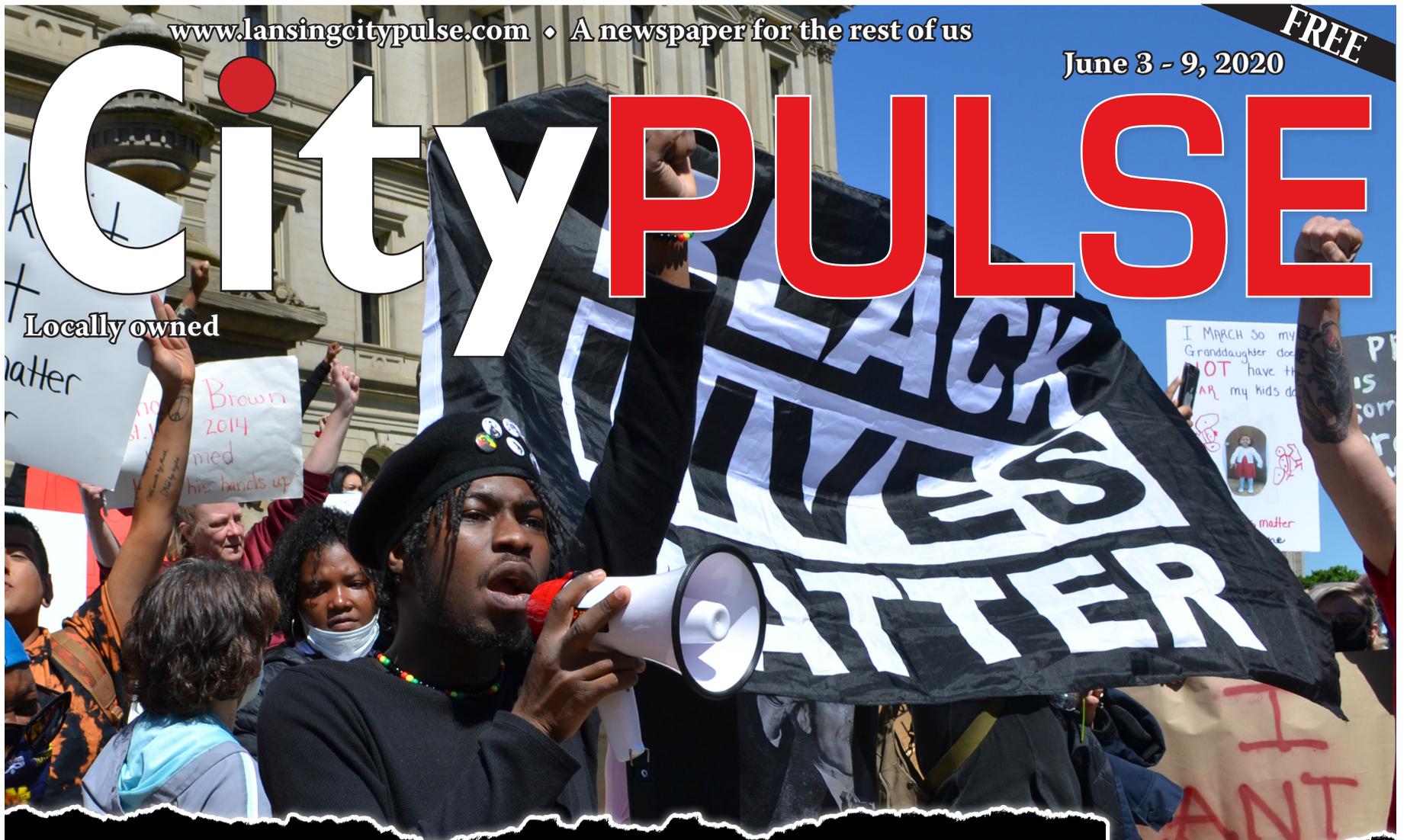


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Lee Purdy

517-999-5064

lee@lansingcitypulse.com

Mike Piasecki

517-999-6707

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We say farewell to Lansing's Jack Davis



PAGE 14

Peaceful protest and fiery riot



PAGE 18

Escape into the world of Animal Crossing



Cover Art

Photos by Skyler Ashley

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

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

STAFF WRITERS • **Lawrence Cosentino**
lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5065
Kyle Kaminski • kyle@lansingcitypulse.com
(517) 999-6710

SALES EXECUTIVE
Lee Purdy • lee@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5064
Mike Piasecki • mike@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6707

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

Delivery drivers: Garrett Clinard, Dave Fisher

Interns: Matthew Stine • stinem47@gmail.com

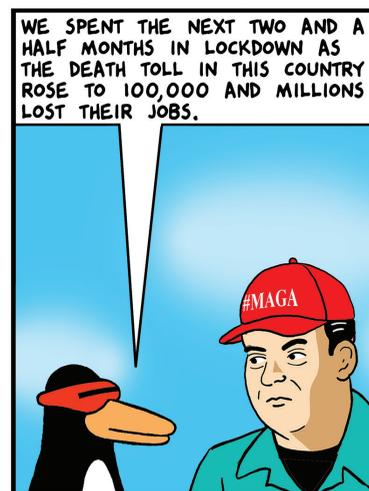
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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



Tom Tomorrow © 2020

America the sick

With apologies for our use of profanity, we have to ask: What the hell is wrong with this country?

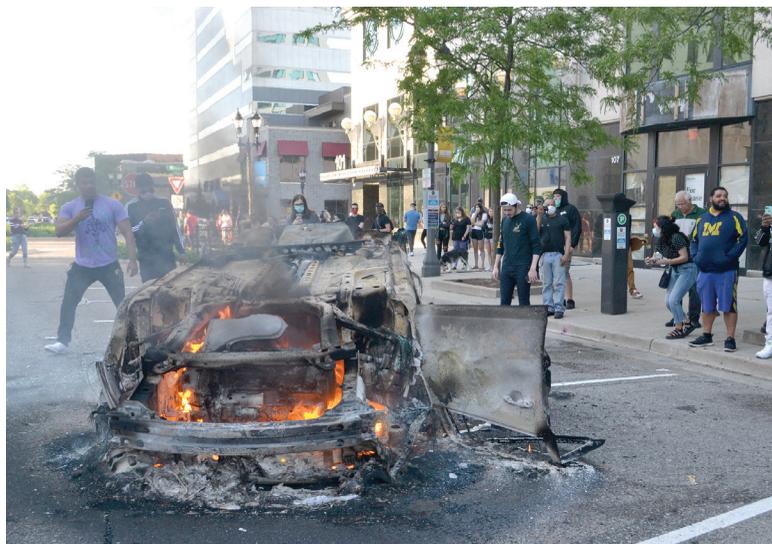
Yet another death of a black man at the hands of police for no discernable reason. Yet another wave of protests in cities across the nation decrying senseless police brutality. We're not surprised, and you shouldn't be, either. Six years after the murder of Michael Brown by police in Ferguson, Missouri, and the murder of Eric Garner at the hands of New York City police, plus countless less publicized incidents since then, whatever progress we've made, if any at all, seems to have vanished.

Monday, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said she sees "historic inequities of racial justice coming to a tipping point in communities across America." But is it really a tipping point? Weren't the murders of Garner and Brown a tipping point? What about the mass murder of schoolchildren at Sandy Hook? Was that not a tipping point?

All of them should have led to meaningful reforms, but none actually moved the needle on eradicating police violence against people of color or squelching America's love affair with guns. Yet in Canada, a single incident of gun violence brought an immediate nationwide ban on assault weapons. What's wrong with America that we can't find the wherewithal to effect and sustain real change, that we can't find solutions to our nation's deepest ills?

America's ongoing appetite and tolerance for violence, especially when aimed at people of color, conspires with a fleeting attention span, where even the most profoundly shocking incidents disappear into subsequent news cycles, all but erased from the national conscience and political agenda. Just as wave after wave of school shootings has failed to produce any meaningful reform in national gun laws, the continuing pandemic of police brutality against people of color has prompted little improvement in weeding out the bad actors from the ranks of law enforcement.

Here in Lansing, we are more fortunate than many. Our city has a proud tradition of racial harmony, rooted in the efforts of black and white residents in the 1960s and 1970s, who worked hand in hand to push back against discrimination in housing, education, public accommodations and employment. Today, Lansing is second only to Kalamazoo among Michigan cities in the racial integration of its neighborhoods. We are also blessed with a better-than-average Police



The CP Edit

Opinion

Department with a relatively small number of excessive force incidents over the past decade, scant evidence of racially biased policing, and a bonafide commitment to community-based strategies that strengthen the bonds between police officers and citizens.

While we are thankful for that, we can't help question the judgment of police commanders who failed to prevent a volatile and entirely predictable situation on Washington Square over the weekend. When lawless idiots are in the process of destroying a car, flipping it over and setting it on fire, shouldn't the police intervene and arrest those responsible? Which begs the question: why were cars allowed on the square in the first place? After several nights in a row of downtowns being destroyed in cities across the country, did it not occur to Lansing's leadership that a proactive plan would be needed to protect Lansing's downtown if and when things turned ugly?

Instead, Lansing police opted to stand back at a safe distance, allowing the melee to grow, then clearing the streets with tear gas well after the damage was done. Never mind that there were innocent bystanders, including children, caught up in the gassing. First Ward Lansing City Council member Brandon Betz, who was on the scene offering aid to people exposed to tear gas, expressed his disgust with the tactic on

Facebook. We find little cause to disagree with him.

And where was Mayor Andy Schor? He showed up for the photo op at the police operations center for the retaking of the oath, a lovely gesture to be sure, but we couldn't help notice his absence while downtown Lansing was under assault. Enacting a curfew hours after the car was burned and windows broken?? Too little, too late. Repeating the curfew the next night with virtually no advanced notice to the public speaks to a lack of forethought. And did we miss the press conference with the mayor and police chief updating Lansing residents on the situation and calling for calm — as well as providing the media a place to ask the hard questions that need to be addressed about police

performance. That's what leaders do in times of crisis.

More than a half century ago, when America was just beginning to reckon with its shameful treatment of black citizens, Sam Cooke sang that a change is gonna come. Frankly, we're tired of waiting for it. Generation after generation of Americans have seen wave after wave of social upheaval around issues of racial injustice and economic inequality. Yet too many of us go about our daily lives as if these issues are someone else's concern.

Like the deadly scourge of COVID-19, the cultural sickness afflicting our nation falls heaviest on people of color. But there will be no vaccine for the structural racism and ravages of poverty that deny equal opportunity and social justice to millions of our citizens, or for the police brutality that causes people of color to live in fear that they or their children may be the next to die. Change may yet come, but it will only happen as a result of a new generation of leaders at the local, state and federal levels who pay more than lip service to demands for reform. Above all, it will only happen when each and every one of us looks deeply at our own biases and privileges and commits to being part of the solution.

Echoing the words of President Barack Obama, whose calm and enlightened leadership we desperately miss at this frightening and perilous juncture in our nation's history: Let's get to work.

