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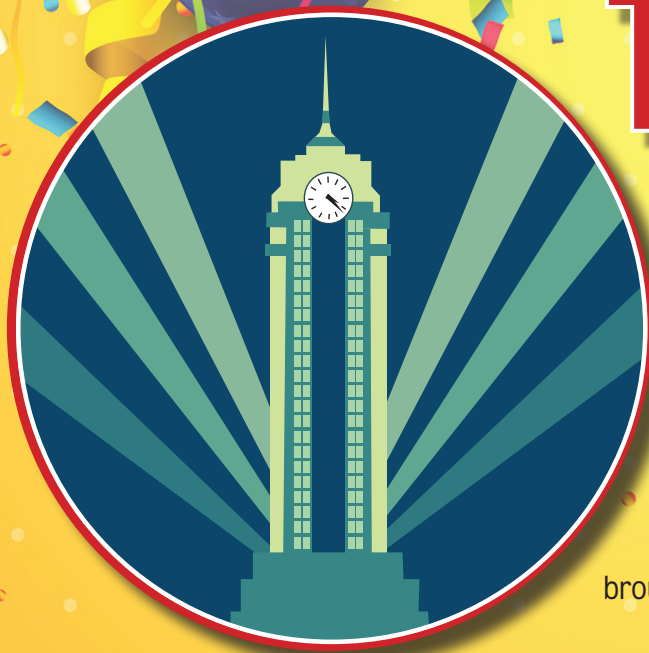
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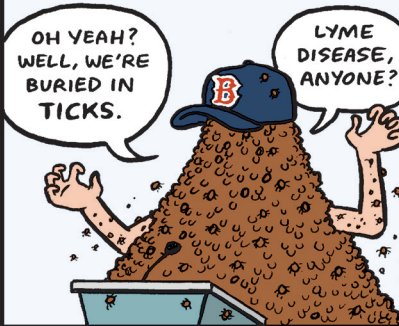
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The east side's Allen Neighborhood Center is getting a makeover



Lansing Symphony moves concerts outside



Flash in the pan: Chicken soup



By Nevin Speerbrecher

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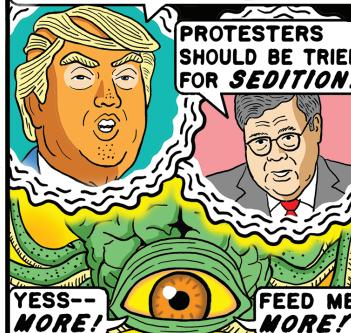
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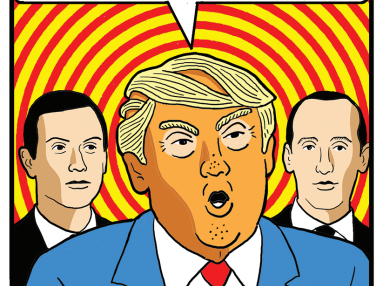
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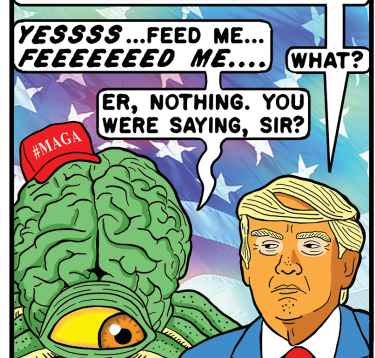
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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Policing the police

As protests against police brutality subside in cities across the nation, displaced on the nightly news by the never-ending pandemic and the looming presidential election, demands for greater police accountability and transparency are on the rise here in Lansing and elsewhere. There is little question that public confidence in the police has taken a massive hit following the police killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and countless more who came before them. Where you stand on police misconduct depends on where you sit: If you are a person of color, you may genuinely and justifiably live in fear that a close encounter with a police officer could be the last thing you ever do. And, based on available evidence, chances are good that the subsequent investigation will be cursory and the perpetrator will escape any meaningful punishment.

How to enact police reforms that remedy these ills remains a hot topic at Lansing City Hall. On Monday night, the City Council rejected an amendment proposed by First Ward Councilman Brandon Betz to cut \$3.5 million from the Police Department budget and redistribute it to community-building programs that address the underlying causes of economic inequality and social injustice. The 5-3 vote was a setback for advocates of defunding police, but it isn't the end of the debate. Public concern over making the Lansing Police Department more accountable and transparent is likely to continue until meaningful reforms are enacted.

It's often said that police departments everywhere need to do a much better job of policing their own by getting rid of bad actors and then making sure they can't simply move on to another department. We agree, but we're not persuaded that police are capable of policing their own. Law enforcement is a closed society where loyalty to one's fellow officers is paramount. The phrase "Blue Wall of Silence" wasn't coined out of malice toward police, but because it captures the essence of the problem with police policing themselves.

To create at least a patina of objectivity, most police departments have an Internal Affairs division charged with investigating misconduct by officers. In the highest profile cases, where criminal behavior by an officer is alleged, police departments routinely refer the investigation to an outside law enforcement agency. While this is a good practice, it's still just another form of police



The CP Edit

Opinion

investigating themselves.

The City of Lansing has for many years employed a civilian police investigator who works for the Board of Police Commissioners. According to the City Charter, the Police Board has considerable authority to investigate police misconduct, including the power to subpoena witnesses, administer oaths and require the production of evidence. These powers are rarely invoked, though, because it appears the commission and its investigator are rarely involved in investigating citizen complaints against the police. This calls into question the validity of the city's existing framework for holding police accountable.

It's an open secret that LPD and the police union despise the commission's investigator (the position, not the person) because they believe it is overly bureaucratic and redundant — duplicating their long-standing internal disciplinary procedures — but also because they believe it erodes public confidence in law enforcement by suggesting they need to have someone watch over them.

Let's be clear: they need to have someone watch

over them. To bring more objectivity to the police investigative and disciplinary process, we support the concept of an independent citizen review board with the power to investigate citizen complaints against the police. Some Council members have suggested that the powers of the existing Police Board should be enhanced and that the commissioners should be elected rather than appointed by the mayor. We're not convinced that electing police commissioners is a good idea, but we're willing to consider any reasonable form of enhanced civilian control over the investigation of police misconduct.

The notion of civilian control of law enforcement agencies is deeply rooted in America's historic reliance on a robust system of checks and balances to guard against potential abuses of power. It's why the president of the United States, a civilian, is the commander-in-chief of the nation's armed forces. It's also why the City Charter designates the mayor of Lansing as its chief law enforcement officer. Even so, the mayor apparently has little authority to challenge disciplinary decisions made by the police chief, and even less authority to change the outcome of appeals under the police union's collective bargaining agreement. State law provides for binding arbitration when a disciplined officer challenges their punishment and the decision of the arbitrator is final.

These contractual and statutory constraints mean that any form of police investigative board in Lansing will not have the ultimate authority to discipline or fire an officer based on their findings. Yet the existence of a truly independent investigative agency that actually does its job will go a long way toward greater transparency in police misconduct investigations and enhanced public trust and confidence in the police department itself.

For police departments that adhere to the highest standards of professional conduct, greater oversight by a civilian authority shouldn't be a problem. We encourage Lansing police officials to embrace reforms that help restore public confidence in the performance and integrity of the department and its officers. We also urge Mayor Schor, the City Council and police officials to work in good faith with community stakeholders to evaluate best practices in other communities, then develop a truly independent and transparent capacity to investigate police misconduct complaints.

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

Please limit them to 250 words

Trump still the Man in Macomb County — though Dems wish otherwise

By SAMANTHA SHRIBER

Harrison Township, Michigan — Excited and unchained from their masks, hundreds of Macomb County residents swarmed alongside the Clinton River in Harrison Township. Make America Great Again flags bled off of yachts and powerboats.

Like a new age gladiator stadium, roars echoed off the water as Donald Trump Jr., his Dad's senior adviser, exclaimed, "Close by, liberal heads must be exploding."

At Trump Jr. and Kid Rock's concert/rally combo last week at Bumpers Landing Boat Club, treasured by Lake St. Clair's patrons, COVID-19 and sensitivity were overlooked.

It validated how one doesn't need to be "socially conscious" to win an election in Macomb County — they need to be someone that its blue-collared inhabitants can enjoy a cold beer with.

After serving him with 53.6% of the county's vote in November 2016 — when Trump won Michigan by fewer than 11,000 votes and went on to carry the nation through an Electoral College victory — the county continues to nourish Trump with yard signs that outlast Election Day and flags that are paraded across the lake. Trump's trademark has been embedded into its escapism and patriotism as the younger generation looks forward to fleeing from the nest to Royal Oak and Ann Arbor.

"If you're an 18-year-old white kid and it's fun to be a Trump supporter where you live, then you're going to go vote for Trump for the memes. Like, why not?" said Jeremy Agosta, a 22-year-old from Macomb Township. "Trump created an identity that makes pickup truck dads buy into the Trump brand."

There's more to it than that, though, right? How is it that in this former bastion of blue-collar, union Democrats that Trump was and still is so popular?

According to Warren political consultant Chris Marchione, there is a wide scope of things a Macomb County voter is willing to take from candidates at who prove their worth on any level of government.

"This is where things sort of separate because in Macomb County, they want someone who is anti-establishment and yet somehow holds their traditional values or they're perceived to. Some of these values are sort of frightening," Marchione said. "So long as they know you and you're their guy in Macomb County, they will ride with you until the end unless you get indicted."



This is the first part in a six-part series reporting on the presidential campaign in Michigan in different locations across the state. This series is paid for by contributions from you to the City Pulse Fund for Community Journalism. To contribute, please go to lansingcitypulse.com/donation.

The county has been subjected to its fair share of corruption, oddball politicians and vulgar dialogue. The 2016 Macomb County Clerk Karen Spranger was kicked out of office for not really living in the county. Chuck Rizzo of the local garbage empire bribed four public officials and embezzled \$900,000 in April 2018.

There's also former Macomb County Prosecutor Eric Smith, who resigned amid embezzlement charges this March.

"That's kind of the big thing among county residents — it's kind of just getting things in order and electing people who are honest and transparent," said Nick Mordowanec of C&G Newspapers. "I just think that's bigger than what's going on and what you see on cable news."

Although a part of the Detroit Tri-County Area, the county's participation in Trump's 2016 victory illustrated a detachment from its neighbors — 51.7% of Oakland County and 66.8% of Wayne County voted for Democrat Hillary Clinton. Marchione described this as "the politics of resentment."

"You have working people who feel every, every small ebb and flow in the economy," Marchione said. "My dad told me growing up, 'Oakland County — that's management. We're the working people — and that's management.'"

More than 75% of Macomb County's 25-year-olds and older residents did



Samantha Shriver for City Pulse

Harrison Township, Michigan, residents offered up their front lawns, flags and boats to welcome Donald Trump Jr. and Kid Rock for their rally at Bumpers Landing Boat Club on Sept. 14.

not attain a bachelor's degree or higher from 2014 to 2018. At the same time, Ford, General Motors and Fiat Chrysler have invested more than \$7.4 billion into the county from 2010, surpassing a 27% job growth in 2017.

Marchione explained that Macomb County residents were voting Democrat in solidarity with "the working man" while Oakland County was subjected to a Republican stronghold. He said all that was required to have Macomb County in the bag was a Democrat ID card and an endorsement from the United Auto Workers.

Auto workers employed by one of the Big Three were unprepared for the Great Recession.

Sterling Heights Councilman Michael Radtke Jr., a Democrat, said he remembers a for-sale sign in front of every other house because people thought they were going to lose their auto jobs.

"We're working-class people, and working-class people have different values than other folks. People act like we're a swing district, but we're not really. We care about trade and about putting food on the table, and that's why you will see people align with different political parties depending on their answers to those questions," Radtke said.

In 2008, 53% of Macomb County residents voted for President Barack Obama. Radtke said Obama, delivered back to his voters by contributing to the auto bailout of 2009, which lent about \$55 billion from his administration to the industry and its lending entities.

Radtke said Trump has not delivered for the people who live in his community — unlike Obama who placed a Band-Aid over the wounds caused by the Great Recession.

"I don't even know if they're going to

support Donald Trump at the level that they did the first time around," Radtke said, because he "not improved their circumstances. What they're looking at is kitchen-table issues. Jobs are still going overseas, currency is still being manipulated, people do not feel like they're better off today than they were four years ago."

Is that for real or is that wishful thinking? Joe Biden recently made his first public Michigan stop in Warren in the hopes of reconnecting with these blue-collar voters, something Clinton failed to do.

Sterling Heights Councilman Henry Yanez, a former Democratic House member, said the face of Macomb is also changing.

"I remember growing up as a teenager — and people know this, I'm not telling any secrets — this community was known as Sterling Whites," Yanez said. Today, the city is experiencing growing Chaldean, Muslim and African American populations. Warren Consolidated Schools educate nearly 4,000 English Learner students in their K-12 system.

That all may be true, but then there's regular folks like Rick Reiff, of Saint Clair Shores Shores, who sound a very common message across the county. The trucking company owner said he is voting for Trump because the Democrats have flipped out.

