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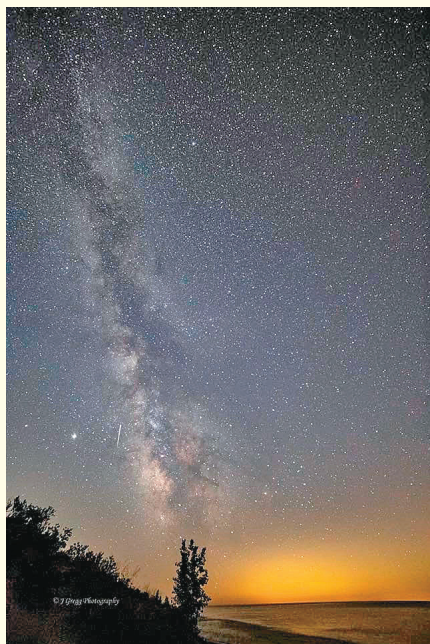
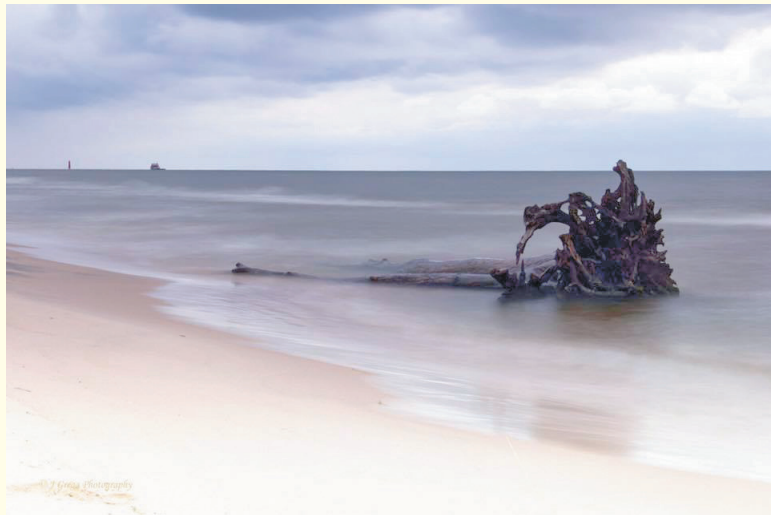


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BE AN ABSOLUTE ORIGINAL

Featured Artists are John Gregg (photographer) Stephanie Gregg (mixed media)



John and Stephanie's unframed PRINTS will be 25% off through the end of January.

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Q-MOCRACY

FOR ONE MOMENT AFTER THE CAPITOL SIEGE, THE NATION WAS LIKE

AND THEN...

WHOA.

CLEARLY BIDEN NEEDS TO OFFER AN OLIVE BRANCH TO TRUMP SUPPORTERS.

YES, THE NEW PRESIDENT SHOULD MAKE NICE WITH THOSE TRYING TO VIOLENTLY OVERTHROW HIM.

I WOULD GIVE YOU THIS FLOWER OF PEACE—IF YOU WEREN'T TRYING TO KILL ME.

SO... HOW DO SUPPORTERS OF DEMOCRACY COMPROMISE WITH SEDITIOUS AUTHORITARIANS, ANYWAY?

IN OUR ENLIGHTENED Q-MOCRACY, WE VOTE ON WHICH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS GET ABDUCTED BY ANGRY MOBS.

OR THERE'S ALWAYS THIS:

JOE BIDEN WON FAIR AND SQUARE.

AND I AM JOE BIDEN.

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CityPULSE

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ISSUE 24**

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Lansing City Hall's fate is on the table again

PAGE 16



Locally written play has it's YouTube premier

PAGE 20



The Dish: Flamin' Hot Cheetos Sushi Roll

PAGE 26



Cover Art

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

I CAN'T BELIEVE DEMOCRATS IMPEACHED TRUMP AGAIN! WHY DOES THE LEFT HAVE SUCH AN IRRATIONAL HATRED FOR OUR GREAT PRESIDENT?

HMMM, YOU MEAN THE PRESIDENT WHO OPENED HIS CAMPAIGN CALLING MEXICANS RAPISTS AND DRUG DEALERS? THE ADULTERER WHO WAS CAUGHT ON TAPE BRAGGING THAT HE COULD GRAB WOMEN BY THE PUSSY, BECAUSE HE WAS FAMOUS?

THE THIN-SKINNED NARCISSIST WHO CLAIMED THE ELECTION HE WON IN 2016 WAS RIGGED BECAUSE HE LOST THE POPULAR VOTE? THE UNHINGED LUNATIC WHO TOLD MORE THAN 25,000 DOCUMENTED LIES?

THE FAILED BUSINESSMAN WHO EXHIBITED INEXPLICABLE DEFERENCE TO PUTIN AND OTHER AUTOCRATS, DECLARED THE MEDIA THE "ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE," AND SHRUGGED OFF THE MURDER OF JAMAL KHASHOGGI?

THE BLATANT RACIST WHO TRIED TO INSTITUTE THE MUSLIM TRAVEL BAN? WHO SEPARATED FAMILIES AT THE BORDER AND LOCKED KIDS IN CAGES? THE GUY WHO SAID THERE WERE VERY FINE PEOPLE ON BOTH SIDES IN CHARLOTTESVILLE?

THE GENIUS WHO THOUGHT THE PANDEMIC WOULD JUST GO AWAY ON ITS OWN, LIKE A MIRACLE? THE MAN WHO BEARS SIGNIFICANT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LOSS OF NEARLY 400,000 AMERICAN LIVES?

THE SEDITIOUS ASSHOLE WHO SPENT TWO AND A HALF MONTHS SCRAMBLING TO OVERTURN THE ELECTION-- AND THEN INCITED AN INSURRECTION? IS THAT THE PRESIDENT YOU MEAN?

WELL, WE'RE CERTAINLY NEVER GOING TO ACHIEVE UNITY AND HEAL AS A NATION WITH AN ATTITUDE LIKE THAT.

RIGHT, WHAT COULD I POSSIBLY BE THINKING?

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A fresh start

On this historic day, we mark a new beginning, a fresh start that signals to the nation and the world that America is back on the right side of history, at least insofar as our leadership is concerned. Out with corruption; in with honor and integrity. Out with virulent narcissism; in with humility and mutual respect. Out with intellectual bankruptcy and incessant lying; in with truth, science and bona fide expertise. It is a day to celebrate all that is right with America, and to muster the steely-eyed resolve that will be necessary to fix all that has gone wrong over the past four years.

Having risen to the pinnacle of American political power, President Biden finds himself in a tough spot nonetheless. Advancing his agenda while an impeachment trial revs up will prove challenging. Yet, having served 36 years as a United States senator and eight as vice president, Biden knows a thing or two about finessing the legislative process and building productive relationships across the aisle. We desperately hope he is able to assemble a bipartisan coalition of the willing, with enough Republicans abandoning the secessionist wing of their party to make governing possible.

With a 50-50 tie in the U.S. Senate, Democrats must stand together to ensure that progress marches on. We're comforted by the notion that Vice President Kamala Harris, who we believe one day will be president, will command the Senate dais with dignity and courage, providing the tie-breaking vote as needed to keep us moving forward. We're also thrilled by the prospect that her example will continuously remind girls and young women around the world that they are powerful and filled with potential for greatness.

There is much to like about Biden's "Day One" policy agenda, including a series of executive orders that will, among other things, help alleviate the financial burdens of the COVID pandemic by pausing student loan payments and extending restrictions on evictions and foreclosures. Our heritage as a welcoming nation is reaffirmed by his move to end immigration restrictions against citizens from certain Muslim countries. We trust Biden



The CP Edit

Opinion

will also redouble efforts to reunite hundreds of immigrant families, whose children were separated and held in cruel captivity on our southern border.

Recognizing the existential threat of global warming, President Biden will immediately reverse four years of climate change denial by rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement and adopting a national goal to create a 100% clean energy economy with net-zero emissions by 2050. Conservation and environmental stewardship will again be the order of the day with a plan to conserve 30% of American lands and waters by 2030, reinstating prohibitions against commercial exploitation of critical habitats that were sacrificed in the name of rapacious capitalism.

Rejoining the World Health Organization — despite its flawed performance during the COVID pandemic — is another good move, reestablishing our proper role in the global public health partnership. We're confident that efforts to defeat the coronavirus here at home and on a global scale

will take on new energy and focus, buoyed by American leadership, know-how and an actual strategy to end the pandemic.

Repealing the transgender military ban gives us renewed hope that this is just the start of an all-out effort to break down the barriers and systemic discrimination that still tip the scales of social equity against the LGBTQIA community. People of color, too, can look forward to enlightened national leadership that will not rest until police brutality, economic injustice and institutional racism are relegated to the trash heap of history.

All of this is just the proverbial tip of the iceberg, but each measure is emblematic of our nation's new direction under enlightened, compassionate leadership. You can go ahead and exhale now.

We're certain it will take months to flush out the old and restock federal agencies with the highly qualified public servants who became an endangered species over the past four years. It will take years to roll back the damage caused by the previous administration, but we're confident that our new president, vice president and cabinet members are up to the task.

Fresh from our national celebration of his life and legacy, let us close by honoring the timeless wisdom of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As we walk together toward a more equitable, just and prosperous future for our nation and its citizens, may his words, delivered the day before he was taken from us, guide us forward:

"Let us rise up tonight with greater readiness. Let us stand with a greater determination. And let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge, to make America what it ought to be. We have an opportunity to make America a better nation ... standing up for the best in the American dream, and taking the whole nation back to those great wells of democracy, which were dug deep by the founding fathers in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution."

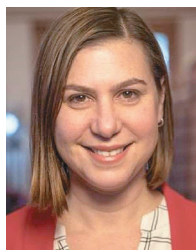
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Please limit them to 250 words

Now begins the real work: How to heal

(The writer was just sworn in to her second term as a U.S. representative representing Michigan's 8th Congressional District, which includes all of Ingham County.)

By **ELISSA SLOTKIN**

So much has happened in the first few weeks of this year: I started the year by taking my oath of office on the House floor for the second time, to again represent the people of Michigan's 8th District, the



Slotkin

OPINION greatest privilege of my life. And I prepared to watch from the steps of the U.S. Capitol as President Biden and Vice President Harris took theirs. But between those two events, it was painful to be in the Capitol, just days earlier the scene of a violent insurrection that sought to prevent that peaceful transfer of

power from happening.

But I want to talk about what comes next.

Now, our real work begins: figuring out how we heal, how we work together again, and how we somehow remember that we are one country, with a shared destiny.

Because, as recent events have laid bare, the single greatest threat to America's national security is the internal division in our own country. The 20 years of the post 9/11 era, where our nation's greatest threats were external, is officially over.

Our democracy simply cannot survive if Americans retreat into their own silos, consuming their own media and ignoring those who disagree with them. If they see their neighbors as enemies and treat them as such. Anyone who thinks that we can just divide into two Americas hasn't been to Michigan, and certainly hasn't been to Michigan's 8th District. We cannot live like that, and I simply refuse to accept that irreconcilable division as the new norm in our country.

So we're going to have to find some love in our hearts and listen to each other, even though that's hard. I'll be honest: I'm struggling on how to reconcile with my colleagues who voted to reject the will of the people, including Michigan voters, and overturn the results of a free and fair election. But I must.

Now, hearing one another doesn't mean we abandon our principles. It doesn't mean we tolerate violence in our politics — no matter who it's from — or give space to the rise of extremist and white supremacist groups. And we must have accountability in order to move forward. Those who violate our laws and threaten our communities must always be held accountable.

But we have got to find ways to give our fellow Americans off-ramps from the overheated rhetoric and toxic politics that proliferated for the last four years. We have to be able to disagree without questioning each other's underlying motives. And we have to start recognizing that good-faith policy disagreements — even vigorous disagreements based on strong beliefs — are not the same as zero-sum tests of our patriotism.

So where do we go from here? We must start with building back the connective tissue and trust in

our communities. We've got to put money in the bank with each other, so that when we're ready to talk about politics, we have a strong foundation to go on. We can do that by focusing on shared interests that have nothing to do with politics: saving our local businesses, rescuing pets, expanding our local library. Whatever you're into, redouble your efforts to get off social media and really invest in engaging in your community.

This past week, on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, it felt so good to get out and do some community service and not talk about politics with other volunteers. It felt good to connect with strangers about our common desire to feed hungry kids. I see it as part of my responsibility as an elected official for this district, particularly in the months ahead, to help use my convening authority to bring people together.

In the days and weeks to come, we may not see eye to eye — but it does not mean we need to be at each other's throats. Let us turn down the temperature and move forward, united in common purpose. No less than the future of our republic — and our national security — depends on it.

Our call for political evolution

(The writers are co-directors of the Michigan Political Leadership Program at Michigan State University. Susy Avery was an elected official from Northville and chaired the state Republican Party under former governor John Engler. Steve Tobacman is managing partner at New Solutions Group LLC and director of the director of Global Detroit, a regional economic development initiative.)

By **SUSY AVERY AND STEVE TOBACMAN**

What we need now is a peaceful political evolution.

As co-directors of the one of the nation's outstanding political leadership programs, we write with optimism and recognition in this

OPINION City Pulse's special 2021 Inauguration issue.

We call for new trust and confidence in our ability to govern ourselves peaceably. We call



Avery



Tobacman

for renewed hope that our national discourse will never again vent itself in death and destruction upon our national symbols.

Which is why we — one Republican and one Democrat — work so closely as bipartisan co-directors to nurture and mentor the Fellows of the Michigan Political Leadership Program.

