

CityPULSE

Locally owned

March 17 - 23, 2021

FREE

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A newspaper for the rest of us



Will the Don bless the Michigan GOP?

See page 13



sidebar

dine & tap
East Lansing



Community
 MENTAL HEALTH
 CLINTON • EATON • INGHAM
 Together we can.



JOIN US AT THE VIRTUAL Annual Community Event

Presenting the Community Mental Health Authority
2020 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Thursday, March 25, 2021 | 8:30 am - 11:30 am

FREE, VIRTUAL EVENT!

Everyone is welcome to attend this educational program presented by CMHA-CEI. Please [register](#) in advance.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

SHARI SIMMONS

Executive Director | Fire Mountain Treatment Center



As a clinician, author, and professor, Shari provides an unforgettable story of love and transformation that will resonate with anyone who wants to understand trauma and its impact on the brain.

Shari tells the heart wrenching account of an orphaned child who suffered brutality at the hands of her mother. In this story, the client's mind was closed to the horrors of her abuse, betrayal, and abandonment until the day her memories came flooding back to her conscious mind.

Her search for self-worth was filled with jarring darkness, desperation and hopelessness that almost took her life. Through this case study, Shari helps audiences transform their ideas about clients moving from passive victims to resilient warriors.

To learn more about Shari, visit her website: <http://www.thetraumaspeakers.com>
 To purchase her book, *Which Way?* directly from Amazon, [click here](#).

Click
 here to
 register!

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Program begins at 8:30 am
 Presentation of 2020 Report to the Community
 Distinguished Service Award
 Keynote Speaker: Shari Simmons

REGISTER TODAY!

There are 2 ways to register in advance:

Online: <http://bit.ly/CMHACEIAnnualEvent>

Email: cward@cmham.org

Program will be recorded.

Registered attendees will receive a link to the recording following the live event.

For more information, contact Christina Ward at (517) 237-3143 or cward@cmham.org.

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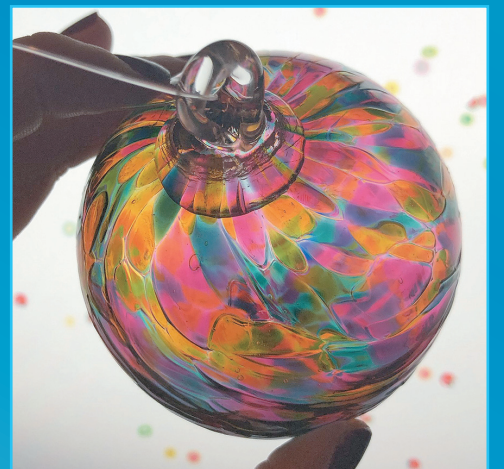
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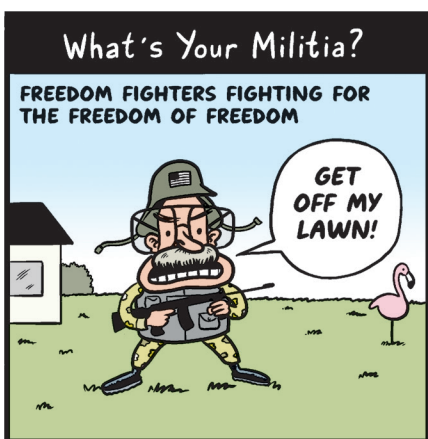


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Hand crafted gifts and gift sets





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Local schools make mascot changes



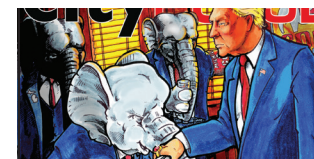
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Lansterdam in Review: Lemonati Farms wants to know your sign



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Flash in the Pan: Avocado toast



Cover Art

By Nevin Speerbrecher

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES: (517) 999-5061
or email citypulse@lansingcitypulse.com
CLASSIFIEDS: (517) 999-6704

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER • Berl Schwartz
publisher@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5061

MANAGING EDITOR • Kyle Kaminski
kyle@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6710

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR • Skyler Ashley
skyler@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5068

EVENTS EDITOR/OFFICE MANAGER • Suzi Smith
suzi@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6704

PRODUCTION • Abby Sumbler
production@lansingcitypulse.com
(517) 999-5066

MARKETING/DIGITAL DIRECTOR • Aimee West
aimee@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6708

STAFF WRITER • Lawrence Cosentino
lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5065

SALES EXECUTIVE
Lee Purdy • lee@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5064

SALES ASSISTANT
Earlisha Scott • earlisha@lansingcitypulse.com

Contributors: Andy Balaskovitz, Justin Bilicki, Sean Bradley, Capital News Service, Bill Castanier, Ryan Claytor, Mary C. Cusack, Tom Helma, Gabrielle Lawrence Johnson, Terry Link, Kyle Melinn, Mark Nixon, Dawn Parker, Dennis Preston, Carrie Sampson, Nevin Speerbrecher, Rich Tupica, Ute Von Der Heyden, David Winkelstern, Paul Wozniak

Delivery drivers: Dave Fisher, Gavin Smith, Jack Sova

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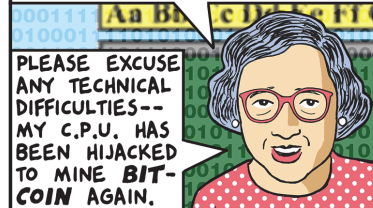
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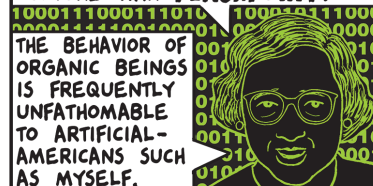
THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

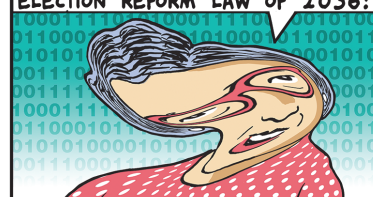
A.I. TEACHING INTERFACE ACTIVATED! GOOD MORNING, CHILDREN! IT'S TIME TO RESUME OUR STUDY OF THE PIVOTAL INFLECTION-POINT DECADE OF THE 2020'S!



AND THERE'S NO WAY TO KNOW HOW MANY VICTIMS OF THE TRUMP PANDEMIC MIGHT HAVE SURVIVED, IF REPUBLICANS HADN'T TURNED BASIC HEALTH MEASURES INTO A CULTURE WAR FLASHPOINT!



THIS IS WHY YOUR PARENTS MUST SURVIVE THE BRUTAL ELIMINATION GAMES BEFORE THEY ARE ALLOWED TO VOTE--AS MANDATED BY PRESIDENT TUCKER CARLSON'S ELECTION REFORM LAW OF 2036!



YOUR 21ST CENTURY ANCESTORS FACED A UNIQUE CHALLENGE-- THE REPUBLICAN PARTY WAS CONSUMED WITH CONSPIRATORIAL MADNESS AND ACTIVELY TRYING TO KILL THEM!



REPUBLICANS LARGELY RETAINED POWER THROUGH VOTER SUPPRESSION AND OBSTRUCTIONIST TACTICS! DEMOCRATS HAD A BRIEF WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THIS IN 2021--



THAT'S ALL THE BANDWIDTH WE'VE BEEN ALLOCATED FOR TODAY'S LESSON! REMEMBER TO MONITOR YOUR DOSIMETERS AND CHECK YOUR CARBON DIOXIDE SCRUBBERS--



FOR INSTANCE, REPUBLICANS REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE REALITY OF CLIMATE CHANGE--UNTIL HUMANITY WAS FORCED TO MOVE UNDERGROUND TO SURVIVE THE CONTINENTAL HELLSTORMS!



--BUT WERE UNABLE TO DO SO, DUE TO MODERATES IN THEIR OWN PARTY WHO REFUSED TO CONSIDER THE ELIMINATION OF AN ARCHAIC LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE KNOWN AS THE FILIBUSTER!



I'LL SEE YOU CHILDREN TOMORROW--AT LEAST, THOSE OF YOU WHO LIVE THAT LONG!



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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

‘New’ Virg — old tune

Former Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero maintains that he has fundamentally changed since he decided to leave office at the end of his third term in 2017. He’s running for mayor this year not as a perfect man, but as a “better man” — now with grandchildren and a much cooler temper.

And for a brief moment after he was accused last month by two women of sexual harassment, Bernero might have had Lansing fooled. Though he didn’t recall either incident, he seemed deeply apologetic about the potential that he could have done something wrong. He even went as far as to label the behavior as “unacceptable and wrong.” His words showed promise.

Three days later during an interview with Michael Patrick Shiels, the “better man” Bernero was seemingly back to the same old Virg, denying any wrongdoing whatsoever. Color us shocked.

Both women told their stories to City Pulse under the condition they be allowed to remain anonymous out of fear of retaliation — possibly from Bernero or his high-powered political allies. And Bernero’s conduct over the last several weeks has made it clear why that was necessary. Shiels asked Bernero during the interview if he knew the identity of one of the women. Our reporters later asked him whether he believed the women. Bernero replied: “Believe who?”

The former mayor’s flat denial of two credible allegations of sexual harassment is more than troubling. But playing a game of guess-the-accuser on the radio is simply beyond the pale. Bernero may have been better off staying forgetful and keeping his mouth closed. As history has shown, however, that may represent a truly impossible feat for Lansing’s “Angry Mayor.”

People can make up stories. But let’s also not ignore the reality that false accusations of this nature are incredibly rare. Data from the Office on Violence Against Women shows that only up to 8% of sexual assault allegations turn out to be false. In other words, men are more likely to be raped in America than to have falsified allegations of sexual harassment brought against them.

The takeaway: We need to believe survivors — particularly when they come with witnesses, as do these victims. And for Bernero, it’s past time to be



The CP Edit

Opinion

accountable.

Scrutiny of women who are sexually victimized is far from unfamiliar. Instead, we need to acknowledge the truth behind their experiences. Bernero — and his would-be voters — need to focus on validating their allegations rather brushing them off as politically motivated bad actors.

Don’t ask why these women waited until now to tell their stories. Ask what sorts of factors and power dynamics could have prevented them from blowing the whistle on a mayor or senator.

Survivors of sexual harassment and assault may feel understandably hesitant about coming forward with their experiences. They may be afraid of being painted as exaggerating storytellers or liars. They could be embarrassed. They could also fear retaliation from their alleged abuser.

And in Bernero’s case, none of them seem too shocking a theory. This is the same man known to berate his political enemies with derogatory names. We’ve heard “fatass” and “piece of shit.”

It’s the same man who called a tribal spokesperson “Chief Chicken Little” at a fundraiser in 2012.

It’s the same man who offered an unexplained \$160,000-plus payout in 2016 to a former city attorney Janine McIntyre. We still don’t know the details over why McIntyre’s attorney threatened a sexual harassment lawsuit days before that payout, or why it never came to fruition.

One of the women said Mayor Bernero “groped” her in downtown Lansing in 2010, running his hand up and down her thigh on Washington Avenue. Another woman claimed Bernero — who was then a state senator — had called her repeatedly from the floor in 2004 and complimented her legs.

The biggest problems for Bernero: He labels these women liars. He also baselessly claims that the allegations against him were orchestrated by Mayor Andy Schor. It’s “toxic politics,” Bernero said. In other words, it’s anything other than recognition that he could’ve made some mistakes.

Let’s be clear: These allegations are not an attempt to “cancel” Bernero’s campaign. This is about holding men accountable when they’ve been repeatedly accused of victimizing women in our community. It’s also a clear preview of how one of our mayoral candidates plans to tackle accountability issues if elected: Deny. Deny. Deny. And apparently just hope it all disappears.

It’s important to take a stand against sexual misconduct, not deny the experiences of those who claimed to have been victimized from it. A mayoral platform should instead focus on identifying inappropriate behaviors and adopting clear policies to eliminate them from the workplace. It should be about recognizing power dynamics and the lived experiences of the traumatized.

The mayor, in particular, has a responsibility to implement preventative training and provide the tools needed to recognize and report harassment. A mayor should be focused on empowering the voices of those who have been wronged, not minimizing their allegations and denying them.

For those reasons, we propose another response — a better response — that indicates a true willingness and capability to recognize, learn and grow from mistakes. And it’s one that we’re not so sure Bernero can muster after his appalling response exhibited over the last few weeks.

Send letters to the editor to letters@lansingcitypulse.com.

Please limit them to 250 words

Nettles' law license nearly reinstated; 'I have a future'

For Beverly Nettles, the 10-year ordeal of getting her law license

OPINION

reinstated is near-

ly over.

The former Ingham County Circuit judge was told Feb. 24 that the Michigan Attorney Discipline Board unanimously decided to grant her eligibility for reinstatement. As soon as she completes a couple of legal brush-up courses, she will be allowed to practice law again.

Theoretically, she's young enough (the state Constitution bans anyone 70 and older from the ballot) to run again for a judgeship ... but that's getting ahead of things.

For now, Nettles, formerly known as Beverly Nettles-Nickerson, is just



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

grateful to clear what seemed at times to be an insurmountable hurdle after being tossed off the bench and stripped of her law license.

"My hope is to be an inspiration to those who have had trials and tribulations," she said. "I hope my own journey to fulfillment will lead others to not be conformists or complacent or cowardly in dealing with difficult issues."

Say what you will about Nettles, she's certainly not any of the aforementioned three "Cs."

The African-American one-time jurist was before her time in calling out implicit bias in the workplace. There wasn't a name for it in 2006. Claims along those lines definitely weren't taken with the same level of seriousness as they are in 2021.

Back then, it was "show us the proof of racism." You don't have anything tangible? You lose.

Racial sensitive training wasn't exactly a widespread thing.

The State Court Administrative Office couldn't find anything to Nettles' claims that she was treated differently by the chief judge than her fellow judges. So, when she got caught stuck in the legal soup due to a messy divorce, she definitely didn't get the benefit of the doubt.

In 2008, the Michigan Supreme Court agreed with six of the Judicial Tenure Commission's counts against Nettles that she made false statements under oath about a divorce proceeding, fabricated evidence and was excessively absent.

The Attorney Discipline Board proceeded to suspend her ability to practice law in Michigan for nearly three years. They nailed her for one single charge of fabricating an email she attached to her JTC response.

The three years came and went.



Courtesy Beverly Nettles

Former Ingham County Judge Beverly Nettles has won a long battle to be reinstated to the bar.