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

As MSU goes, so goes the local economy. But how does it go?

(This is the first in a three-part series, "Covid & the Economy," that looks at the impact of the pandemic on the three legs of Greater Lansing's economic "stool." This week: MSU.)

By **ARI ADLER**

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted lives and created anxiety in ways few people have experienced. The recovery will take months, if not years. And for some communities, complex decisions yet to be made could impact that recovery time.

In the mid-Michigan region, Michigan State University has decided to bring students back to campus on Sept. 2. However, in his announcement on May 27, President Samuel Stanley also said students would have the option to continue taking classes remotely. The answers to when, how, and how many students return to campus will have a profound impact on tens of thousands of lives and livelihoods in the region.



Stanley

Michigan State University has more than 50,000 students plus approximately 12,000 faculty and staff. The university's economic impact on the region is \$3.1 billion annually, according to a 2017 Anderson Economic Group study.

MSU established a task force to review myriad issues involving students returning to campus. It is anticipated Stanley will receive its recommendations in July.

MSU's executive vice president for health services co-chairs the task force with the university physician. Plus, Stanley is an infectious disease specialist.

Health first

The healthiest and safest decision for the campus will be a key deciding factor for Stanley when weighing options, according to Emily Gerkin Guerrant, vice president and university spokeswoman.

"We never really closed, so it's a misnomer to say reopen, but that is the common term people are using," Guerrant said. "We will be here in some capacity in the fall, although it will likely be a hybrid situation."

She noted that classes in large lecture halls common in a student's freshman and sophomore years are likely to stay online. As for other courses, the university is looking at different scenarios.

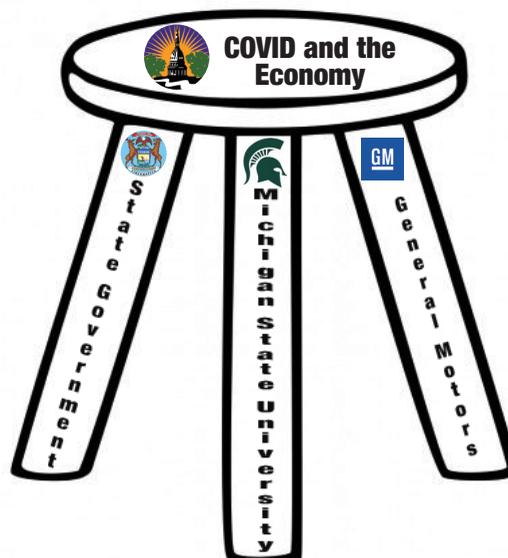
"Where can we have more in-person engagement?" Guerrant said. "We are planning for multiple scenarios. If CDC recommendations say no more than 10 or 50 people in a group, how does that affect students in residence halls, dining halls, and classrooms?"

Another wrinkle is addressing concerns of MSU faculty.

"We have a lot of faculty who are in the vulnerable population," Guerrant said. "This is about protecting the faculty and staff, as well, and are they comfortable teaching students in a classroom setting?"



Guerrant



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To East Lansing Mayor Ruth Beier, the health of the students and East Lansing residents should take precedent over re-engaging the economy.

"This is the university's decision," Beier said. "The administration keeps us apprised, but we are not on the taskforce. They haven't asked us for input, but what Dr. Stanley is trying to do is protect the health of the students at MSU, and that's his job to do."

According to Beier, MSU students compose half of East Lansing's population when they are in town, and the impact of not having them around for shopping, patronizing restaurants and bars, or serving as an employee base for businesses would have a significant effect.

"If students don't come back, that's huge for what will happen to area businesses, property values, property tax revenue, income tax revenue, and the viability of our downtown," Beier said. "It will force some businesses to go out of business for good. On the other hand, students are safer where they are now."

And so are area communities because, as Beier noted, the students aren't bringing any illnesses to campus with them.

"When students get back to campus or in the neighborhoods ... they aren't very good social distancers," Beier said. "Most of the neighborhoods have good relationships with students who live there. I hear from people who don't have relationships with students and are worried about them returning."

An economic pillar

For the region as a whole, Michigan State University is still a key economic pillar, despite attempts to diversify the local economy, according to Tim Daman, president and CEO of the Lansing Regional Chamber of

Commerce. He said the chamber is closely watching the "three legs of the stool" in the regional economy for indications of what a post-pandemic mid-Michigan resembles.

"What does Michigan State look like in September, what does GM look like, and what does state government look like?" Daman said. "They are going to set the tone for us and determine what our region is going to look like."

Daman added another decision for state and local governments and business owners is how to reopen bars and restaurants, which is complicated even further in a college town.

"Do they allow a 25-percent or 50-percent capacity and provide for social distancing?" Daman said. "You get 50,000 kids, some away from home for the first time and now in a post-pandemic environment — how do they handle themselves?"

Beier said the city of East Lansing is looking at innovative ways to help ease the post-pandemic concerns for bars and restaurants.

She explained the city is planning to close Albert Avenue between the city parking ramp and MAC, as well as using two city parking lots in the area, to provide picnic tables for restaurant and bar patrons.

"That way, people can get their food and maybe

"What does Michigan State look like in September, what does GM look like, and what does state government look like? They are going to set the tone for us and determine what our region is going to look like."

— Tim Daman
President & CEO
Lansing Regional Chamber
of Commerce



drinks and eat outside," Beier said. "You wouldn't need a lot of employees for that model — you need cooks and some servers, but people are mostly taking food to go."

She said the city is working with the state Liquor Control Commission on how to accommodate patrons taking alcohol outside.

Ongoing economic impact studies by the Anderson Economic Group in East Lansing have shown the many ways universities positively impact their communities. But if you remove students from the equation while shuttered businesses attempt to reopen, it may be too much for some small businesses already teetering over the edge, according to AEG CEO Patrick Anderson.

"Particularly in the restaurant and hospitality industry, this will be the event that is the cataclysm that ends their continued operation," Anderson said.

FOR DESIGN



The June Eye for Design has a gothic feel, reminiscent of something we would see on the older part of MSU's campus, however, this design can be found near downtown Lansing. The iron spikes resemble the stalks of summer flowers, like the daisies in the center of the design. The base of the light is adorned with an acanthus leaf where the arc of the metal attaches to the wall. If you know where this detail can be found, send me an email at carriesampson@micourthistory.org.

— CARRIE SAMPSON



The breezeblock wall featured in the last Eye for Design column was not identified by a reader. It is part of the Board of Water and Light's substation on the corner of Burcham Drive and Stoddard Avenue in East Lansing.

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

MSU

from page 6

"There is going to be a cascade of bankruptcies. When you take small businesses, in particular, and shut them down for two straight months — even if you provide generous unemployment benefits for their employees — the owners and managers and customers often can't hang on that long. The damage from this extended shutdown will be so deep that many small businesses will not survive."

How to balance health concerns and economic mayhem is the question to which there are no easy answers.

Guerrant noted the university is looking at what requirements it can put in place.

"If students don't come back, that's huge for what will happen to area businesses, property values, property tax revenue, income tax revenue, and the viability of our downtown," Beier said. "It will force some businesses to go out of business for good. On the other hand, students are safer where they are now."

— Ruth Beier
President
East Lansing
City Council



"We have been following CDC guidelines, and we are looking at whether we could require masks on campus. Could we require testing, and what would that look like?" Guerrant said. "We can impact what happens in on-campus housing. And we could look at requiring masks for everyone if they are in contact with others once they are on campus."

But the university's control ends at the edge of campus. And Guerrant said that while 85 to 90 % of first-year students live on campus, that number drops quickly as students age. By sophomore year, only 25 percent are still living on campus. In total, about 70 percent of MSU's 50,234 students last year lived off-campus.

Off-campus housing is another sector



of the regional economy and one that has seen a recent construction boom in and near East Lansing.

"I've heard from rental property managers who are concerned," Beier said. "Let's say MSU decides the safest thing is not to let students live in dorms or only one-quarter of students that normally live there live in dorms. That would increase the demand for rentals in the neighborhoods and the new buildings, which would be good for those property owners."

But what if a lot of students choose to take their classes remotely?

"Some small landlords that have just one or two houses might just get out of them," Beier said, noting that many people might not be able to afford the mortgages and upkeep on rental properties if they don't have renters.

International students

Regardless of how many students return to MSU's campus in the fall, the population of international students is likely to be much smaller.

Guerrant noted that a large number went home and now face the possibility of not being able to get back into the U.S. for a while.

"We are looking at what accommodations we can make to take classes remotely from other countries for students who want to remain Spartans but could have difficulties getting back due to travel restrictions," Guerrant said.

If the university does that, it leads to another complication. How do faculty handle teaching students who are living in significantly different international time zones?

According to Stanley's recent announcement, MSU is taking A tact similar to other schools around the country, wrapping up in-person classes for the fall semester by Thanksgiving. That way, students aren't going back and forth from campus to their hometowns in such a short timeframe around the holidays.

The uniqueness of the COVID-19 pandemic means decisionmakers are having to wing it, with little reference in modern history to rely upon for examples.

"We have never had anything of this magnitude," Guerrant said. "We have dealt with meningitis outbreaks, H1N1 and other flus. But we have not had anything with an impact this broad and wide. We have never had to move all classes online within a matter of days."

Many people around the region are anxiously awaiting the university's decision on how to move classes and students back to campus.

"I'm not optimistic that we can change student behavior," Beier said. "I've tried it as a resident, and as mayor, and the police have tried."

Beier noted that keeping the city's police officers healthy will be another challenge if students return not just to classes but to socializing as they did pre-pandemic.

"I'm not going to put our police officers at risk by sending them in to break up a big party," Beier said. "They would need to socially distance while trying to break up people who aren't social distancing. That's not easy to do."

That's another reason Beier is concerned about students flooding back into town.

"It's not good for MSU and not good for East Lansing, but I would not open a campus of 50,000 people and try to keep them socially distanced until there's a vaccine or a good treatment," she said. "That would be the end of many small businesses in East Lansing, but I would choose health over the economy in a college town. But, as mayor, I don't get to make that choice."

(Before forming a communications consultancy, Ari Adler served as Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder's director of communications, overseeing media and public relations from 2016 to 2018 on local, state, and national issues. Adler began his career as a journalist, working as a reporter and editor for several newspapers across Michigan. He earned his bachelor's degree in journalism from Michigan State University, where he served as an adjunct instructor for 12 years, teaching courses on news reporting, public relations, and social media.)

'Everybody trusted Jack'

Remembering lifelong Lansing champion Jack Davis

The life of attorney and philanthropist Jack Davis, one of Lansing's most stalwart champions, gives the lie to the old saying, 'It ain't what you do, it's the way that you do it.'

With Davis, who died Thursday (May 28) at the age of 81 of acute myeloid leukemia, it was both.

