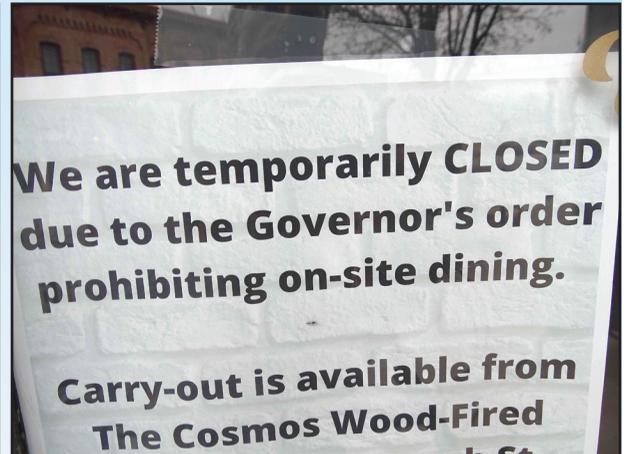


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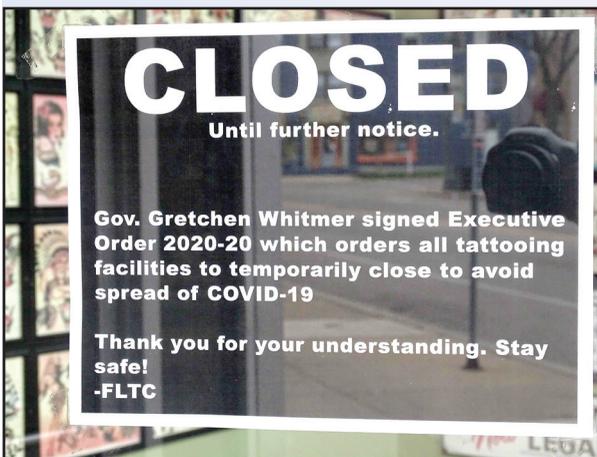
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Only the wound is open

Lansing fights off economic ruin

See page 7



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Favorite Things

Deb Hart and her journals

For three decades, Deb Hart was one of the most recognizable voices in the Lansing area. She was a mainstay at both 2-106.1-FM and 94.9-FM WMMQ, the local rock stations—but surprisingly left the radio industry last year.

Today, she's a cohost on FOX 47 TV's "Morning Blend" show, while also teaching yoga. Her new life also allows more time for another passion: writing. That's where her favorite thing comes in. Here's what Hart had to say:

I treasure having my journal within reach as much as possible. Usually, it's tucked into my too-big purse that's crammed with too much stuff. There's also one on my nightstand — and a yellow legal pad — under the bed, now that I think about it.

As my purse and I are parked at home during these pandemic days, I have had my current journal pretty close by, especially since the start of April, which is National Poetry Month. My painter-poet bestie and I have vowed to send at least one poem a week to each other in observance.

My friend is the one who, after taking a writers' workshop, introduced me to the "Strathmore Art Journal," which is bound, mixed media and unlined 7.75 x 9.75 paper. Her teacher for the workshop encourages aspiring writers to quadrant off a page, list 10 things you see, hear and do each day and then sketch something in the other square. It really helps fuel the creative process and creates more awareness of the world around us.

The stack of journals I'm holding in the photo is from the past several decades of writing down my life. I love to flip one open and be reminded of what was happening then, to see poems started that will one day be finished and to uncover fodder for my future books.

My filled journals, past and current, represent my travels of geography, relationships, therapy, joy, grief, anger, failure and success. They document the unveiling of the person I am trying to become, as well as who I was before.

This cradled stack of paper and words had been stored in a big



plastic tote in a closet. They were schlepped around in several moves, until finally, after leaving my 30-year radio career in January of 2019, I unearthed the pile and moved it closer to my desk, where I did begin working on my poems.

In sorting through the pages, I discovered that my writing is better than I thought it was and that I really love some of the work I have created. I realized when the time is right and there's an interest, I want to share what might resonate with others.

I try to remember to write down the things for which I'm grateful, while also scribbling out the stories I hear from other people. I document the conversations overheard and had. I write down the observances of human interaction from which I often make up my own stories.

In this "time of the virus," a blank page is a marvelous distraction from the feeling of helplessness, of worry. It's a space to turn words into images and to make notes about what we do and don't do. Maybe, it's also a space to list unexpected gifts from the "new normal."

(This interview was edited by Rich Tupica. If you have a suggestion for Favorite Things, email rich@lansingcitypulse.com.)

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REPUBLICANS ON THE SUPREME COURT RULED THAT WISCONSIN VOTERS MUST RISK DEATH TO VOTE DURING A PANDEMIC...

...RATHER THAN HAVE AN EXTRA WEEK TO RETURN MAIL-IN BALLOTS THAT MANY HAD NOT EVEN RECEIVED YET.

WHAT IF THESE JUSTICES HAD TO GO THROUGH WHAT THEY PUT OTHER PEOPLE THROUGH?

TIME TO VOTE IN PERSON!

WHIP!

UGH, I HAVE TO WAIT IN THIS?

BUT I HAVE LOTS OF POLITICAL FAVORS TO RETURN!

KOFF KOFF!

HEY, WATCH IT, BUB.

DON'T BLOW MY LIFETIME APPOINTMENT!

SURESENSE

HMM... I'M NOT SEEING YOU ON THE ROLLS.

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN PURGED!

WE'RE STILL WAITING ON THE VENTILATORS.

KOFF!

HOPE YOU WON'T NEED ONE!

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Small businesses endure COVID-19 shutdown

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Local artists support each other

PAGE 12

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Restaurants in Lansing make changes for quarantine

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

LIFE IN THE CORONAVERSE
WHERE YOU AND I ARE GOING TO SPEND THE REST OF OUR LIVES

THE G.O.P. IS A DEATH CULT
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? EVERYBODY DIES SOONER OR LATER!

DYING IS GOOD, ACTUALLY!

I REGRET THAT I HAVE BUT ONE LIFE TO GIVE FOR THE STOCK MARKET!

A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE
LOOK AT ALL THESE THINGS AMERICANS DIE FROM! WE DON'T SHUT DOWN SOCIETY FOR ANY OF THEM!

ESPECIALLY THAT LAST ONE.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS
HEART DISEASE
CANCER
COMPLETELY UNPREVENTABLE MASS SHOOTINGS

WHAT ABOUT ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVEN'T DIED YET

A LOT OF SO-CALLED CORONAVIRUS FATALITIES WERE PROBABLY ON THEIR LAST LEGS ANYWAY--LIKE BILL O'REILLY SAYS!

BILL WHO?

UH, HE'S SOME GUY WITH A PODCAST OR SOMETHING.

THE TRUMPKIN TWO-STEP
WHY ARE THE MEDIA BLOWING THIS MINOR STORY ENTIRELY OUT OF PROPORTION?

AND WHY WON'T THEY BROADCAST EVERY WORD TRUMP UTTERS IN THIS MOMENT OF NATIONAL CRISIS?

NO ROSE FOR YOU!

I'M HERE FOR THE "RIGHT REASONS," SIR!

THE NIGHTLY SHITSHOW
SIR, WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HELP PEOPLE NOT DIE?

ENOUGH WITH YOUR NASTY "GOTCHA" QUESTIONS! WHY DON'T YOU ASK ABOUT THE IMPORTANT NEWS--THAT MY RATINGS ARE AT "BACHELOR FINALE" LEVELS!

THE FUTURE OF WASHINGTON

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME
IF THE ESTIMATED DEATH TOLL IS LOWER AFTER ISOLATION--IT PROVES WE DIDN'T NEED TO ISOLATE!

#MAGA

TIME TO PARTY!

ONE MONTH AFTER THAT
OH NO! A SECOND WAVE OF CORONAVIRUS IS KILLING THOUSANDS MORE!

#MAGA

WHO COULD HAVE POSSIBLY FORESEEN THIS?

