to be a shining example that inspires them to be as bright as you are.

**TAURUS (April 20–May 20):** Taurus musician and visual artist Brian Eno has a practical, down-to-earth attitude about making beautiful things, which he has done in abundance. He says that his goal is not to generate wonderful creations nonstop—that's not possible—but rather to always be primed to do his best when inspiration strikes. In other words, it's crucial to tirelessly hone his craft, to make sure his skills are constantly at peak capacity. I hope you've been approaching your own labors of love with that in mind, Taurus. If you have, you're due for creative breakthroughs in the coming weeks. The diligent efforts you've invested in cultivating your talents are about to pay off. If, on the other hand, you've been a bit lazy about detail-oriented discipline, correct that problem now. There's still time to get yourself in top shape.

**GEMINI (May 21–June 20):** In his 2010 album \*My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy\*, Gemini musician Kanye West confesses the decadent and hedonist visions that fascinate and obsess him. Personally, I'm not entertained by the particular excesses he claims to indulge in; they're generic and unoriginal and boring. But I bet that the beautiful dark twisted fantasies simmering in your imagination, Gemini, are more unique and intriguing. In accordance with astrological omens, I invite you to spend quality time in the coming weeks diving in and exploring those visions in glorious detail. Get to know them better. Embellish them. Meditate on the feelings they invoke and the possibility that they have deeper spiritual meanings. (P.S. But don't act them out, at least not now.)

**CANCER (June 21–July 22):** "Make all your decisions based on how hilarious it would be if you did it," advises Cancerian actor Aubrey Plaza. I wish it were that simple. How much more fun we might all have if the quest for amusement and laughter were among our main motivating principles. But no, I don't recommend that you always determine your course of action by what moves will generate the most entertainment and mirth. Having said that, though, I do suspect the next few weeks may in fact be a good time to experiment with using Plaza's formula.

**LEO (July 23–Aug. 22):** In the dictionary, the first definition of "magic" is "the art of producing illusions as entertainment by the use of sleight of hand and deceptive devices." A far more interesting definition, which is my slight adjustment of an idea by occultist Aleister Crowley, doesn't appear in most dictionaries. Here it is: "Magic is the science and art of causing practical changes to occur in accordance with your will—under the rigorous guidance of love." According to my analysis of the astrological omens, the latter definition could and should be your specialty during the next four weeks.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22):** "The soul, like the moon, is new, and always new again," wrote 14th-century mystic poet Lalleswari. I will amend her poetic formulation, however. The fact is that the soul, unlike the moon, is always new in different ways; it doesn't have a predictable pattern of changing as the moon does. That's what makes the soul so mysterious and uncanny. No matter how devotedly we revere the soul, no matter how tenderly we study the soul, it's always beyond our grasp. It's forever leading us into unknown realms that team with new challenges and delights. I invite you to honor and celebrate these truths in the coming weeks, Virgo. It's time to exult in the shiny dark riddles of your soul.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22):** "I have one talent, and that is the capacity to be tremendously surprised," writes Libran author Diane Ackerman. I advise you to foster that talent, too, in the weeks ahead. If you're feeling brave, go even further. Make yourself as curious as possible. Deepen your aptitude for amazements and epiphanies. Cultivate an appreciation for revelations and blessings that arrive from outside your expectations. To the degree that you do these things, the wonderments that come your way will tend to be enlivening and catalytic; unpredictability will be fun and educational.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21):** Author and theologian Frederick Buechner writes, "If we are to love our neighbors, before doing anything else we must see our neighbors. With our imagination as well as our eyes, we must see not just their faces but also the life behind and within their faces." The coming weeks will be prime time for you to heed Buechner's advice, Scorpio. You're in a phase when you'll have extra power to understand and empathize with others. Taking full advantage of that potential will serve your selfish aims in profound ways, some of which you can't imagine yet.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21):** "Refine your rapture," advised occultist Aleister Crowley. Now is an excellent time to take that advice. How might you go about doing it? Well, you could have a long conversation with your deep psyche—and see if you can plumb hidden secrets about what gives it sublime pleasure. You could seek out new ways to experience euphoria and enchantment—with an emphasis on ways that also make you smarter and healthier. You might also take inventory of your current repertoire of bliss-inducing strategies—and cultivate an enhanced capacity to get the most out of them.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19):** Are you ready to make the transition from slow, deep, subtle, and dark to fast, high, splashy, and bright? Are you interested in shifting your focus from behind-the-scenes to right up front and totally out in the open? Would it be fun and meaningful for you to leave behind the stealthy, smoldering mysteries and turn your attention to the sweet, blazing truths? All these changes can be yours—and more. To get the action started, jump up toward the sky three times, clicking your heels together during each mid-leap.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18):** Greenland is a mostly autonomous territory within the nation of Denmark. In 2019, US President Donald Trump announced that his government was interested in buying the massive island, describing it as "a large real estate deal" that would add considerable strategic value to his country. A satirical story in \*The New Yorker\* subsequently claimed that Denmark responded with a counter-offer, saying it wasn't interested in the deal, but "would be interested in purchasing the United States in its entirety, with the exception of its government." I offer this as an example for you to be inspired by. The coming weeks will be a favorable time for you to flip the script, turn the tables, reverse the roles, transpose the narrative, and switch the rules of the game.

**PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20):** Author Doris Lessing told us, "It is our stories that will recreate us." Whenever we're hurt or confused or demoralized, she suggested, we need to call on the imagination to conjure up a new tale for ourselves. "It is the storyteller, the dream-maker, the myth-maker, that is our phoenix," she believed. The fresh narratives we choose to reinvent ourselves may emerge from our own dreams, meditations, or fantasies. Or they might flow our way from a beloved movie or song or book. I suspect you're ready for this quest, Pisces. Create a new saga for yourself.

# TURN IT DOWN!

BY RICH TUPICA

## TURN IT DOWN: THIRD MAN UNEARTHS HISTORIC SET FROM THE STOOGES



The Stooges, the original lineup. (courtesy photo)



Third Man Records' Ben Blackwell. (courtesy photo)



The Stooges long-fabled Goose Lake show is now on wax via Third Man Records.

### The day Iggy Pop and his mates played Goose Lake pressed on wax

Last week, City Pulse's cover story told the tale of the Goose Lake International Music Festival. Held over three days under a hot August sky, the lineup included Rod Stewart and the Small Faces, Chicago, Ten Years After, Flying Burrito Brothers and more. Not a bad batch of talent for a concert on the outskirts of Jackson.

One of the many local bands on the roster, The Stooges, has long been a part of the folklore attached to this colossal fest. Stories ranging

from the show being amazing to a complete train wreck have circulated for years. However, after Third Man Records recently released a newly found recording of the show, it proves The Stooges' set wasn't so disastrous after all. Raucous and unhinged, sure — but that was to be expected when Iggy Pop and his Stooges took the stage.

This week, Third Man Records' honcho Ben Blackwell tells why this Stooges recording is historic, and a treasure for ardent Michigan rock 'n' roll fans.

**Why do you think Goose Lake is still so special to the Michigan music scene?**

**Ben Blackwell:** Goose Lake was Michigan's answer to Woodstock. Seems like, to the people who were in attendance that weekend, they all remember it extremely fondly. The open-air drug market seems crazy to think about in hindsight, but all in all I get the impression that it was a truly magical event.

**When and how did The Stooges live album come to be?**

James Cassily was a sound engineer who recorded the performances of a bunch of bands at Goose Lake. He passed away in 2005, so we don't

really know why he recorded these sets or under what guise. As of a few years back, his son Joshua Rogers found a box of tapes labeled "Goose Lake" in the basement of the Rogers Mansion. Supposedly, it's the oldest house in Kent County, Michigan. Joshua brought the tapes to Third Man to see if we could help turn them into a proper release and over two years later, here we are ready to release it.

**What makes this recording so unique?**

The Goose Lake performance is the only professionally recorded full show of the original line-up of The Stooges. Seems kind of crazy with them having been on a major label, having done significant enough touring and all that. Furthermore, it was the final performance of that original band line-up, as [bassist] Dave Alexander was sacked immediately following the gig. That and the fact that the 200,000 fans in attendance would prove to be the largest crowd the band would ever play in front of makes it all pretty unique and special.

**Listening back now, how would you rate the quality of their set?**

The band sounds solid. Way better than I would've imagined. Neither

the recording nor the performance is perfect, but damn they leave me satisfied and downright thankful for their existence.

#### CITY PULSE

#### MITTEN MUSIC QUIZ:

1. Lamont Dozier was a member of this songwriting trio.
2. Journey To The Center of the "\_\_\_\_\_ " (of what?)
3. "Molly (16 Candles Down the Drain)" was a 1995 hit for this Detroit band.
4. John Anthony Gillis is now better known by this name.
5. Niagra was lead singer for what band?

Answers on page 29

**INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**K3 Property LLC Brownfield Plan Amendment (Klavon's Pizzeria & Pub)**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ADOPTION OF AN AMENDED BROWNFIELD PLAN FOR THE COUNTY OF INGHAM PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACT 381 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN OF 1996, AS AMENDED

August 25, 2020, 6:30 p.m., held virtually pursuant to Michigan Executive Order 2020-154 at <http://ingham.org/NewsEvents/Events.aspx>, on the adoption of an amended Brownfield Plan for K3 Property LLC (Klavon's Pizzeria & Pub) in Mason, Michigan.

This description of the property along with any maps and a description of the amended Brownfield Plan are available for public inspection virtually by contacting Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) staff at 517.331.0069 or [dillon@purelansing.com](mailto:dillon@purelansing.com).