The Michigan Political Leadership Program was founded in 1992. A small group of elected leaders raised funds and created an organization to encourage those aspiring to public office.

For more information on the Michigan Political Leadership Program, see ippsr.msu.edu

They brought their goals to Michigan State University's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, where the foundations for longlasting policy education and survey research were emerging with leadership development.

Since then, more than 700 people from all over Michigan — teachers, retailers, union members, corporate executives, men and women raising their families, pursuing higher education, nonprofit managers — are proud alumni of MPLP.

Fellows are evenly split between Democrats and Republicans, men and women, and they've set an impressive record. More than 50 percent are serving, or have served, in elected or appointed positions.

Michigan's secretary of state, Jocelyn Benson, is an alumna. Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel is an alum. Former Michigan House

Speaker Craig DeRoche is an alum, as is former Detroit Mayor Ken Cockrel Jr. With November's election, 15 MPLP alumni were sent to serve together in the Michigan Legislature.

State department directors, non-profit and for-profit business executives and hundreds of local officials over the past 28 years are graduates.

How do we bring 24 diverse people together for 10 weekends a year enabling them to find agreement and yet still be true to their partisan roots?

Each weekend, leaders in government, business, industry and news media serve as resources and advisers. They direct workshops, panels, tours and hands-on exercises in personal leadership, policy and budget analysis, negotiations, legislation, media relations and campaign strategy.

Fellows build relationships through small group interaction, team-driven projects, Friday-night sleepovers and Saturday morning

The U.S. economy: What now?

(The writer is an economics professor at Michigan State University and director of MSU's quarterly State of the State Survey, which measures Michigan's consumer confidence and approval ratings of political leaders.)

By **CHARLIE BALLARD**

Just like Barack Obama 12 years ago, Joe Biden takes office at a time when the United States economy is a mess. Last month, the economy provided 10 million fewer jobs than in February 2020. The job losses have been worse for women than for men, worse for minorities than for whites, and worse for low-income households.



Ballard

OPINION

On the eve of President Biden's inauguration, the number of Americans who die every day from COVID is nearly twice as large as the number who died in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. We are in a war with COVID, and we are not winning it. Moreover, the economy will not come close to a full recovery until we control the pandemic much better than we are now. Thus, President Biden's number-one economic priority must be to get COVID under control.

I will get to Biden's policy proposals

shortly. But one of the most important challenges he faces is not one that can be fixed by passing a law. If we are to do our best in the war on COVID, President Biden will need to push a reluctant public to do much better than we are doing now, in terms of wearing masks, engaging in social distancing and avoiding large indoor gatherings.

In this regard, President Biden's task is more difficult because of his predecessor, whose actions regarding COVID have been the very antithesis of leadership. Donald Trump has promoted remedies that are either ineffective or downright dangerous. He has hosted super-spreader events at the White House. He has attacked his own public-health officials when they have said things that he finds politically inconvenient.

Thus, Biden must fundamentally reset the national tone by setting a good personal example, respecting science and putting his country before himself. I believe his actions and words since the election are a good start.

I am also deeply encouraged by Biden's policy proposals announced last week. Biden has called on Congress to appropriate an additional \$70 billion for vaccinations and testing. Whereas Trump never threw the whole weight of the federal government into the effort, I believe Biden will. He has pledged to invoke the Defense Production Act, to boost

our supplies of personal protective equipment, syringes and much more.

The vaccination campaign is being managed by the states at a time when state and local resources are stretched to the breaking point. Here again, Biden's proposals are encouraging. He calls for \$350 billion in emergency funding for state, local and tribal governments. In 2020, congressional Republicans balked at aid to states and localities, spinning a false narrative about profligate spending in blue states. I call on Congress to step up this time, for the sake of all 50 states.

Although much of the work must be done at the state and local level, the first phase of the vaccine rollout has been far too fragmented. I expect President Biden to make good on his pledge of a coordinated national strategy. Federal resources can help coordinate, streamline and support the state and local campaigns.

It will be at least several months before we get the virus under control. In the meantime, millions of Americans are in desperate financial straits. President Biden's proposal calls for increasing the amount of unemployment benefits and extending them through September. Congress should pass this right away.

Biden also calls for an additional round of stimulus checks. Important, his proposal would extend eligibility to millions of Americans with disabilities, who were excluded from earlier rounds. I hope that the next round of checks

will be limited to those in the bottom half of the income distribution.

Even if the war on COVID goes as well as possible, it will be late 2021 or early 2022 before the U.S. economy looks "normal." However, even before the economy stabilizes, President Biden should be laying the groundwork for dealing with longer-term problems:

- In the best of times, most American children do not get the quality education they deserve. This year, they have received even less. President Biden should lead America toward an education system that prepares every child for success.

- America's infrastructure needs are profound. These include our decaying roads, bridges, sewers, water systems, and electricity grid. They also include the energy and transportation infrastructure that are needed to combat climate change. President Biden should take the lead in addressing these needs.

- Income inequality and wealth inequality in America have risen dramatically in recent decades. The pandemic has made the disparities even worse. President Biden should embark America on a campaign to reduce poverty and inequality, by reversing the failed economic policies of the last 40 years.

Only Abraham Lincoln in 1861 and Franklin Roosevelt in 1933 have assumed the presidency at times of deeper national crises than those facing Joe Biden. Let us all pray that he, and we, are up to the challenge.

Evolution

from page 6

early calls. We explore our differences through meals together, through guided tours of the state Capitol, fundraising for MPLP and rallies around each other's election successes.

Now when Americans are at each other's throats, we believe MPLP's greatest success is its ability to move Michiganders from all political spectrums to learn more about each other, work with each other and reach agreement.

Our research shows that MPLP

Fellows are more likely to win elections. Even when they are sworn in, pushed as they are by their political parties, caucuses and constituents, MPLP graduates are better able to reach respectful consensus than those who know only raw partisanship.

There is much you can do too. We invite you to see the faces and hear the testimonies of MPLP Fellows in our new video — on YouTube.

We invite you to apply to become an MPLP Fellow. We invite your support for MPLP through our annual fundraiser. Each year we bring national newsmakers to an annual gala public celebration of our Fellows past, present and future.

You too are invited to our next

annual MPLP event, April 29. Tickets are on sale now. ([link](#))

We invite you to meet the MPLP Class of 2021, the leaders of our future, as they begin their work this February on our website.

We invite you, or someone you know, to apply for the Class of 2022. Online forms are available now and due Oct. 1.

The 2022 MPLP Fellows will begin their hard work as mid-term election campaigns will be underway. We look forward to the time when our respect for each other and relief from the pandemic will allow us to build anew — not shatter — our government, institutions and partisan opponents in all races to come.

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

1.) Write a letter to the editor:

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

2.) Write a guest column:

Contact Berl Schwartz for more information:

publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5061

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

B/21/055 Appraisals for Residential Properties as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the CITY OF LANSING, PURCHASING OFFICE, at 124 W. MICHIGAN AVE. 8TH FL., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933 or electronically thru MITN until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **Jan. 28, 2021** at which time bids will be opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson at (517) 483-4128, or Stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov or go to www.mitn.info.** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#21-012

RFP/21/058-Development Professional as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed proposals at the City of Lansing Purchasing Office, 8th Floor, 124 W. Michigan Ave. Lansing MI. 48933 or electronically thru MITN until **5:00 PM** local time in effect on **Feb. 15, 2021**. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit proposals are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 483-4128 or stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov, or go to www.mitn.info.** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#21-013

B/21/045 TURNOUT GEAR WASHERS as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids electronically on line at www.mitn.info or at the City Of Lansing, Purchasing Office, at 124 W. Michigan Ave, 8th Fl, Lansing, MI 48933 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **JAN. 26, 2021** at which time bids will be read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 483-4128, or Stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov or go to www.mitn.info.** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#21-008

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD VIA A ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING IN COMPLIANCE WITH MICHIGAN PUBLIC ACT 228 ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Hayes, Clerk Sanders, Treasurer McKenzie
Trustees: Harris, Broughton, Brewer, Ruiz

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Gresens, Attorney
Scott Cunningham, Assessor

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.
Approved minutes of the meeting held on December 8, 2020.
Agenda approved as amended.
Approved budget amendments.
Adopted Resolution 20-24: Interlocal Agreement for Ingham County Designated Assessor
Adopted Resolution 20-25: Designated Depositories of the Charter Township of Lansing
Executive Session held for pending litigation
Board returned to regular session.
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor
Maggie Sanders, Clerk

CP#21-006

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. IN COMPLIANCE WITH MICHIGAN PUBLIC ACT 228, THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM PLATFORM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Hayes, Clerk Sanders, Treasurer McKenzie
Trustees: Harris, Broughton, Brewer, Ruiz

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Gresens, Attorney
Todd Hendy, Fire Chief
John Joseph, Police Chief
Dan Richards, Code Enforcement

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.
Approved minutes of the meeting held on November 24, 2020.
Agenda approved.
Adopted Resolution 20-23: Reappointments to Economic Development Corporation.
Approved budget amendments.
Approved Supervisor Hayes signing the Interlocal Agreement on behalf of the township.
Approved Claims.
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor
Maggie Sanders, Clerk

CP#21-005

Biden's strongest ally is under our Capitol dome

What a change one administration can make.

With Donald Trump off to Mar-a-Lago and Joe Biden in as the new president, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's political clout with the White House has spun exactly 180 degrees.

OPINION

The governor who Trump branded as that "woman from Michigan" has been replaced by a guy who sees her as vice presidential material.

Biden really likes Whitmer. He named her one of his four co-chairs during the campaign. She was on the planning committee for the inauguration. He picked her for one of the Democratic National Committee co-chair posts.

The feelings are mutual and, for her part, necessary.

The United States' death toll stands at 400,000, which will tick up regardless of who sits in the Oval Office.

Maybe Biden's national strategy proves effective. Maybe case numbers start trending down. Maybe deaths trend downward. Whitmer & Co. can revel in the success.

However, December was the nation's deadliest month since the COVID-19 pandemic and January was predicted to be "nightmarish," according to CNN.

Cold weather is driving folks indoors, where the coronavirus seems to thrive. The fatigue of all this staying at home continues to wear on people.

Maybe Michigan gets dumped on with snow and temps plummet into below 0 territory. Nobody will want to move anywhere, which helps Whitmer.

Or maybe this dry winter maintains this low 30s thing. Cloudy with a low 25 isn't stopping many Michiganders from doing much of anything. Case numbers could very well go up in February if the vaccine logjam is pried lose.

What if seniors can't get their shot? What if unvaccinated teachers refuse to return to the classroom, March 1 deadline by damned. What if Team Biden isn't any better at getting vaccines to the state's largest health departments?

Whitmer will be able to get away



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

with blaming Trump for the "mess" he left Biden for a while. But the blame game will get old at some point.

Banging around Trump after he's out of office loses its effectiveness a little bit every time she does it. Plus, Trump doesn't have his social media platform to defend himself or remind people why they think he's such a buffoon.

Whitmer can't hit Biden. Not like she hammers Trump when the national TV camera lights blink red.

Less than two years before facing reelection, Whitmer needs Biden to do well. Her future is knotted too tightly around Biden's ankle. If his numbers tank, hers sink, too.

They shouldn't, though, at least in the short term. Even if Biden's \$1.9 trillion stimulus doesn't pass (which is highly unlikely), Michigan government is sitting on a fairly unprecedented \$3.7 billion surplus from last year.

That's darn good considering Whitmer feared last May we'd would be looking into a \$2.2 billion hole right now. This surplus is more than three times larger than the \$1 billion she started 2020 with.

It's money for vaccines. Programs for unemployed workers. New HVAC systems for schools. COVID-tests. Assistance for small business that had to shut down. Summer school programming. Rental assistance. Property tax penalty and interest forgiveness. More laptops and technology for the state's poorer districts.

If Republicans want to sit on the money to gain some political leverage, it's hard to see Whitmer not winning the public relations battle.

History would show the first midterm election of a president's administration is good for the opposing party. Republicans had banner election years in 1994 and 2010, the first years of the Clinton and Obama tenures.

Whitmer rode into office during Trump's midterm election, too. She needs to buck history and she knows it. Additional federal stimulus should prevent the economy from collapsing in a post-COVID world.

Things could shape up nicely for Biden in 2021 and 2022. And he won't have a stronger advocate than Gretchen Whitmer.

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

Why can't we be friends?

Now the people who tried to overturn an election want to sing Kumbaya. Hard pass.

Donald Trump's second impeachment last week presented House Republicans with a Gordian knot.

Trump leaves office with an approval rating at 29%, fewer jobs than when he started and U.S. COVID fatalities about to top World War II deaths. He'll depart under the ignominious

cloud of a pathetic, anti-democratic and ultimately violent attempt to overturn the results of an election he lost by seven million votes. Abandoned by allies, deprived of his biggest megaphone, he faces the possibility of criminal charges. Historians will soon rank him alongside James Buchanan and Andrew Johnson as the Worst President Ever.

Yet 46% of Republicans say Trump bears no responsibility for the insurrection, and 64% believe he won the election.

So to vote for impeachment would expose Republican officials to the base's vitriol — provoking primaries and, some reportedly feared, death threats. But to defend Trump's malevolence would further alienate both reality-based voters and corporate funders. It might also remind the country that more than half of them parroted Trump's voter-fraud delusion, which nearly led to lynching Vice President Pence.

The middle ground on which all but 10 House Republicans settled went something like this: Trump went too far, but impeachment was "divisive." To cite a random example, Rep. Richard Hudson of North Carolina: "Rather than lashing out at our political opponents, every one of us needs to ask ourselves what we can do to tone down the temperature of the rhetoric, the rancor, and the violence."