TOM TOMORROW © 2020

COVID conniptions

In the throes of the worst health and economic crisis in modern history, one thing we are thankful for is that Gretchen Whitmer is Michigan's governor and not Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey. After reading Shirkey's unhinged Facebook rant over the Easter weekend, in which he shouted that "OUR Governor is DESTROYING OUR HEALTH BY KILLING OUR LIVELIHOODS," we shudder to think where Michigan would stand right now if our fate were in his hands.

Shirkey's explosion of irrationality put a poisonous exclamation point on the growing political schism between Whitmer, who continues to stay the COVID containment course while ratcheting up restrictions on individual freedoms and commerce, and Republicans who are now openly advocating for restarting the nonessential economy as soon as possible and allowing people greater freedom of movement. This debate is likely to intensify as the May 1 expiration of the governor's emergency order approaches and state leaders are faced with charting the path forward.

It is generally understood that there is little chance of a full return to normalcy until a vaccine is developed for coronavirus, or there is convincing scientific evidence to suggest widespread immunity has taken root. Yet the development of a vaccine is reportedly still 12-18 months away. Whitmer recently suggested that antibody tests, which can identify who has developed immunity to the virus and who has not, may also play a key role in determining whether it is safe for individuals to go back to work. In the UK and Germany, leaders are contemplating issuing "immunity certificates" that would allow those who have had the disease, and likely developed immunity, to return to normal life. But the presumably long timeline before antibody tests are widely available and the daunting logistics behind testing the state's working population suggest this is also a longer-term remedy.

Meanwhile, there is good reason to be gravely concerned about the economic consequences of a continued freeze on all but essential commerce for even a few more months, much less a year. Which begs the question: What should reopening the economy look like and when should it happen? Before we look forward, it is useful to first look back, respecting the age-old admonition that those who forget history are doomed to repeat it. When social distancing measures were relaxed after the first wave of deadly infections during the Spanish flu pandemic in 1918, a second wave of infections quickly took hold and killed even more people. Despite the dramatic advantages of modern medicine compared to a century ago, the risk of a second wave of



The CP Edit

Opinion

coronavirus infections is real, and the potential consequences are simply too severe to contemplate a premature end to our current containment measures. In fact, a second wave of infections is now sweeping across Japan's Hokkaido prefecture, less than a month after emergency sheltering orders issued in February were unwisely lifted.

Republicans like Shirkey and House Speaker Lee Chatfield, who recently launched his own groundless grenades against the governor, accusing her of putting "fear ahead of public safety," argue for a selective reopening, with restrictions on travel and commerce eased mostly in rural areas of the state where the virus is less prevalent. In the unlikely event that Whitmer accedes to this approach, both Republican leaders can shoulder the blame if things go awry and coronavirus infections surge in rural areas where containment measures were relaxed.

We don't envy the governor or state lawmakers as they grapple with these difficult questions, but we do have three key suggestions as they consider how to take the next steps. First, reinforcing our previously stated position on the use of cloth masks by essential employees, we think any plan to reopen nonessential businesses across the state should come with strict requirements for all employees to wear masks, both for their own safety and to protect the public. Oakland County's health officer wisely issued just

such an order Monday for all public-facing essential employees. This requirement should be in addition to mandatory daily health screening to identify employees with symptoms of a coronavirus infection or who have been in contact with someone who is infected.

The second key element of a reopening strategy must be the continued protective isolation of high-risk populations, including senior citizens and those with underlying health conditions. Given how little we still know about the prevalence of asymptomatic carriers of the coronavirus, it would be reckless to lift restrictions on public access to long-term care facilities like nursing homes, for example. A stronger supportive network will also be needed to ensure that those who remain quarantined have reliable access to food, health care and other essentials.

The third element of a smart reopening strategy is implementation of a vastly more aggressive regime of testing, contact tracing and quarantining of individuals who test positive. Making this piece of the puzzle work depends entirely on a massive expansion of testing across the state. The opening of 13 new testing centers this week is a step in the right direction, but reopening the economy will require the capacity to test far more Michigan residents, symptomatic or not. Only then will we have the data and the confidence to move ahead with easing restrictions, knowing we have protocols in place to prevent a devastating second wave of infections.

Aside from the practical and logistical questions of safely easing restrictions, there are also considerations of equity and justice. Given that the overwhelming majority of the state's COVID cases are in the three-county metro Detroit region, and with the disconcerting knowledge that African Americans are vastly overrepresented in both COVID infections and deaths, any policy to reopen rural Michigan while keeping the Detroit area on lockdown will reek of racial bias. Letting the rest of the state go about their business while people of color continue to die in Detroit would represent the worst sort of social injustice, inflicting yet another grievous wound on those already struggling to survive the COVID calamity.

As we all grapple with the enormity of our present circumstances and consider what the future holds, we encourage our political leaders to keep calm and avoid using this crisis to create and exploit political divisions. Reasonable people can disagree on the path forward, but there is no need for inflammatory rhetoric and baseless attacks. We are all in this together, and it's the only way we will come out of it.

Send letters to the editor on this editorial or any other topic to letters@lansingcitypulse.com. Please limit them to 250 words.



517 Living group raises funds for the food bank

By **DAWN PARKER**

If you have nearly 26,000 people in a Facebook group celebrating life in the 517 area code that covers much of greater Lansing, and you'd like them to make an impact on their community, how do you get them to do it?

One way is to make sure it's a cause, like the Greater Lansing Food Bank, that everyone in the 517 Living Community can get behind.

The 517 Living group, founded by Mason resident Sarah Pierce on Twitter in 2014, is conducting a fundraiser for the GLFB. Meeting the goal, she says, would be as simple as each member giving a dollar. So far, the campaign has taken in \$5,140, or about 20 percent of the goal. The target amount, Pierce explained, changes daily based on how many people join or leave the group.

Supporting the food bank came by a vote of the group, Pierce said.

"When all this COVID-19 stuff was (first) going on, I was trying to think of ways that our group could help," she continued. Both the site and the Facebook page include a resource guide where people who need to find, say, childcare can get the information they need.

Pierce then asked the group who they would most want to help were a fundraiser to be conducted, and the food bank was the result. The group plans to make helping various area non-profits an annual tradition.

GLFB staff very much appreciates the group's efforts.

Nalee Xiong, marketing and communications specialist for GLFB, says the organization values the help of groups like the one Pierce leads.

"We are very thankful for the community support, especially from organizations like 517 Living who are always stepping up to the plate," Xiong said.

The impact of the coronavirus, which has put millions of people out of work, has deepened the need for GLFB and similar organizations.

"We're seeing a big increase in need," Xiong said, "so it's a huge deal that we can provide more nutritious meals for people in need."

For more information or to donate, look for 517 Living on Facebook or online at www.517living.com.

While they are good at helping others when needed, 517 Living members are also each other's biggest fans.

Any member may post to the group up to once per day to promote an event, ask questions or connect with other members on a common passion. Members are asked to maintain a positive attitude.

"We call it the 'Good Advice Only Zone,'" Pierce deadpanned.

"People can feel safe in sharing things without being ridiculed or torn apart."

The advent of COVID-19 forced a change in the group's focus to virtual events. That's meant online productions, poetry readings and concerts, along with classes for children

Pierce said the online calendar



HOW TO HELP
 Need help spreading the word on a good cause? Email Dawn Parker at dawn.parker@comcast.net with information for a possible article.

was started in an effort to help small business and concert venues promote happenings which might not otherwise get much press, "places which

had great events but might not have had much of a marketing budget or (perhaps) not any marketing know-how."

