

Locally owned

December 23 - 29, 2020

**CityPULSE**

www.lansingcitypulse.com

A newspaper for the rest of us

**FREE**



**A Jaali Christmas**  
Lansing's baby rhino celebrates his first birthday See page 15

**YOUR PERSONAL (INJURY) ATTORNEYS**

When it come to Auto Accident and Personal Injury cases, you worry about getting better. We take care of everything else. Call Abood Law. 517.332.5900

**ABOOD**  
LAW FIRM 1956

# 'Giving can do good, and be good for your taxes'

By **BERL SCHWARTZ**

*(The writer is the editor and publisher of City Pulse.)*

The headline above caught my attention last month in The New York Times. Like I am sure many people, I was unaware that every taxpayer can receive a \$300 deduction on their 2020 taxes for donating to charity.

That is true even if you do not itemize, which is usually not the case. As the story explains, Congress included the special deduction in the CARES Act for pandemic relief last March.

It's a nice break for taxpayers, especially because very taxpayer can take it, even those who take the standard deduction — which is most of us. The vast majority of us benefit from taking the standard deduction rather than itemizing. But changes in the tax code three years ago that made the standard deduction more beneficial overall for filers hurt charities because contributions couldn't be included. Now, everyone can get up to a \$300 reduction in their adjusted gross income for 2020. That's an "important number," the Times' story explains, "because it determines your eligibility for tax credits and other deductions."

OPINION



BERL SCHWARTZ

The limit is \$300 total for the year, not \$300 per charity. How much that will benefit you will depend on your overall circumstances. (And the good news is that the revised CARES Act extends the tax benefit into 2021.)

Besides benefitting you, of course, it will benefit qualified charities. They must be 501(c)3s, and you must give in cash (including checks and credit cards), not in-kind.

We happen to have a 501(c)3 right here for your consideration: the City Pulse Fund for Community Journalism.

The IRS approved the Fund last January. Since then, we have raised nearly \$50,000 mostly in small donations. The average donation from about 500 gifts has been \$52.18. That's after taking out of the equation a \$20,000 gift from the estate of one donor, the Realtor Jim Noble.

If you're a regular reader of City Pulse, you'll notice some stories carry a postscript that they were paid for by the Fund. Your contributions have allowed us to expand our coverage even in a financially challenging year.

If you gave to the Fund, you should have received a receipt. Hold onto it in case the IRS has a (very unlikely) question. (If you cannot find it, please contact Suzi Smith at (517) 999-6704 or suzi@lan-

singcitypulse.com for another.)

It's unclear if a couple filing jointly can take \$600 this year. (They can for sure for 2021.) Some say yes, others say no. Worth a try?

If you choose to give \$300, you can split it up however you wish. We at City Pulse hope you'll give to us — but more important this year is to give. It's a tough year for many charities: demand is up and support is down ... because demand is up. Accept my thank you in advance if you give to our Fund.

To do so, you may send a check to City Pulse Fund, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing 48912. Or stick in a note with how much you're giving and include your credit card info: Name, billing address, card number, expiration date and 3- or 4-digit code. You can also pay by credit card at [lansingcitypulse.com/donation](https://lansingcitypulse.com/donation). Or call Suzi Smith at (517) 999-6704. However you donate, we will send you a receipt.

If you don't care about the tax break, then please give directly to City Pulse. Gifts to the Fund may be used in a limited way, such as for content. Gifts directly to City Pulse can literally help pay the rent, or any other expenses. Again, contributions to City Pulse are not deductible.

However you give, thank you. And happy holi-



a 501c(3) nonprofit approved by the Internal Revenue Service.

## DONATIONS ARE EASY!

**Cash donations made this year to a 501(c)(3) are eligible for up to a \$300 deduction when you file your taxes next spring!**

**This expires after Dec. 31, so please act now.**

**• No itemizing required! •**

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU!



# Lansing Gardens

**WE HAVE THE PERFECT TREE FOR YOU!**



**SHOP LOCAL THIS SEASON!**

**MON-FRI 10-6  
SAT 10-5 • SUN 10-3**

**50% off  
Christmas  
Decor**

**Select Pond Supplies  
50% off  
While Supplies Last!**

**We also have great services!**

- Lawn Clean Up • Mulching • Irrigation
- Landscaping • Lawn Care • Fertilizer
- TLC for the beautiful space of relaxation and enjoyment for the whole family
- Mulch, Soil and Stone Delivery Available



**GRAVE BLANKETS  
WREATHS  
KISSING BALLS  
NOW AVAILABLE!**



Contact the office at **517-322-2671** for  
**Outdoor Beautification Services**

1434 E. Jolly Rd., Lansing, • Garden Center **517.882.3115**

### NATION OF MOOCHERS



#### \$17/hour

"[what] workers at the bottom of the wage scale would be earning if increased labor productivity were reflected in their pay, rather than in corporate profits, executive compensation and shareholder returns"—*New York Times*, 1/10/14



### SADLY, WE LIVE IN A NATION OF TAKERS WHO PREFER TO SIPHON MONEY FROM PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS.

THE CORPORATE CULTURE OF DEPENDENCE IN ACTION



OF COURSE I DESERVE 350 TIMES AS MUCH AS MY MINIONS!

Twitter: @JenSorensen  
www.jensorensen.com

### TIME TO TEACH THESE PARASITES THERE'S NO FREE LUNCH!

ACTUALLY, THIS IS ON MY EXPENSE ACCOUNT.

BONBON?



### UNFORTUNATELY, THIS MIGHT PROVE DIFFICULT.

TSK-TSK! 26 WEEKS OF MOOCHING OFF OTHERS IS ENOUGH!

EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS NOW!

BUT YOU'VE BEEN MOOCHING OFF ME FOR 26 YEARS!



# CityPULSE

## VOL. 20 ISSUE 20

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



MSU scientists research wastewater for Covid

PAGE 8

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SALES ASSISTANT  
**Earlisha Scott** • earlisha@lansingcitypulse.com

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

Delivery drivers: Dave Fisher, Gavin Smith, Jack Sova



Jansterdam in Review: The Botanical Co. opens its doors

PAGE 21



Flash in the Pan: Crème Brûlée Flambe

PAGE 29



Cover Art

Photo by Kaiti Chritz

**CITY PULSE**  
on the  
**AIR**

NOW AT 10:00 A.M.  
**SUNDAYS** on

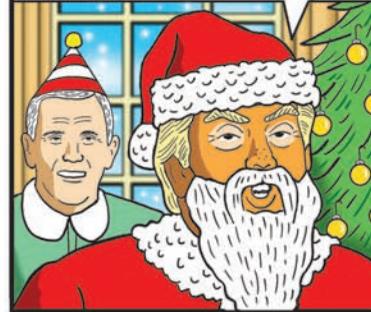
**WDBM**  
**IMPACT**  
88.9FM

## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

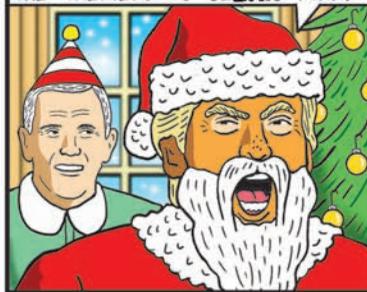
WELCOME TO THE WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS PARTY--OR AS I LIKE TO CALL IT, THE WHITE HOUSE TRUMPMAS PARTY!

IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME, YOU COULDN'T EVEN SAY "MERRY TRUMPMAS"!



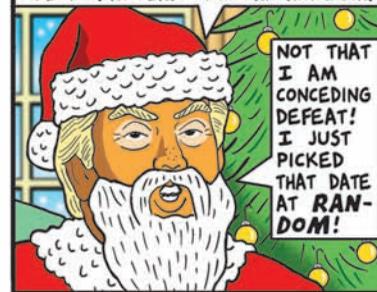
NOW, THERE WERE A LOT OF NAUGHTY BOYS AND GIRLS THIS YEAR, WITH ALL THE VOTER FRAUD AND ELECTION RIGGING! SANTA TRUMP IS VERY DISAPPOINTED!

THEY'RE ALL GETTING COAL IN THEIR STOCKINGS! AND NOT EVEN THE TREMENDOUS CLEAN KIND!



BUT IF YOU'RE GOOD TO SANTA TRUMP, THEN SANTA TRUMP IS GOOD TO YOU! I HAVE A BAG OF HOLIDAY PARDONS AND I'M GONNA HAND THOSE THINGS OUT LIKE CANDY!

NOT TO MENTION ACCESS TO THE REGENERON COCKTAIL, IF I REALLY LIKE YOU, AT LEAST UNTIL JANUARY 20TH.



WHY, I'M PROBABLY DOING YOU A FAVOR BY HOLDING THIS BIG PARTY! YOU'VE GOT A CHANCE TO GET SICK NOW, BEFORE JOE BIDEN STEALS THE PRESIDENCY AND YOU HAVE TO GO TO SOME NORMAL HOSPITAL LIKE A LOSER!

THANK YOU, SANTA TRUMP!



IN CLOSING, I'D LIKE TO TAKE A MOMENT FOR US ALL TO PAUSE AND REFLECT ON THE TRUE MEANING OF THIS VERY SPECIAL TIME OF THE YEAR--



--THAT TRUMP WAS ROBBED AND THERE'S GONNA BE HELL TO PAY! I'M DAMN SURE NOT GONNA DISAPPEAR AND PAINT DOGS! GOTTA KEEP THAT SWEET FUNDRAISING CASH ROLLING IN--RIGHT, WHITE HAIRED GUY?

ER--YES, SIR. IT'S GONNA BE A MERRY TRUMP- MAS, SIR.



TOM TOMORROW © 2020 • www.thismodernworld.com • twitter: @tomtomorrow

# Nightmare on Townsend Street

Last July, Lansing code compliance officers conducted an inspection of the Porter Apartments, a 98-unit, low-income apartment building for senior citizens located on Townsend Street in downtown Lansing. More than 50 citations were issued against the property for violations ranging from inoperable smoke detectors in nearly one-quarter of the units to the presence of a variety of nonhuman occupants, including cockroaches and rodents. It wasn't the first time city inspectors were called to the building, not by a long shot. According to city records, Porter Apartments has been cited at least 17 times for safety and trash violations since 2014.

More than a year later, it appears little has changed. Thanks to excellent reporting this week by the Lansing State Journal, we know that the property is still plagued with pests and unresolved physical issues that endanger the health and safety of the building's residents. The LSJ article raises serious questions about why such hazardous and unhealthy conditions have been allowed to persist at the building, despite repeated interventions by city inspectors. Because the property is also inspected and subsidized by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, the responsibility to ensure that the property is safe for human habitation also falls on their shoulders.

Porter Apartments is one of 73 properties in 29 states owned by California Commercial Investment Companies, based in Thousand Oaks. The company acquired the property, a former luxury hotel, out of foreclosure in 2005. Despite their lackluster track record of maintaining the building, the company is now asking the Lansing City Council to approve a 40-year extension of its Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement. For the unfamiliar, a PILOT is a long-term tax break that aims to encourage the development of affordable housing. According to the nonprofit Community Housing Network, PILOTs can often make it possible for developers to invest in communities and neighborhoods where it would be difficult to develop if the property was subject to taxation on the assessed value of the property. In other words, PILOTs are the special sauce that makes the economics of affordable housing work for both investors and low-income residents.



## The CP Edit

### Opinion

City leaders are reticent to approve the requested PILOT extension for Porter Apartments, and for understandable reasons. Even though the purpose behind PILOT agreements is well established and entirely defensible, the notion that taxpayers will be subsidizing substandard housing leaves a bitter aftertaste. Rather than an incentive to provide quality, affordable housing, in this case the PILOT seems to operate as a slumlord subsidy, lining the pockets of the absentee owner and investors while leaving vulnerable residents to live in varying degrees of squalor. The property owners argue that approving the PILOT will allow them to invest millions of dollars to improve the structure, which was built a century ago and hasn't had a major update in more than 15 years. Better late than never, we suppose, but why has it taken them more than a decade to come up with a plan to modernize the building?

It doesn't need to be this way. The most obvious solution is to use the PILOT agreement as leverage by placing conditions on its approval that require the owner to maintain the property to the city's standards. Failure to do so would void the agreement and subject the property to full taxation. However, based on

guidance provided by the City Attorney's Office in Council committee meetings, it is unclear if such provisions are permitted in PILOT agreements, which are based on a template provided by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, the state agency that approves all PILOT requests.

If such conditions are not permitted in a PILOT agreement, we believe they should be. We urge Lansing officials to confer with state legislators on the matter and request changes to whatever rule or law stands in the way. It is bizarre that such an agreement can require that prevailing wages be paid on any work done to the property but cannot require compliance with local building codes. We daresay that such a requirement could have a salutary effect on the quality of low-income housing across the state. But it would also likely

face stiff opposition in the Republican-dominated state legislature, where commercial property owners and their lobbyists have vastly more clout than low-income senior citizens with rats for roommates.

This unfortunate situation creates a real dilemma for city leaders. If the PILOT for Porter Apartments is not approved, the property owners could decide it is no longer profitable to own the building and simply walk away. The last thing the beleaguered residents need is to be evicted in the middle of a pandemic, compounding their misery and burdening the city with the task of relocating them in the dead of winter. A similar housing crisis erupted six years ago when the Life O'Riley mobile home park was condemned by Ingham County health inspectors due to nearly identical issues. Lansing doesn't need a rerun of that sad episode.

We would be remiss if we didn't also point out that the Lansing City Council has been aware of the problems at Porter and reviewing the property owner's request for a PILOT extension for at least two years. It's time to stop talking about it and start doing something to put an end to the miserable conditions at Porter Apartments before tragedy strikes. Linking the property owner's PILOT approval to their compliance with city building codes seems like the most promising approach.

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

# College student loans: another injustice for the Black community

By **DEDRIA HUMPHRIES BARKER**

One trillion four hundred billion dollars.

That's how much students owe the federal government for college student loans.

It's a curse.

While there is an argument for making college free for all Americans, the case is compelling for the United States to pay tuition and room and board for African American students. Especially for African Americans.

The problem of student loan debt for Black college students is so bad that Black-issues advocates are willing to campaign for relief for all college students. The Brookings Institution's Andre Perry, a Black man, wrote in 2019: "To boost black students, we should give free college to students who don't need it."

But if every student gets relief, there is less for Black students, and their need runneth over.

A 2018 study supports "previous research reporting that blacks are more



Barker

likely to have debt and to have higher levels of it." The study, by Dartmouth College sociologist Jason N. Houle and Fenaba R. Addo of the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Human Ecology, found that the student loan problem is not confined to the campus. Houle and Addo wrote that "racial disparities in student debt may contribute to the continued racial inequality in the U.S. and may serve as obstacles for the future of the black middle class."

So, student loan debt is not just the tempering of first-house dreams; it is a prison for African Americans. It's modern-day share cropping. Which itself was modern day slavery. All are situations that breed despair.

Black college students who need money for college can find themselves in a whole lot of trouble if they do not finish their degrees, or they get a job or profession that does not pay enough to make the loan payments and live. Lawrence Gladieux, executive director of the College Board, wrote in 1995, "Low-income, at-risk students are actually the most ill-served. They end up with no job, a defaulted loan and a bad credit record." Houle and Addo

found that problem is rippling through our communities.

The student loan debt is a situation that U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos finds unacceptable. Her solution is to have students evaluate whether college is even worth it. She said that to the Virtual 2020 Federal Student Aid Training Conference.

Thank goodness DeVos is getting the old-heave-ho, but before she leaves she is poisoning the well. In December, she gave instructions that seemed to advocate a hard application of the administrative rules. Make them check their loan debt annually, she said. And, those who think obscure liberal arts fields are interesting may find, as DeVos put it, that college "may not be worth the cost."

She was talking about students like me. Who earned two degrees in English.

What's not worth it is the system that finances higher education on the backs of students. But instead of reforming the public education financing system, DeVos steers the conversation to whether college is worth it for students who don't have the money.

She significantly slowed action on forgiveness requests, a form of free college, but a federal judge ordered her department to get to work. They did — and denied most applications. Her position is that students who take on debt are irresponsible. One way she said students can be more responsible is for them to check every year on their debt loan.

Sounds good doesn't it, so easy, like checking your bank balance on your phone. Imagine, checking your student loan balance in a semester a demanding professor is accepting no excuses. Reminders that the student is paying for that are not helpful.

Gladieux also wrote, "Above all, the drift toward a system that relies primarily on student debt to finance higher tuition has turned the original commitment to equal opportunity on its head."

That was 25 years ago. Congress did nothing to fix it, and now the system is crumbling under its weight. And

crushing African American students.

Gladieux's 1995 review, "Federal Student Aid Policy: A History and Assessment," seemed to be peering into a crystal ball.

"There has been an erosion of need-based standards," Gladieux wrote. "The anti-poverty origins of the 1960s legislation have faded into history as eligibility for federal student aid has been stretched up the economic ladder."

Student loan debt is a low blow to African Americans who suffered the betrayals of promises made after emancipation from slavery. We have trusted in education. Been patient about making progress, sent the women to be school teachers and nurses, or to wash floors, all to keep the kids in school. Anything to keep the family going until someone could break through as a doctor, or accountant, or judge, or make some money in a business that was legal.

Michelle Alexander pointed out how Jim Crow changes form in the United States. She discussed mass incarceration. Student loan debt is the Jim Crow of higher education.

This is what the government should do: pay tuition and books for African American students. Pay for housing. Pay for food. Give black students the basics. No loans.

And if the government wants to go further, forgive all student debt. Here is the accommodation: Restrict the use of student loans. Lots of students, not just Black ones, are trying to live their ultimate life while in college. As a taxpayer, I do not want to finance student housing that has kitchens with granite countertops. At least not until I myself get one.

*(Dedria Humphries Barker, of Lansing, who chairs The Andrew and Mary Jane Humphries Foundation, wrote "Mother of Orphans: The True and Curious Story of Irish Alice, A Colored Man's Widow." Her opinion column appears on the fourth Wednesday of every month.*

*This column was paid for by the City Pulse Fund for Community Journalism, which can be found at [www.lansingcitypulse.com/donation](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com/donation).)*

## LETTERS to the editor

### Restore power, BWL

It is downright cruel for the BWL to be shutting off customers as the pandemic rages (see Rewind, 12-9) and just days before it would have been foreclosed under state law from doing so. You see the BWL, unlike utilities who serve 90% of Michigan customers, has chosen to decline money from the Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP). By doing this, BWL cannot shut customers off after November 1. Around \$1 million could have been provided to customers (so they wouldn't be in danger of shutoffs) under MEAP. As a member of the BWL board, I urged the BWL to participate in MEAP and then quit the Board when they didn't do so (see City Pulse, circa October 2017). The BWL should restore power to all customers who were shutoff immediately, without charging a deposit or a restoration fee.