He gave blunt advice, but tempered it with diplomacy. He donated generously to arts organizations while pushing them to grow. He moved quietly among the city's political, business and cultural centers, cross-pollinating countless relationships and connections without drawing attention to himself.

"My heart is hurting but it's also filled with joy," former Lansing School Board member Robin Lewis said. Lewis met Davis while both were on Lansing's middle-school task force. "I have many stories about seeing him use his privilege for good. I admired his integrity and what he stood for."

Davis was a proud, home-grown product of Lansing schools. He got his undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin, where he met his future wife, Sue Shaeffer. She and their children, Gregory and Jennifer, survive him. After a stint in the Army, he got a law degree at Harvard and worked briefly in Chicago, but returned to Lansing to join the Loomis Law Firm in 1966 and lived in Lansing the rest of his life.

It impressed former Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero that Davis served twice as president of the Lansing School Board.

"Very few people of his pedigree, his education level, go back to their community and serve on the school board Bernero said. "Not in the sense of, 'You're lucky I'm here,' but pulling up alongside, doing the heavy lifting, shoulder to shoulder."

Bernero knew Davis best as "the mayor-whisperer."

"He sort of comes with the office," Bernero said. "He was an adviser to all the mayors, and to many others. If I had trouble getting through to somebody, they would always take Jack's call even if they wouldn't take mine."

Bernero credited Davis with helping to bring the Lansing Economic Area Partnership, or LEAP, into being.

"Regional development was a foreign concept in Lansing," he said. "It was Jack's quiet, diplomatic, persistent leadership that brought people together.



Davis

When they didn't trust each other, everybody trusted Jack."

Longtime friend Pam Jodway, a marketing specialist, has known Davis her entire life. Davis served as personal and professional attorney for her parents, both physicians. Davis spoke at Jodway's father's funeral. She turned to Davis for professional, personal, legal and travel advice "countless times."

"He'd just listen and say, 'Do you need anything?'" she recalled. "He was always there for you."

She watched Davis at board meetings as the complex machinery of the Lansing Promise scholarship fund took shape.

"His persistence in getting that first big donation from Magic Johnson took two years," Jodway said.

It was easy to misread him at first blush, especially in a crowded meeting. Most of the time, he waited and listened, and sometimes seemed uninterested.

"We had some contentious, difficult conversations," Jodway said. "He was in the background, observing, and he would find an appropriate time to quietly put something on the table that was so profound, it changed the whole tone of the meeting," Jodway said.

His sense of humor was below the radar. During a long and complicated meeting, Davis would raise his eyebrows and whisper to Jodway, "Are you having fun yet?"

Michael H. Rhodes, a partner at the firm with Davis for 38 years, called Davis a "quiet mentor."

"He wasn't a fiery litigator, like some, but he was a true advocate for his clients," Rhodes said.

JV Anderton was an associate at the



Courtesy photo

Sue and Jack Davis visit backstage with singer and actress Audra McDonald, soloist in a Lansing Symphony Orchestra concert in September 2019. The Davises were major donors to the symphony and many other educational and cultural organizations in greater Lansing.

Loomis firm for years before he became a partner.

"As an attorney, I don't think I ever met anyone more thorough," Anderton said. "What made him so brilliant and so incisive was the preparation, the hours and hours of time and thought that went into it."

Cathy Morgan was a receptionist at the Loomis firm for about 11 years.

"I loved it. I met so many people through him," she recalled.

Morgan said Davis treated everyone, from high-profile clients like football star Steve Smith to the entire Loomis staff, with the same respect.

"He was great for me because he knew I do a lot of things with the church, and he supported me in all that, even after I left," Morgan said.

Former Lansing State Rep. Joan Bauer and Davis chaired the drive to invest \$120 million in Lansing schools, a bond proposal that passed in 2016. True to form, Davis went beyond attending every meeting and public event.

"He even went out and did door-to-door stuff, gave his all to everything," Bauer said. "I miss him already."

The Davises enjoyed the arts for their own sake, but also for its potential to help a community grow and thrive. Courtney Millbrook, executive director of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, said the Davises were among the orchestra's most generous and stalwart donors. She got a taste of the blunt Davis style in one of their earliest meetings.

"At first, it can be a little off-put-

ting, but then you really appreciate it," Millbrook said. "Then you seek it out, because you know you're going to get a straight answer. It comes from a great place and it will take you to a really great place."

Millbrook choked back tears at the memory.

When it came to financial support, it was not just the amount Davis gave that had impact, but the way he gave it. His support often came in the form of challenge grants that encouraged arts groups to reach out to new donors.

"The support from Jack and Sue is really what has enabled the symphony to start to stand on our own two feet and be sustainable," Millbrook said.

Many of the area's nonprofit leaders and other business and cultural players owe their introduction to each other to the Davises.

"He felt strongly about the ecosystem of the arts, culture and service organizations," Millbrook said. "When I think about the people I can call and talk things through, my peers, a lot of those introductions came from Jack."

Davis always sponsored a table at the Allen Neighborhood Center's Strawberry Festival, but he never used it for the Loomis firm. A few years ago, Millbrook got a call from the center's director, Joan Nelson, offering Davis' table to the symphony.

"That's not something we normally would have done, but we got to come

Davis

from page 8

out and meet the people in the east side community.”

Two of Davis’ passions — his advocacy for education and his love of nature — converged in the Susan and Jack Davis Fenner Nature Center Pavilion, completed earlier this year, where the center will host hundreds of group meetings, community classes and programs for tens of thousands of Lansing area kids and adults.

The cultivation and cross-pollination of people from business, government, the arts and education harks back to the words “we must cultivate our garden,” from one of Davis’ favorite books, Voltaire’s “Candide.” Davis was also an avid book collector, favoring books that he felt “promoted and brought about change,” like Alex Haley’s “Roots” and Betty Friedan’s “The Feminine Mystique,” along with classics by Ernest Hemingway, Mark Twain and F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Friends testify that Davis actually read the books, unlike many collectors.

Davis, who was comfortable finan-

cially, first sought to collect art — but realized on a buying trip to New York with East Lansing’s Roy Saper in tow as an adviser that he was out of his league. So he turned to books and autographs. A lucky few were accorded an opportunity to visit his collection, so valuable it was housed in a secret location away from his Okemos home.

People who worked with him or knew him as a friend wondered how he found enough hours in the day to do it all.

He was an avid athlete as well and completed the Lansing-to-Mackinac DALMAC bike many times, including last fall. He was out biking the week before his death, the cause of which has not been disclosed.

According to Bernero, the recent COVID-19 quarantine considerably cramped his style, even at 81 years old.

“He never complained about anything, an ache or a pain, and he must have had some,” Bernero said. “But he hated this stay-at-home thing, especially when the weather was cold and he couldn’t get on a bike.”

Jodway hoped Davis would be granted a full, long retirement, with plenty of time to enjoy his kids and grandkids and do the traveling he loved.

“I wanted him to get that time to

relax, be off the circuit,” she said.

The community, for its part, has been denied the comfort of gathering to celebrate Davis’ life, but that day will come.

“They’re going to have to have an

event somewhere that lets everybody in,” Jodway said. “You could fill Spartan Stadium with Jack’s advocates.”

— **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

CITY OF EAST LANSING 2020 SRF PROJECT PLAN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of East Lansing will hold a public hearing on the proposed 2020 Project Plan for Collection System and Water Resource Recovery Facility Improvements for the purpose of receiving comments from interested persons. The hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 6, 2020 at the Department of Public Works, 1800 East State Road, East Lansing, MI 48823.

The purpose of the proposed project is to make improvements to the City’s existing sewerage collection and treatment systems. The improvements will ensure that the City can continue to adequately convey and treat all sewerage flows in accordance with its NPDES permit.

The Project Plan includes projects identified as part of the Asset Management Plan prepared in 2017 and the 2020 Combined Sewer System Modeling and Master Plan Report. The Project Plan includes five collection system projects and three wastewater projects. These projects are proposed to be completed over the next five years as summarized below:

EGLE SRF Fiscal Year 2021 Projects:

Project	Project Cost	SRF Eligible Portion of Project
W-1 Primary Clarifier, Aeration, and North Secondary Improvements	\$34,631,000	\$34,631,000

EGLE SRF Fiscal Year 2023 Projects:

Project	Project Cost	SRF Eligible Portion of Project
C-2 River/Waters Edge and Milford-Gunson Sewer Improvements	\$9,930,000	\$5,156,190
C-5 Wilmarth-Woodmere Relief	\$3,630,000	\$3,630,000
W-2 Administration Building Improvements	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000

EGLE SRF Fiscal Year 2025 Projects:

Project	Project Cost	SRF Eligible Portion of Project
C-1 Elm/Valley Sewer District Improvements	\$6,290,000	\$2,471,970
C-3 Cowley-Highland-Kensington Sewer Improvements	\$2,740,000	\$1,043,940
C-4 Shaw Estates Sewer Separation	\$5,480,000	\$5,480,000
W-3 Secondary Clarifier Improvements	\$19,309,000	\$19,309,000

The total project cost for all of the projects is \$86,010,000. The SRF eligible project cost is \$75,722,100. Not all of the proposed projects may be completed, depending on the needs identified as the fiscal year approaches.

Beneficial impacts of the proposed projects include partial separation of combined sewers, which will remove storm water from the collection system and decrease combined sewer overflows and retention treatment basin discharges. In addition, the likelihood of flooding and sewer backups in the collection system project areas will be reduced. The wastewater projects will replace existing assets that have reached the end of their useful life and install equipment that is more energy efficient, resulting in significant energy savings. The secondary treatment capacity of the Water Resource Recovery Facility during periods of peak flows will also be increased. This will allow additional treatment to occur at the facility and reduce combined sewer overflows and retention basin discharges. Adverse impacts are all short term, including temporary disturbance of the surrounding areas due to construction, traffic disruption, dust, and noise. There are no expected long-term, negative impacts from any of the proposed projects.

The City plans to fund the construction of the SRF eligible portion of the projects through low interest EGLE loans. Non-eligible project costs will be paid from cash on hand. The predicted increased quarterly cost to a typical residential user in the City of East Lansing will be as follows:

Fiscal Year	Projected Quarterly User Cost Increase if All Scheduled Projects Completed
2021	\$9.18
2023	\$12.08
2025	\$17.36
Total	\$38.62

The Project Plan will be posted on the City’s website for review. Copies of the Project Plan will also be available for public inspection upon conclusion of the Governor’s Stay At Home Order at the following locations:

- East Lansing Department of Public Works, 1800 East State Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823
- City Clerk’s Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823
- East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823

All participants must abide by all State and local restrictions in place due to Covid-19.

Written comments will be accepted up to seven (7) days after the date of the Public Hearing and will receive responses included in the Final Project Plan. All written communications should be sent to Mr. Bob Scheuerman, PE, Assistant Engineering Administrator, Department of Public Works, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 or can be emailed to bscheue@cityofeastlansing.com.

CP#20-127

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Common ground at last?