He said he is voting for Trump because he is the lesser of two evils. Trump may not be keeping people together, but he is "taking care of business."

"Right now, the Democrats are just nuts and doing stupid shit," Reiff said. "They're pushing the Black Lives Matter. They're pushing riots. They're pushing stuff — and people don't want that in their town."

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS



By BERL SCHWARTZ



Ballot boxes ready in Lansing

Ballot boxes are ready in Lansing as the city prepares to begin mailing absentee ballots Thursday. Dignitaries led by city Clerk Chris Swope (above left), Council President Peter Spadafore (depositing a ceremonial ballot), and Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson (not pictured) and others marked National Voter Registration Day with a ribbon cutting at the Alfreda Schmidt Community Center for one of 15 city ballot boxes. A complete list with a map is available at www.lansingvotes.com along with other important election information. Voters should contact the Clerk Swope's Office with questions at city.clerk@lansing-mi.gov or 517-483-4131.

Grand Ledge school chief ousted over Floyd remarks

In June, the superintendent of the Grand Ledge Schools criticized the victim in the infamous Minneapolis police killing. He said had the victim, George Floyd, been a "law-abiding citizen," it "eliminates" a police confrontation. Monday, the school board eliminated the superintendent. After a seven-hour hearing, board members voted unanimously to fire Brian Metcalf, saying he "compromised confidence" in the district. But Metcalf may have the last word. He has sued the district for \$1.4 million for allegedly violating the state Freedom of Information Act on a records request from him.



Metcalf

Lansing welcomes third treasurer under Schor

Desiree A. Kirkland, who has worked primarily in the public sector, joins the Schor administration as city treasurer and income tax administrator beginning Monday. Kirkland was a grant accountant with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. She also served as contract and financial

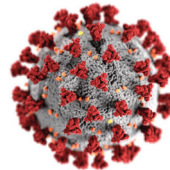
manager for the Ingham County Health Department, internal auditor of the Michigan Supreme Court and chief deputy treasurer of Ingham County. She holds a bachelor's in accounting from Ferris State University and a master's in Christian leadership from Arizona's Grand Canyon University and is pursuing an MBA at Davenport University. Kirkland replaces Judy Kehler, whom Schor named chief strategic officer in July after she became treasurer in 2019, replacing acting treasurer Angie Bennett, who resigned a year ago.



Kirkland

COVID-19 cases surge in East Lansing

More than 3,200 confirmed coronavirus cases have been detected in Ingham County. Nearly 1,500 have been spotted since Sept. 1, 1,250 connected to Michigan State University. County Health Officer Linda Vail also added 11 fraternity homes to a list of 39 large rental properties that remain in a mandatory quarantine in East Lansing. Additional measures, including a broad shelter-in-place order or tougher crowd size limitations may become necessary, she said. "Maybe we just won't allow indoor gatherings." Hospitalization rates remain low, though. And the Big Ten will kick off its football season Oct. 24 following a unanimous vote to reverse a ban.



State officials have now tracked nearly 118,000 COVID-19 cases and 6,600 related deaths in Michigan, including another 500 cases and 15 deaths tallied Tuesday. Nationally, more than 6.8 million people are infected and 200,000 have died.

Police divestment not a priority for Council

On a 5-3 vote Monday, the Lansing City Council rejected a proposal by Councilman Brandon Betz to slash \$4.6 million from the Lansing Police Department and reinvest in community services. It called for cutting police spending 10%, hiring six social workers for the Fire Department and redirecting the remaining cash for youth education and employment programs, among other social services. Kathie Dunbar and Brian Jackson voted with Betz. Meanwhile, the Council Committee of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion has sent the mayor a proposal to spend \$500,000 on four social workers and \$125,000 on a full-time grant writer to assist community organizations with grant applications.



Overnight parking ban officially ended

Lansing residents, park overnight on the street if you like. Voting 5-3, the City Council has lifted the ban and eliminated the ill-fated permit system that just got started before the pandemic prompted the city to temporarily end most parking violations. Those who already paid for overnight permits are expected to receive prorated refunds. Residents will have to remove their vehicles for snow plowing or other emergency situations. Council members Carol Wood, Jeremy Garza and Adam Hussain voted against the ordinance change.



Developers want to buy the City Market someday

The developers of the Lansing Shuffleboard and Social Club project at the City Market building said they'd eventually like to purchase the city property rather than serve out a 40-year lease agreement. The lease allows it, but the city hasn't committed to selling. The lease agreement comes before the City Council for an Oct. 12 hearing, when the Council will also look at providing loans and tax incentives to the Detroit Rising development group, which plans to spend \$3.2 million on renovations.



Detroit Rising's lease would start out at \$24,000 annually and escalate each year by 2.5% or the rate of inflation — whichever is higher. The last tenant, Waterfront Bar & Grill, paid \$72,000 annually before eviction, but it didn't pay an estimated \$80,000 in maintenance and utility costs. City officials said Detroit Rising would cover those costs, leaving the city a small profit.

Lansing woman charged in fatal fire

Why did Abbieana Williams allegedly set a Sept. 3 fire at an Elizabeth Street home in Lansing that killed a grandmother, Melissa Westen, 53, and grandsons Aston Griffin, 8, and his 4-year-old brother, Jesse Kline IV? Police have not revealed any motive by Williams, 21, who remains in custody on three counts each of murder and arson.



Williams

Hubbub over the hub

Work begins on east side's Allen Place project

Stories by **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

Demolition begins this week on the 1600 block of East Kalamazoo Street to make way for Allen Place, a multi-pronged community hub with 21 apartments, a health clinic, and a new storefront for the long-dormant East Lansing Food Co-op.

Allen Neighborhood Center's executive director, Joan Nelson, hopes the ambitious project, set for completion next fall, will help the neighborhood retain older residents, spur more development in vacant buildings and lots along Kalamazoo Street and boost a surge of activity on the east side centered on the growth and distribution of local food.

The \$11 million project, sponsored by the Allen Neighborhood Center, will be financed by private donations, a grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corp., a federal New Market Tax Credit and \$850,000 from the state Dept. of the Environment and Great Lakes and Energy for environmental cleanup.

The core of the project is a new three-story building that will go up on



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the Allen Street side of the block, now a parking lot where the outdoor farmers market used to be held. (It's moved to Michigan Avenue.) The top two stories will be filled by 21 apartments and the ground floor will be split evenly between the health clinic, run by the Ingham County Health Department, and ELFCO.

About one-third of the apartments will be "affordable" and the others will be market rate, Nelson said, "although there isn't a whole lot of difference on Kalamazoo in the east side."

People of all ages are welcome to live at Allen Place, but Nelson said the 21 housing units are designed to attract people 55 and older who might otherwise leave the neighborhood. She already has a list of 35 prospective tenants, from millennials to seniors.

"We've become a millennial magnet



Construction is about to begin on 21 apartments for residents 55 and over at the Allen Neighborhood Center, in the 1600 block of Kalamazoo Street. Seen from the east in this rendering, the new building will fill the parking lot on the west end where the Wednesday farmers market used to be held. The center is sponsoring a contest for a mural on the east end. For more information, see <http://allen-neighborhoodcenter.org/allen-place>.

on the east side, and I love all the young families and kids, but it's disconcerting to see people who have lived all their lives here moving to a 300-unit complex out in Mason," Nelson said.

In 2005, the ANC began talking with the out-of-state owner of the 1600 Kalamazoo block about buying its aging cluster of buildings outright. The block is presently vacant, except for the Allen Neighborhood Center's headquarters, outreach office, indoor market space and incubator kitchens where classes and workshops are held.

The talks went nowhere until about two years ago, when the owner signaled he would be open to selling the complex. At about the same time, Nelson

said, "an incredibly generous benefactor" from New York offered the ANC a loan to purchase the buildings, plus a \$300,000 grant to "offset the vagaries of construction."

The ANC bought the complex in August 2018 and immediately partnered with Cinnaire Solutions, the development arm of the nonprofit Cinnaire, to get financing and to work out a design.

Preliminary work entails cleanup of "all kinds of toxic activity known to man," in Nelson's words, and has been underway for weeks. Three tanks from Al's Gas Station, at the corner of

See Hub, Page 9

Seeds of rebirth

East Lansing Food Co-op will open new storefront at Allen Place

The East Lansing Food Co-op, dormant since its East Lansing storefront on Northwind Drive closed in 2017, will sprout again in fall of next year, this time as part of the Allen Place project that will soon take shape on the 1600 block of East Kalamazoo Street.

The co-op will plug into the Allen Neighborhood Center's web of contacts with local farmers and community gardens and focus on locally grown and produced food and non-food products, ELFCO president Stephen Gasteyer said.

The multi-faceted Allen Place project will wrap the co-op in 21 "affordable" and "market rate" apartments, a health clinic, a kitchen accelerator supporting local food entrepreneurs, an outdoor "solar court" and ongoing community classes and other activi-

ties.

Gasteyer said he felt "real excitement" over the move to Allen Place at an ELFCO member meeting last week.

"A lot of the membership thought it was a clear opportunity for a marriage, for a variety of reasons," Gasteyer said. "This project works really well with our own vision. It combines the mission of being a co-operative with the mission of being a local food hub."

A built-in neighborhood clientele of east siders and Allen Place apartment dwellers will offer a sharp contrast to the relatively isolated Northwind Drive storefront.

"It will be nice to get back to an area where you have actual foot traffic," Gasteyer said.

ELFCO's disembodied phase lasted longer than many members expected.

In late 2019, the co-op aborted a plan to start a new location at 3026 E. Michigan Ave., just west of the Red Cedar development, after prolonged wrangling with Lansing Township over the permitting process.

The collapse of the Michigan Avenue location disappointed co-op members

who were eager to bring ELFCO into line with recent co-op trends.

The Allen Place storefront, expected to open in fall 2021, will reflect the evolution of co-ops into one-stop showcases for local growers and producers.

In the hippie heydays of the 1960s and '70s, co-ops pioneered the retail trade in organic and specialty foods, but these items have long since moved into the mainstream. ELFCO felt the resulting squeeze more acutely than many co-ops. Squeezed by the pincer effect of two nearby food outlets, Foods for Living and Whole Foods, and another new organic grocer near MSU, Fresh Thyme, ELFCO's membership and customer traffic on Northwind Drive took a sharp nosedive.

At Allen Place, ELFCO's nearest competitors will be dispersed at least a mile in each direction — Capitol City Market, a new downtown specialty grocery operated by Meijer, to the west, and Kroger in Frandor to the east.

This time around, ELFCO's old "big-box" model, with weekly sales and a

hefty promotional budget, will give way to a farmers market system similar to a consignment clothing shop or art gallery.

"It's more of an agreement between the farmer and the grocery, where the growers set the price, and it takes the potential for exploitation out of the system," Gasteyer said.

The consignment model has worked well at many co-ops across the nation, including Ann Arbor's Argus Farm Stop, where the co-op takes a percentage of sales in exchange for housing and selling the goods.

Mid-Michigan is rich in what Gasteyer calls "micro-farms," from small farms of 20 to 30 acres in the rural areas around Lansing to the dozens of community gardens, a quarter acre or less in size, that are proliferating within the city limits, many of them a radish toss away from Allen Place.

Even without a year-round storefront, the Allen Neighborhood Center works with about 75 local growers and

See ELFCO, Page 9

Hub

from page 8

Kalamazoo and Sheridan streets from the late 1930s to the 1950s, will be removed. The 1619 E. Kalamazoo storefront was home to two dry cleaners, a notorious source of chemical residue.

An \$850,000 Brownfield cleanup grant from the state's Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, will cover the cleanup.

A 6,000-square-foot space on the block's Sheridan street side will become a "solar courtyard," with a solar micro-grid and solar dock picnic tables, in partnership with the Lansing Board of Water and Light.

The apartments, health clinic and food co-op are all key elements of the project, but Nelson has her long-term sights set on making Lansing's east side a showcase for the growth, preparation and distribution of local food. Despite the pandemic, all of the ANC's food programs grew significantly this year, including the weekly farmers' market and a popular "veggie box" program that brings produce from dozens of local farmers to consumers in weekly shipments.

“One of the many fault lines COVID exposed was how precarious food sys-

ELFCO

from page 8

producers, through its successful weekly farmer's market and growing "veggie box" program that provides subscribers with weekly cornucopias of fresh food.

The prospect of plugging into the ANC's spreadsheet of local contacts is not the only attraction for Gasteyer. The farmers market has featured a wide array of prepared foods, from Ethiopian food to Southern barbecue to artisanal bitters, developed in its bustling classes and test kitchens.

“We’re also very excited about providing a venue through which the folks who are doing the work in ANC’s incubator kitchens can distribute their products,” he said. “There are all sorts of ways we can see synergies happening that would be very exciting for all parties involved.”

In addition to local produce, the new ELFCO will carry beans, lentils, oats and other staples, stocked in bulk from local farmers, and a variety of locally made non-food products like soaps, candles,

tems are, and supply chains for food products," Nelson said.

The ANC already runs an incubator kitchen, with culinary classes for low- to moderate-income people.

