

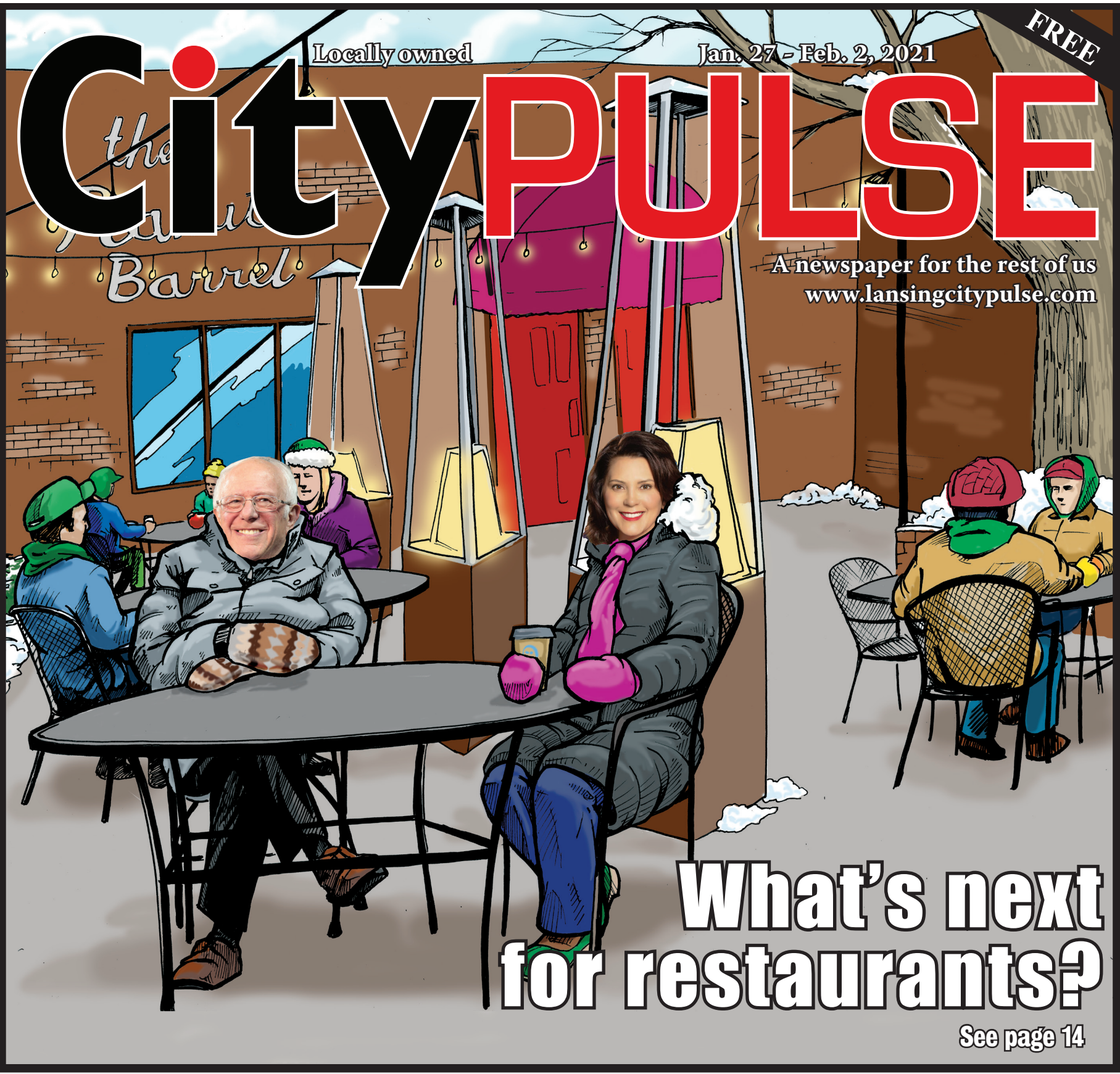
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CityPULSE

A newspaper for the rest of us
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What's next for restaurants?

See page 14

YOUR PERSONAL (INJURY) ATTORNEYS

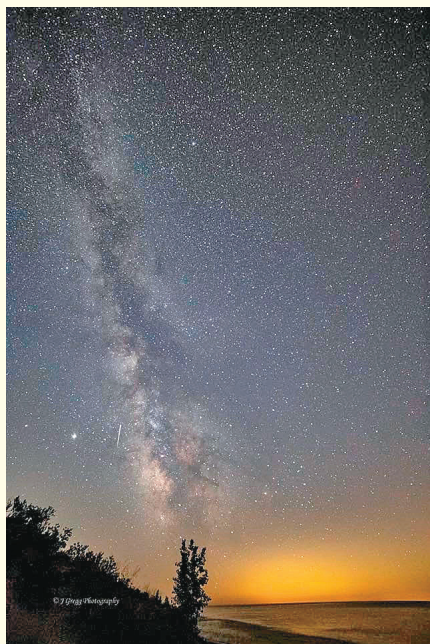
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Qtips1776
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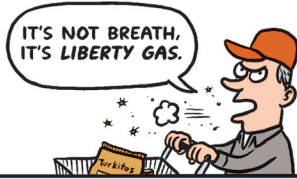
FREEDOM TO CARRY GUNS INTO STATE CAPITOLS



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FREEDOM TO LIE ABOUT THE ELECTION WITH IMPUNITY



FREEDOM FROM DEMOCRACY ENDING NEXT ELECTION CYCLE



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Nonprofit News



Ele's Place celebrates 30 years

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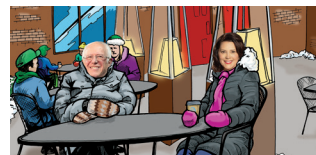
Do you remember East Lansing's Small Planet?

PAGE 23



Flash in the Pan: Winter Pan Salad

PAGE 26



Cover Art

By Nevin Speerbrecher

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

LIFE IN THE LIMINALVERSE

THE QUEST FOR UNITY

FOLKS, WHITE SUPREMACY IS *BAD!*



AN EVOLVING NARRATIVE

UNDER *JOE BIDEN'S* PRESIDENCY, A DEADLY PANDEMIC OF WHICH I HAVE ONLY RECENTLY BECOME AWARE IS COSTING FOUR THOUSAND AMERICAN LIVES EVERY DAY!

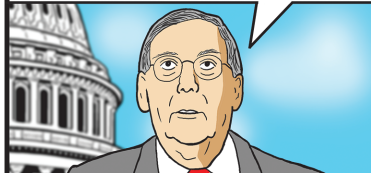
WE ALSO HAVE RECORD JOB LOSSES AND A SKYROCKETING DEFICIT!

COMING UP NEXT: *HOW* HAS HE MANAGED TO DO SO MUCH DAMAGE AFTER *ONE WEEK* IN OFFICE?

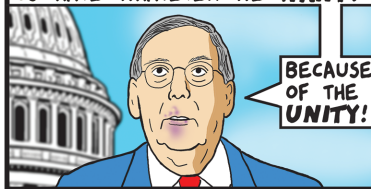


THE SONG REMAINS THE SAME

2015 WE WON AND THEREFORE GET TO DO WHATEVER WE WANT!



2021 WE LOST SO YOU MUST LET US HAVE WHATEVER WE WANT!



THE IMPERSISTENCE OF MEMORY

IT IS TIME TO PUT JANUARY 6 BEHIND US, AND NEVER SPEAK OF THE MATTER AGAIN!

INDEED! LET US NOT BICKER ABOUT WHO DID OR DID NOT INCITE A MURDEROUS MOB!