In other words, holding Trump accountable for whipping his supporters into a frenzy that got a cop killed will lead to more violence, so we shouldn't hold Trump accountable. (And here I thought we didn't negotiate with terrorists.)

Hudson, a proud member of the Seditious Caucus, is no more disingenuous than the 137 others who both did the rioters' bidding and voted to give Trump a pass. (Tom Rice of South Carolina was the only election objector to vote for impeachment.) In the week between insurrection and impeach-



JEFFREY C. BILLMAN

INDEPENDENT COMMENTARY

ment, "unity" became a party line.

Look no further than Sen. Lindsey Graham's letter this weekend to incoming Majority Leader Charles Schumer, demanding that Schumer dismiss the "meaningless" impeachment. Not doing so, warned Graham — who asked Georgia election officials to throw out all mail ballots from certain counties — would mean "delaying indefinitely, if not forever, the healing of this great Nation."

To Republicans, it seems, healing can only exist on their terms. Unity is a one-way street.

For Democrats, the question is what's to be gained from making nice with a party that cannot unyoke itself from Donald Trump — or, for that matter, a party that just two weeks ago was willing to overthrow democracy in service to its Mad King.

According to history, nothing. There can be no healing with those who feel entitled to supremacy and are willing to burn down institutions to get their way. The more you give, the more they take. They more they take, the more they demand. The dog chases its tail.

More important, the pursuit of unity comes at a cost — not to those for whom politics is a game to be played or a profession to be monetized, but to those whose rights wind up sacrificed on the altar of comity.

In the run-up to the Civil War, for instance, the government desperately sought to alleviate Southern concerns about abolition: the Compromise of 1850, the Fugitive Slave Act, the Kansas-Nebraska Act, Dred Scott, all things that benefited enslavers. After one lost election, the South seceded anyway. The North couldn't compromise enough.

The South's fear was democracy itself: before the war, of evolving Northern opinion repudiating human bondage; after the war, of formerly enslaved people demanding equal rights. But for nine decades after Reconstruction, the center held on the South's terms. With the two major parties ideologically incoherent, white hegemony went unchallenged, and the country remained "unified."

That ended with the Civil Rights Act. Over a generation, as the South became a Republican stronghold, the increasingly orthodox GOP grew increasingly evangelical, anti-intellectual, antagonistic to civil rights and authoritarian.

By Barack Obama's election in 2008, the party had morphed into a far-right movement steeped in grievance and racial anxiety, radicalized by a propaganda machine that perpetuated an alternate reality in which white Christians were oppressed by popular culture, educational institutions, tech companies and the mainstream media.

As the saying goes, to those accustomed to power, equality feels like discrimination.

Like the South 160 years ago, democracy — specifically, the wrong kind of people participating in democracy — has become the enemy. Since 2013, when the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act, this has led to myriad attempts to make voting more difficult, usually couched in pretextual concerns about "fraud."

After Trump's defeat, cowing to pressure from the MAGA base, 147 Republicans in the House and Senate attempted the once unthinkable. They sought to discard (Black) votes in Atlanta, Detroit, Milwaukee and Philadelphia as illegitimate and reverse unambiguous election results.

With the bloodless coup doomed

from the start, Trump's supporters — convinced by months of gaslighting that they were on the vanguard of a revolution against corrupt forces — stormed the Capitol while the president watched on television.

Now that both bloodless and bloody coups have failed, these Republicans want to forgive and forget so the country can "heal" — and, of course, so they can rehabilitate their reputations and refashion themselves as "serious" lawmakers whose inevitable sighs about Joe Biden's "radical agenda" should be taken seriously.

That universal condemnation of Trump would also be unifying — and good for the country — never seems to have crossed their minds. But that's how it goes: Anything that demands courage from them is "divisive." And that's the lesson for Democrats: As long as Republicans define "unity" in terms of their own comfort, they don't deserve the presumption of good faith.

It's not unity they're after. It's surrender.

(Get more Informed Dissent delivered straight to your inbox. Subscribe today at billman.substack.com.)

City of East Lansing Historic District Commission

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AT ELECTRONIC MEETING Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

The Historic District Commission of the City of East Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan ("Historic District Commission") will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, February 11, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.**, concerning the following:

A public hearing will be held to consider a Certificate of Appropriateness from Ray and Sara Hernandez for the property at 533 Charles Street to rebuild the porch using composite decking and vinyl railing.

This meeting will only be held electronically pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Act 267 of 1976, and the capacity restrictions and social distancing requirements set forth in the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Director's Emergency Orders. The purpose of the meeting will be to hold the public hearing described above and consider any other business that comes before the City Council. Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, the City gives notice of the following:

1. **Reason for Electronic Meeting.** The City is holding this meeting by electronic means only due to the restrictions imposed by the MDHHS Director's Emergency Orders. If the Orders are revised and if an in-person meeting is to be held instead of an electronic meeting, the meeting may be rescheduled to a different date and time. Notice of any such change will be posted at the City Hall and on the City's website.

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

Join Zoom Meeting by Video: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/89538089566?occurrence=1613088000000>
Or Dial In By Telephone - Call in:** 312-626-6799, Toll Free: 888-788-0099
Meeting ID: 895 3808 9566
Password: Not required

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

3. **Contact Information.** For those who desire to contact members of the Historic District Commission to provide input or ask questions on the business that will come before the public body at the meeting, please contact Jake Parcell at (517) 319-6828 or jparcell@cityofeastlansing.com prior to the start of the meeting.

4. **Persons with Disabilities.** Persons with disabilities may participate in the meeting through the methods set forth in paragraph 2. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services in order to attend electronically should notify Rebecca Urdiales at (517) 319-6922, TDD 1-800-649-377, or rurdial@cityofeastlansing.com within a reasonable time in advance of the meeting.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#21-010

More contagious COVID-19 variant travels from Europe to Michigan

Vail: 'Only a matter of time' before new variant lands in Greater Lansing

The first case of the latest COVID-19 variant — B117 — was identified last week in an adult woman living in Washtenaw County. State health officials said the woman recently traveled to the United Kingdom, where this comparably more contagious variant of the virus originated.

Health officials warn that this variant spreads more quickly, but there is no indication that it affects the clinical outcomes or severity of the disease compared to the SARS-CoV-2 virus that has been circulating across the United States for a year. To date, the British variant has been detected in 16 other states. The Washtenaw County case is the only one tracked in Michigan.

Michigan Chief Medical Executive Joneigh Khaldun described the discovery as “concerning but not unexpected” in a press release from last week. Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail told reporters Tuesday that it’s only a matter of time before it arrives in Lansing.

“It’s more transmissible. We know that the things we do to mitigate that transmission work and they will work for something that is more transmissible as well,” Vail said. “The degree in which we get adherence to social distancing and mask wearing will help protect us from this as well.”

For now, state officials are paying closer attention to those who tested positive for the coronavirus and also have a history of recent travel to the United Kingdom, Vail explained. Those test samples will be specifically genetically sequenced to locate additional cases.

All FDA-approved versions of the COVID-19 vaccine are also effective against the new variant.

In related news...

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer joined governors from Minnesota and Wisconsin this week in expressing frustrations with President Donald Trump’s “botched” vaccine distribution plan, urging the Department of Health and Human Services to grant permission for states to directly purchase their own doses of the vaccine. The goal: Get more shots in arms — and quickly.

Whitmer and eight other governors urged the federal government last week to distribute millions of doses that were reportedly being held back by the Trump administration. But according to reports in the Washington Post, those federal stockpiles have already been entirely exhausted.

As of Tuesday afternoon, more than 1 million doses of the vaccine had been distributed across the state of Michigan, but only about 488,000 of those doses have actually been administered.

The Lansing Mall will serve as a temporary vaccination site for the Barry-Eaton District Health Department after

CORONAVIRUS IN MICHIGAN						
BY THE NUMBERS...						WEEK 45
MICHIGAN						
	1/12/21	1/19/21	WEEKLY CHANGE			
CASES	525,612	540,115	^3%			
DEATHS	13,501	13,865	^3%			

GREATER LANSING				EATON CO.			
	1/12/21	1/19/21	WEEKLY CHANGE		1/12/21	1/19/21	WEEKLY CHANGE
CASES	22,210	22,901	^3%	CASES	4,875	5,064	^4%
DEATHS	379	394	^4%	DEATHS	111	115	^4%

INGHAM CO.				CLINTON CO.			
	1/12/21	1/19/21	WEEKLY CHANGE		1/12/21	1/19/21	WEEKLY CHANGE
CASES	13,292	13,725	^3%	CASES	4,043	4,113	^2%
DEATHS	219	232	^6%	DEATHS	49	51	^4%

the space in its Hastings and Charlotte offices could not accommodate the volume of appointments. Those eligible include frontline healthcare workers, people 65 and older and certain essential employees who are consistently exposed to the coronavirus.

Forest Community Health Center has also been approved as a COVID-19 vaccination site in Ingham County, but officials have yet to receive details about vaccine availability. Those eligible for the vaccine who applied through the Ingham County Health Department will be contacted for appointments for the shot, which will be administered at no cost when they’re made available.

State epidemic orders amended last week now allow for indoor group exercise and non-contact sports in Michigan. Still, health officials are urging families to stay home as much as possible, avoid indoor gatherings and pick a single other household to interact over the coming weeks.

The Michigan Strategic Fund approved two grant programs last week totaling \$58.5 million in relief for small businesses and live event venues impacted by the pandemic. Grants of up to \$20,000 will be awarded to businesses that are fully closed, with grants of up to \$15,000 for those that have been partially closed or otherwise remain open but took a financial hit. That includes about \$3 million in funding for businesses in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties.

Businesses that require social gatherings for customers and have experienced disrupted operations due to the latest COVID-19 epidemic orders now also have more time to make monthly or quarterly sales, use and withholding tax payments. State officials extended the deadline last week until at least Feb. 20 and waived all penalties and interest for 33 days.

State officials released guidance Tuesday that called for colleges and universities to require COVID-19 testing of students, even if they don’t live on campus. Recommendations include weekly testing of all undergraduate students who regularly interact with the campus community.

As students return to Michigan State University, health officials are also reminding residents that emergency orders still prohibit indoor gatherings of no more than 10 people in parts of East Lansing. Statewide epidemic orders also limit gatherings to no more than two households. Face coverings are also required both indoors and outdoors downtown and on MSU’s campus.

The city of Lansing joined other cities across the country on Wednesday evening in hosting a lighting ceremony to remember and honor the lives that have been lost to COVID-19 over the last year. In Lansing, that included plans to illuminate City Hall and other city buildings.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

COVID-19

JAN. 13 ORDER: GATHERING GUIDELINES

Open			Not open
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two-household gathering (high precautions)* Small outdoor gatherings (25 people) Retail Preschool through 12th grade (local district choice) Childcare Manufacturing, construction, other work that is impossible to do remotely, including technical education Public transit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hair salons, barber shops, other personal services Gyms, pools, roller and ice rinks Restaurants and bars (outdoor dining, takeout, and delivery) Professional sports** Parks and outdoor recreation Funerals (25 people) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health care Theaters, movie theaters, stadiums, arenas Bowling centers Bingo halls, casinos, arcades Non-contact sports Indoor group fitness classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workplaces, when work can be done from home Restaurants and bars (indoor dining) Night clubs Contact sports, except professional sports Water parks

*See Social Gathering Guidance
**Includes a limited number of NCAA sports.

For more information about the order, visit Michigan.gov/Coronavirus.
Questions or concerns can be emailed to COVID19@michigan.gov.



REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

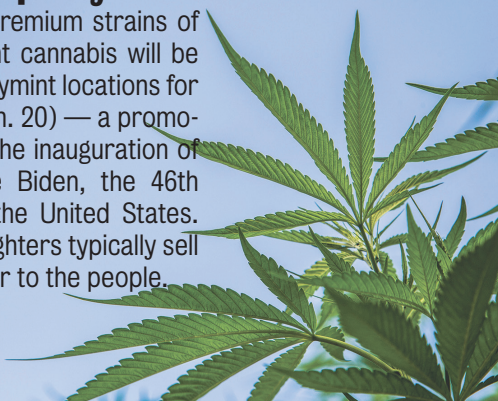


By KYLE KAMINSKI



\$46 eighths for 46th prexy

Eighths of premium strains of DNA x Skymint cannabis will be available at Skymint locations for \$46 today (Jan. 20) — a promotional nod to the inauguration of President Joe Biden, the 46th president of the United States. Those dank eighths typically sell for \$60. Flower to the people.



Racial equity efforts under fire

Some activists are still skeptical of Lansing Mayor Andy Schor's Racial Justice and Equity Alliance, a 40-member task force that was created in July and has yet to produce any recommendations to combat systemic racism in the city. Details on what issues the alliance will address won't be shared until May, reports the Lansing State Journal. Meanwhile, activists like Angela Waters Austin, co-founder of Black Lives Matter Lansing, have reportedly questioned the purpose of duplicating work already set in motion by other grassroots organizations.

Former MSU dean loses appeal

William Strampel, a former dean at Michigan State University convicted of misconduct in office in a case tied to the Larry Nassar scandal, lost a bid last week to have his conviction set aside. The Court of Appeals rejected Stampel's argument that he couldn't be found guilty of misconduct in office because his position as a dean didn't meet the definition of a public official.

LEAP enrolls 23 entrepreneurs in inclusion initiative

Twenty-three entrepreneurs from across the Greater Lansing region enrolled last week in the second round of Lansing Economic Area Partnership's "One and All" inclusive entrepreneurship initiative. The immersive, two-month program offers business coaching and mentoring, including access to professional networking and a seed investment for underrepresented populations.