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM; MEETING ID 231 542 1280, ON TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Hayes, Clerk Aten, Treasurer Rodgers
Trustees: Broughton, Harris, McKenzie, Bankson
MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Gresens, Attorney

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:
Meeting called to order by Chair Hayes.
Approved minutes of the meeting held on March 17, 2020.
Agenda approved as amended.
Approved promotion of three police officers to sergeant.
Approved Post Audit Policy.
Adopted Resolution 20-05: Resolution Regarding COVID-19.
Approved Claims.
Executive Session held to discuss attorney-client privileged communication.
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor
Susan L. Aten, Clerk

CP#20-096

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICES LOCATED AT 3209 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN ON TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020, AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Clerk Aten
Trustees: Harris, McKenzie, Bankson
MEMBERS ABSENT: Supervisor Hayes, Treasurer Rodgers, Trustee Broughton

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Gresens, Attorney

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:
Approved motion to appoint Clerk, Chair pro tem in the absence of the Supervisor.
Meeting called to order by Chair Pro tem.
Approved minutes of the meeting held on March 3, 2020.
Agenda approved.
Approved promotion of three police officers to sergeant.
Approved Clerk to publish annual weed notice.
Approved Claims.
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor
Susan L. Aten, Clerk

CP#20-095

The big freeze and beyond

Lansing copes with economic disaster

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

For Lansing area workers and employers, predicting the impact of the coronavirus shutdown is like trying to draw up a spreadsheet in the midst of a plague.

The near, middle and long-term phases of the crisis — the usual benchmarks for financial planning — are about as distinct as waves of locusts.

Perhaps bullet points would be more comforting. First, there's the leading edge of the swarm, clearly visible 2 inches in front of your face, followed by an indistinct mass slightly further out, and void of total unpredictability beyond that.

The road ahead is unknown even to Amanda Hayhoe, owner of Hayhoe Asphalt in Holt, a third-generation, family-owned business. As a residential and commercial paving business, Hayhoe Asphalt and its 15 employees are idled for the time being.

"I've been talking to a lot of other business owners, and that's almost half of the stress we are facing is, how do you plan for something when you have no idea what the possibilities are?" Hayhoe said. "We're just trying to keep our heads above water and make sure our employees are safe and able to pay their own bills."

For now, thousands of area businesses are scrambling to secure federal loans in hopes of keeping afloat for the next two months; state and federal unemployment benefits have started to roll out. Most people are trying not to peer too much further into the void, but some experts are already looking at the dangers and opportunities of the uncertain weeks and months ahead.

The big triage

The first wave of the crisis, from March to early June, is all about rescue.

With thousands of businesses closed or drastically curtailed, federal, state and local authorities are mobilizing to get cash into people's hands on an unprecedented scale.

The damage is severe in all parts of Lansing and beyond.

"Folks are struggling in south Lansing," Third Ward Councilman Adam Hussain said. Hussain said the impact is worst for businesses deemed nonessential under state closure orders.

"I'm thinking of Eric's Cycle Shop, so many other businesses that have had to shut down completely," Hussain said. As he walked down Washington Avenue in his mind, even the least likely candidates for the coveted "critical business" exemption got his sympathy. "Bullseye Axe Throwing just got started and gained a



Hussain

measure of traction," he lamented. Even many businesses deemed essential are seeing huge declines in revenue.

"I've talked to owners at 1910 Food Market, Center of the Plate Catering, some of those places," Hussain said. "If this goes on too much longer, they don't know how much longer they can keep the doors open, essential and non-essential alike. People are struggling over here."

The big triage is underway, and on a huge scale, but no one knows if it will be enough.

The key is to keep as much cash flow as possible to people and businesses, according to Bob Trezise, president and CEO of the Lansing Economic Area Partnership.

"The goal is to keep people paying their rent, paying their utilities, maybe paying some employees, for two months, until we begin to somewhat emerge in mid-June," Trezise said, "whether it's unemployment insurance, Small Business Association loans and grant or our own loans and grants here at LEAP."

The state reported Monday that over 1 million jobless claims have been filed in Michigan, a number not seen since the Great Depression.

The online unemployment system crashed twice already, once in late March and again Monday, when self-employed workers, gig workers and low-wage workers became eligible to apply.

Workers on state unemployment were to start receiving weekly \$600 checks this week of supplemental benefits as part of a \$2.2 trillion federal relief package.

"I don't have the resources or capacity to measure what is going on out there," Trezise said. "Our information is anecdotal."

The scale of the crisis hit Trezise's team, in microcosm, in the hectic days leading up to April 7, when LEAP awarded \$10,000 grants to 60 Lansing area small businesses of 50 or fewer employees.

Trezise is proud of the program, but admits it



Trezise

was "totally inadequate."

"The true measure of the pain out there is that we received 1,875 applications, which were all heart-breaking to read," Trezise said.

At the same time, hundreds of businesses scrambled to cover their expenses during the shutdown by applying for federal Small Business Administration loans under the Paycheck Protection Program.

The plan offers small businesses low-interest loans to cover payroll and other expenses such as rent. If employers don't lay off staff or cut payroll by more than 25 percent, the loan is forgiven. If they do make cuts, forgiveness is reduced in proportion to the cuts.

But it's not yet known whether Congress appropriated enough money to handle the loans. By the end of the day April 3, the first day of the program, the Bank of America alone said it had received \$22 billion in loan requests from 85,000 applicants.

As of early Monday afternoon, more than 4,600 lenders had been approved for more than \$230 billion, according to U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. The program is capped at \$348 billion.

The application process has been problematic for many area businesses. Many banks are only processing applications from businesses they have already worked with.

Tim Daman, president and CEO of the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, said he's heard from several local businesses who have been approved for loans and several others who "have just had nothing but problems going through."

"The dynamics of that program were changing very frequently last week," Daman said. "Some folks thought they were ahead of the game but the applications changed." The scale and swiftness of the federal program is unprecedented.

"The SBA usually does about \$2 billion in loans a year and now they're doing over \$350 billion in two weeks," Daman said. "Everything's been amped up, you're making decisions on the fly."

Trezise said LEAP's modest grant program was a back-breaker, compressing four months of work into two weeks, but the SBA loan rollout is infinitely bigger.

"The feds are changing the rules every day," Trezise said "Creating a response a crisis no one has comprehended, involving hundreds of billions of dollars, in a matter of days is impossible."



The big freeze

Coping

from page 7

Treize said the money might take “a few days to a few weeks” to arrive. “People have to understand that,” he said. “They are moving enormous amounts of money in an impossibly fast time frame.”

Amanda Hayhoe submitted her Paycheck Protection Program loan application April 3, the day the program opened. Five days later, her lender, Dart Bank, notified that her application was approved by the Small Business Association.

For Hayhoe, the process was greased by 30 years of doing business with Dart.

“It was the smoothest process I’ve ever had getting a loan,” she said.

She said the loan would be “significantly helpful” in keeping the business going this year.

“It’s going to be a life saver,” she said. “I have no income coming in.”

But other local businesses are struggling to get help, and they are in no position to wait long.

Chase Bank processed Kathy Holcomb’s Small Business Administration loan when she opened Old Town’s Absolute Gallery in 2003.

“Now they are one of the first creditors calling me to tell me I am five days late on my payment when we’d already been closed for a couple of weeks,” Holcomb said.

Like many businesses, Absolute Gallery is going into its fourth week with closed doors. Unable to afford an accountant, Holcomb is still working on her Paycheck Protection Program application after a time-consuming glitch over applying for unemployment. She was denied because she owns the business and pays herself – “not enough,” she said.

“I have no income,” she said. “It’s just frustrating. It feels like to me that it’s the bigger people who are going to come out of this in pretty good financial health. They’re bailing out cruise lines. I have a lot of emotions and they’re running strong now. I’m going to take up demolition.”

As of 2019, there were about 30.7 million small businesses in the United States, employing 60 million people, or about half of the private sector workforce, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration.

But the numbers only tell part of the story.

“In small stores, you’re dealing with local people, you’re seeing what the community is like,” Holcomb



Hayhoe



Holcomb

said. “My biggest fear is that we’ll just lose all of that. We’re not going to have a culture. We’ll just have a great big anonymous — I don’t know what.”

Ripple effect

It’s hard to overstate the importance of getting cash into people’s hands fast, according to Lisa Cook, a professor of economics at MSU.

Cook, a senior adviser at the Treasury Department under the Clinton and Bush administrations and an adviser to President Obama, is worried about the ripple effect of mass business closures.

“This could escalate very quickly, especially when 10 million people lose their jobs in two weeks,” Cook said. “It’s unprecedented. A lot of people can default on cable bills, cell phone bills, car payments, student loans, and that could collapse the entire economy.”