**Robert Nelson**  
East Lansing

Have something to say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages?

Now you have two ways to sound off:

#### 1.) Write a letter to the editor.

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

#### 2.) Write a guest column:

Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: [publisher@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:publisher@lansingcitypulse.com) or (517) 999-5061 (Please include your name, address and telephone number so we can reach you. Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. City Pulse reserves the right to edit letters and columns.)



**B/21/044 2021 REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE CL-21-LTE-RC** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids electronically on line at [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info) or at the City Of Lansing Purchasing Office, at 124 W. Michigan Ave 8th Floor, Lansing, MI 48933 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **JAN. 21, 2021** 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](mailto:stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov) or go to [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info).** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#20-324

# REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS



By KYLE KAMINSKI



Schor

## Schor signs executive directive for ‘bias-free treatment’

In the wake of several documented allegations of racial discrimination, Lansing Mayor Andy Schor announced Tuesday he signed an executive order to establish ways to further its “commitment to fair and bias-free treatment of all people.” The directive proposes a partnership with the National League of Cities to assess racial equity in Lansing. The city will also join the Government Alliance on Racial Equity, a national network of municipalities working toward social justice. Additionally, all city employees will be required to complete implicit bias training. All departments will also file a racial justice report to address ways to enhance equity in various city operations. The latest mayoral directive also specifically calls for plans for a community-driven, independent review of all departmental policies and procedures at both the Fire and Police departments.

## State denies Nassar’s resentencing request

Former Michigan State University gymnastics physician Larry Nassar lost an appeal this week to throw out one of the three sentences he is serving. The 2-1 split decision reportedly found that Nassar’s sentencing appeal came too late and that any alleged bias potentially exhibited by Judge Rosemarie Aquilina was not improper. Nassar, who was convicted of sexually assaulting over 150 girls and young women, is unlikely to ever see the outside of a prison cell with a combined minimum sentence of at least 140 years.



Aquilina

Release Campaign, spearheaded by Redemption Cannabis and the Last Prisoner Project, among other groups. Thompson sold three pounds of cannabis in 1994 to an informant in the Flint Area Narcotics Group. No guns were used during the sale, but because they were found at his home in a locked safe, Thompson went on to be sentenced to 42 to 60 years in prison for firearm charges. Advocates labeled it a draconian sentence and lauded Whitmer for setting him free.

## Problems persist at Porter Senior Apartments

Several residents have said that substandard living conditions are continuing at Porter Senior Apartments, a subsidized complex on Townsend Street, reports the Lansing State Journal. Lansing City Council members have raised concerns about bug infestations and a lack of maintenance at the low-income apartment complex in recent months. Still, city, county and federal officials have reportedly visited the property and still consider it safe enough to live in. The Journal found that many Porter residents are still frustrated, saying that issues have persisted despite repeated complaints. Rental certificates at the site are still valid.



## Accident Fund pushes union staff to the frontline

At least a dozen employees at the Accident Fund Insurance Co. of America headquarters in Lansing have said they’ve been unfairly required to report to work during the pandemic. The common thread: They’re all members of UAW Amalgamated Local No. 2256, they contended. While state officials continue to investigate employee complaints, corporate officials doubled down on their existing work-from-home policies and renewed them through at least June 13. About 40% of the staff must still report to work regardless of complaints, company officials said.

## Crawford out as Schor administration turnover continues

Andrea Crawford, the city’s director of the Department of Neighborhoods and Citizen Engagement, announced this week that she will leave the job at the end of the year to “pursue other opportunities,” officials said. She’ll be replaced by city neighborhood coordinator DeLisa Fountain. She’ll earn about \$7,000 less than Crawford. Crawford is at least the eighth city official to leave their job since Schor took office in 2018.



Crawford

## Six indicted in Whitmer kidnapping plot

Six men were indicted last week on charges of plotting to kidnap Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and possibly hold her for ransom or leave her in the middle of Lake Michigan. The news arrives more than two months after their arrest after a federal grand jury concluded there was enough evidence to bind the suspects over for trial. They each reportedly face one count of kidnapping conspiracy, which could carry a sentence of life in prison. The indictment didn’t add any new charges, though more could be handed down.

### Correction

Because of a reporting error, the murder victim was misidentified in last week’s Rewind item on charges that were dropped in a 2011 killing. The victim’s name is Michael Adams, not Abrams.

City Pulse regrets the error.

## Whitmer commutes sentences for drug offenders

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer granted four requests for clemency this week — all for drug-related offenses — following recommendations by the Michigan Parole Board. Among them: Michael Thompson, who was the focus of the Michigan Prisoner



## TERRA FORMS at Comerica Bank

The Capital City Film Festival looked a little different during the pandemic, but that didn’t make it any less impressive this year — especially for Friday night’s showing of “TERRA FORMS: Saga of a Cosmic Tree” across all 15 floors of the Comerica Bank building in downtown Lansing.

Drive-in movies played all night long on Friday and Saturday, but the main attraction was a stunning piece of visual art that was projected vertically across 12,000 feet of the building, the kickoff of the abbreviated weekend showcase that repeated every half hour on Friday night.

Written by Ryan Uzilevsky and produced by Light Harvest Studio, the massive-scale public art project has been in the making for the last several years and included cascades of lights and eye trickery that, at times, made the building appear to be melting or collapsing to the ground, a narrative that followed the life of an ancient tree from tiny seedling to full-grown superorganism.

The “real” 10th anniversary celebration of the Capital City Film Festival is set for April 2021.

If you missed the live show, a rebroadcast will soon be available to watch online through the Lansing Public Media Center, likely first shared on its Facebook page and at lansingmedia.com.

Film Festival Director Dominic Cochran served as executive director. Funding was provided by the city of Lansing, the Arts Council of Greater Lansing and the Arts Impact Grant Program.

“Eye Candy of the Week” is our look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates with Eyesore of the Week and Eye for Design. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail [eye@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:eye@lansingcitypulse.com) or call Berl Schwartz at 999-5061.

# MSU scientists searched wastewater for COVID-19. And they found it.

## Wastewater research led to advanced notice of East Lansing bar outbreak

As cases of coronavirus in Ingham county began to wane in June, Michigan State University researcher Joan Rose noticed a sudden uptick in the amount of coronavirus in campus and Meridian Township wastewater. Without many students on campus, the news was puzzling.

“We started monitoring the wastewater on campus, and there weren’t very many students in the dorms,” Rose explained. “It was kind of bouncing around, but pretty low, around the detection limit. Sometimes it was negative. Sometimes we’d see a little positive. We saw this huge peak in June, and I’m like, ‘What is this?’ It’s orders of magnitude larger than what we’d been seeing.”

Later, Rose learned it was the start of an outbreak tied to Harper’s Restaurant and Brew Pub.

The wastewater research efforts are steered by Rose’s graduate students who wanted to search for COVID-19 in wastewater. The idea is based on research that shows those infected with the virus shed it in a variety of bodily functions — including urine and feces. And detecting the virus in the wastewater early can help health officials track where the virus is spreading.

“People release viruses through urine and feces and then other secretions of the body like in our mucus, different parts of the body,” said Irene Xagorarakis, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering. “You see, it’s not just the toilet. It’s just when we wash our hands, when we take a shower. So, all the bodily secretions, they end up in the collection system.”

All of that water — from the toilet, the sink, the shower — flows into hundreds of thousands of miles of underground sewer pipelines. Those lines then feed into water treatment facilities, where the water is cleansed of much of the waste, and then released back into nature.

The problem with looking for viruses in a slurry of wastewater, however, is separating the viruses from the mixture in the first place. Rose and others used a technique of a positively charged screen, much like a net if you will, that attracts and captures the viruses.



Courtesy

Dr. Irene Xagorarakis poses while showing samples from her ongoing monitoring of Detroit sewer systems.

Then, scientists use a process known as PCR — or polymerase chain reaction — that looks for specific genetic material related to specific viruses. That allows researchers to determine what viruses are present and in what quantities, a valuable tool in quantifying COVID-19 in Michigan.

The state of Michigan is also hoping wastewater monitoring will help in the public health process. It provided about \$1.3 million to fund Rose’s work, training and assisting staff at 20 advanced PCR laboratories across Michigan and offering advanced analytical techniques.

More than 100 wastewater locations will be monitored for the SARS-CoV-2 virus to provide early warning and to assist local health departments in implementing public health measures to prevent the spread of the virus — particularly to sensitive populations where the virus is found.

Rose has been

working for years to remove viruses from wastewater releases. Her Ph.D. work was in Mexico, looking at various wastewater and enteric, or gut-related viruses. Xagorarakis received \$800,000 to continue her work on viral infections in the Detroit sewage system.

Those studies have resulted in the

identification of correlation between the HIV pandemic in Detroit and a herpes virus that causes a skin cancer called Kaposi’s Sarcoma, Xagorarakis said.

That money ran out last December, stalling her studies for coronavirus in the Detroit sewers until April — more than a month after the first COVID-19 case was detected in Michigan.

“We’re able to capture the second and third waves about three to four weeks ahead of time,” she said.

Capturing the increases in viral transmission is important, she said, because it can inform public health officials and hospitals on where and when a new surge is going to emerge more broadly. It also provides an opportunity to communicate with communities most impacted by COVID-19.

“Our early work confirmed the validity of the method to provide early warning of multiple viral diseases, including hepatitis and COVID-19,” Xagorarakis said. “The Detroit project goes above and beyond simple testing of wastewater. We include multiple other data, measurements, and processes to provide a tool that can be used by public health officials.”

— TODD HEYWOOD



Courtesy photos

Dr. Irene Xagorarakis's team works in the lab to identify various viruses found in Detroit wastewater samples.

# Legislation brings COVID-19 relief — and \$600 stimulus checks

State, federal lawmakers allocate billions to alleviate financial strains

State lawmakers in Michigan approved a \$465 million relief package this week that reportedly includes more than \$63 million in grants for small businesses and individual grants of up to \$1,650 per person for those who lost their jobs or wages due to pandemic-related health orders.

The Michigan House of Representatives approved the package, 97-5, Monday following a 35-2 vote from the state Senate on Friday, reports the Detroit Free Press. The measure is headed to the Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's desk for approval, though she indicated that she may use her authority to line-item veto certain portions of the legislation before signing next week.

The small business loan program reportedly caps grants at \$20,000 for businesses completely closed and \$15,000 for businesses partially closed due to pandemic orders. The bill also includes millions to help the state and local communities deliver and administer vaccines.

Additionally, live music and entertainment venues are eligible to receive grants of up to \$40,000. Another \$45 million was set aside for direct payments to workers who have been laid off or furloughed as a result of the virus, with a focus on restaurant and hospitality workers.

The Detroit Free Press reports the funding could be made available as early as next month.

Federal lawmakers also passed a \$900 billion pandemic relief package this week that provides \$300 per week in supplemental jobless benefits and a \$600 direct stimulus payment to most Americans. The \$1.4 trillion catchall spending bill also includes another round of subsidies for hard-hit businesses, restaurants, theaters, schools, health care providers and renters facing eviction, the Associated Press reports. The legislation just needs the president's signature.

The 5,593-page legislation was by far the longest federal bill ever to be passed, AP reports.

**In related news...**

The Michigan Department of

CORONAVIRUS IN MICHIGAN						
BY THE NUMBERS...						
MICHIGAN						
	12/15/20	12/22/20	WEEKLY CHANGE			
<b>CASES</b>	442,715	466,485	^5%			
<b>DEATHS</b>	10,935	11,705	^7%			

GREATER LANSING				EATON CO.			
	12/15/20	12/22/20	WEEKLY CHANGE		12/15/20	12/22/20	WEEKLY CHANGE
<b>CASES</b>	18,078	19,296	^7%	<b>CASES</b>	3,850	4,119	^7%
<b>DEATHS</b>	253	282	^11%	<b>DEATHS</b>	69	82	^19%

INGHAM CO.				CLINTON CO.			
	12/15/20	12/22/20	WEEKLY CHANGE		12/15/20	12/22/20	WEEKLY CHANGE
<b>CASES</b>	10,984	11,766	^7%	<b>CASES</b>	3,244	3,411	^5%
<b>DEATHS</b>	153	163	^7%	<b>DEATHS</b>	31	37	^19%

Health and Human Services updated its epidemic order beginning this week to allow indoor activities where residents can remain masked, including inperson learning at high schools and indoor entertainment venues like casinos, bowling alleys and movie theaters. Capacity will still be capped at 100 people and social distancing is still required.

The new order remains in effect until at least Jan. 15, though Whitmer remains hopeful that her administration can take "more aggressive steps" to lift restrictions on some additional Michigan businesses after Jan. 1 as cases trend in a positive direction, reports the Detroit News.

Whitmer announced this week that her administration will take a number of actions to provide support for Michigan's families, restaurants and small businesses. Among them: Another liquor buyback program for restaurants and bars similar to the one administered last year.

Whitmer's administration also announced another \$2 million for

the Eviction Diversion Program to ensure that families can keep a roof over their heads this winter amid the pandemic. That program has helped an estimated 16,000 people stay in their homes to date, officials said.

The East Lansing City Council reupped an emergency declaration this week, as well as an order that requires facemasks to be worn in all indoor and outdoor public spaces — including sidewalks, streets and

plazas — in downtown East Lansing through at least Jan. 31. Violations, though very rarely ticketed, are considered civil infractions and can lead to fines of up to \$25.

McLaren Greater Lansing as well as the Lansing Fire Department began the process of vaccinating their staff this week after the Pfizer vaccine was distributed statewide last weekend. McLaren received 975 initial doses; The Fire Department received enough for command staff.

Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail and several other health department employees also received vaccinations this week. She urges frontline health care workers to quickly follow suit.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

**DON'T FORGET WE'VE GOT THE PULSIFIEDS**  
 BACKPAGE CLASSIFIEDS  
 Rates start at \$24 for 4 lines  
 Submit your classified ad to Suzi Smith: 517-999-6704 or suzi@lansingcitypulse.com  
 Contract rates available, all rates net. Classified ads also appear online at no extra charge. Deadline for classifieds is 5 p.m. Monday for the upcoming Wednesday's issue.

**ORDINANCE # 2620**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN, PROVIDING FOR THE REZONING OF A PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN AND FOR THE REVISION OF THE DISTRICT MAPS ADOPTED BY SECTION 1246.02 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES.

The City of Lansing ordains:

Section 1. That the district maps adopted by and incorporated as Section 1246.02 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing, Michigan be amended to provide as follows:

To change the zoning classification of the property described as follows:  
 Case Number: Z-3-2020  
 Parcel Number's: 33-01-01-22-133-102  
 Address: 1030 S. Holmes Street  
 Legal Descriptions: Lots 1 through 13 inclusive & Lots 21 through 34 inclusive, Block 11, Manufacturers Addition No. 2, from "D-1" Professional Office and "B" Residential districts to "DM-4" Residential district.

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions hereof are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance was duly adopted by the Lansing City Council on December 14, 2020, and a copy is available in the office of the Lansing City Clerk, 9th Floor, City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect on the 30th day after enactment.

**Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/CMMC**  
[www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk](http://www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk)  
[www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope](https://www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope)

**CP#20-321**

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
 PROBATE COURT  
 COUNTY OF INGHAM  
 NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
 Decedent's Estate  
 File No. 20-000201-DE-P33  
 Estate of Gary Lee Thomas. Date of birth: 7-25-1931.  
 TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Gary Lee Thomas, died 8/15/2019. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Nancy L. Thomas, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo, Lansing, MI 48933.  
 Date: 12/12/2020  
 Nancy L. Thomas  
 3505 Brisbane  
 Lansing, MI 48911  
 CP#20-314

**CITY OF LANSING  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. during the regularly schedule City Council Meeting, via ZOOM Conferencing, Meeting ID 824 7315 3790, MI for the purpose of considering:

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend Chapter 240 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances in its entirety to restructure the grant award process for basic human services, subject to ordinance requirements.

Note: Michigan Director of Health and Human Services Robert Gordon's Order of October 9, 2020 regarding Gather Prohibition and Face Covering, as well as states of emergency declared by the Mayor and approved by City Council have led to a closure of City Hall to public at this time due to COVID-19. Public observation and participation may be facilitated electronically in accordance with the Open Meetings Act as amended, in an effort to protect the health and safety of the public.

Members of the public wishing to participate in the meeting may do so by logging into or calling into the meetings using the website <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82473153790> or by phone number 312-626-6799 using meeting ID: 824 7315 3790.

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

For more information, please call 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., on the day of the Public Hearing at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email [city.clerk@lansingmi.gov](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov).

**Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/CMMC**  
[www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk](http://www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk)  
[www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope](https://www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope)

**CP#20-316**

**CITY OF EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN**

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION  
ORDINANCE NO. 1492**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 50-5, 50-36, 50-93, 50-94, 50-144, 50-593, 50-793, 50-812, 50-813, AND 50-814 OF CHAPTER 50 - ZONING - OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING TO MAKE UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS.

Please take notice that Ordinance No. 1492 was adopted by the City of East Lansing City Council at their meeting held on December 15, 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. 1492**

**THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:**

Ordinance 1492 amends Chapter 50 – Zoning – as follows in summary:

Section 50-5 – Adds new definition for the term “accessory structure”, amends the definition for the term “building”.

Section 50-36(k) – Removes the standard relative to setbacks for administrative site plan review.

Section 50-93 – Inserts code section references to medical and adult-use marijuana land uses.

Section 50-94(b)(2) – Removes the requirement for a special use permit for businesses selling alcohol for off-premises consumption if less than 25 percent of the sales floor area is devoted to the sale of alcoholic beverages.

Section 50-94(b)(4) – Inserts geographical description of the area where Council may waive the requirement for first floor retail in the B-3 zoning district.

Section 50-94(b)(5)b – Minor grammatical correction.

Section 50-144(8) – Adds swimming pools to the list of structures and encroachments in yards.

Section 50-593(f) – Amends the minimum building height to four stories, clarified the maximum building stories to be eight and the maximum building height to be 112 feet.

Section 50-793.D. – Correction to the building height graphic.

Section 50-812(5) – Adds new subsection that allows Council to modify the required parking ratios with a special use permit.

Section 50-813(2) – Adds coffee shop to the required stacking spaces table.

Section 50-814(6)a.1. – Extends the 50 percent parking reduction for any mixed-use development.

