

Locally owned

May 12 - 18, 2021

FREE

# CITY PULSE

[www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com)

A newspaper for the rest of us

## Justice, mercy and Jesus Mora

See page 14

**ABOOD**  
LAW FIRM 1956  
517-332-5900

**sidebar**  
dine & tap  
East Lansing

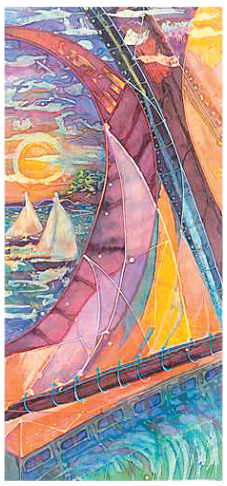


# RECREATIONAL CANNABIS IN IONIA!

**NO MED CARD • 21+**  
**FREE DELIVERY • DAILY DEALS**

Order Online: [ArcannaUSA.com](https://www.ArcannaUSA.com) Contact Us: 616.755.6656  
Visit Our Dispensary: 29 Beardsley Rd, Ionia

# BE AN ABSOLUTE ORIGINAL



Beautiful work by Anne Hanley

**Absolute**  
**GALLERY**  
AND CUSTOM FRAMING

307 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave  
Lansing  
(517) 482-8845  
[www.absolutegallery.net](http://www.absolutegallery.net)



@AbsoluteGallery

MORAL PANIC COMIX PRESENTS

### "WOKESTER" MADNESS

Is your child aware of implicit bias, systemic racism, and historical inequities that still affect the present? He or she may be "woke."

YOU KNOW, YOU'RE USING A TERM THAT CAME FROM BLACK ACTIVISTS AS AN INSULT.

Something a "woke youth" would say

These hoodlums want to corrupt our youngsters with *inclusive language*.

HEY KID, WANNA HEAR MY PRONOUNNS?

We must *defund* their universities and pass *laws* against teaching these *dangerous ideas*!

WAIT, ISN'T THAT LITERALLY SHUTTING DOWN INTELLECTUAL DISCOURSE—THE VERY THING YOU FALSELY ACCUSE COLLEGE PROTESTERS OF DOING?

"Wokeness"—It's a *gateway drug* to the *hard stuff*:

LABOR MOVEMENTS!  
EQUAL RIGHTS!  
TRANS PEOPLE "COMING OUT!"

HMM... I THINK I'VE SEEN THIS MOVIE BEFORE...

© 2021 Jen Sorensen - Be a subscriber! jensorensen.com/subscribe

# CityPULSE

VOL. 20  
ISSUE 40

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



Deed restrictions on church — legal or no?

PAGE 9



MSU jazz professor gives it all he's got on new album

PAGE 17



Flash in the Pan: Ma's chicken congee

PAGE 26



Cover Art

Nevin Speerbrecker

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES: (517) 999-5061  
or email [citypulse@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:citypulse@lansingcitypulse.com)  
CLASSIFIEDS & OBITUARIES: (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, Patrick Sloan-Turner, Nevin Speerbrecker, Rich Tupica, Ute Von Der Heyden, David Winkelstern, Paul Wozniak  
Delivery drivers: Dave Fisher, Gavin Smith, Jack Sova

CITY PULSE

on the AIR

NOW AT 10:00 A.M.  
SUNDAYS on

WDBM  
IMPACT  
88.9FM

## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

### THE RIGHT-WING OUTRAGE CYCLE

1. SOME OBSCURE PROVOCATEUR SOMEWHERE MAKES OUTLANDISH CLAIM.

JOE BIDEN LOVES FACE MASKS SO MUCH--IT'S ONLY LOGICAL TO ASSUME HE WANTS TO *SURGICALLY ATTACH* THEM TO OUR *FACES*!

The Basement Patriot Podcast

4. STORY IS QUICKLY AND UNQUESTIONINGLY EMBRACED BY RIGHT-WING VOTERS.

FIRST BIDEN WANTED TO RATION *HAMBURGERS*, LIKE WE'RE LIVING IN COMMUNIST *RUSSIA*!

NOW HE WANTS TO SEW *MASKS* ON OUR FACES, LIKE A MAD SCIENTIST!

PROBABLY TO MAKE IT HARDER TO EAT *HAMBURGERS*!

2. PROMINENT RIGHT-WING NUTJOBS AMPLIFY ASSERTION.

I'LL NEVER submit to Dictator Joe's five year plan for surgically attached face masks! #MYFACEMYCHOICE

I AM A VERY SERIOUS PERSON.

Any liberal doctor who tries to sew a mask on MY face is going to have to "face" my GUNS first! Get it? "Face"? Hahahahaha #FREEDOM

TAKE THAT, LIB-TARDS!

5. OUTLANDISH CLAIM IS INEVITABLY DEBUNKED.

--AND IN *REALITY*, PRESIDENT BIDEN HAS ENDORSED THE NEW C.D.C. GUIDELINES FOR *LOOSENING* MASK RESTRICTIONS!

I GUESS IT WAS JUST ANOTHER *INNOCENT MIS-UNDERSTANDING*!

WEIRD HOW OFTEN THAT SEEMS TO HAPPEN!

3. FOX "NEWS" PICKS UP BALL AND RUNS WITH IT.

COMING UP NEXT: AN ANGRY GUY WHO *HATES FACE MASKS* JOINS US TO DISCUSS JOE BIDEN'S VERY REAL PLAN TO SEW THEM ON OUR *FACES*!

COVID IS A *HOAX*, TUCKER! THIS IS JUST MORE *MASK FASCISM*!

6. CONSERVATIVES IGNORE DEBUNKING; CONTINUE TO TREAT OUTLANDISH CLAIM AS VERIFIED FACT FOR YEARS AFTERWARD.

MAN, REMEMBER WHEN CRAZY JOE BIDEN WANTED TO SEW *MASKS* ON EVERYONE?

LIKE IT WAS *YESTER-DAY*!

THAT WAS *DEFINITELY* AN ACTUAL THING THAT HAPPENED!

www.thismodernworld.com...twitter.com/tomtorrow

# Rank the vote

Voters across America are accustomed to going to the polls twice during election years, once in August and again in November. It's a time-honored democratic tradition that most voters presume to be the best way — if not the only way — to choose their elected officials, from president of the United States to our representatives in the U.S. Congress, to local offices like mayor, clerk, council member and county commissioner.

That may be about to change. An alternative electoral system known as Ranked Choice Voting is gaining momentum in jurisdictions across the country and now here in Lansing. A proposal recently introduced to the Lansing City Council would bring RCV to the city's elections. With Council approval, the measure could appear on the ballot as soon as this November, giving Lansing voters an opportunity to decide if they prefer RCV to our traditional voting system. We think the idea has considerable merit.

Under a Ranked Choice Voting system, voters can cast multiple votes for a single elected office by voting for their first choice, followed by their second choice, then their third choice, and so on. When the votes are tallied, if no candidate receives more than 50% of the first-choice votes, RCV uses an "instant runoff" system to determine the winner. For example, in a field of three or more candidates where none of them earn a majority, the first-choice votes that went to the last-place finisher are discarded. A recount is then held, where the second-choice votes of those who supported the last-place finisher are added to the totals for the remaining candidates. If those added votes are sufficient to give one of them a majority, that candidate is declared the winner. If not, the process repeats with the new last-place finisher until a winner is established.

On its face, RCV seems a bit complicated. More often than not, if voters don't understand a proposal they vote against it. In the absence of a compelling reason to switch to an RCV system, many voters may decide to leave well enough alone and stick with the traditional primary-general "winner takes all" approach. After considering the benefits of an RCV system, though, we think Lansing voters may be persuaded to get on board.

The most obvious advantage of RCV is the significant cost savings from holding just one municipal election



## The CP Edit

### Opinion

in a given year rather than a primary election in August followed by a general election in November. Supporters of RCV also argue that it brings more civility to elections because candidates are motivated to avoid negative campaign tactics as they court both first- and second-choice votes. Launching attacks against other candidates may not be a winning strategy because it could alienate voters who might otherwise have considered casting their second-choice vote for the candidate who criticizes their favored candidate. Eliminating the primary election also sidesteps the high stakes, often incendiary runoff between the final candidates as they seek to undermine support for their opponent(s) going into the November general election.

RCV may also moderate the so-called "spoiler

effect" of third party or other second-tier candidates, while empowering otherwise marginalized voters. We remember well the deep angst that followed George W. Bush's controversial victory over Al Gore in the 2000 presidential election, where the outcome was decided by the U.S. Supreme Court on questionable legal grounds. Many Democrats believe Ralph Nader's Green Party candidacy took enough votes in Florida away from Gore in Florida to throw the contest to the Supreme Court, ultimately making Bush the (illegitimate) victor.

Under an RCV system, that wouldn't have happened. The second-choice votes of Nader supporters would instead have been added to the tallies for Bush and Gore. Because Green Party supporters mostly hail from the left wing of the political spectrum, the majority of their second-choice votes likely would have gone to Gore, tipping the scales in his favor.

This is actually a beneficial outcome for third-party voters, insofar as their single vote isn't "wasted" on a candidate who has no chance to win. Because their second-choice vote is counted (provided that no one wins a majority on the first count), their ballot is

once again relevant. As an added benefit, the winner's coalition is broadened by bringing otherwise marginalized voters into the fold. In the context of Lansing city elections, those who vote for second-tier candidates who have little chance to win are also validated by making their second-choice vote matter. RCV may also ramp up the city's pathetically low turnout for municipal elections, where a tiny fraction of city voters decides who wins.

Although the concept is simple, understanding how RCV works in practice and how it would impact election outcomes is a bit murkier. Since its adoption in Lansing depends on voter approval of an amendment to the City Charter, an extensive education campaign would be necessary to get voters up to speed on RCV and why they should consider making the switch. If RCV delivers even half its claimed benefits, we think it's an idea well worth considering. We encourage the Lansing City Council to approve the proposal and give city voters the opportunity to decide if RCV should be implemented for future city elections.

Send letters to the editor to [letters@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:letters@lansingcitypulse.com).  
Please limit them to 250 words

# Broken government costs us all. Lansing deserves a fresh start

By **MELISSA HUBER**  
**OPINION**



Huber

It was a chilly April day five years ago when I had a difficult choice: I could travel to my Hoosier homeland to make one last tearful visit to my grandparents' home slated for demolition for a new road, or I could attend a Lansing park board meeting to try to save the beloved Scott Garden from the city's destruction.

I longed to be with my family to say goodbye to my childhood memories. But my grandparents' home was already doomed. I decided instead to try to spare Scott's great-grandchildren those same tears. I spoke

in support of the garden, along with scores of other residents and hundreds of petition signers. Sadly, the Scott family lost their childhood space despite the

This is the first in a series of guest columns by candidates for mayor of Lansing in the Aug. 3 primary election. The order was determined by lot. One candidate, Farhan Sheikh-Omar, chose not to participate after being randomly selected to go fifth.

enormous public support and a viable alternative plan to save Scott Garden.

That was one of many fights I have lost against City Hall and the City Council in my 15-plus years as a Lansing neighborhood and community leader. But this one really hurt. It felt symbolic of problems plaguing City Hall for decades. It highlighted the blatant disregard for citizens. If citizens could not win on something as "trivial" as greenspace, how could we trust leaders on even more critical matters related to our health, safety, and livelihood? It once again caused us to question the motives of leaders and the influence of outside interests governing City Hall. And it added to the long list of the short-sided decisions made without regard for our history, our future or our children.

The system that is supposed to protect our people, our parks and our neighborhoods has all too often been an adversary. Citizens and employees have no recourse for

complaints against the city under current ordinances. Power has been concentrated in the hands of the city attorney and mayor. Political appointees have replaced professional staffers of years past. Employees in all departments are vulnerable to compromising circumstances. Many departments operate within frameworks that treat groups of people or neighborhoods differently, intentionally or unintentionally.

Dysfunction is costly. It drives away potential businesses, talented employees and residents. We lose revenue and waste taxpayer dollars on government fines for mistakes. When we fail to properly invest in our neighborhoods, we see loss of property values and an increase in crime.

Dysfunction can also be deadly with poorly managed programs involving city-contracted home repairs, back-logged inspections and prison first-aid protocols. We must do better.

It is time for Lansing to have a more ethical and professional city government. My goal as mayor is to transition us to a "city manager" system, eliminating the "strong mayor"

system as over 80% of cities in Michigan have done. The operation of the city would be handled by professionals with detailed knowledge of best practices rather than people driven by political goals. This will save money, improve services, reduce special interests' influ-

ence and give neighborhoods more voice.

Meanwhile, I will clean up City Hall. My diverse incoming team will focus on customer service and maintain high ethical standards. We will institute financial transparency and prioritize community well-being, supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs, and organizing neighborhoods. We will promote long-term public safety and health of our residents and neighborhoods. This includes affordable housing, restorative justice, access to mental health services and conflict resolution to eliminate overuse of police services. We will fully engage with citizens from all walks of life, making it easier for everyone to participate in decision making and access city services. We will develop policies and solutions based on best practices and the input of those affected. Lansing deserves this fresh start.

I am from Goshen, Indiana — a small Mennonite-influenced community where service, stewardship and social justice are important values and where my family has resided and served for many generations. Lansing has been my adopted home since 1993. I attended Michigan State University, where I completed my Ph.D. in community psychology and met my husband, Sam Quon, who completed his master's degree in urban planning. We chose to reside here to live out our commitment to urban development. We have two teenagers who have helped flyer neighborhoods since they were babies.

I have been a community, youth and economic development professional for over 25 years, primarily at MSU and now independently. I have helped communities across Michigan to improve local economic development opportunities, to create better community resources for children and to improve hands-on educational opportunities — especially for children with learning differences. I have worked on statewide policies related to mental health, welfare reform and health education with an aim of increasing resources and improving the lives of marginalized individuals and communities with their input. To learn more about me or to share your story, visit [melissahubertforlansing.com](http://melissahubertforlansing.com). Confidential whistleblowers are welcomed.