Cook has seen economic triage first hand. She led the Harvard team that negotiated the first International Monetary Fund program to help Rwanda get back on its feet after the horrific genocide.

“This is what I saw: We had an emergency,” Cook said. “It’s not comparable to a pandemic, but lots of people died, they were traumatized and a lot of people were out of work.”

Except for three or four large businesses, IMF help went mostly to “mom and pop shops” in Rwanda, Cook said.

“What I saw in Rwanda, that applies just as much to Michigan, is that getting money in people’s hands, fast, gives them confidence. Something is coming. Something is on the way.”

Cook has advocated the use of mobile phone apps to get money to people who need it, especially lower-income and gig-economy workers faster.

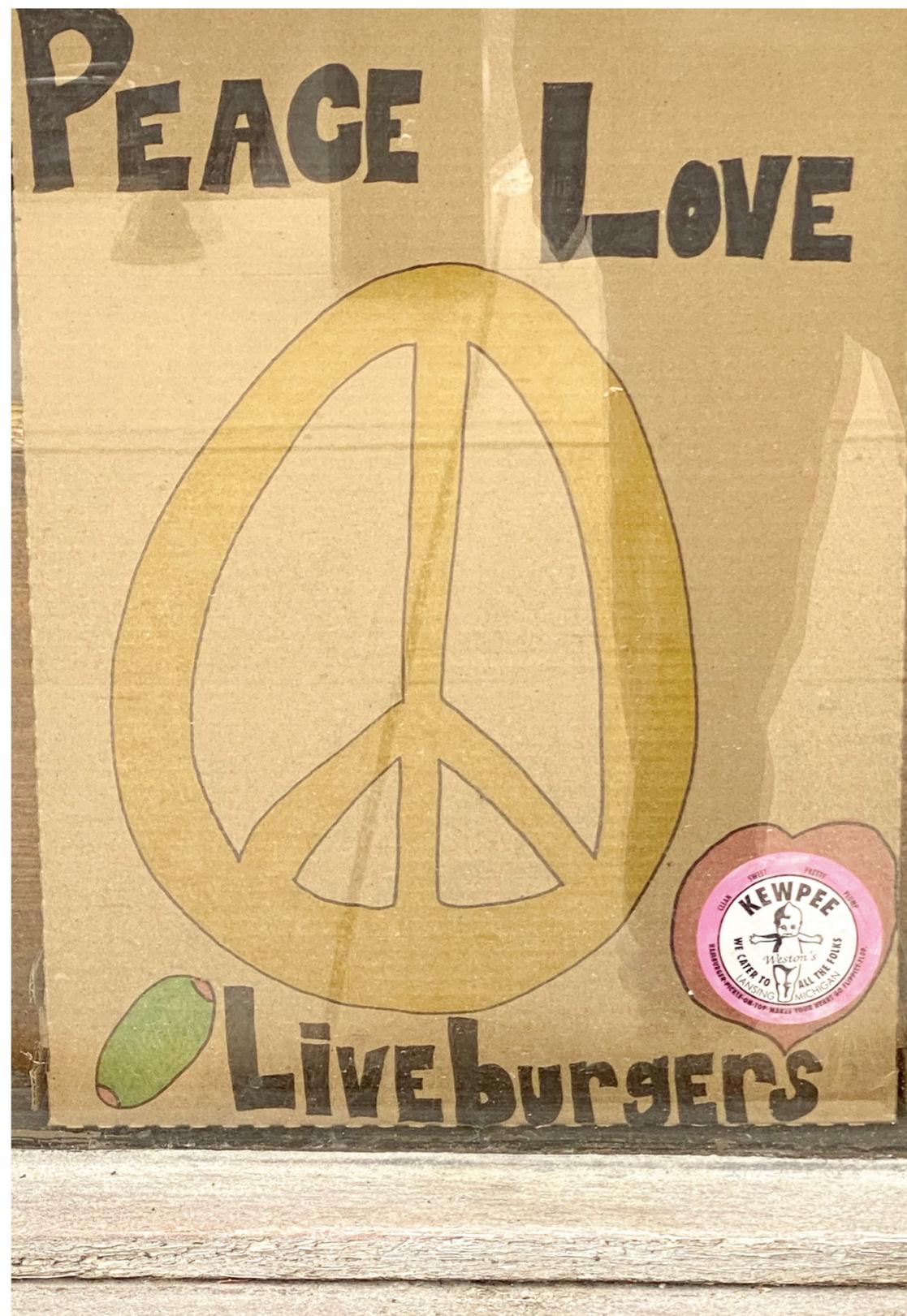
“There is definitely dignity in work, and we want to get people back to work as quickly as possible, but there’s also dignity in just having the money to pay for things, and not having to figure out where is the nearest food bank or getting anxious thinking about moving to a homeless shelter, getting thrown out,” she said.

Restarting what?

Workers and employers are desperate for certainty about what will follow the current rescue phase, and when, but there is no such thing yet. As the



Cook



Beri Schwartz/City Pulse

A sign in the window of Kewpee’s, in downtown Lansing, which has stayed open for pickup.

See Coping, Page 9

The big freeze

Coping

from page 8

statewide shutdown drags on, the push to re-open the economy is growing stronger by the day. Tim Daman said many businesses have contacted his office, fearing that if statewide closures are extended to June 10, they would never recover.

“Let’s just look at getting through the next two weeks, through April 30, and then look at how to bring certain aspects of our economy on line,” he urged.

To start with, Daman suggested said that bringing back the construction industry would pull many sole proprietors and contractors back into the workforce.

“You could practice good social distancing while pursuing some of the home projects and new builds,” Daman said.

Hayhoe’s asphalt business would be a good candidate for early re-opening.

“We’re outside all day,” she said. “Everybody is able to socially distance. We don’t have to share hand tools.”

She said asphalt companies have already started back up in Lansing, but only to supply pavers of state roads and highways, which are considered to be critical businesses by the state. Hayhoe is eager to get back to work on residential and commercial accounts.

“With about 98 percent of the traffic off the road, it’s the perfect time, for sure,” she said.

The delicate dance of keeping the population safe from new outbreaks of COVID-19 without crashing the economy will be the most pressing and hotly debated question of the summer.

Cook cautioned that opening things up too fast could backfire. The coronavirus may be as eager to restart as the economy.

“I agree with the epidemiologists,” Cook said. “This is a health crisis first. If we get the economy back up and running, if we get people back into barber shops, McDonald’s and Starbucks and have them get sick, they’ll never want to go back. It’s tainted. They’ll say, those places put me in danger.”

She urged that more money be allotted for random testing to provide more information on managed re-opening of the economy.

“See what happens when China, Italy, Germany, Australia slowly open things,” she said. “We’re going to have to monitor the rest of the world. It’s going to take time and we’re going to have to have patience.”

And then there is the long term.

Contemplating the period from October 2020 into 2021, Treize emitted a sound that resembled “aarrghh.”

“We know the virus will still be very active and around, and yet agencies like mine need to start think-



Daman

ing about looking around the corner and rebuilding, not just stabilizing,” he said.

He hesitantly dropped the word “opportunity” into the discussion.

“In late fall, we begin to rebuild our local economy, based on the new world we’ve inherited,” Treize said.

Most observers agree that businesses or organizations that rely on crowds are going to be in for a tough two years until there is a vaccine.

The outlook for sports, live theater, music, conference centers and other institutions that aggregate human bodies is terrifying to contemplate. It’s hard to believe that for much of 2019, dozens of Lansing’s cultural leaders strategized about how to bring a performing arts center to Lansing.

“It seems like ancient history,” Treize said.

A few sectors of the regional economy look ripe for growth. Six months ago, LEAP put together a medical technology advisory group bringing together the area’s hospitals, MSU and private sector biotechnology companies. The project now looks almost prophetic. “We think that med tech could a huge growth area,” Treize said. “We want to unify that ecosystem, expand manufacturing and make it one of the top 20 in America.”

It’s likely, however, that no sector of the economy will come out of the spring and summer unchanged.