A true copy of Ordinance No. 1492 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#20-326**

**CITY OF LANSING  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**Z-8-2020, 2918 N. East Street  
Rezoning from “F” Commercial to “H” Light Industrial**

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., via ZOOM Conferencing, Meeting ID 824 7315 3790, to consider Z-8-2020. This is a request by GDN Farms, LLC to rezone 2918 N. East Street from “F” Commercial district to “H” Light Industrial district. The purpose of the rezoning is to permit the property to be used for a marijuana grow facility.

Note: Michigan Director of Health and Human Services Robert Gordon's Order of October 9, 2020 regarding Gather Prohibition and Face Covering, as well as states of emergency declared by the Mayor and approved by City Council have led to a closure of City Hall to public at this time due to COVID-19. Public observation and participation may be facilitated electronically in accordance with the Open Meetings Act as amended, in an effort to protect the health and safety of the public.

Members of the public wishing to participate in the meeting may do so by logging into or calling into the meetings using the website <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82473153790> or by phone number 312-626-6799 using meeting ID: 824 7315 3790.

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

For more information, please call 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., on the day of the Public Hearing at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email [city.clerk@lansingmi.gov](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov).

**Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/CMMC**  
[www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk](http://www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk)  
[www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope](https://www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope)

**CP#20-318**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION**

**NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING**

**January 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm**

**THE MEETING WILL ONLY BE HELD ELECTRONICALLY  
FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Planning Commission of the City of East Lansing will hold a meeting and public hearing on January 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. This meeting will only be held electronically pursuant to the Open Meetings Act and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Epidemic Orders. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider a site plan application from 270 W. Grand River Blvd., for the property at 270 W. Grand River Avenue to demolish the existing structures and develop a parking lot. The subject property is located in the B-2, Retail Sales Business district.

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

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

1. **Reason for Electronic Meeting.** The Planning Commission is holding the meeting by electronic means only because of the gathering restrictions, capacity limits, and social distancing requirements set forth in the MDHHS Epidemic Orders.

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

URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82235712814>

Webinar ID: 822 3571 2814  
Call in Number: 312-626-6799  
Toll Free Call in Number: 888 788 0099

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

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

Jennifer Shuster  
City Clerk

**CP#20-325**

# 'Merry fucking Christmas'

City cracks down on homeless camp during a holiday pandemic

Lansing firefighters didn't want to put out a small bonfire at a homeless camp off Larch Street on Monday evening. They were just doing their job, following orders from the top, they explained.

After all, it was the darkest night of the year. Temperatures were nearly freezing. Snow was flurrying.

No firefighter signed up for the job with plans to put homeless people out in the cold — three days before Christmas and in the midst of a pandemic. But "city policies" dictated otherwise.

"I'm sorry. We hate doing this, you guys," one firefighter told a group of several people gathered at the camp just after sundown on Monday. "I have to, or I'll get in trouble. It's a city policy, hun."

The incident was captured on video and later published to Facebook by Ruckus Steve Swart.

"Merry fucking Christmas," one man, a frequent resident of the camp, shot back in response. "We're copacetic. We're just trying to live, man. We don't want to be in that COVID ward."

"This shit is pitiful. It's fucking COVID going on," another man shouted back. "They're all outside so they don't have to get COVID. And this what y'all are fucking doing? It's fucking sickening."

The firefighters appeared to leave moments after raking around embers, leaving coals burning. The fire was relit that night. A small crowd was still gathered around the fire Tuesday morning.

"I'm not going anywhere," one man said. "The firefighters told me they wouldn't be back again."

The homeless encampment — the "Back 40" — is tucked into a vacant field owned by the Sam Eyde Management Co. at the corner of Larch and Saginaw streets. Eyde hasn't raised concerns about the camp or been involved with plans to clear it out.

The location admittedly hasn't attracted much development interest in recent years, he said.

"We've always said, unless they have a place to put them, we won't do anything," Eyde added.

Still, the city of Lansing is charging forward with plans to have it vacated as quickly and as humanely as possible. Under the direction of Mayor Andy Schor, city officials announced last week that at least a dozen regular guests of the camp would need to leave by Sunday night. The plan from last week: Dismantle tents, clean up trash and sho-

away those who tried to stay.

The news garnered some ire from local residents in recent days, as well as an outpouring of community support. Donations have been dropped off daily. Several news outlets and camera crews have been on site. Several volunteers and politicians have also recently shown up to the camp, including First Ward Councilman Brandon Betz and his predecessor, Jody Washington.

And despite the firm deadline set last week, most of the camp remained intact on Tuesday.

A city spokeswoman said that code enforcement officials will soon clear out the remaining tents and debris in hopes that those who remained there this week will find their way into a shelter.

Those who remain at the camp this week were largely there by choice and not necessity. The City Rescue Mission, Haven House and Holy Cross' New Hope Community Center each reported dozens of vacancies this week. But traditional shelters aren't always desirable.

For many, the Back 40 serves as an alternative sort of shelter, a sense of companionship, comradery, an escape from the routine, a place to crack open a tall boy and sit around a fire — a rare sense of freedom during especially dark times. Others said they just want to avoid indoor congregating settings, where guests could be at a much greater risk of exposure to COVID-19.

"No one should have to shelter or live in unsafe and dangerous conditions. Upon inspection, it was found that the people at the Back 40 were living in a place with human feces and used drug needles, and fires were being lit near very flammable materials putting people at great risk. These people need and deserve a safe and appropriate shelter, and outreach staff has worked with each of these folks to offer and provided shelter. The City of Lansing Code Enforcement team and Human Services team, along with partner agencies, have done a great job ensuring the safety and security of the individuals who were living at the Back 40, while being sensitive to difficult individual situations. If tragedy were to strike, the first question asked would be why people were allowed to live in these dangerous conditions. City staff are being proactive to provide safe living conditions and avoid tragedy."

— Lansing Mayor Andy Schor



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

The "Back 40" homeless encampment reportedly houses up to 20 people every night. Residents said the population there has only grown amid the pandemic.

"We're not hurting anybody out here. We're just minding our own business," one guest said. "Have you actually been to a shelter? Have you stayed there? It's not a great place to be."

Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail hasn't tracked many coronavirus cases at homeless shelters in Lansing, which managed to escape most of the pandemic without an outbreak. Hav-

en House, with nine active COVID-19 cases, is the only one still on Vail's radar this week.

"We have done really fairly well within our homeless community," Vail said this week. "Of course, anything that drives people indoors with less flexibility about wandering outside is going to change the dynamics of what is going on. We have a few challenges, but nothing out of control."

Kim Coleman, the city's director of human relations and community services, said it's up to code enforcement staff to ensure the space is actually vacated. Exactly what those plans entail, however, remains unclear, but she said a forceful police removal isn't in the city's playbook.

And the timeline announced last week was apparently a flexible one. City officials didn't provide a precise timeframe for when garbage, tents and other materials would be cleaned up on site.

"It had just become too much of a health hazard and was no longer safe," Coleman said. "It's difficult to pin down dates when things like this absolutely should happen. Our intent is to make sure that people are safe and in a healthy environment. It became imperative that we do something."

Mountains of trash are still piled between rows of tents and tarps on the vacant lot. A car that has been parked nearby for at least the last week has its windows smashed out. One tent was covered in feces. Rotting food on site was known to attract insects before the

# Homeless

from page 11

winter arrived.

Many guests said they have mental illnesses or struggle with substance abuse. One man — who was known to use drugs — reportedly defecated last week into a small clear box containing the camp's only emergency ration of Narcan, medication used to reverse an opioid overdose.

Another man who identified himself only as Buster said the camp has been active for a decade. In recent years, however, its population has only grown. The COVID-19 pandemic has also pushed those numbers higher as homeless people look for alternatives to traditional shelters.

Buster estimated that up to 20 homeless people have been staying there each night this month.

"I understand why some folks are unhappy to see this out here," Buster said. "It's scary looking in the day time and it's scary as shit in the night time. If you're not street, I wouldn't suggest you come out here at night. Most of these folks are always welcoming. Others, you never know."

Few have argued the necessity of the city's plans, but the timing has been a bitter pill. Firefighters put out a fire there in April and haven't been back since, campers told City Pulse. The most common question: If the camp has operated for so long, why clear it out now?

Coleman declined to explain exactly how or why city officials decided to shutter the camp during the wintry months of a pandemic, except to note that local residents have called in an increasing number of complaints in recent months. The city of Grand Rapids also decided to clear out a similarly sized homeless encampment this week, but Coleman maintains it's entirely unrelated.

"Our intent is to help make certain that people are safe in a healthy envi-



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

(Left) Former Lansing City Councilwoman Jody Washington, in a black mask, said she wants to ensure those struggling with homelessness in Lansing have access to a clean, safe place to sleep during the winter months. Many of the people there have become like family to her, she explained.

(Above) Washington shook tents at the Back 40 on Friday, trying to convince residents to seek shelter elsewhere and making sure they've been made aware of vacancies at licensed shelters in the city.

ronment," Coleman added. "It became imperative that we did something about that. Whether it was today, yesterday or even next week, it was a big concern for us to make sure people were taken care of. This wasn't the first time we've taken these steps, and it won't be the last. It's a public health hazard."

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advise against breaking up homeless encampments without offering readily available alternatives for shelter. Coleman said those opportunities are available. And it's unlikely the CDC would condone the camp's conditions.

"This is an environment that is contrary to a healthy environment," Coleman added. "It's important to keep in mind that we're not asking them to leave with no other options. We're busy ensuring anyone that wants one can have access to a clean, safe space to sleep at night."

Jody Washington, the former First Ward Councilwoman, has been among those spending her free time at the camp in recent weeks. She just wants people to know that other options exist for shelter in Lansing. Most volunteers, city officials and residents agree: The Back 40 has only devolved into an in-

creasingly unsanitary, unregulated and unhealthy space in recent months.

"I really believe people brought too much attention to this place," Washington added. "This is disrupting an entire culture, and there wasn't a lot of time to work on it, but there are options available for these folks. They just need to be out here. At the end of the day, they all want what we have: Dignity, safety, a sense of belonging."

Betz, who replaced Washington on the Council, was at the camp Monday, keeping guard with a group of volunteers with the Poor People's Campaign, an advocacy team dedicated to eradicating racism, poverty and other social issues. Betz disagrees with the city's plan to shut down the camp, but if it was going to happen, someone needed to ensure it was done humanely, he said.

"I thought it was best to keep watch," Betz said. "With this mayor, you just never know." Betz is among those who have demanded Schor's resignation over issues of civil rights and social equity.

Coleman said the Lansing Police Department won't be involved in any forceful plans to clear out the camp. The city doesn't intend to criminalize homelessness, she said. For her, it's all about ensuring that residents of the camp have access to other options. It's still unclear what will happen to those who refuse to take advantage of them, but forced removal doesn't sound likely.

"There are operational teeth and a plan to move this forward, but I cannot speak to this plan," Coleman explained. "It's now up to code enforcement, and I haven't been involved with that."

In addition to available space at local shelters and drop-in centers, Coleman said the city also plans to reopen the Gier Park Community Center by Jan. 6 for those who need a place to stay. If the

Piles of food waste, trash and feces are a common sight at the Back 40. Its unsanitary conditions are part of the motivation behind efforts to shut it down.



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

cold weather becomes unbearable before then, it could reopen even sooner, she said.

"That's being set up as we speak," Coleman explained on Tuesday morning.

Coleman also said the city has no active plans to clear out other homeless encampments in Lansing, including one near Frandor and another steadily growing camp on the north side. The Back 40 was targeted, in part, because of its large size, she said. The others are much smaller.

In the meantime, advocates said residents who are looking to support the local homeless community can donate directly to service agencies (like the City Rescue Mission or Holy Cross Services) that have been engaged in the battle against homelessness for the last several years.

The City Rescue Mission, in particular, is searching for cereal, granola bars, coffee, stuffing mix, turkey gravy, tissues, cough drops, chapstick, gloves, insulated clothing and more. And those who remained at the encampment only voiced one request on Tuesday morning: "More tents."

— KYLE KAMINSKI

# The Whitmer-Shirkey relationship: The gulf remains deep

We would say “bullshit.” Michigan’s Senate majority leader is a bit more refined.

Mike Shirkey would prefer to say, “Bovine secretion.” That’s what he calls the Gov.

Gretchen Whitmer administration’s latest economic shut-downs on restaurants and eating at entertainment venues.

The governor’s calculation here is pretty plain.

A bunch of people indoors + eating without a mask on = COVID spread.

“I think it’s clear that the pause is working,” Whitmer said at her year’s end press conference. “We should all take credit for that.”

The Senate majority leader doesn’t share this opinion and is using the administration’s own data to prove it. If the shutdown is working, why were new COVID case numbers already going down?

If the shutdown was working, why are Wisconsin’s COVID case numbers mirroring Michigan’s when they didn’t have a restaurant shutdown?

Whitmer argues Ohio didn’t have a shutdown and their numbers are still all over the place.

Where does the back-and-forth end? It’s not, and that’s really the point.

The statewide political division of 2020 should be decelerating after the election. Instead, it’s motoring right through into 2021. The philosophical divide between the governor’s economic shutdowns designed to stop coronavirus and the Legislature’s more voluntary compliance approach has put them a functional island.

Lawmakers sail over a few bills to Whitmer now and again to keep government running. They’re sign off on more money for the unemployed and businesses. Their input on Michigan’s coronavirus containment strategy?

It’s worth about as much as this column or your letter to the editor.

The gulf is deep. Whitmer and Shirkey rarely talk, if they do at all. They negotiate through their respective staffs and individual members like Senate Appropriations Chairman Jim Stamas.

Chatfield has tried to mediate. Even-tempered and good-natured Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich has tried to play marriage counselor to these two



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

strong Type A personalities.

Nothing has worked.

Even former Gov. Jennifer Granholm and former Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop would tolerate being in the same room together. Not these two.

I’ve touched on it in prior columns, but here’s the recap.

It all goes back to Whitmer’s 45-cent gas tax increase proposal back in 2019. Whitmer played ball with Shirkey and Chatfield on an auto insurance reform designed to roll back rates.

This was Republicans’ big issue, not Whitmer’s, but she gave in (to the objection of her trial attorney allies). If she helped them with their issue, they’d help her with a gas tax increase to fix the damn roads, right?

Well, their best counteroffer was 20 cents spread over four years. That wasn’t good enough for the governor. She let them know. They didn’t budge. She didn’t budget. They played a game of chicken with the budget. Neither veered off the road. The head-on collision was spectacular if like watching car wrecks.

That’s the Cliff Notes version.

It’s all spilled over into how the state is responding to the country’s worst pandemic in 100 years and there’s no end in sight.

Today, it’s Michigan’s COVID response plan.

Tomorrow, it’s how the state is distributing vaccines. (Are enough going to rural areas where medical options are slim?)

The next day maybe it’s a new strain of the virus that the vaccine doesn’t work as well against.

The rough facts are staying the same. The governor believes it’s the government’s obligation to slow the virus’ spread through mandated orders to slow people’s movement. The majority leader believes if people are given the information on how to slow the virus, they will do the right thing.

“Trusting people. Stopping with the fear forecasting and instead inform, inspire and encourage our citizens is a proven and robust action,” he says.

“I’m not going to debate someone’s philosophy or opinions. I’m going to follow the science and listen to the experts. When we do that, it works,” she says.

That’s where we are.

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



Advanced Communications & Data



FAST.  
LOCAL.  
RELIABLE.

## HERE AT ACD, WE OFFER:

- INTERNET SPEEDS UP TO 1,000 Mbps
- THE #1 PHONE FOR CARRIER GRADE SERVICE
- 24/7/365 LOCAL SUPPORT
- THE ACCESSION APP SO YOU CAN TAKE YOUR WORK PHONE WITH YOU ANYWHERE!

CONTACT US TODAY!

(517)999-9999 | [www.acd.net](http://www.acd.net) | [sales@acd.net](mailto:sales@acd.net)



**As Seen On the Cover of CityPulse**  
 Illustrations • Murals • Graphic Design  
 Signs • Banners • T-Shirts • Logos  
 nevin@nevingraphics.com  
**517-703-4655**  
 ArtByNevin Art\_By\_Nevin

## CRIMINAL DEFENSE



**Drunk Driving  
Embezzlement  
Drugs  
Homicide  
All Federal  
and State Crimes**

45 YEARS -  
AGGRESSIVE  
LITIGATION  
EFFECTIVE  
MEDIATION

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

**487-6603**  
1223 Turner St., Ste 333, Lansing  
www.stushafer.com



## Lansing City Council 2021 Meeting Schedule

Monday, January 4, 2021; Annual Organizational - 1st meeting of year  
 Monday, January 11, 2021  
 Monday, January 25, 2021  
 Monday, February 8, 2021  
 Monday, February 22, 2021; Board List - prior to first meeting in March  
 Monday, March 8, 2021  
 Monday, March 22, 2021; Mayor's Budget - on or before 4th Monday in March  
 Monday, April 12, 2021  
 Monday, April 26, 2021; Mayor's Board Appointments - prior to first meeting in May  
 Monday, May 3, 2021  
 Monday, May 10, 2021  
 Monday, May 17, 2021; Adopt Budget - not later than 3rd Monday in May  
 Monday, June 7, 2021 Council Act on Appointments - at or before 1st meeting in June  
 Monday, June 21, 2021  
 Monday, July 12, 2021  
 Monday, July 26, 2021  
 Monday, August 9, 2021  
 Monday, August 23, 2021  
 Monday, August 30, 2021  
 Monday, September 13, 2021  
 Monday, September 20, 2021; Budget Priorities - no later than October 1  
 Monday, October 11, 2021  
 Monday, October 25, 2021  
 Monday, November 8, 2021  
 Monday, November 29, 2021  
 Monday, December 13, 2021

All meetings will be on Monday at 7:00 p.m. in one of the following meeting locations, virtual Webinar, the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor City Hall, or South Washington Office Complex, 3200 S. Washington, Lansing MI 48910. The meeting location (or, if virtual, the meeting ID and instructions for access) will be posted on the notice of the public meeting in accordance with state statute.

**Chris Swope, CMMC/MMC**  
 Lansing City Clerk  
 City.Clerk@lansingmi.gov  
 www.LansingMI.gov/Clerk

**CP#20-322**

**B/21/046 LPD MOTORCYCLES** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids electronically on line at [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info) or at the City of Lansing Purchasing Office, 124 W. Michigan Ave 8th Floor, Lansing, Michigan 48933 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **JAN. 7, 2021** 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 email: 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#20-315**

### ORDINANCE # 2620

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN, PROVIDING FOR THE REZONING OF A PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN AND FOR THE REVISION OF THE DISTRICT MAPS ADOPTED BY SECTION 1246.02 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES.