Allen Place's planned "accelerator kitchen" will take the program a step further, shepherding entry-level food entrepreneurs through the process of establishing a business. In time, Nelson hopes to see new food trucks, diners and restaurants spring up on the east side as these programs come to fruition.

The presence of ELFCO at Allen Place promises a reliable, year-round market for local produce and the culinary creations coming out of the kitchen accelerator.

With Allen Place as a catalyst, Nelson envisions a “food innovation district” extending from Hunter Park on the west, with its year-round greenhouse and acre of cultivated parkland, to Foster Park on the east, with its gardening education center, surrounded by acres of urban farms.

Nelson is eager to take the Allen Neighborhood Center to a new level, but she emphasized that despite a solar-powered bell and whistle here and there, Allen Place sticks to the same community-building basics of health, food and housing.

“This is an extension of what we’ve been doing for the last 21 years,” she said. “We’re just upsizing our work.”

knitted goods and other items. The co-op has also kept its liquor license, although the board hasn't decided whether it will try to transfer the license to from East Lansing to Lansing.

“We want to be a store that encourages the local economy and gives people who make stuff locally a venue to sell, in the volume that Meijer downtown would find too small to be worth their while,” Gasteyer said. “We talk about Argus Farms as our model, but we’re envisioning something a little more diverse than what they do.”

Gasteyer said the co-op has about 1,800 members “on the books,” but the staff needs to canvass them to determine how many are still interested in being “active and engaged.”

While members have doubtless fallen away, or moved out of the area, during the co-op's hiatus, Gasteyer also expects a sharp uptick in interest and an influx of new members as word spreads about the Allen Place project.

The co-op's dry good dispensers, shelving and other equipment are still warehoused in the Lansing Bike Co-op, waiting to be dusted off.

**CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF REGISTRATION
FOR THE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020 ELECTION**

To the qualified electors of the City of Lansing:

Please take notice that the City of Lansing will hold an Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

For the purpose of electing candidates to the following offices:

Partisan Section

Presidential: Electors of President and Vice-President of the United States; **Congressional:** United States Senator, Representative in Congress; **Legislative:** Representative in State Legislature; **State Boards:** Members of the State Board of Education, Regent of the University of Michigan, Trustee of Michigan State University, Governor of Wayne State; **County:** County Prosecuting Attorney, County Sheriff, County Clerk, County Treasurer, County Register of Deeds, County Drain Commissioner, County Commissioner (**NOTE: Straight Party Ticket will be a voting option for this election**)

Nonpartisan Section

Judicial: Justice of Supreme Court, Judge of Court of Appeals, Judge of Circuit Court, Judge of District Court; **Community College:** Board of Trustees Member; **Local School District:** Board Member

For the purpose of voting on the following proposals:

State: Proposal 20-1 A proposed constitutional amendment to allow money from oil and gas mining on state-owned lands to continue to be collected in state funds for land protection and creation and maintenance of parks, nature areas, and public recreation facilities; and to describe how money in those state funds can be spent, **Proposal 20-2** A proposed constitutional amendment to require a search warrant in order to access a person's electronic data or electronic communications; County: Public Transportation System for Elderly and Disabled Millage Renewal (Ingham County ONLY), Eaton County Transportation Authority (EATTRAN) Millage Renewal (Eaton County ONLY)

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

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the Lansing City Clerk's Office is **Monday, October 19, 2020**. After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the following locations and times:

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

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

Location	Address	Additional Hours
Lansing City Clerk – City Hall	124 W Michigan Ave Lansing, MI 48933	Election Day, November 3 7am - 8pm
Lansing City Clerk – Election Unit	2500 S Washington Ave Lansing, MI 48910	<p>Saturday, October 3 10am - 2 pm</p> <p>Saturday, October 10 10am - 2 pm</p> <p>Saturday, Oct 17 10am - 2 pm</p> <p>Saturday, October 24 10am - 2 pm</p> <p>Saturday, October 31 10am - 10 pm</p> <p>Sunday, November 1 10am - 10pm</p> <p>Election Day, November 3 7am - 8pm</p>

ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS

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

The Lansing City Clerk's Office must have an application to issue an Absent Voter Ballot. Applications are available at the locations referenced in the above tables or by visiting our website at lansingmi.gov/clerk.

Monday, November 2, 2020 at 4:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot except for those who register to vote on Election Day. Ballots issued on Monday, November 2, 2020 must be requested and voted in person at the Lansing City Clerk's Office, locations referenced in the above table.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2020, are eligible to receive an absent voter ballot at the Lansing City Clerk's Office, locations referenced in the above table.

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

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Junge holds his own vs. Slotkin in their first 8th District debate

If the first debate between U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin and Republican Paul Junge told us anything, it's this: Slotkin is running her first reelection campaign on health care. Junge is running on the 8th Congressional District being, at its core, a Republican district.

It also showed us that Junge, while a political newcomer, held his own under the bright lights.

Everyone knows Slotkin knows her stuff. She showed it again Monday in the first of three planned debates.

And while Junge isn't rolling out specific plans if he were elected, the attorney and former Lansing FOX 47 newscaster presented himself in a cool, calm and collected way that former Republican Rep. Mike Bishop couldn't pull off in similar formats. Slotkin beat two-term Bishop in 2018 to become the first Democratic House member in the 8th District since 2000.

If Democrats hoped they were going to put away the GOP underdog, it didn't happen.

WLNS moderator Sheri Jones gave Slotkin a lot of rope as she tried to push Junge into a corner on whether he supported Republican attempts to dismantle the Affordable Care Act in the courts. Junge didn't give Slotkin what she wanted: a full reputation of Obamacare.

Instead, he said if the Supreme Court throws out the Affordable Care Act, he supports a replacement that allows insurance coverage for pre-existing conditions. He'd also like to see prescription drug costs lowered and new protections for those with COVID-19 mixed in.

It all sounds good until you remember how Washington Republicans blew it a few years ago when they tried the ol' repeal-and-replace strategy.

If the U.S. Supreme Court invalidates the ACA, Slotkin said in a Tuesday press conference, then pre-existing condition protections will be gone. So will the ability to keep



KYLE MELINN



Slotkin

young adults up to 26 on their parents' insurance. A cap on out-of-pocket expenses will be gone. Expanded Medicaid coverage will be gone.

"What we could see is something as concrete as the ACA being replaced by something else," she said. "It's something Republicans are fighting to destroy in court."

Meanwhile, Jones questioned Junge on his claim that Slotkin voted 96% of the time with U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who — to be kind — doesn't poll as well as Slotkin in



Junge

the 8th, which includes all of Ingham County.

Slotkin said this "misleading and cherry-picked piece of information" is based on 70 specific votes. It didn't include the 640 votes she took in which at least one Republican voted the same as she. She also pointed to her membership in the bipartisan problem solvers caucus as proof that she isn't a hyper-partisan.

"I've taken on my leadership when I needed to," she said.

Junge scoffed at Slotkin's definition of bipartisan. For example, the CARES Act received one Republican vote. Did that truly make it bipartisan? Slotkin is voting with party leadership on bills even Democrats claim are "deeply partisan," he said.

Junge conceded he'll likely vote with Republicans if he's elected. "Yes, I will probably more often than not, almost certainly be supporting positions that most Republicans are, but I make no secret of that," he said. "I'm not pretending to be something else."

That said, Junge agreed with Slotkin that President Trump's idea of eliminating the payroll tax would hurt Social Security and he would not support it.

Overall, the Slotkin-Junge meeting showed the two agreeing more often than they disagreed. Honestly, neither can afford to look like they're from an ideological fringe or that they're not prepared for the job.

Neither did.

(Kyle Melinn of the Capitol News Service MIRS is at melinnky@gmail.com.)

Notice to Creditors
Estate of Barbara J. Faulkner:
Date of Birth July 18, 1928.

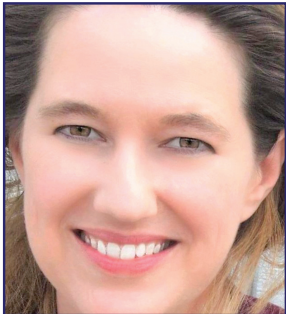
Notice To Creditors: The decedent, Barbara J. Faulkner, who lived at 2904 S. Cambridge, Lansing, Michigan 48911 died September 10, 2020.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Thomas Faulkner, named personal representative or proposed personal representative. Claims can be mailed to 1907 Rock Way, Lansing, Michigan 48910, within 90 days after the date of publication of this notice.

Thomas Faulkner
Personal Representative
for the Estate
1907 Rock Way
Lansing, Michigan 48910
CP#20-219

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Treasurer Eric Schertzing • Drain Com. Pat Lindeman
Jerome Reide • Guillermo Lopez

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690 N. Hagadorn Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823

RFP/21/009 Covid-19 Economic Recovery Resource Developer Reissue as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept proposals electronically @ the MITN site (www.mitn.info) or 124 W. Michigan Ave, Lansing MI 48933 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **October 7, 2020**. Complete Specifications and forms required to submit proposals are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson @ 517-483-4128 or stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov.

#20-218

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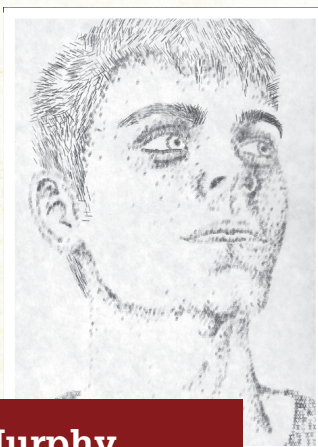
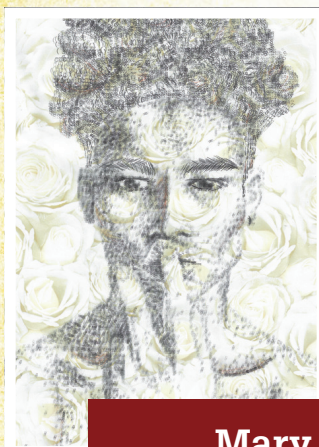
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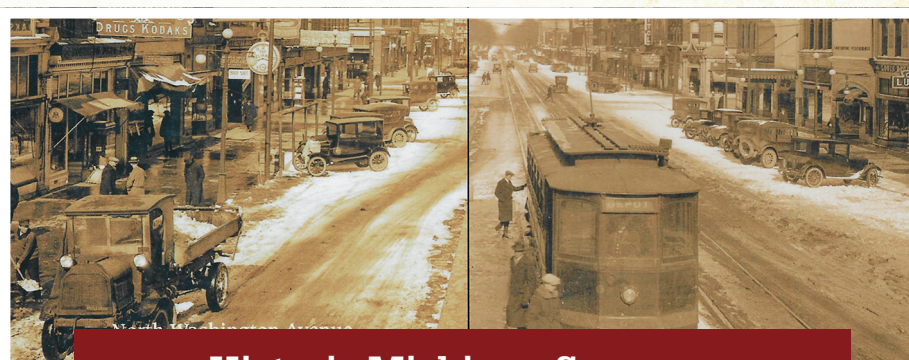


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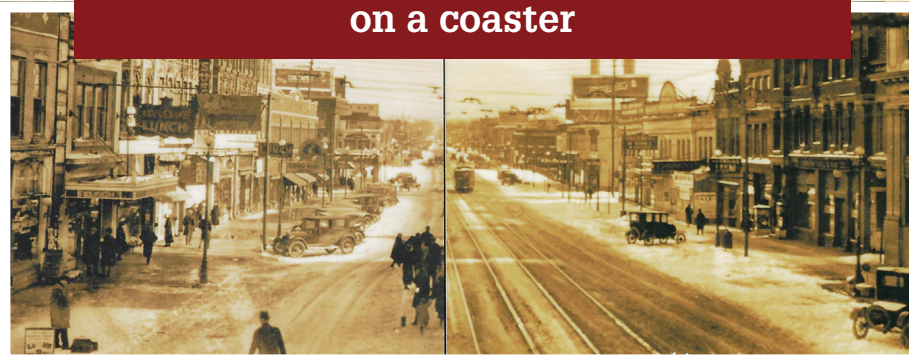
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Judging themselves, Lansing police dismiss most citizen complaints

City Council eyes new citizen panel to take over oversight of police misconduct complaints

After a Black teenager was repeatedly struck by a white Lansing Police Department officer along Dakin Street last year, the city of Lansing was in turmoil. Protests formed in front of City Hall. Former Police Chief Michael Yankowski admonished the two officers. One officer involved was suspended.

Video footage showed Officer Lindsey Howley attempting to load the teenager into the back of her cruiser. As the 16-year-old girl continued to put up a fight, Howley cocked back her fist and swung. All told, the girl was struck 14 times — mostly in the legs — in what would later be described by Yankowski as “not the conduct of what we want from our Lansing police officers.” Yankowski blamed inexperience on why Howley continued striking the girl after the first few blows proved ineffective.