George Floyd's death could unite Dems, Republicans on one issue

The frosty tensions between Republican and Democratic senators over how quickly the governor is reopening the economy is showing a sign of thawing amid the nationwide



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

reaction to the death of George Floyd.

Today, there's an opportunity to unite behind something that isn't haircuts or boat docks or presidential politics. It's about addressing racial biases and police brutality.

Now that everyone has watched Floyd die under the knee of a Minneapolis police officer, even Michigan Senate Republicans are signing up.

Incoming law enforcement officers would be required by law to go through training on implicit bias and de-escalation techniques, along with mental health screening, under

legislation slated to be taken up in a Senate committee on Thursday.

Sen. Pete Lucido, R-Shelby Twp., said his Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee will be taking up Ann Arbor Democrat Sen. Jeff Irwin's SB 0945, which puts the training of police officers into state law.

"The sensitivities of defendants and officers don't often meet. They clash," Lucido said. "The officer who had his knee on George Floyd's windpipe committed murder. Even the victim was saying he couldn't breathe. The officer showed no sensitivity. He allowed the man to die."

Lucido noted his committee has taken testimony on economic, social and racial inequalities in the criminal justice system before. People of color from poor communities end up being sentenced to longer terms behind bars than white people who commit the same crime, studies have shown.

An attorney by trade, Lucido has

seen how having money makes a difference in the justice system. Those with means can pay for experts, investigators and quality legal representation.

For now, though, Lucido said he's ready to expand this discussion to police officer training.

"It's not easy being a cop. I know, my cousin is a cop. It's a hard job. But you can do better justice and see better outcomes by helping people than hurting them," Lucido said.

Irwin's SB 0945 was introduced last Thursday, three days after bystanders caught on video a Minneapolis police officer kneeling on Floyd's neck for close to nine minutes. An independent autopsy concluded he died from "asphyxiation from sustained pressure" on his neck.

Robert Stevenson, executive director of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, said he'd prefer the bill address ongoing training standards for existing police officers as opposed to focusing on new recruits.

He said the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards which oversees the training of new recruits, addresses many of the subjects Irwin brings up in his bill as part of its training. He'd prefer the commission retain its flexibility to adjust its training subjects without needing an act of the state Legislature.

However, he said Michigan is one of only a handful of states that doesn't require periodic training for existing officers, a continuing education requirement that is mandatory in other professions.

Stevenson said he'd prefer the Legislature to create a permanent funding stream to help local governments bolster their police training budgets at a time when local govern-

ments are throwing every dollar they have into getting adequate police officers on the street.

Irwin said putting a continuing education requirement in the bill "would be a great idea" and something he's heard from colleagues, the administration and police officers, alike.

"People recognize the lack of continuing education and if there's an effort to amend the bill to do that, I'd be interested in doing so," he said.

More Republicans are showing interest in the bill, too, Irwin said, which he said is the tip of what can be done to address police violence. Independent investigations and citizens oversight of police departments are other pieces to a larger pie, Irwin said.

The news comes the same day Sen. Marshall Bullock, D-Detroit, addressed the chamber for the first Senate session since this past week-end's destructive protests in Lansing, Detroit and Grand Rapids, among other places across the country.

"I'm really tired of being sick and tired," Bullock said.

"The real crux for me is silence. Silence about racism. Silence about police brutality. Silence about incentive conduct and the implicit conduct make you guilty. Racism is an issue you can't be silent on," he said.

To that, Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Jim Stamas, R-Midland, responded: "From listening to my good colleague on an important issue, I cannot sit in my chair. I now say, 'Senator, I stand with you. The silence must stop. We must work together to stop the injustice.'"

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

1. A public hearing will be held to consider a Site Plan and Special Use Permit application from CA-East Lansing, Inc. for the property at 1234 E. Grand River Avenue to create a recreational marijuana retail establishment. The subject property is zoned East Village.
2. A public hearing will be held to consider a Site Plan and Special Use Permit application from Green Peak Industries, LLC d/b/a Green Peak Innovations for the property at 3315 Coolidge Road to create a recreational marijuana retail establishment. The subject property is in the B-4, Restricted Office Business District.
3. A public hearing will be held to consider a Site Plan and Special Use Permit application from RJB Enterprises, LLC. for the property at 1950 Merritt Road to create a recreational marijuana retail establishment. The subject property is in the B-1, General Office Business District.
4. A public hearing will be held to consider a modified special use permit application from Delta Gamma House Corporation for the property at 605 M.A.C Avenue to allow the addition of three beds/occupants in the existing facility. The subject property is zoned RM-32, City Center Multi-Family Residential District.
5. A public hearing will be held to consider a modified special use permit application from Marcorr Properties, LLC for the property at 2200 Coolidge Road to allow the removal of the restriction on Sunday sales. The subject property is zoned B-5, Community Retail Sales Business District.

Call (517) 319-6930, the Department of Planning, Building and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, for additional information. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. These matters will be on the agenda for the next Planning Commission meeting after the public hearing is held, at which time the Commission may vote on them. The Planning Commission's recommendations are then placed on the agenda of the next City Council meeting. The City Council will make the final decision on these applications.

Note: This hearing is currently scheduled to occur as a regular public hearing at the meeting. If, at the time of this hearing meetings are still not permitted under an Executive Order of the Governor and an Executive Order permitting meetings electronically allows for an electronic meeting, this hearing will occur electronically and a notice of the means of participation in that hearing will be published in compliance with the Open Meetings Act and any relevant Executive Orders.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#20-130

CITY OF EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 1480

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING USE DISTRICT MAP OF CHAPTER 50 -- ZONING -- OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING

Please take notice that Ordinance No. 1480 was adopted by the City of East Lansing City Council at their meeting held on May 26, 2020 and will become effective upon the expiration of seven (7) days after the publication of the following summary of ordinance.

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 1480

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

Ordinance 1480 amends the Zoning Use District Map by rezoning a portion of the Albert Avenue right-of-way and City Parking Lot #4 from C, Community Facilities, to B-3, City Center Commercial District.

A true copy of Ordinance No. 1480 can be inspected or obtained at the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan during normal business hours.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#20-128

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Shards and tears



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

A protester speaks to a police officer on Washington Square after the first round of tear gas had cleared.

Without warning, protesters hit with tear gas in tense night

The cleanup was already under way by dawn Monday. Volunteers began to undo the physical damage that swept through downtown Lansing in a chaotic miasma of tear gas, frightened cries and broken windows the night before.

Piecing together the shards of civil society broken in the wake of the murder of George Floyd by police, and the ensuing unrest continuing to sweep dozens of cities across the nation, is another matter.

The chaos in Lansing stopped short of

the destruction seen in other cities, but the sequence of events raised serious questions about police tactics used in Lansing and across the country in response to protesters, especially the use of tear gas and the crowding of protesters into enclosed spaces.

The day began with a peaceful march through downtown Lansing, protesting the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. The march kicked off from the Capitol soon after 11 a.m. Sunday and finished about 1:30 p.m. without incident.

Soon afterward, another march moved east toward MSU.

The march arrived at East Lansing City Hall, where a police cruiser parked at the Police parking lot was damaged.

When police confronted protesters on Park Lane, the march moved toward the Target store on Grand River Avenue. While some people appeared ready to break into the store, protesters formed a line to prevent them, according to an eyewitness. The

See Riots, Page 16

Protesters' prospectives

Six share why they participated in Sunday's protests

Interviews and pictures by Cole Tunningley.



Romello Peebles, 19, from Lansing, has been stopped by the police for no reason multiple times. And he said he's tired of watching it happen to other people around the country.

"I've been judged a lot. Walking down the street, I get stopped. They ask where I'm going. They ask for my name, and then they don't believe me when I tell it to them," said Peebles.

"No matter what I'm doing, even if I'm just going to the store. I hate the hassle of being afraid to go out because I could get in trouble. If it was a different individual, I know they wouldn't be stopped."

Peebles said that he believes all police departments have good and bad officers. "But the bad ones have all the power," he explained. "They use the badge to bully people."



Andrea Smith, 50, also from Lansing, held up a sign listing the names of black men who were killed by police. She said, "I'm here because black lives do matter. We need to stand up. Now is the time. It's been going on for so long."

Smith said that she has two boys. She had to teach them lessons about how to navigate a dangerous, racist world.

"We as black people have to teach our children that they have to be careful when they're approached by police, no matter what the situation is.

"They're taught at a young age that they have to fight, be smarter, work harder. They have to know — at any time — their lives are at stake," she said.



Eric Briggs, 42, from Lansing, was peacefully filming the police with his phone until he got tear gassed. When I saw him, he was running away from the line of cops, holding his face and crying. He sat down on a bench and begged for help.

"I can't see," he yelled, along with a string of profanities.

I spritzed his eyes with water, a common cleansing tactic that was used by many protesters throughout the day.

"I was calm, cool and collected. And they tear gassed me," he said. "That's not right at all. You can quote me on that."

He said, "If it wasn't for you squirting water with my eyes, I'd probably be sitting down on the ground with no eyesight still."



Jaylen Hawkins, 19, lifelong Lansing resident. "I'm here because I saw a video and it struck my heart," he said, referring to the video of Minnesota Police Officer Derek Chauvin killing George Floyd by kneeling on his neck.

"8 minutes and 42 seconds. But he was passed out by the fourth minute. The extra four minutes were just brutality," said Hawkins.

Hawkins watched livestreams and news reports of the protests that had happened the day before in Detroit. "Detroit's a tough place, but I think the police handled the confrontation last night well," he said. "At least, way better than I expected."

In reference to looting, he said, "All we're doing is striking back at the government and putting their money in our pockets."



Larry Kirchoff, 49, of Lansing, was standing at the back of the Capitol lawn with his family. They were all wearing BLM gear. "I'm here because I think police brutality is just another form of institutional racism. Colin Kaepernick brought this injustice to life years ago. And we ignored him.

"So, here we are, four years later with the same issues. We're seeing the consequences of our own ignorance," said Kirchoff. He said that the United States needs to address the roots of its problems, or things will never change.

"We create the problem, fix it and then deal with the same problem again later," he explained.

Watching footage of looting and rioting from protests around the country made Kirchoff nervous to come out to the Capitol. But he did it anyway to support the cause.

"We're here today, and we really hope the same thing doesn't happen here in Lansing," he said.



Laura Harms, 50, a Lansing resident, showed up to the Capitol armed with a homemade soapbox and megaphone.

"These protests are definitely inspiring. What's been happening at night — the looting and the rioting and everything — it saddens my heart," said Harms.

"But I also understand that people have been pushed up against a wall. It's time for something to break loose. No justice, no peace."

She said that the atmosphere at the Capitol was politically charged.

"We're out here because we're motivated by racial discrepancies and racial disparities between different groups of people in this country. We have created this mess, and we have to fix it right now," she said.