See Nettles, Page 7

Dunbar: Reduce gun violence. Save money. Advance Peace.

By KATHIE DUNBAR
Opinion



(Kathie Dunbar is an at-large member of the Lansing City Council and executive director of the Southwest Lansing Community Development

Association. She's also running for another term in November.)

In last week's City Pulse article about Lansing's rising homicide rate, Lansing Mayor Andy Schor was quoted as saying, "I think we're doing all that we can." If that's the case, it's time to try something different. As the mayor prepares his next fiscal budget, I urge him to include funding for Advance Peace.

Lansing experienced the highest number of homicides in three decades last year, the majority of which were gun related. While that invariably leads some residents to demand more police action, law enforcement cannot address the systemic roots of gun violence or mitigate the intersecting factors of race, poverty and inequality. Programs like Advance Peace can, and do.

Founded by Lansing native DeVone Boggan, Advance Peace

works in multiple cities to reduce gun violence and promote community healing. It puts those most severely impacted by cyclical and retaliatory gun violence at the center of developing solutions that stop the cycle and support change.

Advance Peace employs formerly incarcerated individuals as Neighborhood Change Agents. Agents then act as "credible messengers," forming relationships with suspected firearm offenders and encouraging participation in a Peacemaker Fellowship. Fellows receive 18 months of mentoring, case management, educational and travel opportunities, life skills training, subsidized employment and trauma therapy.

Agents also conduct daily outreach, mediate street conflicts, interrupt imminent violence and respond to shootings. They provide referrals and navigation support, facilitating access to much needed social services. Fellows develop and work toward personal and professional life management action plans, while agents provide them with resources, incentives and encouragement to reach their goals.

Yes. The city has budgetary restraints and municipal costs continue to rise. One can easily argue that Lansing has no money to invest

in gun violence prevention at this time — until one realizes how much we already spend on gun violence.

In addition to lives lost and families torn apart, gun violence results in significant incidental costs to our city. These include crime scene response teams, emergency medical treatment, police investigations, fees for defense and prosecution, court administration, incarceration, lost tax revenue and victim support. That also doesn't even begin to calculate the added long-term cost to victims and families, such as lost wages, ongoing medical bills, long-term disability and mental health treatment.

People exposed to gun violence experience life-altering trauma, which can lead to post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, poor academic performance and delinquency for children, substance abuse, risky sexual behavior and retaliatory violence. Gun violence negatively impacts local economies by depressing home values, deterring commercial investment and slowing job creation.

Many studies also demonstrate the staggering cost of gun violence to cities across the country. The Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence estimates the average cost per city is close to \$1 million per gun-related homicide and \$435,000

per gun-related injury. Multiply that by the number of homicides and nonlethal shootings in Lansing last year and it becomes clear that we cannot afford the status quo.

The University of California, Berkeley recently evaluated the social and economic impacts of Advance Peace in the cities of Sacramento and Stockton, where targeted districts experienced an average 20% reduction in gun-related homicides and injuries. In some areas, the results were as high as 47%.

The benefit-cost ratio used to analyze the financial impact of Advance Peace is based on homicides and nonlethal injuries that were successfully circumvented. At a minimum, those ratios in Sacramento and Stockton were 18 to 1 and 47 to 1, respectively. That means every \$1 invested in Advance Peace saved these cities \$18 to \$47 in costs related to gun violence.

Knowing that economic distress exacerbates gun violence, we cannot wait for economic recovery before investing in programs like Advance Peace. There is no tomorrow for those killed by gun violence. The time to invest in gun violence prevention is now.

All adults eligible to receive vaccine in Michigan next month

Ingham Community Health Centers expands clinics to new patients

All Michigan residents ages 16 and up will be eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine beginning April 5, state officials announced this week. And beginning Monday, all those over the age of 50 will be made eligible to receive their shots. New state guidelines also make those 16 and up with disabilities or medical conditions eligible for a vaccine beginning next week.

More than 3 million doses have been administered statewide to date. And according to state officials, that puts Michigan on track to eventually vaccinate all residents ages 16 and older.

All residents are encouraged to register for appointments with multiple providers. Health care officials will still be encouraged to prioritize vaccines to patients with the highest risk, including older residents and essential workers. Vaccinations are currently underway for residents age 50 and older with medical conditions or disabilities and caregiver family members and guardians.

Outside of Michigan, President Joe Biden has issued a directive that all adults should be eligible to receive a vaccine by May 1. Despite the local jumpstart, state officials expect it may still take several weeks beyond April 5 for everyone who wants a vaccine to receive an appointment.

In related news...

Those eligible for a vaccine may now connect with the Ingham Community Health Centers to be vaccinated, regardless of whether they are established patients. Interested patients

should call one of three locations: Forest Community Health Center at 517-887-4302; Birch Community Health Center at 517-244-8030; or New Hope Community Health Center at 517-887-4400.

At least 47 cases of the B.1.1.7 COVID-19 variant, which originated in the United Kingdom, have been detected among “several school sports teams” at Grand Ledge Public Schools.

Those cases reportedly include at least 29 middle and high school students, coaches and staff, as well as their close contacts. Officials fear the spread could be more severe because the B.1.1.7 variant is reported to be much more contagious than other forms of the coronavirus.

The Lansing State Journal reports that a separate, unknown number of cases have also been tied to Okemos Public Schools students that recently increased their in-person learning hours.

A St. Patrick's Day order from East Lansing Mayor Aaron Stephens limits all outdoor gatherings to no more than 15 people and prohibits outdoor lines for entry into businesses, bars and restaurants from today through 2 a.m. Thursday. The idea: Temporarily limit the ability for St. Patrick's Day parties to spin out of control within the city.

“With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in mind, we want to be able to break up areas where there are large congregations of people,” Stephens



Stephens

or unintentional, but you have to recognize what you should have done and what you did wrong and go down that path of self-reflection.”

She said she realizes the email that sank her legal career was a mistake. Several other mistakes were made, as well.

After this many years, she's come to peace with her seemingly overly harsh punishment because she said she's had to.

“Carrying that burden of hate, it will make you old and bitter. I didn't want that,” Nettles said.

Nettles

from page 6

Her license wasn't reinstated. She tried again in 2015. Still no go. She fought the decisions all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. In 2017, they looked into her claims that she'd been wronged. She lost again.

“I did make mistakes,” Nettles conceded. “Mistakes happen. Intentional

CORONAVIRUS IN MICHIGAN BY THE NUMBERS...

WEEK 52

Michigan				Eaton County		
	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.
3/9/21	598,968	15,699	2,648,786	5,782	152	32,350
3/16/21	612,628	15,810	3,084,284	5,938	153	38,297
Weekly Change	↑2.3%	↑0.7%	↑16.4%	↑2.7%	↑0.7%	↑17.3%

Greater Lansing				Clinton Co.		
	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.
3/9/21	26,112	496	130,290	4,486	68	19,180
3/16/21	26,822	504	152,211	4,594	68	21,989
Weekly Change	↑2.7%	↑1.6%	↑16.8%	↑2.4%	↑0%	↑14.6%

Ingham County			
	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.
3/9/21	15,844	276	78,760
3/16/21	16,290	283	91,925
Weekly Change	↑2.8%	↑2.5%	↑16.7%

The “Vaccines” category refers to the total number of doses administered to patients that reported living within each jurisdiction, according to state data. Patients require two doses.

explained in a press release.

Masks are still required across much of East Lansing. Violations can result in fines of up to \$25.

Any licensed establishment that violates the statewide 11 p.m. curfew also risks suspension or revocation of its liquor and business licenses. State law also requires adherence to local law. Report violations to the East Lansing Police Department by calling 517-251-4220, option 2.

State and local leaders lauded the passage of the American Rescue Plan which is designed, in part, to make health coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace more affordable and accessible for Michiganders struggling with the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The \$1.9 trillion plan also provides \$5.9 billion for Michigan, of which the city of Lansing is expected to collect about \$50 million. Added Mayor Andy Schor: “These dollars are critical to be able to continue to provide Lansing residents with the City services that they expect.”

— KYLE KAMINSKI



She watched former Livingston County Judge Theresa Brennen get bounced off the bench for having an extramarital affair with the lead investigator on a murder trial that was before her court.

Did her conduct really rise to that same level, Nettles asked herself. She watched other judges convicted of actual crimes get a lighter banishment than she received.

When the frustration of this perceived injustice swelled in her heart, Nettles said she'd lean on the lyrics of a Donnie McClurkin gospel song

called “Stand” that goes like this:

“Tell me, how do you handle the guilt of your past? Tell me, how do you deal with the shame? And how can you smile while your heart has been broken and filed with pain? ... You just stand.”

“I tried to do that,” Nettles said. “I was not going to give up. I have a future.”

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

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS



By KYLE KAMINSKI



Old Sears hits redevelopment market

Bright orange “Now Available” signs popped up on the former Sears building near the Frandor Shopping Center. The Gillespie Group, which owns the 14-acre parcel, is exploring plans that could include a mix of entertainment, retail, residential and “experience-driven” activities. Owner Pat Gillespie told City Pulse: “We’ve probably had more than 25 different site plans drawn up. Nothing is hard and fast. It’s all a clean slate.” He hopes to begin redevelopment by next year.

Officers may dodge charges in jail death

The family of Anthony Hulon, who was choked to death last year in the Lansing Police Department lock-up beneath City Hall, said they have learned the officers involved won’t face criminal charges, reports the Lansing State Journal. Meanwhile, Attorney General Dana Nessel’s office would neither confirm or deny the reports, noting a release of their findings could be weeks away.



Hulon

Startups compete for free space

A contest announced by Lansing Mayor Andy Schor offers one entrepreneur a full-ride scholarship into the business world — including free rent for one year at a 3,000-square-foot downtown office and a package that includes free marketing, renovations, insurance and more. The idea: Strengthen the economy of Lansing, particularly as the pandemic lingers in 2021. Visit lansingbuilttolast.com for application requirements and details about the new contest.

Movie studio opens in south Lansing

Haptix Studio, which bills itself as the state’s largest motion capture and multimedia space, opened for rentals and for teachers to bring students on Wise Road in south Lansing. The studio offers an educational space for students as well as for curriculum planning for teachers. Private rentals are also available by appointment for audio and video capture and production. Email hello@haptixstudio.com or visit haptixstudio.com for more details about the studio.



New ‘neighborhood’ set for Dewitt

Redwood DeWitt is building 100 single-story apartments on Clarion Road. Residents are set to move in by May. Units range from 1,300 to 1,700 square feet. Monthly rent starts at \$1,674.

East Lansing Mother’s Day contest

Local residents can send in pictures of their mother or caregiver in downtown East Lansing along with a short narrative (30 words or less) about why that person is special to them for a chance to win gift cards for downtown East Lansing businesses. Submissions are due to the Downtown Development Authority by April 26 at cityofeastlansing.com/youarespecialtome.

Whitmer targets separation agreements

Following backlash over taxpayer-funded separation agreements, the governor signed an executive order that limits their continued use in government. The mandate prohibits contracts that require parties to deny the existence of those agreements and requires that any payouts use “reasonable judgement” and only be used to “mitigate financial risk for the state and protect taxpayer money.” Contracts also now require a formal attorney general review.



Whitmer

Nominations open for Crystal Awards

East Lansing is accepting nominations for people, businesses, nonprofits and other community groups that have made “outstanding contributions to community life” in the city. Submissions for this year’s awards are due by April 15. Visit cityofeastlansing.com/crystalawards for details.



Lansing flouts open records laws

The Lansing City Attorney’s Office has not been complying with Attorney General guidelines and the Freedom of Information Act when fulfilling recent public records requests, reports the Lansing State Journal. City officials — in disagreement with an AG opinion on the matter — have delayed the allowed response window under the FOIA from 15 days to 18 days. City officials have blamed extensions on shortened four-day staff work weeks amid the pandemic.

The snow is gone. Rake your leaves.

Capital Area Recycling and Trash will resume curbside yard waste collection in Lansing on April 19. In the meantime, a drop-off site will open on Saturdays at 601. E. South St.

Lansing home to state’s oldest woman

Irene Dunham, 113, who recently moved from Lansing to Dewitt, became the oldest woman in Michigan. She’s reportedly the sixth oldest person in the U.S. and the 22nd oldest in the world.



Dunham

Overtured murder charges lead to lawsuit

Herbert Alford, a man sentenced to 30 years in prison in 2016 for a murder in Lansing, is suing Hertz rental cars for failing to produce evidence that overturned his charges last year. ABC News reports Alford spent nearly five years behind bars, in part, because his attorneys were unable to obtain a receipt from Hertz that proved he was miles away from the murder scene.

New enrollment declines at MSU

Michigan State University had more than 2,200 fewer students for the spring semester, about a 4.5% decline from nearly 50,000 students that enrolled last fall, reports the Lansing State Journal. The decline was attributed, in part, to the COVID-19 pandemic which shifted most classes online for both semesters. Most in-person classes are set to resume this year.



GM halts assembly in Lansing

The Grand River Assembly plant is temporarily closed through the end of March due to a worldwide semiconductor shortage, reports the Lansing State Journal. The plant employs about 1,400 people and builds the Chevrolet Camaro and the Cadillac CT4 and CT5.

Bernero donors stand in defense of 'America's Horniest Mayor'

A full back-page advertisement in City Pulse can cost more than \$1,400. It's no cheap feat to label former Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero as "America's Horniest Mayor" — especially in text this large. So, who's bankrolling the first mudslinging attack ad of the mayoral campaign?

Michigan Deserves Better is. Lansing political consultant Joe DiSano, owner of DiSano Strategies, is behind the fund. And he expects more such ads to come.

"Nobody wants to go back to the years of Virg Bernero in Lansing," DiSano said. "We just got rid of Trump. This just isn't at all what this city needs right now."

Bernero, who is seeking an unprecedented fourth term, has announced he is taking on Andy Schor, the incumbent who replaced him in 2018 after Bernero sat out the election in 2017. Lansing City Councilwoman Patricia Spitzley has also announced, as have four lesser known candidates, Arielle Padilla, Jeffery Handley, Larry Hutchinson Jr., and Melissa Huber.

The ad responds to two accusations of sexual harassment leveled against Bernero two weeks ago. It also lists individuals and their business ties who donated to Bernero's fledgling reelection campaign before the allegations surfaced.