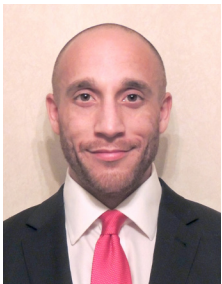
Howley’s 30-hour suspension was the most severe punishment short of firing that was handed down by a Lansing police chief based on a citizen-initiated complaint in at least four years. Local activists (including the girl’s family) still wanted more severe consequences, but the quick action seemed to placate the megaphones at City Hall — especially as Yankowski retired from the job.

But this year, and about one month before George Floyd’s killing reignited race-related protests in Lansing, that three-day suspension was quietly appealed and reversed in union arbitration. Mayor Andy Schor said the city “took this matter seriously,” but ultimately it still had its hands tied.

“The police chief has the ultimate responsibility over officers and their discipline. However, under state law, officers are allowed to appeal disciplinary decisions through the

“Now, maybe more than ever, Lansing needs to show its people that LPD is here to ‘protect and serve.’”

— Lansing Councilman Brian Jackson



binding arbitration process with an outside, independent arbiter,” Schor explained in a statement.

And as city leaders now turn their attention back to racial justice and social equity, a renewed conversation is underway on how to hold police officers accountable when they break the rules.

Additional details about Howley’s appeal — and the justification for the reversal — were not released to City Pulse amid a lengthy (and ongoing) tussle over public access to police misconduct records. So far, the city has only released a small fraction of its internal investigations on police misconduct, and only those that begin through citizen complaints.

More than 400 complaints are still being withheld by the City Attorney’s Office on the basis that the city’s legal interest in privacy on these police matters outweighs its interest in public disclosure. City Pulse intends to appeal the finding to City Council President Peter Spadafore.

But of the 139 complaints released since 2016, most achieved similar non-results. Only 17 — or about 12% — led to disciplinary action. Most were verbal warnings, written reprimands or involved mandatory counseling or training. Five officers resigned or retired in lieu of termination.

While an outlet exists for an independent probe through an investigator hired by mayoral appointees on the Police Board of Commissioners, all citizen complaints filed since 2016 have also been handled entirely by other officers within the Police Department’s Office of Internal Affairs — only being referred out to the Michigan State Police when criminal matters arise.

And the inherent flaws of a complaint system where police are largely expected to police other police is now pushing city leaders to rethink the concept of officer accountability in Lansing.



Howley



Schor

HOW TO FILE A POLICE MISCONDUCT REPORT

- Lansing Police Department Office of Internal Affairs517-483-4804
- Lansing Police Department Supervisor 517-483-4600
- City of Lansing Human Relations and Community Services Division517-483-4477
- Lansing Mayor’s Office...517-483-4141
- Commission Investigator517-483-4002

“We do need some independence there,” said Councilwoman Patricia Spitzley. “That’s not to say that I think the police inherently do anything wrong, but it can be hard for police to police the police. I think that puts everyone in a no-win situation, no matter how above-board it all may be.”



Spitzley

“Now, maybe more than ever, Lansing needs to show its people that LPD is here to ‘protect and serve.’ That is not possible unless all incidents of police misconduct are properly addressed,” said Councilman Brian Jackson, noting the “secretive” process smells of conflicting interests.

Citizen complaints in Lansing rarely — if ever — leave the offices of the Lansing Police Department. Aside from a rarely used investigator on the Police Board of Commissioners, the only check-and-balance for cops accused by citizens of some type of misconduct is other cops.

Complaints can be filed either directly with the so-called “independent” investigator or the Office of Internal Affairs. Both ultimately report to Schor’s office and work at offices housed inside City Hall. The police chief also still retains final authority on whether those complaints are sustained, though officers also have the ability to appeal discipline independently through union arbitration.

The in-house nature of the misconduct investigations isn’t uncommon nationally, but concerns over objectivity has pushed some

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2016 – 2020 Complaints to Lansing Police Department

A total of 139 complaints were logged between Jan. 1, 2016, and May 2020 for various policy violations, including unbecoming conduct, unsatisfactory performance and other misconduct.

At least 17 of those misconduct complaints — or about 12% — were at least partially sustained, resulting in at least five officers who resigned or retired in lieu of termination. At least 11 received counseling, written reprimands or verbal warnings. One officer received a 30-hour suspension.

Another 17 complaints — or about 12% — involved documented accusations of discrimination. Only one was sustained against the accused officer, but her suspension was later reversed.

- LPD Officers with Sustained Complaints (2016-2020)**
- Detention Officer Elizabeth Barnhill

Undercover Officer (Redacted)

Officer Brandon Russell

Det. John Chamberlin

Sgt. Charles Funk (Resigned)

Officer Brian Whitsett -

Written Reprimand for Unsatisfactory Performance and Rule Violations

Officer Dalton Reust (Resigned)

Officer Benjamin Hovarter (Resigned)

Officer Alan Berish (Retired)

Officer Trevor Arnold

School Resource Officer Matt Priebe (Resigned)

Officer Leonel Rangel

Officer Lindsey Howley

Officer Bailey Ueberroth

Officer Adam Walter

Listings of Complaints by Dates

- 2/22/16 —

Detention Officer Elizabeth Barnhill received a verbal warning for violating departmental policies after she mistakenly gave away one inmate’s property to the wrong person before he was released. All told, the man lost about \$500 in electronics, his checkbook and his wallet — with \$32 in cash — after the person that received his belongings later tossed them into a field.

Cops later sought criminal larceny charges against the person who received the belongings.
- 3/11/16 —

An undercover officer (whose name was redacted because he is still employed with the Lansing Police Department) was forced to go through counseling for unsatisfactory performance after he lost a suspect’s wallet during a traffic stop. Reports state the officer set a man’s wallet on the back of his cruiser, where it presumably rolled off into the street before he took the man to jail.

All told, the man claimed to have lost his Social Security card and more than \$400 in cash was never be found. The officer was ordered to go through mandatory counseling.
- 5/23/16 —

Officer Brandon Russell received a written reprimand for unsatisfactory performance after he had a man’s legally parked car unnecessarily towed from in front of another man’s home. Reports state the car’s owner had confronted Russell. Russell said “go talk to a judge about it” before having it towed away. Internal investigators, after receiving a complaint, later discovered the car had been parked legally and the Police Department paid \$140 to have the car released.
- 7/21/16 —

Det. John Chamberlin received a written reprimand for unsatisfactory performance after he reportedly failed to follow through on an assault investigation that sat on his desk for months. Reports state prosecutors had tried and failed to reach Chamberlin to discuss a criminal case for several weeks before they were forced to adjourn a criminal trial related to the investigation. Ultimately, internal investigators found that Chamberlin didn’t exercise “due diligence” to complete the investigation and logged a written reprimand into his departmental personnel file.
- 8/8/16 —

Sgt. Charles Funk resigned following multiple sustained misconduct violations related to breaking both law and departmental policy, including issues like dishonesty and

Complaints by Year	
2016 —	Seven of 36 complaints were sustained. Six officers were named for misconduct.
2017 —	Three of 29 complaints were sustained. Five officers were named for misconduct.
2018 —	Five of 21 complaints were sustained. Two officers were named for misconduct.
2019 —	One of 35 complaints was sustained. One officer was named for misconduct.
2020 —	One of 18 complaints was sustained. One officer was named for misconduct.

- insubordination. Records state Fink was involved in a traffic crash involving a man in a wheelchair and “may have failed to report it.” No additional details were listed in city records regarding the incident.

Funk filed a racial discrimination lawsuit against the Police Department, which was revived last month after a state appeals court resurrected Funk’s complaints of retaliation against the city. Funk argues that a hostile work environment led to his resignation. The case is still pending.
- 10/29/16 —

Officer Brian Whitsett received a written reprimand for violating departmental policies and unsatisfactory performance after he allegedly botched a roadside traffic crash investigation. Records state Whitsett arrived at the scene but never exited his car or inspected the damage. Upon an internal review, video footage could not be located. A report filed by Whitsett also included inaccurate information. No additional details were listed in city records on the incident.
- 11/22/16 —

Officer Dalton Reust resigned following several sustained misconduct violations, including unbecoming conduct and using alcohol while in uniform — or in this case holding his badge.

Reports state Reust took an off-duty trip to Lou & Harry’s Bar before getting rowdy, calling a woman a “bitch” and kicking a glass full of beer over employees that were asking him to leave. Reust was eventually escorted out, but not before he reportedly flashed his badge and told staff: “I’m going to see you again.” No additional details were listed in city records about this incident.
- 10/9/17 —

Officer Benjamin Hovarter resigned following a sustained report of unsatisfactory performance. Reports state Hovarter arrested a woman for domestic assault based on a call from her husband (who was not present at the time) and did not interview any on-scene witnesses — which “most fit” the criteria of unsatisfactory performance, investigators found.
- 11/7/17 —

Officer Alan Berish retired in lieu of termination following a sustained discourtesy violation. Reports state Berish had been inordinately rude to two technicians on a Michigan State Police helpline, later calling back to apologize for his “unprofessional” and “disrespectful” demeanor. He retired instead of facing consequences. No additional details were listed in city records.
- 11/14/17 —

Officer Trevor Arnold was referred to counseling after a sustained violation of departmental rules. Reports state Arnold searched a homeless woman for narcotics while en route to a Volunteers of America office. The woman claimed Arnold pulled over beneath a bridge and instructed her to remove her underwear and spread her buttocks in the back of his patrol car.

In an interview with internal investigators, Arnold acknowledged the search but said the woman was never exposed in any way and that he views the report as a “false complaint” against him — part of an orchestrated effort to discredit his community policing efforts within the city. Ultimately, investigators were unable to prove or disprove the complaint. No other details were provided in the report except to note that Arnold was counseled for violating departmental rules.
- 1/1/18 —

School Resource Officer Matt Priebe resigned follow-

- ing sexual assault allegations from students at Eastern High School. Reports state students complained about Priebe before he was immediately placed on administrative leave and investigated by the Michigan State Police.

Ultimately, internal investigators identified sustained complaints of unbecoming conduct, non-conformance to state laws and policy violations with processing property and evidence. Priebe later pleaded no contest to five criminal charges in connection to three separate victims, including criminal sexual conduct against a minor, two counts of assault and misconduct in office. He was sentenced last year to one year in jail and has since been released from custody.
- 5/14/18 —

Officer Brandon Russell, also cited in a 2016 complaint, received a 20-hour suspension for “unbecoming conduct.” Reports state Russell reportedly spent more time “hitting” on a woman at a crime scene rather than actually interviewing witnesses and collecting evidence. Russell also reportedly called the woman to ask what type of perfume she was wearing after she went home.

Unsatisfactory performance was not sustained. No other details were provided in the report.
- 9/17/18 —

Officer Leonel Rangel was referred to counseling following a sustained discourtesy violation stemming from an incident at a Dollar General store. Reports state the store’s staff was suspicious of a man who had fallen asleep while looking at a container of Tide pods inside.

Rangel later found the man asleep in his parked car, where he reportedly treated the man more as a criminal than someone who was just tired from a few long shifts at work. Reports state he called the man and his wife “dope fiends” and treated them in a generally disrespectful manner.

Video footage was reviewed. Internal investigators recommended Rangel undergo counseling.
- 10/1/18 —

An undercover officer (whose name was redacted because he is still employed with the Lansing Police Department) received a written reprimand for a departmental rule violation after he pulled up on a man who was riding a bicycle, swung open his door and struck the man to the ground.

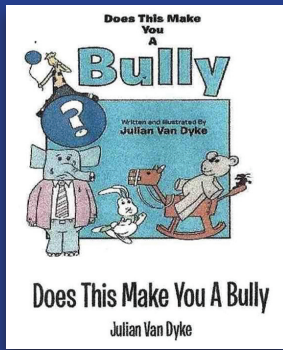
Internal investigators, after reviewing the video, labeled the incident as “unintentional” and cleared an alleged charge of excessive force. The officer, however, was still cited for violating departmental policies. No additional details were provided about the incident in city records.
- 10/9/18 —

Officer Leonel Rangel, who was cited twice in 2018, received a written reprimand for a sustained departmental rule violation for reportedly unprofessional conduct with a crime victim. Reports state a woman felt “harassed” by Rangel, including one “rude and unprofessional” incident where he reportedly approached her about a past crime while she was at the hospital. Very few details about the incident are available in city records. Internal investigators ultimately cleared Rangel of excessive force and discourtesy issues but found a sustained rule violation.
- 6/14/19 —

Officers Bailey Ueberroth and Lindsey Howley were each accused of excessive force after a teenager’s arrest last year. Video footage showed Howley, who is white, repeatedly punched a handcuffed teenager, who is Black, in the upper leg before loading her into her patrol car.

Officials said Howley was suspended for three days and received additional training. Officials and records show Ueberroth, Howley’s partner, received a simple written reprimand. Records also show Howley’s suspension was entirely reversed upon appeal filed earlier this year.
- 1/12/20 —

Officers Bailey Ueberroth and Adam Walter each received counseling following a sustained instance of unsatisfactory performance. Records state a woman claimed to be the victim of a domestic assault, but both officers asked her to leave the scene and refused to fill out a police report. Both officers received subsequent training. No other details were listed in city records



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Police

from page 16

cities to launch citizen-based review boards to provide some added oversight. National advocacy groups like the ACLU have also pressed for transparency.