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF INGHAM  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate**

Estate of Alma Marie Dean. Date of birth: 10/20/1928.  
TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent Alma Marie Dean, died 3/17/2017. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Donald Dean, personal representative or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo, Lansing, MI 48933 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Donald Dean  
1321 E. North St  
Lansing, MI 48906  
517-482-2424

CP#21-112

**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, APRIL 27, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. IN COMPLIANCE WITH MICHIGAN PUBLIC ACT 254, THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM PLATFORM.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Supervisor Hayes, Clerk Sanders, Treasurer McKenzie  
Trustees: Harris, Broughton, Ruiz  
Trustee Brewer  
**MEMBERS ABSENT:**  
**ALSO PRESENT:** Michael Gresens, Attorney  
Randy Seida, West Side Water  
Dan Richards, Code Compliance

**ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:**  
Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.  
Approved minutes of meetings held on April 13, 2021.  
Agenda approved as amended.  
Adopted Resolution 21-07: Resolution to Authorize Official Statement and Continuing Disclosure Certificate for Montgomery Drain Drainage District Bonds as presented.  
Approved West Park Phase 1 Water Permit as presented.  
Approved claims as presented.  
Approved moving into Executive Session for pending litigation.  
Approved return to Regular Session.  
Approved authorizing settlement of Tax Tribunal cases as discussed in Executive Session.  
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor  
Maggie Sanders, Clerk

CP#21-120

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
54A JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
124 W. Michigan Ave. #54A,  
Lansing, MI 48933  
ORDER REGARDING  
ALTERNATIVE SERVICE  
CASE NO. 21-00097-SC**  
Plaintiff: Jeff Wagner, 5133 Balzer St., Lansing, MI 48911  
517-392-6794  
v  
Defendant: Amanda O'Boyle  
124 W. Michigan Avenue 5th floor  
Lansing, MI 48933. 517-483-4320

Last known home address & phone: 1323 Kelsey Ave., Lansing, MI 48910. 630-740-8757

**THE COURT FINDS:**  
1. Service of process upon the defendant, Amanda O'Boyle, cannot reasonably be made as provided in MCR2.105 and service of process may be made in a manner that is reasonably calculated to give the defendant actual notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard.  
2. Service of the Affidavit and Claim and a copy of this order shall be made by the following method(s).  
a. First class mail to 1323 Kelsey Ave., Lansing, MI 48910  
d. Other: Publication of Order in the Lansing City Pulse for 3 consecutive weeks beginning 04/28/2021 and continuing on 05/05/2021 and 05/12/2021. For each method used, proof of service must be filed promptly with the court. Date: April 14, 2021.

CP#21-106

# Why Craig excites Republicans ... and why maybe he shouldn't

Detroit Police Chief James Craig is retiring and Michigan Republican Party's top brass appears to have successfully recruited the conservative cop to run for governor in 2022.



POLITICS

KYLE MELINN

He's not talking about it, yet, but the behind-the-scenes information is that Chairman Ron Weiser and MRP Executive Director Jason Roe met with him. Craig is in. This is their guy to knock off Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in 18 months, as long as something screwy doesn't happen.

The appearance of an A-level candidate into the field is being met with support and relief among Republicans who were becoming increasing nervous as other big names like Candice Miller, Mike Shirkey, Ronna McDaniel and Lee Chatfield have taken hard passes on running against Whitmer.

Up to now, the Republican gubernatorial field has consisted of lightly known political neophytes whose impetus for jumping into the ring was spurred by the governor's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The lifelong cop's presumed entrance would bring many positives if you're a Republican. For starters, he defines an issue that won't mold with age: police protection. Over time, the agitation over Whitmer's handling of the state during COVID-19 could dull.

A year from now, independents may grow more empathetic about Whitmer's get-tough approach in the face of various political pressures. Her likely message of "doing the best she could to save lives" may penetrate as time makes the heart grow fonder.

Regurgitating the "Defund the police" battle cry? Unlike COVID-19, crime can't be vaccinated away. And who stood up to crime in the Motor City while Portland burned?

The Fox News-commentating Republican police chief.

Also, Craig's support for the Second Amendment will earn him instant credibility in various rural communities as they get to know him. With Republicans picking up new supporters among blue collar, union retirees, Craig could bring instant cachet.

Republicans also hope to continue chipping away at the Democrats' mass

appeal among African-American voters, which has been a slow and steady process, to be generous. Trump did a little better with this population than recent GOP candidates, garnering 12% and 16%, according to a Target Insyght survey on Election Night 2020.

The GOP has a case to make that they are doing better than Democrats in recruiting Black candidates for major offices — John James in 2018 and 2020, Bill Lucas in 1986, Keith Butler in 2006.

Also, they're banking on more Black voters not buying the Black Lives Matter political agenda in their neighborhood. These folks would rather see more police presence, not less. The Christian influence and social conservative streak that runs through the Black population is there.

Overcoming the historical and societal reputation that Republicans fought against civil rights and routinely turn a blind eye toward racism is the problem.

If Republicans think that the Black police chief from Detroit, his home city, is going to marginally erode Democrats' support in the Motor City, Detroit political consultant Adolph Mongo said they're mistaken. Mongo is projecting Craig won't capture 15% of the vote in Detroit.

Craig will need to "bow down to the God of the Republican Party, Donald Trump," and that isn't going to play too well in Detroit, Flint, Pontiac, Saginaw, Benton Harbor and most of Oakland County, he said.

Craig is a Detroit native, but he was brought back to Detroit by former emergency manager Kevyn Orr and former Gov. Rick Snyder from Cincinnati. He's a Rick Snyder Republican, which hasn't been in style in GOP circles for several years now.

"If he's running with the Trump ticket, he'll need to denounce Black Lives Mater, Antifa, say the election was stolen and agree with these new election laws in the South," Mongo said. "Look what is happening to Liz Cheney. If he can't get the finances together, he might as well just become a pundit on Fox News. I don't think he's ready for the big time."

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

# Lansing Made 517 Day Celebration

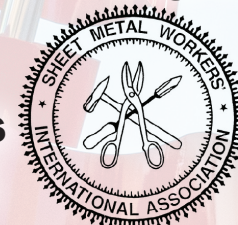
## #MIArtCity

A two-hour television special  
Sat., May 15 at 6 PM on FOX47  
& Mon., May 17 (5/17)  
at 6 PM on MY47



Metro Melik  
talks with local  
Artists & Musicians  
about creating art  
in the 517

Brought to you in part by:



[www.517Day.com](http://www.517Day.com)

Performances & Interviews with:



Alfonso Civile,  
of Heartsick



Gregory D,  
Singer/Performer



James Gardin,  
Musician



Jessica D.  
Cowles,  
Photographer



Brian Whitfield,  
Muralist



Ryan Holmes,  
Chalk Artist



# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS



By KYLE KAMINSKI



### Union fights Enbridge shutdown

Hundreds of hard hats were placed on the Capitol lawn Tuesday by members of Steelworkers International and Local 912 at the Toledo Refining Co. to represent more than 1,000 refinery jobs that would be lost if Michigan closes the Enbridge Line 5 oil pipeline. Under an order from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, the pipeline has been ordered closed by today.

### EL reinstates suspended teacher

The MacDonald Middle School teacher was investigated for issuing two homework assignments that reportedly included violent images and descriptions of slaves, slave quarters and rebellions that also asked students to imagine themselves as enslaved people and then write about the “positive” aspects of the slave trade.



East Lansing  
Public Schools

### Redistricting public hearings start

The state’s Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission began hosting them to formulate a plan to redraw congressional districts in Michigan. The commission, created through a 2018 ballot proposal, will host a May 27 meeting at the Lansing Center.

### Raise urged for governor

Michigan’s State Officers Compensation Commission also voted to bump up salaries for the lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, lawmakers and state Supreme Court judges by 2% in 2023 and 2024. The recommendation requires legislative approval and would bump the governor’s annual paycheck to nearly \$166,000 by 2024.



Whitmer

### Super’s salary: \$185,000 a year

The Lansing School District penned a three-year contract with Benjamin Shuldiner, a dean’s fellow at Hunter College in New York, to serve as superintendent. Shuldiner, who was picked over Jessica Benavides, starts July 1.

### Back taxes plague Golden Harvest

The staff is trying to raise \$20,000 to keep the breakfast restaurant open in Old Town after it closed last March and was recently put



into foreclosure for failure to pay taxes. By Tuesday afternoon, a crowdfunding effort on GoFundMe had already raised about \$14,000.

### Lansing waives license fees

By unanimous vote of the City Council, Lansing bars and restaurants with music and dance floors won’t be required to pay \$500 for an annual cabaret license this year. The hospitality industry has been “among the hardest hit due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” according to a Council resolution. Those who have already paid for those annual licenses will be reimbursed.

### Hair bias bill gains traction

The Lansing City Council voted to support legislation from State Rep. Sarah Anthony that aims to prevent discrimination by expanding state law to recognize hair as a characteristic of race. The CROWN Act — which stands for “Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair” — specifies that certain hairstyles (like braids, locs and twists) have been historically associated with race and cannot be used as a basis for discrimination in employment, housing and more.



Anthony

### Fatal fire nets two suspects

The Lansing women, 27 and 29, were charged Tuesday with murder for their role in the fire at a townhome in the 4100 block of Woodbridge Drive last week. Authorities said they found Corey Gregory Dalton, 28, badly burned outside the home. He was later pronounced dead as the result of a homicide, police said. Those with additional details are asked to contact the Police Department at 517-483-4600.

### LEAP recognized for development

The Lansing Economic Area Partnership was named among the top 20 economic development organizations in the country with Site Selection Magazine’s Mac Conway Award. Last year, the organization helped generate \$37.4 million in private investment and create 353 new jobs.



### Tax assistance still available

Lansing residents can file their federal taxes and set up a bank account by May 17 to be eligible to qualify to receive tax credits for individuals and families, healthcare tax credits, advance child payments and childcare tax benefits through President Joe Biden’s American Rescue Plan. Residents can call the city’s Office of Financial Empowerment for assistance at 517-449-5842.

### Michigan Guard reimbursed

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed a bill that provides the payments to the soldiers who were deployed in the U.S. Capitol for the Jan. 6 insurrection, including for meals they bought due to inadequate food service from a third-party vendor in Washington. The legislation includes \$110,000 to be split evenly among each eligible soldier.



### Lawsuit cracks down on illegal wine

Attorney General Dana Nessel joined a federal lawsuit against companies in West Virginia, California, Oregon and New York that have allegedly continued to defy state liquor laws by illegally shipping booze directly to consumers in Michigan. Nessel said the illegal importation creates issues with safety regulations and also allows for minors to easily obtain alcohol.

### Farmers Market back in EL

City officials announced June 6 as the new opening day for the East Lansing Farmers Market in Valley Court Park. The 2021 season will run on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Oct. 31. Social distancing will be practiced. Vendors are listed at city-feastlansing.com/farmersmarket.



# Diocese aims to restrict transgender care in St. Casimir sale

## Civil rights experts question legality of proposed property deed restrictions

Proposed property deed restrictions discriminating against transgender people, among others, could derail early plans for a local nonprofit to purchase and renovate the shuttered St. Casimir Catholic Church and Parish in Lansing.

Child and Family Charities announced plans this year to purchase the three-acre parcel on Sparrow Avenue after the church closed last summer. The city's Planning Commission and the City Council have since greenlit the nonprofit's plans to renovate the campus and open a new headquarters for counseling operations, a community center and an emergency youth shelter.

Those plans hit a snag this week, however, after the Catholic Diocese of Lansing proposed a set of strict limits on the property that would forever prohibit the property from being used for, among other things, supportive services for transgender people or birth control distribution. Those restrictions,

**“Any deed of sale includes a fairly predictable list of potential activities which the Catholic Church would deem unsuitable for a former place of worship including, for example, a strip club, a pornography store, a euthanasia clinic, or a place where gender ‘transitioning’ or ‘reassignment’ procedures are facilitated or promoted.”**

**— David Kerr, Lansing Catholic Diocese spokesman**

called a covenant, would be attached to the former church site indefinitely.

Child and Family Charities CEO Julie Thomasma said Monday that her organization had not yet discussed the proposal with church. Those property sale negotiations are still ongoing.

Thomasma declined to comment on the substance of the proposed property restrictions but noted that Child and Family Charities is committed to living its “values and mission” — including being “an inclusive” and “very welcoming” agency for any person in need of its assistance.

The agency, located in Delhi Township, has been pursuing the former St. Casimir property since last year. Its plans include relocating counseling services to southwest Lansing and opening a youth center for up to 14 local children experiencing homelessness.

Diocese spokesman David Kerr said

such property sale restrictions are routine for the church.

“Whenever the Catholic Church sells any place of worship there are always stipulations included in the deed of sale preventing that sacred building being subsequently used for purposes contrary to the ethical standards of the Catholic Church — this is a long-established, widely accepted, and, until now, unremarkable practice that, we would contend is both reasonable and legal,” Kerr said.

Added Kerr: “The addition of a clause on gender ‘transitioning’ or ‘reassignment’ procedures is a more recent addition to such deed restrictions. I’m not sure what other diocese in Michigan or elsewhere in the United States are doing but, I suspect, they too are responding in similar fashion as new ethical issues rise to prominence within contemporary society.”

Providing affirmation and support for those who are transgender or gender non-conforming is the standard of care, according to the American Psychological Association. Not providing gender-affirming care can ultimately lead to psychological harm, according to the organization.

The diocese announced a new policy on gender identity Jan. 15 that requires a rejection of “gender theories” and strict adherence to recognizing only the “God-given biological sex.” It also calls for counseling services provided by Christian counselors with a “correct” understanding of that belief. The church also flatly rejected the use of medical interventions for transgender people, including puberty blockers and other medically necessary transition-related care.

Legal experts said the restrictions may violate state law and the city's Human Rights Ordinance.

“Enforcement of the restriction on gender transitioning activities and gender reassignment, which are promoted, advocated or encouraged, would go against Lansing's HRO” — Human Rights Ordinance — “as well Michigan civil rights laws, as interpreted by the



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Child and Family Services wants to buy the old St. Casimir Catholic Church, on Sparrow Avenue, to use as a counseling center, but the Catholic Diocese of Lansing is seeking discriminatory restrictions on its use.

Michigan Civil Rights Commission in 2018, that transgender people are protected against discrimination in public accommodations under the category of sex,” said Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project.

That opinion was supported by Lansing City Council President Peter Spadafore, who said the “disappointing” proposed deed restrictions could harm youth who are already at higher risk.

City Attorney Jim Smierka said the city's ordinance is unlikely to provide relief, but he noted a new property owner who doubts the legality of a deed restriction can “ignore” it, triggering a court battle that would weigh the seller's First Amendment rights with the buyer's property rights.

Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail called the proposed restrictions a “travesty” and compared the proposed restrictions to historical covenants that have prevented people of color from living in certain areas of communities, resulting in disparate health and economic impacts.

Race- and religion-based covenants on property deeds have a sordid history in Michigan. While the Fair Housing Act made such restrictions illegal, many of them remain on the books and on properties throughout the state. State Rep. Sarah Anthony introduced legislation in February that would allow those illegal property deed covenants to be eliminated statewide.

Anthony was “concerned” about the proposed restrictions at the former St. Casimir property.

“It shows that we have some work to do to make sure we are an inclusive community,” she said.

The proposed restriction on promoting or distributing contraception could

also have a significant impact on sexually transmitted infection rates in the county's youth population, Vail added. Despite the pandemic, Gonorrhea rates increased locally and statewide over the last year.

For Vail, the issue is about the “right” to access healthcare. Additionally, she said that prohibiting one location from providing specific care needs — such as counseling or condoms — could create additional barriers to care, increasing the likelihood that those needs won't be met.

Mayor Andy Schor said he was “disappointed” in the restrictions after his administration had worked to repurpose the property. He also called on the church to “reconsider” the proposal.

“Our social service agencies work with everyone that comes to them, and this would be an excellent re-use of this empty space,” Schor said.

City Councilwoman and mayoral candidate Patricia Spitzley called the proposed covenants “disappointing” and noted the nefarious use of such restrictions in the past to harm minorities.

“This proposal serves a critical need in our community and we must stand against any action that seeks to derail it,” Spitzley said.