THE INDIGNITY OF IT ALL

JOE BIDEN IS COMPLETELY DISREGARDING THE WILL OF TRUMP VOTERS! WHY CAN'T DEMOCRATS RESPECT *OUR* FEELINGS--THE WAY *WE* WERE EXTREMELY GRACIOUS AND ACCOMMODATING TO *THEM* IN 2017?



LISTENING TO REAL AMERICA

WE TURN NOW TO A RANDOM *AVERAGE CITIZEN* IN FLORIDA! SIR, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE IMPENDING IMPEACHMENT TRIAL?

IT'S *VERY DIVISIVE*, SEAN! DEMOCRATS SHOULD ADMIT TRUMP WON, AND ALSO MAKE JACK GIVE HIM BACK HIS *TWITTER ACCOUNT!*



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Smoke and mirrors

Three years into Mayor Andy Schor's tenure and we're still waiting for bold leadership, a compelling vision for Lansing's future and real progress for the city and its residents. The COVID-19 pandemic provides a convenient excuse for not doing much at all over the past year, but Schor's approach to leading the city has lacked urgency and direction since the start of his administration.

Now — facing reelection for the first time — comes his thoroughly perplexing proposal to study everything from building a new City Hall, police headquarters, jail and performing arts center to selling off the city's parking and sewer systems. All of these notions are wrapped up in a single Request for Proposals that seeks to hire a "development professional" to study potential projects, several of which have already been studied ad infinitum. The proposal reads more like a wish list created by someone who expected to hit last week's billion-dollar Mega Millions lottery rather than a pragmatic approach to getting any of the named projects started, much less completed. The absurdity of the proposal's scope speaks to Schor's apparent desire to quickly make up lost ground after a lackluster three years in office. It's an effort to put an ambitious face on an administration that apparently prefers to create commissions and hire consultants rather than getting anything done.

We have previously opined on our disappointment in Schor's failure to pick up where former Mayor Virg Bernero — who is leaning toward running again — left off in transforming City Hall into a new downtown hotel. It was an ambitious but workable plan that also would have refurbished the former Lansing State Journal building adjacent to the CATA bus terminal to create a new home for municipal government. The conjoined projects would have had a massive impact on downtown Lansing by securing the long-awaited second hotel to compete with the Radisson, activating one of the most valuable pieces of property in Lansing directly across from the State Capitol, and injecting new life into the downtown's southern tier by repurposing the moribund LSJ building. Had Schor embraced the plan, both projects would be well underway by now.

Schor said he abandoned the plan because it didn't include a strategy for relocating the Lansing jail and the 54-B district court. He also noted recently that the city "couldn't afford" the project. As reported in this newspaper at the time, the hotel proposal would have cost the city nothing. The developer's long-term lease



The **CP** Edit

Opinion

payments for the old city hall property were designed to cover the bond payments for creating the new city hall. As for the courts and jail, it would be relatively simple to relocate both to a temporary facility while plans were developed and executed to complete those pieces of the puzzle, including the potential for an agreement with Ingham County to expand the existing detention facility in the basement of the nearby Veterans Memorial Courthouse.

We're also struck by the improbability of finding a single consultant who is not only capable of scoping what appears to be hundreds of millions in prospective new development, but who also has expertise in monetizing city assets like parking ramps and sewer systems. A skeptic might even see Schor's proposal as an election-year bid to generate campaign cash from developers and the building trades by raising their hopes that large-scale development projects are on the

way.

Schor's all-in-one grab bag of development goodies also comes across as a tacit admission that his team of highly paid appointees doesn't have the depth or expertise to plan and execute complex development projects. As a result, the city will spend the equivalent of another department head salary, if not more, on yet another consultant. Interestingly, the proposal offers the winning respondent a one-year contract with up to four, one-year renewals, which suggests Schor is at least committed to planning what he wants to do during a second mayoral term. We're underwhelmed.

In the face of complexity and uncertainty, Schor opted to punt instead of heeding an old African proverb: How do you eat an elephant? The answer: One bite at a time. Consider us at least somewhat wistful for the bullish approach of his predecessor. Although Bernero's obstinance could be an impediment to getting along with others from time to time, his aggressive style also served the city well by keeping the gas pedal pushed firmly to the floorboard. Schor's approach is more akin to a leisurely bicycle ride down the Lansing River Trail on a warm Sunday afternoon.

Mayor Schor still may have a chance to redeem himself, at least in the eyes of city voters. If the U.S. Congress and President Biden approve a bailout for state and local governments that helps alleviate the massive budget deficits created by the COVID-19 pandemic, Schor likely will escape a very painful financial reckoning that would almost certainly result in layoffs and city service reductions. (As is, city employees are furloughed on Fridays.) We welcome federal assistance for cities like Lansing because the real beneficiaries are the citizens who need their city government to provide high quality public services and a support system that addresses key challenges like historic levels of violent crime, homelessness, hunger and unemployment. Yet such assistance will only paper over the city's ongoing financial challenges due to more than \$700 million in unfunded legacy costs for retiree pensions and health care and open the door to once again kicking the financial can down the road.

As the 2021 mayoral campaign heats up, we'll be watching for evidence that Mayor Schor can offer the city more than the friendly platitudes, indecision and aimless meandering we are getting now. We'll also be looking closely at the alternatives.

Stay tuned.

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

Please limit them to 250 words

LETTERS to the editor

City Pulse lacks balance on Trump

There's a lot to like about the City Pulse ... human interest stories, promotion and support for local restaurants and businesses, building projects in the works, new developments on the horizon or underway, local and state government issues, and articles about the people elected to serve. Many of these articles are interesting, in-depth, and well written. I compliment you and your staff for the service it provides to our community.

Over the past four years, I have read your political articles and wondered if you ever seriously looked at the many accomplishments made by President Trump, let alone gave him any due credit. What he lacked in polished rhetoric and charisma that certainly grated on the establishment, he made up for in his enthusiasm and desire to get things done for the good of all Americans. His downfall was the price paid in exposing just how corrupt our political system has become. Reading this latest issue of the Pulse and the many articles pleading for unity and healing, I find it a bit ironic that they are so deeply embedded with such contempt for Trump. The criticisms, the jokes, the cartoons, the mockery, and the disrespect that you showered on him and his family over the past four years, a lesser person could not have endured. Do you think in four years you will still be blaming him for each and every thing imaginable? I would expect that the answer to that would be yes, especially since no one else has been held accountable for their actions. I would welcome an open, honest, and civil debate on the issues at hand, but we all know now that idea only leads to dissension, inciting "insurrection." You have no

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a local issue or an item that
appeared in our pages?**

Now you have two ways to sound off:

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- Fax: (517) 371-5800
- At lansingcitypulse.com

2.) Write a guest column:

Contact Berl Schwartz for more information:
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.)

idea what I believe nor why. Yet, if I voted for Donald Trump, then you know all you care to know. Anything more is irrelevant. Apparently, however, I now possess all types of phobias defined by words I do not understand much less comprehend. I am further diminished with mis-, dis-, and meh. I have to keep reminding myself that there is only one side to every story. So now, I really must ask, if I admit to "retreating to my own silo" to "consume my own media," will there be a detoxification program waiting for me?

I can't help thinking what a great newspaper the City Pulse could be if it had just one page devoted to both sides of any given issue....you know, like the column you used to do....He Ate / She Ate.

The City Pulse....A newspaper for the rest of us. How great might it be, if it was.....A newspaper for all of us?

**Sandra Fisher
Sunfield**

(Editor's note: The restaurant review column He Ate/She Ate, which the letter mentions, is on hiatus during the pandemic because we felt it was unfair to judge restaurants during this challenging time.)

Why the Gordon Era came to an end

About a month ago, I kicked off an on-air interview with then-Department of Health and Human Services Robert Gordon with — what seemed to be at the time — a clever icebreaker.