“It would require a change in the charter, but we could have an elected citizens commission charged with looking at every single complaint that has been filed,” said Councilman Brandon Betz.



Betz

“People who are affected by white supremacy need to have a final say in what’s going on.” Council Vice President Adam Hussain labeled outcomes of recent police complaints “troubling.” “When

we take a look at improving our public safety response in Lansing, we have to include officer responsibility and methods of investigating citizen complaints as part of that,” he added.

Schor said he’s “open” to the concept of a new citizen board, but only if the Council takes action as “part of larger internal reviews examining our current system to determine future changes.”

“I’m all ears on this, but the Board of Police Commissioners is a citizen board. If we can strengthen their ability to hold individuals to account, it’s certainly something I’d be willing



Hussain



Spadafore

to entertain,” added Council President Peter Spadafore, who supports increased police oversight.

Research conducted by the ACLU shows that more than 75% of the nation’s largest cities, like Lansing, had adopted some type of police review board by 1997. Many, however, have been notoriously weak (and poorly funded) advisory bodies incapable of conducting their own investigations or handing down any consequences without consent of the police chief.

Their memberships can also carry inherent bias. Many boards are entirely appointed by mayors or other elected officials, which only works to narrow separation from city police departments. Even elected boards can quickly become politicized and bogged down by partisan agendas — which can make it difficult for cities like Lansing to create something independent of itself.

Betz would prefer to launch a new citizen board that operates independently from Schor’s office with members elected directly by Lansing residents. Spitzley and Jackson share similar ideals. Spadafore said he’d rather enhance existing checks and balances within the current structure.

“I don’t know if there’s a way to

create true independence,” Spitzley added. “Even if citizens are elected in some way, it becomes political. If it’s appointed, that can also come off as political. I’m supportive of anything we can do to add some transparency and accountability to the process.”

Spitzley said she and the City Council will continue to form plans to bolster police oversight through the Council’s newest Committee on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. Betz would prefer to dismantle the Police Department altogether, but also supports more oversight in the meantime.

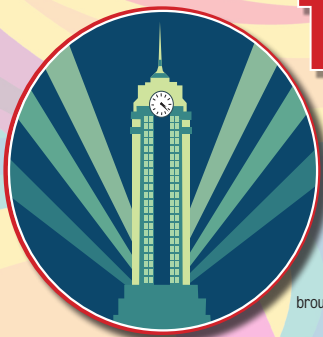
“This is a conversation that we’ll need to continue to have regardless,” Betz added. “Even with a reimagined public safety force, there will still need to be oversight in that department, and the only way to do that is with a charter change and to create a truly independent commission.”

Jackson successfully pushed a budget priority through the City Council this week that could also eventually lead to local cops’ carrying business cards that outline the citizen complaint process. Jackson said his concept, if approved by Schor’s office, would make the existing system visible.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

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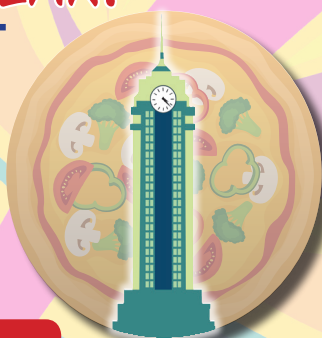
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CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Z-8-2019, 5400 S. Cedar Street
Rezoning from “F” Commercial & “J” Parking Districts to “G-2” Wholesale District

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, October 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. during the regularly scheduled City Council Meeting, via ZOOM Conferencing, Meeting ID 842 3051 4841 for the purpose of considering to consider Z-8-2019.

This is a request by Amerco Real Estate Company to rezone approximately 9.38 acres of the property at 5400 S. Cedar Street from “F” Commercial & “J” Parking Districts to “G-2” Wholesale District, with conditions requiring certain site improvements and restricting the allowable uses. The purpose of the rezoning is to permit the property to be used for self-storage, U-Haul truck and trailer sharing and a moving and storage retail store.

With Executive Order 2020-4, Governor Whitmer declared a statewide State of Emergency due to the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). To mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to provide essential protections to vulnerable Michiganders and this State’s health care system and other critical infrastructure, it is crucial that all Michiganders take steps to limit in-person contact, particularly in the context of large groups. Therefore, the public hearing will be conducted via audio/video conference.

The public hearing will be electronically in accordance with the Open Meetings Act in an effort to protect the health and safety of the public. Michigan Executive Order 2020-15 provides temporary authorization of remote participation in public meetings and hearings. Members of the public wishing to participate in the meeting may do so by logging into or calling into the meetings using the website <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84230514841> (Note: this option requires downloading Zoom software. If you have not already installed the software, this may take a few minutes) or by calling 646-876-9923 and entering Meeting ID: 842 3051 4841

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

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

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Light haze of apocalypse

Lansing Symphony breaks six-month silence with live outdoor concerts

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The boneyard chimes of a solo marimba floated over a grassy field at the Michigan State University Federal Credit Union headquarters as trucks whooshed by on nearby I-127. Knots of concertgoers settled their bodies into carefully spaced chalk circles and settled their minds into the silent spaces between percussionist Matt Beck's cavernous tones. The sun dissolved into a veil of wildfire smoke drifting from the west.

The Lansing Symphony Orchestra's chamber concert last Tuesday, the first of two this fall, was a strange blend of isolation, community and a light haze of apocalypse perfectly suited to the times.

With the orchestra's first two concerts of the 2020-21 season officially canceled, and more cancellations likely to come, it was a thrill to regain live contact with LSO musicians, even if only a few at a time.

The first notes of the evening were delivered softly but hit hard. A plaintive brass quartet by Danish compos-



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er Wilhelm Ramsöe broke a silence imposed by a deadly pandemic for over six months.

The quartet's widely spaced members — Neil Mueller on trumpet, David Ammer on trumpet, Ava Ordman on trombone and Bryan Pokorney on bass trombone — sent tendrils of melody from their isolated chairs to embrace in the higher dimension of sound.

Beck, the marimba player, mesmerized the audience with a beautiful and mysterious reading of music by Idaho-based composer and percussionist Thom Hasenpflug. His carefully paced pauses gave each note time to resound and resolve into a dark bubble of sound that revolved in the hazy air for an unsettlingly long time. It was perfect pandemic music, a meditation on isolation and the search for a song to fill the emptiness.

Maestro Timothy Muffitt, switching up his baton for an announcer's microphone, praised Beck for having the chutzpah to drag a marimba to the gig. "He could have brought a tambourine," Muffitt said.

Violinists Eliot Heaton and Ran Cheng had an unfair advantage over the evening's musicians. Because they are married to each other, they didn't have to distance and dove headlong into a fascinating and complex serenade by Hungarian composer Zoltan Kodaly, joined (at a distance) by viola player Samuel Koeppe.

The keenly focused duo shrugged off the weirdness of open spaces and masks and traffic noise and amplification, imbuing the music with a supple tension that easily commanded



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

The amplified music of several composers and periods wafted over the lawn outside the headquarters of the Michigan State University Federal Credit Union.

the fields around them. Their take on the all-American "Appalachian Waltz" by fiddler-composer Mark O'Connor transformed the tended lawns and pre-fab pond of the sprawling credit union campus into a warm valley of crystal clear mountain creeks and rock-strewn trails.

The brass quartet returned at the end of the evening, joined by Beck, to rap out a jaunty Renaissance dance by Claude Gervaise, by far the oldest music of the evening. The enduring appeal of brass ensembles — their glow of nobility and Salvation Army pluckiness — ended the gathering night with a warm, hopeful benediction. The jaunty, rum-te-tum rusticity of Gervaise was a reminder that across the centuries, and God knows how many wars, plagues and pandemics, music has not stopped rocking and rolling.

A second chamber concert is scheduled for Tuesday (Sept. 29), with most of the same players. (Beck will be swapped out for Brittany DeYoung on harp.) The concert is sold out, but there is a waiting list.

Beyond that, the Lansing Symphony's future for 2020-21 is uncertain. The Oct. 9 and Nov. 7 MasterWorks concerts, along with the Nov. 22 Jazz Band extravaganza, are officially canceled. Courtney Millbrook, the orchestra's executive director, said a decision will be made soon on concerts scheduled past November.

In the meantime, a newly formed ensemble, the Lansing Symphony Chamber Players, is preparing a series of concerts, without live audiences, that will be recorded and made available to LSO subscribers and donors.

Last week's chamber concert was a merciless tease that forced the audience to imagine what it will sound like when all 80 or 90 musicians cram onto a stage and make a mighty noise again — but no one knows yet when that will be.

Over the summer, the LSO put together a "reopening task force" headed by Karen Dichoza, LSO's director of finance and operations, and maestro Timothy Muffitt. The group includes musicians, staff members and board members.

"In August, we agreed that there was still a lot we did not know, and that it was OK to wait and make decisions about the rest of the season later," Millbrook said.

Millbrook said the task force's decisions are based on current state pandemic rules and the advice of health officials, with input from the owners of the LSO's various venues. (MSU's Wharton Center, LCC's Dart Auditorium, and local churches all host LSO concerts.)

"Small-audience indoor performances are under consideration for 2021," Millbrook said. "Maybe even large audiences! We really just do not know."

Millbrook, Muffitt and the task force members are also tracking what other orchestras across the country are doing.

"Seven months ago, in February, we had 1,600 people attend our 'Night at the Movies' concert at Wharton Center," Millbrook said. "All I can say is that seven months from now, in May, I sure would like to be back in the hall with the full orchestra. We are doing everything we can to prepare for that or whatever version of that is going to be possible."



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Lansing Symphony percussionist Matt Beck did a solo turn on marimba at last week's outdoor chamber concert.



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Thread Inside: Locally produced clothing for the chronically sarcastic

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

When the drudgery of working life is bringing you down, how do you relax? Hot bath? Netflix? Steve Charteris and Rachel Harper started Thread Inside, a hip new clothing line, in their downtime. Charteris works until 7:30 p.m. at his IT job, then comes home and immediately begins working on Thread Inside. Harper has a day job as a graphic designer, then spends her nights coming up with new designs and promoting the clothing line on social media.

"We had been talking about working together for a few years," Charteris said.

Charteris and Harper first collaborated on a design for a Planned Parenthood fundraiser at Mac's Bar — a Pabst Blue Ribbon can that says "Pap Smear" on it. "We captured this overlap of groups of people who like Pabst Blue Ribbon and also care about reproductive rights," Charteris said. "We got both of those in one with that design."

The community responded well to the design. They sold posters, stickers and shirts at Mac's Monday Comedy Nights. "That was the first time we realized that we work well together on this kind of stuff," Harper said.

Charteris and Harper went on a road trip this summer. Spending so much time together on the road — engaging in long conversations while crossing the country — led to the inception of Thread Inside. They both felt that their skills and their creativity were going to waste. "It sort of sparked something inside us," Harper said. "We thought that maybe we should be creating stuff together."

"We were sick of using our talents to make other people money. So, we wanted to figure out a way to use our talents for ourselves," Charteris added.



Courtesy photo

Models posing in Thread Inside apparel.

Harper uses her graphic design prowess to create their designs, while Charteris takes care of the business and tech side of things. Both of them collaborate on marketing. Harper promotes the clothing line on social media, and Charteris writes the copy for their website.

They managed to take the skills that they use at their day jobs to kick off a successful side hustle. According to them, Thread Inside is a passion project. They said they enjoy it so much that it doesn't even feel like work.

"We either don't care at all, or we care way too much. Our stuff is pretty sarcastic in nature," Charteris said. One Thread Inside crewneck sweatshirt plays on the word "normcore," a fashion style that involves wearing deliberately bland clothing. The sweatshirt shows Nermal — Garfield the Cat's archnemesis — wearing dorky glasses and a collared shirt. Beneath him, it reads, "Nermcore."

That's just one of the many playful designs that Charteris and Harper dreamed up.

"I texted Rachel the idea: It's Nermal but it says 'Nermcore,'" laughed Charteris. "That's it."

They share a Google Doc for coming up with ideas. A lot of the time, Charteris and Harper come up with new designs while they're just goofing around or talking about nothing. "Sometimes, we come up with stuff while I'm screwing around in Illustrator or Procreate, sketching out random ideas," Harper said. "It's kind of just like throwing spaghetti at the wall and seeing what sticks. When an idea and a design both click, we end up producing it and putting it up in the shop."

Thread Inside isn't inspired by any particular fashion brand or aesthetic. Charteris said that they're simply trying to make apparel that his friends would want to buy. They both felt that there



Charteris



Harper

Favorite Things Jo Shoup and Mac's Bar

Jo Shoup, who uses they/them pronouns, has an undying affection for Lansing's dive-iest dive bar, Mac's. Ever since they turned 21, the bar has felt like a home away from home. Mingling with other regulars, drinking cheap beer while cheesy movies play silently on the TV, reading the thousands of vulgar graffitied messages scrawled on the bar's walls — Shoup wouldn't trade it for the world. That's why they consider Mac's Bar their favorite thing.