Councilwoman and mayoral candidate Kathie Dunbar took no position and suggested City Pulse call neighborhood leaders. Dunbar is the executive director of the South Lansing Community Development Association, which is headquartered in St. Casimir. She was also the lead sponsor of the human rights ordinance that bans discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

**— TODD HEYWOOD**

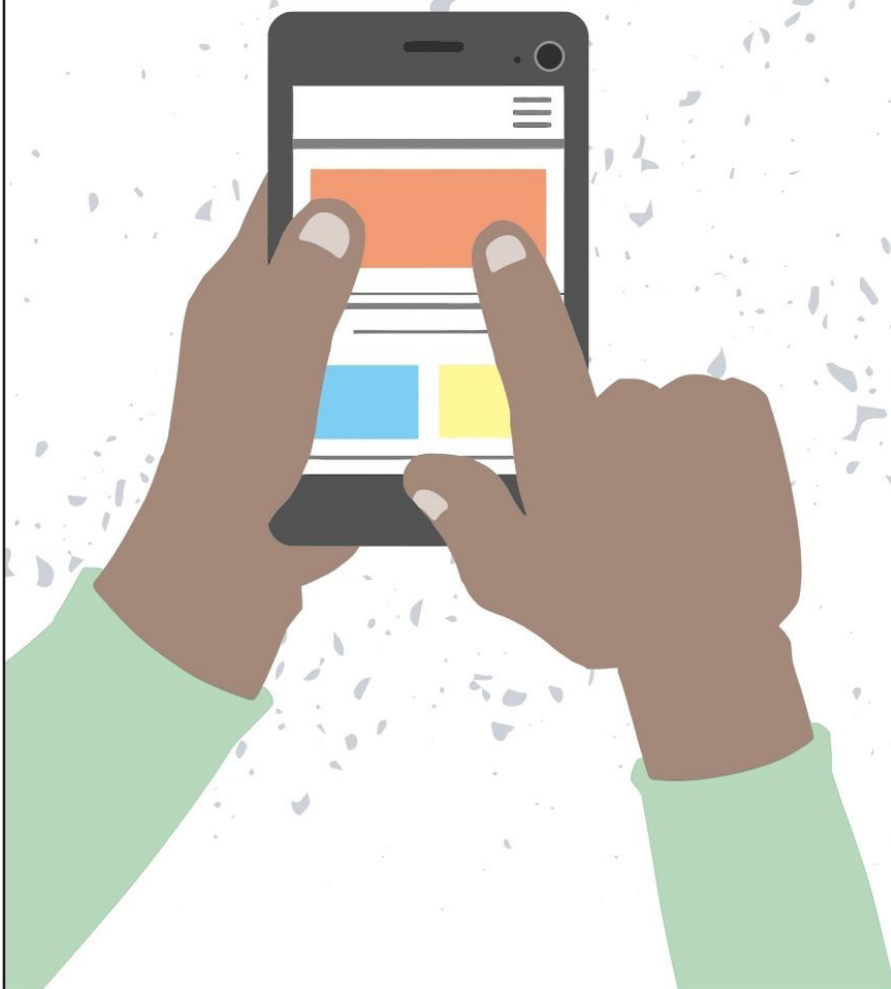
# CityPULSE

**Prefer getting your news by text?**

Sign up here:

<https://joinsubtext.com/citypulse>  
or text (517) 701-3458

Local news delivered to your mobile device.



## Lansing lines up millage restoration for August ballot

Proposal maintains tax revenues for cops, firefighters, roads

A proposal headed to the August ballot aims to maintain tax revenues for the Lansing Police and Fire departments and fund local road and sidewalk maintenance.

And if it doesn't pass, the city could lose out on about \$1.4 million annually, officials said.

The Lansing City Council last week approved language for an essential services millage restoration proposal for the primary election ballot Aug. 3. If it passes, the city will be authorized to maintain a 20-mill levy (\$20 per \$1,000 in taxable property value) that would otherwise roll back to about 19 mills at the end of the year, in accordance with the state Constitution's Headlee Amendment. The proposal would maintain the rate at 19.44 mills.

The cash would still be directed at funding essential services, including police and fire protection and local road and sidewalk maintenance in the city of Lansing, according to the proposal. City officials said the revenues help fuel day-to-day operations and ensure employees are paid.

Finance officials noted the funds have already been accounted for in Mayor Andy Schor's latest budget proposal. Its passage would prevent layoffs and keep

road maintenance on schedule.

The state's Headlee Amendment requires maximum annual property tax millage rates to be reduced so that the city's total taxable property yields the same gross revenue, adjusted for inflation. Because of this, municipalities often turn to voters to override that statutory reduction and ensure the millage remains flat regardless of changes in local taxable property values.

Lansing voters have approved those overrides twice since 2011, each for five years. The latest restoration proposal en route to voters would cap the rate at 20 mills through the end of 2026.

Councilman Brandon Betz — a vocal advocate for divesting from the Police Department — tried (and failed) to water down the renewal with a substitute proposal that would have redirected a \$1.2 million portion of the annual millage rate away from the Police Department to ramp up funding for the Fire Department and local sidewalks and road maintenance. Only Councilwoman and mayoral candidate Kathie Dunbar joined Betz in supporting the measure, which failed, 2-6.

Dunbar also proposed another iteration that would've redirected about \$600,000 away from the Police Department. That failed, 3-5, with Betz and Councilman Brian Jackson joining Dunbar.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

## Needed: Applicants for county boards and commissions

Ingham County is searching for enthusiastic residents to serve on advisory boards and commissions. Several vacancies offer an "excellent opportunity" for citizens to get involved in local government, according to a press release sent today.

Among the boards accepting applications:

- Equal Opportunity Committee
- Board of Health
- Economic Development Corp. board
- Environmental Affairs Commission
- Youth Commission

- Veterans Affairs Committee
- Environmental Affairs Commission

The Veterans Affairs Committee requires a letter of recommendation from a post. Applications for the Environmental Affairs Commission are needed to represent the following: municipal government; the Ingham County Health Department; forestry or natural resources; energy use and sustainability; and two more general members.

Visit [bc.ingham.org](http://bc.ingham.org) to download an application.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

# Michigan to greenlight in-person employment on May 24

## COVID-19 vaccination rate climbs toward state goal of 70%

The last week brought good and bad news for Michigan residents amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The good news: The pandemic appears to be nearing a conclusion as vaccinations continue. And for some, the bad news: It may also be time to abandon that cozy home office.

As of this week, at least 55% of Michigan residents ages 16 and older have been vaccinated against the coronavirus, triggering state officials to reel back precautions that will enable all in-person work to resume across all sectors of employment beginning on Monday, May 24.

Workplaces, of course, can set their own policies. But for some, the daily commute will resume.

“It puts us one step closer to getting Vacc to Normal,” Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said in a statement, a reference to the name of her latest plan to transition the state back toward pre-pandemic normalcy. “Everyone is eligible to get their safe, effective shots and it’s on all of us to get vaccinated as soon as possible to protect ourselves, our families and our communities.”

The return to in-person work across all sectors marks the first milestone of the “MI Vacc to Normal Plan, triggered by at least 4.45 million residents having received both doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or one shot the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in Michigan.

Two weeks after the state hits about 4.86 million people, 11 p.m. curfews could be lifted at restaurants and bars. Indoor capacity at sports stadiums, conference centers, banquet halls and funeral homes could increase to 25%. Gyms and fitness centers could open at 50% capacity.

The plan also details plans to further relax limits on residential and social gatherings as well as lift all indoor capacity restrictions — instead only requiring social distancing — two weeks after about 5.26 million residents (or about 65% of the state population) gets their vaccinations.

State officials said the goal to vaccinate 70% of those 16 and older — about 5.67 million people — would

then trigger the end of state-mandated restrictions unless “unanticipated circumstances” arise, like the possible spread of unseen vaccine-resistant variants of the coronavirus.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services also loosened its restrictions on face masks, no longer requiring they be worn outdoors unless a gathering has 100 or more people. Additionally, anyone who is fully vaccinated and not experiencing symptoms is not required to wear a mask at residential gatherings, including indoors. New guidance for organized sports also no longer requires COVID-19 testing for fully vaccinated, asymptomatic participants.

The updated orders also allow for larger outdoor events, including festivals, fairs and golf tournaments. Residential outdoor gatherings are also now allowed to include up to 50 people.

### In related news...

Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail said Greater Lansing is nearing the same statewide milestone. As of Tuesday, about 53% of Ingham County residents have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine — including about 91% of senior citizens who live in the county.

Still, about 40,000 more Ingham County residents need to be vaccinated to hit the 70% mark.

Accordingly, Michigan State University has removed requirements that masks be worn outdoors unless a gathering garners 100 people or more. Masks must still be worn at indoor locations on campus. Lansing Mayor Andy Schor has also allowed staff to resume some work-related travel.

Still, the Ingham County Democratic Party hit the streets last weekend to encourage those 16 or older to get vaccinated. In coordination with County Commissioner Derrell Slaughter, volunteers dropped off literature from the Health Department to every home in certain areas of south Lansing, which have experienced comparatively lower vaccine participation rates in the city.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

### CORONAVIRUS IN MICHIGAN

BY THE NUMBERS...

#### Michigan

	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.
5/4/21	851,947	17,897	7,018,442
5/11/21	867,341	18,338	7,449,075
Weekly Change	↑1.8%	↑2.5%	↑6.1%

#### Eaton County

	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.
5/4/21	8,554	180	80,339
5/11/21	8,683	190	85,458
Weekly Change	↑1.5%	↑5.6%	↑6.4%

#### Greater Lansing

	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.
5/4/21	36,294	603	353,085
5/11/21	36,749	628	376,650
Weekly Change	↑1.3%	↑3.5%	↑6.7%

#### Clinton Co.

	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.
5/4/21	5,827	77	61,538
5/11/21	5,887	79	65,572
Weekly Change	↑1.0%	↑2.6%	↑6.8%

#### Ingham County

	CASES	DEATHS	VACC.
5/4/21	21,913	346	211,208
5/11/21	22,179	359	225,440
Weekly Change	↑1.2%	↑3.8%	↑6.7%

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.



# PUT DOWN SOME ROOTS

**Indoor & Outdoor Plants**  
Garden Supplies • Gifts & Decor  
Gift Certificates • Expert Advice

**Our Services Include:**  
Custom Container Planting  
Houseplant Repotting  
Tree & Shrub Planting & Much More!

## Van Attas

Greenhouse and Flower Shop

9008 Old M-78 | Haslett  
517-339-1142 | vanattas.com

**Monday-Saturday:**  
9 am - 7 pm

**Sunday:**  
10 am - 6 pm




# CityPULSE



## LOCAL EXPERTS

### FINANCIAL

#### IRA's and Qualified Charitable Distributions

As you enter your 70s, you may start to look at an IRA not only as an asset, but also as a problem. By law, you must take required minimum distributions (RMD) from a Traditional IRA once you reach age 72; there are very few exceptions to this. The downside of these RMD is the entire distribution is taxable.

**Consider the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).** This is a direct asset transfer from an IRA to a charity or non-profit organization of your choice. The organization must be tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Section 501(c)(3).

**A QCD, sometimes called a charitable IRA gift, is intended to accomplish two things:** It gives you a chance to contribute up to \$100,000 in a single year to a cause or charity. You can also count the entire amount of the QCD toward your RMD for the year. The QCD amount may not be included in your gross income.

**You must be at least 70½ years old to make a QCD.** You may want to coordinate a QCD with the help and guidance of a financial professional, because if you improperly manage the transfer of assets between your IRA and the charity, the tax break could be lost. You also need to allow enough time for the asset transfer to occur, meaning QCDs are best arranged before the very end of a calendar year.



Mid-Michigan Insurance Group  
517-668-9600 / 517-999-5341



Full Circle Financial Planning  
517-974-2318

**JOSE YANEZ**

**(517) 316-5333**

4112 S. Cedar St.,  
Lansing, MI 48910

fullcirclefcp.com

### GIFTS

#### The importance of shopping with local merchants

Shopping small and supporting our locally owned small businesses has been especially important throughout the last few months. It will continue to be important as we embrace the unknown of the future. But there are ways that you can leverage these dollars spent. Look at what you are purchasing. Where is this item made?

By purchasing from small, locally owned businesses, choosing items made domestically, and even better, by local companies, you are triggering a domino effect for your dollars.

There is a movement in the United Kingdom that has extended around the world; "Just A Card." Their efforts are to show how purchases even as small as buying a greeting card can have a dramatic increase on a small business' or makers' bottom line. Imagine is 500 people would commit to purchasing between \$3 and \$5 per month in a shop. That \$1,500-\$2,500 can mean the difference between paying bills and not. Think about it.



**Absolute GALLERY**  
AND CUSTOM FRAMING

**ABSOLUTE GALLERY**

**(517) 482-8845**

307 E César E. Chávez Ave  
Lansing, MI 48906  
absolutegallery.net

### City of East Lansing Zoning Board of Appeals

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS AT ELECTRONIC MEETING Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

The Zoning Board of Appeals of the City of East Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan ("Zoning Board of Appeals") will hold public hearings on **Wednesday, June 2, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.**, concerning the following:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Laura and Jamie Fanning for the property located at 1505 Abbot Road, in the R-1, Low Density Single-Family Residential, for a variance from the following requirement of Chapter 50 – Zoning Code of the City of East Lansing:

Section 50-147(1)a: within any yard bordering a street, fences or walls, other than retaining walls, shall not exceed three feet at the property line when the fence is less than 40 percent open and unobstructed.

The applicant is proposing to construct a 6-foot tall solid fence along the side yard facing a street, where only a 3-foot tall solid fence is allowed.

2. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Gideon Bradburd and Marjorie Weber for the property located at 867 Audubon Road, in the R-1, Low Density Single-Family Residential, for a variance from the following requirement of Chapter 50 – Zoning Code of the City of East Lansing:

Section 50-147(1)a: within any yard bordering a street, fences or walls, other than retaining walls, shall not exceed three feet at the property line when the fence is less than 40 percent open and unobstructed.

The applicant is proposing to construct an 8-foot tall solid fence along the front yard facing a street, where only a 3-foot-high solid fence is allowed.

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

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

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

**Join Zoom Meeting by Video:** <https://zoom.us/j/92810805508>

**Or Dial In By Telephone\*\* - Call in: 312-626-6799, Toll Free: 888-788-0099**  
**Meeting ID: 928 1080 5508**  
**Password: Not required**

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

3. **Contact Information.** For those who desire to contact members of the Zoning Board of Appeals to provide input or ask questions on the business that will come before the public body at the meeting, please contact Peter Menser, at (517) 319-6861 prior to the start of the meeting.

4. **Persons with Disabilities.** Persons with disabilities may participate in the meeting through the methods set forth in paragraph 2. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services in order to attend electronically should notify Rebecca Urdiales, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 319-6922, TDD 1-800-649-377, within a reasonable time in advance of the meeting.

Jennifer Shuster  
City Clerk

CP#21-121

# You belong here

Free\* or reduced tuition for ages 25 and older.

[lcc.edu/reconnect](http://lcc.edu/reconnect)



\*STUDENTS WILL STILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR COURSE FEES AND BOOKS.  
LANSING COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION/EMPLOYER.