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

Gordon had taken over the reins of declaring extended pauses on restaurants and indoor

entertainment to prevent the spread of COVID-19 since the Supreme Court ruled the governor didn't have that power.

So, I thought the following question more than appropriate.

"It's got to feel like you're the most powerful person in the state now, doesn't it? Signing these orders?"

Dead air.

The chuckle I expected didn't come. "It's a whole team that works on these issues ...," Gordon droned.

And so here we are, two years and one pandemic later, arguably the most significant member of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's cabinet is gone nearly as humorlessly as he served.

To be fair, being the state's public health director during COVID-19 has to be as thankless as being a school superintendent. He walked the razor's edge of keeping the public safe while preventing personal upheaval through job loss and depression until he jumped off ... or was likely pushed off.

Was he fired or did he voluntarily quit?

In the end, it truly doesn't matter. Whitmer and Gordon were not on the same page. She read the political tea leaves — restaurants needed to open to in-person in some capacity by Feb. 1. He, I'm told, wanted to keep on the path of "data-driven" decisions.

Something had to give. Whitmer is elected. He is not. She wins.

Gordon was brought to Michigan in 2019 as the Whitmer team's star out-of-town recruit. The former Obama administration executive was initially eyeballed as a Department of Technology, Management and Budget recruit, but his interest in public health earned him the job leading the state's largest department.

The Washington, D.C., creature had been eyeing an administrative director job in California, too, so getting Gordon was seen as a catch.

But as it turned out, Gordon's greatest strengths turned out to be his greatest weakness. Charged with seeing through a task as directly and effectively as possible was something Gordon was good at.

It's kind of like walking a straight line from here to there, regardless of whether you tick people off by tromping through their yards. His robotic-like focus works to the point where an unforeseen obstacle — like sticky tar — blocks the road. Putting your head down and plowing forward isn't always the best answer.

Navigating COVID-19 response for Michigan (or any state) isn't that different. It's an unenviable, hard, hard job. Whitmer is sticking to a general direction, but she takes her foot off the gas when she's pushing too hard.

Everyone wants to get through this pandemic with as few COVID deaths as possible, but we also want the state's response to ruin as few lives as possible, too.

The highly intelligent but politically deaf Gordon never seemed to fully empathize with the angry masses whose livelihoods were upheaved by the state shutting down businesses. People protesting outside his house. Hours-long legislative oversight hearings.

Couldn't folks understand? He and the governor's team were saving lives here!

Publicly, he presented all the warmth of a large boulder. The word inside DHHS wasn't much different. One source described morale within the department as "low and getting lower."

So, with the election cycle shifting to gubernatorial politics and President Trump no longer in office to kick around, Whitmer needed a DHHS head who was amenable to a nuanced philosophy that winning the battle against COVID isn't necessarily about whether the numbers show Michigan is winning, it's whether people feel as if they're winning.

Tough love still needs to come with some love, after all.

This means riding some curves on Michigan's path to COVID-19 recovery. Gordon opted to walk straight into the guardrails. That's why he's no longer director, and the decision to part seemed mutual.

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

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD VIA A ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING IN COMPLIANCE WITH MICHIGAN PUBLIC ACT 228 ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Hayes, Clerk Sanders, Treasurer McKenzie
Trustees: Harris, Broughton, Brewer, Ruiz
MEMBERS ABSENT: None.
ALSO PRESENT: Michael Gresens, Attorney

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:
Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.
Executive Session held for attorney client privilege
Board returned to regular session.
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor
Maggie Sanders, Clerk

CP#21-015

COVID silver lining: Small classes and moving air

By **DEDRIA HUMPHRIES BARKER**

My cousin Robyn earned a master's degree in reading and language arts. She teaches in the Detroit Public Schools



Barker

Community District where the option of face-to-face instruction was offered at the start of the 2020-'21 school year. She told me her third-grade class started in September 2020 with six students. I gave her two thumbs up.

OPINION How awesome for her students. Third grade in Michigan is the grade to pass because of Michigan's 2016 Read by Grade Three Law. That law says that if a third-grade student is more than one grade level behind in reading, then the student is held back from fourth grade. They cannot progress.

Because students need small classes to learn, so say advocates of private, parochial and charter schools, the pandemic can help low-income students. The federal government is sending money for Michigan low-income kids to weather COVID's perilous interruption to their education. It must be used to keep class sizes small in accordance with COVID-19 safety guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control.

The entire protocol is laid out in the MI Safe Start – MI Safe Schools plan. Find it at Michigan.gov.

MI Safe Schools is the plan that “encourages” (their word) schools to provide an option of face-to-face instruction in pre-kindergarten to 12th grade public school districts. The deadline for doing this is March 1.

Unfortunately, the “goal” (their word) of face-to-face instruction comes just as a new variant that is more deadly and more contagious hits the state. MI Safe Schools tries to overcome that.

The MI Safe Schools Rationale is correct to note that online instruction has fallen “particularly hard on the moms.” A University of Southern California study showed the pandemic has slashed the hours and earnings of mothers working in restaurants, hotels and hospitality.

I know how hard low-income mothers must work. I was a professor at Lansing Community College. In 2014, the Institute of Women's Policy Research expert analysis of U.S.

Education Department data found 2.1 million community college students were raising children. Not all at LCC — though some never-ending, eyeball-boggling weekends when I was reading essays it felt like they were.

The State of Michigan guidelines advise school district administrators that the \$1 billion in federal funds will be “largely allocated through a formula driven by Title I.” Title I is the federal law that provides for large concentrations of low-income students to receive supplemental funds to assist in meeting their educational goals. The best indicator of a district that is eligible for Title I funds is the number of students eligible for free and reduced-price lunches.

I want to be optimistic that it is going to work for the benefit of low-income people, but I have heard too many bitter African Americans, especially in Detroit, complain about how the funds for educating Black students gets syphoned off to other parties. Like what happened when we had separate, but equal.

The money can buy necessary classroom ventilation. The Michigan K-12 Public School HVAC Assistance Program is ready to help with ventilation audits and recommendations for keeping the air moving and preventing the virus from spreading.

The crucial thing called for in the guidelines is “managing school operations.” For example, the document mentions class size, but I am being specific: CLASS SIZE.

The guidelines call for the now-familiar six-foot distance at all times, including between desks, except when they can't, then its three feet in classrooms. Why can't they do six feet?

Classrooms with six feet of distance at all times needs to be enforced by the State of Michigan. Where necessary, new classroom space needs to be opened up and teachers hired to go in those spaces. There should be plenty enough opportunity to do that in large urban districts, like Lansing and Detroit, where most of the low-income kids are to be found, and where school buildings sit empty because of their shrinking student body.

The Institute of Women's Policy Research analyzed U.S. Education Department data about student parents and found they spend 30 hours a week providing care for their children. That was pre-COVID. Now add



online instruction to get a more than 40-hours a week. Add fear that your child is going to get infected by a disease, and maybe suffer with its side effects for the rest of their life, and there you are, a mother, hog-tied by no option to stay home to work.

Parenting is an unpaid job; the only benefit is setting up children for a good life. It's time to get low-income kids in small classes to stay healthy and have the best chance to learn.

The first and last reasons that the State of Michigan says it set the face-to-face instruction option goal are:

- loss of learning, and
- the need for parents to go to work.

Given that, the pandemic provides changes that keep low-income children safe in body and learning.

I just wish MI Safe Schools had

more commitment. What comes through in the document is a wishy-washy attitude. The rationale says “schools can minimize risk.” It doesn't say they will. School districts must minimize risk, and the State of Michigan must enforce it.

Now is the time to create do-no-harm, healthy schools. Money – ONE BILLION FEDERAL DOLLARS – is available to do that in Michigan.