I moved to Lansing from St. Johns about three and a half years ago. It was pretty nerve-racking. I didn't really know many people in Lansing, except some friends that I made on Instagram. I can't really remember the first time I went to Mac's.

If I remember correctly, the first time I went there was for my friend, Charlie's, birthday. They had like this big party at their house. And they had just started working at Mac's as a bartender, so we all went over there afterwards to continue partying.

After I turned 21, I became a regular at Mac's pretty quickly. I started going there every day. Like, I had been going there when I was younger. But that was for all ages shows and stuff like that.

There's this weird difference between Mac's during the day and Mac's at night. Different groups of people are there. I don't know. It's just two totally different vibes. I'm there during the day a lot because it's less busy, and I get to just talk to the



Jo Shoup (pink hair, center-right) posing with a group of Mac's Bar regulars at a Peppa Pig themed birthday party.

people I know.

All the regulars at Mac's are just one, big family. I can pretty much walk into Mac's at any time — and during any day of the week — and see at least five different people I know sitting at the bar. Even when there's something like a show going on, all the regulars will be stuffed into one corner mingling with some punk band playing in the background. It's just so cozy and nice. It's my home away from home, as corny as that sounds.

Mac's has a lot of little quirks, too, like the golden dumpster and the Mac's cats. The cats are one of the best parts of Mac's. I just like to stand on the porch and look at all the cats running around. People even set out food for them.

When I realized that Mac's was going to be shut down this year, I got really sad. I didn't think it was going to be this long. I remember messaging with another regular and telling them, "Oh, I'm sure I'll see you soon." But now it's September, and I still haven't gone back. It's just so weird not being there every day.

It's tough to think of my absolute favorite Mac's memory. I think my last night at Mac's before everything closed down was pretty memorable. We didn't even know it was going to be our last night there. We were just having fun, totally oblivious.

We don't have anything planned for when Mac's reopens, but I'm sure all the regulars are going to go crazy. During the first few months of quarantine, me and my friend picked out the outfits we were going to wear for when we can finally go back out. Now, we don't even know when that's going to happen. I still have the outfit memorized, but I might have to win-terize it at this point.



Jo Shoup, right, enjoying a Peppa Pig themed birthday party at Mac's Bar.



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Don't wait on your grinder. Buy a jar of straight-up kief.

Going beyond bud with transdermal patches and cannabis crystals

By KYLE KAMINSKI

Every week, I'm convinced that I've tried it all. And every week, I continue to find new marijuana products — on both the recreational and medical menus — at pot shops across Lansing. So far, I've sampled dozens of types of flower, concentrates, vaporizer cartridges, edibles and tinctures. This week, we delve into the stoney world of transdermal THC patches and cannabis crystals.

Common Citizen — Diamond Dust Kief

Price — \$30/1g
THC content — 38.71%

The bottom of the grinder is hallowed ground for most smokers. The small pile of green-ish crystals that forms after grinding up an ounce is usually something reserved for a special occasion — gently sprinkling a bit on top of a bowl, or mixing it into a joint for an extra kick.

For the uninitiated, these powdery diamonds (commonly called kief or keef) are what give potent buds their crystalline shine. They're also the most potent part of the trichome, containing the highest percentages of cannabinoids and terpenoids — and also the highest THC percentages.

So, you can imagine my red-eyed



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delight when I saw Homegrown had straight kief on the menu with a whopping 38% THC. It's also packed full of myrcene, the terpene that gives some strains their peppery, spicy fragrance that's also heavily expressed in other plants like lemongrass.

The thumbnail-sized jar for \$30 is disappointingly small, but don't be deterred: A little pinch can go a long way. I used mine like frosting on a cake to jazz up bowls and joints for a whole week.

The taste, as expected, was smooth, citrusy and very clean. My usual plug doesn't have the best flower available over the summer months, but this kief can easily amp up skunk to dank. It's also great for conservation: One kief joint easily matches the potency of two normal spliffs.

And the best part: The kief chamber in my grinder is still filled to the brim for another weekend.

Mary's Medicinals — Transdermal THC Patch (Sativa)

Price — \$12/patch
THC content — 20 mg

Disclaimer: This patch is not designed to get you high like other marijuana products. Instead, these transdermal patches are tailored more toward the patient community to better assist those who still need the medical benefits of THC but can't necessarily smoke or use other products.

This marijuana Band-Aid is enriched



with terpenes and carries an exceptionally low level of THC that's absorbed through the body for up to 12 hours. As a result, the intense psychoactive high associated with standard flower, tinctures and edibles is almost nonexistent.

That can be welcomed news for patients who have trouble smoking or would simply rather avoid the sedating effects of edibles, but for an everyday smoker like me, it was just a waste of \$12.

The directions suggest the patch is most effective on a venous part of the body like the top of the foot or the inside of the wrist. Mine stayed securely attached to my wrist all day long. I didn't feel much of anything except for mild relaxation — which was likely

entirely a placebo effect.

That being said, I can imagine the discreet nature of these patches and their slow THC release would be a great option for those hesitant but curious to get involved with the legalized marijuana scene. Research shows these patches tend to work great for patients who still want whole-body pain relief but must also remain lucid (without paranoia and munchies) at work.

For now, these patches are still on the recreational menu at Homegrown but otherwise remain a medical product at most local shops, making now a great time to try it out without a prescription.

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



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Thread

from page 21

weren't enough options for people like them. With Thread Inside, Charteris and Harper wanted to give people choices beyond your typical band tees or t-shirts emblazoned with corporate logos.

"We want to find these niches. Like we have a rainbow Dungeons and Dragons dice design," Harper said. "There are a lot of nerds out there that play DnD. But how many shirts can you find that will make a nod to the LGBTQ community and the nerds?"

Charteris emphasized that Thread Inside only prints on high-quality, soft fabric. Though it costs a bit more, he said that it's worth it because comfortable t-shirts will draw in more customers than, for example, an itchy, cheap Gildan brand shirt.

Thread Inside doesn't only offer tees and sweatshirts. They also sell beanies, tote bags, and prints. The most recent addition to their online shop is a pink fanny pack covered in cartoon bongs.

"I see us doing this for quite a while," Harper said. "It's a really fun side hustle. When I'm just sketching random ideas that Steve has, it doesn't feel like work. And the parts of this that feel like work aren't bothersome."



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Michigan politics satirized by new murder mystery novel

By **BILL CASTANIER**

In his 50-year career in media and politics, W. Edward Wendover has tilted at his fair share of windmills. His outspoken approach to life, which is sometimes also brash and cynical, is taken to another level in his new career as a mystery writer.

His latest mystery, "Murder by Lansing Kool-Aid," is a murderous romp through the Michigan Legislature, or at least the Democratic House, where Wendover was the chief of staff for Mike Huckleberry, D-Greenville.

The "Kool-Aid" Wendover refers to in the title is a magic elixir that people running for office receive and quickly find themselves addicted to.

The first legislator to be murdered is Speaker of the House Andy Dillon, D-Redford, who is stabbed to death in the dome infrastructure of the Capitol. "He has a good sense of humor and will get a kick out of it," Wendover said.

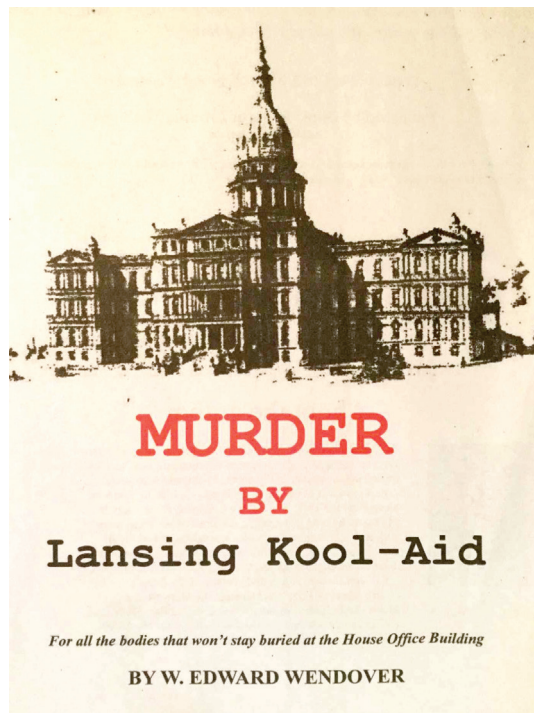
Then, Huckleberry, the heir apparent, is found dead in his office after a particularly gruesome murder. Finally, George Cushingberry is struck down by a racing automobile and left in critical condition.

"I took the Huckleberry job as a favor to an old political friend," Wendover, who began working in the State Capitol in 2009, said. "As soon as I got there and saw the bullshit, I knew it would be a great setting for a murder mystery."

Throughout the book, Wendover uses the real names of people he encountered while on the job; most are used in pure fun. You will find the names of his friends, such as former Department of Education lobbyist Roberta Stanley, Capitol tour guide chief Matt Van Acker, who discovers the first body, which is that of former Lansing state representative Joan Bauer, followed by a plethora of lobbyists including Jim Byrum and Pat Goggin of the Dow Chemical Co.

Wendover's writing shows he is not fond of lobbyists who spend lavishly to influence legislation. In the book, he blames term limits for "speeding up politicians' theft and self-aggrandizement and giving more oomph to paid multi-client lobbyists."

"Murder by Kool-Aid" is the third book in what Wendover has called his Prepositional Murder series. The other two are "Murder at the Penniman Deli" and "Murder on Fogo Island,"



which both have a preposition in the title.

Strange? "Nah, Sue Grafton has an alphabet series, so why not prepositions?" he said.

In "Murder by Kool-Aid," Wendover focuses on a number of Lansing-area bars that serve as getaways for legislative staff and lobbyists. Among them are Harry's, Dagwood's, the Unicorn Bar and Kelly's Irish Pub. In keeping with tradition, Wendover includes 20 recipes for popular local food choices, including the mac and cheese from Kelly's and the bean soup from Dagwood's.

The author gives a special heads up to the prime rib at the former Jim's Tiffany Lounge, which brought together journalists and politicians. Known as a "good pour bar," Jim's hosted

local members of the national journalism society, Sigma Delta Chi in a small upstairs meeting room. Meanwhile, downstairs lobbyists expensed prime rib dinners for legislators.

If there is a sympathetic protagonist in "Murder by Kool-Aid," it is Ted Roby, an inspector with the Michigan State Police who proves to be a dogged investigator.

I spoke with Wendover, newly widowed, about his mystery novel career from Munising, where he is continuing the bucket list tour he began with his wife Sally. He is on his own now, but is ticking off the sites as he travels the United States.

"We had four years together we weren't supposed to have," he said.

For the tour, he and Sally had a diesel bus tricked out with a cabin-like atmosphere. They nicknamed it the Old Age Home for Hippies.

"When we bought it at an auction it had 6,000 miles on it, and it's now running with over 44,000 miles," he said.

For his book "Murder at the Penniman Deli," Wendover drew heavily on his experience as the founder and owner of the Plymouth-Canton Community Crier, which he ran for 26 years. At the Crier, he trained a lot of "cub reporters," including Hank Meijer, now CEO of Meijer.

The author calls the new book "a fun spoof" produced with "101 percent alternative facts."

Wendover said as soon as he saw

Fogo Island, he knew it would be a great location for a locked-down murder mystery and began taking notes immediately. He knew he had hit a homerun when the guide who picked them up at the airport was also the justice of peace.

Both books, "Murder on Fogo Island" and "Murder by Lansing Kool-Aid," are available on Amazon and will soon be rereleased with special editions.

Wendover's approach to writing mysteries may be a bit unusual, but pure mystery readers will appreciate his in-depth knowledge of mystery authors and the genre as a whole.

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Riverwalk Theatre commemorates school bombing

One-time performance streams via Facebook Live

By **DAVID WINKELSTERN**

"There are so many people who are absolutely unaware of this piece of history," Jane Falion said.

With her original play, "An Act of Madness: The Bath School Bombing," Falion has been enlightening audiences about the 1927 attack on the Bath Consolidated School. The tragedy that took the lives of 38 children remains the United State's deadliest school massacre.

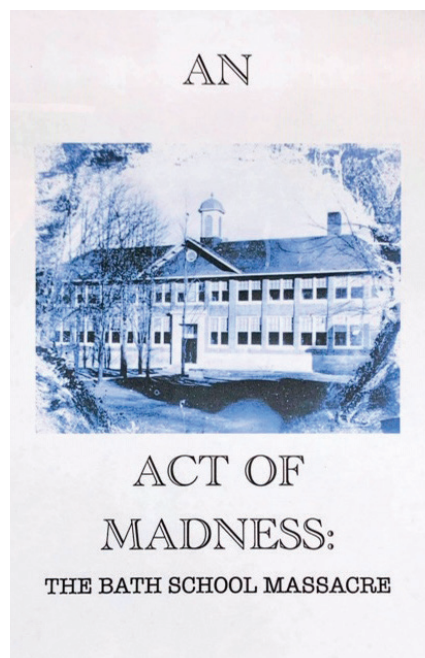
At 8 p.m. Oct. 3, "Madness" will be performed live on Riverwalk Theatre's Facebook page. The one-time Zoom production is free to watch. The presentation will eventually appear on Riverwalk's YouTube site.