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse



Bert Schwartz/City Pulse



Bert Schwartz/City Pulse



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse



Cole Tuningley/City Pulse



Bert Schwartz/City Pulse

1. The initial crowd peacefully gathered at the Capitol Sunday
2. A protester lies on the ground as part of a demonstration decrying the death of George Floyd.
3. The first march down saw protesters walk down Michigan Avenue.
4. Protesters began dancing upon returning to the Capitol after the first march.
5. A burned car on Washington Square. The driver was seen driving recklessly among people walking in the street on Washington Square after the protest march had ended.

6-8. Police used tear gas to drive rioters away from the burning car lest the fire spread.

9. A man comforts his son after he was exposed to tear gas.
10. Firefighters putting out a dumpster fire on W. Allegan Street.
11. Police set up a line not to cross with their bikes as they confront protesters at the Comerica Bank building on the northwest corner of Washington Square and Michigan Avenue.

Community rallies around damaged downtown storefronts

Hundreds gather for Monday morning cleanup after downtown riot

Lansing is resilient.

After protests against police brutality eventually turned to riots Sunday night, downtown Lansing had seen some far better days. Dozens of windows were smashed. Spray paint — with phrases like “Fuck 12” and “BLM” — was emblazoned across both brick and glass.

The damage is still being assessed, but officials expect it'll be tens of thousands of dollars.

All told, more than a dozen local businesses saw some degree of vandalism by Monday morning. But nearly as soon as Mayor Andy Schor's overnight curfew had been lifted at 5 a.m., the community was already forming a new sort of rally in the aftermath: Cleaning up the mess.

By 9 a.m. Monday, most local businesses that had windows shattered already had crews boarding up storefronts and assessing repairs. Hundreds scrubbed graffiti from walls, or chalked over them with colorful, flowery murals and a broad message for unity among local residents.

“We as a community have a long way to go when it comes to recovery and healing, but yesterday was one of the first steps,” said Cathleen Edgerly, director of Downtown Lansing Inc.

An early-morning grounds crew hosed off graffiti from the steps of the Michigan State Capitol. The MLive Media Group building has “Love Lansing” spray painted across a boarded window.

Windows at Strange Matter were covered with hopeful sentiments like “Justice,” “Hope,” and “Equality.” Boards covering broken glass at Linn & Owens Jewelers were painted over with bright lines and little red hearts. The local community was quick to bounce back.

Mary Dunker, a jeweler at Linn & Owens, said two local residents, John Ross and Fred Armstrong, came into the shop on Monday morning with more than \$500 in clocks that they had rescued from the storefront after its windows were shattered Sunday.

“They just live over here and wanted to do a good thing,” Dunker added.

Some volunteers answered a call from Downtown Lansing Inc. to



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse



Berl Schwartz/City Pulse

Left: A broken window at Linn & Owens Jewelers.

Right: A woman paints a mural on a board covering the broken windows at the jewelry shop.



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Volunteers scrub graffiti — including phrases like “Fuck MDOC” — off brick walls in downtown Lansing. By Monday evening, most of the damage had been repaired.

gather the next morning and pitch in. Others came on their own accord. A local musician swept glass in front of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra offices on Washington Square, just to show support for the organization.

Schor and other city officials, including City Council members Peter Spadafore and Patricia Spitzley, talked with volunteers — and pitched in

on the clean-up themselves. Michael Doherty's massive marijuana company Rebel Industries also sponsored 200 lunches for volunteers on the scene.

“Residents working together to move Lansing forward is what our city is all about,” Schor said.

— **KYLE KAMINSKI**

Property damage list

- AT&T, 221 N. Washington Square
- Barberrettes, 410 S. Washington Square
- Boji Tower, 124 W. Allegan St.
- Chase Bank, 201 S. Washington Square
- Comerica Bank, 101 N. Washington Square
- Firehouse Subs, 200 S. Washington Square
- George W. Romney Building, 111 S. Capitol Ave.
- J.W. Knapp Co. Building, 300 S. Washington Square
- Lansing Police Department, 120 W. Michigan Ave.
- Linn & Owens Jewelers, 223 S. Washington Square
- Marketing Resource Group, 225 S. Washington Square
- MLive Media Group, 108 S. Washington Square
- Office Building, 230 N. Washington Square
- Phoenix Building, 222 N. Washington Square
- Sultan's Express, 305 S. Washington Square
- Washington Court Place, 309 N. Washington Square
- YMCA of Metropolitan Lansing, 119 N. Washington Square

Riots

from page 12

protesters headed west along Michigan Avenue toward downtown Lansing.

On the way from East Lansing to the Capitol, heads whipped around at the sound of a honking horn. Social media videos and other firsthand accounts showed a white woman driving recklessly through the march toward downtown Lansing, just missing several people who were otherwise peacefully walking back from East Lansing on Michigan Avenue. The driver kept on going west, toward the Capitol.

LPD officials said a group of demonstrators attempted to assault the woman on the 100 block of South Washington Square. Michigan State Police troopers circled in and escorted her away, but were overrun by people throwing bottles and rocks, officials reported.

An LPD spokesman did not respond to inquiries about whether the woman was arrested. The woman's car was overturned and its windows were smashed before it was set ablaze in the street.

Many protesters tried to de-escalate the situation, while others cheered on those who were setting fire to the car. Whether the driver was malicious, confused, panicked or in some other state of mind is unclear, but the scene brought forth horrific memories of August 2017, when a white supremacist rammed into a group of peaceful protesters in Charlottesville, North Carolina.

Meanwhile, the Lansing protest coalesced around the roundabout where Washington Square intersects Michigan Avenue. When marchers arrived from East Lansing, barricades were in place at Ottawa Street and Capitol Avenue. Some protesters headed for the Capitol steps.

At least 15 separate squads of regional cops, including officers from the Michigan State Police, Michigan National Guard, Lansing Police Department and MSU Police Department, were scattered across downtown Lansing.

The burning car was a turning point in the slowly gathering night. Bicycle police gave way to riot clad officers.

Alarmed protesters who wanted to leave the scene reported that they were hemmed in, whether by barricades, lines of officers or — a short time later — clouds of tear gas.

Police report 12 arrests from Sunday's protest

The Lansing Police Department said Tuesday its officers made eight arrests of protesters in downtown Lansing Sunday. The Michigan State Police reported four more.

Seven were arrested by the LPD for curfew violations: two white men and two black men from Lansing between the ages of 22 and 30; a 21-year-old Hispanic man from Mason; a 20-year-old black woman from Grand Ledge; and a 23-year-old white man from St. Louis, Michigan. A 47-year-old white man from Lansing was also arrested for "riot-related crimes," including possible charges of arson, damage to property and resisting arrest. No names have yet been released. None of them have been arraigned.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

"Our choice on whether to stay or not was essentially made for us," an eyewitness said.

About 8:15, tear gas canisters began to fly in order to move protesters away from the burning car, lest more fires start, Mayor Andy Schor told City Pulse. Protesters fired back by flinging bottles and other projectiles at police lines.

After that, police announced repeatedly that the mayor had imposed an immediate curfew and that anyone on the street was subject to arrest. But the police did not warn the crowd that more tear gas was coming. Then the police fired a half-dozen canisters and the crowd fled.

Three reporters at City Pulse and at least one reporter from both the Lansing State Journal and WILX were caught in the peppery mist along with dozens of nonviolent bystanders. Among them was Lansing City Councilman Brandon Betz, who said that he was a participant in the protest.

"The use of tear gas was extremely excessive and completely uncalled for," Betz said. "Especially because it was aimed at peaceful protesters and not people who were agitating the situation."

People joined hands to escape the clouds of tear gas, helping each other by pouring bottles of water on the faces of those who were temporarily overcome by the fumes.

"They should've arrested a few people," Betz said. "Instead, they tear gassed an entire crowd of citizens."

According to an eyewitness, a group of middle-school girls ran down an alley next to the Romney Building, clinging to each other as voices were heard calling out to them: "Oh, sweet-

ies! Go, be safe!"

Betz was among those handing out bottles of antacid water to help those who were gassed. He said he saw a 6-year-old child and three senior citizens caught up in the tightening cordon, none of whom could run fast enough to get out of the way as they were cornered downtown.

Christiana Ford, a black WILX reporter, was live on Facebook when the tear gas arrived. At one point, it didn't appear that she could leave the scene and comply with orders without walking through a cloud of tear gas. The video cuts off as she coughs from the gas on the sidewalk.

Vandals went on to smash windows at a dozen or so downtown businesses as it turned dark. At least one dumpster fire burned in an alley. Police also took reports of some violent fighting among protesters. Lansing Mayor Andy Schor enacted a retroactive 9 p.m. curfew at 9:15 p.m. The streets were mostly quiet by 11 p.m.

Officials told The Detroit News the property damage would amount to more than \$10,000. All told, Lansing Police officers made eight arrests that day and have requested a series of criminal charges against the suspects, including arson, damage to property, vagrancy and resisting arrest. The Michigan State Police arrested four more, authorities said Tuesday.

Monday morning's cleanup crew

found broken windows at the Romney Building, at Michigan and Capitol Avenue, where the governor and her staff work. Windows were also broken at Comerica, Linn & Owens Jewelers, the Knapp's building, Sultan's Express, Firehouse Subs, MLive, the Downtown YMCA and AT&T. Graffiti was peppered across windows and walls across the city. (See pages 16-17).

The Boji Tower, where crowds were pushed west off Washington, was among the last buildings to be damaged Sunday night. Vandals had knocked out most of the ground floor windows before police could arrive.

The damage to the increasingly tenuous trust between law enforcement and citizens, especially African-American ones, is not so easily calculated.

Schor applauded officers for a job well done, but he said the recent response — as with all major police enforcement events — will be reviewed to see what could be better handled in the future.

"There was violence going on and the police needed to disperse people," Schor said. "You had people burning dumpsters and burning cars and it was really a dangerous situation. It was used to disperse people and it worked. People left the area, and that's the idea, to get them to leave."

With the sting of tear gas fresh in his memory, Betz aired his displeasure in a Facebook post Tuesday morning. "The police could have handled this any other way," he wrote. "Instead, they turned to violence immediately. Tear gassing peaceful protesters is a completely unacceptable response to a small amount of vandalism."

East Lansing Mayor Ruth Beier, too, took a conciliatory tack, saying that "only a few" people were out to do damage.

"Our goal was to let everybody protest and not interfere, even if there was some damage," she said. "We just don't need to police people so much. Unless someone is posing a danger to themselves or others, we need to leave them alone. Give a ticket if you have to, but walk away."

(This story was written by Lawrence Cosentino based on reporting by Skyler Ashley, Cole Tunningley and Berl Schwartz.)

B/20/106 Miller Rd Culvert Improvements as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept bids at the City of Lansing Purchasing Office, 124 W Michigan Ave, 8th Floor, MI. 48933 or electronically thru MITN until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **June 23, 2020** at which time bids will be opened. **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#20-129

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Finding peace in a chaotic world with Animal Crossing

By SKYLER ASHLEY

It's been repeated ad nauseum -- 2020 is an all-time tumultuous year. We are all living through a dark period of world history. On a daily basis, we wake up to a splash of ice water from an endlessly deep bucket of bad news. It took nationwide large-scale protests against police brutality to usurp the coronavirus as the top national news story.