(Dedria Humphries Barker, of Lansing, chairs The Andrew and Mary Jane Humphries Foundation and authored “Mother of Orphans: The True and Curious Story of Irish Alice, a Colored Man's Widow” (New York: 2Leaf Press, 20202). Her opinion column appears monthly on the fourth Wednesday.)

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS



By KYLE KAMINSKI



Skating rink coming downtown

A synthetic ice-skating rink will be installed in early February on the City Hall Plaza, Capitol and Michigan avenues. The 3,300-square-foot rink will be decorated with colorful lighting, benches and heaters funded through a partnership between the city and the Capital Region Community Foundation. Officials said the portable rink will return every winter and can be moved to other locations throughout the city for "maximum use and accessibility." Current state restrictions limit gatherings at ice rinks to four people per 1,000 square feet.

MSU to add Detroit campus

Michigan State University plans to add a new campus and research facility in Detroit that focuses on medical research, cancer care, training and diversifying Michigan's healthcare workforce through a new 30-year partnership with Henry Ford Health System. The agreement will offer new clinician training programs and expanded research opportunities with a focus on racial inequities that persist in Michigan's health care system.



MSU students quietly return to class

About 4,000 undergraduate students returned to live on campus at Michigan State University last week, an increase from the 1,500 that remained there during the fall amid the pandemic. The Lansing State Journal reports that about 400 in-person classes started on Jan. 19 but thousands of students remained away from campus. Thousands of classes normally taught in person will continue to be taught remotely.

Lawmakers push for gun ban

A legislative package, cosponsored by state Rep. Julie Brixie, D-Meridian Township, would prohibit the possession of firearms in the Capitol, on the grounds and in the Anderson House and Binsfield Senate office buildings, except by law enforcement. It would expand the new ban on openly carrying firearms in the Capitol.

Northern Michigan official criticized

Republican Grand Traverse County Commissioner Ron Clous continued to make national headlines after nearly 300 people petitioned for his resignation. The

Up North official flashed a rifle during a public meeting last week after a local resident voiced concerns about Traverse City becoming a "sanctuary city" for Second Amendment rights.

Governor praises end of transgender ban

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer lauded President Joe Biden for repealing a Trump-era ban of transgender people openly serving in the military. She said it had only fostered bigotry and "went against everything America represents."

State of City talk goes virtual

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor will only allow a small, socially distanced crowd to watch his annual State of the City address at the city's South Washington Street office complex. The rest will have to tune in to the livestream at 7 p.m. Feb. 3. The speech will air live on City TV Comcast Channel 12 and online at lansingmi.gov/SOTC2021.



Schor

East Lansing launches TikTok challenge

The East Lansing Downtown Development Authority launched a TikTok challenge this week to help promote businesses. Participants can wear a mask and then post a video of themselves performing a choreographed dance in front of an East Lansing business or landmark using the hashtags #downtownELTikTokChallenge and #place-project. Videos must be posted to TikTok by Feb. 13 for a chance to win a \$200 eGift Card, offered courtesy of the DDA.

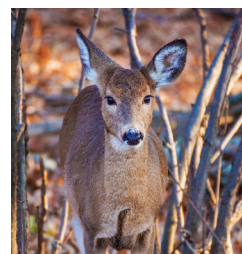


Former court employee files suit

Karen Taylor, a Black woman who worked for Ingham County Circuit Court, filed a federal civil rights lawsuit alleging racial discrimination after a white male counterpart was promoted in 2019 to a position they both sought, reports the Lansing State Journal. The suit, filed in October, alleges that Ingham County used only white staffers to interview applicants and selected a white man over Taylor even though he had less experience.

East Lansing deer removal ends

Residents can stop calling to complain about deer removal operations in several East Lansing parks: The deer hunt has finished. City officials closed several local parks intermittently on week nights, killing 65 deer amid



efforts to address an overpopulated herd that was reportedly causing an increase in traffic crashes. The hunt yielded about 2,000 pounds of venison, which was donated to the Greater Lansing Food Bank.

Whitmer names Hertel MDHHS director

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer appointed Elizabeth Hertel to lead the state Department of Health and Human Services after the abrupt resignation of Dr. Robert Gordon. Hertel was the senior chief deputy director for the administration. Her husband is state Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr., D-East Lansing. Little is known about what triggered Gordon's departure, which came the same day he signed orders lifting indoor dining restrictions.



Hertel

\$641 million Flint water deal

A federal judge granted preliminary approval last week of a \$641.25 million civil settlement tied to the Flint water crisis. The move formally established a 60-day process in which Flint residents can file settlement claims that will be processed and paid by a claims administrator.

MSUFCU opens student art exhibit

High school students are showcasing their artwork through Feb. 24 at the Michigan State University Federal Credit Union headquarters, in East Lansing. Participating high schools will showcase up to 15 pieces, including paintings, sketches and photography. Award winners will be announced March 14.



Soccer team hires assistant coach

The new Lansing Common FC soccer team hired John Greer as an assistant coach as it prepares to play this May in the Midwest Premier League. Greer is also the head coach of Alma College's men's soccer. A game schedule has not been released.

Whitmer lowers flags for senator

Flags across Michigan flew at half-staff Tuesday to honor former state Sen. Shirley Johnson, an Oakland County Republican. Johnson served in the Senate from 1999 to 2004 and in the House 1993 to 1998, where she was the first woman to chair an appropriations committee. She died at 83 years old.

Whitmer appoints Vail to ‘Protect Michigan’ commission

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer appointed dozens of people to the new Protect Michigan Commission this week — including Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail — to help raise awareness and educate residents about the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccinations.

The appointees, who have diverse backgrounds, are tasked with reinforcing the importance of vaccines, identifying barriers to their distribution and targeting areas or groups of people that are likely to be hesitant to get shots when they become available.

On Tuesday, Vail said that she was “honored” to be a part of the Protect Michigan Commission.



Vail

In related news...

State officials have tracked at least 17 cases of a more contagious European variant of the COVID-19 virus, emphasizing the importance of COVID-19 testing as more and more variant cases pop up in Michigan, including in Wayne, Washtenaw and Oakland counties.

The B117 variant spreads more easily between people, and there is some indication it is more severe compared to the SARS-CoV-2 virus that has been circulating across the country for more than a year. However, health experts say that masking, social distancing and frequent hand washing are effective protections.

State health officials have also suggested that herd immunity will be more difficult to attain given the spread of the new variant. Instead of needing to inoculate 70%, it’s thought that 90% or more must be vaccinated.

An audit released this week faulted the state of Michigan’s purchasing agency for a lack of financial controls in the way it spent tens of millions of dollars to purchase personal protective equipment and other supplies to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, reports the Detroit Free Press.

The audit found that state employees were allowed to share state credit cards and wired tens of millions of dollars to suppliers before the requested goods were received — ultimately showcasing an increased risk for fraud, waste and loss of funds, according to the report. Still, a review of billions in state purchases showed that the funds were still spent

appropriately.

At least 21 shipments of COVID-19 vaccines that were shipped Jan. 17 have been ruined after they were stored at too cold of a temperature during the shipping process, state officials announced last week. The cause of the shipping issue remained under investigation this week while distributors worked to quickly repack additional vaccines to replace the damaged batch.

Meanwhile, a lack of internet or unreliable service has made it difficult for rural residents and senior citizens to sign up for coronavirus vaccine appointments, reports the Lansing State Journal. Some residents have also complained about an inability to schedule via the phone.

More than \$250,000 in relief for restaurant owners and workers will be made available this month through a partnership between the state and the nonprofit One Fair Wage. The program, called High Road Kitchens, offers funding for full-service restaurants to hire or rehire workers and feed those in need. In return, participants are asked to transition to paying better wages and increasing equity through hiring and training practices. Visit highroadkitchen.com for details.