The City of Lansing ordains:

Section 1. That the district maps adopted by and incorporated as Section 1246.02 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing, Michigan be amended to provide as follows:

To change the zoning classification of the property described as follows:  
 Case Number: Z-3-2020  
 Parcel Number's: 33-01-01-22-133-102  
 Address: 1030 S. Holmes Street  
 Legal Descriptions: Lots 1 through 13 inclusive & Lots 21 through 34 inclusive, Block 11, Manufacturers Addition No. 2, from "D-1" Professional Office and "B" Residential districts to "DM-4" Residential district.

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions hereof are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance was duly adopted by the Lansing City Council on December 14, 2020, and a copy is available in the office of the Lansing City Clerk, 9th Floor, City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect on the 30th day after enactment.

**Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/CMMC**  
[www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk](http://www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk)  
[www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope](https://www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope)

**CP#20-321**

### ORDINANCE # 2618

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN, PROVIDING FOR THE REZONING OF A PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN AND FOR THE REVISION OF THE DISTRICT MAPS ADOPTED BY SECTION 1246.02 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES.

The City of Lansing ordains:

Section 1. That the district maps adopted by and incorporated as Section 1246.02 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing, Michigan be amended to provide as follows:

To change the zoning classification of the property described as follows:  
 Case Number: Z-8-2019  
 Parcel Number's: 33-01-05-04-202-021  
 Address: 5400 S. Cedar Street  
 Legal Descriptions: Commencing 7 feet West of the Southeast Corner of Lot 7, Jolly-Cedar Plaza, Thence South 175.78 feet, Thence West 268 feet, Thence South 326 Feet to the North line of the Consumers Power right-of-way, West 645.64 feet, North 600 feet, East 405.33 feet, South 98.07 feet, East 506.14 feet to the point of beginning; Section 4, T3N R2W, from "F" Commercial & "J" Parking Districts to "G-2" Wholesale District with the following conditions which shall run with the land and are binding upon all future owners thereof:

- \* No marijuana facilities of any kind may be established on the property
- \* The proposed storage building located north of the S. Cedar Street driveway will have an architectural design that is consistent with the rendering shown on the plan dated 8/29/2019
- \* The site improvements shown on the plan dated 8/29/2019, which includes landscaping, a connection path to the abutting non-motorized pathway and the provision of a bicycle rest area, will be installed prior to occupancy of the existing building or any new buildings on the site.

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions hereof are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance was duly adopted by the Lansing City Council on December 14, 2020, and a copy is available in the office of the Lansing City Clerk, 9th Floor, City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect on the 30th day after enactment.

**Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/CMMC**  
[www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk](http://www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk)  
[www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope](https://www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope)

**CP#20-323**

## DON'T FORGET • WE'VE GOT

# THE PULSIFIEDS

BACKPAGE CLASSIFIEDS

# CityPULSE

**Rates start at \$24 for 4 lines**  
 Submit your classified ad to  
 Suzi Smith: 517-999-6704 or  
[suzi@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:suzi@lansingcitypulse.com)

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



All photos by Kaiti Chritz, Potter Park Zoo

Potter Park zookeeper Murphy Swartz (right) offers Jaali his favorite treat, an alfalfa cube, while zookeeper Ashleigh Winkelmann (center) gets lip service from Jaali's mother, Doppsee.

# A rhino grows in Lansing

## Baby's first year, from birth to 860 pounds

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

In the wee hours of Christmas 2019, a humble birth in a straw-lined barn in Lansing, Michigan, lit up the front page of The New York Times, was harked and heralded on NBC and NPR and spread comfort and joy around the world.

One year later, a sweet-tempered eastern black rhino named Jaali is pushing 1,000 pounds — a conservation triumph for the Potter Park Zoo, a star attraction for its 100th year and a precious package of genes with the potential to help a critically endangered species come back from the brink of extinction. There are only about 5,000 eastern black rhinos alive in the wild and fewer than 60 in accredited zoos.

While a turbulent 2020 raged outside the zoo, Jaali quietly grew a horn and learned how to

be a rhino. Here's an inside look at Jaali's first year, from his wobbly first steps to summer sparring matches in the yard with his mom, Doppsee, to this week's gala birthday cake, a vegetarian browser's fantasia of watermelon, alfalfa cubes and peanut butter frosting.

### Raring to go

Pat Fountain, head zookeeper at Potter Park Zoo, summed up 2020 as a "very special and very difficult" year.

"We didn't get the chance to share Jaali with everyone like we wanted to," Fountain said. The zoo closed to the public March 14 for the first COVID-19 lockdown and reopened, to outdoor viewing only, June 18, with strict distancing guidelines.

None of that stopped Jaali and her mother, Doppsee, from instantly joining the ranks

of pandemic-year Facebook and Twitter stars. Jaunty trots around the yard, sparring matches, tender moments, mud baths — the rhino reality show never stops.

"The year has been amazing on social media," zookeeper Ashleigh Winkelmann said. "People all over the world are following Jaali."

On the day after Christmas, zoo veterinarian Ronan Eustace verified that the baby was fine, in what may have been the world's fastest neo-natal exam.

"We were able to separate Doppsee from Jaali very, very briefly," Eustace said. Doppsee, a 3,000-pound first-time mom, was visibly getting more nervous by the second. "We wanted to do more things, but we didn't want to stress her out."

Eustace checked Jaali for abnormalities like heart murmurs or cleft palate and made

sure the major organs were functioning.

"You could tell just by looking at him that he was a very healthy rhino calf," Eustace said. "He was making the right sort of noises, moved normally, and he got up and nursed right away."

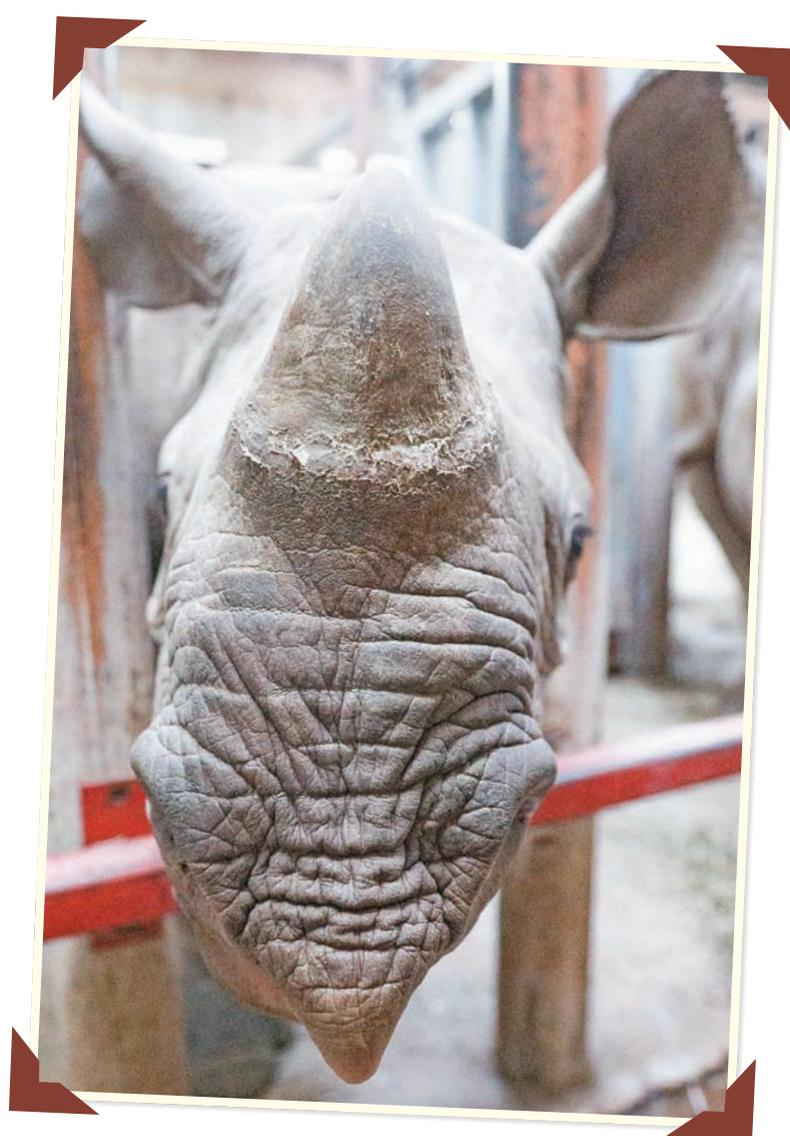
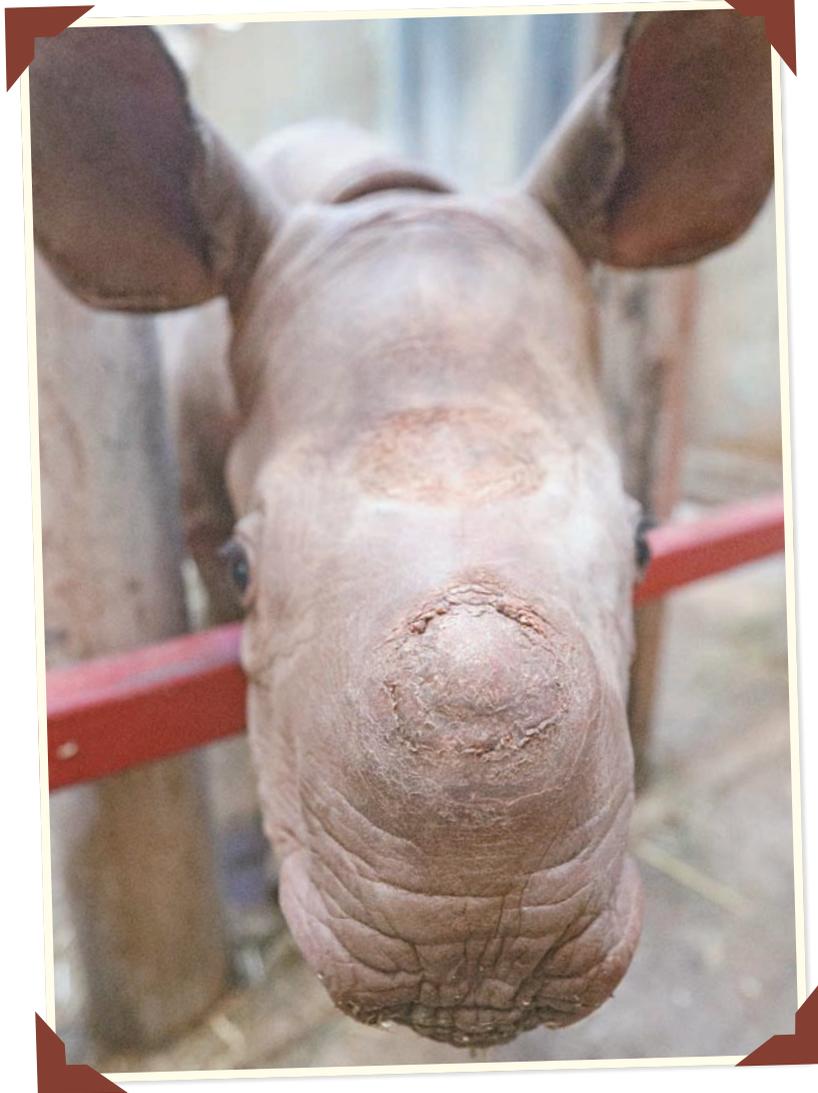
Rhinos are a "precocial" species, meaning they barrel into the world like a miniature adult, without going through a long, drawn-out series of developmental milestones. For example, Jaali was walking within 90 minutes.

"It's not like a human baby," Eustace said. "They're pretty much raring to go within a few hours."

For several weeks after Jaali was born, keepers monitored the barn via closed circuit TV.

"We got to watch what rhinos do at night when we're all sleep-

See Jaali, Page 16



Before and after Jaali grew his horn.

## Jaali

from page 15

ing,” zookeeper Kim Hernandez said. “For one thing, Doppsee likes to rearrange her house.” The barn floor was lined with straw instead of wood chips to make it easier for Jaali to keep her footing. Some nights, Doppsee spent hours pushing the straw around until it was just right.

For the first several weeks, mother and baby were inseparable 24 hours a day, but night footage showed Doppsee taking some “me time” after that, leaving Jaali to sleep at the far side of the barn.

By early January, Jaali was mouthing food and hay (without swallowing yet). By the middle of the month, he was coming up to the keepers to be petted.

The tight-knit community of rhino handlers already knew of Doppsee’s remarkably gregarious and calm disposition during her pregnancy. It looked as if Jaali was picking up the same personality.

His gregariousness encouraged zookeepers to start training him earlier than most rhino calves, but it took patience to coax him to step on the scale for his first weigh-in Feb. 22.

They started by coaxing Jaali to touch his nose or some other part of his body to a lollipop-like “target stick” and rewarding him with fruits and veggies. He gradually came closer to the scale and final-

ly stepped up. His most recent weigh-in, in November, came in at 390 kilos, just under 860 pounds. (He gains about 10 to 20 pounds a week.) He’ll likely top 1,000 pounds, or half a ton, by the end of the year.

### Rhino en pointe

Doppsee’s and Jaali’s easy-going temperament is an exception to the rule in the rhino world, and a god-send to Eustace as he sees to their health and safety without any part of him being crushed or impaled.

Rhinos are prone to foot ailments, so keepers trained Jaali to raise his foot in a rhino version of ballet pointe for inspections, nail filing and other cleaning and maintenance. At the sound of the word “foot,” he will raise his foot on a 3-inch block, allowing Eustace or a student to reach under and do a blood draw from the tender skin of his opposite thigh. Jaali has also learned to open his mouth on command, so Eustace and the keepers can check on his teeth.

But Jaali and Doppsee have nothing on Phineus, the Potter Park’s resident male rhino, who can sit and lay down on command. (He learned those clinically useless but entertaining behaviors at his previous digs, the Caldwell Zoo in Tyler, Texas.)

It’s rare for any big animal, let alone a rhino, to stand still and allow a safe blood draw or vaccination. The Potter Park Zoo’s 700-pound, full-grown bongo (a species of antelope) has to be darted with a tranquilizer to get a shot — a stressful

time for the bongo and a heavy lift for all concerned.

“Usually, any species over 100 kilograms — that sort of manual stuff is off the table, because they’re just too strong,” Eustace said. “It takes 10 people to lift up a bongo that weighs 300 kilos.”

But Jaali hasn’t flinched yet at a blood draw or a vaccination.

“I try my best not to dart an animal unless I really have to,” Eustace said. “No matter what you do, the animal doesn’t really understand it. It’s always a negative experience. But with Jaali, I just come up to him, scratch him, give him an injection and he just stands there.”

Rhinos look indestructible, but they are subject to perils such as leptospirosis, a bacterial blood infection that infects wild and domestic mammals and spreads to (and from) humans.

The infection, which can lead to kidney disease or rupture of red blood cells, has been a significant cause of death in black rhinos in captivity.

Jaali has been vaccinated for leptospirosis, rabies, West Nile virus and eastern equine encephalitis viruses, known to veterinarians as “triple E.”

“Two years ago, Michigan had a triple E outbreak where 10 people died and there were multiple cases in horses,” Eustace said.

Eustace doesn’t know yet whether any zoo animals, rhinos included, will get a coronavirus vaccine. Researchers are still learning how the virus spreads among animals and how serious a threat it is to

them.

In April, a 4-year-old Malayan tiger at the Bronx Zoo tested positive for COVID-19. Four other tigers and three African lions there later tested positive.

In December, four lions at the Barcelona Zoo tested positive. None of them got seriously ill.

“They were infected from their keepers, who didn’t know they were infected,” Eustace said. “Large tigers and lions are more susceptible than domestic house cats, for whatever reason.” He guessed that the small number of big cats and their limited gene pool might play a role.

The Potter Park Zoo staff is tracking the pandemic as it unfolds and modifying its treating of some animals, such as ferrets, when their counterparts in other zoos get COVID.

“Our interactions with Jaali were a lot easier and a lot more natural when we didn’t have to wear face masks and he could see us,” Hernandez said.

When Jaali was newborn, keepers wore gloves when touching him, but after a few weeks, both rhino and humans delighted in skin on skin contact.

“Then we had to wear face masks and gloves again,” Hernandez sighed.

Meanwhile, Eustace visits Jaali regularly for a social call and head scratch. That way, Jaali doesn’t associate him only with pokes and probes.

Potter Park’s rhinos have kept

See Jaali, Page 17

# Jaali

from page 16

Eustace busy all year. MSU large animal vets helped him with a complicated and very heavy lift this year: anesthetizing and performing an upper gastrointestinal endoscopy on Jaali's father, Phineus.

In late September, Eustace and the zoo staff again examined Phineus, working with Monica Stoops, one of the nation's top rhino reproductive experts.

In a historic step toward species conservation, Stoops collected semen from Phineus to freeze it for artificial insemination work. The semen can even be sexed, so researchers can target-breed to produce males or females, according to need.

"We're really happy that we could help out with these reproduction conservation studies," Eustace said. "There are only so many black rhinos."

## Snow and mud

The Potter Park Zoo's rhino barn is still closed to the public, but viewing windows permit a peek inside. If the temperature is above 20 degrees and there's no ice to slip on, the rhinos are free to roam the yard, where they are quite easy to spot, to say the least.

"Doppsee loves snow," Winkelmann said. "When we get a lot of snow, she loves to go out and run around, get her horn into the snow and toss it in the air."

Last week, keepers brought a few buckets of snow into the barn and showed it to Jaali.

"He hasn't seen what Michigan winters are," Winkelmann said. "It will be really interesting to see what he does with a lot of snow when we get it."

Throughout the year, keepers introduce a variety of stimuli to the daily round of eating, sleeping and hanging out in the yard. Spices and perfumes are brought in for the rhinos to smell. (They seem to enjoy cumin.) Food is often packed into "boomer balls," thick plastic balls they love to bat around until the food pops out.

Alfalfa cubes are Jaali's favorite treat. Apples, sweet potatoes and carrots are popular with all the rhinos, but they also eat pumpkin, watermelon, greens, peanut butter and cereal, in addition to their ever-present nutritional pellets.

The rhinos seem to prize peppermint candies most highly of all — so highly that only the veterinarians are allowed to dole them out, for positive reinforcement.

In the wild, rhinos spend much of the day munching tasty leaves and branches from live trees and shrubs. It's hard to mimic the diet of browsers in a zoo, but keepers try to freshen up the "browse" regularly by placing branches around

the yard.