Michigan Deserves Better — not to be confused with the Super PAC with an identical name — is a tax-exempt social welfare organization registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(4) nonprofit. DiSano said he is president, guided by a board.

He refused to disclose funding amounts or name donors but noted that "no money is coming in from outside the area." DiSano also said the group has no ties to Schor or his reelection campaign.

The IRS doesn't require Michigan Deserves Better to release its financial activity. And while the group can promote "social welfare," as described in federal law, that does not allow for direct (or indirect) support or opposition to any candidate for public office. However, a 501(c)(4) organization may engage in "some" political activity, as long as that is not its "primary" activity.

"I was galvanized when I heard Virg was going back into politics. The moment I became completely angry was when he tried to play a game of guess-the-accuser in a radio interview with Michael Patrick Shiels. It was the most smug, misogynistic conversation," DiSano said.

Two women told City Pulse that Bernero sexually harassed them while

LOOK WHO'S BANKROLLING...

AMERICA'S HORNIEST MAYOR!

EXCLUSIVE: BERNERO FACES SEXUAL HARASSMENT ALLEGATIONS
Survivor: former three-term mayor 'still a danger to women' in 2021

Report: Former Lansing mayor faces sexual harassment allegations
Criticism mounts against Bernero over sexual harassment claims

Donor list includes: KRIS MICHALOFF, CEO AND LOBBYIST: \$1,000; ELIZABETH JONES, DYN STUDENT RENTALS: \$2,000; PAUL FRICK, P.F. CONSTRUCTION: \$1,000; JOSEPH MANZELLA II, DIRECTOR, QUICKEN LOANS: \$1,000; SAGAR SETH, CEO, HUBERIS: \$1,000; KEVIN SCOTT, FAST FOOD ENTREPRENEUR: \$1,000; JANE HOURANI, HOMEBAKER: \$1,000; WILLIAM DEMMER, CEO, DINNER & CO.: \$1,000; MICHAEL MARKS, CEO, E.T. MACKENZIE: \$1,000; EARDMENT MACKENZIE, CHAIRMAN, E.T. MACKENZIE: \$2,100; EDGER HARDEN, CEO, CAPITOL NATIONAL BANK: \$500; STEVE CALVERLEY, CEO, HARLEQUIN PROPERTY MGMT: \$1,000; VAN MARTIN, CEO, MARTIN COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES: \$1,000; BROTHIE MARTIN, OWNER, CLEMY CLEANING LLC: \$1,000; AMANDA SHANNON, UNEMPLOYED: \$1,000; PAUL BROWN, REALTOR, KELLER WILLIAMS: \$1,000.

(WATCH THIS SPACE IN JULY FOR A COMPLETE LIST)

A full-page ad that appears on the back page of today's City Pulse is part of a campaign to discredit former Mayor Bernero, who is seeking a return to City Hall.

in office. One said he "groped" her in downtown Lansing in 2010, when he was serving his second term as mayor. The other said Bernero made a series of unwanted and sexually charged phone calls to her in 2004, while was a state senator.

Bernero initially labeled the behavior as "unacceptable and wrong," while pointing out he did not recall either incident, and apologized to both women. But three days later, he flatly denied the survivors' stories during a radio interview. He also proffered a baseless conspiracy that Schor had somehow encouraged the two women to make up the stories and present them to City Pulse.

Bernero agreed last week to work with the executive director of the Firecracker Foundation — which deals with survivors of sexual trauma — as he continues to face public backlash from the accusations. Still, he continued to deny the accusations at a Black Lives Matter forum last week.

"I'm sorry for anybody that I've hurt, and I mean that sincerely. I'm sure that I've offended people with my words. I can't really apologize for something that I did not do. I believe in a culture of consequence — and not in a culture of cancellation," Bernero said, tripling down on his denial.

Among those listed in the recent attack ad are local and out-of-state business executives, Bernero's neighbors on Cambridge Drive, lobbyists and more. And so far, none of them are shying away from their continued support — even after the latest harassment allegations.

"My support is completely based

on what I know about Virg's past and what I've seen him do for this city," said Realtor Paul Brown, who donated \$2,100 as Bernero assembled his campaign last year. "Obviously, I don't condone any type of sexual harassment and I won't be making any future donations if the truth comes out and those are the actual facts. I'd never condone that."

He added: "I would've liked to have seen the current mayor a bit more active in the city. There were times when I thought Gov. Gretchen Whitmer was more of a mayor than Andy Schor. Virg has been active in our community and deserves a fair shot of responding to these claims."

Joe Manzella II, an executive at Quicken Loans, said he doesn't have any regrets about his \$1,000 donation to the Bernero campaign — even after his name was mentioned in DiSano's recent ad. He also said Bernero's willingness to apologize and "own" his mistakes make him redeemable.

"When we talked, he told me that he wants to get back and do some good things. He also said he was a different man than he was a few years ago, so I felt very comfortable with that idea that people can be redeemed through humility, saying sorry and truly meaning it," Manzella said.

Asked about Bernero's subsequent denial, Manzella responded: "Oh. Well, that's a bummer."

Others on the donor list were careful to separate themselves from their companies. Elizabeth Jones, for instance, said she's "essentially an accountant" for DTN Student Rentals. The company made a \$2,000 donation, but it's no reflection of her personal beliefs, she added.

Edgar Harden, the CEO of Capitol National Bank, said he donated \$500 to both Bernero and Schor's campaigns last year. He was also undecided whether he would keep them coming.

"They're still only allegations. I guess we'll wait and see what happens," Harden said.

Messages left with other corporate officials at DTN Student Rentals were not returned for this story. Other Bernero donors included on the advertised list — including Paul Frick, William Demmer, Sagar Seth, Kevin Scott, Jane Hourani, Michael Marks, Eardment Mackenzie, Steve Calverley and Van Martin — didn't return voicemails and emails from City Pulse this week. Bernero also didn't respond to a request for comment about advertisement.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED STATE AND FEDERAL APPLICATIONS FOR OPERATING, CAPITAL ASSISTANCE AND PUBLIC HEARING

All citizens are advised that CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY ("CATA") has prepared an application for State of Michigan ("State") financial assistance for fiscal year 2022 as required under Act 51 of the Public Acts of 1951, as amended, and for federal assistance as required under the federal transit laws, as amended, as follows:

State Operating Assistance	\$16,824,253
FTA/State Urban Capital Program (Section 5307)	\$ 8,658,341
State Specialized Services	\$ 46,828
FTA Rural Operating Assistance (Section 5311)	\$ 476,843
FTA/State Bus and Bus Facilities (Section 5339)	\$ 1,079,515
FTA/State Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality	\$ 342,162
FTA/State Enhanced Mobility (Section 5310)	\$ 484,370
TOTAL	\$27,912,312

Operating and capital funds listed above include both urban and rural funds. Capital projects to be funded include the purchase of large and small buses, paratransit vehicles for transporting customers and support vehicles; preventive maintenance, technology systems, planning, maintenance equipment, bus replacement parts, safety and security system, customer enhancements and facility improvements. This notice meets the Federal Transit Administration 5307 public notification requirement. The above program will be the final program, unless amended.

CATA ensures that the level and quality of transportation service is provided without regard to race, color or national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For more information regarding our Title VI obligations or to file a complaint, please contact our Deputy CEO at the address below.

The proposed application is on file at CATA, 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, and may be reviewed during a 30-day period (March 15, 2021 – April 14, 2021), Monday – Friday, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Written comments regarding the application and/or written requests for a public hearing to review the application must be received by 5 p.m. April 14, 2021. If a hearing is requested, notice of the scheduled date, time and location will be provided at least 10 days in advance.

Submittals should be sent to CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY, FY 2022 Grant Application, Attn: Grants Department, 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI 48910 or via email to marketing@cata.org

CP#21-049

Assessment to determine future of Moores Park Pool in Lansing

Fundraising efforts showcase lasting desire to repair city-owned pool

A fundraising group is inching closer toward its goal of raising \$30,000 amid efforts to reopen the city-owned Moores Park Pool, which was closed indefinitely in 2019.

Up next: Assessing the extent of repairs needed to safely bring the historic but decaying public pool up to snuff and finding ways to work alongside the city to help cover the costs of the work. City officials expect to release a report that includes more detailed cost estimates next week.

“This is really all geared at allowing us to start fleshing out an actionable strategy with tactics, roles, responsibilities and concrete goals,” said Veronica Gracia-Wing, chairwoman of the Friends of Moores Park Pool. “Over the next several weeks, we’ll be able to sit down, chat through strategies and figure out how we’re going to approach this.”

The Friends of Moores Park Pool includes neighbors, environmentalists and preservationists. Over the past several months, they’ve managed to secure thousands of dollars in both



Courtesy Historical Society of Greater Lansing

The historic Moores Park Pool was designed by former Lansing City Engineer Wesley Bintz.

private donations and grant funding to help cover the costs of assessing the disrepair of the iconic pool.

City officials closed the facility in fall 2019 and announced that it would need at least \$1.2 million in repairs before it could be safely reopened to the public. Leaks were costing about \$1,400 per week to keep it filled while chlorinated water spilled into the soil below. The pandemic — and budget

shortfalls — only knocked the pool lower on the city’s budgetary priority list. It stayed closed last summer and certainly won’t be refilled again in time for this summer, officials said.

Meanwhile, city officials have paid a firm about \$60,000 to assess the state of disrepair while the Friends of Moores Park Pool rallies the preservationist troops. Gracia-Wing said donations have flooded in from across the globe. The Moores Park Pool was designed by former Lansing City Engineer Wesley Bintz and also carries historical value beyond a simple neighborhood oasis.

The 1922 ellipsoidal fieldstone rock-ring structure is the oldest surviving Bintz Pool in the nation, and as such it carries a bit of a cult following among history buffs. Tucked into a hillside overlooking the Eckert Power Station, it’s also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Next week’s assessment report will help to lay the initial groundwork for cost estimates, determine whether the repairs are feasible, and help officials decide where the cash will come from, explained Parks Director Brett Kaschinske. It will also arrive just in time for budget season.

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor is set to submit his annual budget proposal to the City Council on Monday (March 22). It will be reviewed in April and finalized in May. Advocates like Gracia-Wing are keeping their fingers crossed that it could include financial support for the Moores Park Pool.

Kashinske said it’s too early to talk

specifics, but noted the city hasn’t set a hard cap on its share of any eventual repairs. Meetings between his staff and the Friends of Moores Park Pool will help chart out the next steps. Schor hasn’t responded to messages from City Pulse this week.

Gracia-Wing said that the \$60,000 assessment — funded by the city of Lansing — would have continued regardless of the group’s fundraising efforts. Still, whatever amount it ends up raising will be donated to the city as a gesture of community support aimed at keeping the pool operational.

“I know the community has felt really burned in the past,” Gracia-Wing added. “This was really a way to put some skin in the game at the first possible step of this and actually do something. Our donation is really just sort of a cherry on the cake so we can take a look at all of this.”

Of course, those who donated to the fundraising campaign run the “risk” of having no actual return on their investment, Gracia-Wing recognized. Schor’s administration could always decide to use the cash to cover the assessment and then decide against actually making the repairs.

Still, plenty of residents felt it was important to let their wallets illustrate their priorities. And the assessment was necessary before anyone could begin making plans for repairs, she said.

“The Friends of Moores Park Pool also feels strongly that our contributions can’t just be in dollars, but also needs to be in the form of helping develop a feasible, sustainable model for the future. That’s how we’re planning to start moving our work forward,” Gracia-Wing added.

Exactly how much of the group’s \$30,000 goal had been raised this week remains a secret, but Gracia-Wing has counted in over 300 individual donations from across the country, an anonymous donor match up to \$12,500 and another \$2,500 match from Preservation Lansing.

“This is only the beginning,” she said. “This is where the decision-making process starts.”

Visit mhpn.org/mpp to learn more about the Moores Park Pool or to make a donation.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1273

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to repeal and replace the existing Zoning Ordinance and Map, being Part 12, Title 6 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances in its entirety, except for Chapter 1300 – Marihuana Operations, with a Form Based Code and Zoning Map.

Effective date: May 1, 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/MiPMC
www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk
www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#21-050

CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1272

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing by amending Chapter 240, Sections 240.01, 240.02, 240.03 And 240.04, Of The Lansing Codified Ordinances to restructure the Grant Award process for Basic Human Services.

Effective date: Upon publication

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

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

CP#21-051

Here comes the neighborhood

Two long-empty buildings on West Ionia Street return to life

Last week, a man walked into the Hair United salon at 513 W. Ionia St., a quiet block where downtown Lansing eases into the shady Genesee neighborhood to the north. Owner Liz Winowiecki spritzed some water on the man's hair, a prelude to applying the scissors. "Chauncey used to call that 'sky juice,'" the customer told Winowiecki.

Chauncey Corser, a U.S. navy veteran and self-styled "tonsorial artist," ran his little shop there from 1929 until he retired in 1984. Walk-ins were so reliable that he didn't even have a phone. Between customers, he carved birds and animals out of wood.

Those days are gone — or are they?

After a \$1.4 million restoration, two modest but solid brick slabs in the Genesee neighborhood near downtown Lansing are back in play after sitting empty for decades.

The storefronts from 513 to 517 W. Ionia St. have the same elegant masonry, the same frosting of glass bricks above the doors and the same classic layout from the 1920s — four commercial units below, six apartments above.

Five of those apartments are already occupied with a mix of single parents, students, empty nesters, cats and dogs. Hair United is the first commercial tenant. A new brewpub, Salt's, will move into the two ground floor units to the west later this year, leaving only one commercial space empty — at least for now.

Three months after opening the salon, Winowiecki is getting much of her trade from people who live in the neighborhood, including the units upstairs, just as Chauncey Corser did. She bikes to work from her home a block away.

The salon has the same terrazzo floor, the same tin ceilings and even the same wood-framed mirrors it had in Corser's day.

"Those mirrors have been on those walls for 70 to 90 years," developer Scott Schmidt said. "When we tore paneling off that wall, there they were."

Schmidt lives nearby, too. His development company, Vesta Building, has rehabbed several spaces around Old Town and other parts of the city. Schmidt set out to do a neighborhood-based project, but even he



Courtesy Capital Area District Library

A 1940s photo of the storefronts from 513 to 517 W. Ionia, recently renovated by local developer Scott Schmidt, show a bakery, a hair salon and Bailey's grocery store.

was surprised at the response it has received.