An order that requires face masks be worn in all indoor and outdoor public spaces across most of downtown East Lansing was renewed this week through at least February. Violations, are punishable by a civil fine of up to \$25.

— **KYLE KAMINSKI**

CORONAVIRUS IN MICHIGAN								
BY THE NUMBERS...								WEEK 46
MICHIGAN								
	1/19/21	1/26/21	WEEKLY CHANGE		1/19/21	1/26/21	WEEKLY CHANGE	
CASES	540,115	552,556	^2%					
DEATHS	13,865	14,405	^4%					
GREATER LANSING				EATON CO.				
	1/19/21	1/26/21	WEEKLY CHANGE		1/19/21	1/26/21	WEEKLY CHANGE	
CASES	22,901	23,552	^3%	CASES	5,064	5,239	^3%	
DEATHS	394	431	^9%	DEATHS	115	127	^10%	
INGHAM CO.				CLINTON CO.				
	1/19/21	1/26/21	WEEKLY CHANGE		1/19/21	1/26/21	WEEKLY CHANGE	
CASES	13,725	14,123	^3%	CASES	4,113	4,190	^2%	
DEATHS	232	245	^6%	DEATHS	51	59	^16%	

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. 2021-1

Date: January 19, 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 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, pursuant to Section 10-34e of the Ordinance, the City Council consented to the Proclamation and Order and resolved on December 15, 2020, that the Proclamation and Order would extend through January 31, 2021, at 11:59 p.m.; 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 the City DDA District dated November 6, 2020, through February 28, 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#21-018

Lansing mayor cuts line for his COVID-19 vaccine

Sparrow allows early access for 200 city employees

About 50,000 Ingham County residents remain in a holding pattern for access to a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine. But Lansing Mayor Andy Schor is not one of them.

Schor, 45, was vaccinated about two weeks ago as part of what officials at Sparrow Health Systems said was an invitation-only pilot program in preparation for community-wide vaccine distribution. He was one of 200 city of Lansing employees who received the vaccine in January.

A Sparrow spokesman, John Foren, said giving shots to a “limited number” of Priority 1B individuals — which include frontline essential workers and those 75 or older — helped “ensure our process was sound” before larger-scale distribution began Jan. 19.

But Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail said none of the 200 employees were qualified to receive the shots.

Foren did not respond to further questions.

Schor said the limited batch was available on a “use it or lose it” basis. And although he said he didn’t speak directly with Sparrow officials, he made sure he was behind 199 other employees.

“I was going to get it and show that it is something people should be getting,” Schor explained.

Schor was uncertain which city staffer first fielded vaccine invitations from the health system.

“I was told Sparrow had a certain



Foren



Schor



Wood

number of doses they needed to get out real quick. We were an avenue to get these shots into arms,” Schor said. “They offered them to us, and we said OK.”

Schor referred questions to Sparrow. He insisted, however, that he obliged to take the shot and that he trusted health officials that the offer was within guidelines.

“Ethically, if we get offered to do this and we didn’t and someone who works for us gets COVID and dies, I don’t know how I could live with myself,” Schor said.

Schor made no public announcement of being vaccinated. Those shots are otherwise only available for emergency first responders — like healthcare personnel, firefighters, ambulance crews and police officers — people 65 and older and “essential employees” who had unique high exposures, such as teachers and grocery store staff.

In Ingham County, the focus remains on those grouped into Priority 1B, but specifically those over the age of 70 because of the high mortality rate in

that age group in Greater Lansing. At 45, Schor is two decades short of hitting that bar.

Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail said she only became aware of the city shots this week.

“We all learned some hard lessons as we went along,” Vail said about the situation. “But we try to course correct. Hopefully we’ve done an immediate course correction so we don’t have this happen again.”

Vail said Sparrow’s plan did not arise during “coordination conversations” or she would have redirected the vaccines.

“There are actually no critical infrastructure employees on the list. We already vaccinated the city’s people. We could have worked together to identify a group needing vaccination.”

Among those other groups: Childcare workers, school employees and senior citizens.

Vail said she discovered weeks ago that appointment links reserved for police, firefighters and others were being forwarded to people who didn’t meet the criteria for a vaccine. That caused the county to adapt its systems and prevent other people from jumping the line. Despite those early stumbles, she’s focused on making sure distribution remains an equitable process.

Lansing City Councilwoman Carol Wood also serves as executive director of RSVP of Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties. That organization works directly with seniors and connects them with a variety of volunteer opportunities — including at Sparrow Health Systems.

She said Sparrow never called her organization about early vaccine availability.

“We would have moved heaven and earth to try to make that happen,” Wood explained, ticking off a list of at least a dozen people in their 70s who still need an appointment.

Wood, 70, said she had an opportunity to receive the vaccine through the latest Sparrow offering to the city but she refused. Instead, “I’m waiting my turn like everybody else,” she said.

The other Council members who could be reached by City Pulse this week said they also chose not to get the vaccine and were troubled that elderly res-

idents were skipped over in the queue.

Schor’s inoculation comes as the county, state and country struggle meeting the demand for vaccines. Ingham County Health Department has been receiving 1,950 doses a week, while Foren said Sparrow had received 3,750 doses this week. Sparrow’s allotment allows them to inoculate people throughout its health system in several counties.

MSU medical ethicist Leonard Fleck said the early access to people outside of the current vaccine groupings was troubling.

“From a best practice ethical point of view, Sparrow should have found a way to use those doses with a group who was at greater risk than the employees of the city of Lansing,” said Fleck who is part of the Center for Ethics and Humanities in Life Sciences.

State officials relied on reports last year that it would receive up to 300,000 doses weekly. Instead, it received only 120,000 in recent weeks. That’s why the state has been asking for access to more vaccines, a spokeswoman explained.

President Joe Biden this week announced a goal to administer 150 million vaccinations in his first 100 days. The CDC announced that on Thursday and Friday last week at least 1 million vaccines had been administered.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has set a goal of 50,000 inoculations daily, which could allow the state to hit its goal of vaccinating 70% of people age 16 and older by August. At the current rate of 29,000 per day, that mark wouldn’t be reached for another year.

The demand has overwhelmed hospital and health departments’ supplies, resulting in lengthy delays for appointments.

Meanwhile, Sparrow is requesting assistance from the Michigan National Guard with vaccines at the hospital’s Frandor drive-thru location, according to an email to the county sent on Jan. 20. Vail said she has since sought additional clarity either from state or Sparrow officials regarding the necessity and nature of that requested deployment.

Across Michigan, Whitmer has authorized the activation of at least 620 National Guard troops, including 300 more that began active duty on Sunday. Those troops are split into 50 three-person teams, including a medic and two administrative staff members.

— **TODD HEYWOOD**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. IN COMPLIANCE WITH MICHIGAN PUBLIC ACT 228, THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM PLATFORM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Hayes, Clerk Sanders, Treasurer McKenzie
Trustees: Harris, Broughton, Brewer, Ruiz

MEMBERS ABSENT: None
ALSO PRESENT: Michael Gresens, Attorney

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.
Approved minutes of the meetings held on December 16 and December 29, 2020.
Agenda approved.
Adopted Resolution 21-01: Resolution to Opt Out of the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution
Adopted Resolution 21-02: Resolution to Adopt Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test
Adopted Resolution 21-03: Reappointments to Planning Commission
Approved budget amendments.
Approved Granger Wood Street Landfill Tree & Brush Burning Project subject to Fire Chief Hendy and Supervisor Hayes approval.
Approved Claims as presented.
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor
Maggie Sanders, Clerk

CP#21-016

Buyer beware: Unlicensed Facebook food sales are illegal

Health officer cautions against underground scene

Egg rolls or seafood boils. Apple turnovers and tamales. Facebook Marketplace and other resale groups in Greater Lansing feature these tasty sounding items.

But Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail said buyers need to beware that unless the food is made in a licensed food kitchen, it's illegal — and can be potentially dangerous to your health.

“Any time you are selling or giving food to the public,” Vail said, “there has to be a way to ensure it hasn't been adulterated or that there is no disease there.”

Vail said foodborne illnesses like Hepatitis A, E. Coli and Norovirus can cause serious health issues, including death. A specific strain of E. Coli creates a toxin that breaks down the body's small blood vessels and destroys the kidneys. Hepatitis A can cause liver damage, while Norovirus can cause intestinal distress that can lead to vomiting, diarrhea and dehydration.

City Pulse reached out to nearly a

“Any time you are selling or giving food to the public, there has to be a way to ensure it hasn't been adulterated or that there is no disease there.”

Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail



dozen Facebook Marketplace posts offering food for sale.

Some were located in Wisconsin. Others were in Lansing. One post turned out to be a licensed restaurant selling tamales online. One vendor blocked this reporter. Another offered apple turnovers for sale in East Lansing but wasn't interested in commenting. Others did not respond, and their posts soon disappeared after being read.

Vail said her office has often ended up in the same situation: being blocked.

This reporter also identified several offers which appeared to violate Michigan's marijuana laws. Offering cannabis-infused edibles without a license is a felony.

Eric Hill, who appears to live in Holt, posted several offers for food containing cannabis extracts on Facebook, includ-

ing one offering edibles as “party favors.” Hill said that his most recent post — what appears to be a chocolate in a muffin wrapper — was available for a “donation.”

“It was for a certain friend that needed help so I help him with an add to see if I could generate money for him and his family sense unemployment isn't doing their job,” Hill messaged digitally.

He denied that his products were marijuana related, instead insisting that the advertised \$15 donation was actually for the recipe for his friend's grandmother's German chocolate buckeyes.

This reporter also identified offerings for marijuana-infused food products from Provo, Utah, as well as another offering marijuana edibles in Lansing. Both profiles have since deleted

their posts after reviewing the request for comment and then blocking this reporter.

Hill's post — like other online food sales — also appeared in the “Lansing Yard Sale” group, a private Facebook group of 23,600 people. The group's administrator, Megan Merritt, tries to police the forum, but “I'm not watching every post in the group as there's 23k members and hundreds of posts a day. My group doesn't promote any illegal items. If you see them, report them.”

A spokesman for the state Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs said even under legalization, it is illegal for someone to sell or exchange marijuana for something of value. LARA forwards possible violations to local and state law enforcement agencies.

But Ingham County Prosecutor Carol Siemon said Sunday her office has not had any referrals tied to marijuana-infused product sales from local law enforcement since legalization.

“We have not received any community member or police complaints about this activity, and haven't formulated a response for it if we do,” Siemon said.

— **TODD HEYWOOD**

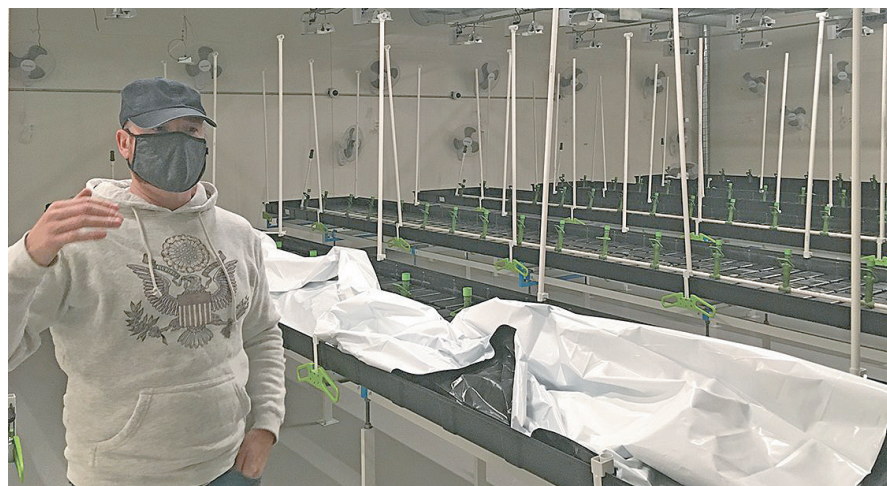
Former employees file suit against Lansing pot farmer

A federal lawsuit seeks to recoup unpaid wages and hold a Lansing-based marijuana cultivator accountable for allegedly breaking several labor and discrimination laws.

Two former employees of RGR Industries, which does business under the name Iliad Epic Grow at 921 Terminal Road in Lansing, sued the company and its owner, Richard Ruzich, earlier this month in the Western District federal court in Grand Rapids. Among the allegations: Former staffers Dominic and Jessica Price claimed they weren't paid for at least several weeks of work.

The lawsuit also labels the company's finances as a “mess” and maintains that Jessica Price was paid far below the rate at which her male counterparts made for the same amount of work.

“Their jobs were extremely labor intensive such that the nature of their work routinely required a significant time commitment from them each week,” the lawsuit states. “The Prices regularly worked between 40 and 55



Sean Bradley/City Pulse

Iliad Epic Grow founder Richard Ruzich shows off the flowering room at his Terminal Road facility.

hours (or more) each work week for RGR during their employment.”

Ruzich opened Iliad Epic Grow in February. He did not respond to several requests for comment, but court records show him and his lawyers have until March 8 to respond in court.

In the meantime, the Prices are ask-

ing for a court order that would require Ruzich to fairly compensate them for back wages, legal fees and other damages stemming from their tenure with the company, including emotional distress as well as interest since they left their jobs.

The suit states that Dominic Price

started working for the company as a cultivator in December 2018. Jessica Price started in the same position a few months later in June 2019. As part of that work, Dominic Price contends that he was promised but never paid annual wages of \$100,000.

In addition to not being paid at all for several weeks of work, the complaint also alleges that Dominic and Jessica Price were fired in October after they inquired about the payroll concerns. It also claims that Ruzich violated the U.S. Fair Labor Standards Act and Michigan's Workforce Opportunity Wage Act in part by paying Jessica Price half the salary of her male counterparts and failing to pay for work that she completed at home, on weekends and during her commute.

The suit does not state how much Jessica Price was paid compared to male staff, but it claimed that Ruzich also failed to pay either Dominic or Jessica Price federal minimum wage of \$7.25.

— **SEAN BRADLEY**

Experts treat insomnia, anxiety caused by COVID-19

By RI'AN JACKSON
Capital News Service

Sachi Tanaka says after having COVID-19 for three weeks, she experienced insomnia in a way that she never had.

“At that time, I had gotten myself into a good routine of falling asleep around 10 p.m. and waking up early,” said the 24-year-old Texas woman. “And then, all of the sudden, it was like I couldn’t fall asleep until 6 or 7 in the morning.”

Her insomnia was a nagging feeling. She tossed and turned in bed, feeling like she was at the brink of sleep, but would be interrupted by her thoughts.

Tanaka isn’t alone. COVID-19 has affected many people’s sleep, whether they’ve had the virus or not. Sleep neurologists call it “COVID-somnia,” a phenomenon where people have trouble sleeping because of the virus. And its effects can last even after the pandemic ends.

Coronavirus upended our lifestyles. Morning commutes were replaced with teleworking, which may mean less physical activity and exposure to



sunlight and more screen time, said Dr. George Zureikat, a sleep medicine specialist and director of Mid Michigan Sleep Center in Grand Blanc.

That can ruin sleep by disrupting the circadian rhythm — the powerhouse of our sleep-wake cycle.

Stress induced by COVID can also result in insomnia, said Zureikat, who has seen a surge of insomnia cases since the pandemic.