The public is encouraged to contribute browsing material to the zoo. A list of nontoxic plants that make for good browsing, from dogwood and forsythia to honeysuckle, sugar maple and willow, is available at [potterparkzoo.org/fresh-browse-donation-program](http://potterparkzoo.org/fresh-browse-donation-program). (People who plan to trim a tree soon can call Fountain at 483-4222. In winter, the zoo staff will accept branches without leaves.)

In the summer, the rhinos enjoy long wallows in chocolatey mud. "The mud is really good for them," Winkelmann said. "It acts as a sun block and protects their skin. It's a natural behavior, and we help them do it." In winter, when the ground is hard, the keepers bring a large bucket of soupy mud into the barn and rub it on the rhinos.

"We get real dirty with them, and they seem to really enjoy it," zookeeper Murphy Swartz said. "It's like a spa day for them."

For Jaali's birthday on Christmas Eve, zookeepers will whip up a special "cake" made of iced watermelon and other fruit, most likely with peanut butter frosting.

There won't be a live feed, but footage will go up on the zoo's website, where followers from around the world will share in the festivities.

## 'They need more rhinos'

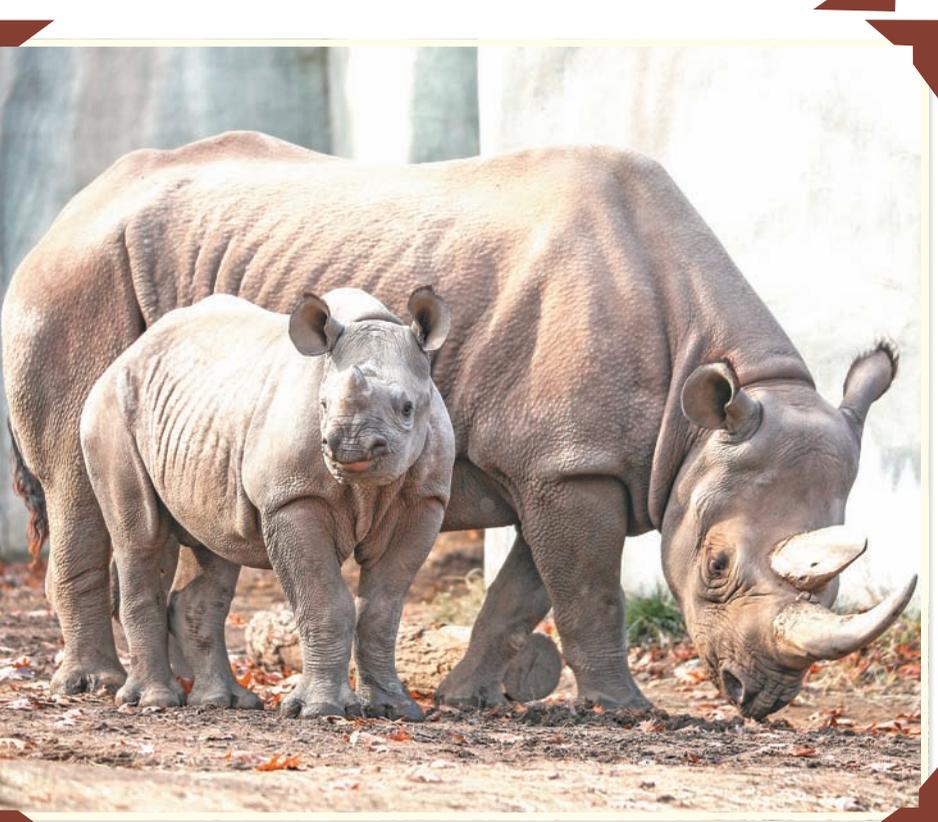
As zoos evolve from entertainment venues to indispensable arks of conservation, they're not shy about putting cute baby animals to serious work. Jaali, Doppsee and Phineus are part of an international managed breeding plan, a Hail Mary pass for a mighty line of megafauna that's hanging on by its three massive toes.

Only about 27,000 rhinos remain in the wild today, down from 500,000 at the turn of the 20th century, according to the World Wildlife Foundation. Most of them live in national parks or wildlife preserves in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Kenya, where it's harder for poachers to get to them, but there is no such thing as a safe space. In 2017, poachers shot and killed a rhino living in a zoo near Paris and removed its horn.

Rhino horn is worth more than diamonds on the black market, owing largely to widespread beliefs, especially in Asia, that they work any number of miracles, from curing cancer to enhancing sex drive.

Jaali's species, the eastern black rhino, is slowly bouncing back from a low point of about 2,500 20 years ago to 5,000 at present, but that's still a tiny fraction of the 100,000 black rhinos that once roamed east Africa. Worldwide, there are about 60 eastern black rhinos and about 1,000 rhinos of all species living in zoos.

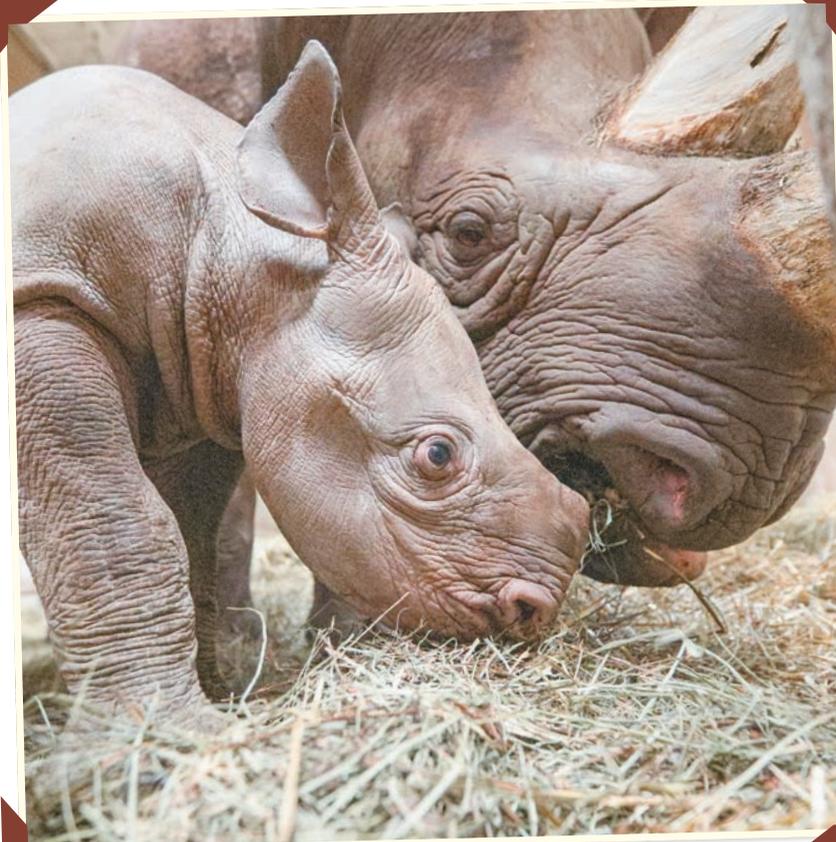
See Jaali, Page 18



(Top) Jaali is a curious sort and began to butt objects in the yard early in the spring. (Center) Rhinos browse on leaves and twigs in the wild, a habitat that's hard to mimic in zoos. The public is invited to donate fresh browsing materials that are safe for them to eat; see the zoo's Web site for details. (Bottom) Jaali seldom left his mother Doppsee's side all year.



Jaali takes a midsummer rest.



A tender moment in early spring, when rhino horns first come into bud.

## Jaali

from page 17

“There’s just not enough to be genetically sustainable over 100 years,” Eustace said. “They need more rhinos.”

Phineus’ sperm is already in a bank, awaiting timely deployment. In a few years, a breeding recommendation for Jaali will likely take him to a zoo where his sperm is needed to keep the gene pool viable.

“Hopefully Doppsee will get pregnant in another few years, she’ll have another

baby and she continues to have lots of calves in her lifetime,” Eustace said.

In a race against time, the Potter Park Zoo is participating in a comprehensive black rhino study organized by the Smithsonian National Zoo.

With blood samples from Jaali and rhinos around the country, Smithsonian researchers are developing a genetic profile of the captive rhino population, to make breeding programs as healthy and productive as possible.

That’s a lot of responsibility for a little guy, but Jaali seems to take it in stride. In several years, he will likely get a “breeding recommendation” and be paired with a female at another zoo, as

his father, Phineus, was.

“Right now, the plan is just for him continue to learn to be a happy, healthy rhino from his mom,” Eustace said.

For Winkelmann, Swartz, Hernandez and fellow keepers Adriana Davidson and Amy Pierce, 2020 was a year like no other.

To Hernandez, the past year has been especially sweet after over two years of hard work laying the groundwork for Jaali’s birth, from multiple rounds of carefully managed mating encounters to Doppsee’s long pregnancy.

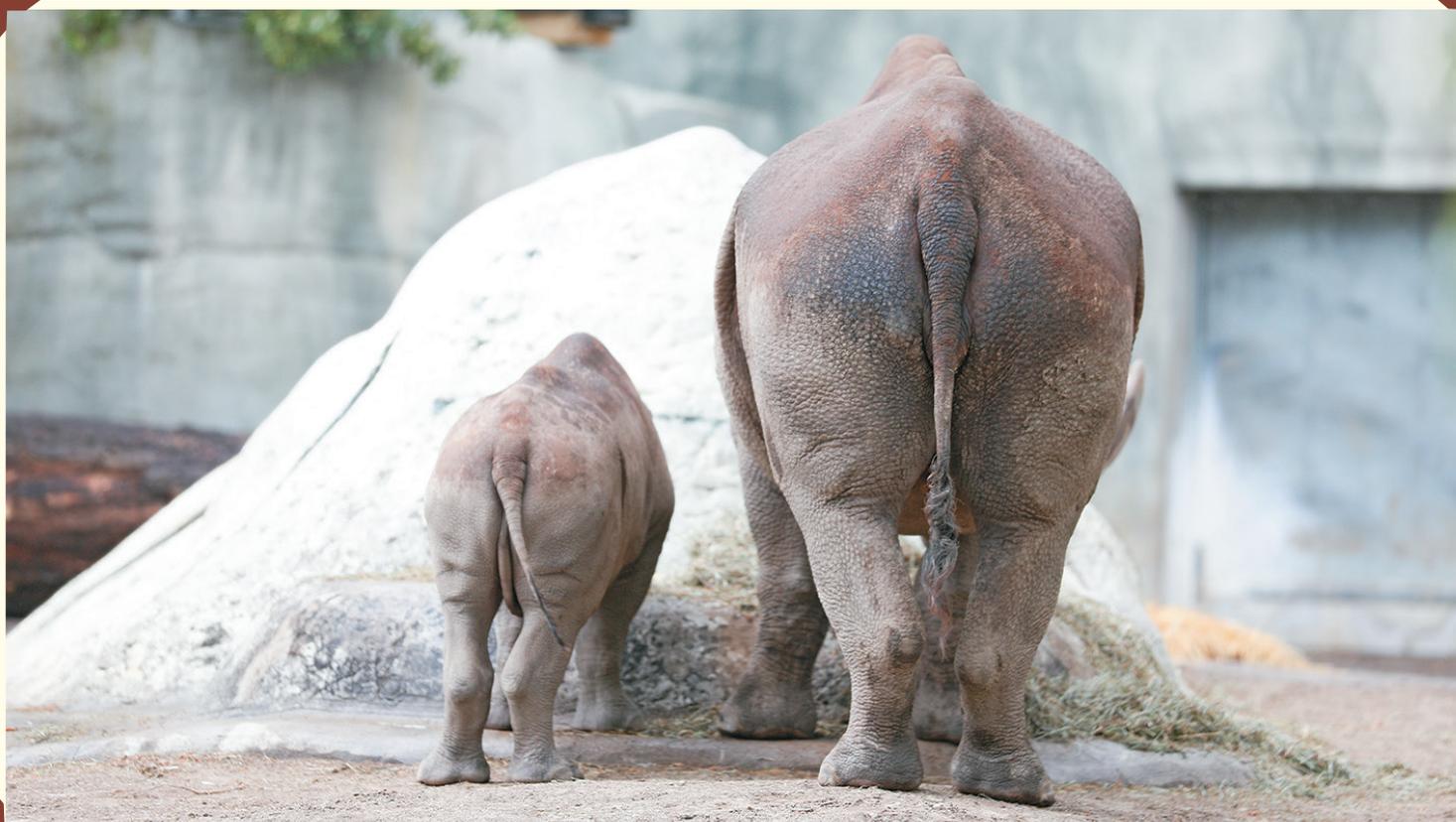
“As testosterone kicks in, he could change and become more like his Dad, but he’s just so mellow, not your typical

rhino,” Hernandez said.

Jaali’s first birthday brings Swartz’s thoughts back to her most vivid memory as a zookeeper.

In late 2019, Swartz got a chance to put her hand on Doppsee’s stomach, where a spunky Jaali was almost ready to see daylight.

Rhinos can muster up some pretty impressive intestinal rumbles, but this was not that. “It was unmistakable, having a foot kick your hand through her stomach,” Swartz said. “You’re just in awe, ecstatic. Now he’s here, in the zoo, running circles in the yard, sparring with Mom, doing natural behaviors he would do in the wild.”



Potter Park’s rhinos can be seen in the yard, if it’s warmer than 20 degrees and there’s no ice; if not, visitors can get a glimpse through viewing windows into the barn. So long for now.

**CITY OF LANSING  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**Z-7-2020, 500 N. Cedar Street & 514 Erie Street  
Rezoning from "H" Light Industrial to "G-1" Business**

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., via ZOOM Conferencing, Meeting ID 824 7315 3790, to consider Z-7-2020, a request by MVAH Development to rezone the property located at 500 N. Cedar Street and 514 Erie Street from "H" Light Industrial district to "G-1" Business district. The purpose of the rezoning is to permit the properties to be used for multiple family residential/multi-generational housing.

Note: Michigan Director of Health and Human Services Robert Gordon's Order of October 9, 2020 regarding Gather Prohibition and Face Covering, as well as states of emergency declared by the Mayor and approved by City Council have led to a closure of City Hall to public at this time due to COVID-19. Public observation and participation may be facilitated electronically in accordance with the Open Meetings Act as amended, in an effort to protect the health and safety of the public.

Members of the public wishing to participate in the meeting may do so by logging into or calling into the meetings using the website <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82473153790> or by phone number 312-626-6799 using meeting ID: 824 7315 3790.

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

For more information, please call 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., on the day of the Public Hearing at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email [city.clerk@lansingmi.gov](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov).

**Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/CMMC**  
[www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk](http://www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk)  
[www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope](https://www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope)

**CP#20-317**

**ORDINANCE # 2619**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN, PROVIDING FOR THE REZONING OF A PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN AND FOR THE REVISION OF THE DISTRICT MAPS ADOPTED BY SECTION 1246.02 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES.

The City of Lansing ordains:

Section 1. That the district maps adopted by and incorporated as Section 1246.02 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing, Michigan be amended to provide as follows:

To change the zoning classification of the property described as follows:

Case Number: Z-2-2020

Parcel Numbers: 33-01-05-05-126-101

Address: 5528 S. M.L. King Jr. Blvd.

Legal Descriptions: Commencing at the Southerly corner of Lot 6 on the Westerly line of M-99, thence Northwesterly along the Southerly lot line 650 feet, Northeast to a point on the Northeastly lot line 550 feet Northwesterly from the Easterly corner, Southerly 550 feet to the Easterly corner, Southwesterly to the point of beginning; Creyts Subdivision, from "D-1" Professional Office district to "F" Commercial district.

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions hereof are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance was duly adopted by the Lansing City Council on December 14, 2020, and a copy is available in the office of the Lansing City Clerk, 9th Floor, City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect on the 30th day after enactment.

**Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/CMMC**  
[www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk](http://www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk)  
[www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope](https://www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope)

**CP#20-320**

**CITY OF EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN**

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION**

RESOLUTION EXTENDING STATE OF EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION AND ORDER REQUIRING FACE COVERINGS IN CITY DDA POLICY RESOLUTION NO. 2020-11

Date: December 15, 2020

WHEREAS, the City adopted Ordinance No. 1488, which authorizes the Mayor to declare or proclaim a City State of Emergency and to subsequently promulgate orders rules and regulations to protect life and property or to bring the emergency situation under control; and

WHEREAS, in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and increased cases and hospitalizations in Ingham County, the Mayor properly proclaimed and declared a continuing City State of Emergency on November 6, 2020 ("Proclamation"); and

WHEREAS, in an effort to protect life and bring the emergency under control, the Mayor ordered on November 6, 2020, that all persons on the public sidewalks and streets in the City DDA District must wear face coverings over their mouths and noses, subject to certain exceptions ("Order"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Section 10-34e of the Ordinance, the City Council concurred within and consented to the Proclamation and Order and resolved on November 10, 2020, that the Proclamation and Order would extend through December 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, because COVID-19 continues to threaten the lives of those in the City, the City Council wishes to further extend the Proclamation and Order.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of East Lansing hereby extends the terms of the Proclamation of Continuing State of Emergency dated November 6, 2020, and the Order Requiring Face Coverings in City DDA District dated November 6, 2020, through January 31, 2021, at 11:59 p.m

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this City Council may terminate the Proclamation and Order sooner or may further extend the Proclamation and Order by resolution as circumstances warrant.

Jennifer Shuster  
City Clerk

**CP#20-327**

**CITY OF LANSING  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held at City Hall, Council Chambers located at 124 W. Michigan Avenue, on Monday, January 11, 2021, at 7 p.m. in City Council Chambers, Tenth Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, for the purpose of receiving additional public input on the Parks and Recreation Draft Master Plan 2020-2025.

Note: Michigan Director of Health and Human Services Robert Gordon's Order of October 9, 2020 regarding Gather Prohibition and Face Covering, as well as states of emergency declared by the Mayor and approved by City Council have led to a closure of City Hall to public at this time due to COVID-19. Public observation and participation may be facilitated electronically in accordance with the Open Meetings Act as amended, in an effort to protect the health and safety of the public.

Members of the public wishing to participate in the meeting may do so by logging into or calling into the meetings using the website <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82473153790> or by phone number +1 646 876 9923 using meeting ID: 824 7315 3790.

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

For more information, please call Parks and Recreation Department 517-483-4042. These documents are available for review at the office of the City Clerk or at <http://www.lansingmi.gov/clerk> under the heading of Documents Placed on File. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, January 11, 2021, at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email [city.clerk@lansingmi.gov](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov).

**Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/CMMC**  
[www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk](http://www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk)  
[www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope](https://www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope)

**CP#20-319**

**CityPULSE**

**Now available in all**



**Speedway stores in  
Greater Lansing!**

**Don't see it?  
Please ask a manager.**

# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## How Biggby helped bring gourmet coffee to the masses

By SKYLER ASHLEY

These days, there's a boutique coffee shop on every corner in any given city. For younger generations, it's hard to imagine a world without a decent selection of coffeehouses. As he reflects on 25 years of success, Biggby Coffee cofounder and co-CEO Bob Fish recalls a faithful trip to Seattle back in 1993 as the moment he knew specialty coffee would finally takeoff nationwide.

"As kid, I grew up in England, France and Germany. I didn't think America was ever going to catch up with specialty coffee," Fish said. "But there it was."

At the time, Fish was operating a Flap Jack restaurant with his partner and fellow Biggby cofounder Mary Roszel. Impressed by the boutique coffee scene in Seattle, he began envisioning bringing that trend back home to East Lansing.

"I remember coming home and telling Mary that as much as we loved Flap Jack, it was time to move on," Fish said. "There was something very special happening in Greater Lansing, which had 35 coffee shops by 1995. But there weren't 35 coffee shops in all of Southeast Michigan or Grand Rapids. It's not often Lansing is at the cutting edge."

Fish and Roszel sold the restaurant and took a year off to master the specialty coffee industry. Their research included a three months stay in Seattle, where they studied under micro roasters and learned the tricks of the trade.

"I knew specialty coffee as a consumer, but I never knew it from a production perspective. I learned that, came back and wrote up a business plan," Fish said.

Fish and Roszel tracked down the original Biggby location, which is being demolished, in late 1994. After converting it from an Arby's, the very first Biggby, then known as Beaner's, was operational.

"Prior to that moment in time, going to a coffee shop in America meant getting a cup with your breakfast at Big Boy," Fish said.

At the very first shop, Fish and Roszel were incredibly hands-on. Fish has plenty of memories of working all-day shifts, brewing and serving coffee and sweeping the floors and wiping down the countertops. If you stopped by in 1995, chances are you were served by one of the founders. This approach led them to Michael McFall, a barista who would later manage the second Biggby and is now co-CEO with Fish.

"I came in to interview him, and it

was a nice spring day so we went for a walk," Fish said. "Four hours later we came back, shook hands and decided that we'd become partners to grow Biggby coffee."

Biggby Coffee struck a nerve by offering gourmet flavor profiles minus the pretentious attitudes and hard to pronounce Italian words. Giving drinks cozy names like Teddy Bear and Caramel Marvel made all the difference. "We didn't trip you up over what you didn't know. Nobody knows what a macchiato is, so we called it a Caramel Marvel," Fish said.

As their name became well established in Greater Lansing, Fish, Roszel and McFall set out to develop a franchise. With just two locations opened, Fish said Biggby was often mistaken for a chain anyway. People would call in to ask where the company was based. "That led us to believe we had a franchise-able concept," Fish said. "I would consider Michael and I teachers, so the idea of giving people a system and coaching them along to create a successful business fit our personalities well."

By 2006, there were 60 Biggby locations and Fish and company crossed paths with Fred DeLuca, cofounder of Subway. DeLuca, who oversaw Subway's growth into the largest fast food chain in the world, mentored the team on franchising and almost acquired an equity stake in Biggby before his death

in 2015.

"He's a big part of the reason why Biggby is at 250 units in 9 states, with another 110 in the pipeline," Fish said.

Perhaps the biggest challenge in Biggby's history came in 2007, when the company needed a new name due to the word beaner's usage as a racial slur. Rebranding a massive business can be highly polarizing, usually yearning unfettered praise or great disdain — just look at New Coke if you want to see how ugly it can get.

"We didn't know it was a slur when we opened up. There was no outside pressure, but we as owners woke up every day knowing it was derogatory. We decided the right thing to do was to change the name," Fish said. "Folks groaned and said we were being 'too PC,' but we just said thank you and took it as a compliment."

Though Roszel would retire in 2012, Fish and McFall maintain complete control of the company. And while the coronavirus pandemic may have disrupted the 25th anniversary, Fish noted that sales are up 22 percent. He attributes the success in spite of the pandemic partially to Biggby's fully franchised setup.

"Our owners are always local. It's not some corporate-run entity. The customers knowing the owner made a real difference in the continuity of business we were able to provide," Fish said.



Fish

## Stacked signature sandwiches land in downtown Lansing

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Capital City Deli, located inside Meijer Capital City Market, offers gourmet sandwiches and salads whether you're at the new shopping center for some groceries or just to pick up a quick bite to eat.



### New in Town: Capital City Deli

Open for takeout  
Located inside the Capital City Market  
600 E. Michigan Ave.  
Lansing  
11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Daily  
(517) 930-8719,  
Capitalcitydeli.com

Capital City Deli is the creation of Michigan sandwich mogul Scott Schulz, who first got into the business 17 years ago with Cherry Deli and now owns several delicatessens — including West Side Deli, which is situated inside a similar Meijer market in downtown Grand Rapids. Based off the success of West Side Deli, Schulz was offered the opportunity to open another location inside Lansing's Capital City Market.

General manager Madeline Schulz said Capital City Deli earned its reputation by making its sandwiches very large and by offering an extremely

wide variety of ingredients and signature options. There are 59 different types of sandwiches available at the deli, with its take on the Reuben one of the most popular options. Capital City Deli also makes some nods to Lansing life, such as naming its blackened chicken sandwich after the Potter Park Zoo.

"We're really known for the amount of meat on our sandwiches, and the selection of what you can get on them," Schulz said.

Because the pandemic has shut down all dine-in options, customers have to pick up their sandwiches and

take them home. Capital City Deli has plans to eventually offer delivery through services like Door Dash and Uber Eats. Once the pandemic finally dies down and temperatures warm back up, six wide garage-style doors that open up right next to the deli will allow shoppers to enjoy summer sunlight and fresh spring air as they eat their sandwiches.

"We've never had a restaurant in Lansing, so we're learning as we go. We have a vast selection, and we think you'll be able to find something you like," Schulz said.

# Scholarship for LCC students honors memory of Ngere Abdul Wali

By **COLE TUNNINGLEY**

Penny Wali wanted to honor her husband's memory by lending a helping hand to students attending his alma mater, Lansing Community College. To do so, she started the Ngere Abdul Wali Scholarship Fund six years ago. The scholarship offers students \$1,000 — about the cost of three classes at LCC.

Preference is given to students enrolled in the African-American History program, though anyone with a GPA of at least 2.5 can apply. Also preferred are students who plan on enrolling in historically Black colleges and universities to pursue their four-year degree.

Wali's late husband dedicated his life to preserving African-American history. The two met at his shop, AfroVisions, in the Lansing Mall, which he owned and operated for over four decades, until he closed it in 2013.

In 1989, Wali was looking for a particularly hard to find Billie Holiday VHS tape.

"During lunch hour, I went over there to shop," said Wali. At the time, she worked at Michigan State University as the budget and personnel director for the student services office. "That's how I met him. I loved Billie Holiday, I loved jazz. I was just looking for that one VHS tape."

Wali said that she collects anything related to Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald. She had rented the VHS — which featured a group of talented jazz singers covering Billie Holiday tunes — from a local video store. When she



Wali

went to return the tape, she found out that the store had shut down.

Wali had planned to check out the film again. Instead, she went on a hunt to buy the tape, which led her to wander into her future husband's shop.

"He had art. He had music, films, posters, books. So, I went over there and asked him about that film," she said. "It took us a year and a half to look for it. We finally found it in Royal Oak. A year and a half after that, we got married." It's a story that sounds just like the plot of a rom-com.

To learn more about the Ngere Abdul Wali Memorial Scholarship, visit [Lansing.AcademicWorks.com/opportunities](http://Lansing.AcademicWorks.com/opportunities). The deadline to apply is Jan. 31, 2021

They had been married for 24 years when he passed away in 2014 at the age of 60. "We followed jazz, we followed music around the country," said Wali. "My husband played trumpet and flugelhorn. We went all around the country. We had a great life together."

Wali partnered with her sister, Vicki Barker of Oakland County, and her son, Malik, who is an aeronautical engineer at the Ford Motor Co., to find a way to continue the work that her husband started at AfroVisions.

The store was his way of educating the community about the contributions that African-Americans made to this country's history. So, since his death, Wali and her son started to sell her husband's vast collection of historical artifacts. Some of the buyers were old friends of her husband, educators who could use the materials in a way that respected his memory.

Fittingly, Wali said that she plans to donate everything that doesn't get sold to public schools and libraries.

"At this point, we wanted to contribute his material to educational institutions," explained Wali. "We're calling HBCUs and also looking at schools that have extensive libraries who could benefit from all this historical infor-

mation."

The scholarship is just another way for Wali to promote education. She chose to give the scholarship money to LCC students because her husband had a great experience there. He traveled to Japan and Kenya to build houses through a program offered at LCC.

Wali, who retired from Michigan State University in 2010 as director of budget and personnel in the student affairs office, wanted to support LCC in his honor because of his associations with it.

Wali also mentioned that her husband became a ping-pong champion while he was traveling abroad. She said that he played in the U.S. Open against professional Chinese players and won. "He was just an amazing man," she said. "And he had such an extensive history and such a great collection."

Starting the scholarship fund gave Wali the chance to create opportunities for students every year, so perhaps they can benefit from LCC as much as her husband did in his time there.

To her, the best part of founding a scholarship fund is receiving updates from the students. Every year, she gets letters from LCC students who are grateful for the help.

"We hear about what they're studying, where they're going to go to school, what their interests are. We really enjoy that," said Wali. "It helps keep my husband's legacy alive. You know, we're able to continue the educational process that he valued so much and dedicated his life to."

## Michigan Home Comfort FREE INSPECTIONS

### Air Duct Cleaning

AIR DUCT CLEANING HELPS

- REMOVE MOLD & ALLERGENS
- REDUCE DUST AND OTHER POLLUTANTS
- HELPS FURNACE EFFICIENCY



# \$50 OFF

AIR DUCT CLEANING

EXPIRES 1/4/2021



# MHC

Michigan Home Comfort.com

Open 8am - 8pm

618 E. Kalamazoo St.  
Lansing, MI, 48912

833-642-3828 • 517-975-5030

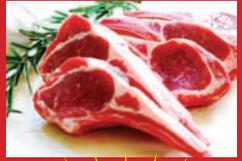
## FRESH MEAT MARKET





### DELIVERY AVAILABLE!

SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES!



### \$5 OFF

a \$30 purchase  
expires 1/4/2021

## SUNSET FOOD MARKET

618 E. KALAMAZOO ST • (517) 485-2028

9 AM-7 PM

### \$10 OFF

a \$50 purchase  
expires 1/4/2021

There's no **BETTER** time to jump-start your fitness plan



**45% OFF RETAIL**

**GARDEN OF LIFE PROTEINS & SPORTS NUTRITION**

- Protein powders and shakes
- Collagen
- Sports nutrition
- Select paleo and keto products
- Meal replacements and more

**4 DAYS ONLY DECEMBER 27-30**

Save on top-sellers like these...

<p>Garden of Life <b>Raw Organic Fit High Protein</b> Select Varieties</p> <p>32.2 oz</p> <p><b>34.99</b> MEMBER PRICE</p> 	<p>Garden of Life <b>Grass-Fed Collagen Peptides</b> Select Varieties</p> <p>19.75 oz</p> <p><b>24.19</b> MEMBER PRICE</p> 	<p>Garden of Life <b>Sport Organic Plant-based Protein</b> Select Varieties</p> <p>29.6 oz</p> <p><b>31.34</b> MEMBER PRICE</p> 
<p>Garden of Life <b>Raw Protein &amp; Greens</b> Select Varieties</p> <p>19.3 oz</p> <p><b>26.39</b> MEMBER PRICE</p> 	<p>Garden of Life <b>Sport Grass-Fed Whey Protein</b> Select Varieties</p> <p>23.28 oz</p> <p><b>31.34</b> MEMBER PRICE</p> 	<p>Garden of Life <b>Organic Plant-Based Recovery Blackberry Lemonade</b> Select Varieties</p> <p>15.7 oz</p> <p><b>22.54</b> MEMBER PRICE</p> 

Why wait till after the New Year? There's no better time to jump-start your fitness routine than now. Head in to your local Better Health or shop us online by Dec 30, to take advantage of this special offer.

**BetterHealth**  
MARKET & CAFÉ

Shop us in-stores or at [betterhealthstore.com](http://betterhealthstore.com)

**East Lansing (Frاندor)**  
305 N Clippert Ave Across from Frاندor Mall  
517-332-6892  
Hours: Mon-Sat: 8am-9pm • Sun: 10am-7pm

**Lansing**  
6235 West Saginaw Hwy  
517-323-9186  
Hours: Mon-Sat: 9am-8pm • Sun: 11am-6pm

# Favorite Things

## James Brains and the photograph 'Dissent'

James Brains is a local freelance writer and creator of the popular social media group, Lansing Foodies. Brains' favorite thing is a photograph he modeled for back in 2017 shot by Oregon artist Tracy Sydor.



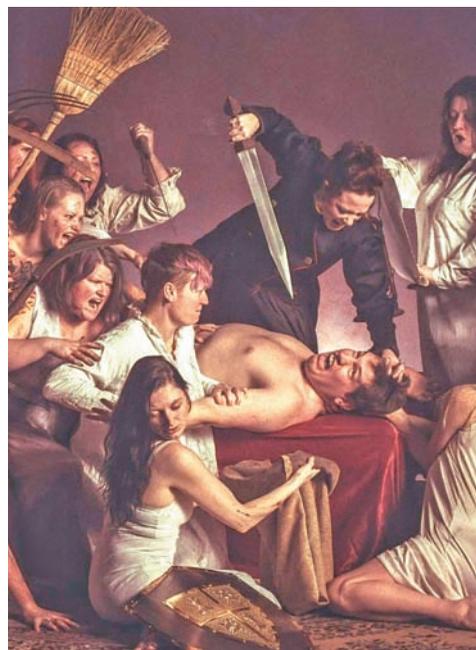
My favorite thing is a painting/ photograph I modeled for. It was taken back in February of 2017, which was soon after Trump took office. There were protests in January, which at the time was single largest day of protest in American history — it was called the Women's March. Afterwards, I wanted to do more. I saw that a local artist, Tracy Sydor, put out a call for models for a photo shoot. I'd seen her work before; she regularly did covers for a local alt-weekly in Oregon, where I lived at the time.

a look of anguish on my face due to social anxiety, so it was easy to recreate it for the photo shoot.

She was looking for 30 women and one man for the shoot. It was

going to be a dark piece based on an illustration inspired by the Women's March on Versailles in 1789. She wanted to recreate it with photography. I wasn't sure if she would have an easy time getting a guy to be in a photo where it

would like 30 women were accosting him. I went ahead and said, "Hey, I'll do it if you still need a guy."



She said I could take the job. I had to shave my beard off for the shoot. I think it was so the camera could more clearly pick up the agony on my face. I generally have

call for women to rise up against the people in power who are constantly taking away the rights to their body. Interview edited and condensed by Skyler Ashley. If you have suggestions for Favorite Things, please email [Skyler@Lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:Skyler@Lansingcitypulse.com)

call for women to rise up against the people in power who are constantly taking away the rights to their body.

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

# LAST MINUTE STOP TO CHRISTMAS SHOP!

Ornaments • Cards • Alpaca Socks  
Polish Pottery • Jewelry • Accessories



## Custom Framing Services

**We are working to improve our customer service.**

In an effort to keep customers and staff safe and socially distanced, we've implemented this 3-step process for framing jobs:

- Step 1:** Drop off your project (no need to call)
- Step 2:** I will evaluate
- Step 3:** I'll make an appointment for consultation



# Absolute GALLERY

AND CUSTOM FRAMING

**Open at 11:00am Tuesday - Sunday**

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

## Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing

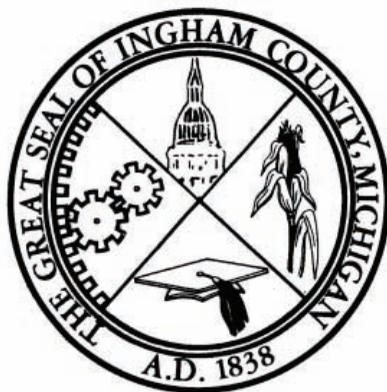
Please read the  
**STATUTORY PUBLICATION**  
in this newspaper

**DON'T TOSS ASIDE OR IGNORE  
THE INSERT IN THE CITY PULSE**

MAKE SURE YOU OR YOUR LOVED ONES  
ARE NOT ON THIS LIST

Help us prevent tax foreclosure in Ingham County

**FORECLOSURE IS FINAL!!!**



Ingham County Treasurer

P.O. Box 215 Mason MI 48854

517-676-7220

eschertzing@ingham.org

## Lansing's newest dispensary wants to get you high in the best way

Botanical Co. tailors cannabis selections around 'customer experience'

By **KYLE KAMINSKI**

Lansing's newest medical and recreational dispensary operates with a distinct business model.

While many pot shops seem to focus almost exclusively on packing as much THC as possible into their products, The Botanical Co. and its cultivation arm, Franklin Fields, are instead designed to unleash the full therapeutic benefits of cannabis. Don't be fooled: THC levels are high. And you'll still walk away stoned. But this is much more doctor's office than dispensary.

"It's not uncommon for customers to come in for a full consultation to help them find the right products for them. We'll literally come in and sit down in an office with them to talk about it," said co-founder Russ Chambers.

The family-owned business opened its doors last week in the driveway to the Capital Region International Airport, 3535 Capitol City Blvd. Giveaways, door prizes and other discount specials are slated to continue through the end of the month to celebrate its grand opening in Lansing.

BoCo launched its first retail location in Tawas. Lansing is the second. Up next: Kalkaska.

Chambers and co-founder Mike Demmer planted early roots in the recreational cannabis industry in the late 2000s as caregivers for Michigan's medical market. It was during this time that Chambers said he learned that marijuana was about much more than simply getting high.

"My parents, for example, are part of that Reefer Madness generation. I had to educate them about the medical benefits before they could understand what I was doing," Chambers added.

Don't have an ailment that needs treating? No worries, Chambers said. The dispensary also caters to the recreational market with a long list of products — many of them locally sourced.

"Of course, there are also those who consume cannabis for simple relaxation, and we are also able to develop and source products suitable for those customers as well," Chambers said.

Even on the recreational side of the market, tailoring products for the customer experience is essential. There's nothing worse than a newbie smoker



**Lansterdam in Review:**

**The Botanical Co.**

3535 Capitol City Blvd. Lansing  
10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. daily  
Curbside pickup available soon.  
Online orders - WeedMaps  
thebotanical.co



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

The Botanical Co. is Lansing's newest dispensary.

getting themselves in over their head and never giving marijuana another chance.