Walk for Warmth fundraiser moves online

Capital Area Community Services' annual Walk for Warmth fundraiser will be held virtually on Feb. 27. Registrants will receive a t-shirt for participating, and 100% of funds raised will help individuals and families struggling to pay utility bills. Search for the event online for more details, including a rnsignup.com link to get registered.

Lansing moves back to four-day work weeks

The city of Lansing has shifted most of its employees back to four-day work weeks through at least March 14. Through an Unemployment Insurance Agency work share program, staff will work four days each week while recouping one day's pay in state unemployment benefits. Like in the summer, the

reduced work week is designed to save the city on payroll costs during the pandemic — totaling about \$650,000 in this round — without shrinking paychecks for its staff.

County honors local history efforts

Five local residents were honored for their exemplary work in promoting the history of Ingham County this week. The latest recipients of the Ingham County Heritage Award are genealogist Lille Foster; educator Mitch Lutzke; author Jim MacLean; former museum executive Jane Rose, and cemetery preservationist Loretta Stanaway. Stanaway also routinely shares right-wing conspiracy theories — like reports of China interfering with the 2020 election — on Facebook.

Meridian Twp. thinning deer

Police in Meridian Township are preparing to shoot and kill 150 deer in local parks, land preserves and on private property (with consent) through March 31. The deer culling efforts are set for evening and overnight hours when parks are closed. Warning signs will be posted. Township officials said the goal is exclusively to protect residents from car-deer traffic crashes. The venison will be donated to local food banks. Call 517-853-4800 with questions or concerns.

Lansing celebrates MLK Jr. Day

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan moved its annual event online this year — which can be now viewed anytime on WILX TV 10's Facebook page. Coretta Scott and Martin Luther King's youngest daughter, Dr. Bernice King, was the featured guest. The hour-long special, themed "Out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope," also included electric performances from the MLK Jr. Dream Orchestra and Michigan violinist Rodney Page. Delta Township trustees Beth Bowen and Fonda Brewer also participated on Monday in a "Day of Service" event at the Lansing Mall, preparing kits for local kids struggling with food insecurity.



King

2 former county execs charged

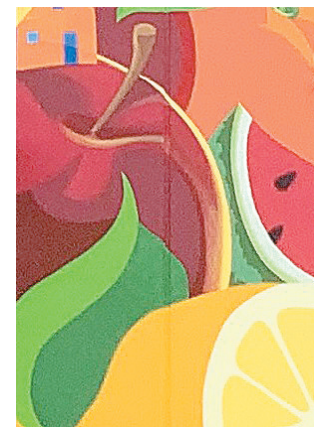
Jerry Ambrose and Darnell Early, who worked respectively as controller and deputy controller in Ingham County for a combined 30 years, were charged last week in connection with the Flint water crisis. Ambrose — who also served as chief of staff for former Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero — faces four counts of misconduct in office. Early faces three misconduct charges.

LCC rips down ramp

Lansing Community College started tearing down its parking ramp along Grand Avenue last week to make way for its replacement, a five-story ramp that is set to be built over the summer. College officials killed early plans to build a second garage on the corner of Capitol Avenue and Shiawassee Street after local residents voiced concerns about that project.

Michigan honors former state senator

Flags were lowered to half-staff Saturday to honor former state Sen. Willis "Bill" Clare Bullard Jr. The Oakland County Republican was a state legislator over three decades. Bullard, 77, died from complications tied to COVID-19.



A few people correctly guessed that last month's Eye for Design (below) was one of the bells hanging in a holiday wreath near downtown Lansing. However, it was only JP who recognized it as being in front of the Comerica bank building at the corner of Michigan Avenue and Washington Square. The building was featured as the Eye Candy in 2014; one of its many intricate details has previously been featured as an Eye for Design.

This month's Eye for Design (above) can be found in one of the murals that has popped up in recent years, this one near downtown Lansing. The first person to correctly identify the location of this Eye for Design will receive a special City Pulse mug. Send your answer to carriesampson@micourthistory.org.

— CARRIE SAMPSON



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

~~Calamity~~ **Calm** at the Capitol: Lansing braced for the unprecedented. It received the unremarkable.

Detachments of dozens of Michigan State Police troops marched into buildings surrounding the State Capitol at 9 a.m. Sunday. Along Ottawa Street, several more were loading up with bulletproof vests and wooden batons, tear gas canisters tucked into their bags.

Rows of National Guard Humvees lined the promenade from the Capitol to Constitution Hall — engines running, ready to go. A police helicopter circled overhead, at times hovering over the Capitol lawn to keep watch over what totaled fewer than three dozen demonstrators. Soldiers and cops were stationed on rooftops. Several roads were closed.

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor maintained that the show of force was necessary in light of large and potentially violent protests. He's just thankful that the scene remained peaceful after Jan. 6's insurrectionist riots in the U.S. Capitol.

"It's better to be over-prepared than under-prepared," Schor said Sunday. "We felt we needed to be prepared. It's always better that we're over-prepared and then not see acts of violence."

An FBI bulletin released this month warned of the possibility that hordes of armed right-wing protesters would arrive on Sunday in Lansing and at state capitals across the U.S., possibly staying through President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration.

That intel triggered a massive law enforcement response involving at least seven police agencies, including the FBI and the Michigan National Guard. It also dominated media coverage throughout the week as Schor, among others, warned residents to avoid the city.

Chain link fences were erected around City Hall and the Capitol. Nearby businesses and state office buildings boarded up their windows. Airbnb reportedly screened guests for extremist ties before allowing rentals over the weekend.

The Lansing and Michigan chapters of the Black Lives Matter movement also released a bulletin last week specifically advising Black and Hispanic residents to take the weekend off work and to shelter in place amid fears of growing white supremacist sentiments tied to Sunday's protests.

Few predicted the small turnout.

The Michigan State Police counted fewer than 20



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

(Above and right) Gov. Gretchen Whitmer thanking members of the National Guard.

(Below left) Police officers ready their equipment in the early afternoon before crowds gather.

(Below right) National Guard vehicle parked on Michigan Avenue.

demonstrators. The Lansing Police Department tallied up to 75. Some were legally armed, but no violence was reported. No riots. No shattered windows. No insurrection. News reporters outnumbered protesters.

The few activists who showed up carried mixed messages: Some carried Trump 2020 flags. At least six people claimed to represent the "boogaloo" movement, which is focused on stirring up a second iteration of the Civil War. Others claimed to represent Black Lives Matter. One man meandered the streets with a toy Nerf gun, a satirical poke at right-wing militia groups.

Two protesters wore skeleton face masks, garb known to be worn by members of the Michigan Proud Boys. At least one member of the Detroit Motorcycle Club was also there, hoisting up a "Bikers for Trump" yard sign. Another man pedaled a bike with styrofoam cutout of a cross.

One middle-aged man carried a Betsy Ross flag, apparently celebrating an era in which slavery was commonplace and women didn't have the right to



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

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Calm

from page 12

vote in the U.S. He told a reporter that he was “too busy” for an interview as he shouted and waved at a helicopter circling overhead.

“If you have to ask what this flag means, then you can just keep walking,” he said.

Cost estimates for Sunday’s sweeping law enforcement response — which began in early January — were not available this week. Schor said those will continue to be tallied this month. A spokeswoman for Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s office said the state will cover the uncertain tab for the National Guard. U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin said she’ll also pursue federal cash assistance.

“Our finance team will work with any departments involved to assess the cost, then apply for a variety of federal grants,” Schor said Monday. “And we will seek dollars from the state.”

Police agencies wouldn’t share details about the number of officers or their specific operational plans even after the small crowds dispersed on Sunday afternoon. MSP Lt. Brian Oleksyk said an “increased response” near the Capitol will also continue over the “next couple of weeks.”

Lansing remains cautious but optimistic that violent protests won’t yet happen.

“I wish I had a crystal ball that could anticipate when an attack will occur,” Lansing Police Chief Daryl Green said Sunday. “We have to be prepared based on the threat picture. It would be difficult for me to not respond to that with some type of operational plan moving forward.”

“Life is our most precious thing we have. We were here and our response was here — and present and effective,” Green added. “And it does have costs, but we were there to save lives. I think we did a good job here Monday. And I don’t know if you can put a monetary value on that.”

Schor started his Sunday at about 8:30 a.m. at a makeshift command center tucked into a conference room on the second floor of the Lansing Police Department. One wall was dominated by video feeds from dozens of cameras positioned throughout the Capitol complex.

He also made at least two trips back and forth from MSP’s Emergency Operations Center in Dimondale — referred to by law enforcement as the “bunker” — before returning to City Hall at noon. Schor, Green, Slotkin and City Council President Peter Spadafore were among those spotted in the crowd downtown, keeping

watch over the scene as it unfolded on Sunday.

The media response was also fierce. Downtown Lansing hosted journalists from dozens of local and state-wide outlets, BBC and CNN, as well as an outfit of journalists from the Netherlands.

The angry mob of protesters never materialized.

Officials suggested the snowy conditions that developed in Lansing Sunday may have played a role in deterring large crowds. Weeks of cautionary media coverage and the massive law enforcement response also likely played a role in keeping things peaceful, Schor suggested.

Some protesters had also backed out. The Southeast Michigan Volunteer Militia directed its members to avoid the city amid expectations of “maximum chaos” from extremists like the Proud Boys and other groups.

Research from the media intelligence company Signal released this week also showed that online misinformation about unproven claims of election fraud plunged 74% after several social media sites suspended Trump and key allies earlier this month — helping limit the spread of false conspiracy theories that have only contributed to growing tensions ahead of Biden’s inauguration Wednesday.

Still, Lansing was prepared for a potential calamity.

Schor faced criticism — including a call for his resignation — over the summer after local cops lobbed tear gas at protesters and bystanders at a protest-turned-riot April 30. But that didn’t mean the mayor was prepared to handle crowd control any differently this week.

On Friday, Schor confirmed that chemical agents — like tear gas — would be deployed on Sunday’s crowds if needed. Like last year, that was a decision that Schor chose to leave in the hands of the Police Department.

“They will use whatever tool, and tear gas is one of those tools,” Schor explained ahead of Sunday’s expected protests. “It’s not something that we want to use, but it’s a tool to clear out violent actions. And it’s a way to get people out of that situation without having to physically engage with them and risk getting coronavirus and also risk police brutality and other things.”

Added Schor: “I let the police chief and the folks on the ground make the call.”

Meanwhile, MSP Col. Joseph Gasper said a coordinated law enforcement response to anticipated protests will continue throughout the week. State lawmakers have also postponed their scheduled legislative sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

— **KYLE KAMINSKI**



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

(Top) A man claiming to be from the “Nerf Gun Militia” lampooned armed Trump supporters.

(Middle) An armed demonstrator answers questions from reporters.

(Bottom) A cyclist carrying a cross that reads “STOP DESTROYING HEAVEN” rests beside a National Guard vehicle.

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Of Vehicle Auction
January 29, 2021, 12 Noon**

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1994 Chevy Suburban
2004 Saturn Vue
2001 Kawaski Vulcan
2000 Buick LeSabre

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suzi@lansingcitypulse.com

CityPULSE Contract rates available, all rates net. Classified ads also appear online at no extra charge. Deadline for classifieds is 5 p.m. Monday for the upcoming Wednesday's issue.

**PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATIONS
FY2021, 7/1/2021 – 6/30/22
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Lansing Planning Board will hold a public hearing to solicit public input on the proposed funding allocations for the City of Lansing's FY 2021 Annual Action Plan which covers the time period July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.

TO: ALL LANSING CITIZENS AND ORGANIZATIONS
FROM: LANSING PLANNING BOARD
SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATIONS
PLACE: Virtual - The meeting will be conducted remotely via Zoom Conferencing at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89886250631> or by dialing 312-626-6799 using meeting ID: 898 8625 0631.
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
DATE: Tuesday, February 2, 2021

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE CITIZENS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE AND COMMENT ON PROPOSED OBJECTIVES, GOALS AND PROJECTED USE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT, HOME AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAMS, TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CITY'S ANNUAL ACTION PLAN SUBMISSION FOR FY 2021 (7/1/2021-6/30/2022)

For additional information, please contact Doris M. Witherspoon, Senior Planner at doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov

PLEASE NOTE – Entitlement Grant Awards for FY 2021 (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022) have not been announced by HUD as of the date of this publication. Amounts proposed herein for FY 2021 CDBG, HOME and ESG activities are based on prior year entitlement awards. If the grant amounts HUD actually awards to the City of Lansing for CDBG, HOME and ESG are different from the amounts shown above, pro-rata adjustments will be made to the budget amounts proposed for each activity.

**PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATIONS
PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND USE OF FUNDS
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2021 (7/1/21 – 6/30/22)
CITY OF LANSING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES**

The primary objective of Lansing's Housing and Community Development Program is the development of a viable community which will provide standard housing in a suitable living environment, principally to benefit low and moderate income persons, preserve and expand existing businesses and industries, and create an atmosphere conducive to stability in neighborhoods.