Yes, the world is on fire, and you do have good reason to believe we are finally doomed. But as it burns at an alarmingly accelerating rate, there's a nice bundle of electronic comfort many turn to — "Animal Cross: New Horizons."

It's a simple game about farming, gardening, crafting, bug-collecting, fishing and tending to cute, anthropomorphic animal islanders. But there's something about its tranquil music, consistently low pressure gameplay and the amount of control given to the player that seems to get the brain's dopamine and serotonin machine guns firing at full speed in an otherwise hopeless world that we have absolutely no control over.

My own Animal Crossing island, Possumland — named for my favorite animal — has become a friendly haven for several cute animals and has been a helpful tool for myself when I need to take a break from all of the madness in the world right now. Fellow City Pulse reporter Kyle Kaminski also has an island, and visits mine frequently.

"Animal Crossing: New Horizons" is the latest entry in a long-running video game franchise created by Nintendo in the early-'00s. It debuted in Japan on the Nintendo 64 in 2000 and made its way to the United States in 2001 when it appeared on the Nintendo Gamecube. Always a successful franchise, with each entry eclipsing sales figures in the millions, "New Horizons" has breached meteoric heights. According to industry reports, it has sold 13 million copies and turned the Nintendo Switch, which already had a difficult time staying on store shelves, into the must-have gadget of the coronavirus quarantine



Kyle Kaminski's player character surrounded by villagers in "Animal Crossing: New Horizons."

Kyle Kaminski

season.

I predicted that people would flock to Target and Best Buy to purchase a Switch once the boredom of lockdown set in and purchased one for myself in early March. That prediction was spot on. Demand for the Switch, and the handheld-only Switch Lite, has driven people to overpay by as much as double on sites such as Facebook Marketplace and Craigslist. Is it worth it? No, not at all. Don't get taken advantage of by grifters, just be patient and wait for a restock. I've played my fair share of "New Horizons," and while I can confirm that the game is a blast and a much-needed low anxiety time-killer, it is not worth being a victim of price-gouging. And while the Switch Lite can only be played as handheld — it does not connect to your television — I find it to be a worthy console with very solid construction. It feels nice and sturdy in your hands.

Lansing resident Bess Bardy considers herself a casual gamer, and is a big fan of the Animal Crossing franchise. She preordered the game and followed it in the news throughout its development cycle. She had it downloaded on her Switch on day one of its release. She loves "New Horizons"

in particular for its calming and cute aesthetic. "When I play games, I want something calming and not hard. I like simple games, so it really appeals to me in that sense," Bardy said.

She said "New Horizons" helps ease her mind from all of the new stress being generated thanks to being stuck indoors during lockdown for such a prolonged period of time. "It came out at the perfect time, right when everybody was going into lockdown. The whole concept is living on a getaway island. It's become an escape where you can unwind from the stresses of reality right now," Bardy said.

Bardy's favorite things to do in the game include visiting her friends' islands and socializing with the villagers on her island. Her favorite villager is an orange koala named Canberra. Bardy said her character didn't get along with Canberra right away, but the two eventually become close digital friends — giving each other gifts and exchanging pleasantries whenever they pass by one another.

Fellow Lansingites and Animal Crossing fanatics Alexis Kathleen and Aubree Roe share similar experiences with Bardy.

Roe recently purchased a coral-colored Switch Lite and enjoys, above all, Animal Crossing's gardening feature.

"I work in my garden all day at home, but it's nice at night to work on my little Animal Crossing garden and breed flowers. It feels like a lot of meaningless tasks, but for a meaningful result. I get really excited when I get a new flower breed."

Kathleen also purchased the game at release. She was laid off from her job as a dog groomer so she had all of the necessary free time. She's had a Nintendo Switch since its original release in 2017.

"It's extremely therapeutic. There is no anxiety in this game, it is just simple happiness. There's not an absolute goal, but there's all these little goals that are easy to accomplish, and the game gives you a lot of motivation to do so. It's simple mind work that keeps me busy while there's nothing to do," Kathleen said.

For Kathleen, "New Horizons" is simply the perfect game.

"I like different games, but they just give me anxiety," she said. "I like shooter games, but those just get me worked up."

Favorite Things

Favorite Thing: Joe Ross and his Cadillac

Joe Ross is a resident of East Lansing where he works as the creative-director at CR Marketing and is a Reporter at CR News. He's a passionate student of human behavior having worked in the field of marketing and economic research for the past 40 years. He also served 12 years on the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago's Economic Round Table. Here, he gushes over his favorite thing: An amazing automobile.

I was born into Lansing's working-class west side. I grew up in the shadow of Lansing's Oldsmobile Plant Three.

While hanging from the sides of the trains that shipped those cars, my childhood friends and I would imagine who the people were that could afford these amazing machines. Like parts of Lansing's past, one part of me might be out of step with the decarbonized future that's rushing towards us. Rightfully so, that future is bringing the death of the internal combustion engine.

That said, my favorite thing is a 3,800-pound capitalistic ornament.

It's a 2017 CT6 Platinum Cadillac. Like most of my possessions, I bought it used. It's so audacious, some may say ridiculous. On top of that, not enough folks bought them to justify continuing their production here in the US.

Meanwhile, CT6 sales are strong in China with over of 20,000 of these luxury vehicles sold last year. The Chinese also purchase other GM vehicles, with over 3.5 million sold annually in recent years. Like me, these Asian business women and men are blown away by the CT6's tech. Some of that electronic wizardry was designed for their market. The car's sophisticated air filtering system includes an ozonator that electronically cleans the air. Two of the world's cities with the dirtiest air are Guangzhou and Shanghai. Inside this Cadillac it literally smells like a spring day when I'm tooling around Lansing.

This may surprise you, but most folks' carbon foot print looks like a crater when compared to mine. I also live an aggressive sustainable



lifestyle. I drive around 6,000 miles per year, so why would I own a capitalist pig vehicle? For vanity? For me, this car has a wonderful mix of fuel economy, luxury and performance.

With its 400 horsepower engine, green lights are an opportunity to feel the sensation of a shuttle launch, though during that hard acceleration the interior remains quiet. Somehow GM engineers were able to program the engine to get over 30 miles per gallon whether you are driving 65 mph an hour or over 80 mph.

Other tech included is four-wheel drive and four-wheel steering. Its computerized infrared camera system monitors hapless deer (or any

other moving object) that might run out in front of me. Using data from that camera, the car will slow or stop itself if I'm not paying attention. That's only happened once, when a family of ducks ran across my path. They lived.

Even my tree-hugger friends are seduced by the car's air-conditioned and heated seats that have impressive massage capabilities. The occupants in the back get built in computer screens and seats that recline. With a hint of cognitive dissonance, I'll enjoy this car knowing it's likely the last of its kind.

(This interview was edited and condensed by Rich Tupica.)

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How infamous gangsters made Mid-Michigan their summer getaway

By **BILL CASTANIER**

“Al Capone Slept Here” would make an interesting slogan for a Pure Michigan campaign.

There were enough sightings, near sightings and improbable sightings of other notorious gangsters in northern Michigan, as they allegedly vacationed, fished, gambled, frequented dance halls and hid from the law during the '20s to the '40s, to fill a book.

That's just what former Michiganian and college professor Robert Knapp did in his new book, “Gangsters Up North: Mobsters, Mafia and Racketeers in Michigan's Vacation Lands.” Knapp, who grew up in Mid-

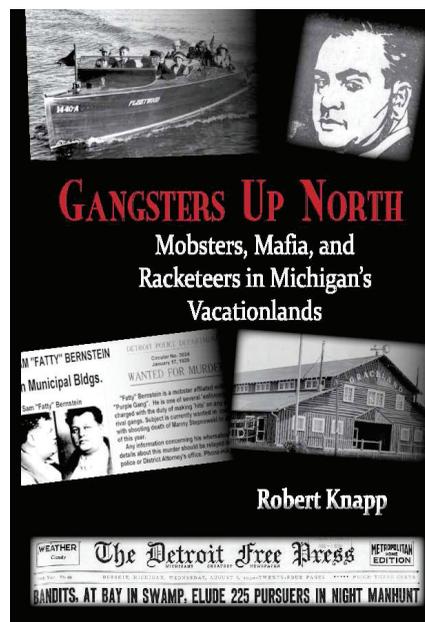
Michigan and graduated from Central Michigan University, previously wrote two books — using the early 20th century oil boom as a backdrop — about the mobsters of Clare and the infamous murder at the town's Doherty Hotel. Gangsters, including members of the Purple Gang, weren't as interested in fishing as they were in laundering money by buying up oil leases.

If you were to believe all the rumors and unverified sightings of gangsters that Knapp details in his book, including the likes of John Dillinger and the homegrown gangster John Hamilton in Sault Ste Marie and others like Fred “Killer” Burke, Baby Face Nelson, Meyer Lansky and, of course, Al Capone himself at numerous locations across Northern Michigan, you are just as likely to believe that Capone used Lansing and Round Lake as a refuge while on the lam during the mid-'20s.

Early in his book, Knapp tells of the many Capone tales that take place in Lansing. Readers learn about him handing out \$100 bills, bribing the police and leading the life of a tourist for four summers beginning in 1926. Even Lloyd Moles, a popular newspaper writer for the Lansing State Journal, later reported on the sightings. Knapp is careful to say there is no smoking gun, no photographs and no physical evidence since there are only oral histories from those long dead. Scores of other alleged and true sightings of Capone in Michigan are



Knapp



considered by Knapp in his book.

Since Knapp's retirement from University of California, Berkeley, where he specialized in early Roman history, he has spent numerous summer vacations back in Michigan tracking down gangster sightings.

“I actually visited about a dozen sites and found no physical evidence of any of the reports,” Knapp said. “I met a lot of interesting people and they all have stories. I had people telling me their stories of their grandfather fishing with Al Capone.”

One of the sites Knapp finds most interesting is the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, which was always supplied with booze during prohibition, but it also had an active gambling operation until the late-'30s in order to compete with resorts in Petoskey. Knapp said it would not have been unlikely for these gambling operations to have been run by a concession owned by gangsters.

There are also stories of dance halls and compounds protected with machine gun towers with local rumors of big black cars carrying gangsters driving in at night.

One rumor Knapp said was frequently reported were hideaways with tunnels leading to water for quick getaways.

“There were always tunnels,” Knapp said, tongue-in-cheek. “One in Frankfort was reported to have a tunnel running a mile and one-half to Lake Michigan.”

Knapp said having tunnels for escape and protective compounds was not unrealistic. It was alleged Henry Ford's head of security Harry Bennet had a tunnel at his vacation home near Clare. It is fact that Bennet's home in Ypsilanti came complete with a tunnel to the Huron River.