"That's where our staff comes in, to help serve as a sort of guide on this journey," Chambers said.

The retail and growing facilities are brand new, constructed exclusively for BoCo over the last year. The lobby is sleek, clean and professional. On the sales floor, two-gallon jars are brimming with buds. Plastic racks are lined with brownies, gummies, tinctures, concentrates and more.

A live video stream also offers customers a peek inside the adjacent growing facilities. Inside, hundreds of plants are beginning to bloom. The first in-house harvest is expected to be sold in January. Until then, there are plenty of local imports on the shelves to tingle the senses. Check back next week for a full review of some of those products. Spoiler alert: It's some good stuff.

All told, Chambers and Demmer have invested a combined \$10 million to develop and open their growing and retail facilities in Lansing. Once fully operational, the two companies expect to employ 40 full-time employees across about 35,000 square feet of growing and retail space.

BoCo also plans to grow several rare and highly desirable cannabis strains that can't be found elsewhere on the Lansing market, including Member Berry, Critical Glue, Burkle and Lemon G.

*Kyle Kaminski is a City Pulse staff writer and cannabis enthusiast who has been smoking marijuana just about every day for the last decade. Every week, Kaminski samples some of the best cannabis products available in Greater Lansing, gets real high and writes about them.*

# Sports doc tackles racial division in American football

By SKYLER ASHLEY

If you're a fan of Michigan State football, you know that the Spartans captured back-to-back titles in 1965 and 1966 under the leadership of the legendary coach Duffy Daugherty. But what you might not know is that Daugherty led the nation's first fully racially integrated college football team. One of those players was Gene Washington — a wide receiver would go on to play for the Minnesota Vikings and nab two Pro Bowl bids.

Washington's daughter, Maya Washington, grew up to be a filmmaker. In 2018, she directed "Through the Banks of the Red Cedar," which captures the life of her father and chronicles his time on that historic MSU team and his experiences playing in the NFL. The film examines race relations in American sports, and will reach a wider audience when it airs on the Big Ten Network on Christmas Eve.

## "Through the Banks of the Red Cedar"

Airs on the Big Ten Network Thursday, Dec. 24, 4 p.m. Read the full Q&A on [Lansingcitypulse.com](http://Lansingcitypulse.com)

What inspired you to begin work on the documentary?

In 2011, my father's teammate Bubba Smith passed away. I had the opportunity to attend the funeral service and spend some time with my dad and his teammates at Bubba's home. I heard all of these amazing stories from their time at Michigan State in the '60s, and learned that it was Bubba Smith's father who recommended my dad for the opportunity he was able to get at Michigan State.

They lived miles apart in Texas, Bubba Smith in Beaumont and my dad in La Porte. This was during segregation, so the idea that one family would recommend another family's child for an opportunity to play football and track at Michigan State was unheard of. Most people are focused on finding places for their own kids in the college recruitment game. I had a desire to learn more about this amazing piece of history, but also to say thank you for what their simple gesture ultimately did for my life.

What did you learn about your father's experience on Duffy Daugherty's legendary teams? Did he know at the time that he was a part of a watershed moment in American sports history?

For my dad and the other Black



Courtesy

Gene and Maya Washington.

players, their focus was achieving a better life for themselves through education. They were obviously aware of what was happening with the major civil rights movement as the political backdrop of what was happening at Michigan.

John Hannah, then president of the university, chaired the United States Civil Rights Commission. The climate at Michigan State was one that reflected the values of what was to come in the future of universities around the nation.

Along with civil rights legislation, it inspired others to abandon the segregation of the past that would have prevented Black players from attending those schools and participating in college athletics. I would say that players from those teams now understand their importance in history.

Segregation at the powerhouse football colleges of the South forced your father to play ball elsewhere.

Did being ostracized from his home impact him emotionally?

You have to think about what it does to one's sense of self to live under a law that says it's OK to discriminate against you; it's OK to limit what you can be and where you can physically go. My dad grew up in a time where you couldn't go into a store, and if you were able to you had to enter through the back door. You couldn't go outside the vicinity of your home after dark, for fear of violence and being accused of something you didn't do. That was the reality that my dad in the South grew up in. So of course that impacts you emotionally.

That's what my dad's generation faced. The sad truth is, until recently, many of them didn't even have a platform to talk about the thing they endured. When you do talk to the men of that era, they don't spend a lot of time talking about what it did to them psychologically, they focus on the way they preserved and how their Black educators taught them they could be the best.

Those mid-60's MSU teams are not just historically significant because of their racial integration — they were also dominant on the field. How did your father manage to perform so well despite the immense internal pressure?

The Black players had one option, let's be real. If they didn't perform at the highest level their position on the team would be in jeopardy and their future would be jeopardized as well. If you ask them, they felt like they didn't have an option but to be great prove to everyone in the country that they were the best.

That's what my dad and his teammates like Bubba Smith, Clinton

Jones, George Webster and Charles Thornhill really understood. Even if they didn't understand historically what they were doing at the time, they understood that failure wasn't an option. Football was changing; you could watch a game from anywhere — the eyes of the world were on them. I haven't met anyone who follows MSU football that hasn't expressed excitement around these teams.



## SCHULER BOOKS

Meridian Mall • Okemos

### MAKE YOUR HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

We have everything you need in store



Books

Games | Puzzles

Toys | Gifts | Decor

More!

Open daily. Shop in store, order ahead for curbside pick-up (call 517-349-8840) or ship to home with an online order at [SchulerBooks.com](http://SchulerBooks.com).

**STORE HOURS:**  
10AM-7PM MON-SAT,  
11AM-6PM SUNDAYS

REGISTER FOR VIRTUAL EVENTS ON OUR WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK PAGE:

[Facebook.com/SchulerBooks](https://Facebook.com/SchulerBooks)  
[SchulerBooks.com/Event](https://SchulerBooks.com/Event)

*Year-End Clearance*

**Curious Book Shop**  
307 E. Grand River, E. Lansing  
Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun. 12-5 p.m.  
332-0112 • We validate parking  
[curiousbooks.com](http://curiousbooks.com)

**Archives Book Shop**  
519 W. Grand River, East Lansing  
Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 12-5 p.m.  
332-8444 • Free Parking.  
[thearchivesbookshop@gmail.com](mailto:thearchivesbookshop@gmail.com)

**50% OFF**  
ALMOST EVERYTHING

**20% OFF**  
EVERYTHING ELSE

**WITH THIS AD**

**Dec. 26-Dec. 31**  
(Closing 3 pm New Years Eve)

# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

**J'Accuse!!--they're in there.**

by Matt Jones

**Across**

- 1 Sluggish
- 5 Arm gesture done by kids graduating elementary school
- 8 Hosts in one's apartment (remember that?)
- 13 The A in A.D.
- 14 Public radio host Glass
- 15 Early online newsgroup system
- 17 "The Caine Mutiny" novelist
- 18 \_\_\_ squared (circle formula)
- 19 Act as a go-between
- 20 Bygone laptop company's fiscal year division?
- 23 "Bleh!"
- 25 "As Seen on TV" knife brand
- 26 Dinnerware collections
- 27 "Batman Forever" actor Kilmer
- 28 "Messenger" material
- 29 Talent for detail, maybe
- 32 "Call Me Maybe" singer Carly \_\_\_ Jepsen
- 33 General ballpark
- 35 It may be educated
- 37 "How does a company reserve a symbol to trade?" and "How does it differ from NYSE?"
- 44 Photographer Diane
- 45 Button alternative
- 46 Greek M's
- 49 Long-running forensic drama with an upcoming reboot
- 50 Mineral spring
- 53 Airport posting
- 54 Catchall abbrs.
- 56 Largest moon of Saturn
- 58 Particle accelerator particle
- 59 "Me shooting 40% at the foul line is just God's way to say nobody's perfect," for

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13				14			15					16
17				18			19					
	20		21				22					
23	24		25						26			
27			28			29	30	31		32		
33			34			35			36			
37			38	39	40				41	42	43	
			44						45			
46	47	48	49			50	51	52		53		
54			55			56	57			58		
59				60	61				62			
63						64			65	66	67	
68						69			70			
						72			73			

- instance?
  - 63 Playwright Beckett
  - 64 Suffix for Gator or Power
  - 65 Idaho neighbor
  - 68 Midway through a migraine, e.g.
  - 69 "In the Heights" Tony winner \_\_\_-Manuel Miranda
  - 70 Adult \_\_\_ (Cartoon Network offshoot)
  - 71 Leg bone (connected to the arm bone?)
  - 72 China's Sun \_\_\_-sen
  - 73 Male cats
- Down**
- 1 Ocelot foot
  - 2 See 4-Down
  - 3 Sonic the Hedgehog's echidna friend
  - 4 With 2-Down, interviewee for John Lennon retrospectives
  - 5 \_\_\_ Dots (cryogenic ice cream brand)
  - 6 "thank u, next" singer
  - 7 Hires competitor
  - 8 Platform for the "Animaniacs" reboot
  - 9 Bhutan's continent
  - 10 Retailer that filed for bankruptcy in 2018
  - 11 No divider, they
  - 12 Spanish currency pre-euro
  - 16 Briefly stated
  - 21 Ball club VIP
  - 22 Leicester lineup
  - 23 "Kindergarten Cop" director Reitman
  - 24 Model/actor Delevingne
  - 30 "For real?" response
  - 31 ME zone, in winter
  - 34 Holly Hunter, in "The Piano"
  - 35 Astronaut Grissom
  - 36 "Pretty sneaky, \_\_\_" (Connect Four ad line)
  - 38 Storyline progression
  - 39 Many Super Bowl MVPs
  - 40 Capital at over 9,000 feet
  - 41 Like 50/50 odds
  - 42 Alphabet where X is "X-ray"
  - 43 Bridge section
  - 46 Argentine soccer superstar Lionel
  - 47 1960s United Nations secretary general
  - 48 Dish prepared with garlic butter and white wine
  - 50 Google gaming service as of 2019
  - 51 Inventor's concern
  - 52 "Allergic to Water" singer DiFranco
  - 55 Fledgling pigeon
  - 57 Rome home
  - 60 Royally named liner, briefly
  - 61 Arm bone (connected to the leg bone?)
  - 62 Force to leave
  - 66 Objective
  - 67 Letters on British battleships

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

Answers Page 28

## SUDOKU

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

## Intermediate

### 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 28

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

December 23-29, 2020

**ARIES (March 21–April 19):** Your capacity for pioneering feats and impressive accomplishments will be at a peak in 2021. So you could become the best human ever at balancing a ladder on your chin or typing with your nose or running long-distance while holding an egg on a spoon with your mouth. But I'd prefer it if you channeled your triumphant energy into more useful innovations and victories. How about making dramatic strides in fulfilling your most important goal? Or ascending to an unprecedented new level of inspiring people with your passionate idealism? Or setting a record for most illusions shed?

**TAURUS (April 20–May 20):** Ark Encounter is a fundamentalist Christian theme park in Kentucky. Its main attraction is a giant replica of Noah's Ark. Constructed mostly from spruce and pine trees, it's one of the world's largest wooden structures. Even though I don't believe that there was in fact such a boat in ancient times, I do admire how its builder, Ken Ham, has been so fiercely devoted to making his fantasies real. I encourage you to cultivate an equally zealous commitment to manifesting your own visions and dreams in 2021.

**GEMINI (May 21–June 20):** From 1961 until 1989, a concrete barrier divided the city of Berlin. Communist East Berlin lay on the east side of the Berlin Wall, and capitalist West Berlin on the west. It was an iconic symbol of the Cold War between the US and Soviet Union. More than 100,000 people tried to escape from east to west, but just 5,000 succeeded. The standoff ended in 1989, during the peaceful revolutions that swept through Eastern Europe. In subsequent months, the Berlin Wall was slowly demolished. Today, tiny fragments of the wall are marketed as medicines for asthma, headaches, narcolepsy, and ulcers. Now I will propose that in 2021, you adopt the demolished Berlin Wall as your metaphor of power. May it inspire you to be gleeful and forceful as you dismantle psychological obstacles and impediments.

**CANCER (June 21–July 22):** The year 2021 will contain 525,600 minutes. But I suspect you might enjoy the subjective sensation of having far more than 525,600 minutes at your disposal. That's because I think you'll be living a fuller life than usual, with greater intensity and more focus. It may sometimes seem to you as if you are drawing greater riches out of the daily rhythm—accomplishing more, seeing further, diving down deeper to capitalize on the privilege of being here on planet earth. Be grateful for this blessing—which is also a big responsibility!

**LEO (July 23–Aug. 22):** Our lives are filled with puzzles and enigmas and riddles. We all harbor aspects of ourselves that we don't understand. I hope that in 2021, you will be on a mission to learn more about these parts of yourself. One of your superpowers will be a capacity to uncover secrets and solve mysteries. Bonus: I suspect you'll be able to make exceptional progress in getting to the root of confusing quandaries that have undermined you—and then fixing the problems so they no longer undermine you.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22):** When actor Gene Wilder was eight years old, his mother began to have heart-related health issues. The doctor that treated her suggested he could help her out if he would try to make her laugh. From then on, Wilder cultivated an ability to tell jokes and got interested in becoming an actor. Ultimately he appeared in 22 films and was nominated for two Oscars and two Golden Globe Awards. I foresee a comparable development in your life in 2021: A challenging situation will inspire you in ways that generate a major blessing.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22):** In my astrological opinion, love won't be predictable in 2021. It won't be easily definable or comparable to what you're experienced before. But I also suspect that love will be delightfully enigmatic. It will be unexpectedly educational and fervently fertile and oddly comfortable. Your assignment, as I understand it, will be to shed your certainties about what love is

and is not so that the wild, fresh challenges and opportunities of love can stream into your life in their wildest, freshest state.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21):** Until 1893, Hawaii was a sovereign nation. In January of that year, a group of wealthy foreigners, mostly Americans, overthrew the existing government with the help of the US military. They established a fake temporary "republic" that excluded native Hawaiians from positions of power. Their goal, which was to be annexed by the United States, was fulfilled in July 1898. I propose that you use this sad series of events as a motivational story in 2021. Make it your goal to resist all efforts to be colonized and occupied. Commit yourself passionately to preserving your sovereignty and independence. Be a tower of power that can't be owned.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21):** In 2021, you may be smarter than you have ever been. Not necessarily wiser, too, although I have reason to hope that you will leverage your smartness to also deepen your wisdom. But as I was saying, your intelligence could very well soar beyond its previous heights. Your ability to speak articulately, stir up original thoughts, and solve knotty riddles should be at a peak. Is there any potential downside to this outbreak of brilliance? Only one that I can imagine: It's possible that your brain will be working with such dominant efficiency that it will drown out messages from your heart. And that would be a shame. In order to do what I referred to earlier—leverage your smartness to deepen your wisdom—you'll need to be receptive to your heart's messages

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19):** The birds known as red knots breed every year in the Arctic regions. Then they fly south—\*way\* south—down to the southern edge of South America, more than 9,000 miles away. A few months later they make the return trip to the far north. In 1995, ornithologists managed to put a monitoring band on one red knot's leg, making it possible to periodically get a read on his adventures over the subsequent years. The bird's nickname is Moonbird, because he has traveled so many miles in the course of his life that it's equivalent to a jaunt to the moon. He's known as "the toughest four ounces on the planet." I nominate him to be your magical creature in 2021. I suspect you will have stamina, hardiness, persistence, and determination like his.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18):** An Aquarian park ranger named Roy Sullivan was struck by lightning seven times in the course of his 71 years on the planet. (That's a world record.) None of the electrostatic surges killed him, although they did leave a few burns. After studying your astrological potentials for 2021, I've concluded that you may be the recipient, on a regular basis, of a much more pleasurable and rewarding kind of lightning strike: the metaphorical kind. I advise you to prepare yourself to be alert for more epiphanies than usual: exciting insights, inspiring revelations, and useful ideas.

**PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20):** Coral reefs are in danger all over the world. These "rainforests of the sea" are being decimated by ocean acidification, toxic runoff from rivers, rising temperatures, and careless tourists. Why should we care? Because they're beautiful! And also because they're hotbeds of biodiversity, providing homes for 25 percent of all marine species. They also furnish protection for shorelines from erosion and storm damage, and are prime spots to harvest seafood. So I'm pleased people are finding ways to help reefs survive and recover. For example, a group in Thailand is having success using superglue to re-attach broken-off pieces to the main reefs. I hope this vignette inspires you to engage in metaphorically similar restorative and rejuvenating activities, Pisces. In 2021, you will have an enhanced power to heal.

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

# TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

MICHIGAN-MADE CHRISTMAS MIX VOL. 3: 'BERMUDA SNOHAWK' EDITION



The Bermuda Mohawk compilation series has gathered locally-made holiday tunes for nearly 15 years.

## Lansing musicians spotlight locally made holiday tracks from long-running compilation series

The annual “Bermuda Snohawk” compilations have become a holly jolly tradition in the local music scene. Each winter, the tracklist delivers a mixed bag of tracks. From joke tunes to thoughtful ballads, they’re always a fun listen. Here are a few select cuts picked by area musicians.

**Cale Sauter (musician, Cavalcade, Bermuda Mohawk Productions)**

**Frank & Earnest “Stick a Fork in Me, I’m Done” (2008)**

Having helped oversee nearly 15 years of “Bermuda Snohawk” punk/indie holiday compilations with artists predominantly from Michigan, being tasked with choosing your favorite Lansing Christmas track is kind of like being asked to name your favorite child ... if you had, like, 250 kids. Even then, I tried to look outside of these options. Lansing features a ton of worthy entries spanning back many years prior to the existence of this compilation. All attempts aside, I couldn’t shake “Stick a Fork in Me, I’m Done,” from the 2008 edition of “Bermuda Snohawk.”

It’s a ramshackle acoustic holiday breakup song delivered by Nick “Otis” Pierce with a surprising amount of soul. It also unintentionally doubled as a debut track for Lansing band (and past City Pulse Top of the Town

award winners), Frank and Earnest. I couldn’t fight the memorable melody and undeniable megaton drag on the heartstrings this one leaves you with. It’s a fittingly bittersweet combination for a time of the year that brings a lot of mixed emotions for most.

**Peter Richards (musician, Stargazer)**

**SONG: CrookedSound “Santa In Blue Jeans” (2009)**

One of the annual traditions I’ve always looked forward to is the holiday compilation put out by Bermuda Mohawk Productions — in recent years assisted by GTG Recordings. It’s always full of surprises: some ramshackle home recordings, some joke tracks by makeshift “bands” invented on the spot, some polished studio material. Genres veer all over the map from metal and punk to indie folk and hip hop, but the uniting factor is a spirit of fun and irreverence. The 2009 compilation will always be a special favorite of mine, and a standout track is “Santa In Blue Jeans.”