- Provide standard housing in a suitable living environment through rehabilitation, new construction and improvement of the housing stock primarily in CDBG eligible neighborhoods and in specifically designated housing target areas.
- Provide housing counseling and assistance that will benefit low and moderate-income households.
- Promote home ownership for low and moderate-income households and promote deconcentration of poverty.
- Maintain at current levels the number of public and assisted housing units available to low and moderate-income households.
- Provide homeless prevention assistance, emergency shelter, street outreach and supportive human services for people with special needs, people who are homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless.
- Provide assistance for permanent supportive housing and human services for low and moderate income households with a history of chronic homelessness, including those with special needs.
- Promote economic opportunity for low and moderate-income individuals by facilitating economic development, providing employment opportunity, sponsoring job training, supporting business development, micro-enterprise lending and business or financial educational programs and initiatives.
- Promote economic development to provide jobs, business services and shopping opportunities for residents located in CDBG eligible areas.
- Provide community and neighborhood services, recreational opportunities and public facilities and promote neighborhood social cohesion to improve the quality of life in CDBG eligible neighborhoods.
- Increase security and safety in neighborhoods by supporting public safety and crime prevention initiatives, public educational programs and citizens' awareness in CDBG eligible areas.
- Improve the city's transportation, public facilities and infrastructure systems in CDBG eligible areas.
- Protect and improve the city's physical environment, including preventing or eliminating blight, removing lead or other safety hazards, preserving historic resources, mitigating flood hazards, promoting healthy housing and improving energy fitness in housing occupied by low and

moderate-income households.

m. Promote fair housing objectives.

n. Provide affordable housing and economic development that benefits low and moderate income people in the context of mixed use development along transit corridors.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

CDBG Single-family, Owner-Occupied Rehab Program/Public Improvements

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

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

Proposed funding amount: \$1,219,317

CDBG Rental Rehab Program

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

Proposed funding amount: \$75,000

Acquisition

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

Proposed funding amount: \$100,000

Public Services (limited to 15%)

Includes services for low- and moderate-income individuals such as: homeownership counseling, education, neighborhood counseling, youth and senior programs, neighborhood clean-ups, community gardens, home repair classes. Services are for low- and moderate-income individuals and/or those in CDBG-eligible areas located within the Lansing city limits.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 306,766 (15% of CDBG)

Economic Development

Loans, technical assistance and training to low- and moderate-income owners of and persons developing micro-enterprises within or planning to locate within the Lansing city limits. Technical assistance to individuals and for-profit businesses including workshops, technology assistance, and façade improvement loans/grants. Creation of jobs to benefit low and moderate-income city of Lansing residents.

Technical assistance to individuals and for-profit businesses including workshops, technology assistance, façade improvement loans/grants, market analysis, business promotion, referrals for the attraction of new business and expansion of existing business within CDBG-eligible areas of Lansing.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 50,000

CDBG General Administration (limited to 20%)

Includes staff and other costs associated with preparation of required Consolidated Planning documents, environmental clearances, fair housing activities and citizen participation activities associated with the delivery of CDBG, HOME and other state and federal programs. Includes planning and general administration costs associated with delivery of CDBG and other state and federal programs. Includes indirect administrative costs and building rent paid to the city.

Proposed funding amount: \$409,021

TOTAL CDBG, CDBG PI, and CDBG Previous Years Funds = \$2,160,104 (\$2,045,104 + \$75,000 PI + \$40,000 previous years funds)

HOME

Down Payment Assistance

Funds provided to homebuyers for down payment and closing costs for purchase of a single-family home located within the Lansing city limits. Up to \$40,000 will be available as a 0% interest second mortgage for homebuyers with income at or below 80% of median income. Assistance not limited to first-time homebuyers. May include staff time and/or homeownership

See next page

**CITY OF LANSING
SUMMARY OF
ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1271**

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing by adding a new Section 888.32 for the purposes of providing for an extension of a service charge in lieu of taxes for seventy-six (76) low income multi-family dwelling units in a project known as the Walter French Apartments, pursuant to the provisions of The State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, As Amended.

Effective date: February 10, 2021

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

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

CP#21-009

From previous page

counseling fees associated with this activity.

Proposed funding amount: \$200,000

New Construction/HOME Rehab/Development Program

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

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

Proposed funding amount: \$500,283

CHDO Set-aside (15% minimum required)

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

Proposed funding amount: \$ 112,775

Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Operating (limited to 5%)

Funds reserved at option of the City to provide operating funds to CHDO's utilizing the City's HOME funds to produce affordable housing in the community.

Proposed funding amount: \$37,592

HOME General Administration (limited to 10%)

Includes staff and general administration costs to deliver the HOME program.

Proposed funding amount: \$75,183

TOTAL HOME, Program Income, and HOME previous years available funds: \$925,833 (\$751,833 + \$124,000 Previous year+ \$50,000 PI)

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG)

Street Outreach

Street Outreach activities.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 5,294

Homeless Prevention

Homeless Prevention activities.

Proposed funding amount: \$61,758

Administrative Activities (limited to 7.5%)

Funds provided to offset the cost of administering emergency solutions program.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 12,351

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Funds will be provided for HMIS and comparable database costs.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 5,294

Shelter Operation

Funds provided to shelter providers to cover cost of maintenance, operations, insurance, utilities and furnishings in shelter facilities.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 91,755

TOTAL ESG: \$176,452

**SUMMARY
Forty –Seventh Year Community Development Resources**

Program	Annual Action Plan
CDBG Entitlement Grant:	\$2,045,104
CDBG Program Income (est.)	\$75,000
CDBG Previous Years Annual Funding	\$40,000
HOME Program Funds	\$751,833
HOME Previous Years Annual Funding	\$124,000
HOME Program Income (est.)	\$50,000
ESG Program Funds:	\$176,452
TOTAL	\$3,262,389

Administrative, management and operation costs for the above programs include the administration, management and operations of the eligible activities, as well as other federal and state community development programs in which the city is now or may be participating.

CP#21-007

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Schor looks for help with City Hall — and much more

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor is rebooting plans to relocate or reconstruct City Hall, including the possibility of moving forward without a lockup for the Police Department.

A broad “Request for Qualifications and Proposals” released by Schor’s office Thursday seeks to contract with a “development professional” to help with proposals to renovate, relocate or reconstruct City Hall — including a new plan for the courts, police facilities and the lockup.

“There are a number of large-scale projects that my team and I have been working on since I took office,” Schor said. “A new City Hall will better serve residents along with the relocation of courts, what to do with our detention center, a modern and efficient police station, a performing arts center and others are important infrastructure needs in Lansing.”



Schor

The City Hall building regularly siphons off a half-million dollars annually in maintenance costs alone, city officials told City Pulse. Former Mayor Virg Bernero launched plans in 2017 to offload the aging site into the hands of a developer and to relocate the city’s offices to another, more cost-efficient location elsewhere downtown. Those plans, so far, have only stalled under Schor.

In 2018, Schor tapped the brakes on a plan to have the building developed into a restaurant and hotel until he could find a concrete place to relocate, consolidate or eliminate the district court and police lockup that also share the downtown space with the city’s offices.

The biggest barrier: finances. “That plan did not address the courts and lockup. We looked and we couldn’t afford it,” Schor explained. “I’d love to get out of the lockup business. We know there’s a need for this, it’s just about pulling it all together and finding one entity, a master developer, that can help finance it.”

The request also seeks guidance on the relocation or reconstruction of the Lansing Center, which has struggled to stay profitable amid virus-related event cancellations, as well as the development of one or more hotels, a performing arts center and a new

“downtown arena district,” which Schor describes as a new “entertainment district” similar to the Stadium District.

The Lansing Center on Michigan Avenue could also be relocated or reconstructed under the city’s latest request for proposals.



Early plans (pictured above) from Chicago-based developer J. Paul Beitler had sought to transform Lansing’s City Hall into a large-scale, high-end hotel. Those plans fizzled when former Mayor Virg Bernero left office. And now, city officials are searching for different conceptual plans from other developers.

In recent months, calls to close that basement Police Department lockup altogether have resurfaced. Bernero and Councilman Brandon Betz, among many others, have called for the city to shut the facility down after an inmate, Anthony Hulon, was killed by officers there in April.

Schor previously suggested that inmates could be outsourced to Ingham County’s jail in Mason, but he recognizes that could also require more officers and carry additional transportation costs. In the meantime, the latest request for proposals is designed to bring new ideas to the table.

In November, Schor told City Pulse that he was “actively looking at options” — including a unified facility with Ingham County that could see the city’s lockup shut down entirely.

“Maybe we can bring it all together under one entity and one plan,” Schor explained.

The request also seeks guidance on the relocation or reconstruction of the Lansing Center, which has struggled to stay profitable amid virus-related event cancellations, as well as the development of one or more hotels, a performing arts center and a new

“downtown arena district,” which Schor describes as a new “entertainment district” similar to the Stadium District.

The Lansing Economic and Public Facilities Authority sought City Council permission this week to transfer funds from Groesbeck Golf Course to the Lansing Center, helping keep the convention center in the black. Schor’s requested proposals could see it relocated or renovated.

In 2018, Bob Trezise Jr., who runs LEAP — Lansing Economic Area Partnership — pointed to at least a half-dozen developers who were then considering plans for more downtown hotels “in a serious way.” Schor said the long list of development ideas could culminate into one, massive facility that houses all of them. Or, they could be totally separate.

“Is it one site or two? Three? We don’t know. We’ll see what proposals we get,” Schor added.

The request, which was approved by the Lansing Building Authority last week, seeks to contract with “developers who are interested in transforming key properties in the city” for up to four years, Schor said.

City officials will accept proposals

through 5 p.m. Feb. 15. According to the request, the selected developer will enter into a “professional services agreement” that could also provide advice and assistance with soliciting development proposals for the following projects:

- The functional and financial optimization of all or certain portions of LBA or city-owned public utility infrastructure, including sanitary and storm sewers, wastewater treatment facilities — including the “possible monetization” of those assets to benefit the city.
- Functional and financial optimization of all or part of the city and LBA’s public parking system, including the development and construction of new public or private parking structures and the “possible monetization” of such assets to benefit the city or the LBA.

Proposals should be prepared simply or economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of each concept. “Fancy bindings, colored displays and other promotional materials” will not be given preference over other submissions, according to the request for proposals.

The consulting contract will also be for at least one year, with the option for four separate one-year extensions. Expected costs were not listed in the request, but payments would be made monthly to the selected development professional based on the anticipated workload.

— KYLE KAMINSKI



ARTS & CULTURE ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Punk band Rent Strike revamps ‘Lord of the Rings’ concept album

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Three years ago, the Lansing folk punk band Rent Strike released “IX,” an ambitious conceptual album that drew heavy inspiration from “Lord of the Rings” to tell a tale of escaping addiction and reaching self-actualization. Rent Strike’s principal songwriter, John Warmb is returning to his band’s first full-length record for a special anniversary release, which will see the album pressed to vinyl for the first time.

“People have been asking about a potential pressing to vinyl for a while now, and only recently have we been able to justify the expense of an independent release,” Warmb said.

Vinyl has seen a massive comeback in recent years; industry reports note that total sales numbers from records are closing the gap on CDs for the first time in decades. While most people still consume music strictly digitally, Warmb said those that like physical copies appreciate the permanence of a vinyl LP.

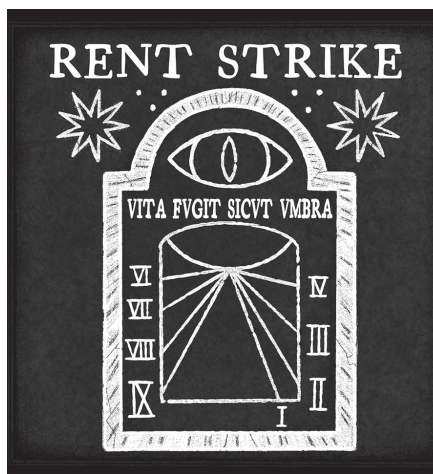
“I think there’s a growing number of people who really look for and treasure like something physical to connect to this inherently transient thing that is a song,” Warmb said.

While the “Lord of the Rings” influence gives the music on “IX” a sort of medieval tinge, the revamped artwork by illustrator Levi Coven further bolsters that feeling. The new lyric sheets and insert art give the vinyl release of “IX” an archaic look, as if it were a gothic tome recovered from the past.

“The redesign of the cover ended up striking this perfect, subtle balance of new and old elements,” Warmb said. “It expresses some themes in the record that maybe only someone who comes at the music from a listener’s perspective can provide.”

The works of J.R.R. Tolkien were not just an influence on Warmb’s music, but a heavy source of inspiration to help him abstain from using heroin. Warmb found parallels between his struggles with the drug and the deceptive power of the cursed ring. The vinyl pressing of “IX” coincides with the six-year anniversary of his abstinence.

“I’m never really sure what language to use when describing where I’m at with it. It feels better now, I guess, some days it doesn’t. Which is a theme of this record, right?” Warmb said. “I’m not sure I’d say I’m free from addiction, that will always be a part of me, that struggle is a part of



Courtesy Photo

Rent Strike is releasing “IX” on vinyl for the first time, with updated artwork. You can check the album out at rentstrike.bandcamp.com

this world.”

Warmb has become an advocate for harm reduction and spends much of his time working with the Lansing Syringe Access, a resource center for sterile drug use equipment.

“The work is something that comes a lot easier if drugs have been a part of your life, just in terms of technical experience, and a more personal understanding of the importance of having access to sterile supplies,” Warmb said.

While this ultimate edition of “IX” might represent closure for a large chapter of Warmb’s life, he looks to record a follow-up record, so long as the state of the world allows him to.

“I’m making plans again, fully aware that some cataclysm or failure to improve may happen and it may all be for nothing. As we all should, I guess it’s all we can ever do,” Warmb said.

Lansing computer programmer helps small restaurants get online

By SKYLER ASHLEY

It’s been reported again and again that the coronavirus pandemic has forced many small businesses into boosting their online presence. Lansing web developer Elias Ferreyra is somebody behind the scenes who has helped several local restaurants branch out.

Ferreyra was introduced to web coding as a teenager by his older brother and later got his associate’s degree in computer programming at Lansing Community College.