Falion is an award-winning director with over 30 years of experience. She started in theater in her hometown of Huntington, New York. Falion has a theater degree from Taylor University in Indiana and a master's degree in education from Michigan State University. She taught theater, speech and English at Lansing's Everett High School from 1993 to 2005.

Falion has written two other plays, "Murder at Locker 069" and "The Gales of November." She has directed more than 40 productions, including "The Rothschilds," "Damn Yankees," "Grease," "Little Shop of Horrors" and "The Robber Bridegroom." Falion is also a jewelry maker and artist who sells illustrated maps on her online Etsy store.

"I was incredibly nervous about this show," Falion admitted. "This event still impacts Bath families, and I wanted to do it justice and get it absolutely right."

A pair of bombings by Andrew Kehoe on a fateful day in May also took the lives of five adults and himself. Kehoe also murdered his wife and blew up his Bath Township farm. Unhappy with increased property taxes to pay for the new school, Kehoe placed explosives under the floors of both wings of the



Courtesy

Jane Falion's "An Act of Madness: The Bath School Massacre" will be performed by Riverwalk Theatre live via Zoom on Oct. 3.

building. The south wing failed to detonate.

The north wing was destroyed by a blast that killed 36 children and two teachers; another child died months later. Moments afterward, Kehoe drove his truck — loaded with metal debris piled on top of dynamite — to the site. When he blew the truck up, Kehoe, the school superintendent, two other adults, and a child who escaped the initial blast, were killed.

In the mid-'90s, Falion read a copy of Grant Parker's book about the massacre, "Mayday."

"I was captivated by the story, obsessed you might say, and I wanted to know more," she said.

Falion visited Bath and the Bath Museum. At a local pharmacy, she bought a copy of M. J. Ellsworth's, "The Bath School Disaster." Falion continued her research by visiting cemeteries where victims were buried and read the plaques and memorial marker in the park where the school once stood. "It was a story that stayed with me for years," she said.

The first version of "Madness" was drafted as a multiple for the Michigan Interscholastic Forensics Association's 2003-2004 season. It went on to statewide competition; Falion was a forensics coach at Everett at the time.

A MIFA multiple is a bare-bones format with no costumes, only 3 to 8 actors and a 15-minute running time. The style

is similar to the quick plays presented at Lansing's Renegade Theatre Festival. In 2009, a reworked "Madness" was presented twice at Renegade in Old Town to sell-out crowds.

Falion said the confines of Zoom make the play perfect for the age of the pandemic.

"The text of the show remains almost the same," Falion added. "But the rehearsal and performance is very different."

Matt Ottinger supplies sound effects and Cody Skalmowski helps with tech concerns. Michele Booher is the stage manager. "The technical staff report to her," Falion said. "She keeps me sane."

Some lines for the 30-minute Facebook presentation have been shortened or cut. There will be times actors will handle or split lines said in past shows by a larger cast. Falion said she misses the personal and physical connection with actors.

Falion invited actors that she previously worked with. "I scored an awesomely talented cast," she said. Actors include Mark Bethea, Racheal Raymer, Brian Farnham, Ben Houlzhausen and Meghan and Adam Woolsey. Adam Woolsey won a City Pulse Pulsar Award for Best Actor in two musicals this past summer.

"They are very familiar with the unique delivery and performance style that's needed here to move the story and heighten the drama," Falion said. "It's what drives the show."

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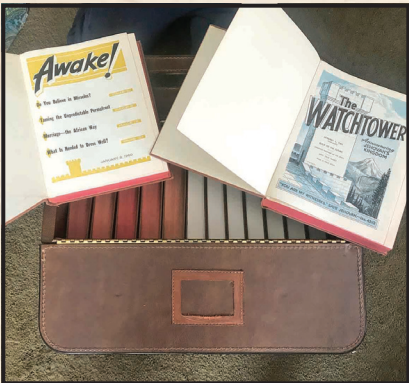
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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

**"Battle of the Alternative Bands"-
-predictions on who
would win. [#464,
Apr. 2010]**

By Matt Jones

Across

1 Maggie Gyllenhaal's brother

5 Tallahassee's st.

8 Earthy yellow shade

13 Fix text

14 " ___ Boot"

15 Weasel out (on)

16 "You'd think Band A would hold up, but it's flimsy. Band B wins"

19 Like some computer errors

20 Blood type for just over 6% of the U.S. pop.

21 They follow B

22 Unable to work, perhaps

24 CPR pro

26 Comp. storage sites

27 Forever, it seems

31 "Charter" tree

33 Diamond Head locale

35 "Band B wins, since Band A only has a tolerance for booze"

39 Wash against, as the shore

40 Cutesy- ___

41 Four Holy Roman Emperors

43 "Drop Band A on Band B? Band B wins, no contest"

46 1920s design style

47 Suffix for orange or lemon

48 Gaelic tongue

49 "Ben- ___" (movie classic)

51 Shaker ___, OH

53 Furthest degree

55 Fertile Crescent locale

57 Golfer Aoki

59 Did some diamond

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
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35					36				37				38
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55			56		57		58			59	60	61	62
64					65				66				
67							68			69			
70							71				72		

inspecting?

64 "Band B wins, because it's pointy and doesn't digest well"

67 Early actress Langtry

68 Dir. opp. WNW

69 "Scientific American Frontiers" host Alan

70 Didn't dine out

71 "Slippery When ___" (Bon Jovi album)

72 Spotted

9 "Mad Money" network

10 Job search insider

11 Spurred (on)

12 Hull wreckers

15 Stringy cleaner

17 Footballer Manning

18 "Isn't that something?"

23 ___ Lobos

25 California/Nevada attraction

27 The whole thing

28 Burrito add-on, for short

29 Fashionable sandal

30 Drive-thru drink with a plastic dome

32 Villainous surname in the Super Mario Bros. series

34 Request to the dealer

36 Manufacturer of electronics for kids

37 What automobile interiors may drown out

38 Geologic time periods

42 Sault ___ Marie Canals

44 Candle type

45 He might heal your hamster

49 "Se ___ espa ol"

50 " ___ wisely"

52 Reptilian warning

54 Clueless response

56 Obesity drug Orlistat, over the counter

58 Not too many

60 Business degs.

61 Stripper's fixture

62 "The Neverending Story" author Michael

63 Jimmy of meat products

65 Half of an eternal balance

66 Movie studio filming site

SUDOKU

Intermediate

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 31

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

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezshy

September 23 - 29, 2020

ARIES (March 21–April 19): "It takes a lot of courage to be the same person on the outside that you are on the inside." Author Barbara De Angelis made that observation. I offer it up to you as a fun challenge. During the coming weeks, you may be strongly tempted to be different on the outside than you are on the inside. On the other hand, you'll have the necessary insight and valor to remain unified. In fact, you may ultimately create more congruence between your inside and outside than you have in a long time.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): "People who deny the existence of dragons are often eaten by dragons. From within." Fantasy author Ursula K. Le Guin made that observation, and now I'm conveying it to you just in time for the season when you'll need it most. Please note that I am *not* predicting you'll be devoured by dragons from within. In offering you this oracle, my hope is that you will: 1. acknowledge the existence of metaphorical dragons; 2. locate where they hang out in your inner realms; 3. study them and get to know them better; 4. devise a strategy for dealing with them safely.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): "Don't let them tame you," advised flamboyant Gemini dancer Isadora Duncan. Who did she mean by "them"? The mainstream critics, who might have wished she cultivated a less maverick style? Her managers and handlers, who may have wanted her to tone herself down so she could earn maximum amounts of money? Her friends, who cringed when she did things like dancing on a table wearing an evening dress at a party? In accordance with astrological omens, Gemini, I invite you to take a survey of what influences might wish you were more docile, mild, or manageable. And then meditate on how you could consistently express the healthiest kind of wildness.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): In the Yoruba religion of *f  , the English word "heart" has two different meanings and words. So says Yoruba priest Aw  Falokun Fatunmbi. The first heart is the organ that pumps blood through our bodies. It's called *ok n*. Within the *ok n* is the second heart: a power center that regulates the flow of emotions. It's called * gb . I believe your * gb  will be exceptionally strong and clear and generous in the coming weeks, Cancerian. Your capacity to feel deeply and truly will be a gift to all those with whom you share it. It will also have the potential to enhance your appreciation for your own mysterious life. Wield your * gb  with glee and panache!

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): Ancient Greek philosopher Plato observed, "Do not train children to learn by force or harshness; but direct them to what amuses their minds, so that you may be better able to discover with accuracy the peculiar bent of the genius of each." The same principle applies to all of us adults who are committed to the goal of life-long learning. And according to my astrological analysis, it will be especially useful for you Leos to keep in mind during the coming weeks. It's time to energize your education! And here's the best way to gather the new teachings that are important for you to know: Follow what amuses your mind.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): Christian author Frederick Buechner writes, "We are commanded to love our neighbors as ourselves, and I believe that to love ourselves means to extend to those various selves that we have been along the way the same degree of compassion and concern that we would extend to anyone else." Let's make his thought your keynote for the next two weeks. Now is an excellent time to take a journey through your past to visit all the other people you have been. As you do attend to this poignant work, be generous with each of your old selves. Forgive them for their errors and praise their beauty. Tell them how much you love them. Thank them for how they have made possible the life you're living now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): Seventy-nine-year-old Libran poet Robert Pinsky has had a triumphant life. He has published 19 books, including his own poems and essays, as well as translations of Italian and Polish poetry. For four years he served as the United States Poet Laureate. To what factors does he attribute his success? Here's one: "Whatever makes a child want to glue macaroni on a paper has always been strong in me," he testifies. He's referring to the primitive arts-and-crafts projects he enjoyed while growing up. In accordance with astrological omens, I encourage you, too, to get in touch and commune with the primal roots of the things you love to do. Reconnect with the original expressions of your passion for life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): "A single ego is an absurdly narrow vantage point from which to view the world," wrote occultist Aleister Crowley. Author Gore Vidal agreed, saying, "Since no one can ever know for certain whether or not his own view of life is the correct one, it is absolutely impossible for him to know if someone else's is the wrong one." All of us can perpetually benefit from this counsel. And it will be especially healthy for you to heed during the next four weeks. Humility will be a superpower. Blessings will flow your way if you don't need to be right all the time. As you refrain from regarding your own opinions as God's holy decrees, you will generate good fortune for yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): "It's a rare gift, to know where you need to be, before you've been to all the places you don't need to be." Author Ursula K. Le Guin wrote that. I'm passing it on to you because I suspect you now possess the power to claim this rare gift. In the coming days, you don't have to engage in endless evaluations of the numerous possibilities. You don't have to risk falling victim to overthinking. Your clear, strong gut hunches will tell you exactly where you need to be and how to get there.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): Novelist Henry Miller was in many ways a quintessential Capricorn. He described himself as being "in love with love, always in search of the absolute, always seeking the unattainable." Feelings like those are why your astrological symbol is the mountain goat that's always climbing higher, questing toward the next pinnacle. At your best, you're determined to keep striving for the brightest, the strongest, the truest. Sometimes you overdo this admirable imperative, but mostly it's a beautiful quality. You are hereby authorized to express it with maximum wisdom and eagerness in the coming weeks.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): "Go catch a falling star," wrote poet John Donne (1572–1631) in his poem "Song." "Tell me who cleft the Devil's foot," he went on to say. "Teach me to hear the mermaids singing." He wasn't being literal, but rather was indulging in poetic fancy to stretch his readers' imaginations. I'm offering you the spirit of Donne's poem, Aquarius, because you're ripe to transcend your limited notions about what's plausible and implausible. If you allow yourself to get extravagant and unruly in your fantasies, you may crack through shrunken expectations and break into a spacious realm of novel possibilities.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): I don't suggest you indulge daringly in sensual pleasures, cathartic exchanges of energy, and intoxicating pursuits of relief and release. The pandemic mandates us to be cautious about engaging in unmitigated bliss—even though the astrological omens suggest that if now were a normal time, such activities would be well worth focusing on. How can you resolve this dilemma? Possibilities: 1. Experiment zestfully with your live-in steady or spouse. 2. Get a COVID-19 test with a potential playmate, and if you both test negative, celebrate boisterously. 2. Round up a dazzler with whom you can generate rapture via Zoom. 3. Fantasize about delightfully gracious debauchery. 4. Go solo.

TURN IT DOWN!

BY RICH TUPICA

TURN IT DOWN!: A LOOK BACK AT MAGIC



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Magic were a staple in Lansing's late '60s and early '70s rock scene. (courtesy photos)

Lansing's lost soulful-progressive rock band

The year was 1968, and guitarist/vocalist Duane King was fresh off a tour of duty in Vietnam, where he spent ample time in the hostile Demilitarized Zone. With the war behind him, he aimed to start a new life.