“The landscape will be vastly different when we come out of here,” Daman said. “Businesses will be re-evaluating. Do I need a 50,000-square-foot building with 100 people working inside, or can I have a 10,000-square-foot office space, maybe with only 15 people working inside, and the rest of my team working remotely? Those are the sorts of questions that will be raised in the world beyond COVID.”

There are much bigger concerns on the horizon than office space. Despite some arguable bright spots, a long-term nightmare vision is shared by economists around the country: the looming collapse of state and municipal budgets in the face of mushrooming outlays and drastic drops in revenue.

“State government essentially eliminated most of its different pots of taxes and basically collects sales and income taxes now,” Treize said. “Those are the two most volatile taxes you can be dependent on.”

Any local government that depends on income taxes, in an unprecedented period when incomes are vaporizing, will struggle the most.

“There’s going to have to be a massive federal bailout of both state and local budgets,” Treize said. “There’s nothing left to cut. It’s something that hasn’t been discussed at all yet but it might be catastrophic.”

House Democrats want aid to state and local governments to be a part of the second federal coronavirus relief bill, but Senate Republicans are blocking that part of the measure.

Start the steamrollers

Perhaps we’ve looked too far into the void for one day’s reading in April.

A fitting room session with longtime Lansing clothier David Kositchek has brightened up many a rough day.

See Coping, Page 10

The big freeze

Hair salon struggles for help during COVID-19 outbreak

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

Joni Smith, 60, owner of Harrison Hair House, has chopped and shampooed hair in East Lansing for over 33 years. She's not used to taking breaks, but the COVID-19 outbreak has forced her to shutter her shop and stay inside.

"When the governor came out and closed everything down, it was heart-breaking," said Smith. "Not just for me, but for my clients too." She has contacted nearly every regular client on the phone or online since the outbreak started ramping up. Because Harrison Hair House doesn't offer gift cards, a few of Smith's customers have paid her in advance for haircuts. "I just told them that I'll owe them a haircut when this whole thing is over."

Smith is worried, though, about reopening the shop in a few months and having a miles-long waiting list of clients who already paid. "It's great to have the money right now, of course, but once I

get back in the shop, I don't know what I'll do," said Smith.

With bills piling up and no end in sight to the crisis, Smith is in a precarious position. The federal stimulus bill has offered her no relief so far, and she said that she feels bad asking clients for more money.

"I tried to get a grant from the government, too. That didn't work," said Smith, referring to the \$10,000 LEAP grant awarded to small businesses in and around Lansing. "I've filled out so many forms this week. I don't even know."

Smith attempted to apply for unemployment, but she doesn't feel optimistic about that, either. "I tried and I couldn't even get on the website. I'll keep trying," she said.

Without any form of aid coming in, Smith has been fearing the worst. "It's really sad. I've been in business for 33 years, and now I'm just afraid we're going to go under after all of this."



Cole Tunningley/City Pulse

Harrison Hair House, a humble East Lansing salon with only two employees, has sat empty ever since Governor Whitmer issued a shelter-in-place executive order.

Coping

from page 9

Even if you can't afford Kositchek's high-end vines, it's worth a minute of your time to bask in his rock-solid equanimity.

The owner of Kositchek's men's clothing store in downtown Lansing talks like the always upbeat pilot of a plane, even when he's gliding on the thermals, with the engines cut.

"I don't think I have blinders on, but I'm very optimistic that this will come back, and people will come back out and support local businesses," Kositchek said.

Kositchek's business model is the antithesis of social distancing. He measures your inseam, listens to your troubles and rejoices in your successes, more like a bartender or a therapist, and his staff of 30 years is trained the same way.

"We do not have an online presence as far as selling things on line," he said. "We are a very personalized business. I don't operate that way."

Kositchek said his team is "intact" and he's looking forward to opening his doors again. He declined to specify what mix of resources is keeping the plane aloft, whether it's a rainy-day stash of capital, SBA loans or unemployment,

except to say that the current situation is "mind-boggling."

In the new closed economy, the ground is edging closer for everyone, but Kositchek is not looking down.

"I would just tell people to hang in there," he said. "We will get through this. Some of the newer businesses may have a more difficult time, and I understand that, but I hope as many come through it as possible."

Kositchek's has pulled through two world wars, a Great Depression and some truly frightening expansions of lapel width in its 150 years as a mainstay of downtown Lansing's business district.

"We weathered hard times before, and we'll weather this," he said. "When you're in business, you have to remain optimistic. It doesn't mean you're naïve. I couldn't live any other way."

Amanda Hayhoe of Hayhoe Asphalt is just as eager to climb back on her steamroller.

Hayhoe has spent the last few days putting together a plan for safe procedures to put in place when her business re-opens. She's triangulating new distancing guidelines for job sites and lining up buckets of bleach water for workers to sterilize their tools between jobs.

"I know a lot of other small business owners are doing the same thing I am," she said. "We want to make sure that when we are able to go back to work, we have the employees and we have the processes already in place. We're not looking for a gradual ramp-up. We want to be able to make the most impact on the economy and hit the ground running."

CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG), HOME
AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) PROGRAMS
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

The City Council of the City of Lansing will conduct a public hearing on Monday, April 27, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. during the regularly scheduled City Council Meeting, via ZOOM Conferencing, Meeting ID 211 422 506, for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed CDBG resources for the Annual Action Plan submission to HUD for FY 2020-2021.

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

The public hearing will be electronically in accordance with the Open Meetings Act in an effort to protect the health and safety of the public. Michigan Executive Order 2020-15 provides temporary authorization of remote participation in public meetings and hearings. Members of the public wishing to participate in the meeting may do so by logging into or calling into the meetings using the website <https://zoom.us/j/211422506> (Note: this option requires downloading Zoom software. If you have not already installed the software, this may take a few minutes) or by calling 646-876-9923 and entering Meeting ID: 211 422 506.

Copies of the proposed Annual Action Plan 2020 for the use of funds are available for review in the City Clerk's Office, downtown Capital Area District Library and in the Development Office of the Department of Economic Development and Planning. In light of the closure of public buildings due to the current state of emergency, the proposed Annual Action Plan 2020 for the use of funds is available for review in the at <https://www.lansingmi.gov/1401/Documents-Placed-on-File> and <https://www.lansingmi.gov/230/Development-Office>. The Plan will be a part of the publicly available Council packet for the April 27, 2020 City Council meeting. If a member of the public wishes to review copies of the Annual Action Plan 2020 in-person, please contact the above listed public facilities to schedule an appointment that ensures the safety of both employees and public.

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

For more information, please call 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please view the public hearing via Zoom web conferencing which will be provided on the April 27, 2020 City Council Agenda. Written comments will be accepted if received by the close of the Public Hearing on April 27, 2020, at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

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

CP#20-100

The big freeze

Florist feels rootless amid COVID-19 outbreak

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

Tricia Chamberlain, 32, a former member of the now-defunct Lansing stand-up trio Comedy Coven, took over her family's flower shop — Angel's Floral Creations — when her mother retired. Since then, she has happily provided floral arrangements for weddings in Lansing and around the state.



Chamberlain

For someone in her line of business, a ban on large gatherings was a death sentence.

“We made the decision to close all of our operations when the governor issued the stay-at-home order,”

explained Chamberlain. “We’re not an essential business. It didn’t feel right to do deliveries knowing that I could potentially be a carrier of the virus.”

The money that Chamberlain would have used to pay for rent, utilities and payroll disappeared as folks started canceling events and collecting refunds on their flowers. Still, she said that she has been able to provide her three employees a small stipend. “Right now, we’re selling gift cards to keep our bills paid. There’s not a lot of money left over to pay myself,” said Chamberlain.

To stay afloat, Chamberlain applied for \$10,000 small business loan from the government. “I applied a couple of weeks ago, got a confirmation number and haven’t heard anything since then.” She also hasn’t heard any news

on whether she’ll be getting a personal stimulus check. It feels like being in limbo, she said.

While Chamberlain can’t take any new inquiries until the shop reopens, she has still been staying in touch with brides-to-be who placed orders before the pandemic. The main thing on their minds: rescheduling. “That’s my highest priority right now,” said Chamberlain.