“I got obsessed with code when I was real young. I saw that you could

build literally anything. I consider websites fine art, any website I build is from scratch — I don’t use templates,” Ferreyra said.

He started his own web development and marketing company, Theoretical Tech, in 2017. With Theoretical Tech, Ferreyra builds websites and cultivates social media profiles for small businesses, some of which had no trace of an online presence before working with him.

Restaurants that Ferreyra has assisted include La Cocina Cubana, Italian Village Pizza, Perfect Chinese, Pablo’s Old Town Mexican Restaurant

and Mo Wings.

“When I started, a lot of these businesses didn’t even have a Facebook page. The first step was getting them online and getting them on Google, which a lot of them didn’t know they had to do,” Ferreyra said.

Ferreyra also assisted in connecting the restaurants with popular delivery services such as DoorDash, GrubHub and Uber Eats. And with the social media accounts and websites Ferreyra created, he is able to help the restaurants keep their customers informed of what services they offer as the coronavirus pan-

demic frequently creates changes to state guidelines.

“I really ramped up their digital advertising. Instead of having them run just one ad every week or so, I’ve had them doing it every day,” Ferreyra said.

Ferreyra said he is glad he is able to apply one of his trades in a way that helps out small local businesses through a historically difficult time.

“I love making businesses look beautiful. What I do is like practical art — it’s making art that has many benefits and can help people raise money,” Ferreyra said.

One of Lansing's best pot shops isn't even in Lansing

KYLE KAMINSKI

A medical cannabis retailer in Ionia is making key inroads on the Greater Lansing marijuana market with a massive array of flower, concentrates, vaporizer cartridges and more. And with free delivery, most Lansing residents needn't even leave the couch to replenish their stash.

Arcanna opened its doors as a dispensary for card-carrying medical cannabis patients in June.

The company operates only one retail location in Ionia but has plans to expand into the Lansing and Grand Rapids markets over the next several months. For now, local residents will



Arcanna Cannabis Provisioning Center

29 Beardsley Road, Ionia
(616) 755-6656
ArcannaUSA.com

either need to drive an hour west or place their orders for delivery, which is free for purchases over \$50 — and not exactly difficult with such an extensive selection of medicinal products.

On Monday, the online menu featured a stunning 55 varieties of flower, 35 different types of dabbable concentrates, dozens of different flavors of vaporizer cartridges and much more. I

picked up an eighth of flower and two of the many types of Stiiizy vaporizer cartridges in stock.

Michigan strains, exotic imports from California and Oregon and others lined the shelves.

Arcanna Co-founder Dean St. Peter is a former caregiver. Despite the wide product selection, he said the business revolves around quality over quantity — and really (really) potent medicine.

Deliveries to Grand Rapids and Lansing account for 25% of Arcanna's sales, St. Peter said. The company is also focused on a vertical integration model, meaning the company will eventually harvest and sell its own crops, as well as

process that harvest into concentrates and edibles.

For now, Arcanna is relying on a wide network of outside distributors to keep its inventory full.

"Our mindset is quality first. That's where a lot of other people fuck up," St. Peter added. "From a competitive pricing standpoint, we also need to keep our ear to the streets as well."

Arcanna operates 22,000 square feet of cultivation space, which can be viewed through a window attached to about 3,800 square feet of retail storefront on Beardsley Road in Ionia. State licenses allow the facility to produce up to 1,000 plants at any given time during the year.

Once its build-out is complete later this year, St. Peter said that capacity will climb to 12,500 plants and include a staff of up to 100 employees. The goal: Better weed than anyone else.

"We've got a longstanding relationship with cannabis, and that experience really helps," added cofounder Nick Nover, who had operated a string of hydroponic supply stores before Arcanna. "We truly do feel that allows us to create products that are the absolute best in their class."

Healing Organic Garden – Bully Kush

Price – \$50/3.5g

THC content – 20.5%

This indica-dominant hybrid bud from Healing Organic Garden is a product of the California-based brand SeedJunky Genetics — described by Arcanna as a "backcross" of the Triangle Mints strain. The dense buds were coated in trichomes with dark purple leaves and bright orange hairs. A funky, earthy and cheesy sort of smell permeated from the packaging.

And it was potent. The soothing effects of this Bully Kush crept on me over the course of an hour, eventually lifting me into a momentary state of bliss before I remembered that local authorities were expecting an armed insurrection at the Michigan State Capitol the next day.

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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Favorite Things

Mychal Shaw and his Sylvan fishing boat



Mychal Shaw likes to get his hands dirty. He has a lot of old school hobbies that see him spending time with his dogs roughing it outdoors. But above all else, his favorite past time is fishing, which is why his favorite thing is his 1994 Sylvan Pro Select fishing boat.

I got the boat in the spring of 2018; it's got a motor with 150 horsepower and two livewells. The reason I like it so much is I love to go and it's given me a great way to spend time with my dad. We didn't really have a whole lot that we did together before I got the boat. It has helped me bond with him.

We'll take the boat down to Detroit and float the Detroit River fishing for walleye. I also like to take it out to Thorn Apple Lake in Nashville and down the Grand River here in Lansing. I had to get used to the boat. I feel like the motor is actually kind of oversized, it gets kind of scary if you throttle it too hard. It was a bit of a learning curve for me. Now that I am more comfortable, it feels great. It's freeing, that would be the best way to say it.

I always wanted a fishing boat,

and a good friend at work was selling it for a fair price. I had been looking for one for basically my whole adult life. I've been fishing since I was only 10 years old, so I've been doing this for 20 years. When I was a kid, my dad would take me to an annual fishing contest down at the VFW Hall in Eaton Rapids. There were a couple of years where that was the only fishing we did, and then we slowly started fishing for carp and catfish more often. When I was a teenager, I would just go to downtown Eaton Rapids and fish in the river whenever I had spare time.

When I started fishing with my dad again, we hit our limit fishing for walleye within just a couple of hours. We caught a ton of them. For him, it was unheard of and I had never been walleye fishing before. That whole spring was a great experience and it was really memorable for me.

Interview edited and condensed by Skyler Ashley. If you have a suggestion for favorite things, please email Skyler@LansingCityPulse.com

New East Lansing gym offers intense workouts

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

Just in time for folks looking to get started on their New Year's resolutions, a brand new gym opened up in East Lansing. F45 Training offers a team-based exercise program to help its patrons burn fat and gain muscle, using workouts that take — you guessed it — only 45 minutes to complete.

"We're like a community that specializes in high-intensity workouts," said Becky Newcombe, studio manager of F45. "Our workouts are fast, fun and results-driven." While the East Lansing location just opened, F45 gyms have been around since 2011, steadily growing to over 500 F45 gyms in the United States alone and over 1,000 open



worldwide.

Like CrossFit and P90X before it, F45 is one workout craze that has spread like wildfire.

On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, F45 focuses on cardio. Tuesdays and Thursdays are dedicated to strength training. And on Saturdays, F45 holds hybrid classes with a DJ blasting music to get people motivated.

"The music is really loud. We've got these fired-up, intense workouts," said Newcombe. "If that's what you're looking for, then you're in the right place.

Anyone interested in trying out F45 can participate in a seven-day free trial to get a feel for the classes.

What makes F45 stand out among the plethora of already existing fitness programs? According to Newcombe, it's the technology.

F45 membership comes with an app that customers can use to track their progress and make daily meal plans.

"The technology allows our customers to feel like they're getting a full and effective workout," explained Newcombe.

F45 Training East Lansing

2650 E. Grand River Ave.,
East Lansing
Monday-Thursday,
6 a.m. to 10 a.m.,
5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Friday, 6 a.m. to 10 a.m.,
6 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon
f45training.com/eastlansing
(517) 366-1246



In her earlier days working as a fitness instructor, Newcombe had to write all her own workouts. It was hard work. "But F45 writes the workouts for me now," said Newcombe. "They have hundreds of exercises. The workouts are constantly changing."

Another unique aspect of F45: no mirrors and no microphones. Instead of utilizing a speaker system, the trainers move around the gym during workout sessions offering advice and motivation face-to-face. "It's personalized," said Newcombe. "You'll never go unnoticed in class. People love having the coaches there to motivate them."

To stay in line with COVID safety guidelines, F45 assigns each of its members an all-inclusive and socially distanced workout square. The square contains all the equipment needed for a workout, so no one has to share.

"Maybe it's a kettle ball, bar bells, bands, a jump rope. Everything you need is right there in your square," said Newcombe. "Plus, the squares allow people over 6 feet of space that they can work out in."

Masks are still required. But the F45 workout space in EL has an open garage door allowing for full ventilation. Customers are encouraged to walk outside if they need to take a mask break.

F45 also requires temperature checks upon entry.

Opening a gym during the pandemic wasn't easy. It took months of planning, offering virtual workouts or pop-up workouts in parking lots around town, and a soft open for friends and family only before finally opening to the public last weekend.

"But it was definitely worth it," said Newcombe. "It was a long journey, but it was worth it. People really seem to be enjoying their workouts."

Local playwright Doak Bloss has his 'Ducks' in a row

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

Doak Bloss is a local activist, academic author, YouTube host, playwright, director and actor. When asked what most playgoers might know him for, he said, “Probably for playing repressed bastards.”

Portraying roles like Sharkey in “The Seafarer,” the Father in “Proof” and George W. Bush in “Stuff Happens” certainly justify the label. Those who know Bloss are more likely to think of him as a creative fellow with a heart.

“Pass the Ducks: A Dance for Two People,” a play that Bloss wrote and acted in alongside Heath Sartorius,

“Pass the Ducks: A Dance for Two People”

Debuts Friday, Jan. 22, 5 p.m.
Search “Pass the Ducks
Premiere Performance” on
YouTube

premieres on YouTube Friday. Emily Clark directed it and Marcus Fields was

the assistant director.

The hour-long play deals with LGBTQ issues, loss and suicide —

three topics Bloss is familiar with.

He has a history of employment in intense workplaces. Bloss cofounded the Lansing AIDS Network in 1985. “I dreamed about AIDS nightly, usually panic dreams,” Bloss said. He thought about suicide frequently until a “very sensible therapist” talked him out of it.

In 1990, Kyle Euckert, a friend also active in local theater, died of complications from AIDS. “I still miss him,” Bloss said, “I imagine him watching my work and commenting on it.”

After serving as the associate director of the Michigan Network of Runaway and Youth Services from 1985 to 1990, Bloss became the social justice coordinator at the Ingham County Health Department Cedar Health Center. In 2015, he became the Coordinator at the Center For Health Equity Practice at the Michigan Health Institute.

“I had to retire from my job at MPHI in 2015 because of debilitating



Courtesy Photo

Doak Bloss and Heath Sartorius in “Pass the Ducks: A Dance for Two People.”

anxiety, which I have recovered from,” Bloss said. He is also a former alcoholic who has been sober for over 21 months.

Since 1980, when he made his theater debut at the Okemos Barn Theatre, Bloss was involved with plays and activism. In the '80s, Bloss joined the protests over the Holt rest stop stings. “They ruined the lives of many closeted gay men,” he said. Bloss also was instrumental in getting domestic partner benefits — first in Ingham County, and then in the State of Michigan.

Bloss began writing “Pass the Ducks” about 30 years ago. Jake, the father in the play who Bloss plays, and Will, the son’s friend who Sartorius plays, are both based loosely on people Bloss knew.

“The more I hacked into the words and the emotions flowing underneath,” Bloss said, “I realized that both characters also contained parts of me.”

“Pass the Ducks” is not another split-screen, video presentation. “We considered performing it on Zoom in the beginning, but we all hated the idea,” Bloss said. “Everyone’s tired of watching talking-head theater.”

Sartorius got involved after he saw an early draft a year ago and asked to play Will. Bloss said Sartorius has “an amazing native talent and boundless creative energy.”

Even though he was living in New York City, Sartorius was able to contribute to Zoom rehearsals that lasted

about three months last summer — some nights with a very sketchy connection.

To create a recording of an actual performance, Matt Ottinger, who also edited the tapes, and two student camera operators, Angela Voit and Cecil McIntire, first captured a rehearsal on Sept. 4. “Then we did the performance with no audience the next day,” Bloss said. “We started at noon and were done by about 4.”

Since Bloss doesn’t think playwrights should direct their own plays, Clark was recruited. “There is a creative tension that a good director provides to a writer,” he said. “I wanted Emily to challenge me on the clarity and truth of the lines.”

With some family help, Clark was able to secure the Molly Grove Chapel near Lansing’s Capitol for a performance space. “All of the theaters were shut down by law,” Bloss said. “It was hard to even get inside a theater to even look for set pieces and costumes.”

Bloss has been sheltering at his home in Lansing’s Groesbeck area with his husband, Gerardo. “We’ve been together 27 years,” he said, “We married in 2015 about 11 minutes after it was legal.”

“Right now, the whole reason to exist is to create as much work of value as I can,” Bloss said. “The pandemic is terrible but also a wonderful reminder that life is not a dress rehearsal.”

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Lansing's favorite storyteller and librarian has retired

By **BILL CASTANIER**

When Capital Area District Library's Jean Bolley first donned the Cat in the Hat costume for a children's story time, she didn't know it would become one of her favorite work outfits.

Bolley, who began working as a librarian for CADL in 1973, the same year she received a master's degree in library science from the University of Michigan, has retired.

In a phone conversation with Bolley, who was working on New Year's Eve, she said: "Maybe now I'll be able to catch up on 40 years of housework."

Bolley said she recalls her mother's taking her as a child to the original Lansing Library, the Carnegie on Shiawassee Street. It was there she began her fondness for children's books, which became her expertise for CADL.