# SPRING SPECIALS

Come see our new products for your plant and gardening needs!



**Our Flower Shop creates beautiful arrangements!**  
Delivery is available



**More blooms for your garden arriving daily**  
Annuals  
Perennials  
Hanging Baskets



**Landscaping Services**  
Clean Up • Mulching  
Contact us for Outdoor Services  
517-322-2671

... and so much more!



1434 E. Jolly Road | Lansing  
517-882-3115 | [lansinggardensllc.com](http://lansinggardensllc.com)

Shop Monday-Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

# Teenager convicted in Lansing murder looks for a 'second chance' at life

## Inmate asks Whitmer for gubernatorial commutation after 21 years behind bars

**J**esus Mora has spent more than half of his life in prison.

Mora, 37, was 15 years old when he and his friend shot and killed 15-year-old Isaac Rivera, leaving his body in an abandoned coal storage area in south Lansing — the city's first homicide of 1999. Court records show Mora fired first. Marcos Rayos, who was 19 at the time, fired next.

At least 16 bullets later, Mora sealed Rivera's fate with a shot to the head. A passerby found his body the next day. U.S. marshals and Lansing police tracked down Mora and Rayos less than two weeks later after they fled to a Native American reservation in South Florida.

Both pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in 2000. Rayos was sentenced to serve at least 25 years in prison, making him eligible for parole in 2024. Records show prosecutors painted Mora as the mastermind of what amounted to "basically the execution of a 15-year-old child."

After his sentencing, the Lansing State Journal labeled Mora as a "chubby-faced" killer who stood silently in the courtroom while a judge handed down a sentence of 40 to 60 years. Last week marked 21 years served. He will celebrate his 38th birthday next month in a concrete cell, having spent more time shuffling between at least five state prisons than he ever did in Lansing.

Under state law, it's a punishment that Mora deserves. Rivera's family hasn't offered forgiveness. Mora will be in his mid-50s before he first becomes eligible for parole in 2039.

And while he knows he can't do anything to bring Rivera back to life, this week Mora is pleading for a second chance to reclaim his own — pushing back against a criminal justice system otherwise stacked against him and begging Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to consider a commutation.

"I'm basically trying to shed light on the idea that not everyone that comes to prison stays bad,"

Mora said in an interview from Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility, a Level II prison in Muskegon. "Their past doesn't always make them who they are today. There are people who take advantage of opportunities, take classes and join groups to change themselves. It changes the way they feel,



Mora



act — everything about themselves. Not everyone in prison is a bad person."

He added: "There's no amount of time that I can serve to repay that life. I know that 100%. I know that I caused pain among people: Isaac's family, my family, the community. I just feel that I've changed to where I know I'm not going to be a menace to society. I'm no longer that person. I don't feel that I have to do 40 years to show the community that I'm no longer the impulsive thinker that I was when I was a kid. After 21 years, even though there's no amount of time I can serve for taking a guy's life, there comes a point: How much more am I supposed to give?"

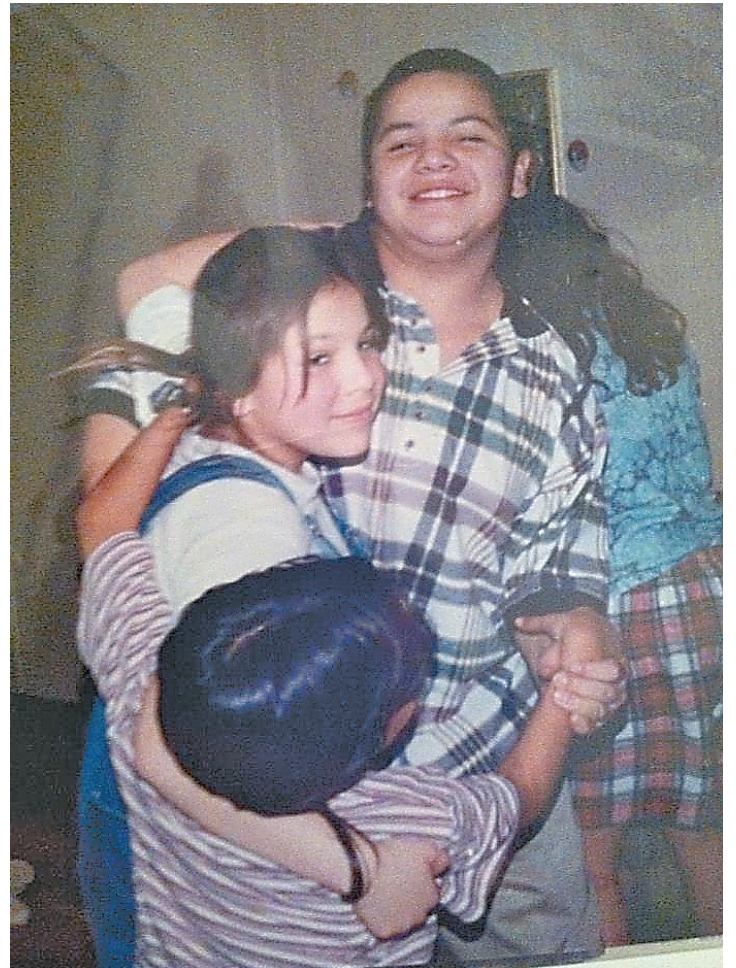
Under former Ingham County Prosecutor Stuart Dunning's administration, the answer to Mora's question was outlined in state law and prescribed clearly by an Ingham County judge: up to another 39 years, unless of course a parole board decides otherwise sometime after 2039.

Absent clemency from the Governor's Office, there's no other legal mechanism at Mora's disposal to pursue his release. He already tried and failed to appeal his conviction in 2001.

"I know this will bring up old wounds," Mora added. "I just want to express my sorrow. I know that doesn't take anything back or make anything better, but I really do apologize and I now understand the pain I've caused. I understand now that it was never my place to judge anyone."

Mora hasn't heard back on his application for a commutation. Under Whitmer's administration, they've been rare. The prosecutor-turned-governor has only granted four commutations since she took office in 2019 — and only after the state's parole board recommended release.

Much more common at the end of a governor's term, former Gov. Rick Snyder issued a total of 32



Courtesy Senaida Garcia

(Top) Jesus Mora (right) plays with cousins. Mora said he had a close-knit family before he was sentenced to prison in 2000. Even from afar, he tries his best to stay in frequent contact.

(Above) Growing up, Jesus Mora said that he made a promise to always defend his sister Senaida Garcia. He considers her as his best friend today.

(Left) Yolanda Garcia holds daughter Senaida Garcia and son Jesus Mora. She died after Mora was sent to prison.





# Mora

from page 14

commutations. Gov. Jennifer Granholm reportedly commuted 180 sentences. And former governors John Engler and William Milliken granted 34 and 95 commutations, respectively.

It's likely Mora will wait until the end of Whitmer's term for a definitive response to his request.

In the meantime, Rivera's family would prefer Mora stay behind bars. Rivera's older brother Ixchel Esquivel said he hasn't forgiven him. Rivera's mother, Maria Esquivel, was reportedly too distraught to watch Mora get sentenced. She told reporters — exactly 21 years ago last week — that Mora's 40-year minimum stint would finally afford an opportunity for her family to "heal."

Ixchel and Maria Esquivel didn't respond to requests for a phone interview this week. Multiple messages that were left with other members of Rivera's family in Lansing were not returned.

"At the time, I never thought what I did would have that effect on them, and I didn't realize how much pain I'd cause Isaac's family and my own family," Mora penned in a letter that he also sent to news outlets earlier this year. "At the time, all that was going through my head was revenge and to protect my family. And to be honest about what I did, it did not accomplish any of that."

Mora said his sister, Senaida Garcia, is his best friend. The two still talk every day. And only this year — after plenty of counseling — did Garcia finally stop faulting herself for what happened.

Mora and 14-year-old Garcia slept in the same bedroom in their childhood home in Lansing. Days before he was murdered, Rivera had stayed the night. He and Mora were friends — at least before Rivera climbed on top of Garcia and sexually assaulted her in the middle of the night, she said. Garcia timidly tried to wake up her brother, but he slept through the incident.

"Me and my brother were like friends. We told each other everything. I had been molested before that. My brother promised that nobody would do something like that again," Garcia told City Pulse. "We were little kids. I never took it seriously. I didn't think it would happen like that."

A "pretty emotional" Mora told Lansing Police Department investiga-

tors that he "really didn't want to shoot" Rivera — only "scare him," according to transcripts in court records. Police interrogated him for almost an hour before he admitted to "blacking out" and killing Rivera.

With a clear-cut confession on tape, Mora's attorney advised him to skip a costly and likely fruitless trial and to plead guilty to second-degree murder, which, unlike a first-degree murder charge, precludes the possibility that he could've been sentenced to life in prison without parole.

As court proceedings continued, Rivera's family flatly denied Garcia's rape allegations. A police report was never filed. Mora and Rayos, instead, decided to take justice into their own hands. Rivera's murder essentially ended any chances of him being investigated for a sexual assault.

"My brother did wrong, and I know he did wrong. He knows he can't take it back. And the reason he did wrong, I still feel some kind of fault for that," Garcia said. "I really don't want people to have sympathy for me. I want to be the survivor — not the victim. And some days I'm perfectly fine. You would never know. Other days, I cannot even be in a grocery store. I can't breathe."

Garcia stands behind her allegations against Rivera, but she said she has forgiven him for the assault. She also vouched for the rehabilitative progress that Mora has displayed in prison. He never had any violent streaks as a child. Before the murder, Mora had a clean criminal record. Still, he's a "changed man" who is now set on making positive contributions to society, she said.

"Think about what kind of person you were when you were 15 and how you've changed today," Garcia said. "The mind of a young person and the mind of an adult are totally different. As a mother, I think of his family too. I understand they lost a kid. We did too. They lost



Courtesy Senaida Garcia

A collection of leatherwork, visual art and knitting Mora has completed for his family while in prison.



See Mora, Page 16

# Mora

from page 15

one to a graveyard and we lost one to prison. He's still a family member that is no longer here anymore."

She added: "I think the system is broken to some extent — and not because he is my brother."

Supreme Court decisions in 2012 and 2016 retroactively declared all life sentences for juvenile offenders unconstitutional under the Eighth Amendment, triggering an ongoing nationwide review that has resulted in the release of hundreds of juvenile inmates after 25 years in prison.

Many Michigan prosecutors have been slow to follow the court's order to review those cases, but the only two juvenile lifers convicted in Ingham County were resentenced in 2017 and 2018 under Prosecuting Attorney Carol Siemon's self-declared "progressive" administration.

Former juvenile lifer Calvin Wilson, 40, was granted parole this week and is expected to be released from prison in July after having served about 23 years behind bars. He was convicted of murder in 1997 after he shot and killed a store clerk while robbing a party store in Lansing.

The other, Robert Whitfield, was granted parole in 2018 after his sentence was reduced to 25 years. Much like Mora, Whitfield had also been convicted on a murder charge at 15 years old.

Mora's situation is a bit different. He was tried as an adult. And because the high court's ruling on resentencing only applies to juvenile lifers, his 40-to-60-year sentence doesn't afford him any sort of second-chance review anyway. Had a judge sentenced him to life in prison, he could theoretically be up for parole 15 years ahead of schedule — possibly as soon as 2024.

Siemon is an advocate for second-chance reviews on extremely long sentences and routinely offers lenient plea deals to avoid the future possibility of life in prison without parole. But when it comes to Mora's specific case, her hands are tied by state law and rigid judicial precedents.

"When the Supreme Court ruled that juveniles should not be sentenced to life in prison without parole, they didn't also rule that extreme sentences short of life in prison without parole are not justified,"



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Jesus Mora poses with a dog that he was able to help train while behind bars during a visit with his sister, Senaida Garcia. The two still talk everyday.



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Senaida Garcia poses in downtown Lansing last week. Only recently was she able to stop faulting herself for her role in her brother's crimes and subsequent 40-year minimum prison sentence.

Siemon explained via email. "I wish I had the staff to do this work. It's really, really important work for those of us who care about overall justice and there is never time to really thoughtfully move forward when we are just so busy reacting to what's right in front of us."

Added Ingham County's juvenile justice coordinator, Scott Hughes: "The problem is, once a case has been convicted and sentenced, the local prosecutor and their office do not have a defined statutory role in the process. A prosecutor can send a letter to the governor and/or the parole board, asking that a case be pardoned/commuted but it's just that — a letter. The prosecutor doesn't have legal standing to intervene once a case has been sentenced."

A preliminary review of state records shows only two others under 18 from Ingham County that have been locked up more than 20 years with a sentence short of life. Any hopes of adding in that layer of formal review for those cases hinges on a change in state law.

"A 40-year minimum sentence means the parole board can't take a look at this case for 40 years. That's just not good policy," said John Cooper, executive director of Safe & Just Michigan, an advocacy organization geared toward a range of reforms to curb unnecessary incarceration. "This needs to be about whether a person is a recurring threat to society."

Prior to a ballot initiative in 1978, Michigan's prison systems operated under a "good time" system in which inmates would see an automatic reduction in their minimum sentence for every month served without being cited for misconduct. It has since been replaced by "Truth in Sentencing" legislation that requires inmates to

serve every day of their minimum sentence.

Lawmakers tried in 2017 to reenact a form of "good time" credits into state law, but a package of legislation was crushed under strong opposition from law enforcement and county prosecutors statewide. Cooper's organization is still gunning for ways to reduce mass incarceration, but he remains less-than-hopeful that any lingering momentum remains to enact any relevant changes.

He also said housing each prisoner can take a \$35,000 annual toll on the state budget — another practical reason to consider leniency for inmates that have been truly rehabilitated.

"I'm not aware of any legislation that would institute a second look for cases like this, but we would support it," Cooper added. "We, as a society, need to balance the victims' demands for punishment, versus the cost, versus the likelihood that someone will actually change over time."

Over the last 20 years, Mora and Garcia have celebrated holidays and grieved their mother's death. She visits him as much as she can — or as much as the COVID-19 pandemic will allow. Garcia often shows Mora pictures of nieces and nephews who he has never met. Mora learned to knit in prison, so he sends her back with sweaters and belts for his close-but-distant family. Sometimes he draws portraits. Mora, who sometimes draws paintings, has developed his skill as an artist over his time served.

"Nowadays, prison is a lot different. It's a younger generation coming, and all they want to do is gang-bang and cause mayhem. I'm not trying to get into that. I stay in my room most of the time," Mora said. "It's my family that motivates me. They keep me going. I just have to be a better person so I can get out of here and be with them again. They're my only support out there."

Mora said he wants those who believe in second chances for inmates with lengthy sentences to write letters to the Office of Parole and Commutation Board in Lansing to lobby for his release. And until then, he'll stay focused on bettering himself and seeking forgiveness for his crimes.

"I know there's nothing I can do to give back their son and ease that pain. I really want them to know, I'm sorry. I really am. Even if nobody forgives me, I want to express my sorrow," he said.

— KYLE KAMINSKI



# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## ‘Each new badass’

Trombonist Michael Dease brews a fresh take on the blues

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

You could get into a thicket teasing out trombonist Michael Dease’s many inspirations. He’s a professor of jazz at MSU, after all.