Working toward keeping the business alive has been a useful distraction for Chamberlain in these distressing times. “It’s hard not to feel depressed, but I hope there’s a light at the end of the tunnel,” she said. “I hope people will still want to celebrate the big occasions in their lives. And we’ll be there for them.”



Courtesy

Tricia Chamberlain poses with a selection of floral arrangements from Angel's Floral Creations, a flower shop founded by her mother.

REACH Studio Art Center hangs tight with grants and donations

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Despite being closed to the public thanks to coronavirus mandates and having to refund registration fees from its spring classes, REACH Studio Art Center, a low-cost art school for youths and young adults, is hanging on with funding from grants and donors. So far, REACH hasn’t had to lay off any of its employees.



Brinkman

With the present seemingly on hold for the majority of Michigan businesses and organizations, all it can do now is plan for the future.

“Currently we’re in the troughs of contacting all of our students and issuing refunds for their registration fees,” director Alice Brinkman said. “We’re taking care of business and trying to strategize ways to stay in touch with our students and our community.”

Brinkman said she and the rest of REACH’s staff discussed long-dis-

tance and remote online teaching opportunities, but decided for the time being to hold off on creating a large-scale online education plan. Instead, the focus is on buckling down on preparations for its summer camp programs, though the certainty of that as coronavirus updates rollout might also be up in the air.

“This time of year, normally, we’d be collecting registrations online for our summer camp. But right now our registration is very quiet,” Brinkman said. “We’ll most likely be postponing the start of our camp and having a shorter season than usual. But of course that’s all tentative — we have to stay fluid.”

“If we’re not running programs, we’re not hiring teaching artists, so our expenses are going down,” Brinkman added.

Brinkman is relieved that the staff is all still on payroll, and she is actively looking for ways to help continue to keep REACH stable. REACH was one of 60 recipients of a \$10,000 Lansing Economic Area Partnership grant, and earlier this year received another \$10,000 from the City of Lansing for its weekly “Drop In, Make Art”

program. Though REACH is obviously unable to host the program, Brinkman hopes REACH will be able to keep the grant.

“Because we’re a nonprofit a lot of our funding comes from grants and individual contributions. I still have to reach out to some of our grant funders to find out how to get extensions on grant projects,” Brinkman said. “A lot of our tried and true donors have sent in donations now, when they’d usually donate later in the year. We’re putting one foot in front of the other.”

Brinkman applied for the Paycheck Protection Program and is finding the process more arduous and less streamlined than it’s been touted. “That’s been really frustrating. Our bank, Fifth Third Bank, still does not have its online system for accepting applications to that program operational. I’ve put in my request but I have yet to actually have our application submitted,” Brinkman said. “It seems like something dumped on the banks, like ‘Here take this!’ They’re trying their best.”

LANSING COMMUNITY COLLEGE | Restart smart.

READY, SET, GROW.

Online classes begin week of June 1.

lcc.edu/online

Lansing Community College is an equal opportunity educational institution/employer.

B/20/095 Parking Ramp Renovations as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the City Of Lansing Purchasing Office, at 124 W. Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI 48933 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **May 5, 2020** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 483-4128, or stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov or go to www.mitn.info.** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses. **CP#20-097**

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Lansing artist starts online market to help fellow creatives

By **COLE TUNNINGLEY**

Maddie Chaffer, 23, started the Clean Hands Collective when it became apparent that many of her artist friends would be laid off during the COVID-19 outbreak. Making a living as an artist often requires taking on work in the service industry for extra income. With restaurants and bars shut down across the state, Chaffer started looking for a new way for her and her friends to make money.

“I think I was peeing when I came up with the idea,” Chaffer said. “A lot of artists my age are out of work, so I wanted to put together an emergency support system to get people some cash flow.”

Along with her friend, Amy Smith — a ceramicist from Grand Rapids — Chaffer created an Instagram account for the group. They post the art on Instagram, with links to the artists’ pages included in the caption, so interested customers can purchase directly from the artist.

The collective started small, with only a few close friends, but more and more artists have been finding the group through social media and word



Courtesy

Chaffer and her partner, Elvis, make art together under the moniker, “Nofunbadtime.” Their work is available on the Clean Hands Collective Instagram page.

of mouth.

“We’re really open to anybody who is selling art in Michigan,” said Chaffer. “The goal is for people to get their stuff sold.”

A sizable chunk of people joined

the collective after MSU’s Broad Art Museum announced it would no longer host this year’s Maker’s Market, an event where artists from all across Michigan sell their handmade goods. “Since that got canceled, we were able to reach out

Find the Clean Hands Collective on Instagram at @cleanhands.co

to all the artists who were supposed to sell stuff there,” said Chaffer.

Clean Hands Collective started a partnership with the Broad, in an attempt to recreate the Maker’s Market online.

The shelter-in-place order has caused difficulties for artists who work with expensive supplies or equipment. Chaffer, for example, likes to make books, but it will be a while before she has access to a printing press again.

“People in the collective all have different setups, and I’ve heard that a lot of people are running out of the supplies they have now,” said Chaffer. “They want to make sure they have enough to sustain them until we get back to normal.”

Money aside, Chaffer has found solace in being able to connect with other artists, talk online and brainstorm ideas while in lockdown. “It’s really nice to be in this network of other artists at this time,” said Chaffer. “It’s a good, little impromptu community.”

High Caliber Karting launches art contest for new attraction

By **SKYLER ASHLEY**

Unable to begin construction on its expansion until August, High Caliber Karting and Entertainment in the Meridian Mall is killing the time by

High Caliber Karting Art Contest

Find more info about the contest at [Facebook.com/HighCaliberKartingMI](https://www.facebook.com/HighCaliberKartingMI)

hosting a contest for local artists. The contest: Who can design the coolest fowling platform? If you’re unfamiliar with the sport fowling, it’s literally just bowling but played with a football. High Caliber Karting is expanding its space to incorporate its own take on the game, which it has dubbed “Pigskin Pins.”

Since fowling’s creation by a group of friends in Detroit, it’s become a popular drinking game. “It’s like football, bowling and cornhole all mixed together. It’s a great drinking game,”

High Caliber Karting co-owner Jordan Munsters said.

Fowling platforms are made of oak wood and resemble the slick, wooden lanes you’d find at a bowling alley. High Caliber Karting is recruiting 50 local artists to create their own custom panels, and an online poll will be conducted so voters can select their favorite. Though all of the panels will be installed at High Caliber Karting once construction is completed in August, first place will receive \$500, second place gets \$250 and third place earns \$100.

“We have a lot of artistic friends in the area, and we thought it would be cool to showcase all of the talent we have in Lansing,” Munsters said. “We said, ‘Let’s create a contest and put every expression of art that’s out there on these platforms.’ That way we can showcase what Mid-Michigan is like.”

Each platform will have its art pre-



Courtesy

High Caliber Karting & Entertainment co-owner Jordan Munsters with oak wood panels for the art contest.

serve with an epoxy resin and will feature a plaque naming the artist and shouting out their social media pages. Artists that are on board so far include Tiffany Marie of La Fille Gallery.

Munsters hopes the contest can be a distraction from the constant gloom of

coronavirus updates.

“Everybody is so sick of hearing about coronavirus everything. To see people doing positive things and expressing themselves in different ways should receive a lot of attention,” Munsters said.

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"No Time, 2 DY" - aka DY, another DY.

By Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Last letter
- 6 Part of R&R
- 10 "Nae" sayer?
- 14 Japanese dish meaning "pulled noodles"
- 15 You can smell it from a dumpster fire
- 16 '80s "This Old House" host Bob
- 17 Friend who helps with homework
- 19 Computer operating system developed by Bell Labs
- 20 Aptly named Quaker cereal
- 21 Measure for weighing boats
- 22 Tirane's land, for short
- 24 506, in Roman numerals
- 25 Word before chimes or chill
- 26 Gave the go-ahead
- 28 Powerful giant
- 32 Chicago daily, briefly
- 33 Chopin technical piece
- 34 Australian actress in "Damages" and "Bridesmaids"
- 38 Lapse
- 39 Edmonton hockey player
- 40 Leo/Virgo mo.
- 41 Flakes in a pizzeria packet
- 44 "In-A-___-Da-Vida"
- 46 Christmas season
- 47 Shown again
- 49 Identifying, on Facebook
- 52 Nautical zookeeper
- 53 Relative of .org

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					
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53				54				55			56	57	58
59			60		61		62				63		
64					65				66				
67					68						69		

- 54 Language seen at some gubernatorial press conferences
- 55 "So what else?"
- 56 Retirement spot?
- 59 Goes on the radio
- 61 Buffalo Bob Smith's puppet
- 64 Health plan prefix
- 65 Dramatic honor
- 66 Jim Henson character
- 67 Accepts as true
- 68 Battleship markers
- 69 Leases an apartment
- contents, maybe
- 9 Attempt to contact again
- 10 "Law & Order" spinoff, initially
- 11 TV kid in the lower left corner
- 12 Food with a pimiento
- 13 Rides around Manhattan
- 18 One-named Irish rocker
- 23 Pet parakeet, say, to meme-makers
- 25 Join together
- 27 Home improvement letters
- 28 Can in a bar
- 29 Basic verb in Versailles
- 30 Hand-cranked instrument
- 31 Excavator
- 35 Sings outside a window (hey, that's distancing!)
- 36 Modigliani work, often
- 37 "By jove!"
- 39 Workplace with non-union members
- 42 Bulldog's cousin
- 43 Controversial director Kazan
- 44 More pleased
- 45 Extra A's take it from "That feels good" to "What the f*\$#"
- 48 Rainbow Dash or Fluttershy, e.g.
- 49 Second squad in a game, perhaps
- 50 "Au revoir!"
- 51 Classroom sphere
- 56 Onetime capital on the Rhine
- 57 Work on Wikipedia, e.g.
- 58 Does some hair coloring
- 60 Bro's sib
- 62 Accessory on "RuPaul's Drag Race"
- 63 Hematite, for one

Down

- 1 ___ it seems
- 2 Sum work?
- 3 Birds with green eggs
- 4 Diploma alternative
- 5 "Whenever you want"
- 6 Like some plane tickets
- 7 Hall formerly of "The Tonight Show"
- 8 Vending machine

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Answers Page 16

SUDOKU

Intermediate

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

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 16

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

April 15-21, 2020

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Aries artist Vincent van Gogh got started on his life's work relatively late. At ages 25 and 26 he made failed attempts to train as a pastor and serve as a missionary. He didn't launch his art career in earnest until he was 27. During the next ten years, he created 860 paintings—an average of 1.7 every week—as well as over 1,200 additional works of art. For comparison, the prolific painter Salvador Dali made 1,500 paintings in 61 years. During the coming twelve months, Aries, you could achieve a van Gogh-like level of productiveness in your own chosen field—especially if you lay the foundations now, during our stay-at-home phase.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Most authors do their writing while sitting on chairs in front of desks. But long before there were standing desks, poet Rainer Maria Rilke and children's author Lewis Carroll wrote their books while standing up. Novelist Henry James had eight desks, but typically paced between them as he dictated his thoughts to a secretary. And then there have been weirdoes like poet Robert Lowell and novelist Truman Capote. They attended to their craft as they lay in their bed. I suggest you draw inspiration from those two in the coming weeks. It'll be a favorable time to accomplish masterpieces of work and play while in the prone position.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): While sleeping, most of us have over a thousand dreams every year. Many are hard to remember and not worth remembering. But a beloved few can be life-changers. They have the potential to trigger epiphanies that transform our destinies for the better. In my astrological opinion, you are now in a phase when such dreams are more likely than usual. That's why I invite you to keep a pen and notebook by your bed so as to capture them. For inspiration, read this testimony from Jasper Johns, whom some call America's "foremost living artist": "One night I dreamed that I painted a large American flag, and the next morning I got up and I went out and bought the materials to begin it." (Painting flags ultimately became one of Johns' specialties.)

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Ford Madox Ford (1873-1939) was a renowned author who wrote "The Good Soldier", a novel that has been called "one of the 100 greatest novels of all time." Yet another very famous author, Henry James (1843-1916), was so eager to escape hanging out with Ford that he once concealed himself behind a tree so as to not be seen. You have astrological permission to engage in comparable strategies during the coming weeks. It won't be a time when you should force yourself to endure boring, meaningless, and unproductive tasks.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): I hope that during the coronavirus crisis you have been entertaining wild truths and pondering the liberations you will initiate when the emergency has passed. I trust you have been pushing your imagination beyond its borders and wandering into the nooks and crannies of your psyche that you were previously hesitant to explore. Am I correct in my assumptions, Leo? Have you been wandering outside your comfort zone and discovering clues about how, when things return to normal, you can add spice and flair to your rhythm?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): I like this quote by the author Jake Remington: "Fate whispers to the warrior, 'You cannot withstand the storm.' The warrior whispers back, 'I am the storm.'" Although this passage is more melodramatic than necessary for your needs in the coming weeks, I think it might be good medicine that will help you prevail over the turbulence of the coronavirus crisis. Getting yourself into a storm-like mood could provide you with the personal power necessary to be unflappable and authoritative. You should also remember that a storm is not inherently bad. It may be akin to a catharsis or orgasm that relieves the tension and clears the air.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Libran rapper and

activist Talib Kweli says, "You have to know when to be arrogant. You have to know when to be humble. You have to know when to be hard and you have to know when to be soft." You Librans tend to be skilled in this artful approach to life: activating and applying the appropriate attitude as is necessary for each new situation. And I'm happy to report that your capacity for having just the right touch at the right time will be a crucial asset in the coming weeks. Trust your intuition to guide you through every subtle shift of emphasis.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Scorpio artist Marie Laurencin (1883-1956) enjoyed a colorful fate. One of the few female Cubist painters, she was a prominent figure in the Parisian avant-garde. She was also the muse and romantic partner of renowned poet Guillaume Apollinaire. But there came a turning point when she abandoned her relationship with Apollinaire. "I was twenty-five and he was sleeping with all the women," she said, "and at twenty-five you don't stand for that, even from a poet." Is there a comparable situation in your life, Scorpio? A role you relish but that also takes a toll? Now is a favorable time to re-evaluate it. I'm not telling you what you should decide, only that you should think hard about it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Sagittarian sculptor and architect Gian Lorenzo Bernini (1596-1680) was a prodigious, inventive creator. One scholar wrote, "What Shakespeare is to drama, Bernini may be to sculpture." He designed and built public squares, fountains, and buildings, many in Rome, which embodied his great skills as both sculptor and architect. Unlike many brilliant artists alive today, Bernini was deeply religious. Every night for 40 years, he walked from his home to pay a devotional visit to the Church of the Gesù. According to my reading of the astrological factors, now would be an excellent time for you to engage in reverential rituals like those—but without leaving your home, of course. Use this social-distancing time to draw reinvigoration from holy places within you or in your memory.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): As I understand the current chapter of your life story, you have been doing the unspectacular but yeoman work of recharging your spiritual batteries. Although you may have outwardly appeared to be quiet and still, you have in fact been generating and storing up concentrated reserves of inner power. Because of the coronavirus crisis, it's not yet time to tap into those impressive reserves and start channeling them into a series of dynamic practical actions. But it is time to formulate the practical actions you will take when the emergency has passed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Aquarian poet Jacques Prévert offered a variation on the famous Christian supplication known as the Lord's Prayer. The original version begins, "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name." But Prévert's variation says, "Our father who art in heaven: Stay there." Being an atheist, he had no need for the help and support of a paternal deity. I understand his feeling. I tend to favor the Goddess myself. But for you Aquarians right now, even if you're allergic to talk of a divine presence, I'll recommend that you seek out generous and inspiring masculine influences. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you will benefit from influences that resemble good fathering.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): How skillful are you in expressing what you want? Wait. Let me back up and reformulate that. How skillful are you in knowing what you want and expressing the truth about what you want to the people who might ultimately be able to give it to you or help you get it? This is the most important question for you to meditate on in the coming weeks. If you find that you're fuzzy about what you want or hazy about asking for what you want, correct the problems.