"I don't know if I ever grew up," she said. "I always enjoyed children's books, and I loved turning children on to reading. It was all about finding the one book that they really liked. Once you found the right book, they became dedicated readers and we'd see them again," she said.

Over the years, she has seen a lot of changes in children's books. "The writers and illustrators are super talented. The books moved from black and white to bright comic-book visuals and the topics are much more serious."

"We've also seen a breakthrough in diversity. We're getting there, but are not all the way there yet," she said.

Over her career, Holley became known for her story hours. She often would include puppets, which would help bring the stories to life.

Bolley was also known for identifying, hiring and mentoring young librarians. Bolley hired many of the library system's current staff, said Trenton Smiley, CADL marketing director.

Bolley began working for CADL as an adult services librarian, then moved to a teen librarian and finished as a children's librarian. In 1998, she became the head librarian at CADL Foster. In 2006, she completed a master's degree with an emphasis on



Courtesy Photo

Librarian Jean Bolley on the set of CADL's digital storytelling program.

storytelling and became active locally and nationally in storytelling groups.

"I like to tell folktales, especially since kids don't know them anymore," she said. "I'm also interested in history, and one of the first stories I told was about the Bath school disaster."

She also likes to tell the story of what it was like to live in a lighthouse — told through the eyes of the spouse of a lighthouse keeper. The keeper was trapped for an entire winter with her children, alone, at the Passage Island Lighthouse, located in Lake Superior just off the coast of Isle Royale.

Bolley has advice for parents who

want to help their children become readers.

"Parents should start as early as they can. Children love the sound of your voice, and if you're driving use audio books," she said.

Bolley said now that she has left, she hopes someone else takes up the storytelling mantle.

"Kids get pulled into the story and the story takes over — even for a shy person like me," she said.

Bolley has some recommendations for parents from her years of reading: Jonathan Allen's "I'm Not Santa;" Bill Harley's "Dirty Joe the Pirate;"

"Make Way for Ducklings," by Robert McCloskey, and anything written by Patricia Polacco and local writer Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen

"The impact Jean has had throughout her career is immeasurable — both on CADL and the tens of thousands of children and families who were lucky enough to visit a library where she was working," Smiley said.

While working her last day, Bolley reflected on her career and the children she was honored to read to. "I will miss them," she said.

SCHULER BOOKS

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VIRTUAL EVENTS

Author Talks, Book Clubs, Storytimes · Attend an event without leaving home!

PEACEFUL LIKE A PANDA STORYTIME

January 20 · 11am

Kira Willey (author of *Breathe Like A Bear*) joins us for *Peaceful Like A Panda* storytime. Kids can learn techniques for managing their bodies, breath, and emotions anywhere, anytime.

LIFE AMONG THE TERRANAUTS

with Caitlin Horrocks
January 21 · 7pm

Following her "marvelous" (*Wall Street Journal*) first novel, local author Caitlin Horrocks returns with a much-anticipated collection of short stories.

WEEKLY STORYTIMES

for kids on Facebook LIVE
Saturdays · 11am

Jump into the pages of our favorite books! We will sing songs, make a craft and go on a new adventure.

A Night for Young Readers with
Local Author

SARAH BAUGHMAN
February 3 · 7pm

Calling young readers ages 10+! Local author and educator, Sarah Baughman is stopping by (virtually) to celebrate her newest book, *The Wild Path*.

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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Goodbye, Mr. Trebek"—a retrospective.

by Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Make like a cricket's legs
- 4 Talk like Cindy Brady
- 8 Georgia senator-elect Jon
- 14 H in Greek
- 15 Peruvian ancestor
- 16 Flat, geometrically
- 17 Canadian equivalent of "American Bandstand" hosted by Alex Trebek in 1963-64
- 19 ___-weensie
- 20 Biblical boats
- 21 1976 trivia show (not the Nickelodeon kids' show) hosted by Trebek
- 23 Bent down
- 25 Place to order a round
- 26 Kilmer of "MacGruber"
- 27 Aromatic compounds
- 29 Reykjavik's country
- 33 Aloe vera yield
- 34 Had some haggis
- 35 Some Spanish titles, for short
- 36 Dallas cager, informally
- 39 1981 game show (not the classic Atari game) hosted by Trebek
- 42 Armani competitor, briefly
- 43 "Tis a shame"
- 45 Part of TGIF
- 46 Meme response
- 48 Harden, in a way
- 50 "Battleship Potemkin" locale
- 54 "Star Wars" character Solo
- 55 Honey Graham ___ (cereal brand)
- 58 Go in
- 59 Canadian series hosted

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14			15				16					
17			18				19					
20				21			22					
23			24	25			26					
27				28			29	30			31	32
			33				34			35		
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59	60			61			62		63			
64						65		66				
67						68				69		
70						71				72		

- by Trebek from 1976-1980, featuring professional skaters alongside B-list celebs
- 63 "Aw, heck!"
- 64 Roll in mud
- 65 Emmy-winning game show hosted by Trebek starting in 1984
- 67 Genetic variant
- 68 Tennis player Kournikova
- 69 Abbr. on remotes
- 70 Prepped for serving
- 71 "It's for the ___"
- 72 Ethyl or methyl ending
- 6 2020 CGI movie that featured the origin story of a cartoon canine
- 7 ___ New Guinea
- 8 German car name
- 9 Something a vest lacks
- 10 Casual footwear
- 11 Not paid by the hour
- 12 Not rainy
- 13 Duty-___ shop
- 18 "Survivor" locales
- 22 Water filter brand
- 24 Golfing hazard
- 28 Smarten (up)
- 30 String quartet instrument
- 31 "Cherry Wine" rapper
- 32 High-speed internet initials
- 34 "Sing the Sorrow" band
- 36 ___ and cheese
- 37 Start for carte or king
- 38 Wagnerian opera setting
- 40 Test the fit of
- 41 Major vein
- 44 Blood-red
- 47 ___ hand (give help)
- 49 Shoe padding
- 51 "Feed a cold, ___ a fever"
- 52 Forward, as mail
- 53 Sock pattern
- 56 Burqini headpiece
- 57 Segment of a play
- 59 Trade
- 60 Like some tales
- 61 Due
- 62 Seemingly forever
- 66 Butter square

- Down**
- 1 New version of an old film
 - 2 Reversals on the road
 - 3 Vessel for thematic gifts
 - 4 Permit to drive (abbr.)
 - 5 How most TV is broadcast these days

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Answers Page 27

SUDOKU

Advanced

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

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 27

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsný

January 20-26, 2021

ARIES (March 21-April 19): On May 4, 2019, my Aries friend Leah woke up in a state of amazement. During the night, she felt she had miraculously become completely enlightened. Over the next 16 hours, she understood her life perfectly. Everything made sense to her. She was in love with every person and animal she knew. But by the next morning, the exalted serenity had faded, and she realized that her enlightenment had been temporary. She wasn't mad or sad, however. The experience shook her up so delightfully that she vowed to forevermore seek to recreate the condition she had enjoyed. Recently she told me that on virtually every day since May 4, 2019, she has spent at least a few minutes, and sometimes much longer, exulting in the same ecstatic peace that visited her back then. That's the Aries way: turning a surprise, spontaneous blessing into a permanent breakthrough. I trust you will do that soon.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): One morning, famous French army general Hubert Lyautey (1854-1934) instructed his gardener to spend the next day planting a row of saplings on his property. The gardener agreed, but advised Lyautey that this particular species of tree required 100 years to fully mature. "In that case," Lyautey said, "plant them now." I recommend that you, too, expedite your long-term plans, Taurus. Astrologically speaking, the time is ripe for you to take crisp action to fulfill your big dreams.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone asked poet E. E. Cummings what home was for him. He responded poetically, talking about his lover. Home was "the stars on the tip of your tongue, the flowers sprouting from your mouth, the roots entwined in the gaps between your fingers, the ocean echoing inside your ribcage." What about you, Gemini? If you were asked to give a description of what makes you feel glad to be alive and helps give you the strength to be yourself, what would you say? Now would be a good time to identify and honor the influences that inspire you to create your inner sense of home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "Be sweet to me, world," pleads Cancerian poet Stephen Dunn in one of his poems. In the coming weeks, I invite you to address the world in a similar way. And since I expect the world will be unusually receptive and responsive to your requests, I'll encourage you to add even more entreaties. For example, you could say, "Be revelatory and educational with me, world," or "Help me deepen my sense that life is meaningful, world," or "Feed my soul with experiences that will make me smarter and wilder and kinder, world." Can you think of other appeals and supplications you'd like to express to the world?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Throughout his many rough travels in the deserts of the Middle East, the Leo diplomat and army officer known as Lawrence of Arabia (1888-1935) didn't give up his love of reading. While riding on the backs of camels, he managed to study numerous tomes, including the works of ancient Greek writers Aeschylus and Aristophanes. I'd love to see you perform comparable balancing acts in the coming weeks, Leo. The astrological omens suggest you'll be skilled at coordinating seemingly uncoordinatable projects and tasks—and that you'll thrive by doing so. (PS: Your efforts may be more metaphorical and less literal than Lawrence's.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Sculptor Stefan Saal testifies that one of his central questions as a creator of art is to know when a piece is done. "When making a thing I need to decide when is it thoroughly made, when is it dare-we-say 'perfected.'" He has tried to become a master of knowing where and when to stop. I recommend this practice to you in the next two weeks, Virgo. You've been doing good work, and will continue to do good work, but it's crucial that you don't get overly fussy and fastidious as you refine and perhaps even finish your project.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You're entering the potentially most playful and frisky and whimsical phase of your astrological cycle. To honor and encourage a full invocation of gleeful fun, I offer you the following thoughts from Tumblr blogger Sparkledog. "I am so tired of being told that I am too old for the things I like. No cartoons. No toys. No fantasy animals. No bright colors. Are adults supposed to live monotonous, bleak lives? I can be an adult and still love childish things. I can be intelligent and educated and informed and I can love stuffed animals and unicorns. Please stop making me feel bad for loving the things that make me happy."

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "Nature cannot be ordered about, except by obeying her," wrote philosopher Francis Bacon (1561-1626). That paradoxical observation could prove to be highly useful for you in the coming weeks. Here are some other variants on the theme: Surrendering will lead to power. Expressing vulnerability will generate strength. A willingness to transform yourself will transform the world around you. The more you're willing to acknowledge that you have a lot to learn, the smarter you'll be.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In his book "The Lover's Dictionary," David Levithan advises lovers and would-be lovers to tell each other their very best stories. "Not the day's petty injustices," he writes. "Not the glimmer of a seven-eighths-forgotten moment from your past. Not something that somebody said to somebody, who then told it to you." No, to foster the vibrant health of a love relationship—or any close alliance for that matter—you should consistently exchange your deepest, richest tales. This is always true, of course, but it's especially true for you right now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): On October 18, 1867, the United States government completed its purchase of Alaska from Russia. How much did this 586,000-acre kingdom cost? Two cents per acre, which in today's money would be about 37 cents. It was a tremendous bargain! I propose that we regard this transaction as a metaphor for what's possible for you in 2021: the addition of a valuable resource at a reasonable price. (PS: American public opinion about the Alaskan purchase was mostly favorable back then, but a few influential newspapers described it as foolish. Don't let naysayers like them dissuade you from your smart action.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "My business is circumference," wrote poet Emily Dickinson in a letter to her mentor. What did she mean by that? "Circumference" was an important word for her. It appeared in 17 of her poems. Critic Rochelle Cecil writes that for Dickinson, circumference referred to a sense of boundlessness radiating out from a center—a place where "one feels completely free, where one can express anything and everything." According to critic Donna M. Campbell, circumference was Dickinson's metaphor for ecstasy. When she said, "My business is circumference," she meant that her calling was to be eternally in quest of awe and sublimity. I propose that you make good use of Dickinson's circumference in the coming weeks, Aquarius. It's time to get your mind and heart and soul thoroughly expanded and elevated.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Should I quote the wisdom of people who have engaged in behavior I consider unethical or immoral? Should I draw inspiration from teachers who at some times in their lives treated others badly? For instance, Pisces-born Ted Geisel, better known as beloved author Dr. Seuss, cheated on his wife while she was sick, ultimately leading to her suicide. Should I therefore banish him from my memory and never mention the good he did in the world? Or should I forgive him of his sins and continue to appreciate him? I don't have a fixed set of rules about how to decide questions like these. How about you? The coming weeks will be a good time to redefine your relationship with complicated people.

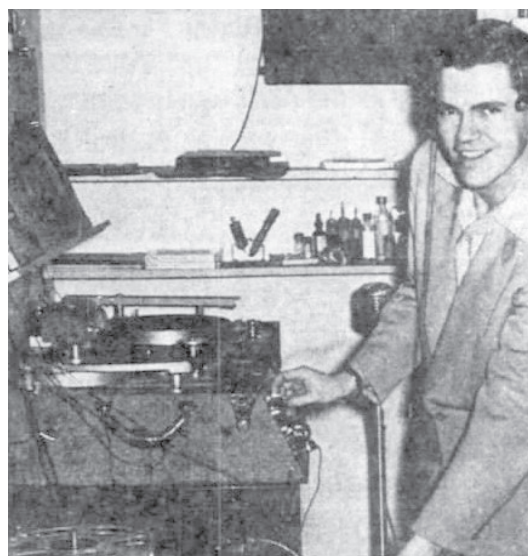
Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Brezsný's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.

TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

ECHOING BACK: A RETROSPECTIVE LOOK AT DON LEE'S RECORDING STUDIO



Don Lee Bloomquist was a musician, audio engineer and accordion teacher. (Courtesy photos)

1950s and '60s Lansing artists flocked to his local business

Luckily for local bands, the Lansing area has long been stacked with plenty of recording studio options. Today, there's GBP Studios, Troubador, Crack House, Platinum Keyz and Elm Street Recording, to only name a few.