But there is a pleasing ease to Dease’s expertise. He has the rare ability to communicate the simple feeling of happiness — just walking down the street, soaking up the sun and taking in the faces and places around you.

His new album, “Give It All You Got,” is making a big mark on the jazz scene, with great notices from DownBeat and other national forums. Dease is nominated for Trombonist of the Year by the Jazz Journalists’ Association.

Dease could scald you with a salvo of slide work where you sit, but he’s more interested in persuading you to walk along with him. In “Ritmo de Brevard,” he lets a single note refract a rainbow of harmonic colors as the samba rhythm strolls along.

A bedrock of blues makes the footing solid, no matter what melodic form he chooses. Dease credits his love of the blues to birthplace, Augusta, Georgia.

“Being a Southern raised musician, jazz was in the same conversation as Delta city blues, James Brown, R&B, James Cleveland, Mahalia Jackson and country music — not country rock, but real country music,” Dease explained. “I wanted to celebrate my relationship with jazz through a blues tinged lens.”

There’s no lack of brain food in “Give It All You Got,” but lately, Dease has gotten less interested in the cerebral side of jazz.

“We’re getting away from tapping your feet and shaking your ass. It worries me a little bit,” he said.

He knows it’s been a tug of war for decades.

“Well, this is my tug the other way,” Dease said. “I used to be more concerned with cerebral elements, when

I was first wrapping my head around them, but the propulsiveness and the beat of swing jazz just pulled me back.”

The company Dease keeps on “Give It All You Got” gives him a head start. The album marks Dease’s first lengthy encounter with Hammond B-3 master Jim Alfredson.

“This is the first time I’ve had Jim join my band, and what I respect and love so much about him is that the blues is always in his music, and everything is melodic,” Dease said.

“Dave’s Boogie Down” pinches the album’s overall air of comfort with an undertone of sexual tension, as Alfredson (who composed the tune) tugs the silk rope with a persistent, minor-key vamp, a “no” that really means “yes” to the boogie-ing going on around him.

“He’s the melody man, but he’s also the consummate rhythm section player on the organ,” Dease said. “He’s the real deal.”

Alfredson brought two tunes to the “Give It All You Got” session, drummer Luther Allison brought one and trumpeter Anthony Stanco, an MSU Jazz Studies alumnus, brought Dease’s favorite tune on the CD, “Climb the Mountain.” Stanco has made good since his MSU years, teaching at Oakland University and Ohio State and leading a five-piece jazz ensemble that tours the world for the U.S. State Department’s “American Music Abroad” program.

Stanco envisioned a brisk tempo, but his tune was so lovely that Dease suggested the group slow it down and give it a “church feeling.”

“It’s like if you add a drop of water to a peaty Scotch,” Dease said, mixing his metaphors like a combination priest and bartender. “The tempo made all the flavor of the tune come out.”

Dease wrote the rest of the tunes on the album. “Word to the Wise” has a strolling, perfect-day feeling, with Dease in supple, fluid mode of his trombone idol, Curtis Fuller.

“That’s what the older folks call ‘the grown folks’ tempo,” Dease said.

“The more experience you get — I’m avoiding saying ‘old’ — the more I



Courtesy

Trombonist Michael Dease’s new album, “Give It All You Got,” is steeped in the blues and energized by a colorful cast of supporting players.

realize that time moves so quickly and you never get it back, so why not take time to just enjoy the music?”

The pandemic has been a mixed bag for Dease. He loves spending time with his wife, Gwen, and their two young kids, at the perfect moment, just when the oldest is about to start preschool.

But he needs the give and take of teaching to prime his creative juices.

An only child, Dease spent much of his time combing through encyclopedias. He has been a teacher, in one form or another, since he was a teenager himself.

At MSU, he found the “real citadel of jazz education” he was looking for and relishes mentoring the students in his trombone studio, even via Zoom.

But he has other outlets to draw upon. Several tunes on “Give It All You Got” are inspired by Dease’s long-standing gig as director of a summer jazz program in North Carolina.

In 2013, Dease’s wife, Gwen, was invited to teach orchestral percussion and chamber music at the prestigious 84-year-old Brevard summer music

festival, a program of master classes and a musical celebration in the vein of Chataqua and Tanglewood.

Dease fell in love with the program and the setting. Festival organizers asked him if he was interested in helping Brevard branch into jazz. (A first attempt to bring jazz to Brevard, 10 years before, fizzled.) In five years, Dease grew the jazz program from one trombone class with 15 students into a 75-student program on all instruments.

“What’s special about Brevard is that the faculty comes from all over the country, of all ages, with all these different ways of approaching the music,” Dease said.

That’s the way Dease likes it. He had a chance to join two of the most prestigious jazz machines on Earth, the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra and the WDR Big Band, but that kind of regularity doesn’t appeal to him.

“I love what happens when you play with different people,” he said. “I get a different momentum, a different conversation with each new badass.”

# 'Early Morning Riser' mixes hilarity with life lessons

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Katherine Heiny's new book, "Early Morning Riser," is a comic novel that doesn't need a laugh track. "Early Morning Riser" will make you laugh out loud on its own. It's that funny.

The premise is relatively simple.

Jane, 26, is a newly minted schoolteacher who begins teaching second grade in Boyne City. She gets romantically involved with a handsome woodworker, Duncan, who by all claims is the town's Lothario and has no intention of settling down.



Heiny

Heiny, in a phone conversation from her home in Bethesda, Maryland, said her parents, who both worked for Dow Chemical Co. in her hometown of Midland, were "smart people who were funny by nature."

"Sometimes, I think I was the wrong baby taken home from the hospital," she said. "I scored seven percentiles on the ACT test," Heiny said.

If the ACT measured a sense of humor, she would have had a perfect score.

"I also have a basic insecurity that people won't read my book unless there is a joke in every paragraph," she said.

Her new book pretty much lives up to that rigor. It starts with her meeting Duncan, who comes to her rescue after she locks herself out of her home in her pajamas. Duncan, a jack-of-all-

trades, is also a locksmith. He can open any door, and pajamas are no problem either.

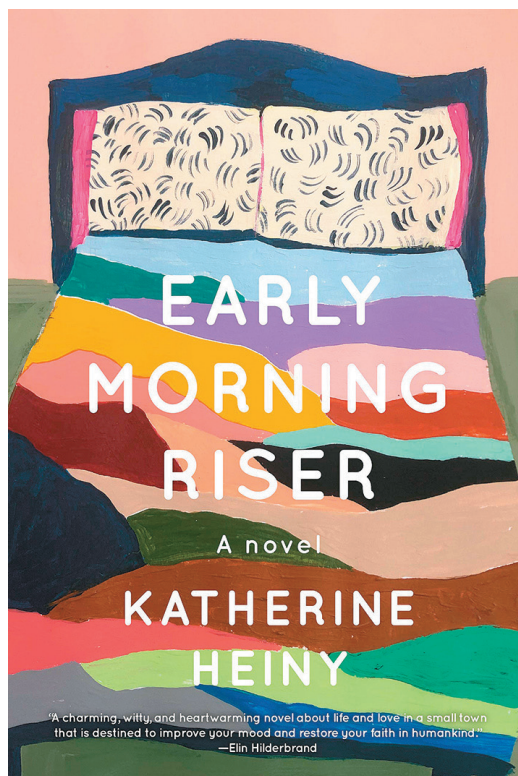
Heiny chose Boyne City as the location for her new novel because she and her husband once owned a summer cottage there.

"My husband was a diplomat, and we wanted the kids to have stability. Our boys learned to walk, had their first jobs and learned to drive a car there," she said.

Heiny posits her one son may have learned to walk because of the sticky floor at the Sportsman, a bar they used to frequent while staying at their cottage.

What makes this book so different from a romance novel, which it isn't, despite its many frolics, is Heiny's use of complex secondary characters to round out Jane and Duncan's relationship.

Jimmy is an intellectually challenged man who works for Duncan in his woodworking business; Aggie is Duncan's ex-wife and Frieda is Jane's best friend who, like a singing cowboy, is permanently attached to her man-



dolin — always at the ready to strum a folk-song or two.

Heiny is a lover of folk music and the book's title is derived from one of her favorite tunes, which she associates with Northern Michigan.

"As I was thinking about the book, I would listen to folk music," she said.

The relationship between Jimmy, Duncan and Jane is particularly

heart-warming and heartbreaking. Heiny masterfully mixes humor with touching scenes of love, frustration and the reality of life for Jimmy.

Aggie is a hard driving real estate agent, whose new husband has an aversion to just about everything and everyone. For the longest time, Duncan and Aggie had a thing going after she remarried, and he still cuts her grass, which makes Jane a little suspicious.

Some of the funniest scenes take place in the classroom, where Jane teaches a typical second grade class.

"My favorite scene is when Jane is in the classroom; teaching while she is pregnant," Heiny said.

Duncan and Jane's life goes merri-

ly along, even after a tragic accidental death; Jimmy moving in with them, their marriage; two active children and an ex-wife who is over the top. Soon, you've breezed through nearly two decades in Boyne City.

Jane said her two favorite books, "High Fidelity" and "Bridget Jones's Diary," were discovered while living in London.

Her favorite author is Anne Tyler, whose poignant and funny novels have inspired Heiny. "Everything I want to be, hope to be — I owe to Anne Tyler," she said.

Early reviews of the book in The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal raved, but one reviewer questioned whether a second grader would know about a lap dance. In today's world, that is not totally improbable.

Heiny was one of those early writers, but when she was turned down for a creative writing class during her senior year in high school, she was a little unsettled. However, all doubts were dispelled when she was accepted into Columbia University's MFA program. When Heiny was 25, she had an article published in The New Yorker.

Heiny has written two other books using her own name, "Single, Carefree and Mellow" in 2015 and "Standard Deviation" in 2017.

If there is one overriding message to take from Heiny's novel, it is that everyday life can be both funny and tender, often in the same sentence.

Heiny has observations about everything, from menopause to pasta.

In the book, she calls fettuccine alfredo the "SPAM of Italian food."

If you are wondering, a phone call with Heiny is just as funny as reading her book.

## UNIQUE BOUTIQUE

FINE ANTIQUES  
& COOL STUFF

16235 S. OLD US27 HWY • LANSING  
517-703-3376

CLOSED MONDAYS • TUE - FRI: 11 AM - 3 PM  
SAT & SUN: 12 PM - 6 PM

LAYAWAY & GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE

@UNIQUEBOUTIQUELANSING



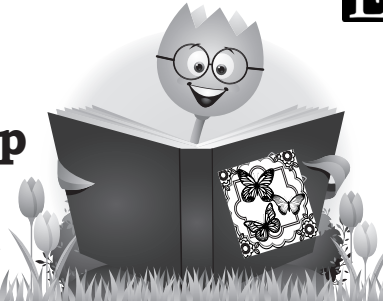
## Curious Book Shop

307 E. Grand River, E. Lansing  
332-0112 We validate parking  
Mon.-Sat. 10-7pm, Sun. 12-5 pm  
[curiousbooks.com](http://curiousbooks.com)

"There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island."  
 -Walt Disney

## Archives Book Shop

519 W. Grand River, E. Lansing  
332-8444 Free Parking  
Mon.-Sat. 11-6 pm, Sun. 12-5 pm  
[thearchivesbookshop@gmail.com](mailto:thearchivesbookshop@gmail.com)





Courtesy

Habitat for Humanity Capital Region volunteers work on a landscaping project for Lansing homeowners and Iraqi refugees, Fatima and Salah.

## Habitat for Humanity volunteers provide landscaping for Lansing

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

2020 was a slow year for Habitat for Humanity. Doing its usual work — building homes, rehabilitating homes, landscaping — seemed unsafe with a pandemic spreading across the globe. Now that more people are getting vaccinated, Habitat for Humanity is taking on more projects and slowly getting back to the way things used to be.

“In light of COVID, there’s been a little bit of reluctance,” said Vickie Hamilton-Allen, CEO of Habitat for Humanity Capital Region. “We have been managing everything very carefully. We’re making sure our volunteers are safe.”

On April 29, the organization partnered with Home Depot to provide free landscaping for Iraqi refugees and Lansing residents Fatima and Salah. Salah is a new homeowner and single mother. At their request, City Pulse is withholding their last names.

The volunteers were limited to outside work so they could still follow the proper COVID safety precautions.

“Our local Home Depot has chosen to support the work we’re doing. They support a lot of our projects,” said Hamilton-Allen. “Landscaping at Salah’s house was hard work. They



would like to submit a suggestion please email [skylar@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:skylar@lansingcitypulse.com)

**Habitat for Humanity Capital Region**  
1941 Benjamin Dr., Lansing  
Habitatcr.org  
(517) 374-1313

had to hand-shovel and level the ground, start seeding and getting everything ready.”

Angie Knudstrup, the merchandising assistant store manager and volunteer coordinator at Home Depot, considered that outing a success. She said it felt good to get back to work after a long dry spell. She said that members of Team Depot — the store’s fleet of volunteers — spent the whole pandemic asking when they could get back to work.

When a nonprofit partners with Team Depot, they apply for a grant through the Home Depot Foundation.

This is a new occasional feature highlighting events and milestones at local nonprofits. If you

See Habitat, Page 20

# Favorite Things

## Jory Green and his OGIO backpack

*Jory Green grew up adventuring on his skateboard and playing music with his friends. One constant throughout his life is his reliable OGIO backpack, which has survived several moves to different homes and even a nasty car accident.*

My favorite thing is my old OGIO backpack, which I got as a Christmas gift when I was 16. Nobody knew what to get me, so I was told to pick out what I wanted for Christmas. I went to CCS.com, a skateboarding website, and picked out a backpack that could hold my skateboard and had a line out, so I could still listen to music with my Zune in one of the pockets. I was so excited about having a Zune at the time, and I really wanted to be able to listen to music while skating.

I moved around a lot when I was a teenager, and this backpack was the only constant between all the different places. I took it to school with me everyday and out wherever I was going. It always held onto my most important things, which was good because I’m super forgetful. Now, I take it to work with me everyday. It holds not only the usual stuff, but also my vitamins and cosmetic stuff that I take everywhere with me to make sure I wash my face and stuff. I’m kind of weird about that. It was also one of the few things that made it out alive after a bad car accident I had. I drove my car into a narrow lake. I lost everything I had in the car, except for this backpack. After a wash, it was pretty much good to go again.



It’s been ripped up before, but I’ve always made sure to repair it and sew it back up. I use it so much that I don’t even remember how it gets ripped. It’s probably just from me using it all the time — I take it literally everywhere with me. It just gets worn down over the years. I have my aunt fix it up for me. She had to get a really big needle to fix it, and it kind of hurt her fingers. There was a little bit of blood on it that I had to wash off.

It’s a comforting thing to have around. I’m always losing things, at the very least I can see that I have my backpack with me and know that I have the essentials. There’s not much else that I have taken around with me for so long. It’s my favorite thing not because it’s super interesting, but because it’s been so reliable.