TURN IT DOWN!

BY RICH TUPICA

LOCALS PICK LOCALS: VOL. III

MORE MICHIGAN-MADE GEMS TO EASE THE CABIN FEVER, FROM LANSING AND BEYOND

For those keeping tabs, this is indeed the third installment of locally produced songs. This week, AllMusic critic and music-scene vet Mark Deming dishes on an obscure East Lansing-made cassette tape, FBC's Jon Howard looks to the Motor City for comfort, and Inzane Johnny returns with another Capital City rarity. Oh, and yours truly also dug up a long-lost Mid-Michigan oddball track. All of these songs are either on YouTube, or streaming elsewhere, so feel free to listen along.

Mark Deming (music critic, musician)

Pick: The Wayouts "Mr. Cloud"— 1990

Before he opened Detroit's Ghetto Recorders studio, played with the Dirtbombs, or became producer to garage rock stars (The White Stripes, The Sonics, The Fleshtones, the list goes on), Jim Diamond was the guitarist with The Wayouts, who in the late '80s were the most rock 'n' roll fun you could have in Greater Lansing. Calling their style "speed gold," the Wayouts' music was rooted in late '50s to mid-'60s rock performed with the tempo and impact of punk rock, but their usual show closer, "Mr. Cloud," was a glorious anomaly. A tongue-in-cheek exercise in psychedelia ("I saw a cloud up in the sky! I saw a cloud, I don't know why!"), "Mr. Cloud" was to the Wayouts what "Black to Comm" was to



the MC5, a dirt simple riff that gave them a format to explore the musical cosmos in wild fashion. While Diamond's wailing guitar took off to parts unknown, bassist Eric Apczynski (aka Eric Makowski) and drummer Steve Simonson would at once hold the performance together and push it to the outer limits, to the point that what was a goof mutated into the real thing in sublime fashion that would have done the Grande Ballroom proud.

Rich Tupica (Turn it Down! writer, "Inzane Michigan" co-host)

Pick: Bobby Dee & the Crestliners "Graveyard Twist"— '60s

In 2016, a copy of this '60s-era 45 rpm sold for a whoppin' \$863 online. Why? Because Bobby Dee & the Crestliners sound like the demented, reverb-soaked ancestors of The Cramps. All of the elements are there: The surfy-riffs, the echoey screams, the primitive percussion and zombie growls. Recorded at the long-defunct Don Lee Studios in downtown Lansing, this scarce single, which features "Jerry's Twist" on the flipside, was never properly released. The Battle Creek-based band only cut it to an acetate and few copies remain. It's a lonely existence for this Holy Grail slab of proto-psychobilly, but perhaps



that's the perfect ending for a single haunted by ghosts and goblins. Bobby Dee, however, went on to join The Pastels and recorded 1966's "Cause I Love You" single for the Phalanx label out of Portage, Michigan.

John Olson, aka Inzane Johnny (Musician, Wolf Eyes, "Inzane Michigan" co-host)

Pick: Skidd Freeman "1969" 7-inch — 1991

Here's some homemade damage that's much loved in hushed global circles, from the nowhere year of 1991, but sounds more like post-apocalyptic bad-attitude rock — when only four people are left, three of them cockroaches. The flipside, "Poor Little Suzie," gets real overcast, fast. This self-issued phenom-racket, released via Bad Productions, has aged amazingly well and not a soul has met this lurker legend named "Skidd." Only an East Lansing P.O. Box is listed on the label. Calling Rich Tupica to investigate and solve this tangled East Lansing confusion.



Jon Howard (Flat, Black & Circular, Hordes bassist)

Pick: Iggy Pop "I'm Bored" (1979) + Destroy All Monsters "Bored" (1979)

The late-'70s/early-'80s were my formative years for discovering punk. I was

shopping at Sam's Jams in Ferndale, who had a small, but killer selection of locals and imports. I knew about Iggy Pop and The Stooges from my dad, who also tipped me that ex-Stooge Ron Asheton was in Destroy All Monsters.

I bought Iggy's "New Values" LP based on "Five Foot One" (killer bass intro, hello?!). Somehow, two ex-Stooges put out simultaneous songs, on two different records, about boredom in 1979. I don't care if someone copied, there's plenty of room for both songs. It's two slices of Detroit rock that will stop a bored pity party. Iggy goes for a bit of a goofy take with some puns. It's pretty safe and poppy, but has some great lines, like "I bore myself to sleep at night..."

Which links right up with Niagara from Destroy All Monsters droning, "Woke up this morning/I was really bored." They go right for the disaffected approach. Clearly nothing is going to excite this singer, not even Ron's blazing solos right from the go. Their dry humor was right up my alley. Totally charming bridge that adds sax and goes a bit off.



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Ezio is a sweet, gentle girl waiting patiently for her forever home. She is good with kids, dogs and other cats. Who could resist those beautiful eyes?

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Mango is 7 years old and a big handsome dude. He's shy at first but warms up to cuddles and ear scratches. He would like a quiet home to relax in!

In memory of
Rodica's cats

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Greater Lansing restaurants adapt with new menus and services

By **DAWN PARKER**

Operating a restaurant has never been easy, and that was even before the coronavirus hit and forced the dining establishments of greater Lansing to either close completely or only offer curbside pickup or delivery.

While many places that have remained open are surviving, some restaurants are stepping up their game during this difficult time and, to rephrase an old saying,

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ing, thinking outside the take-out box to take care of their customers.

Blondie's Barn has been a fixture in the local breakfast scene since it opened in 2007. The red barn at was once home to a Chinese restaurant. The farm-related décor accumulated with the years gives it the right touch.

Co-owner Andrew Manuel said the restaurant has traditionally been busy on weekends, with enough traffic to balance out quieter weekday shifts

That was before COVID-19, before business dipped by as much as 90 percent. Business slowly improved over the following two weeks, Manuel said, but "we're nowhere near the numbers we used to have."

Since the lockdown, Blondie's has responded by meeting its customers where they are. Orders are being delivered to both curbside and porch, and the home delivery area takes in much of East Lansing. "We were just trying to figure out, 'What can we do?' to help the area, and ourselves" Manuel said.

Anyone needing their fix of arguably the best sausage biscuits and gravy on Lansing's east side, plus custom coffee creations like a Grasshopper, aka a mint mocha, may either call the restaurant directly or order through GrubHub or DoorDash.

"We figured, the more options we have out there, the better," Manuel said. The People's Kitchen in Lansing is also known for its breakfasts, including veg-an options, and the brunch kits they've

assembled.

General manager and co-owner Sophie Bell said the restaurant's pancakes are popular, so much so that a take-home "Really Good F***ing Pancake Kit" flies out the door. The \$25 kit, which serves four, comes with charred lemon butter, butter syrup and Guernsey Dairy butter-milk.

Once they arrive back home, enterprising brunch chefs can dial up the restaurant's Facebook page to get help making pancakes from a staff member in a pancake costume.

There's also a sausage gravy and biscuit kit (\$15), including homemade buttermilk biscuits. There is normally a veg-an kit as well, but Bell said getting vegan items is tough right now. If your mouth isn't watering enough by now, there's also bacon made in-house.

Without a liquor license that would allow sales of alcohol to go along with the brunch kits, Bell and her staff came up with Bloody Mary mix. If you're not much for tomato juice, there's elderflower and lavender hibiscus tonic for mixers.

The People's Kitchen's staff would be making tonic anyway for use in the restaurant, Bell explained, adding it's a good use for an abundance of citrus.

Bell says the restaurant, which celebrates its first anniversary as a brick-and-mortar on April 20, tries to find local sources for their menu items as often as possible. "We try to be comfort



Courtesy

A cook at The People's Kitchen does the prep work for biscuits.

food globally inspired, and we definitely try to accommodate the vegan crowd – and everyone else too," she added.

The coronavirus outbreak may have changed how the restaurant copes in the short term, but that's about it. One pos-

sibility they're considering – and something Bell says they're working on – is being able to sell items like their butter syrup for customers to take home.

"We're trying to think long-term," Bell said.

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