The song tells a tale that unfolds in July, on Kalamazoo Street. Guitar, warm fuzzy bass, and glockenspiel are all played by Eric Merckling in a casual way that underpins a tale of disappointment featuring the titular character. Full disclosure: I play French Horn on this track, and arranged the

layers of horns at Merckling’s studio, mere feet from Kalamazoo Street. Allen Toussaint I am not, but I had a fantastic time using the horn to create a textural backdrop for the emotional payoff of the song. Every time I spin this song, I get transported back to that attic studio.

**Aaron Bales (songwriter, Flatfoot)**  
**SONG: Matt Waterman “Screw Your Christmas Presents” (2018)**

Just 93 seconds. That’s all Matt Waterman (Jason Alarm, The Devil’s Cut) needed to present an incredible Christmas anthem. In those seconds, you’ll encounter an arpeggiated slow piano intro, a count-in, driving punk rhythm guitars and a keyboard hat-tip to a Christmas classic. Beyond that, there’s fantastic twin “guitarmony” solo nodding, the best Perry, Michigan shout-out you’ll ever hear — and some incredibly earnest and heartfelt lyrics.

This song rocks. Hard. It is also beautiful and makes me tear up a little every time I listen to it. Additionally, at 93 seconds it makes the Ramones look like prog-rock. Give it a listen or 10. Feel the sadness, the triumph and the love. I’ve made some good local Christmas songs with my band Flatfoot and heard even more between the various fun “Bermuda Snohawk” and “Suburban Sprawl” compilations, but this is the one I keep returning to.

Thank you, Matt Waterman, for this gift that continues to give.

**Jennifer Toms (vocalist, bassist in Scary Women)**

**SONG: CrookedSound “Santa Quit” (2019)**

There is a certain magic to this song: the story it tells of Santa leaving his post and the song’s enchanting music are reminiscent of the best carols. “Santa Quit” is comforting in its lush sounds and message of compassion. Santa, whose “heart is so big,” cannot return to the job without the help of humanity. The sentiment of the song is too lovely to be melancholy, and the music’s gorgeous layering is so warmly inviting that one doesn’t want to leave the wintry sonic landscape.

Part of the beauty of this song lies in its moments of quietness. As the lyrics contemplate the absence of Santa, the music quiets to the sounds of Santa’s “magic call” to his reindeer and culminates in a moment of perfect silence before the music again envelops the listener. Through its powerfully gentle sounds, the atmosphere and intricate instrumentation takes the listener to a place of nostalgia for a world when kindness won the day. At a time when the world feels disordered and chaotic, this song is heartening both musically and lyrically. In this sense, “Santa Quit” has a magic all its own.

# OUT ON THE TOWN

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

## Wednesday, December 23

**Free Online Roast of Rudolph** - Celebrate Christmas with misfit comedians! 8 p.m. frontrowfilmroast.com.

**Special Collections Look Club:** Our theme this week is Families! 2-2:45 p.m. MSU Libraries, East Lansing. bookings.lib.msu.edu.

**Tinker & Innovate** - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing, 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

**Virtual Trivia Challenge from KaHoot!** Download free app and join us! 4-11:45 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library. gladl.org

## Thursday, December 24

**Holiday Bazaar | Michigan Artisan Made** - all day - REO Market Place, 1027 S. Washington St., Lansing.

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

## Friday, December 25

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

## Saturday, December 26

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

## Monday, December 28

**Glow in the Dark** - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing, 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

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

## Tuesday, December 29

**Can + Can Drive** - Acts of Compassion is hosting a Can + Can Drive! 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Elmwood Elementary, 1533 Elmwood Rd, Lansing.

**Race to the Finish!** - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing, 517-485-8116. impression5.org.



**Christ Community Church**  
OF GREATER LANSING

*6:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

Come and enjoy an hour of Christmas Carols and Candles as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

Capitol at Ionia • Lansing • 517-482-0644

**HAPPY HOUR 7 DAYS A WEEK**  
Save 10% if you order online before 6pm!




3415 E Saginaw St • Lansing • (517) 580-3720  
Order online for pickup, curbside & delivery:  
caskandcompany.com

**SUDOKU SOLUTION**  
From Pg. 26

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

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**  
From Pg. 26

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

**Sign Up for Our Email Newsletter & Get the Digital Edition in your Inbox FREE by 6AM Every Wednesday!**  
A day before it is posted online.

**We work hard to keep you informed and up to date on the issues that matter most to you.**  
Stay aware with local news right at your fingertips!

Sign up on **lansingcitypulse.com**



# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

### Crème Brûlée Flambé

By **ARI LeVAUX**

The dark days around winter solstice make human beings hungry for light. It could be a decorated tree, a menorah in the window, or just some lights on your house. Whatever your creed or culture, you probably have a tradition that casts a glow during the holidays. But this time around, as we bid farewell to a dumpster fire of a year, pretty lights might not be enough. It might be time to light things on fire.

Fire can be cleansing and creative as well as a force of destruction, and some of us surely hope to rise like phoenixes from the ashes. But first we have to tuck in 2020. And we're going to put it to bed in style, with a flaming orange eggnog crème brûlée, finished with a bourbon flambé. A group of phoenixes is called an odyssey, which is appropriate, because this dish is a trip.

The bourbon and sugar bonfire doesn't produce the typical glassy crème brûlée finish. So it won't coerce the eater into disfiguring the delicate custard by jabbing its exoskeleton with a dessert spoon. The sugar melts, but the bourbon prevents it from recrystallizing into a glassy sheet. Instead, they combine into a granular topping that's firm yet soft.

This recipe is for all of the people who don't have one of those silly crème brûlée torches. Perhaps you've been melting your crèmes brûlée under the broiler, like a sensible person would. If it never occurred to you to simply ignite a bunch of sugar and booze atop your custard, you're excused. But that is why we are here.

A fire that burns only to destroy isn't worth its emissions. But the bourbon and sugar bonfire atop a crème brûlée burns with purpose: to cast light while combining bourbon and sugar into a penetrating sauce that soaks into the orange vanilla eggnog custard below.

This crème brûlée flambé works because it has too much of everything. Too much nutmeg, too much orange, too much bourbon and too much sugar. But all of this too muchness adds up to just the right balance of too-strong flavors.

Plus, it looks good on fire, especially when you toss in cinnamon, which



sparkles and dances in the flames. Enjoy the pyrotechnics of this beautiful transformational force as we show 2020 to the doors, and venture forth into the new year like an odyssey of custard-happy phoenixes.

#### Orange Eggnog Crème Brûlée Flambé

The strong flavors of orange juice, nutmeg and bourbon hold one another in check, while adding excitement to this otherwise mild-mannered custard.

#### The Custard

*Fills four ramekins, which for me is about one serving.*

- 2 cups cream
- 4 egg yolks
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons freshly ground nutmeg
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup fresh orange juice + 1 tablespoon OJ concentrate, or some similar amount of juice
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon salt
- 4 buttered ramekins
- Optional: thin-sliced shards of orange peel for the garnish

Preheat the oven to 325. Place an edged cookie sheet on the top rack. Pour two cups of water into the sheet (to create steam for the custard).

Heat the cream slowly in a heavy-bottomed pan on the stove. Meanwhile, combine the yolks, sugar, nutmeg, orange juice, vanilla and salt in a mixing bowl.

When the cream starts to simmer, add it slowly to the mix, stirring in a little at a time to temper the yolks. "Temper" means heat the yolks and combine them with the hot cream in a smooth, controlled way that doesn't cook and curdle the eggs.

Add the warm batter to your buttered vessels, place them on the cookie sheet in the steaming water, and bake for an hour, until they are bubbling evenly. The bubbling starts on the edge



and moves toward the centers, until the entire surface shrinks and tightens and hardens into a darker yellow.

Remove from the oven. If serving right away, prepare to light your fire. If serving later, allow cooling to room temperature, and adding the orange peel shard garnish, if using. Keep chilled until ready to serve.

#### Flaming Bourbon Sugar Sauce

*A tablespoon of bourbon is actually quite strong; you've been warned. I used my neighbor's good stuff until he cut me off, so now I use Southern Comfort. And remember kids: never cook with something you wouldn't drink.*

- Covers four ramekins with flambé
- 2 tablespoons white or turbinado sugar
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 4 tablespoons bourbon
- 12 pinches of cinnamon powder for the flame

Serving time could be the minute they come out of the oven, or the next day after the ramekins have properly chilled and the custard has settled. Whenever it's time to light those fires and serve those crèmes brûlée, mix the sugars together, and get ready to pour

the whiskey.

To each ramekin at a time, pour in a tablespoon of whiskey and light it with a long-necked BBQ lighter. Let it burn for 30 seconds while you toss 3 or so pinches of cinnamon into the flames, and watch the spraying sparks. Then add a tablespoon of sugar mix to the ramekin, and let the fire burn out, dissolving the sugar.

When the fire dies, it's ready to serve. When the first Orange Eggnog Crème Brûlée Bourbon flambé is gone, check the calendar. If it's still 2020, eat another. Repeat until it's finally over.

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

*This story is paid for by readers like you through contributions to the CityPulse Fund for Community Journalism. Cash donations made this year to a 501(c)3 can be deducted when you file your taxes next spring! This expires after Dec. 31, so please act now. To donate, please go to [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com).*

# TOP FIVE DINING GUIDE!

THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN GREATER LANSING AS DECIDED BY CITY PULSE READERS

## BEST BAKERY

### 1. Flour Child Bakery

323 S. Bridge St. Grand Ledge  
flourchildbakeryandcafe.com • 517-622-4772

### 2. Bake N' Cakes

3303 E Kalamazoo St. Lansing  
bakencakes.com • 517-337-CAKE (2253)

### 3. Strange Matter Coffee

2010 E. Michigan Ave. #103 Lansing  
strangemattercoffee.com • 517-224-5495

### 4. Gigi's Cupcakes of East Lansing

1020 Trowbridge Rd. East Lansing  
gigiscupcakesusa.com • 517-679-3982

### 5. Groovy Donuts

3054 E. Lake Lansing Rd. East Lansing  
groovydonuts.com • 517-580-7302

## DELHI CAFE

FAMILY • CASUAL • DINING



Open for Take Out and Curbside Pick Up

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

Lunch & Dinner Specials  
Greek Specials • Soups & Salads

**QUIET ATMOSPHERE & FRIENDLY STAFF**

4625 Willoughby Rd • Holt  
www.delhicaferestaurant.com  
517-694-8655  
T-F 11AM-6:30PM

# PICK UP & DELIVERY

## THURSDAY- SATURDAY 11-7

# Meat

SOUTHERN B.B.Q. & CARNIVORE CUISINE

580-4400 | MEATBBQ.COM

1224 TURNER ST. OLD TOWN, LANSING

# Appetizers

WANT YOUR RESTAURANT LISTED? CALL 517-999-5064



**Meat Southern BBQ**  
1224 Turner Rd.  
Lansing  
(517) 580-4400  
meatbbq.com

**WE BELIEVE EVERYONE DESERVES GREAT BBQ.** Award winning BBQ. Ribs, French fry bar, chili, sides including BBQ pit baked beans, mac n' cheese. 18 rotating taps of craft, Michigan made beers. Craft cocktails. We cater, too!



**Buddies Holt**  
2040 Aurelius Rd, Ste 12  
Holt  
(517) 699-3670  
www.buddiesbars.com

**DISCOVER YOUR NEW FAVORITE SPOT!** Traditional classics and great drinks. Burgers, Mexican entrees, pizza and appetizers. Buddies Bowls you can't get anywhere else. Locally owned and operated for over 20 years.



**Airport Tavern**  
5000 N. Grand River Ave  
Lansing  
(517) 321-3852  
FB: @AirportTavernandSteakhouse

**WELCOME BACK!** For 50 years, Airport Tavern & Steakhouse has been a staple of Lansing's community. Full bar, daily lunch and dinner specials. Ribs, steak, burgers and salads are all crowd pleasers at this neighborhood establishment.



**Eastside Fish Fry**  
2417 E. Kalamazoo St.,  
Lansing  
(517) 993-5988  
eastsidefishfry.com

**GUY FIERI APPROVED!** We were featured on Food Network's Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives. Our fried home-style classics and fresh seafood are some of the best in Lansing. We've got the classics: fried chicken buckets, chicken wings, exotic fare, like frog legs and alligator tails and fresh seafood. Desserts, too!



**El Oasis**  
2501 E. Michigan Ave.  
Lansing  
(517) 882-1777  
eloasistruck.com

**TRY THE CROWN JEWEL OF LANSING'S FOOD TRUCKS.** Serving the Lansing community for 13 years, we extend an invitation to all those to give us a try to find out why we were voted the best food truck in Lansing's 2019 Top of The Town Contest.



**Taqueria El Chaparrito**  
4832 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
Lansing  
(517) 574-3020

**OUR NEW LOCATION IS OPEN FOR TAKEOUT!** We offer delicious and authentic Mexican food. We do catering and events. Birria tacos are our specialty. Be transported to a warm Mexican beach with our rich, fresh flavors!



**Delhi Cafe Family Restaurant**  
4625 Willoughby Rd  
Holt  
(517) 694-8655

**COME JOIN THE FAMILY! COMFORT FOOD FROM GENERATIONS!** A great meeting place for family and friends. Relax with a glass of wine and try our daily lunch/dinner specials, soups, salads, Greek plates and more. Quiet atmosphere and friendly staff.

SPONSORED CONTENT

**Family Owned and Operated**

**We Look Forward To Your Visit!**

**El Oasis**  
Antojitos Mexicanos

voted #1 Top of the Town 2020 CityPulse

<b>MICHIGAN AVENUE</b> 2501 E Michigan Avenue Lansing, MI 517-648-7693 Delivery: 517-882-1777	<b>HASLETT</b> 1620 Haslett Road Haslett, MI 517-230-4385	<b>SOUTH SIDE</b> 6100 S Cedar Street Lansing, MI 517-882-2100 Catering: 517-648-4749
---	--	---

**TAQUERIA EL CHAPARRITO**

**\$5 OFF**  
ANY PURCHASE OF \$25 OR MORE  
Expires 12/31/2020

**\$10 OFF**  
ANY PURCHASE OF \$50 OR MORE  
Expires 12/31/2020

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

**BUDDIES**  
3 LOCATIONS

**Fresh food Family fun!**

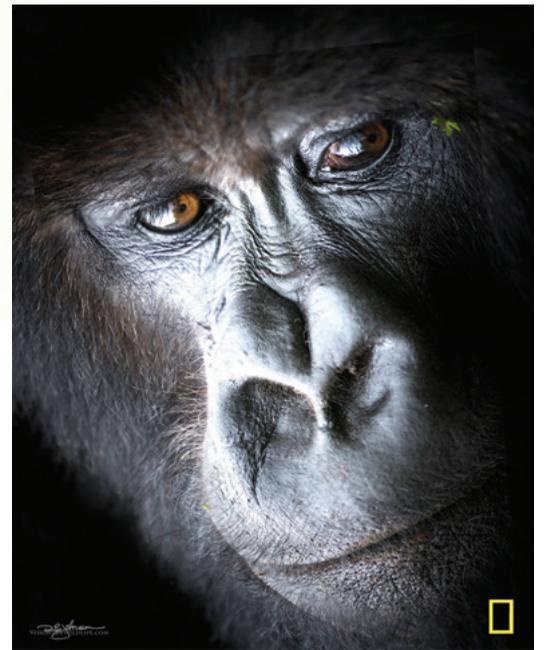
**PICK UP AVAILABLE!**  
Call  
**11AM-8PM**  
to place your order!

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

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

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

# VISIONS OF WILDLIFE



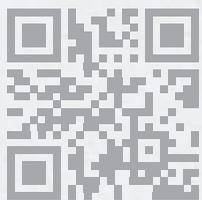
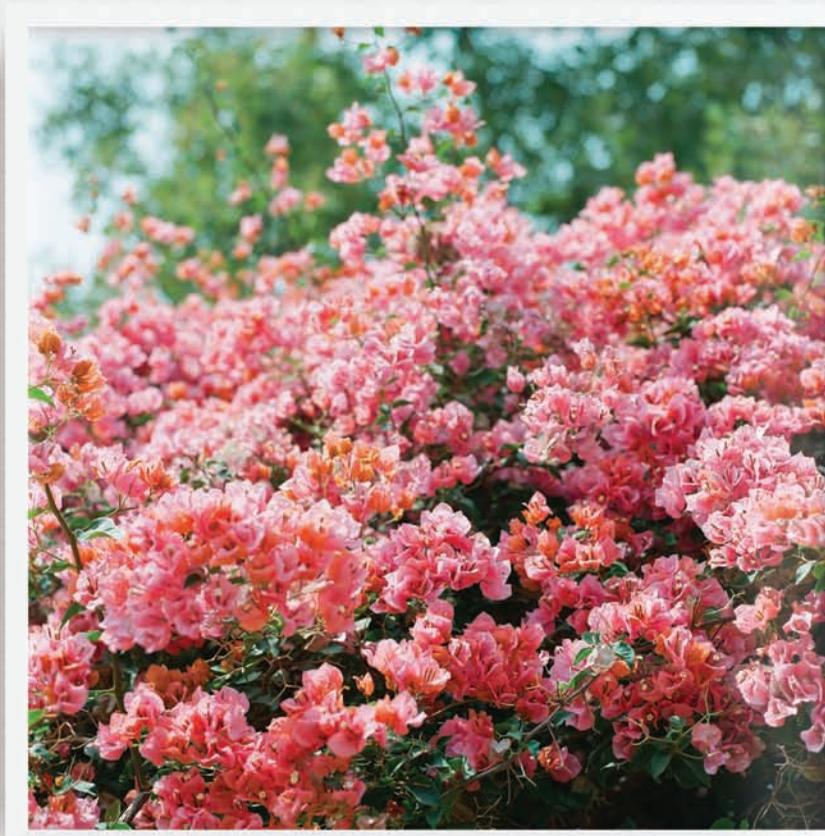
**Absolute**  
**GALLERY**  
AND CUSTOM FRAMING



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

# Beautiful, frameable, giftable.

SHOP PRINTS & MORE AT [MARKET.EATPOMEGRANATE.COM](https://market.eatpomegranate.com)



SCAN FOR DISCOUNT



**Eat Pomegranate**

PHOTOGRAPHY



@eatpomegranate