All aspects of the amended Brownfield Plan are open for discussion at the public hearing.

# 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, August 12

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

**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.

**Rotary Duck Safari** -Join a FUN-raising non-fundraising scavenger 2020 Rotary Duck Safari August 1-14. Studio Shop to Register, 138 E Grand River, Williamston. [williamstonrotary.org](http://williamstonrotary.org).

**Virtual Diabetes Prevention Program Information Session** - 11 a.m.-12 p.m. [readyssetprevent.org](http://readyssetprevent.org).

### MITTEN MUSIC QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Holland-Dozier-Holland
2. "Mind"
3. Sponge
4. Jack White
5. Destroy All Monsters

### SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 27

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

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 27

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

## Thursday, August 13

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

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

**Michigan's Haunted Lighthouses** - 2 p.m. [downtownlansing.org](http://downtownlansing.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. 517-374-5700.

**Virtual Diabetes Prevention Program Information Session** - 5:30-6:30 p.m. [Readyssetprevent.org](http://Readyssetprevent.org).

## Friday, August 14

**Cup of Joe - Veteran Coffee Break** - The Lansing Area Veterans Coalition. Enjoy a free cup of coffee and a donut. 8:30-10 a.m. CEI-CMH, 812 E Jolly Road, Lansing.

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

## Saturday, August 15

**Community Drum Circle** - 2-4 p.m. Lake Lansing North, 6260 E Lake Dr, Haslett. 517-676-2233.

**Meridian Township Farmers' Market** - 8 a.m. Meridian Township Farmers' Market,

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

## Sunday, August 16

**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 17

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

## Tuesday, August 18

**Tech Tuesday** - 5:30-7 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library. [eradl.org](http://eradl.org)



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# FOOD & DRINK DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

## Family-friendly hot dog joint comes to Haslett

By SKYLER ASHLEY

A new family-friendly gourmet hot dog restaurant is now open in Haslett. Cheezy D's Deli & Dogs specializes in a wide-range of Coney dogs, chlidogs and other creative specialty dogs that are a cut above what you can find at your typical diner.

Owner Denny Emmer touts the 16 different hotdog variations. Styles range from the "Plain Jane," which is just a regular ketchup and mustard hot dog, all the way to an extreme dog known as "The Duke," which has bacon, macaroni and cheese, barbecue sauce and red onions.

"That one is really popular," Emmer said.

Despite the extreme carnivorous options, Cheezy D's also carries a veg-an option called "Where's the Beef?" Cheezy D's also offers a ton of options for ice cream. All of Cheezy D's ingre-



"The Duke," one Cheezy D's signature hot dog options.

dients are local to Michigan, Emmer said. Cheezy D's swears by Better Made

potato chips and Koegel hot dogs. The Coney sauce is homemade too.

Emmer said Haslett has responded to Cheezy D's soft opening with a voracious appetite. The restaurant is gearing up for its grand opening on Aug. 23, which will allow customers to actually come inside the restaurant instead of just dining at its outdoor picnic table setup.

"It's been overwhelming. We're having a tough time finding help because of COVID-19. I'm there 15 to 16 hours a day. We had to close the kitchen on



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Sunday just to prep. It's nothing to come in on an evening and see 30 to 40 people in line," Emmer said.

This isn't Emmer's first foray into the restaurant business. His family owned an ice cream parlor for several years in East Lansing back in the mid-'00s. Emmer was inspired to get back into the restaurateur saddle by a desire to bring a nice sit-down restaurant to Haslett that was appropriate for all-ages.

"I'm a fifth-generation Haslett resident, my kids are sixth-generation, and so we've been here a long time. We've got three bars in Haslett and two breakfast restaurants, there's really nothing for midday lunch — somewhere you can come in quick for ice cream, a hot dog or a sub or a sandwich or something," Emmer said.

Emmer said Cheezy D's was supposed to be open as far back as March, but the coronavirus got in the way. Shut downs and delays at the local health departments prevented anybody from getting out to Cheezy D's, so the restaurant wasn't ready until June.

Emmer wants Cheezy D's to eventually become a popular community-gathering place for Haslett. He said the bike trail connecting Haslett to Lansing has also brought in a pipeline of hungry bikers.

"We're right across the street from the lake, so if you're coming from the park it's a good place to stop in if you want a soda, hot dog or ice cream cone," Emmer said. "We're getting people from Lansing in on their bikes, it's sort of becoming a destination for bikers."

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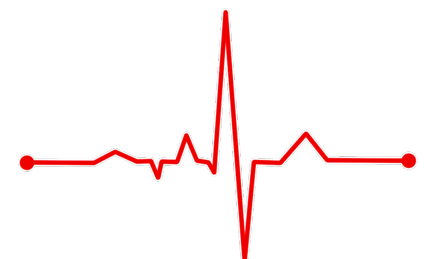
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