COVID-19 is unlike anything many people have experienced, he said. Insomniacs may lose sleep worrying about unemployment or about contracting the virus. Some people feel trapped during lockdowns and

are constantly reading news articles about overcrowded hospitals and rising death numbers.

A recent study by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine found 2.77 million Google searches for “insomnia” in the first five months of 2020 — a 58% increase compared with the same months from the previous three years. Most of those queries happened between midnight and 5 a.m., suggesting people were searching while unable to fall asleep.

Difficulties like trouble falling and staying asleep or waking up too early rose from 36% before the pandemic to 51% during it, Rebecca Robillard, a University of Ottawa professor who leads clinical sleep research at the Royal’s Institute of Mental Health Research, said in a Medpage Today article.

“If your (circadian) rhythms are thrown off, that also throws off your sleep at night time,” said Dr. Christopher Morgan, the medical director at Mercy Health Saint Mary’s Sleep Center in Grand Rapids. “Your melatonin may not be producing the right amounts at the right time, which is part of your internal rhythms in your body.”

Melatonin is the hormone that your brain produces in response to darkness. It helps time your circadian rhythms and sleep.

“Humans are social animals,” said Dr. Lila Massoumi, a professor of psychiatry at Michigan State University and chair of the American Psychiatric Association Caucus on Complementary & Integrative Psychiatry.

“We draw both strength and calm from our fellow humans. Ripping that social support away by telling us to self-isolate removes that source of strength and calm,” she said.

Unsurprisingly, those who contract the virus may also stress about their health.

Morgan said those who struggle with chronic insomnia, or insomnia experienced at least three nights a week for at least a month, may develop bad habits that can be difficult to shake.

“You have an acute stressor, which is COVID, and you become an insomniac,” he said. “And then let’s say I still haven’t gotten a job in six months. Now, I’m sitting in bed for 10 hours a day just thinking about how terrible things are in my life, and I have insomnia.”

“So, now I start watching TV in bed because I’m awake during the night time, and I start drinking pop in the middle of the night, and I start laying in bed even longer because I think I’m not getting enough sleep. So, all these maladaptive behaviors develop.”

What’s worse, according to Mayo Clinic researchers, those who’ve had chronic insomnia report a lower quality of life than those who sleep well. Chronic insomnia may lead to anxiety or depression, slowed reaction time while driving and increased risk of long-term diseases such as heart disease.

Many professionals treat patients with cognitive behavioral therapy. It works by identifying and replacing thoughts and behaviors that create sleep problems with ones that promote healthy sleep.

“It’s just a matter of just tweaking certain habits and changing certain things,” said Rachel Freedland, a clinical social worker at Bright Spot Therapy, a counseling clinic in Farmington Hills. “If there are other mental health needs, for example, if a person already has anxiety or depression, we address those as well.”

After assessing a patient’s sleeping habits with sleep diaries and questionnaires, Freedland, who is certified in cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia, and her clients design a program that helps them sleep and wake up when they want.

Yoga and mindfulness, a type of meditation where you focus on being aware of what you’re feeling and sensing at the moment, can release feel-good hormones that alleviate anxiety and promote healthier sleep, according to Asha Ravindran, a clinical team lead at St. Mary Mercy hospital in Livonia.

“If you don’t sleep, if you’re anxious, you’re out of sync with your body,” said Ravindran, who owns Stepping Stones Wellness Center in Plymouth and conducts virtual yoga and meditation sessions with her patients.

She advises clients to create a private space where they can journal, practice yoga and meditate. This space can be as simple as the foot of the bed.

The key is to be present in the moment, Ravindran said. From yoga poses to breathing exercises, you can de-stress with strategies that help focus on the present without worrying about the past or future.



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Police shot a teen 18 times. They mourned a dog.

The Lansing Police Department removed a post from its Facebook account this week after Police Chief Daryl Green said it “was causing too much harm to the Lansing community.”

The move was in response to criticism the Police Department faced over the weekend after it posted an online tribute to a police dog that was killed in 1999, but referred to a teenage boy who was shot by officers 18 times during the incident only as “the subject” in the memorial.

“The annual post is intended to honor the memory of an LPD K-9 that lost his life in the line of duty, as we honor all LPD employees that have died in the line of duty, and was certainly not intended to disrespect or harm any citizens,” Green said in a subsequent post on Monday, noting he agreed with Mayor Andy Schor to delete the post following widespread backlash.

Every year, Lansing police create a Facebook post in which they remember K9 Sabre, a police dog that was shot and killed while attempting to capture Aldric “AJ” McKinstry Jr., an 18-year-old who ran from officers and later broke into the basement of an unoccupied home.

“We Shall NEVER Forget” according to the now-deleted Facebook post from Saturday afternoon. “Officers attempted to talk the man into exiting the home but he refused to do so. As entry was made into the home, the subject opened fire. Sabre immediately attacked the subject as officers returned fire. Both Sabre and the subject were fatally wounded during the exchange.”

News reports state that McKinstry jumped from a second-story window, fled on foot with a gun and broke into the basement of an empty northside home on Alfred Avenue. Police surrounded the home and reportedly warned McKinstry for five minutes before sending Sabre inside.

Officers claimed that McKinstry shot first and hit Sabre three times before police reportedly returned fire, shooting McKinstry 18 times and hitting him six, including one to the forehead. News reports show that more than 600 people came out for McKinstry’s funeral. An internal investigation later

cleared police in the shooting, noting the shots were fired in self-defense.

And 21 years later, Lansing police still omitted McKinstry’s name from their dog-focused tribute. Hundreds of comments followed online, with many alleging that the recent Facebook post unfairly focused much more on the death of a dog rather than the teenager who was killed.

“To memorialize a dog when a human life was lost is disgusting,” remarked Ashley Phenicie.

Added Amanda Thomashow in another comment: “This is in super poor taste. A human lost their life that day too and referring to them as ‘the subject’ while you honor a dog that died attacking them is super dehumanizing. Super bummed any of my tax dollars go to you.”

“Perhaps a memorial for the countless humans killed by police would be more appropriate,” said Marie LaHoney in the comment section. “You people are literally oblivious. Read the room.”

Local activist and firefighter Michael Lynn Jr. was a close friend of McKinstry. He posed questions to Mayor Andy Schor about the recurring memorial in June, asking why a dog deserved a tribute without “any notice of the child that was murdered” by cops in Lansing.

“I’m sick of seeing that every year,” Lynn told Schor. “I’m sick of seeing you guys put that dog up on a pedestal when my brother was killed by the Police Department during that same event.”

Schor apologized the next day for failing to acknowledge McKinstry’s death in the 2020 tribute, noting at the time that he didn’t “have all the answers” but vowing to look into the situation. Seven months later, the memorial post appeared again without mentioning McKinstry’s name.

Following the backlash in the comments online, the Police Department updated a few lines to the post to clarify that the “intention of this post was not to disrespect or harm any citizen.” It was deleted altogether on Tuesday. Green’s subsequent statement did not include an apology.

— KYLE KAMINSKI



Courtesy photo

Police dog K9 Sabre (right) was shot and killed in 1999 when the Lansing Police Department attempted to capture 18-year-old Aldric “AJ” McKinstry Jr. (left).

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER**

**In the Matter of:
Gardens Drain**

NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DETERMINATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to you as a person liable for an assessment that the Board of Determination, composed of Paulette Hatchett, Cheryl Risner, Dennis Williams, and Mary Pollock (Alternate), will meet on **Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.** to hear all interested persons and evidence and to determine whether the actions prayed for in a Petition dated October 22, 2020 for the maintenance and improvement of the Gardens Drain are necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare of Delhi Charter Township, County of Ingham, State of Michigan, in accordance with Sections 72 and 191 of Act No. 40, PA 1956.