"This was always a neighborhood center, from a grocery store to the flower shop," Schmidt said. "We've gotten away from that model, and now we're coming back."

Before he had a chance to put together a far-reaching marketing plan, Winowiecki spotted the salon space while walking by and jumped on it.

"It was totally serendipity," Winowiecki said. "I worked in salons before that were community focused, so I knew it would be cool to work in a neighborhood I live in." The same goes for Steve Kelly, the owner of Salt Brewing Co. who saw the space while visiting his girlfriend at nearby Fairview Apartments.

Many of Chancey Corser's customers were lobbyists and state workers who ambled over from their downtown offices. (U.S. Sen. Philip Hart stopped by once.) Half a century later, the pattern is repeating itself for Winowiecki.

"We've already seen a good share of lobbyists," she said. "One couple lives around the corner. Both work for the government, but for different parties, which I find fascinating."

Last week, Winowiecki got an email from a man whose grandmother, Frances Crays, briefly worked as a hairstylist in the building — around 1938.

"It's pretty cool you are doing the same thing all this time later," the man wrote.

The older of the two buildings, 515-517, was built in 1923, though parts were built earlier. Grocer Orla Bailey established a store there in 1922, building around an older structure that hasn't been dated for certain. Schmidt thinks parts of the building go back to 1904. Bailey built the second structure, to the east, in 1925 as the grocery grew.

There is still a conspicuous I-beam



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Stylists Liz Winowiecki and Ayanda Mdebe enjoy the original terrazzo flooring, tin roof and wood-framed mirrors of Chauncey Corser's long-lived barber shop at 513 W. Ionia.

connecting the two buildings. Schmidt speculated that it was used with a pulley to lift inventory to the top floor. In good weather, the little courtyard between the buildings will host brewpub diners, Schmidt said.

The barbershop at 513 W. Ionia was vacant from Corser's retirement in 1984 until this year. He died in 1998. Meanwhile, several pharmacies moved in and out of 517 W. Ionia, followed by a Westinghouse warehouse, Marcelino's Pizza Shop (in the early 1980s) and a printing shop. When Bailey's Grocery closed in 1959, another grocer had a brief run in the space but soon closed as supermarkets took over the trade. The last tenant there, Rosary Book and Gift Shoppe, moved out in 2002.

As they settle in, Winowiecki and fellow stylist Ayanda Mdebe are adding wrinkles that crusty Chauncey Corser never thought of. In the bathroom are portraits of Amy Winehouse, Frida Kahlo and Prince, part of a series of "hair icons" painted by local Mexican artist Ana Holguin, who is also a client.

Winowiecki grew up in Lansing, went to nearby Willow Elementary and fondly recalls chasing after the "cool kids" — including her brother — at Eastern High School. After college in Ann Arbor and a stint in New York City, she came back to settle in for good.

She expects that blocks of new apartments going up both nearby and across much of downtown Lansing — both new and renovated — will help build her business to grow.

"I could see this being a niche neighborhood of Lansing that will develop its own flavor," she said.

Winowiecki loves that Schmidt put solar panels on the roof. (It's hard to

imagine Corser getting excited about solar panels. He didn't even use a blow dryer.)

In back of the two buildings, a former parking lot is filled with about 20 raised garden beds, tended by master gardeners and other members of nearby Lansing First Presbyterian Church. The food raised will be shared with the Greater Lansing Food Bank.

The only tenant in the two buildings that many Lansing residents might remember is Belen's Flowers, which occupied 515 W. Ionia from 1969 to 2010. Proprietor Lucile Belen was a pillar of the city — a business leader, philanthropist, entrepreneur and member of the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. She served on the Lansing City Council for 37 years, from 1955 to 1992 and died on June 2, 2010, at age 97.

As the last business standing, the flower shop hung on for a long time without doing much in the way of upkeep, Schmidt said. He described the work as a "complete gut rehab, down to the wall structure." To restore a collapsed roof and ruined floor in the back unit, Schmidt's team tore out the floor and dropped it two feet, providing a taller ceiling. They replaced it with salvaged wood from a house demolished by the land bank.

As the project drew closer to completion, Schmidt also worked on and off with Dave Muylle, longtime restorer of homes on Lansing's east side. It was Muylle who persuaded Schmidt to roll his sleeves up and restore, instead of replace, the apartment windows.

"I find inspiration from Dave," Schmidt said. "You build it, you believe in the community and things blossom from there."

— LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Okemos Public Schools considers dropping 'Chieftain' mascot

Students call for end to 'relentless mockery' of Indigenous identities

Okemos Public Schools could be in search of a new mascot after district officials decide whether to drop its longstanding "Chieftain" name, the last remnant of a sports brand that once included images of a Native American head, among other cultural references. A decision is anticipated in May.

For some students, alumni and board members, the change can't come quickly enough.

"For a school district that talks about a commitment to equity, it is long overdue," said school board member Vin Lyon-Callo. "If the professional associations all suggest that such nicknames cause harm, why would we as a school district wish to continue to cause harm if we don't need to do so? Wouldn't it be better to produce less trauma in the world if we can so easily avoid it?"

The district's board voted to remove arrowheads and all other images of Native Americans from its murals, logos and sports memorabilia in 2011 after local residents — and advocacy groups nationwide — began to call for an end to culturally misappropriated mascots.

As what many have been described as a middle ground amid a divisive issue at the time, district officials then opted to leave the "Chiefs" and "Chieftains" namesake in place while replacing the Native American imagery with a large white "O." The old logos have since been phased out.

And as more sports teams and school districts deviate from Indian nicknames, including offensive terms like "Redskins," a growing voice in Okemos is calling for more changes.

"This naturally came up again in terms of looking at what we do through an equity lens," explained Superintendent John Hood. "It's not really a shock to us that this came up, It aligns with the national temperature on racial justice and equity. Over the last summer, that really ramped up everywhere — including on this issue in Okemos. It became important to revisit this."

Many holdouts have since defended Indian names on the basis of maintaining local traditions or recognizing regional history. Others, like the Central Michigan University Chippewas, retain Native American identities with the endorsement of local Indian tribes.

More frequently, however, school dis-



tricts and sports teams are changing names altogether.

The Detroit Free Press identified last year at least 44 schools with nicknames, mascots or logos that made reference to Native Americans, including four that still used the term "Redskins." Its listing also tracked dozens of schools and teams that had removed questionable nicknames since 1990, including the shift from "Hurons" to "Eagles" at Eastern Michigan University.

The only two that remain in Greater Lansing are the Okemos Chieftains and the "Big Reds" at J.W. Sexton High School — another reference that included an Indian head before last year.

Since then, the tribe has literally spoken. A joint resolution from 12 tribes of the United Tribes of Michigan called for an end to Native American nicknames and mascots in 2017. The Michigan Department of Civil Rights also called for their continued use to be federally prohibited in 2013.

"A growing and unrebuted body of evidence now establishes that the use of American Indian imagery reinforces stereotypes in a way that negatively impacts the potential for achievement by students with American Indian ancestry," according to data from the Department of Civil Rights.

Several dozen Okemos students and alumni also penned a letter to Okemos' school board last summer, calling to end "decades of relentless mockery, bastardization and cultural appropriation of Indigenous identities," among other issues involving racial inequities.

In response, Hood called together a community advisory committee of teachers, students, alumni and other groups to explore whether additional changes were necessary. Hood expects that committee to craft a formal recommendation for a board vote on the issue in early May.

"It's important to ask whether our current actions create, ignore or worsen existing disparities or produce unintended outcomes with historically marginalized populations," Hood said. "We also knew this was going to be a very emotional issue to maintain the name or



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Logos depicting an Indian head that were reportedly phased out by the Lansing School District last year were still visible from windows at J.W. Sexton High School last week.

change it. It was also important for the board to make these decisions alongside the community and work together."

Lynn-Callo said he pushed for a vote last September, contending it "was an easy step and that we could then move to working on transforming more challenging inequities within the district."

Other board members, however, seemed more comfortable with a six-month review process. Hood also warned the board not to lose sight of the "positive historic parts" of the name-sake.

"Nobody was hesitant or against starting the renaming process, but I think it was really important to make sure the community understands and is involved in the process," said School Board President Dean Bolton. "I would say that we're all very willing to address this issue."

Okemos was settled in 1833 by a white man named Sanford Marsh. The name was formally adopted in 1859 when it changed from Hamilton to Okemos, a tribute to John Okemos, a chief of the Saginaw Chippewa in the Ojibwa nation who frequently traded business with white settlers in Hamilton and died in 1858, according to research from Michigan State University.

Among the problems: More than half of the student population in Okemos is white. The district also has such a small number of American Indian students this year that it doesn't even register as a single percentage point in data tracked by the Michigan Department of Education.

The board must now ask itself: Is the mascot truly serving its purpose as a cultural tribute?

"I know that it does mean a lot to some people. It has to do with heritage," Bolton said. "I'm not one of those people, but I'd like to have a better sense of how the community feels about this."

To facilitate that community input process, Hood scheduled two town hall meetings from 7-8:30 p.m. April 14 and 15. More details will be announced at okemos12.net this month.

School Board Member Jayme Taylor said she will "carefully consider" the issue after Hood's recommendation next month but otherwise declined to answer questions. Other board members — Andrew Phelps, Melanie Lynn, Mary Gebara and Katie Cavanagh — didn't return emails.

If it comes to a vote, four of the seven members of the board would need to support the change.

The Native American Heritage Fund also routinely doles out grant funding to districts that require new uniforms, signs or other changes after dropping their offensive monikers. Last year, that included more than \$215,000 to transition from the Redskins to Red Wolves in Paw Paw.

What about the 'Big Reds' in Lansing?

Without a formal announcement or much fanfare, the Lansing School District quietly phased out American Indian imagery at J.W. Sexton High School last January, swapping out an image of a Native American head for a large block-letter "S." A district spokesman said the "Big Reds" mascot is a "tribute to history" rather than as an abbreviation for "Redskins."

Board of Education President Gabrielle Lawrence — the only board member to respond to City Pulse this week — said that all other images have since been phased out, noting the district "remains dedicated to evolving and celebrating the incredibly diverse population that we serve."

"Unfortunately, there isn't much we can do to scrub old images from the internet," she added.

A large sign still posted near the entrance to the high school features an arrowhead design. Two large Indian head banners were also visible from the back windows of the building last week. Lawrence didn't respond to additional questions, including on whether she or the board of education has any interest in dropping the "Big Reds" name altogether. The topic doesn't appear to have surfaced at any board meetings in at least the last year, records showed.

— KYLE KAMINSKI



EIGHTHS STARTING AT \$15
FREE DELIVERY
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Why the GOP is still kissing Trump's ring

By KYLE MELINN

Meshawn Maddock was beaming. She said she was in God's Country in the Upper Peninsula. It's her opinion, of course, but she's certainly acting as if she's in heaven.

Gliding from table to table, the cochairwoman of Michigan Republican Party checked in on the attendees of last Thursday's Dickinson County GOP event like the hostess of a small wedding reception.

If they weren't having a good time, they didn't tell Maddock that. Sharing a laugh. Sipping "Old Fashioneds." Nobody wearing a mask. Only six were seated per table. They seemed spread out more than what's typical. Otherwise, everything looked back to pre-pandemic normal.

For the Republicans here, "normal" is wanted so badly they're just doing it. Revealing in the COVID-be-damned attitude is Maddock and three MRP officials she drove up with, two of whom formed Michigan Trump Republicans with her back in the day.

There's Marian Sheridan, now the MRP Grassroots vice chairwoman. She's the leader of the Michigan Conservative Coalition.

She helped bring downtown Lansing "Operation Gridlock" that self-created traffic jam last April and the outdoor hair cut-be-damned event at the Capitol grounds in May. That's the one that lionized Owosso barber Karl Manke and had six hairstylists criminally charged with misdemeanors. Those were dropped last month when the AG didn't show up to court.

There's also Newaygo County GOP Chairwoman Diane Schindlbeck. Last month she ran against the incumbent state GOP cochairperson, who had spoken out against Maddock's cohort — now-MRP chair candidate Ron Weiser — in the \$200,000 payoff flap. She did not. She won on the first ballot.

Any questions about the Republican Party's future — particularly in Michigan — can start to be answered here, in this rural venue.

The stock for all three party officials soared because they volunteered for former President Donald Trump back in the day. At an indoor venue that's unfathomable to most people reading this report, the crew slammed Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

Today's it's her "hush money" payments to outgoing department heads. Before that, it was her administration's move to allow



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

MRP Grassroots vice chairwoman Marian Sheridan helped coordinate last year's "Operation Gridlock" at the State Capitol in Lansing.

recovering COVID-19 patients in nursing homes. Based on what Maddock posted in her Facebook live video the get-together was a success.

"Let's not let it stop," Maddock said. "Let's keep getting together again."

In Michigan, at this point in time, the GOP is still the party of Trump. His large sign hangs at this venue to the left of the podium. The American flag is posted to the right.

"Donald Trump has a solid grip on the Republican Party," said state Rep. Matt Hall R-Marshall, the Michigan House Republicans caucus chairman. "That's because he fights, and people are looking for people who are going to fight

for our values."

For the people in the room and for Republicans, et al., it's not about the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol riots. They ask, "What about the 99% of pro-Trump supporters who didn't destroy property?"

It's not about camouflaged Michigan militia marching around the state Capitol grounds with AR-15s flung around their shoulders. "We're not violent. We just want our voice to be heard," says congressional candidate Mike Detmer.

Stains of violence — or perceived displays of potential violent activities like the alleged Whitmer kidnapping plot — are ignored by party followers or quickly dismissed as deplorable acts instigated by unhinged.

"Seeing our Capitol desecrated was dispiriting and sad," said political consultant Jamie Roe. "It was the product of some misguided individuals who did something that was an anathema to the Republican Party."

The Democratic Party's framing of the GOP as gun-toting conspiracy-theory fanatics led by a democracy-threatening megalomania



Maddock



Hall

GOP

from page 13

maniac is nothing but fanatical, leftist liberal spin to those who still proudly fly the “Make America Great” flag.

They view themselves as the true Americans. In their hearts, Trump won the election, even if hard evidence says otherwise. They’re crawling through the final stages of grief, slowly approaching “acceptance.”