However, back at the onset of rock 'n' roll and pop music, options were limited. One of the earliest known professional studios was the now-legendary Don Lee Studios. Led by musician/engineer Don Lee Bloomquist, the company had a few locations over the years — first at his home (130 Eureka St., Lansing), and then at 1328 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. In its time, countless area bands passed through its doors. Aside from The Plagues and The Ferraris, Lansing's first known rock 'n' roll record was produced there in 1959: The Blue Echoes' "Debbie"/"It's Witchcraft" single.

Born in Lansing on Dec. 11, 1930, the late Bloomquist started his venture into music when he was just 8 years old after his father gave him an accordion and insisted on him taking lessons. Coincidentally, that same year,

young Bloomquist received a toy electric train as a gift. "I ran it all over the house," Bloomquist said in a 1958 LSJ interview. "I took it apart to see what made it go. I wanted to 'make something go' ... That's when I began to get interested in electronics — though I never heard the word."

From there, Bloomquist went full-tilt boogie into not only performing, but the exploration and science of sound. "My sister, Mickey, and I had an act," he said in a 1975 interview. "She danced and played the violin. We appeared many times in public. When I was 14, I began teaching accordion students. When I was 18, I had my own music studio."

While becoming a local fixture in Mid-Michigan's music scene as an engineer, Bloomquist pursued not only his audiophile work at his studio, but also recording and performing. He spent time gigging with country musician Bill Sova, but all the while he was composing his own material.

In 1957, he scored a big regional hit with "ECHO, Echo, echo," an instrumental single on Blue-Chip

Records. The tripped-out accordion melody sold over 600,000 copies across the country. On the strength of that single, the following year he issued a full-length LP, "Crazy Rhythms." The jazzy-pop accordion album was released and distributed by Jubilee Records, an imprint launched by Atlantic Records cofounder Herb Abramson best known for pressing up doo-wop hits.

However, years later Bloomquist admitted he regretted not capitalizing more on the buzz his album earned after its initial release. "I should have taken advantage of some record company offers then, but I didn't," he said. Instead, Lee accepted a full-time job at WJIM and played in The Country House Trio with Earl Parchman, which did five television appearances each week. Throughout the '60s, he also consistently performed alongside Home "Lee" Talboys and Clayton "Peg Leg" Bates. The group, who performed as a house band for the Harlem Globetrotters, gigged at more than 600 games in 49 states. Though, by the late-'60s, his techy side took over when he accepted

a full-time job at IBM. From there, music became a hobby, not a career path.

Of course, many locals who came of age in the '50s and '60s recall Bloomquist most as a musical instructor. The "Don Lee Accordion Course," a 15-week program held at his studio, still pops up on Lansing history-focused Facebook groups. For many, it's a fond memory from Lansing's musical past. Beyond that, the stack of 45 rpm singles cut at his studio also serve as an auditory time capsule of our city's earliest foray into pop music.

On July 21, 2015, Don Lee Bloomquist passed away in Hendersonville, Tennessee. However, if you type "Don Lee Bloomquist" into YouTube, you'll easily find multiple (amazing) video performances of him playing his accordion not long before his death at age 84. It's inspiring to see how the love of music never fades.



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, January 20

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

Future Present Exhibition - MSU's Science Gallery Detroit debuts exhibition in E. Broad Art Lab, 565 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing, through April 11th. Info and reservations: detroit.sciencegallery.com.

Waxing Moon Ritual - experience embracing the energy of the New Moon. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Zoom link at weaversoftheweb.org.

Thursday, January 21

Felt Ball Coasters - 6-7 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. eradi.org

Lick the Sugar Habit - 6:30-7:30 p.m. Rassel-Daigneault Holistic Health Center, 537 N. Clippert, Lansing. Info: achiro.net

Myths & Legends - Join us on our YouTube Channel to explore myths, legends and fairy tales from many cultures. 11-11:30 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library. gladl.org

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

Studio (in)Conversation: Bruce Thayer - Join us on Instagram Live as Studio Educator Britta Urness visits the studio of artist Bruce Thayer. 8-9 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum. broadmuseum.msu.edu

Friday, January 22

Felt Ball Coasters - 6-7 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. eradi.org

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

Topic: Racial Healing - facilitated by The Learner's Group. 1-3 p.m. online. Info: lcc.edu

Virtual Preschool Family Storytime - 11-11:30 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, Go to gladl.org for link.

Virtual Trivia Challenge from KaHoot! - Download the Free App to your device and join us for fun trivia challenges! 4-11:45 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library. gladl.org to play.

Saturday, January 23

Architecture Science - 2 sessions: 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Curbside Pick-up Breakfast For Dinner - Quiche, cheesy potatoes, glazed ham & cinnamon delight. 4:30-6 p.m. Okemos Masonic Lodge, 2175 Hamilton Rd., Okemos.

Felt Ball Coasters - 6-7 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. eradi.org

Free Online Roast of Brokeback Mountain - Play drinking games with LGBTQ+ comedians as we make jokes over the movie! 9 p.m. frontrowfilmroast.com.

Mini L.A.B.S. Camps | Impression 5 Science Center - Mini L.A.B.S. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116.

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

Sunday, January 24

Felt Ball Coasters - 6-7 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. eradi.org

Monday, January 25

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

Winter Break: DIY Gifts - Spend the day making gifts! 10 a.m.-3 p.m. tinkrLAB, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos.

Tuesday, January 26

Book & Brew - Join Rhoda from the DeWitt District Library for a virtual book club. 6:30-7:30 p.m. dewittlibrary.org

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING

February 10, 2021 at 7:00 pm

THE MEETING WILL ONLY BE HELD ELECTRONICALLY FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Planning Commission of the City of East Lansing will hold a meeting and public hearing on February 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. This meeting will only be held electronically pursuant to the Open Meetings Act and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Epidemic Orders. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider a modified site plan application from FP Investors, for the property commonly known as Falcon Pointe to convert the vacant manufactured housing units in center phase of the development to 12 attached ranch units in 4 buildings. The subject property is located in the R-2, Medium Density Single-Family Residential district.

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

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

- Reason for Electronic Meeting.** The Planning Commission is holding the meeting by electronic means only because of the gathering restrictions, capacity limits, and social distancing requirements set forth in the MDHHS Epidemic Orders.
- Procedures.** The public may participate in the meeting and may make public comment electronically by video or telephone conference using the following information:

URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/81046329954?occurrence=1613001600000>

Webinar ID: 810 4632 9954
Call in Number: 312-626-6799
Toll Free Call in Number: 888 788 0099

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

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

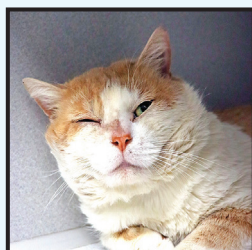
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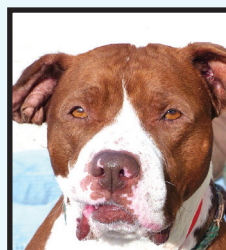


Dooley is big old tom cat looking for an easy going home. He's very sweet but reserved until he gets to know you. Would do better with older kids and easy going animals.

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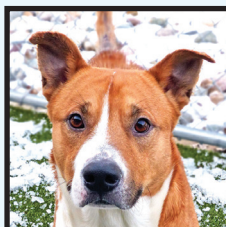
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Jingles is a very handsome boy with a dark chocolate coat and beautiful eyes. He would do best in a quiet adult home or one with older kids as younger ones stress him out.

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Corky is a big brown tabby guy who is doesn't mind other cats and is fine with kids. He's looking for his forever home where he can relax and get lots of love.

In memory of
Rodica's cats

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

The dark arts of winter mushroom gardens

By **ARI LeVAUX**

As the dark days of the year chase us indoors, we look for ways to stay connected to the earth. Seed catalogs, houseplants, frozen broccoli from last year's garden — all reminders that life goes on, and will come back around.

Let's add mushrooms to the list of wintertime ways to plug into the cycle of life. They can be grown anywhere, which is why small mushroom farms are sprouting up everywhere, like mushrooms after a rain, connected via a large subterranean brain.

At the farmers market a few months back, I bought mushrooms from a serious-looking grower with a stand full of differently shaped and colored shroom-age. They were displayed in baskets like floral arrangements, each type of mushroom with a different shape and color, including lion's mane, chestnut and several varieties of oyster. The mushroom grower was noticeably cleaner than the dirt farmers, and after I learned a bit more about mushroom farming, that made sense.

Mushrooms, the fruiting bodies of underground fungal mycelia, don't need light to grow, which makes them an obvious part of a well-rounded winter garden and also a bit more of a science project. Family farms, you could argue, are kind like a giant compost pile, where bacteria move freely from dirt to compost to crops. This is not an unsafe situation, as bacteria and fungus spores are everywhere, and we live with them — a truth that is especially obvious on the farm. But mushroom growers, while riding the same chaotic life-forces, must be vigilant against contamination, so the wrong spores don't take hold. While a farmer plants seeds in dirt that is essentially an extension of the compost pile, a mushroom grower inoculates substrate under aseptic conditions.

There is an important distinction, he shared, between commercial mushroom varieties like white button and portobello, which both belong to species *agaricus*, and the varieties that most small growers like himself prefer. *Agaricus* grows on compost, which could be made of a lot of different



things, including manure, which raises the question of where the manure was collected. If it's from the stable at track where the racehorses do their business, there could be antibiotics, steroids and other chemicals. Whether the nitrogen comes from manure or chemical urea, using compost adds uncertainty.

Our mushroom grower only works with mushrooms that grow on sawdust-based "woody substrates," which are dirt free, which explains why he looked cleaner than his dirt-farming neighbors.

As we paid, my son asked if the mushrooms could be eaten raw.

"I believe mushrooms should be cooked to do justice to their flavors and also to make their nutrients more accessible," said the grower. "Mushroom cells have rigid walls that keep the nutrients from being absorbed, but heat will break down these walls and release the nutrients."

If you want more of a raw feel to the mushrooms, he suggested, give them a light sauté in oil or butter with white wine or balsamic vinegar, and serve them on a salad, where you can still feel that raw freshness while also accessing all of the nutrients.

I was looking to serve my mushrooms with meat, so I wanted something lusterier. I ended up cooking them in butter, with minced onions and nutmeg, deglazing alternatively with dry sherry and chicken stock, and finishing with a squeeze of lemon and some drops of cream. I cooked them with sliced button mushrooms to bulk it up, like I always do with precious or semiprecious fungal fruiting bodies. You end up with more, and it won't dilute the flavor.

Last fall, he began selling mushroom growing kits at the indoor farmers market. The rough size and shape of a loaf of bread, these logs of compressed



Mushroom grow kits for sale at a market.

Courtesy

wood chips and mushroom mycelia are wrapped in plastic and ready to sprout when spritzed. They are fun and satisfying to grow, like any garden. You watch it develop and change, and you get so many mushrooms. We brainstormed for friends to give kits to as presents.

Wherever you are, locally grown mushrooms and grow kits are probably available at the local farmers market. So keep your eyes peeled. They will brighten your winter.

On the longest, darkest night of the year, we left grow kits on the doorsteps of friends. A few weeks later, a jar of mushroom pate showed up on our own doorstep, made by one friend who had successfully grown and harvested her own mushrooms from the kit. She said the recipe came to her in a dream, which seems fitting. These are, after all, the days of darkness. And these are the dark arts.

Peyla's Dream Pate

Smooth, thick and meaty without the

aid of cream cheese, this pate is lovely on toast or crackers. If you don't have a food processor and have to chop, you might not achieve pate status. In that case, call it a mushroom salad.

Makes about a cup
 ½ pound of oyster or chestnut mushrooms
 3 cloves of garlic, chopped coarsely
 ¼ cup olive oil
 ½ teaspoon each of salt and pepper
 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

1 teaspoon lemon zest
 ½ cup chopped green onions
 Toss the mushrooms in the olive oil, salt, pepper and garlic, and bake at 375 for 15 minutes. Let cool. Add the lemon and onion, and puree in a food processor or by chopping. The blender makes it too smooth.

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.

Flamin' Hot Cheetos Sushi Roll at Capital City Market

By SKYLER ASHLEY

There is a certain sector of the culinary world that is seemingly obsessed with combining Flamin' Hot Cheetos with nearly everything. If you're not aware of what I'm talking about, just picture your favorite dish and what it would be like if it was encrusted with spicy chee-

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to dust. These dishes often go viral on social media, with people clamoring to try out the latest Flamin' Hot Cheetos Frankenstein mashup.

Luckily for us folks in Lansing, we can actually try out one of these Flamin' Hot Cheetos monstrosities. Thanks to Capitol City Market's sushi vendor and the national chain Hissho Sushi, we have access to the Flamin' Hot Cheetos roll. The roll consists of spicy crab, avocado, cream cheese, cucumber, mayo and crushed Flamin' Hot Cheetos.

So is this gimmicky mess any good? To be honest, it kind of is. The Cheeto



dust is packed so finely into the rice that it doesn't really interfere with the already existing texture of the otherwise typical sushi roll. Adding the Flamin' Hot Cheetos really just kicks up the spice a bunch of extra notches.

As far as cheap sushi is concerned, Hissho Sushi does a pretty good job of being cost effective without tasting totally bland. If you're looking for a weird take on sushi rolls, this is worth checking out. If you like spicy food, you'll find this to be a tasty snack. If you hate spicy food, this is probably the most disgusting thing you could imagine.



Hissho Sushi's Flamin' Hot Cheetos Roll.

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