*Interview edited and condensed by Skylar Ashley. If you have a suggestion for Favorite Things, please email [Skylar@Lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:Skylar@Lansingcitypulse.com)*

# A nostalgic tale set alongside the Great Lakes

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

Dawn Newton's just released novel, "Remnants of Summer," filled me with nostalgia for my Michigan roots and it often brought tears to my eyes. The coming-of-age novel is an engaging mix of innocence and being faced with harsh realities.

"I wanted to write a novel that captured both the beauty and the darker strains that I saw in life during my adolescence," Newton said.

"I was also quite focused on exploring grief."

"Remnants" takes place during the summers of 1973 and 1974. A teenage girl named Iris experiences both the joys of living near a lake, and the tragedy that breaks her family apart.

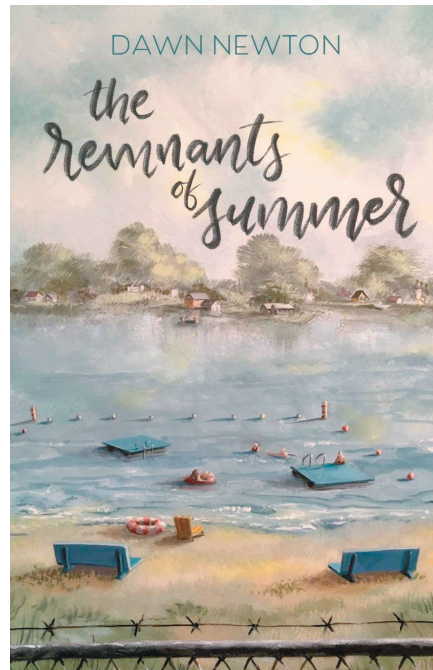
"I began writing the novel over 30 years ago while living in Virginia — knowing I wanted to capture a Michigan setting," Newton said.

Her parents' deaths in 1993 overwhelmed her with grief. "I realized the novel I wrote needed to honor them and my childhood in some way while exploring the emotional terrain," she said.

Born and raised in Southeastern Michigan, and now living in East Lansing, Newton received scholarships



Newton



to Michigan State University and John Hopkins University. She was trained as a fiction writer and taught at several colleges and K-12 classrooms in Virginia and Michigan. "I absolutely love teaching," Newton said. "I learn so much from students."

She taught at Lansing Community College from 1998 to 2006 as an adjunct professor and later as a full-time writing instructor.

"I found it challenging to deal with the paper load and raising children," Newton said. "I eventually moved on to an adjunct position at Oakland

University."

Writing the book over a three-decade period was hugely nostalgic for her.

"Every time I took a deep dive into the material, I would be transported to those days and things I thought and felt," she said. Writing gave her opportunities to revisit her parents' quirks and humor, and their wonderful family moments.

"Remnants" is often autobiographical. The parents in the 279-page novel are similar to Newton's. "The older sister, Liz, is a version of my older sister," she said. "I'm certain that Iris is a version of me."

Mentions of child murders are based on the Oakland County Child Killings of 1976-1977.

"Since the case was unsolved, I knew I didn't want to include actual details — except for the blue Gremlin, which was a key aspect of the original search for the killer," Newton said.

At the time, she lived in Oakland County and was a senior in high school.

"I remember being very affected by the killings, thinking some of the thoughts that Iris did," Newton said.

The MIA soldier that Iris is attached to in the novel, Colonel Patrick M. Fallon, is a Vietnam pilot who was shot down in 1969. Newton actually saw the televised interview with Fallon's wife that Iris sees in the book.

The character known as Sheldon was inspired by a man Newton worked with at a stock brokerage after returning to

Michigan following graduate school. Sheldon's work ethic was similar to her dad's.

Like the families in "Remnants," she had access to a lake. "I grew up in a working-class neighborhood where the residents had beach privileges," Newton said.

Writing "Remnants" was painful.

"I was mourning for the children lost to serial killers and the POW's and MIA's of that generation," she said. "I had to relive my parent's deaths and to revisit the struggles of adolescence."

Although begun much earlier, the new fiction novel is Newton's second published book. "Winded: A Memoir in Four Stages" was released just before the pandemic began. "The reviews were good and I was happy how it turned out," she said.

Getting the memoir published permitted a two-book deal that meant "Remnants" could finally be printed. "In a weird twist of fate, I had the good fortune of getting stage IV lung cancer, living long enough to write a memoir about it, publishing it and then going back to the novel I wrote so long ago," Newton said.

"Winded" gives insights to Newton's cancer battles, which she has struggled with since 2012.

"Winded" provided me with a concrete way of addressing and dealing with my cancer," she said. "It allowed me opportunities to learn and research my disease and share some of my day-to-day frustrations."

Which book is she most proud of? "It's a tie," Newton said.

## Habitat

from page 19

If they get the grant, the store passes around a sign-up sheet asking for volunteers to work on the project.

"Whoever wants to volunteer, even if they don't have special skills, it's great," said Knudstrup. "Especially when we work with Habitat, they help us out and show us exactly what to do. It's something that anyone who works at Home Depot can get involved in"

Knudstrup said that Home Depot is in contact with Habitat for Humanity, excitedly planning their next venture.

With all these projects on the horizon, Habitat for Humanity is going to need an influx of volunteers. The organization lost a lot over the past

year. Hamilton-Allen doesn't like to turn down projects, so she hopes that volunteers start drifting back once the anxiety around COVID has died down a bit.

"We need hands-on people right now because we're really lacking in that," said Hamilton-Allen. "We also need people with expertise. Engineers, interior designers, landscapers, architects. Even if they don't have the time to come onsite, they can still help us out by being an adviser."

She appreciates companies like Home Depot because they help out with supplies and provide construction experts. With lumber prices skyrocketing, Habitat for Humanity needs all the help it can get.

Stay-at-home orders are complicated, too, because some homeowners have houses in need of repair. Some need help keeping the lights on and the water running. The ability to stay



Courtesy

Habitat for Humanity Capital Region is looking for volunteers. No experience is needed.

at home is a privilege that not all people have access to.

"We have folks stuck in these homes. And we're seeing a rise in requests for help," said Hamilton-Allen. "I would

love to be able to bring this back into the conversation. We need to pay attention. When homes deteriorate, there are long-term consequences."

# Meet the retired cops who test most of Michigan's weed

Lansing laboratory plays pivotal role in Michigan's cannabis market

By **KYLE KAMINSKI**

Todd Welch doesn't smoke pot. After a 25-year career with the Michigan State Police in an era of illegal recreational marijuana, he said that he's more likely to pour cocktails than pack bong.

But that hasn't stopped his company from cementing a lucrative, highly specialized foothold in an often overshadowed portion of the state's licensed cannabis market: the safety compliance facilities statutorily required for growers to test every licensed marijuana harvest in Michigan.

"Our mission has always been to ensure that the product is healthy and safe," Welch explained. As the chief operating officer of Viridis Laboratories, Welch and his staff in Lansing and Bay City help to oversee testing services for more than 250,000 pounds of licensed cannabis products annually — or precisely 3,999,948 ounces more than I could smoke in that same timeframe.

Welch brought two other police veterans into the fold to help launch Viridis in 2016. Michele Glinn spent 12 years in MSP's toxicology unit. Greg Michaud kept watch over eight crime labs as director of the forensic science division before he became a trooper and retired as a captain.

And as it turns out, retired cops can make for halfway decent technicians in the cannabis world. Between the laboratories in Lansing and Bay City, Welch said his company has tested about 67% of all the recreational and medical bud sold in the state of Michigan over the last five years.

In total, Viridis operates more than 15,000 square feet of laboratory space with about 40 employees — all making at least \$40,000 annually. Welch said plans to begin building an addition to the Lansing facility within the next month will only allow for continued expansion.

Before gummies and eighters can hit pot shop shelves, state law requires the products to undergo a rigorous series of tests for the presence of microbes, moisture, pesticides, heavy metals and other contaminants. Labs like Viridis also test for THC content and terpene profiles to ensure customers have as much detail as possible about precisely what's getting them high.

Viridis' field teams look more like crime scene investigators than pot scientists, Welch explained.



**Lansterdam in Review:**  
**Viridis Laboratories**  
2827 E. Saginaw St., Lansing  
viridis-labs.com

Decked out in hazmat suits, teams collect samples (0.5% of any given harvest) and haul them back to the lab in temperature-controlled vans to be stored behind several locked doors. From there, the bud is ground up and inspected for outside contaminants. It's not too uncommon for staff to find bugs, twist ties, trellis netting and tips of latex gloves from the trimming process.

From there, products are taken to separate rooms — namely to avoid contamination — to be tested for pesticides and heavy metals like lead, cadmium and mercury from cultivation.

Ventilation is important; Welch said

the air is totally recirculated at least 8 times an hour.

If everything checks out, growers are free to label and package the remaining harvest. If not, the harvest must be destroyed. The samples, unfortunately, also have to be destroyed regardless. I almost cried when Welch showed me a whole refrigerator full of dabs headed for the trash.

A shift from policing to pot hasn't gone without some stigma — especially for Welch's old cop friends and colleagues who have been known to rib him from time to time for his newfound "stoner" ways. He remembers jaws dropping when he first disclosed his retirement plans.

"I will say, the response nowadays is totally different," Welch added.

"They think it's great. They're interested. They want to know more. That stigma has really gone away over time."

*Kyle Kaminski is City Pulse's managing editor and a cannabis enthusiast. Almost weekly, Kaminski samples some of the best cannabis products available in Greater Lansing, gets real high and writes about them.*



Staff at Viridis Laboratories test the majority of the recreational and medical adult-use marijuana harvested in Michigan.

## PURE OPTIONS™

PRECISION CRAFTED CANNABIS

### PURE PICKS OF THE WEEK

**LivWell — Zweet Inzanity**  
**/Sativa Hybrid /**  
*Effect: Happy, Uplifted, Energetic*

Typical of sativas, Zweet Inzanity leaves you with a clear-headed high that progresses nicely into your body without making you sleepy. It has a sweet, woody flavor and pungent, spicy, herbal aroma.

21.3% THC	NET WT.	SAVE
SATIVA HYBRID	\$25 1/8 OUNCE	\$10

Available for medicinal and adult use. Cannot be combined with any other offers or discounts. Offer valid 5/10/21-5/16/21, while supplies last.

**Sozo — Strawnana**  
**/Indica/**  
*Effect: Relaxed, Happy, Euphoric*

Strawnana crosses Strawberry and Banana OG, typically offering a relaxing and happy high that will have you feeling mentally stimulated. It comes on fast and hard with a rush of euphoric, cerebral effects that fill your mind with a giddy creativity and motivation.

12-16% THC	NET WT.	SAVE
INDICA	\$30 1/8 OUNCE	\$5

Available for medicinal and adult use. Cannot be combined with any other offers or discounts. Offer valid 5/10/21-5/16/21, while supplies last.

ORDER ONLINE AT **PureOptions.com**    ✉ [Info@pureoptions.com](mailto:Info@pureoptions.com)    **f** @pureoptions    **@** @pureoptionscannabis

WE GROW HERE, WE GREW UP HERE.

LANSING SOUTH 5815 S. Pennsylvania Ave. Lansing, MI 48911	LANSING NORTH 2905 N. East St. Lansing, MI 48906	LANSING EAST 1900 E. Kalamazoo St. Lansing, MI 48912
---	--	--

FOR USE BY INDIVIDUALS 21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER ONLY. Keep out of reach of children. It is illegal to drive a motor vehicle while under the influence of marijuana. National Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222.

# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Free Game!"—  
—it's themeless  
time again.

by Matt Jones

**Across**

- 1 Garden fixture
- 8 It's not the R in "MMR", but another name for measles
- 15 Before
- 16 Maroons
- 17 Misheard phrase such as "nerve-wrecking"
- 18 Thought that one could
- 19 Complete beginner?
- 20 Martial arts-based Lego set that launched a cartoon and subsequent movie
- 22 Req. for a restaurant to serve alcohol
- 23 Eric who said "I believe in the separation of church and planet"
- 25 Spread for some bougie brewpubs
- 26 Dal \_\_\_\_ (Rajasthani dish with wheat bread and ghee)
- 27 "Barebella" actress
- 29 Heart diagnostic, for short
- 30 Lammermoor bride of opera
- 31 Virtuoso guitarist Malmsteen
- 33 Use your break time, in a way
- 35 In the meantime, in Latin
- 37 How "Waiting for Godot" was originally presented
- 40 Jays' and Yanks' div.
- 44 Gotta-haves
- 45 '50s Dem. presidential candidate

1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15								16						
17								18						
19				20			21					22		
23			24		25						26			
27				28		29				30				
31					32		33			34				
			35			36								
37	38	39							40			41	42	43
44						45		46		47				
48					49					50		51		
52				53						54		55		
56			57						58			59		
60									61					
62									63					

- 47 Chilean pianist Claudio
- 48 E. \_\_\_\_ (rod-shaped bacteria)
- 49 Award given to "Nomadland" for Best Film in April 2021
- 51 Line parts (abbr.)
- 52 Dijon's here
- 53 Santa Monica area in early skateboard documentaries
- 55 Biden, to GIs
- 56 Beauty chain since 1970
- 58 Model who's the daughter of Wayne Gretzky
- 60 About .035 ounces
- 61 Connecticut-born cartoonist known for big stripey cats
- 62 Say again
- 63 Like old parchment

**Down**

- 1 Spell out
- 2 Rooted for
- 3 Malaysian-born comedian who gained fame in 2020 for his online cooking reviewer persona Uncle Roger
- 4 Happy coworker?
- 5 About 90% of all refined metal
- 6 Places in the heart
- 7 Johnson who invented the Super Soaker
- 8 Harmful bloom makeup
- 9 Long sushi order?
- 10 Ballpoint pen, in the U.K.
- 11 "Taiwan" suffix
- 12 Arsenic partner, in film
- 13 Wright who played Shuri in "Black Panther"
- 14 Withdrawn, perhaps
- 21 Big no-no for stand-up comedians
- 24 King nicknamed "Longshanks"
- 26 Sucky situations
- 28 Professional staff
- 30 Ali who had a perfect record in the ring
- 32 One, in Bonn
- 34 La la leader?
- 36 March Madness event
- 37 Canine neighbor
- 38 Division of the Tertiary period
- 39 Former Mexican president Calderón and baseball manager Alou, for two
- 41 Puerto Rico observatory site where a notable telescope collapsed in 2020
- 42 City north of Flint
- 43 Chianti's region
- 46 Visit
- 49 He was in a "Subsequent Moviefilm"
- 50 Caffeinated
- 53 "\_\_\_\_ and the Lost City of Gold" (2019 film)
- 54 Lacking value
- 57 Companion of wt.
- 59 Rapper \_\_\_\_ Dicky

©2020 Jonesin' Crosswords (jonesincrosswords@gmail.com)

Answers on page 25

## SUDOKU

## Beginner

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

### TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 25

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

May 12-18, 2021

**ARIES (March 21–April 19):** In one of her poems, Emily Dickinson tells us, "The pedigree of honey / Does not concern the bee; / A clover, any time, to him / Is aristocracy." I suggest you be like Dickinson's bee in the coming weeks, my dear Aries. Take pleasure and power where they are offered. Be receptive to just about any resource that satisfies your raw need. Consider the possibility that substitutes and stand-ins may be just as good as the supposed original. OK? Don't be too fussy about how pure or prestigious anything is.