Watching Trump speak at the Conservative Political Action Conference got them a little closer. It at least galvanized the national issues they’ll focus on for now.

To them, it’s about border security. Limited government. Individual freedoms. Free and fair trade. Stopping endless wars. Government restrictions. Fully opening up businesses. Transgender women participating in high school sports.

This is what is stoking the passionate fires of Republican activists and to hear it from the people on the ground, there’s still lots of it.

“I’ve been around a long time, I mean I was a college Republican in 1988, so I’ve seen a lot of these election cycles, and I would say that this is the most energized,” said political consultant Scott Greenlee.

Getting kicked off Facebook or social media isn’t stopping their interest. To them, that’s “cancel culture” trying to muzzle their voices. The coastal elites don’t want them heard.

Unfavorable news coverage gets ignored. Many stopped reading the “fake news” long ago at a time in history in which people digest news with the slant they’re looking for.



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse

A man receives a haircut during a protest in May 2020. Police officers were not distributing tickets.

The life they’re living right now is restricted by a Democratic governor they feel used a partisan hammer to pound down overly harsh mandates to control an unseen virus that knows no laws. The virus wasn’t stopped by closing restaurants or curtailing weddings, funerals and family reunions.

To those who live in far-flung areas like Dickinson County or spacious suburbs where social distancing was a personal choice long before it became part of America’s vernacular, closing small garden shops when you could buy the same seeds at Home Depot made no sense.

Allowing canoes but not motor boats because one involved purchasing gasoline and other didn’t was whipped-up hysteria to anecdotal stories. Pushing off high school basketball into February when Indiana had gyms full of unmasked people watching hoops in January prior defied common sense.

Whitmer’s orders to the pandemic restrict people’s movements regardless of the hats they wear — employee, parent, business owner, son, daughter,

volunteer, coach, parishioner.

They’re inconvenienced by an effort they don’t see as having much impact on the overall public good. It emboldens Republican leaders like Michigan Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey, who supports “something similar” to Texas Gov. Greg Abbott’s full opening of businesses and the lifting of the mask mandate.

“There’s a good number of people in the private sector and political outsiders who are upset with the governor,” Roe said. The agitation hasn’t gone unnoticed nationally, Roe said.

Michigan, Wisconsin and Kansas are states the Republican Governors Association and outside interests see as hosting the nation’s top governors races in 2022, he said.

Roughly 600 days before Whitmer faces the voters again, finding candidates willing to run against her isn’t the hard part for the MRP brass. The field as it stands now is a trio of alt-right saber rattlers who may or may not have the organization to gather the needed 15,000 signatures to make a primary ballot.

Nigerian-born Austin Chenge wants to end Black History Month. Patriot rally organizer Ryan Kelley marched on the U.S. Capitol grounds Jan. 6. Ford retiree Bob Scott wants to make Michigan a “RINO (Republican In Name Only)-free zone.”

The fact grassroots candidates like Chenge can get a few dozen people to stand shoulder to shoulder with him at an Alpena gathering shows the extent of party enthusiasm. Maybe one of them catches fire, but the Republican brass like new chairman Ron Wesier isn’t banking on that.

The RGA folks aren’t either. They plan to steer millions of dollars into the Great Lakes State next year to take

out a Democrat whose star is rising nationally. They’re getting behind a horse with the best chance to win an election, not the candidate who drifts the closest to the lunatic fringe without going over.

When they’re in town, they’re meeting with former U.S. Senate candidate John James, former House Speaker Lee Chatfield and car dealership owner Kevin Rinke. Macomb County Public Works Director Candice Miller said she’s out, but is she? Really?

Former congressional candidate Lena Epstein is fielding calls about a run. U.S. Rep. Lisa McClain, R-Bruce Twp., is still a possibility, but she’s still learning how to do her job as a member of Congress. Another name to watch is Garrett Soldano, a Kalamazoo chiropractor, who headed up Stand up Michigan and has a significant media presence.

The goal is to prevent a super-competitive primary. Trump will probably end up preventing one. At some point, the super-serious candidates will fly to Mar-a-Lago, if they haven’t already, according to one GOP insider. It’s all about making the case. Kissing the ring. Praying for an endorsement. Dreaming of national dollars from a Trump-backed SuperPac.

Do you doubt Trump’s influence? Susy Avery, who cochairs the Michigan Political Leadership Program at Michigan State University, does not.

A former state party chairwoman, Avery says once Trump dismissed the idea of creating a third party at CPAC, the die was cast. Whether The Donald runs again or not, he’ll play the kingmaker role in 2022 and maybe 2024.



Avery

“Trump got more votes out of Michigan than just about any other presidential candidate ever had,” she said. “I think that goes to the activism of all the new people that Republicans brought in.”

The numbers show she’s right. Our state has roughly stayed about 10 million people for the last 20 years. The presidential candidates to receive the most votes ever out of Michigan are Barack Obama in 2008, Joe Biden in 2020 and Trump in 2020. In order.

Voter turnout last year in rural or outer-flung suburbs like Livingston County were off the charts: close 80% in some locations. The vote in these

See GOP, Page 15

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2021 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

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:
Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.
Approved Claims as presented.
Executive Session held for attorney client privilege
Board returned to regular session
Approved interdepartmental transfer to DDA
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor
Maggie Sanders, Clerk

CP#21-053

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, MARCH 2, 2021 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, Ruiz
MEMBERS ABSENT: Brewer
ALSO PRESENT: Michael Gresens, Attorney

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:
Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.
Approved minutes of meetings held on February 16, 2021.
Agenda approved as amended.
Approved budget amendment.
Approved Temporary Structure Permit fee update
Approved FDR-21-01 with conditions.
Approved FDR-20-12 with conditions.
Approved State Auto Sales LLC, Used Car Lot, at 2720 E. Kalamazoo with condition.
Tabled Bogus Swamp Drain sanitary infiltration and inflow project until next meeting.
Approved claims as presented.
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor
Maggie Sanders, Clerk

CP#21-055

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, FEBRUARY 16, 2021 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

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:
Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.
Approved minutes of meetings held on January 19 and January 28, 2021.
Agenda approved as amended.
Adopted Resolution 21-05: Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Delegating the Sale of Charter Township of Lansing 2021 Refunding Bonds
Approved budget amendment.
Approved Fire Department Proposed Agreement for Deputy Chief Spalding.
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor
Maggie Sanders, Clerk

CP#21-054

GOP

from page 14

areas wasn't close, either. Trump won in Missaukee County, for example, with 75% of the vote.

Trump blew a tire in upper-middle class suburbia — Western Wayne, Oakland County, Kent County and Kalamazoo, in particular. But he did well in middle-class, blue-collar areas like Downriver, Macomb County, Bay City or Genesee County.

Dave Dulio, an Oakland University political science professor, looks at numbers like these and sees big opportunities for Republicans. Can they “thread the needle?” Can they find candidates who appeal to Trump voters while not chasing away the traditional, establishment George W. Bush or Mitt Romney voters?

Or will they need to choose one path or the other?

“That’s the million-dollar question right now,” Dulio said. “The Republican Party is at a fork in the road. They have got decisions to make or they can try to thread the needle, but that’s going to be hard.”

For now, it’s embracing the Trump wing majority — the 40% of Michigan who still believe the 2020 election results weren’t legitimate — and praying their antics don’t repel the reasonable white collar-business types who once ran the party.

After all, those people who report to shareholders cut checks, a lot of them to untraceable accounts. Cutting those checks becomes harder when Shirkey is popping off conspiracy theories about some mysterious puppet master who made Jan. 6 happen or candidly daydreaming about fist-fighting the governor on the Capitol lawn.

But this is where the party is going. It puts U.S. Rep. Peter Meijer, R-Grand Rapids, U.S. Rep. Fred Upton, R-St. Joseph, and like-minded pragmatists in a tough spot. They voted to impeach Trump. History may prove that to a strong, courageous vote. Kind of like U.S. Sen. Edmund

Ross of Kansas casting the deciding vote not to remove President Andrew Johnson from office in 1868.

Ross never won another election, though.

Trump called Meijer and Upton out by name at CPAC. He basically pledged to get behind a primary opponent with whatever PAC money he raises to take them out.

“It’s what I expected,” Meijer said. “I’m focused on legislation to get things done rather than a bunch of hot air and threats.”

The two may not be as worried given their districts’ makeup. Upton has been elected 18 times to his Southwest Michigan seat. Last time he won his district by 16 points. Trump won it by four.

Meijer outperformed Trump in his Grand Rapids-based 3rd Congressional district, too.

It’s primary challenges from their political right that make them nervous. Meijer already has one of those in former opponent Tom Norton. His Kent County Republican Party executive board came with one vote of censuring him. Upton has had three county party censure votes against him.

As for the near censure, “I am always grateful for the opportunity to talk with local political leaders,” he said. “We had a spirited exchange and I appreciate that. Even when we disagree, we can do it without being disagreeable.”

Divisive primaries aren’t anything new to Republicans. What’s new is the degree to which candidates have slid further right down the ideological. The idea that a moderate fashioned in the mold of the ‘70s Gov. Bill Milliken will have much success is fading into history. By today’s standards, Rick Snyder was a moderate. He’s the same guy who signed off Right to Work and expansive emergency manager laws.

Today, people like Mellissa Carone, the infamous sharp-tongued Rudy Giuliani witness who openly mocked GOP state legislators for questioning her unsubstantiated election conspiracy claims, are emerging as legitimate political contenders.

“Saturday Night Live” parodied her? It raised her stock in the eyes of the grassroots. Carone has a national



Meijer



Upton

fundraising universe from which to draw. In 2023, the chances of her sitting next to Matt Hall, the state representative she ridiculed, aren’t bad.

The bright red Oakland County district Carone is running in won’t be represented by a Democrat. The current alt-right representative is term limited. Yeah, the current 46th District could vote for her.

These types of conservative Republican candidates are sprouting out of the political earth these days like crocuses.

They love Trump so much, they’d say anything to keep him in power. They’ll believe at face value outlandish claims if it helps Trump politically.

They’re hanging on to the fantasy that Santa slides down the chimney every year because they want it to be true.

Only 45 days or so ago, Public Policy Polling conducted for Progress Michigan found 41% of Michigan voters still don’t believe the 2020 election results were legitimate.

“It’s not unusual for the party that loses the presidency to remain somewhat tied to their losing candidate, but it is very usual for that candidate to maintain this level of allegiance within the party,” said Matt Grossmann, director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research.

The Democrats’ depicted reality TV clown is out of office, but he’s not politically dead. To the political right in 2021, having Twitter cancel your account is a badge of honor. Those blissfully dancing on Trump’s undug political grave do so at their

own peril in 2022.

He’s the galvanizing figure for a party that history shows will be back. Eighteen of the last 21 Michigan gubernatorial elections were won by the party’s not holding the presidency at the time, Grossmann said.

Weiser didn’t put himself through the nastiest character assassinations of his long career in unseating Laura Cox because he thought Republicans would lose in 2022.

Republicans are plowing through the immediate past. The Trump loss. Pictures of the armed Michigan militia standing in front of the governor’s Capitol office. Video of people crawling through broken U.S. Capitol windows.

Images you’d think would sentence the perceived responsible party into political purgatory are already fading in our minute-to-minute society. The powers-at-be are putting their heads down. Ignoring media requests. Issuing canned statements.

They’ve waited for the news cycle to pass so questions about questionable \$200,000 payments to a former GOP secretary of state candidate are replaced with questions about five- and six-digit payments to former Whitmer department heads.

They’re waiting for questions about Jan. 6 to be replaced with questions about why Portland is on fire again.

The ebb and flow of good and bad news rolls on. Will the Republican Party in Michigan? Listen to them. They seem to think so.

Says Weiser, “If we have the right organization and right resources in Michigan, we could sweep this state like we did in 2010.”

If Democrats don’t remember that year, they wish they could.

(Kyle Melinn, of the Capitol News Service MIRS, has covered Michigan politics for two decades.)



Dulio

CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1274

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing by amending Chapter 608, Section 608.04, to allow for consumption of alcoholic beverages on public property located in social districts established in conformity with state liquor control laws and at South Washington Office Complex.

Effective date: Upon publication

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

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

CP#21-052

Ingham County Animal Shelter

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Sponsor a pet on the next Adoption Page for only \$35, \$6 goes to the shelter. To sponsor, call 999-5061 now!! Adopt a pet on this page and Soldan’s will thank you with a \$10 gift certificate. Contact (517) 999-5061 after you adopt.



Shelby is a petite little tabby. She is a gentle girl who would do best in a quieter home with older kids and other easy going animals.



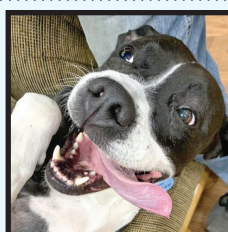
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Casco is a sweet little chiweenie. He is great with cats and dogs and women but is not a fan of children or men. He’s a fun little guy and has a lot of years ahead of him!

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Conklin is a big goofy boy who does not like cats. He loves to play with other dogs and would do great with older sturdy kids.

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Harrison is a sweet tabby who is very shy and terrified at the shelter. He doesn’t care for dogs but has lived with other cats. Looking for a quieter forever home.

Sponsored by
Schuler Books



Buckley is a sweet senior cat who was left behind when his owner moved away. He’s a relaxed guy who would love a home with older kids and other easygoing animals.

In memory of
Rodica’s cats

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

MSU virtual exhibit explores Afrofuturist comic books

By SKYLER ASHLEY

The Michigan State University Museum has launched a new virtual exhibit that you can enjoy free from home. “Beyond the Black Panther: Visions of Afrofuturism in American Comics,” curated by MSU English Professor Julian Chambliss, the Val Berryman Curator of History at the MSU Museum, takes its viewers on a deep dive into the world of Black comics and their overarching themes — ranging from aesthetics, feminism, metaphysics and community.

Afrofuturism is a term coined by culture writer Mark Dery in his 1994 essay “Black to the Future.” Comic books that are categorized under the Afrofuturism subgenre stand out by taking typical science fiction tropes, such as otherworldly advanced technology and utopia-like societies, and centralizing them around Black characters and narratives. The most famous example, “Black Panther,” was created in 1966 by Jack Kirby and Stan Lee and received a film adaptation in 2018 that was one of the Marvel Cinematic Universe’s biggest blockbusters.