"I came home from the war and tried to acclimate myself to not being in the jungle," King told me in 2013. "It was harder than I thought it was going to be. I thought I was going to die over there. When I did come home, I was pleasantly shocked. I was in a daze for a few months, then I finally decided I had to do something."

That's when King and his brother Nick (a bassist) moved from Cheboygan to Lansing. The two spent time jamming with a band called The Next Exit, but soon they rebranded as Magic. The soulful progressive rock band, which also comprised drummer Gary Harger, lead guitarist Mike Motz and organist Clyde Hamilton, released its debut: a 1969 self-pressed single.

Soon after, Motz left the band and Florida-native Joey Murcia joined on the band. Murcia was a session musician for TK Records in Miami, so the band left Lansing en route for Miami to record its first proper LP, "Enclosed." The original record, released in the summer of '69 on its own Armadillo Records imprint,

now sells online for over \$225. Songs like "You Must Believe She's Gone" present a strange brew of blue-eyed soul and psychedelic rock — a sound fitting for the radically changing times.

After a year in Miami, the deal with TK Records fizzled and Magic returned to Lansing in search of a new label. By the summer of 1970, the group signed with Rare Earth, a Motown subsidiary and released its second (and final) LP. The disc was well received and even featured Stevie Wonder playing keys on a few tracks. At the time of its release, Billboard Magazine gave the jovial record a positive review, stating:

"There is funk, balladry, soul, rock and acid here for the asking. Magic is across the board and should receive heavy airplay at pop stations across the country."

The band may have never hit nationally, but today the group has earned a cult following. Original pressings of its 1971 album to sell for over \$130. Beyond that, due to demand, both of its albums have been reissued multiple times over the years.

While Magic disbanded in fall of 1972, prior to that, the group played countless trippy shows across Mid-Michigan during its fruitful lifetime. King said outdoor shows in

East Lansing were always heavily attended and a blast to perform at.

"They'd have an antiwar protest in the park and they'd ask us to play," King said. "These were unpaid gigs, but they were fun to do. It was for a good cause and we were against the war. There was a lot of activity with protesting and music. That's what it was like back then in many cities. They'd have a Vietnam protest and rock 'n' roll music."

Magic had big shows at the Washington Street Armory and even cosmic gigs at the Michigan State University Planetarium, among other local spots. "We'd play Grandmother's — that was a giant place," King recalled. "We opened for major groups there, like Sly and The Family Stone and Paul Butterfield Blues Band — it held a lot of people. It was just full of college kids."

While the band released a couple of well-crafted albums, when Motown Records uprooted from Detroit to Los Angeles, Magic was left behind. With no record deal, the band cut a few more demos before calling it quits. Murcia returned to Miami and landed session work on major-label albums by Joe Walsh and The Bee Gees.

As for Duane King, he is still writing and recording original music via his YouTube channel. In May,

he released his latest single, "Ya Gotta Keep Dancin'." Other perks to visiting his channel, are the rare cuts old cuts by Magic, like 1971's "Absolutely Free, Absolutely Beautiful." It's absolutely epic Michigan rock.

CITY PULSE

MITTEN MUSIC QUIZ: LANSING EDITION

1. Before it was the known as The Silver Dollar, this local venue was known as this.
2. Located in downtown East Lansing, this now demolished music venue hosted Weezer in 1994.
3. This defunct East Lansing record store focused on electronic music.
4. This Motown legend attended Michigan School for the Blind in Lansing.
5. In 2011, this band performed at Spartan Stadium—30 years after its much smaller Dooley's show.

Answers on page 31

OUT ON THE TOWN

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

Wednesday, September 23

2020 East Lansing Kiwanis "Virtual BBQ" - 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. For info and tickets: elkiwanis.org.

A Professionally Fun Happy Hour Post-Covid Edition - 5:30-7:30 p.m. Shaheen Chevrolet of Lansing, 632 American Rd., Lansing.

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

Guiding Principles for Highly Successful Parenting - webinar. 7:30-9 p.m. Info at canr.msu.edu/EastLansing.

MParks Foundation Virtual 5k - September 1-30. For information and to sign up, mparks.org/events

Our Daily Work/Our Daily Lives Fall Brown Bag Series - "Laureate of the Logging Camps" 12:15-1:30 p.m. museum.msu.edu

PeaceQuest Greater Lansing 2020 - For September events, go to peacequestgreaterlansing.org.

Special Collections Look Club: Theme: Protest! 2-2:45 p.m. Online, MSU Libraries. bookings.lib.msu.edu.

Teaching the Underground Railroad - Virtual 2:30-4 p.m. facebook.com/events/michigan-history-center/

Thursday, September 24

5th Annual Unite to Face Addiction Michigan 2020 Rally - 10 a.m.-5 p.m. State Capitol, 100 N. Capitol Ave, Lansing.

Dimondale Farmers' Market - 3-7 p.m. Village Square, 136 N Bridge St, Dimondale. 517-646-0230.

Homeownership Webinar - MSU Extension provides valuable information about the home buying process. 1-5 p.m.

events.anr.msu.edu/

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

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

Studio (in)Process at Home - 9-10 p.m. MSU Broad. broadmuseum.msu.edu

Understanding Your Ballot with Adam Cramton - DeWitt Township Clerk Adam Cramton will cover the basics of the ballot. 6:30-7:30 p.m. DeWitt.gladl.org

Friday, September 25

Community Open Call: Women of Color Writing Workshop: Preparing to write. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Go to broadmuseum.msu.edu for info.

LCC Performing Arts: Stages of Change - written and performed by LCC students and alumni. 7-7:45 p.m. lcc.edu for link.

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

Tips to Build and Protect Your Credit Webinar - 11 a.m.-12 p.m. East Lansing. canr.msu.edu

Saturday, September 26

Advanced Birding Tour at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory - Interested in upping your birding game? Michigan Audubon. michiganaudubon.org.

Curbside Sauerkraut Dinner - 4:30-6:30 p.m. Lansing Liederkranz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania, Lansing. 517-882-6330.

Ghost Hunt at Courthouse Square - Ghost Hunt at the Courthouse 7-11 p.m. Courthouse Square Museum, 100 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte.

Rank MI Vote Town Hall - Come learn about & explore the benefits of "Ranked Choice Voting" (RCV) 2-3 p.m. zoom.us/j/92759538172

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

The Return Live-Lansing Simulcast - National /Global Day of Prayer and Repentance. 9-11:30 a.m. shekhinahonline.com

Safety Dance - #TeamLily - masks and social distancing required (dance areas will be marked). 5:30-9:30 p.m. DeWitt Sports Park, 210 W Herbison Rd, DeWitt.

Sunday, September 27

East Lansing Farmers Market - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 300 Valley

Court, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Pack Walk - A guided walk on Lansings River Trail to help socialize dogs in a control setting. 9-9:30 a.m. Brenke Fish Ladder, 216 East Grand River Avenue, Lansing.

Monday, September 28

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

Virtual Field Ornithology - combination webinar and virtual classroom course will focus on identification skills of birds by sight and sound. anr.msu.edu

YogaRound in Old Town - Use a hula hoop as a new yoga prop! 5:30-6:30 p.m. 1801 N Washington Ave.

Tuesday, September 29

Book&Brew - Join Rhoda from DeWitt Library. 6:30-7:30 p.m. dewittlibrary.org

The Cleaners (online film screening) - In commemoration of Banned Books Week. "Delete...Ignore...Delete... Ignore..." Someone is out there censoring your social media feed. 7-9 p.m. bookings.lib.msu.edu

The Effects of Stigma: Mothers who are unable to breastfeed. Join us at the next CONversations Series webinar. 7-8:30 p.m. For link events.msu.edu

Our Daily Work/Our Daily Lives Fall Brown Bag series - Knocking on Labor's Door: Union Organizing in the 1970s. 12:15-1:30 p.m. hlrl.msu.edu for link.

Underground Railroad Tourism: The Maryland Model - 3:30-5:30 p.m. Michigan History Center facebook.com/events/michigan-history-center/

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3. Spin Cycle Records
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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Jewish penicillin

Dill point in a turning world

By ARI LEVAUX

Mom got her chicken soup recipe from her mom. It's a simple, brothy affair with lots of dill, the kind of soup that's popular throughout the Yiddish diaspora, often referred to half-jokingly as "Jewish Penicillin," because it always makes you feel better, no matter what ails you.

Yiddish, the native tongue of the Ashkenazi Jews of Eastern Europe, is based mostly on German but also contains Russian and Slavic words and a Hebrew alphabet. It's a culture as much as a language, with its own traditions, recipes and history of struggle of a community that has always been more a state of mind than a nation with borders. Throughout our tumultuous history, chicken soup with dill remained a



constant.

Mom, her mom and their foremothers have all helped carry the torch forward to this point, all but assuring it will continue into the next generation as my kids are fans of chicken dill soup. But there is one aspect of this tradition that won't continue: the step where you put a raw chicken into a pot of water. The idea of boiling a raw chicken bothers me the way boiled hot dogs do. I have to brown it first. And if you try it once, you'll never go back.

It began when I started bringing

home rotisserie chicken from the supermarket, as a quick way to make soup. You put a greasy brown bird in a pot of water with some veggies, and by the time it's hot the soup is done. I quickly realized that convenience wasn't the only perk of "cheaters chicken soup," as

I called it.

I was pleased to taste the rich flavor those soft and juicy chickens gave to my soup, and decided to learn how to recreate that magic in my own oven. Turns

See Soup, Page 34



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Soup

from page 33

out, roasting your own chicken requires little more than a chicken, and a sliver of foresight.

Alas, on a typical afternoon, by the time my thoughts turn to dinner it's too late to roast a chicken. But if you give me a raw bird and four hours' notice, I can brown it with the best of them. Anyone can, because it's about as easy as turning the oven on and putting in the chicken.

In my house, by the time a browned chicken makes it into the soup pot it looks like it's been accosted by piranhas, and that's OK. The carrion crows posing as my children are part of the plan, because I roast a six-pound bird, which leaves plenty of meat left over for soup, even after feeding us dinner. My kids are trained to save their bones, which I collect after dinner, smashing them with a frying pan to release their marrow. I use the broken, browned bones make a lusty bone stock.

My soup isn't clear like Mom's. The rich, murky broth hides the chunks, including the tomatoes and potatoes I sneak in, breaking further from tradition. But even in my relatively busy and rebellious bowl of soup, the dominant dill flavor remains.

Oven-browned chicken

I roast my chicken with an herb or mix of herbs like Italian seasonings, harissa, herbes de Provence, parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme. When browning a bird for Jewish penicillin,

the herb might as well be dill.

1 6-lb chicken
¼ cup olive oil
3 teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon pepper
1 tablespoon garlic powder
1/2-cup dried dill (or 3 ounces chopped fresh dill)
2 medium-sized Potatoes, cut into quarters
4 cloves of smashed garlic
1 onion, quartered
2 sticks of celery, chopped in ½-inch pieces
2 medium sized carrots, cut into 1/2-inch coins

Rinse the chicken and let it dry — or dry it with a towel. Place the seasoned bird in a deep pan large enough that the chicken doesn't quite touch the sides of the pan. Rub it with the olive oil, salt, pepper, garlic powder and dill. In a medium-sized mixing bowl, rub the remaining oil and spices on the potatoes, garlic, onions, celery and any organ or neck meat that came with the bird, and stuff it all into the cavity. Place any veggies that don't fit around the bird.

Bake uncovered, breast-side down, at 325 degrees for three hours (or one hour per two pounds of bird), turning over at once for the last 45 minutes.

That night for dinner, enjoy some oven-browned chicken and juicy vegetables from the cavity. After dinner, strip all the remaining meat off of the bones and cut it into bite-sized chunks for use in the soup.

As for the bones, break or cut them if possible, to let out the marrow. Boil the bones for as long as you can, covered. I use a pasta boiler with the broken bones

in the insert so I can easily remove them when it's time, which it isn't quite. Turn off the before getting ready for bed, so that the pot is cool enough to put in the fridge, bones and all, before you turn in for the night.

The next morning, strain the bones out and skim as much fat as you care to, and return the broth to the fridge until it's time to make zup, as we say in Yiddish.

Mom's medicine

1 3-lb raw chicken or the leftovers of a 6-lb roasted chicken and its accompanying broth
1 cup dry dill, a bunch of fresh dill, chopped
2 onions, chopped
2 cups chopped celery
1 tablespoon salt, more to taste
My additions: 1 pound of potatoes (Mom would use matzo balls), and a half pound chopped tomatoes for acid (other cooks might add a touch of lemon juice or vinegar)

If starting with a raw chicken: cut it into pieces and simmer in 8 quarts of water with a tablespoon of salt for two hours. Skim some fat, or not.

If starting with yesterday's chicken, add the leftover chicken meat to the broth you made from your broken, browned bones. Also add any remaining cavity vegetables.

Add the vegetables to the cooked chicken and broth, and simmer for an hour. Adjust salt and dill to taste.

Flash in the Pan is food writer Ari LeVaux's weekly recipe column. It runs in about 100 newspapers nationwide, nourishing food sections large and small with complete protein for the belly brain.

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