“At the time there was real pathological fear for children being kidnapped,” he said.

Readers will certainly recognize the name Meyer Lansky, a major gangster who ran operations in Cuba until Castro took over. After fleeing from Cuba, Lansky hooked up with Sam Garfield, Detroit businessman and crime boss, who helped him invest in oil exploration and recovery around the Clare area.

Knapp is fascinated by the culture of gangster adoration.

“Part of it is an acknowledgement of people who thumb their nose at authority. People also made up stories of gangster sightings kind of how we like to associate with movie stars. There's a certain notoriety of saying, ‘I knew Al Capone’ or ‘I saw Al Capone,’” Knapp said.

Numerous sightings can be traced to prohibition-era rum running, which was especially easy in the vast open areas of Northern Michigan with easy access to the Canadian borders and peppered with small islands and fast speedboats.

Not all reports of gangsters in northern Michigan are unfounded and Knapp's book gives details of where many bad guys played during summer. One of the disappointments Knapp had when doing his research was learning that the Doherty Hotel did not keep a desk register for guests to sign in.

“Oh, the stories that would've told,” he said.

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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Free Is a Very Good Price"--last themeless till the big one.

By Matt Jones

Across

1 Cocktail "invented" in 2020 that can include vodka, gin, honey, Emergen-C, or whatever you feel like drinking

11 Items in a self-checkout station question

15 Out of uniform

16 Model Nordegren once married to Tiger Woods

17 How long USPS bulk mail takes to get across the country

18 Only

19 Tennessee team, for short

20 Part of some fire extinguisher instructions

21 Sink to the bottom

23 Yellow bloomer with a bovine name

25 Key beside Q

27 Bishop's hat

28 Wee drink

30 Intimidating, unhelpful advice from a coach

32 "A cartoon by Robert ____" (common "SNL" credit in the '90s)

35 Part of BCE

36 Org. in TV's "The Rookie"

37 Hither's counterpart

38 Sidekick and Samurai, for two

41 "Chandelier" singer

42 Some hosp. scans

44 Exceed

45 Memento accessory

47 Word before mirror or humor

49 Abbr. for some Spanish teachers

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66						67								
68						69								

50 Hokkaido city known for its beer (and headquarters of Hokkaido Brewing Company)

51 2001 "Lady Marmalade" contributor

53 Over

57 Actress Davidovich of "Gods and Monsters"

59 Advanced deg.

61 Library penalty

62 Pleasant feeling, to reggae fans

63 Figure not found in an appellate court

66 Kind of pay or day

67 Only state capital without a McDonald's

68 Part of an Einsteinian equation

69 Extra income source, informally

Down

1 Migos rapper who received his high school diploma in 2020 (at age 29)

2 Remove from packaging, a la YouTube videos

3 "I don't want the issue of Hobbes's reality settled by ____ manufacturer": Bill Watterson

4 Being green, in a way

5 Output from Frida Kahlo or Mary Cassatt

6 Org. whose March Madness was cancelled in 2020

7 Namely

8 "It's settled"

9 Society page notation

10 Bugs

11 Request to one's heart?

12 Like huge favors

13 Legendary bebop trumpeter

14 Showed disdain for

22 CPR administrator

24 Slapstick projectiles

26 Syllable for the Swedish Chef

29 Body officially demoted on August 24, 2006

31 Subject of TNT's "Claws"

32 Movement with a lot of representation?

33 Halts

34 How book titles should appear when cited, per APA style

39 Video chat company based in San Jose

40 Kinda miffed

43 Blood-curdling cries

46 Water measures, when mixing condensed soup

48 Wagon wheel track

52 Subside

54 Was guilty

55 "Mary Tyler Moore Show" actress Georgia

56 Manufacturer with a green and yellow logo

58 Dispensers with Braille options

60 Coleridge's "sacred river"

64 "Vive le ____!"

65 Game, in French (the plural is heard in "Games Without Frontiers")

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

June 3-9, 2020

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Aries poet Paul Verlaine wrote "Autumn Song" in 1866. It became a well-known French poem, and eventually played a role in a historical turning point. In June 1944, a top-secret British spy organization used the poem as a code to communicate crucial information to the French Resistance, via BBC radio, about the allies' upcoming D-Day invasion of Normandy. In the spirit of poetry being used to accomplish practical actions, I'm now sending out a burst of code to you, Aries. It's adapted from another poem by Verlaine: "Delight in good-omened fortune, baptized by the bristling scents of mint, thyme, and clover on the wind of dawn." Regard this as a signal for you to acquire a necessary resource, strengthen connections with key allies, and intensify your current quest.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Taurus philosopher Bertrand Russell observed, "The best life is the one in which the creative impulses play the largest part and the possessive impulses the smallest." That is always an important principle for everyone to embrace, in my opinion. But it will be an especially essential truth for you in the coming weeks. Your creative powers will thrive, even soar and generate blessings, to the degree that you downplay and outwit your possessive inclinations.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "It's OK to live a life others don't understand," writes author Jenna Woginrich. That's a healthy attitude for an eccentric person like her, who taught herself by trial and error how to run a small farm with a meager budget while all alone in the middle of nowhere. But does her advice apply to everyone? I say yes, it does. All of us have quirky behaviors and idiosyncratic ideas and odd feelings that other people find hard to understand, let alone appreciate. I bring this to your attention, Gemini, because the coming weeks will be a time when it's best for you to emancipate yourself as much as possible from the need to be perfectly understood as you express your raw, pure, unique self.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): I'm one of the lucky people who has never been addicted to alcohol or drugs. What's the source of my great fortune? Two kinds of grace are key: I suffered no abuse and trauma when I was growing up, and my genetic make-up doesn't predispose me to self-medicate with intoxicants. But I am indeed a bit addicted to other things, like fearful fantasies, sexual feelings, and the urge to win arguments. So I'm blessed in some ways, cursed in others—just like all of us! In honor of our season of introspection, my fellow Cancerian, I invite you to do what I just did: Count your blessings and curses. Doing so will bring you just the right kind of healing.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "Jacquemus Mini Le Chiquito" is the name of a tiny purse you can buy for \$522. It fits into the palm of your hand, and won't hold much—maybe a single-use strand of dental floss, a shoe from a Barbie doll, a snippet of a loved one's hair, an aspirin, maybe a few crumbs from a potato chip. In any case, I don't recommend it for you. You should be surrounding yourself with symbols of capaciousness and roominess. You need influences that inspire you to be a spacious container. It's time for you to welcome and receive an abundance of blessings, inquiries, and invitations.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "Worry is a way to pretend that you have knowledge or control over what you don't," writes author Rebecca Solnit. "And it surprises me, even in myself, how much we prefer ugly scenarios to the pure unknown." Your assignment in the coming weeks is to thoroughly incorporate Solnit's wisdom—and then wield it with tender ferocity as you reshape your relationship with the future. See if you can manage, if only for ten days, to fight off and dissolve the reflex to worry. Here's a tip: Any time the agitated fantasy of an ugly scenario rises up in your imagination, remind yourself that it's not objectively true and immediately replace it with a fantasy of a desirable scenario.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Nobel Prize-winning Libran author William Faulkner was asked by a cousin if he was drunk when he dreamed up the imaginative stories and characters in his novels. The truth was that on occasion Faulkner did indeed consume alcohol in excessive amounts. However, he rarely indulged while actually writing. His creative ideas mostly came from his fertile imagination, not an unhelpful spirit. In the coming weeks, I hope you will be like Faulkner during the inventive phases he enjoyed while sober and disciplined and driven by focused intention. The astrological omens suggest that's the best recipe for generating original ideas and productive visions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "What use is this howling tenderness?" wrote eighth-century Tamil mystic poet Andal. My research on Google reveals that no one has answered her question until now. I decided you would benefit from hearing my response, since you are in a chapter of your life story when howling tenderness could work to your benefit. So here's my counsel: Howling tenderness is useful because it has the power to shatter mysterious barriers that have been at least partially obstructing you from exploring the frontiers of sacred intimacy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Buddhist teacher Jack Kornfield articulates the spiritual medicine I think you should seek in the coming weeks. You especially need it, and by happy coincidence, it's likely to be available. Kornfield writes: "When we have for so long been judged by everyone we meet, just to look into the eyes of another who does not judge us can be extraordinarily healing." I urge you to identify the people who can perform this service for you, then ask them point-blank to perform this service, even if it has to happen over FaceTime or via Zoom. To generate the good karma that will ensure this happens in just the right way, offer to perform the same service for others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "The changes we dread most may contain our salvation," writes author Barbara Kingsolver. Although I mostly agree with her conclusion, I'll also suggest that we could come up with less melodramatic versions of it. For example, we might say, "The adjustments we're resisting may actually be healthy." Or "The uncomfortable transitions we're avoiding might ultimately lead to a better version of comfort." Or "The revelations we're attempting to ignore and deny could eventually be the source of relief and release." Do any of these work for you right now, Capricorn? I bet at least one does.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Some people seem to think of sacredness as being pristine and pious—an immaculate and orderly transcendence of earthly concerns. Author and minister Marilyn Sewell has a different perspective. "Who can order the Holy?" she asks. "It is like a rain forest, dripping, lush, fecund, wild. We enter its abundance at our peril, for here we are called to the wholeness for which we long, but which requires all we are and can hope to be." I recommend Sewell's version of holiness to you in the coming weeks, Aquarius. You're primed to upgrade and deepen your sacred lust for life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): When Europeans arrived in the New World, the Iroquois Confederacy in what's now northeastern North America had been practicing participatory democracy for 350 years. The visionary principles of these native people ultimately influenced the formation of the United States and its Constitution. Now would be a good time for you to be inspired by these facts. How? You could draw teachings from the past and use them to create your future. You could study the perspectives of indigenous people and incorporate their wisdom into the way you live your life. You could tune in to and explore the traditions of people you respect and adopt them for your own use.

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Answers Page 27

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Advanced

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TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 27

TURN IT DOWN!

LOCALS PICK LOCALS VOL. 10

BY RICH TUPICA

THE TENTH INSTALLMENT OF LANSING-MADE NUGGETS AND LOCAL GEMS EXHUMED BY FELLOW MICHIGAN FOLKS

This week "Locals Pick Locals" Vol. 10 picks apart two obscenely rare '60s singles and then serves up two locally sourced '90s underground classics. Listen along wherever you stream music.

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

Pick: The Lansing 3 "Last One To Know" — 1969

A supreme rarity: The Lansing 3 "Last One To Know" b/w "Changing Hearts" 7-inch on Lansing Records. Make no mistake — ain't no question where this sucker's from.

This incredible wasted Capital folk recording is slightly country with slight garage moves. The whole thing has a 3 a.m. on a Wednesday vibe. It's a deep dive into



light Heartache-ville with warts and all. Has an almost ESP Records feel, like if the Holy Modal Rounders were raised in the MSU cattle caves. The world can't have enough of these records and your hometown should wave these freak flags in the free wind they deserve. Phenomenal damage. Where is this band today? That's another mystery to solve.