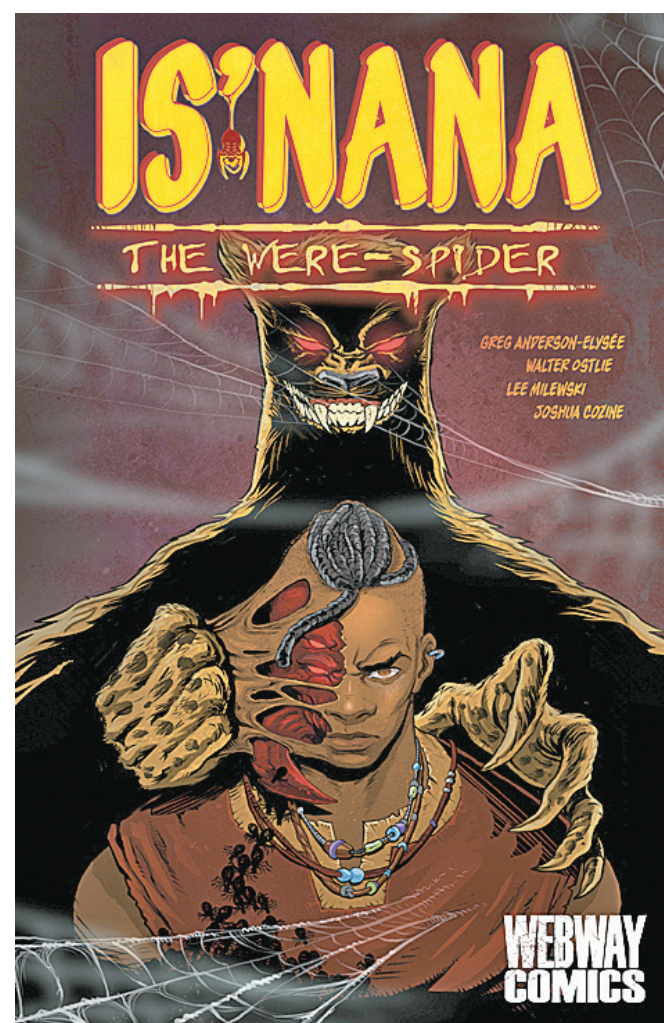
Curator Chambliss explained that one of the most important aspects of Afrofuturism is its rejection of European standards of beauty. Afrofuturist comics are recognized to utilize forms, shapes and textures directly linked to African culture in order “to create envision worlds that embrace an inclusive vision of bodies, fashion and architecture.”

The exhibit doesn’t spend too much of its time on “Black Panther,” which aims to expose people to lesser-known



afrofuturist comic publications, such as “Brotherman,” “Is’Nana” and “Kid Code,” that also have compelling characters and tell important Black stories. The MSU Museum’s website also launched an expansive companion piece that breaks down the central categories of themes of the exhibit.

“This exhibit is an important effort to help contextualize contemporary dialogue about Afrofuturism through comics,” said Chambliss about the exhibit. “Building on the MSU Museum educational role, the exhibit engages the viewers to consider how comics make ideas intrinsic to



Afrofuturism available to the public. My hope is that this exhibit sparks a journey of discovery for the visitor. We could not cover everything in this small exhibit, but I hope people enjoy and want to learn more.”

Family of gamers opens its own electronics shop

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

Billy Clark wanted to teach his teenage son about responsibility and hard work. Out of that desire sprang Extra Levels, a used video game store that sells everything from Ataris to the latest generation of gaming consoles.

The Clarks are a family of gamers. Gaming has been an integral part of their lives for decades. “My son likes the newer games,” he said. “But my wife and I grew up during the ‘80s and ‘90s, so we remember playing Super Nintendo, Sega, stuff like that.”

Extra Levels mainly carries older games that wouldn’t be available at places like GameStop or Best Buy. The store even has some collectibles like a Super Nintendo still in its original box.

Nostalgia brings in customers, according to Clark. His most-sold item since opening up a few months ago is the PlayStation 2, a console released over two decades ago.

The store is paradise for gamers look-



Extra Levels Gaming

4573 E Willoughby Rd.
Ste C., Holt
Tuesday to Thursday,
11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
(517) 225-6400
extralevelsgaming@yahoo.com

ing to revisit the titles that they played as children. Clark loves to watch his customers’ faces light up at the sight of a long-forgotten game or console.

“It’s not so much about the money for me,” said Clark. “I like when people come into the shop. If they’re a little older, they think it’s cool that we have all this stuff. If they’re younger, they’re really surprised about what’s here. The reaction is what I get the most enjoyment out of.”

GameStop is known for paying its customers dismal amounts of money



Courtesy

A glass case of vintage video games at Extra Levels.

in return for their used games. At Extra Levels, their philosophy is “Buy for More, Sell for Less.” Clark even posted an ad on social media comparing his prices to the prices at GameStop and Disc Traders. His rates were invariably better.

Since the store is fairly new, Extra Levels has to work a little harder than

its competitors to find products to stock its shelves. A couple times a week, Clark treks across the state picking up items to add to the store’s inventory.

“Today, I went to Flint and I’m going to Grand Rapids later, too,” said Clark. “I’m just always trying to find more interesting stuff, especially something still in its original packaging.” He tries to keep at least one retro item still in its box in the store at all times. For now, it’s the Super Nintendo. Clark claimed that the system is so well-preserved that it looks just like it did on store shelves in the ‘90s.

The pandemic hasn’t been easy on small businesses. Luckily for Clark, loads of people are stuck inside their houses looking for a way to entertain themselves.

“Gaming is something that allows people to have fun and interact with each other,” said Clark. “I mean, there are only so many things you can do as a family inside.”

Photography book documents Hemingway's life in Michigan

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Ernest Hemingway and his family seldom threw anything away, which is a good thing — especially when noted filmmaker Ken Burns decided to make a three-part-series on the iconic writer for PBS. The film, which premieres April 5 on PBS stations and runs two hours for three nights, will tell the story of one of America's most noted and enigmatic writers of the 20th century.

Burns and his cadre of researchers drew heavily on the archives of

Online discussion with Michael Federspiel

To register for the free "Hemingway in Michigan" streaming event go to wcmu.org/hemingway/

Historical Library at Central Michigan University for archival photographs, letters, manuscripts and family scrapbooks.

Michael Federspiel, former CMU history professor and author of the acclaimed book "Picturing Hemingway's Michigan" also spent time with the film's co-producer Lynn Novick showing her Hemingway haunts at Walloon Lake, Horton Bay, Windemere (the family cottage) and in the Petoskey area, where Hemingway spent his first 18 summers and then spent additional time there recovering from his injuries in World War I.

Federspiel said Florentine Films, which is releasing the film, contacted him early on in the development process with the idea of using his book as the starting point for Hemingway's time in Michigan.

"They were interested in the sources of the photography in the book,"

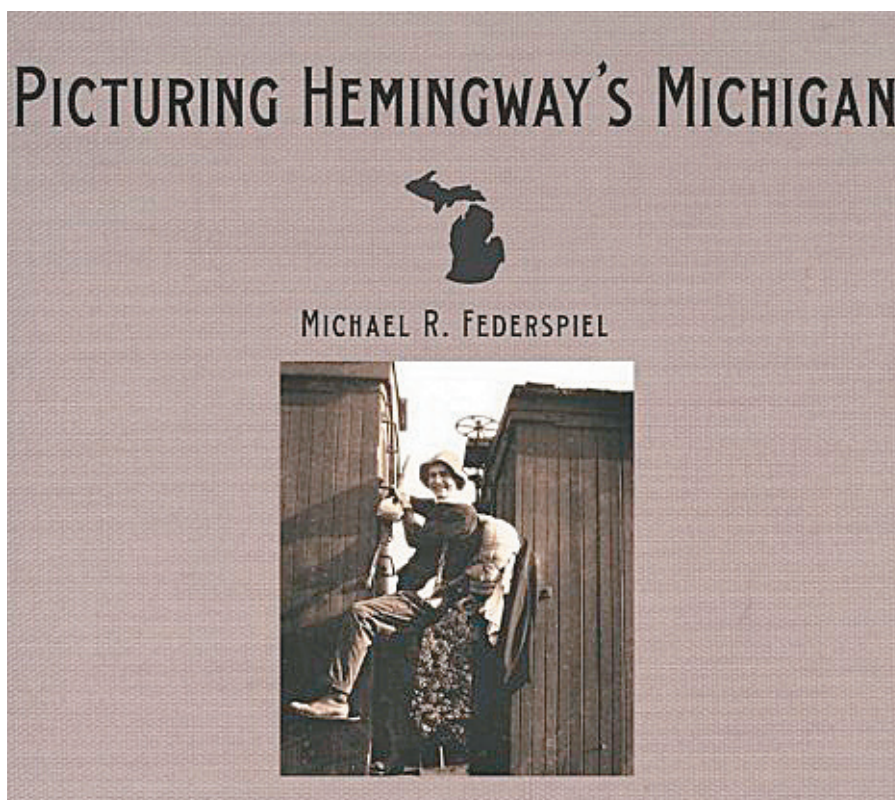
he said. Federspiel said the Clarke Library has been aggressive in collecting Hemingway material and have family scrapbooks from his sisters Ursula and Madelaine, family letters and a recently acquired manuscript of "The Woppian Way," which Hemingway wrote in Petoskey during his recovery.

"Ironically, because they got so many great images from the Clarke, they didn't need to shoot footage of scenes in Michigan," Federspiel said.

"While Lynn was in Michigan, I asked if they would consider doing a premier here, and I left it at that," he said.

Because of COVID, that won't be happening, but Novick agreed to do a live virtual program in conjunction with WCMU Public Media at 6 p.m. on March 31 and will include conversations with Federspiel, Novick and producer Sarah Botstein and Frank Boles, Clarke Historical Library president. In addition, an exclusive advanced premier of "Hemingway" will be shown.

Although not directly tied to the new documentary, several northern Michigan communities are sponsoring a series of events and community activities as an ersatz "homecoming." One of the first Hemingway activities will be Walloon Lake's hosting of a regional read of "The Nick Adams Stories," which thematically cover some of Hemingway's early experiences in the area. The reading begins April 1 and runs through mid-May. During Labor Day Weekend, downtown Walloon Lake will focus on historical installations in the area recognizing significant village history. Local restaurants will feature Hemingway-themed foods and beverages. Anyone up for



one of Hemingway's camping meals?

The Hemingway family built a cottage on Walloon Lake the same year Ernest Hemingway was born in 1899.

The new documentary will "star" Jeff Daniels, who will do most of the voiceover featuring the author. Hemingway's four wives will be played by Meryl Streep, Keri Russell, Mary-Louise Parker and Patricia Clarkston.

Federspiel said he is anxious to see if the film mines any new topics about the life of one of the world's most famous authors.

"I have heard that the documentary will explore the possibility that Hemingway suffered from traumatic brain injury, which may have led to him taking his own life rather than attribut-

ing it to alcoholism," he said.

Federspiel said in addition to boxing, Hemingway was involved in a traumatic airplane crash and several auto accidents.

He also said that he believes the documentary will delve into the more challenging topic of Hemingway's gender fluidity in both his writing and personal life.

Hemingway's body of work encompasses 10 novels, including "For Whom the Bell Tolls," "The Sun Also Rises," "A Farewell to Arms" and "The Old Man and the Sea," in addition to 20 story collections, including the semi-autobiographical "The Nick Adams Stories."

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Favorite Things

Nikkolas Gage and his lawsuit guitar

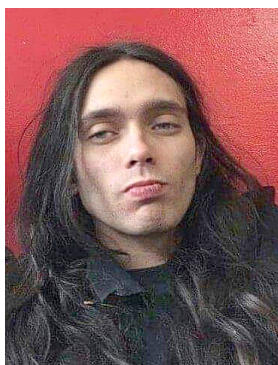
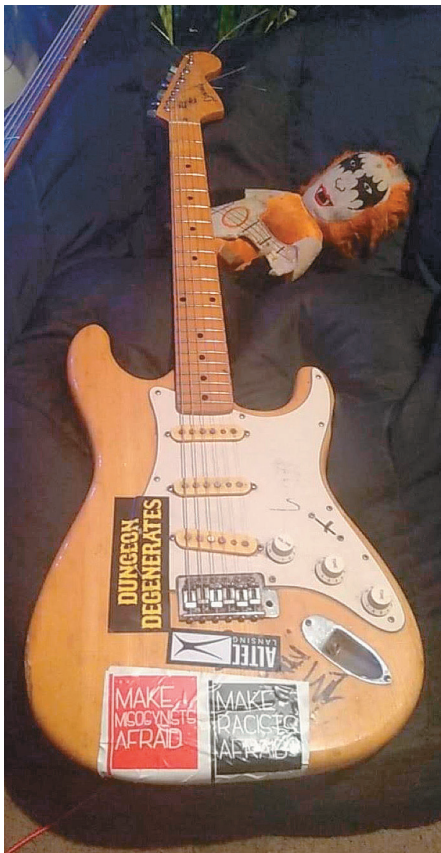
Nikkolas Gage is a devoted disciple of rock, metal and punk. Before the pandemic shut down live music, he was a regular fixture at rock gigs booked at Mac's Bar and the Avenue Café. Naturally, his favorite thing is his trusty Lincoln Stratocaster.

This guitar is my baby. I couldn't tell you the exact model, but it's a Lincoln — one of those weird lawsuit guitars. Back in the '60s and '70s, Korean and Japanese companies made awesome bootlegs of Fender and Gibson guitars that were just as good as the originals. A lot of them got burnt, so they're really rare. I've actually read that Lincoln eventually became Squier, but that's unconfirmed.

The action on it is amazing. It's an old guitar, but it was taken care of pretty well before it came into my possession. The neck is beautiful and it's so smooth. It gives off Fast Eddy from Motorhead vibes every time I touch it.

The only other Lincoln I've found on the Internet was being sold for \$1,800 — I paid \$20 for mine. I got it from a kid who was tripping on LSD back when I was 18. I met him at a party in East Lansing at a house that belonged to this local band called the Heat Pipes. He had this guitar in his closet, and he said, 'I don't need it, I don't even use it.' I jokingly said, 'Can I buy it for 20 bucks?' And he was like, 'Sure.'