**TAURUS (April 20–May 20):** A fan once asked composer Johann Sebastian Bach about his creative process. He was so prolific! How did he dream up such a constant flow of new music? Bach told his admirer that the tunes came to him unbidden. When he woke up each morning, they were already announcing themselves in his head. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, Taurus, a comparable phenomenon may very well visit you in the coming weeks—not in the form of music, but as intuitions and insights about your life and your future. Your main job is to be receptive to them, and make sure you remember them.

**GEMINI (May 21–June 20):** "I love unmade beds," writes Gemini poet Shane Koyczan. "I love when people are drunk and crying and cannot be anything but honest. I love the look in people's eyes when they realize they're in love. I love the way people look when they first wake up and they've forgotten their surroundings. I love when people close their eyes and drift to somewhere in the clouds." In the coming days, Gemini, I encourage you to specialize in moments like those: when you and the people you're interested in are candid, unguarded, raw, vulnerable, and primed to go deeper. In my opinion, your soul needs the surprising healing that will come from these experiences.

**CANCER (June 21–July 22):** Trailblazing psychologist C. G. Jung said his loneliness wasn't about a lack of people around him. Rather, it came from the fact that he knew things that most people didn't know and didn't want to know. He had no possibility of communicating many of the interesting truths that were important to him! But I'm guessing that won't be much of a problem for you in the coming months. According to my astrological analysis, you're more likely to be well-listened to and understood than you have been in quite some time. For best results, ASK to be listened to and understood. And think about how you might express yourself in ways that are likely to be interesting and useful to others.

**LEO (July 23–Aug. 22):** The French government regularly gives the Legion of Honor award to people deemed to have provided exceptional service to the world. Most recipients are deserving, but a few have been decidedly unworthy. In the latter category are Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega and Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad, as well as drug-cheating athlete Lance Armstrong, sexual predator Harvey Weinstein, and Nazi collaborator Marshal Pétain. I bring this to your attention, Leo, because the coming weeks will be a favorable time to reward people who have helped and supported you. But I also suggest that you pointedly exclude those who have too many negatives mixed in with their positives.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22):** In 2010, an American engineer named Edward Pimentel went to Moscow to compete in the World Karaoke Championship. He won by singing Usher's "DJ Got Us Falling in Love." His award: one million dumplings, enough to last him 27 years. I have a good feeling about the possibility of you, too, collecting a new prize or perk or privilege sometime soon. I just hope it's a healthier boon than dumplings. For best results, take some time now to clearly define the nature of the prize or perk or privilege that you really want—and that will be truly useful.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22):** I will love it if sometime soon you find or create an opportunity to speak

words similar to what novelist D. H. Lawrence once wrote to a lover: "You seem to have knit all things in a piece for me. Things are not separate; they are all in a symphony." In other words, Libra, I'll be ecstatic if you experience being in such synergistic communion with an empathic ally that the two of you weave a vision of life that's vaster and richer than either one of you could summon by yourself. The astrological omens suggest this possibility is now more likely than usual.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21):** Sometimes people don't like the provocative posts I publish on Facebook. They leave comments like, "You stupid idiot!" or "I hope you commit suicide!" and far worse. When I delete their messages, they become even more enraged, accusing me of censorship. "So you don't believe in free speech, you jerk?" they complain. I don't try to reason with them. They don't deserve any of my time or energy. But if I did communicate with them, I might say, "My Facebook page is my sanctuary, where I welcome cordial conversation. If you came into my house and called me an idiot, would it be 'censorship' if I told you to leave?" I hope these thoughts inspire you to clarify and refine your own personal boundaries, Scorpio. It's a good time to get precise and definite about what's acceptable and unacceptable from the people with whom you engage.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21):** Have you ever kissed a monster in your nightly dreams? Have you won a chess match with a demon or signed a beneficial contract with a ghost or received a useful blessing from a pest? I highly recommend activities like those in the coming weeks—both while you're asleep and awake. Now is a good time to at least make peace with challenging influences, and at best come into a new relationship with them that serves you better. I dare you to ask for a gift from an apparent adversary.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19):** What does it mean to "follow the path with heart"? I invite you to meditate on that question. Here are my ideas. To follow the path with heart means choosing a destiny that appeals to your feelings as well as to your ambitions and ideas and habits. To follow a path with heart means living a life that fosters your capacity to give and receive love. To follow the path with heart means honoring your deepest intuitions rather than the expectations other people have about you. To follow the path with heart means never comparing your progress with that of anyone else's, but rather simply focusing on being faithful to your soul's code.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18):** "It's a good thing when people are different from your images of them," wrote Aquarian author Boris Pasternak. "It shows they are not merely a type. If you can't place them in a category, it means that at least a part of them is what a human being ought to be. They have risen above themselves, they have a grain of immortality." I love that perspective! I'm offering it to you because right now is a favorable time to show that you are indeed different from the images people have of you; that you transcend all stereotyping; that you are uncategorizable.

**PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20):** You have personal possession of the universe's most monumental creation: consciousness. This mercurial flash and dazzle whirling around inside you is outlandishly spectacular. You can think thoughts any time you want to—soaring, luminescent, flamboyant thoughts or shriveled, rusty, burrowing thoughts; thoughts that can invent or destroy, corrupt or redeem, bless or curse. There's more. You can revel and wallow in great oceans of emotion. Whether they are poignant or intoxicating or somewhere in between, you relish the fact that you can harbor so much intensity. You cherish the privilege of commanding such extravagant life force. I bring these thoughts to your attention because the time is right for a holiday I call Celebrate Your Greatest Gifts.

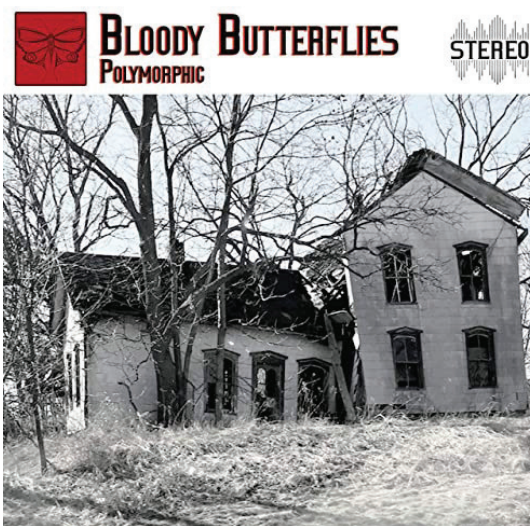
Go to [RealAstrology.com](http://RealAstrology.com) to check out Rob Breznsky's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.

# TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

NEW MUSIC: BLOODY BUTTERFLIES  
'POLYMORPHIC' IS AN OMINOUS TRIP



Bloody Butterflies comprises Jon Howard (guitar/bass) and Abigail Mogg (drums). The duo's debut, "Polymorphic," is out now via Silver Maple Kill Records. (courtesy photos)

## Local duo doesn't need vocals

Between the small town of Owosso and the even smaller town of Perry, runs M-52 — a remote stretch of Michigan highway that's mostly lined with cornfields and intersecting dirt roads. Among this rural countryside once sat an eerie, dilapidated farm house. That abandoned two-story home is now demolished, but it lives on via the cover of "Polymorphic," the brooding debut record from Bloody Butterflies.

"That house was a wreck on 52 that is on our drive into work," said drummer Abigail Mogg, who lives in Owosso — as does the other half of the band, guitarist/bassist Jon Howard. "We both passed it twice a day, and it was amazing to see it slowly fall in on itself. We got it photographed just before it was leveled. The back photo (on the CD) is after demolition, but didn't come out too good."

Recorded last year, and released in September 2020 on Silver Maple Kill Records, the eight original songs reflect the spirit of that bleak domicile in that each track is slightly unnerving, but also captivating in its

barebones, no frills nature. There's not even a singer showboating across the tracks. It's just remarkably arranged instrumentals that blur the lines between post-punk, shoegaze and Stooges-style rock 'n roll. Sure, there are no sing-along choruses, but there are plenty of earworms scattered about this 30-minute disc, including the standout track, "Descending Stars."

"We both felt like concentrating on riffing and don't feel skilled enough to do both," Mogg admits. "I have written lyrics in the past, and it was a chore. I wouldn't say it will never happen, but it is very unlikely. I don't naturally express myself that way. Songs get finished much, much faster without vocals, and we have drastically changed the speed and arrangements of some — we're free of trying to fit words in."

"We spend a lot of time messing with timing and arrangements to make the songs interesting," she added. "We try to not have every song work in 4s and 2s. Jon is constantly coming up with new riffs, and I'm constantly rearranging them."

Of course, this new duo—which formed amid the pandemic—arrived to their first rehearsal fully equipped to rock. The pair have both spent time performing in Lansing-based outfits. For the last decade, Howard has played bass in Hordes, while Mogg was the drummer for No Skull — two heavy bands that often-shared stages.

Shortly before quarantine happened, and after they realized they both coincidentally lived in Owosso, Bloody Butterflies took off, initially, through emails. Ultimately, they agreed on a few simple rules: "All riffs, no vocals, no loops."

"Both of our bands were inactive, and we live in the same town, so we felt safe enough to form a two-piece band," Mogg said. "We stopped during the lockdown in early 2020. Jon was usually a bass player, and was ready for a challenge."

By August 2020, the duo headed to Troubadour Recording Studios in Lansing, where they swiftly recorded the new album with the studio's head engineer Corey DeRushia.

"We worked very fast," Mogg said

about the sessions. "About two days recording, two mixing. We knew it would stay a little loose, but that is how we sounded the first few months."

While a few bands inspired them, like Beast in The Field, Russian Circles, Pelican, Kraftwerk and Miles Davis, the chaos and seclusion of 2020 also had its effect on their record.

"It was absolutely a product of the frustration of being isolated and the stress of working during the pandemic," Mogg said. "Hopefully, soon we'll be playing live all over the place. We have songs ready for the next album, and plan on recording this spring. The next one will be on vinyl."

And, what about the title of the record, "Polymorphic"?

"It's the stages of the butterfly. We are fascinated by life and death in nature," she said.

**Listen at [bloodybutterflies.bandcamp.com](http://bloodybutterflies.bandcamp.com)**

# OUT ON THE TOWN

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

## Wednesday, May 12

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

**Biomedical Engineering Virtual Seminar Series**- Join us for our weekly series. 11 a.m. [events.msu.edu](http://events.msu.edu)

**Dreamscapes Exhibit** - Through June 26. Lansing Art Gallery, 119 N. Washington Square, Lansing. [lansingartgallery.org](http://lansingartgallery.org)

**"Holocaust Cantata: Songs from the Camps" Musical event** - 8 p.m. through May 23. Peppermint Creek Theatre. [peppermintcreek.org](http://peppermintcreek.org).

**Threads of Wisdom: Water and Chalice** - Join us on Zoom for discussion. 6:30-7:30 p.m. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

**Wednesday Workdays at GCBS** - Do you enjoy spending time outdoors in nature? 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Capital City Bird Sanctuary, 6001 Delta River Drive, Lansing. [michiganaudubon.org](http://michiganaudubon.org).

## Thursday, May 13

**Artist Talk Brown Bag Lunch Series with Luzhen Qiu & Cathy Jacobs** - 12-1 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 119 N Washington Sq, Ste 101, Lansing. 517-374-6400. [lansingartgallery.org](http://lansingartgallery.org)

**May Pagans Night Out** - 5:30-8:30 p.m. Wonch Park, 4555 Okemos Rd., Okemos. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

## Friday, May 14

**Fish Fry** - San Juan Diego Council 15417 Knights of Columbus 5-7 p.m. Cristo Rey Church, 201 W. Miller Rd., Lansing.

**Songs from the Deep** - Artists Jenny Kendler and Andrew Bearnot. 7-8 p.m. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu)

**Virtual Preschool Family Storytime** 11-11:30 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

## Saturday, May 15

**Adopt a River 2021:** Help BWL clean up the City of Lansing's local rivers! Bring your own gloves. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Curbside Sauerkraut Dinner** - 4-6 p.m. Lansing Liederkrantz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania, Lansing. 517-882-6330.

**Dixon's Violin Outside Concert** - 3-6 p.m. Blue Mitten Farms, 4977 Cornell Rd., Okemos.

**Drive-Through Mobile Food Distribution** - to City of Lansing residents. 9-11 a.m. Cristo Rey Catholic Church, 201 W. Miller Rd, Lansing. [lansingmi.gov](http://lansingmi.gov).

**Hunter Park GardenHouse Presents: Organic Pest Management** - 10-11:30 a.m. Hunter Park, 1400 E Kalamazoo St, Lansing.

**Luzhen Qiu & Cathy Jacobs "Meet & Greet"** - By appointment to celebrate the opening of "Dreamscapes" 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 119 N Washington Sq, Ste 101, Lansing. 517-374-6400. [lansingartgallery.org](http://lansingartgallery.org)

**Native Michigan Plant Sale** - The Wild Ones Red Cedar Chapter will sell native Michigan wildflowers and grasses Meridian Farmer's Market. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. 1995 Central Park Dr., Okemos. 517-712-2395. [wildoneslansing.org](http://wildoneslansing.org).

**Old Town Spring Cleanup** - Help us keep Old Town beautiful! We'll be weeding, planting and cleaning up trash around Old Town. 9 a.m. 1232 Turner St, Lansing.

**Stained Glass Mosaics** - 10 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

## Sunday, May 16

**"Holocaust Cantata: Songs from the Camps" Musical event** - 8 p.m. through May 23. Peppermint Creek Theatre. [peppermintcreek.org](http://peppermintcreek.org).

## Monday, May 17

**Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual)** - 6-7 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St., Lansing. [refugerecovery.org](http://refugerecovery.org)

## Tuesday, May 18

**Board Game Meet Up** - for ages 18 & up. Everyone welcome! 6:30-10 p.m. Spare Time Bowling Alley, 3101 E Grand River, Lansing.

**Preschool Storytime** - for 3-6 year olds and adults. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org)

# FAST FORWARD

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS COMING TO LANSING

By SKYLER ASHLEY



## Handcrafted Market at Lansing Brewing Co.

**Saturday, May 15, noon to 4 p.m.**  
**518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing**  
**[Facebook.com/LansingBrewing](https://www.facebook.com/LansingBrewing)**

Lansing Brewing Co. is hosting several artisan vendors on its patio for an outdoor market. You'll be able to check out goods from Twisted Craft Cocktails, Great Harvest Bread Co., Bad Latitude, Jetts Customs, Joseph Jeanius and Moonlit Stones.

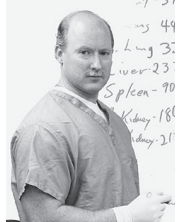


**Lansing Bike Co-op Garage Sale**  
**Saturday, May 15, noon to 5 p.m.**  
**1715 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing**  
**[Facebook.com/LansingBikeCoop](https://www.facebook.com/LansingBikeCoop)**

Need a new bicycle? Want to pick one up for your child or a friend? The Lansing Bike Co-op is offloading its excess of high quality used bikes. There will also be giveaways of brand new children's bicycle helmets!