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

Pick: The Sayms "In the Wind" — 1967

Here's yet another mystifying Michigan rarity circa the 1960s. The muffled, other-worldly sounds of "In the Wind" are confined to this one obscure acetate by The Sayms, from parts unknown. The flipside was "I Walk Alone," and some scrawl on the sleeve indicates (at some point) this scuffed-up disc was sent as a promo to WXOX 1250-AM, a Saginaw-area radio

station. Are they from Lansing? Saginaw? Flint? Who knows! This track, which was newly streamed on YouTube, is a perfect example of why collecting old, private press records is a fun venture to undertake if you love music. While almost everything can be solved with a quick Google search, there are very few things that remain an utter mystery — and this is one of them.



Mark Deming (Music critic, musician)
Pick: The Chinese Millionaires: "White Collar Criminals" EP — 1995

After the breakup of El Smasho in 1994, lead singer/guy with hammer Tom Deja was looking for a new band to spread the fast and loud gospel of punk rock. His next project, The Chinese Millionaires, burst out of the gate in



1995, the year they released the four-song "White Collar Criminals" EP. The Millionaires didn't have quite the same nuance or heavy undertow as El Smasho, but they delivered a similarly outstanding level of rock action with their high concept/no-frills approach. This 7-inch — two originals, two covers — summed up their lean, mean, furious aesthetic with revved-up accuracy. Deja's passionate bark had built up some muscle from his early El Smasho work, the slash and burn of Jay Bennett's guitar work explodes like a string of firecrackers, bassist Eric Anderson and drummer Mark the Millionaire are powerful enough to keep up with the charge, and in 8 minutes, this number starts out blazing and never stops. If it's not the best record they made in their five-year run, it's close enough to serve as a suitable calling card for their snarky genius. Besides, you will never, EVER hear a better Perry Como cover than "Glenora" (P.S.: Guitarist Jay Bennett, now residing in the Southwest, currently plays in a great punk rock combo called Scorpion vs. Tarantula, whose most recent album "When the Girls are Gone" came out in January and it's amazing).

Peter Richards (Artist, musician, Stargazer)

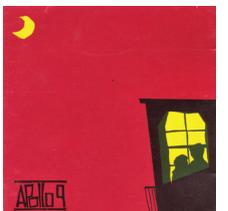
Pick: Apollo 9 "Tonight" — 1992
As a naive young Michigan State University (MSU) sophomore, I applied to

CITY PULSE'S MITTEN MUSIC QUIZ

1. This iconic "Queen of Pop," last name Ciccone, was born Aug. 16, 1958, in Bay City, Michigan.
2. This "Runaway" singer was born in Grand Rapids and grew up in nearby Coopersville, Michigan.
3. On Dec. 7, 1981, U2 played a \$6 show at this now-defunct East Lansing club that's now Harper's.
4. This Detroit band struck big in late 1979 with the pop-rock anthem "What I Like About You."
5. Born in 1947, Michigan rock legend James Osterberg is better known by this stage name.

Answers on page 27

live at the Atlantis Co-op in an effort to explore the wider world. Co-ops — the final frontier. After an in-person interview, they liked me enough to invite me to a party they were having that Saturday. If I remember correctly, the musical line-up was Apollo 9, Calliope and Satellite Proteus. Young, silly me prepartied in my dorm in Snyder Hall and then sallied forth across Bogue Street with my friend Lee Bass. We had a blast. It was my first indie show to speak of — a bit of a blur if I'm being truthful. I remember Apollo 9 were very well dressed. They struck me as a sort of Americana version of The Cure crossed with The Pogues. This is of course grossly inaccurate — just my own innate human tendency to compare previous experience as a way to process new experiences. How could they rock so hard with a violin? This was a band that appeared very composed but didn't hold back. How have they lingered in my memory since 1993? Part of the answer is on their brilliant album "Nothing Matters" (Trixie Records, 1992). It stomps, it soars and it's riddled with gloriously immediate songwriting delivered with real passion. I have a little inside information: Apollo 9 front man Soren Davis has a second album that was never released. I've heard it. It's amazing. Soren, if you're reading, how can I help you get your music into more peoples' ears and hearts?



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

Wednesday, June 3

Allen Farmers Market - Fresh produce and other delicious products. 3-6:30 p.m. 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-999-3911. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

MSU Museum Virtual Learning and Activity Resources - Visit museum.msu.edu/virtualresources/ for links to MSU Museum resources and great things that

other museums are offering right now.

Virtual Code Club - on Zoom. Chat and share what projects you are working on. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library Facebook page.

Wednesday Workdays at Capital City Bird Sanctuary - 9 a.m. Capital City Bird Sanctuary, 6001 Delta River Dr., Lansing, MI 48906, Lansing.

Thursday, June 4

Curious GLADL - Virtual Science & STEAM - Join us via Zoom! This week we are learning how to make Oobleck from home! 3 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, Facebook.com

Dimondale Farmers' Market - 3-6 p.m. Village Square, 136 N Bridge St, Dimondale. 517-646-0230. villageofdimondale.org.

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

Friday, June 5

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

Saturday, June 6

Meridian Township Farmers' Market - 8 a.m. Meridian Township Farmers' Market, 5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos.

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

Spring Wild Edibles Workshop - Nature provides a wonderful buffet of tasty, wild edible plants! 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Sunday, June 7

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

Monday, June 8

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

Tuesday, June 9

Fairy Tale Storytime Virtual fairy tales and adventures via Zoom! Grand Ledge Area District Library facebook page for link.

Free Drive Through Food Pantry - Greater Lansing Food Bank. 4-6 p.m. Community Baptist Church, 7832 W. Mt. Hope Hwy, Grand Ledge. communitybaptistlansing.com.

Myths & Legends - Join us for a virtual exploration of Myths and Legends of many lands and cultures during our Summer Reading Program. 1 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library Facebook.

B/20/105 Capital Improvements of Major and Local Streets as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept bids at the City of Lansing Purchasing Office, 124 W Michigan Ave, 8th Floor, MI. 48933 or electronically thru MITN until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **June 16, 2020** at which time bids will be opened. **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.

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Greater Lansing restaurants respond to loosening restrictions

By **DAWN PARKER**

In these “uncertain times,” as just about every single television commercial likes to remind us, it’s easy to forget there are businesspeople out there who have made the best of their situation.

Eating establishments have probably had it the hardest during the coronavirus pandemic. But while many decided to close completely during the shutdown mandated by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, others rolled with the punches and adopted practices they plan to keep as the world returns to “normal.”

Take MEAT Southern BBQ, for example. The Old Town stalwart has offered curbside takeout and delivery during the shutdown, and says they’ll likely keep doing it now that Whitmer has ended the stay-at-home order. Restaurants will be allowed to serve dine-in guests at 50 percent capacity to start.

“We’re not doing the same volume or numbers as we would typically during this time of year, if we were fully open with a bar and everything,” MEAT general manager Tate Skiba said.

“We’re still doing well enough to keep on going. We have a great clientele base, customer base — a lot of loyal customers who really take care of us. We’re doing all right.”

One challenge has been adapting to a world without dine-in guests, which translates to a world without the sales of adult beverages, which props up many a restaurant’s bottom line.

“We’re trying to do deliveries, we’re trying to increase our takeout volume without alcohol,” Skiba said. “We’re trying to do as well as we can do to get people in here to order food from us, and we’re doing good so far.”

Necessity has been the mother of many an innovation, and Meat has been no different, including starting up delivery service.

“We have to. We’re trying to make things a little bit easier for customers,” Skiba said.

Accommodations even include paying ahead by phone.

“That way when they come in here, they’re basically grabbing their food and going. It’s safer and a better option for them as well,” Skiba said.

WHAT'S OPEN?

MEAT Southern BBQ

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Meatbbq.com
(517) 580-4400

Availability and preparation time have also limited their menu somewhat, but Skiba said both customers and staff appear to have adapted well. The restaurant has also implemented a system of assigning customers a time to a time slot to pick up orders, ensuring that people aren’t crowding around waiting for their food.

“It’s been a good time for us to evaluate a lot of policies and procedures,” Skiba said.

In East Lansing’s Hannah Plaza, even the perennially popular Pizza House would not have escaped the standard summer slowdowns caused by Michigan State University’s summer break.

Cue COVID-19, and things should have gotten worse. Not so here.

“We’ve been really busy as far as delivery, pickup and curbside pickup. We’ve been managing to stay pretty busy every day,” manager Bennie Esquivel said.

And just how has Pizza House stayed

Pizza House

Open for takeout and delivery
4790 Hagadorn Road
Stes 114-116, East Lansing
Pizzahouse.com
(517) 336-0033

busy? Could be the cheesy breadsticks.

“Pizza House is a household name. People know our hours are pretty solid; we go from 10:30 in the morning until 4, and that hasn’t stopped during this time,” Esquivel said.

“We have our own delivery drivers, and people just love our food. We’re going to be open, so people are going to call us.”

The busyness has lasted a month into what would be the standard post-MSU summer slowdown.

“I think the business switched over to delivery and pickup during the shutdown. We never closed, and that’s kept us real popular,” Esquivel said.

Curbside pickup seems to be the most sought-after way to get your dinner — crowded enough, Esquivel said, to force customers to park and come in.

The return of in-house dining will also mean reunions with staff sidelined during the shutdown.

“I’ve missed our regular diners, I’ve missed our regular bar crowd, I’ve missed the people I work with,” Esquivel said.

“We’re a business that employs 100-plus people, and when this happened we went down to 20 or 30. I miss a lot of people I work with, and I can’t wait to see them come back.”



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CITY PULSE'S MITTEN MUSIC ANSWERS

From page 22

1. Madonna
2. Charles Westover, aka Del Shannon
3. Dooley's
4. The Romantics
5. Iggy Pop

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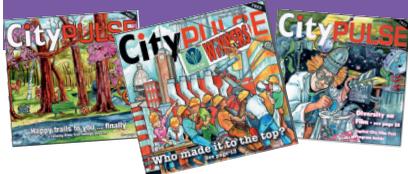
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From Pg. 21

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

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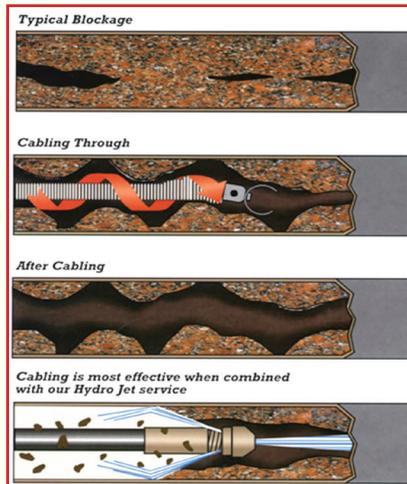
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