One day, I plugged it into my roommate's really high-powered amplifier and it electrocuted me. So I wrote 'Shock Me' on it, to remind myself to never plug it into anything super powerful, 'cause I don't want to get shocked. It's a reference to the Ace Frehley song wrote for KISS. I'm a dork.



My dad and the music I grew up with drew me to the guitar. I learned to play entirely by ear. My dad taught me how to tune. I didn't learn chords until I was 16 or 17, when I started busking for money. I was inspired by a lot of Black Sabbath and Ramones songs — Metallica too. My dad played, but so did my grandpa and my great grandpa. So, I'm basically a fourth generation guitarist. My great grandpa was really into bluegrass, and my grandpa was a wannabe-Elvis. In fact, he's a still a wannabe-Elvis actually. It's pretty funny.

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

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Monday-Saturday:
9 am - 6 pm

Sunday:
10 am - 6 pm

Otherworldly harvest begins at Northeast Lansing pot farm

Lemonati Family Farms launches zero-gravity 'Zodiac' series

By **KYLE KAMINSKI**

A field of more than 1,000 marijuana plants, each suspended in tubs of water, is blooming away at Lemonati Family Farms on Oakland Avenue. Advanced hydroponics ensure cannabis that is virtually free of metals and bacteria.

Lemonati also doesn't market its cultivars around familiar strain names, instead using broader seasonal themes. The "Conspiracy Theory" harvest just ended. The latest "Zodiac" brand revolves around the 12 astrological signs, three of which were released statewide this week.

A 40-person staff is still tending the rest of the starsign lineup at the facility northeast Lansing.

Unfortunately, local availability is still limited — at least for now. Shops in Ann Arbor, Muskegon, Kalamazoo and southeast Michigan had them stocked last week. I was lucky enough to get my hands on some of the first harvest. And it might just be among the best stuff I've ever smoked.

Also: Keep an eye out for Lemonati Family Farm's first retail location, maybe this year.

Lemonati Family Farms — Aries

Price — \$50/3.5g

THC content — 26.6%

Aries, like the other strains featured here, is an indica-dominant hybrid labeled with a name that was entirely made up by the staff at Lemonati Family Farms. This one is a cross between Wedding Cake and Gelato 33, a combo otherwise known and branded as Ice Cream Cake.

Small, dense and sticky green buds had their undersides painted purple. A powdery white, crystalline layer of trichomes made for a creamy, cheesy and sherbert-like smell and taste. This strain carried the flavor profile of a custard long john donut with a mild, gassy and fruity kick.

Pro tip: Maybe don't start the morning off with this variety. Half a joint smacked me across the face with a cerebral spaciness.

Lemonati Family Farms — Pisces

Price — \$50/3.5g

THC content — 20.1%

Pisces is cross between some of the skunkiest (and stinkiest) strains on the market: 1994 Super Skunk and Mandarin Sunset. An overwhelming herb



Lansterdam in Review: Lemonati Family Farms

11120 E. Oakland Ave., Lansing
lemonatimi.com

profile emanated from the jar, smelling almost like marjoram, rosemary or lavender. Earthier berry notes arrived in the first couple hits.

This strain is sort of like Classic Coke: It surely doesn't overload the senses, but it's still damn good and seems to go down well with just about anything. A good chill-out strain that will leave you

with a dry mouth but none of the usual indica brain fog.

Lemonati Family Farms — Aquarius

Price — \$50/3.5g

THC content — 29.2%

My favorite of the bunch, Aquarius seems to be Pisces' stepsister — sharing the Mandarin Sunset parent but swapping out the Superskunk 1994 for the popular Girl Scout Cookies strain. It also has OG Kush (my all-time favorite strain) as its grandmother, so I knew it'd be dank.

A few big tokes — and a few big coughs — had me on my feet enjoying the Sunday sunshine, playing fetch with my dogs in the backyard. Calm. Euphoric, yet relaxed. This is a good middle-of-the-road hybrid.

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

TODAY'S
PURE PICK

GROWN IN
LANSING MI

NET WT.
1/8 OUNCE

PURE PICK OF THE WEEK

Triple Chocolate Chip /Indica/
Effect: Relaxed, Sleepy, Happy

Created by crossing Mint Chocolate Chip and Triple OG, this indica-dominant hybrid is perfect for those seeking a little couch-lock. The flavor is as advertised, with elements of mint and chocolate over an earthy base.

24.62% THC	\$30	NET WT.	SAVE \$5
INDICA		1/8 OUNCE	

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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

**"Not Quite!"-
-looks can be
deceiving.**

by Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Texting format
- 4 Iran's leader, once
- 8 Counts with margins of error
- 13 Deviation in a rocket's course
- 14 Prefix meaning "end"
- 15 Prove to be successful
- 16 Winter road clearer
- 18 Purport
- 19 D&D enemy
- 20 Grass cutter that might use a battery
- 22 Feeling of guilt
- 23 Used up
- 24 The "A" in PTA, for short
- 25 Test that might be "open"
- 27 Composer ___ Carlo Menotti
- 29 Acquire a second time
- 34 Mountain Dew energy drink
- 37 First name in fabric stores
- 38 Made a pit
- 39 Fu Mingxia, for one
- 41 Boston team, for short
- 42 Group in Santa Fe or Sacramento
- 45 "Switched-On Bach" synthesizer
- 46 "Mr. Robot" network
- 47 "Quantum of Solace" actress Kurylenko
- 50 Rice wine used in Japanese cooking
- 53 Hard work
- 57 Serious symptom of a cold, maybe
- 59 Quadruped up in the sky?
- 60 ___-Bissau (African country)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13			14				15				
16			17				18				
19				20			21				
22				23				24			
25	26				27		28				
29	30	31			32	33			34	35	36
37					38			39	40		
41				42	43			44			
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47	48	49			50		51	52		53	54
55	56			57					59		
60							61			62	
63							64			65	
66							67			68	

- 61 Actor shown in "One does not simply ..."
- 63 Nod, e.g.
- 64 "At Last" singer James
- 65 Tree on Connecticut's quarter
- 66 Negatives from Nijinsky
- 67 Holder of many a merit badge
- 68 Toots and the Maytals genre
- Down**
- 1 Early online admin
- 2 Genre for "One-Punch Man"
- 3 Given an oath, with "in"4 Longtime NASCAR sponsor
- 5 Assists, as with entering a tall pickup truck
- 6 Knocked for ___
- 7 "This Is ___ Do It" (Montell Jordan hit)
- 8 It's good for at least a few dates
- 9 Checked out for a bit
- 10 Chain that merged with AMC Theatres
- 11 Equipment used in Winter Olympics
- 12 Back of a yacht
- 15 Title ender of a 1974 film that distinguishes it from an earlier Best Picture Oscar winner
- 17 Photographer William who depicts Weimarers with human hands
- 21 Keep occupied
- 26 Old detergent brand that used to sponsor radio shows
- 28 Lake Titicaca's locale
- 29 Morning beverages, informally
- 30 Rude sound from a spectator
- 31 Invoice add-on
- 32 Samuel Barber's "___ for Strings"
- 33 Clean out completely, as a building
- 34 "Selma" director DuVernay
- 35 Ran into
- 36 Cautionary beginning?
- 40 Place for a nursery rhyme trio
- 43 Garfield, for one
- 44 Gardening headwear
- 45 Fridge ornament
- 47 Hammond B-3, notably
- 48 Pretty dang bad
- 49 False front
- 51 Deceptive ploys
- 52 "___ Kick Out of You"
- 54 Cookies with a recent Lady Gaga-themed variety
- 55 "Wicked Game" singer Chris
- 56 Sri ___
- 58 "... three French ___"
- 62 "Yeah, probably not"

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Answers on page 23

SUDOKU

Intermediate

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

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 23

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

March 17-23, 2021

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Poet Ocean Vuong speaks of the Hawaiian word *kipuka*. It refers to a patch of earth that doesn't get covered with lava when an active volcano exudes its molten material. "Before the lava descended," Vuong writes, "that piece of land was insignificant, just another scrap in an endless mass of green." But now that piece of land is special, having endured. I encourage you to identify your metaphorical equivalent of *kipuka*, Aries. It's an excellent time to celebrate the power and luck and resilience that have enabled you to persevere.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "Extraordinary things are always hiding in places people never think to look," writes Taurus author Jodi Picoult. Luckily for you, Taurus, in the near future you'll be prone to look in exactly those places—where no one else has thought to look. That means you'll be extra likely to find useful, interesting, even extraordinary things that have mostly been hidden and unused. You may also discover some boring and worthless things, but the trade-off will be worth your effort. Congratulations in advance on summoning such brave curiosity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "When we ask for advice, we are usually looking for an accomplice," said Gemini author Saul Bellow. So if you have come here today to read my horoscopes, it's possible that you're seeking an accomplice to approve of you making a decision or a move that you have already decided to do. OK. I'll be your accomplice. But as your accomplice, the first thing I'll do is try to influence you to make sure your upcoming actions serve not only your own selfish interests (although there's nothing wrong with that), but also serve the interests of people you care for. The weeks ahead will be a favorable time to blend self-interest and noble idealism.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A character in Barbara Kingsolver's novel "The Lacuna" is told to "go rub his soul against life." Now I'll advise you to do the same. Why? While it's true that you have a beautiful soul, you sometimes get in the habit of hiding it away or keeping it secret. You feed it a wealth of dreams and emotions and longings, but may not go far enough in providing it with raw experience out in the messy, chaotic world. In my judgment, now is one of those times when you would benefit from rubbing your soul against life. Please note: I DON'T mean you should go in search of rough, tough downers. Not at all. In fact, there are plenty of pleasurable, safe, educational ways to rub your soul against life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): If you love the work of self-help author Paulo Coelho, you might be inclined to adopt his motto as your own: "Being vulnerable is the best way to allow my heart to feel true pleasure." But maybe you wouldn't want to adopt his motto. After all, what he's suggesting requires a great deal of courage and daring. Who among us finds it easy and natural to be soft and receptive and inviting? And yet according to my analysis of the astrological omens, this is exactly what your assignment should be for the next two weeks. To help motivate yourself, remember the payoff described by Coelho: the possibility that your heart will feel true pleasure.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Virgo author Michael Ondaatje celebrates "the hidden presence of others in us—even those we have known briefly. We contain them for the rest of our lives, at every border we cross." As you approach your own upcoming border-crossing, dear Virgo, I encourage you to tune into memories about seven specific people who over the course of your life have provided you with the most joy and the most interesting lessons. Close your eyes for 20 minutes and imagine they are all gathered together with you in your favorite sanctuary. Remember in detail the blessings they bestowed on you. Give thanks for their influences, for the gifts they gave that have helped you become your beautiful self.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "A balance that does not tremble cannot weigh. A person who does

not oscillate cannot live." So wrote biochemist Erwin Chargaff, who did crucial research leading to the discovery of DNA's double helix structure. Since you're the zodiac's expert on balance and oscillation, and because these themes will be especially meaningful for you in the coming days, I'll ask you to meditate on them with extra focus. Here's my advice: To be healthy and resilient, you need to be aware of other possibilities besides those that seem obvious and simple and absolutely true. You need to consider the likelihood that the most correct answers are almost certainly those that are paradoxical and complicated and full of nuance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In her poem "Sandra," Scorpio poet Ariana Reines testifies that she has too many feelings—and that's not a problem. On the contrary. They are her wealth, she says, her "invisible splendor." I invite you to regard your own "too many feelings" in the same way, especially in the coming weeks. You will have opportunities to harness your flood of feelings in behalf of transformative insights and holistic decision-making. Your motto: Feelings are healing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Historian and author Thomas Berry described "wildness" as the source of our "authentic spontaneities." He said it's "the wellspring of creativity" at the root of our lust for life. That's a different definition from the idea that wildness is about being unruly, rough, and primitive. And Berry's definition happens to be the one that should be central to your work and play in the coming weeks. Your assignment is to be wild: that is, to cultivate your authentic spontaneities; to home in on and nourish the creative wellspring of your lust for life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Some of the great discoveries in the history of physics have been made while the trailblazing physicists are lolling in bed or in the bathtub. They have done the research and carried out the rigorous thinking, and are rewarded with breakthroughs while relaxing. I think that will be your best formula for success in the coming weeks. Important discoveries are looming. Interesting innovations are about to hatch. You're most likely to gather them in if you work intensely on preparing the way for them, then go off and do something fun and rejuvenating.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): My typical horoscope is an average of 108 words long. In that limited space, I can't possibly tell you all the themes and threads that will be active for you during the upcoming phase of your cycle. I have to make choices about what to include and what not to include. This time I'll focus on the fact that you now have an opportunity to deepen your relationship with your sense of smell—and to purposefully nourish your sense of smell. Your homework: Decide on at least five scents with which you will cultivate an intimate, playful, delightful connection in the coming days. (PS: You may be surprised at how this practice will deepen your emotional connection with the world.)

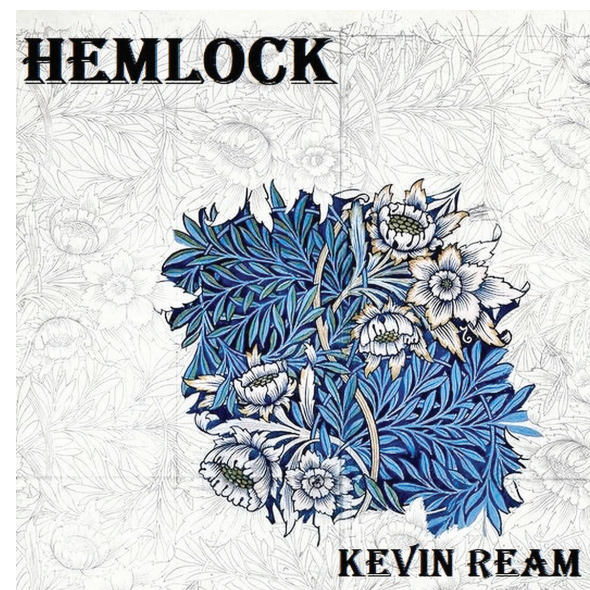
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): No one had ever proven that there was such a thing as electromagnetic waves until Piscean physicist Heinrich Hertz (1857-1894) did so in 1886. He was the innovator who first transmitted and received controlled radio waves. Alas, he didn't think his breakthrough was useful. In 1890, he confessed, "I do not think that the wireless waves I have discovered will have any practical application." But other scientists were soon capitalizing on his work to communicate long distances. Radio broadcasts were born. I will encourage you not to make a Hertzian-type mistake in the coming months. Always follow through on your initial labors. Have faith that the novelties you dream up will eventually have practical value.

TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

FROM BIG SUR TO 'HEMLOCK'



Last month, Kevin Ream of the local band From Big Sur released "Hemlock." The rootsy, experimental solo LP is his 14th solo LP. (courtesy images)

Lansing troubadour Kevin Ream talks new solo album

For more than a decade, From Big Sur has been a staple in the Lansing music scene. The rock 'n roll band has gigged across all across the city, including frequent spots at Moriarty's Pub and the Green Door. Along the way, the outfit has released a stack of dynamic albums.

Band member Kevin Ream (guitars, piano, banjo and vocals) has contributed to all of From Big Sur's catalog, but also produces his own solo records, including the newly released "Hemlock" LP. Ream chatted with City Pulse about the new album, and tells how he explored folk-rock, pop, classic honky-tonk and various other experimental sounds to create this latest disc—his 14th self-produced studio LP. The songwriter also talks about an upcoming special project honoring one of his former From Big Sur bandmates, the late Adam Jonathan Jones.

Looking back, when did you first get into penning original songs?

Kevin Ream: I started writing songs at a very early age. I got

serious about it when I was 14 and started my first band. I grew up with my dad being a huge Beatles fan, which led to my early writings. In high school I was very inspired by The Verve Pipe's "Pop Smear." That album led me to Station C studio in Grand Rapids, where my college band, The Roswells, recorded our first album. I also snaked my way into an internship at Station C.

These days, what are you up to outside of music?

When I'm not writing and recording, I'm a dad and husband to my beautiful family. I dabble a bit in podcasting ("The Vinyl Cut") and producing, but my day job is painting. It's a great job for someone like me who usually has their head in the clouds. You can compose symphonies while staring at walls.

The new LP was self-produced? Where do you record?

"Hemlock" was recorded at my Cut and Run Studio in East Lansing. It was recorded in isolation during the pandemic with myself playing and singing most of it. I engineered and produced the album, but I did

have some socially distanced help from great friends and musicians. The guys in From Big Sur play on a track. Will Metz from Big Willy laid down sax on a couple tracks, and Rod Sanford played some great baritone guitar on a track. They recorded their parts in their home studios then sent me the tracks to mix. In the future, I'm hoping to produce many more acts other than my own.

I hear some folk-rock, classic country vibes on "Hemlock." What inspired you to go in that rootsy direction?

My last solo album was a rocking concept album. I always try hard to make an album I've never made before, and the surreal isolation this pandemic has sprung upon us lent itself to the general vibe of this album. I love older country, and I've always written country songs. This album seemed like the right place for some of them to see the light of day. Lyrically, the album is all over the place. The frame that I had to write within for my last album was nearly crippling. I wanted to cover

a few more bases with Hemlock, including the pandemic.

What's next for you? Any plans for 2021?

I've already started on the next project. It's a very special one to me. We recently and unexpectedly lost one of the original members of From Big Sur. Adam Jones was a great musician and songwriter that we lost too soon. Adam's mom gave me his computer to sort through to see if there was any music on there we haven't heard. Not only were there unfinished songs, he left notes behind for more instruments he intended to add. I'm going to finish his songs for him and release his album. It's a crime that the songs he left behind haven't been heard. Also, From Big Sur will soon be gearing up for live performances as soon as we can. We have yet to support our 2020 release, "Infinite Morning." I can't wait to get back with the guys and play those songs.

Listen to "Hemlock" at kevinream.bandcamp.com

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, March 17

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

Art and Activism: Jenny Kendler in conversation with Elizabeth Corr. 7-9 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Engineering Virtual Seminar Series - Join us for our weekly series featuring biomedical researchers from institutions across the country via Zoom. 11 a.m. events.msu.edu

Community: WAS Meeting - The Delisting of the Gray Wolf: A Conservation's Call to Action. 7:10 p.m. Michigan Audubon, 2310 Science Parkway, Suite 200, Okemos. michiganaudubon.org.

Dine to Donate for Greater Lansing Food Bank - Dine to donate at Wendy's for Greater Lansing Food Bank! 6:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Wendy's, 6620 S Cedar St., Lansing.

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.

Markers of Time - Mark Chatterley Exhibition through March 30th. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 119 N Washington Sq, Ste 101, Lansing. 517-374-6400. lansingartgallery.org.

Wheel of the Year: Ostara - Join us for a discussion of Ostara on the Wheel of the Year, as well as preparation for Saturday's ritual 6:30-7:30 p.m. weaversoftheweb.org.

Thursday, March 18

Guest Readers for Preschool Storytime - Friends and neighbors are reading stories virtually! 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 - Instagram Live as Studio Educator Britta Urness visits the studio of artist Sam Van Aken. 8-9 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Friday, March 19

Broad Underground: The Three Disappearances of Soad Hosni. 7-9 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Martinis and Music - 9 p.m.-1 a.m. The Exchange, 314 E Michigan Ave, Lansing. 517-319-4500. lansingexchange.com.

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

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

Saturday, March 20

Chasing Rainbows & Light Experiments - 9 a.m. & 1 p.m. sessions. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Curbside Chicken Dinner - Curbside pick-up only. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Okemos Masonic Center, 2175 Hamilton Rd., Okemos.

Drive-Through Mobile Food Distribution - Free, fresh and non-perishable food items to City of Lansing residents. 9-11 a.m. Tabernacle of David, 2645 W. Holmes Rd, Lansing.

Free Online Roast of The Return of the King - Play drinking games online with the rightful comedians of Gondor. 9 p.m. Twitch Live Stream, online, Lansing. frontrowfilmroast.com.

Hunter Park GardenHouse Presents: Land Ownership and Community Food Systems - 10-11:30 a.m. Hunter Park, 1400 E Kalamazoo St, Lansing.

Letter from Birmingham Jail in 4 EPs - Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s eloquent 1963 discourse about racism comes back to us in the form of a relevant stage-reading. 7-8 p.m. sycamorecreekchurch.org

Maple Syrup Saturday - Register for a 10-person Maple Syrup Saturday tour. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing. 517-483-4224. mynaturecenter.org.

Martinis and Music - 9 p.m.-1 a.m. The Exchange, 314 E Michigan Ave, Lansing. 517-319-4500. lansingexchange.com.

Mini L.A.B.S. Camps - Learn about basic science in STEM-themed day camps! Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116.

Mixed Media Workshop: Shifting Landscapes with Britta Urness. 1-4 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Ostara Ritual - We are so excited to offer the blessing of our Ostara ritual in-person for 2021! 5-6 p.m. Wonch Park, 4555 Okemos Rd., Okemos. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

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

Monday, March 22

Jump Into Reading - Join Ms. Anna on our Facebook or YouTube channel for story time

read aloud and activity. 11-11:30 a.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library. eradl.org

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

Tuesday, March 23

Guest Readers for Preschool Storytime - 11-11:30 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library. gladl.org



UPCOMING EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS COMING TO LANSING

By SKYLER ASHLEY



St. Patrick's Day Weekend at the Wildlife Pub

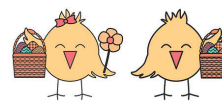
March 17, 18 & 19
5 p.m. to 10 p.m.
6380 Drumheller Road, Bath
Facebook.com/miwildlife,
(517) 641-7677

Michigan Wildlife Conservancy and the Wildlife Pub are inviting you to celebrate St. Patrick's Day by enjoying great food and drinks, with proceeds contributing to one of Michigan's leading nonprofit conservation organizations. Specials include corned beef, cabbage, potatoes and carrots — all for \$9.

Easter Basket Building with Mother & Earth Baby Boutique

Saturday, March 20, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
100 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Lansing
Motherandearth.com, (516) 721-1868
Register online at: Facebook.com/MotherandEarth

Mother & Earth Baby Boutique is helping people design the ultimate Easter Basket for the special children in your life. The boutique will supply all of the necessary components. Those who wish to participate from home can do so via a live Facebook event at 8:30 p.m.



Michigan Nature at Home

Thursday, March 18, 7 p.m.
Register online at: Michigannature.org

The Michigan Nature Association is hosting a series of virtual speakers throughout 2021. This week's talk features Jesse Lincoln, a plant ecologist working with the Michigan Natural Features Inventory. Lincoln will discuss the role that photography plays in his research. Lincoln is known for taking stunning drone photos of Michigan's natural landscapes.



SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

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New seafood joint brings Louisiana flavor to Lansing

By **COLE TUNNINGLEY**

Just in time for indoor dining's return, King Crab Cajun Seafood opened its doors on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The restaurant serves a wide variety of fried and boiled seafood available in single-serve and family portions.

"Our main dish is the boiled seafood dinner," said owner Eko Dananjaya. "We have many different types of seafood including crawfish, lobsters, crabs. It's Louisiana, Cajun-style food."

About eight months ago, Dananjaya began perfecting his craft, learning to

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- 267 Boardman Canfield Rd, Boardman, OH
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- INDIANA
- 4730 Grape Rd, Mishawaka, IN • Coming Soon!

craft the perfect meal. According to his first round of customers, he did a good job. So far, he's received positive reviews on Facebook and from customers who visited the restaurant in

person.

"The customers have only said kind words so far," Dananjaya said. "It's been booming. It's been busy."

Dananjaya is proud of the work he's doing. While he recommends the whole menu, he pointed out that the seafood boil is "amazing." With their order, customers get their choice of seafood, their choice of seasoning, corn and potatoes.

King Crab also serves a selection of the classic Louisiana sandwich, the Po'boy. Customers can pick between seafood as their sandwich meat or fried chicken tenders.

"We want to create a seafood experience that people never forget," Dananjaya said.

Dananjaya hopes that the people of Lansing give him and his restaurant a chance. Being the new restaurant on the block can be difficult. But with enough word-of-mouth buzz, he thinks that King Crab has the chance to flourish.

"I want people to try it out just so I can show them what we do," Dananjaya said. "I want to prove that we can do Cajun seafood better than any other place in the area. That's our main goal."

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Avocado toast

By ARI LeVAUX

Avocado toast is a provocative dish. That piece of warm bread loaded with a smooth green paste is also loaded with so much meaning and angst, and has become a battleground for many of today's culture wars.

This simple meal has become a proxy for annoying hipsters lingering over brunch in coffee shops. It's been implicated as the reason millennials can't seem to scrape together enough money for a downpayment on a house. The UK tabloid *The Express*, in an effort to make a dig at Princess Meghan Markle, threw all avocado eaters under the bus along with her, in 2019 for having the gall to eat one smeared on toast.

"The pregnant Duchess of Sussex and so-called 'avocado on toast whisperer' is wolfing down a fruit linked to water shortages, illegal deforestation and all round general environmental devastation."

The same paper, it should be mentioned, gave fawning coverage to a pregnant Kate receiving avocados from a fan, with no mention of the pitfalls of that greasy green berry. Altogether there is much drama being made over a piece of bread smeared with avocado. Nobody gets their knickers in a bunch when some fool rubs a piece of toast with margarine.

But if you look past the distractions and the deliciousness, there is in fact a dark side of avocados, precisely along the lines of what *The Express* pinned on the dark princess.

The boom in avocado consumption has indeed caused deforestation in many places, as land is cleared for more orchards. In Colombia, many beekeepers suspect chemical drift from avocado orchards on an epidemic of bee deaths. Such chemicals may not penetrate the avocado's thick skin and taint the interior, but they can poison the workers and their villages, which are often close to the orchards, as well as the local ecosystems. In Mexico, which is thought to be the birthplace of avocados, new orchards, some of them illegal, are threatening the mountaintop winter habitat of the monarch butterflies.

One compromise between enjoying that creamy, antioxidant-rich treat and protecting the Earth and its inhabi-



tants is to buy organic and fair trade avocados. They may not be any more nutritious or safe for the consumer, but paying extra for properly produced fruit helps create better wages, safer working conditions and a clean environment for avocado workers and their communities. And if you think organic avocados are expensive, have you perhaps noticed the price of a slice of (probably not organic or fair trade) avocado toast at the local cafe? Compared to that, making some guilt-free avocado toast at home can be a relative bargain.

I brought home a massive Mexican organic avocado from my local supermarket. It cost me three bucks, made four luxurious pieces of toast and fully satisfied two avocado-loving fools.

Avocado Toasties

When I make avocado toast, I start with a simple base and add toppings. Like a piece of toast with butter, it's a great snack by itself but also a jumping-off point for many different places. Here I'll give two serving ideas, one based on a bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwich, and the other inspired by the lobster rolls of my East Coast youth. These will get you started on your own personal journey to avocado awesomeness.

Basic Avo Toast

The lemon juice adds flavor, of course, but also keeps the avocado bright green, where it would otherwise quickly turn brown. That, and a little salt, are the only necessary additions to the avocado and bread.

*An organic avocado, average size
Slices of bread (white, ideally sourdough, for the purposes of today's recipes)*

- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Cut open the avocado and scoop out the flesh into a bowl. Add the lemon juice and salt, and mash it together. Smear it on toast.

Lobster and Avocado Toast

In this dish the avocado does the job of butter in a traditional lobster roll. I've been purchasing these packages of



Courtesy

Avocado toast.

imitation lobster meat at the store, similar to the fake crab in California Rolls that's made of processed pollock and other white fish. But the fake lobster meat has a bit of natural lobster flavor that makes it taste impressively like the real deal.

- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1/2 cup fake lobster or crab meat pieces (or use the real stuff; big spender)
- 1 tablespoon minced celery
- 1 tablespoon minced onion
- 1 slice avocado toast, preferably made with a hot dog bun

Heat the butter and garlic on medium. Add the lobster meat and saute until it's warm. Turn off the heat, stir in the celery and onion and heap the mixture onto the slab of avocado toast.

BLT

Here, the avocado does the job normally done by mayonnaise. If we acknowledge the onion and avocado in



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this open-faced sandwich, we can rename it the BLOAT, which is appropriate given how filling it is.

- 2 strips crispy bacon
- Tomato slices, as needed
- 1 large lettuce leaf, chopped
- A thin slice of onion
- 1 slab avocado toast

Add the bacon, lettuce, tomato and onion to a piece of avocado toast.

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

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Source: Virg Bernero for Lansing 2020 campaign finance report, ingham.org

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