### Tobin T. Buhk Author Signing

**Sunday, May 15,**  
**Noon to 3 p.m.**  
**1132 S. Washington**  
**Ave., Lansing**  
**[Facebook.com/DeadtimeStories517](https://www.facebook.com/DeadtimeStories517)**



True crime author Tobin T. Buhk is visiting Lansing for an author meet and greet and book-signing event at Deadtime Stories in REO Town. You can also check out all the other books and paranormal-themed goods in the shop.

### SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

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

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

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



# KING CRAB

Cajun Seafood Restaurant & Bar

3218 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

517-220-2169 • 517-580-3761

Monday - Saturday 11AM-10PM

Sunday 11:30AM-9:30PM





# 10% OFF

Must present coupon

Not valid with any other offer or lunch special. Coupon expires 4/30/21.



# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

### Ma's chicken congee

By **ARI LeVAUX**

A cocktail of rain, wind and even a little snow assaulted the farmers market last week. The fair-weather hipsters stayed home. So did the lemonade stand. Altogether, more farmers showed up than customers, and coffee was the only thing that sold out because everyone's hands were cold. There was a steaming cauldron of chicken congee for sale at the Vietnamese sandwich stall, and had the cardboard bowls not run out, the congee would probably have sold out, too.

I was lucky enough to nab a serving of that hearty and comforting porridge. It came garnished with cilantro and green onion, and I squirted on some hoisin sauce and began enjoying my morning, feeling immune to the weather.

Congee goes by various names in different languages anywhere rice is a staple. They translate into the likes of "white porridge," "dilute rice" and "wet rice." All of these definitions simmer down to the same basic idea: Cook a little rice in a lot of water until you have a thick, velvety white soup of disintegrated rice.

The Vietnamese sandwich seller, Le Ma, is of Chinese and Vietnamese ancestry. Where he comes from, con-



gee is regarded as having especially nourishing and medicinal properties, akin to chicken soup in the West. "When you weren't feeling well, that's what people would make you," he told me. "It's easy to eat and easy to digest."

It also doesn't fill you up too much, he added. "You're hungry a few hours later. It's a good breakfast food because it gets you going. And it's great also for a late night meal. It's a light comfort food you can eat before bed."

Although congee preparation is a simple and straightforward concept, there appears to be an endless array of ways that you can cook, garnish and serve it. It's like the Zen concept of meditating on the same bowl of rice every morning until it becomes a different bowl of rice each morning, except mushier. And a lot more delicious.

In Bhutan, congee is used to cele-



Courtesy

Chicken Congee.

brate the Blessed Rainy Day, a holiday that marks the start of the annual monsoon season. In Thailand, ultra-bland congee is often served alongside extra-flavorful side dishes that you add daintily to the congee, a process that my Thai friend described as combining "flavor" and "not flavor."

Other times, it's customized toward the end of cooking, like the congee that showed up in my mom's hospital room last week in Denver.

She was recovering from an illness, and I'd stopped at a dim sum place for dumplings, her favorite, to bring to her room. I decided to order wonton soup as well because soup sounded like the kind of nourishment she needed. I showed up at the room and opened the container, only to realize it was full of congee with chunks of fish — they had messed up the order, but in a fortunate way. The other flavors in this congee were ginger and green onion. It was pillowy, ethereal in texture and exquisite in flavor. Mom slurped it down. The next morning, I reheated it with

leftover broccoli with oyster sauce, and it was once again perfect.

Two days later, I showed up at that brutal farmers market to find Ma's Chicken Congee, garnished with cilantro and green onion from the neighboring stalls. To make it a bit more nutritious, he'd added quite a bit of quinoa. I must admit, I thought quinoa congee sounded a bit too crunchy, but Ma knew best. And the proof: My kids couldn't stop eating it.

Good morning springtime. Good morning market. I look forward to quinoa congee year round, accentuated with whatever the seasons bring.

#### Ma's Chicken Congee

1 cup quinoa  
 $\frac{2}{3}$  cups basmati rice  
 4 quarts water  
 2 tablespoons oil  
 1 cup diced chicken  
 1 heavy cup chopped celery  
 1 heavy cup chopped carrots  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup finely chopped ginger  
 1 tablespoon salt  
 1 teaspoon black pepper

Garnish: cilantro, green onion, lime hoisin sauce

Rinse and drain the rice and the quinoa. Cook them together in a rice cooker. If you don't have a rice cooker, use a pot with a tight-fitting lid and cook for an hour at a light simmer.

Meanwhile, sauté the chicken, celery, carrots and ginger with the salt and pepper. Add it to the congee pot and cook for an additional hour or so, until it's a consistency that you like. Garnish with chopped cilantro and green onion, a squeeze of lime and a squirt of hoisin.

(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.)

**BUY 1 ENTREE GET 1**  
**50% OFF**  
 Equal or lesser value  
 Valid Monday - Thursday. Cannot be combined with any other offer or discount. Exp. 6/30/2021

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY**

Dine In  
 Delivery  
 Drive Up  
 Catering

**ONE NORTH**  
 KITCHEN & BAR  
 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy  
 onenorthdining.com • 517-901-5001  
 Hours: Sun-Thurs 11am-10pm • Fri & Sat 11am-11pm

**AMERICAN**  
 REAL FOOD *Bistro*

**BUY 1 ENTREE GET 1**  
**50% OFF**  
 Equal or lesser value  
 Valid Monday-Thursday. Cannot be combined with any other offer or discount. Exp. 6/30/2021

Entertainment  
 Fridays &  
 Saturdays

Dine In  
 Delivery  
 Takeout  
 Curbside Pickup  
 Catering

2328 Showtime Drive (Behind NCG Cinema)  
 Theamerican-bistro.com  
 517-708-8803  
 Hours: M-Th 11am-8pm • Friday 11am-10pm  
 Saturday 9am-10pm • Sunday 9am-8pm

Family Owned and Operated

We Look Forward To Your Visit!

**El Oasis**  
 Antojitos Mexicanos

**MICHIGAN AVENUE**  
 2501 E Michigan Avenue  
 Lansing, MI  
 517-648-7693  
 Delivery: 517-882-1777

**HASLETT**  
 1620 Haslett Road  
 Haslett, MI  
 517-230-4385

**SOUTH SIDE**  
 6100 S Cedar Street  
 Lansing, MI  
 517-882-2100  
 Catering: 517-648-4749

voted #1 Top of the Town 2020 CityPulse.com

**Welcome Back to The Airport Tavern!**  
Home of the World Famous Sizzler

# 1/2 OFF

**LUNCH OR DINNER**

Buy one lunch or dinner and receive a 2nd of equal or lesser value for 1/2 off

Valid Sunday-Thursdays Only. Dine-In Only. Valid with coupon Only. Void if reproduced. Not valid with any other offers or discounts. Expires 5/25/2021.



5000 N. Grand River  
(517) 321-3852

voted #1 Top of the Town 2020 CityPULSE

**THANK YOU, LANSING FOR VOTING US #1 PRIME RIB!**



**NOW OPEN FOR DINE IN**

**THURS-SAT 11 TO 8**  
**SUNDAY NOON TO 5**

# Meat

SOUTHERN B.B.Q. & CARNIVORE CUISINE

580-4400 | MEATBBQ.COM

1224 TURNER ST. OLD TOWN, LANSING

## DELHI CAFE

FAMILY • CASUAL • DINING



Our Dining Room is Open! Tue-Fri 11-7:30

**ORDER YOUR Baklava & Spinach Pie TODAY!**

Lunch & Dinner Specials  
Greek Specials • Soups & Salads  
Breakfast Saturdays

**QUIET ATMOSPHERE & FRIENDLY STAFF**

4625 Willoughby Rd • Holt  
www.delhicafereastaurant.com  
517-694-8655  
T-F 11AM-7:30PM

# Appetizers

**WANT YOUR RESTAURANT LISTED? CALL 517-999-5064**

 <p><b>King Crab</b> 3218 S. MLK Blvd. Lansing (517) 222-2169 kingcrabcajun.com</p>	<p><b>NEW CAJUN SEAFOOD RESTAURANT &amp; BAR!</b> Fresh all day. Lunch baskets, po boys or seafood boils of all kinds. Hush puppies and other delicious sides to choose from for your perfect meal.</p>
 <p><b>American Bistro</b> 2328 Showtime Dr Lansing (517) 708-8803 theamerican-bistro.com</p>	<p><b>DINE IN, DELIVERY, CURBSIDE AND CATERING</b> Local. Sustainable. Simply real food. Breakfast served all day! Diner classics in an relaxed, modern setting. Affordable fresh food made from scratch daily.</p>
 <p><b>Delhi Cafe Family Restaurant</b> 4625 Willoughby Rd Holt (517) 694-8655</p>	<p><b>COME JOIN THE FAMILY! COMFORT FOOD FROM GENERATIONS!</b> A great meeting place for family and friends. Relax with a glass of wine and try our daily lunch/dinner specials, soups, salads, Greek plates and more. Quiet atmosphere and friendly staff.</p>
 <p><b>Meat Southern BBQ</b> 1224 Turner Rd. Lansing (517) 580-4400 meatbbq.com</p>	<p><b>WE BELIEVE EVERYONE DESERVES GREAT BBQ.</b> Award winning BBQ. Ribs, French fry bar, chili, sides including BBQ pit baked beans, mac n' cheese. 18 rotating taps of craft, Michigan made beers. Craft cocktails. We cater, too!</p>
 <p><b>El Oasis</b> 2501 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing (517) 882-1777 eloasistruck.com</p>	<p><b>TRY THE CROWN JEWEL OF LANSING'S FOOD TRUCKS.</b> Serving the Lansing community for 13 years, we extend an invitation to all those to give us a try to find out why we were voted the best food truck in Lansing's 2019 Top of The Town Contest.</p>
 <p><b>One North Kitchen &amp; Bar</b> 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy. Lansing (517) 901-5001 onenorthdining.com</p>	<p><b>LET US BE YOUR PLACE FOR CELEBRATIONS</b> like birthdays and post-game victories. Now offering our unique, authentic dishes available for dine in, outdoor dining, delivery and pickup. We've come "North" from Jackson to serve you!</p>
 <p><b>Buddies Holt</b> 2040 Aurelius Rd, Ste 12 Holt (517) 699-3670 buddiesbars.com</p>	<p><b>DISCOVER YOUR NEW FAVORITE SPOT!</b> Traditional classics and great drinks. Burgers, Mexican entrees, pizza and appetizers. Buddies Bowls you can't get anywhere else. Locally owned and operated for over 20 years.</p>



**\$5 OFF**  
ANY PURCHASE OF \$25 OR MORE  
Expires 5/20/2021

**\$10 OFF**  
ANY PURCHASE OF \$50 OR MORE  
Expires 5/20/2021

4832 W. Saginaw Hwy. • Lansing  
7 days a week 11am-9pm  
(517) 574-3020



**Fresh food Family fun!**

**3 LOCATIONS**

**PICK UP AVAILABLE!**  
Call **11AM-8PM** to place your order!

East Lansing • 3048 E Lake Lansing Rd • (517) 333-9212  
Monday - Saturday: 11am to 2am • Sunday: 12pm to 1am

Holt • 2040 Aurelius Rd #13 • (517) 699-3670  
Monday - Saturday: 11am to 2am • Sunday: 9am to 1am

Okemos • 1937 W Grand River Ave • (517) 347-0443  
Monday - Saturday: 11am to 2am • Sunday: 9am to 1am




# Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



**MAY 20, 2021**  
**1-3 P.M.**

**\$5 BAGEL SANDWICHES ALL DAY**

# THE PULSIFIEDS

## BACKPAGE CLASSIFIEDS

### RF Controls Engineer

The Michigan State University Facility for Rare Isotope Beams seeks qualified candidates for the following full time position:

RF Controls Engineer (East Lansing, MI). Support RF Systems Group to analyze subsystem requirements, propose and implement technical solutions, handover to Operations, provide continuous support. Develop/improve control algorithms for low-level RF controllers and other systems, including theoretical and simulation models; Design RF control systems. Qualified candidates will possess Master's Degree in Electrical Eng or closely related field + 2 years' exp in any related position in physics or controls engineering. Must have two years' exp in Digital signal processing on FPGA using HDL, Analog and high speed digital circuit design, and Software development for embedded systems. To apply for this posting, please go to [www.careers.msu.edu](http://www.careers.msu.edu) and search for posting number 701740. MSU is committed to achieving excellence through cultural diversity. The university actively encourages applications and/or nominations from women, persons of color, veterans and persons with disabilities. MSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer.

### Classified Rates

Rates start at \$24 for 4 lines. Each additional line is \$6.

#### EXTRAS:

**Boldface Type:** \$7 per line

**HEADLINE:** \$11 per line

**Border:** \$11

**LOGO:** Space needed

Contract rates available, all rates net. Classified ads also appear online at no extra charge. Deadline for classifieds is 5 p.m. Monday for the upcoming Wednesday's issue. You can also submit your classified ad to Suzi Smith at 517-999-6704 or at [suzi@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:suzi@lansingcitypulse.com).



*A special just for you!*

**Buy One Dinner GET ONE 1/2 OFF!**



Monday-Thursday 11AM-10PM  
Friday 11AM-10:45PM  
Saturday 11AM-10:30PM  
Sunday 11AM-9PM

300 N. CLIPPERT STREET, SUITE 17  
LANSING, MI 48912 • 517.203.0096

**\$10 OFF**  
Any Purchase of  
**\$100 or More**  
Expires 6/30/2021

**\$5 OFF**  
Any Wheel Repair  
Expires 6/30/2021



**Liskey's Auto & Truck Service**  
(517) 484-0100

[www.liskeys.com](http://www.liskeys.com)

119 S. Larch St, Lansing

Mon - Fri: 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM

@Liskeys *Sign up for our email specials!*

## HAPPY HOUR 7 DAYS A WEEK

Save 10% if you order online before 6pm!



Cask & Co.  
kitchen & bar

3415 E Saginaw St • Lansing • (517) 580-3720

Order online for pickup, curbside & delivery:  
[caskandcompany.com](http://caskandcompany.com)



As Seen On the Cover of CityPulse

Illustrations • Murals • Graphic Design  
Signs • Banners • T-Shirts • Logos

[nevin@nevingraphics.com](mailto:nevin@nevingraphics.com)

517-703-4655

ArtByNevin Art\_By\_Nevin

## DIVORCE FAMILY LAW



Divorce  
Custody • Visitation  
Child Support  
Alimony  
Property  
Distribution

Domestic Partnership  
Agreements / Separation

45 YEARS -  
AGGRESSIVE  
LITIGATION  
EFFECTIVE  
MEDIATION

LAW OFFICES OF  
**STUART R.  
SHAFFER, P.C.**  
Former Assistant Prosecutor

487-6603

1223 Turner St., Ste 333, Lansing  
[www.stushafer.com](http://www.stushafer.com)

# City PULSE

Now available in all



Quality Dairy stores in  
Greater Lansing!

TWO Lansing Institutions  
Bringing You Local News  
Every Week!

Don't see it?  
Please ask a manager.