Please take notice that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting will be conducted virtually as authorized by Public Act 254 of 2020 (amending Section 3 and 3a of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, MCL §§15.263 and 15.263a), and following the guidelines of the State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services January 22, 2021 Emergency Order and pursuant to MCL 333.2253 – Gatherings and Face Mask Order – and all other Emergency Orders that may be applicable at the time of the meeting. The weblink or telephone number and access code to attend the meeting is as follows:

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85376049846>
or
Dial Toll-free: (877) 853-5257
Meeting ID: 853 7604 9846

Members of the public will only be able to speak during the public comment portions of the meeting. To provide for orderly public participation, a person wishing to speak must state their name and request to be recognized by the Board. The Board of Determination will recognize all persons wishing to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Information regarding this meeting may be obtained from the Ingham County Drain Commissioner. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Ingham County Drain Commissioner at the number noted below (voice) or through the Michigan Relay Center at 711 (TTY) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. Minutes of the meeting will be on file in the following office: Ingham County Drain Commissioner’s Office, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that persons aggrieved by the decisions of the Board of Determination may seek judicial review in the Circuit Court for the County of Ingham within ten (10) days of the determination. If the actions prayed for in the Petition are determined to be necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare, a special assessment may be levied against properties that benefit from the project. A landowner or party of interest to property to be assessed, or their agent, may appear in person to comment on the necessity of the project.

Dated: January 25, 2021

Patrick E. Lindemann
Ingham County Drain Commissioner
Phone: (517) 676-8395

CP#21-017



Courtesy photo

Lansing State Journal’s headline about the shooting.

Restaurants are ready to reopen in Greater Lansing. But what about the customers?

Struggling entrepreneurs expect lingering apprehension from customers as dining rooms open

By **KYLE KAMINSKI**

Jim MacQueen watched Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's latest press conference from his empty sports bar on Monday afternoon, hoping it didn't include any added restrictions on restaurants.

MacQueen, the owner of Coach's Pub and Grill near Holt, is used to a moderate lunch rush — even on Mondays. But like thousands of other restaurants across Michigan, Coach's has been reduced to carryout and outdoor dining as the COVID-19 pandemic lingers.

On Monday, a dining room that could normally seat 300 people was empty. The kitchen staff hadn't seen a single carryout order all afternoon. Staff used their spare time to shuffle around tables into a new socially distant seating arrangement. February can't arrive soon enough: On Monday (Feb. 1), inside dining resumes in Michigan, albeit at 25% capacity.

"From the beginning, we've wanted to do our part and help get this virus under control, ebb the flow, flatten the curve. But we've lost over \$600,000 in 2020. It's a very significant hit," MacQueen said. "We just didn't write our business plan to operate with these limitations."

It's been since Nov. 18 when the state Department of Health and Human Services enacted and later extended a three-week "pause" on indoor dining.

As coronavirus infection rates continued to decline, state officials agreed it was time to loosen the leash on bars and restaurants — but only a little. The latest epidemic orders allow for indoor dining, but only at 25% of usual seating capacities and with a strict 10 p.m. curfew to close.

For MacQueen, it's an opportunity that will allow nearly 80 guests to return to his



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Jim MacQueen, the owner of Coach's Pub and Grill near Holt, plans to reopen with limited capacity on Feb. 1. The large bar and restaurant will be able to accommodate about 80 guests.

restaurant — a lifeline that he hopes will allow an already battered industry to continue clinging to life in 2021. According to the Michigan Restaurant and Lodging Association, the pandemic (and related restrictions) swallowed nearly 3,000 restaurants and 200,000 jobs in 2020.

"It's been hard for us being a family-owned, small business," MacQueen added. "It's translated to a lot of really difficult deci-

sions that really could've all been solved by us keeping the doors open. We've been in full support of these measures, but that doesn't make it less difficult."

MacQueen joined nearly 100 other restaurant owners in urging Whitmer this month to allow restaurants to reopen safely "as soon as possible." Matt Gillett and Travis Stoliker, co-owners of Saddleback BBQ, penned the open letter one week before the orders were lifted.

"It's great that fewer people are getting sick and fewer people are going into the hospital, which is really what's putting us in a position to be able to do this," Stoliker added. "For restaurants, I think the time has come that we can slowly move toward reopening. We need the chance."

Before the latest restrictions on indoor dining, state officials tracked a rate of 734 coronavirus cases per million people in Michigan. As of this week, that rate was below 177 cases per million. In Ingham County, that rate was tracking at 109 cases per million Tuesday.

Those statistics, in part, justified the loosened restrictions.

MacQueen said carryout and limited outdoor dining have only helped him recoup less than 30% of his usual revenues. Grant funding helped supplement his losses, but he said larger sports bars like Coach's have — and likely always will — rely heavily on



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Coach's Pub and Grill was mostly empty on Monday afternoon as owner Jim MacQueen watched Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's press conference on a big screen TV. All told, those empty chairs have helped account for a \$600,000 revenue loss for the business over the last year.

(Right) A rack of ribs rests in a smoker outside of Saddleback BBQ in Okemos. Co-owners Matt Gillett and Travis Stoliker penned a letter urging Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to ease restrictions on restaurants about one week before the announcement that they were to be lifted on Feb. 1.

(Middle) Matt Gillett, co-owner of Saddleback BBQ, wrote Whitmer that it was time for restaurants to reopen safely “as soon as possible.”



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Restaurants

from page 14

crowded rooms for cash.

While larger restaurants can weather capacity limits with more expansive seating arrangements, smaller shops like Saddleback will continue to face some limitations in February. The Lansing location isn't large enough to add a single table. Saddleback's other location, in Okemos, will seat fewer than 20 guests, down from 74, Stoliker said.

At some small diners, only adding a table or two might not justify keeping the lights turned on.

“For a lot of places, it'll be a financial decision on whether the 25% occupancy is enough to keep the business open,” Stoliker added. “Just like our customers, everyone will have to make their own decisions on how they handle things, like whether they feel it's safe to go back out again.”

Will customers actually return?

City Pulse reached out to readers on Facebook shortly after the new orders were announced. And with more than 50 responses, the vast majority were hesitant about dining out in February.

“I know that a lot of customers will feel that way for a while, especially until we see more vaccines becoming available,” said Walah Aljabbar, manager at Zaytoon on Lansing's west side. “We'll be doing everything we can as far as sanitizing and social distancing to make people feel safe.”

At Art's Pub in Lansing, those precautions will include a limit of 24 guests — down from about 100 outside of the pandemic. And each of them, in alignment with state orders, will be required to sign in at the front to help assist contact tracing efforts, should they become necessary.



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Pizza helped supplement carryout sales in recent months, but owner Greg Sinicropi recognizes that some types of bar food (like burgers) don't always make for the best to-go orders. Buns get soggy. That melted layer of cheese can become stiff. Some things are best enjoyed right away.

Restaurants are also battling against a nationwide lag in vaccine distribution. Whitmer's goal of 50,000 inoculations a day could allow the state to hit its goal of vaccinating 70% of people age 16 and older by August. At the current rate, that mark wouldn't be reached for yet another year.

“I don't expect things to jump back

to normal for quite a long time,” Sinicropi added. “Right now, we're also dealing with a new variant of the virus and a slow rollout of the vaccine. It's going to take a while for people to be totally comfortable going back out, and that makes a lot of sense.”

Sinicropi and the others who signed Saddleback's letter this month emphasized that their suggestion to quickly reopen restaurants wasn't designed as criticism for the governor — more of a polite request to reconsider the metrics guiding decisions to keep dining rooms totally closed. None of them wanted to align themselves with the right-wing Capitol protest crowd.

“We just felt that a few bad apples might've spoiled it for the whole bunch,” Sinicropi added. “Like others, we've been paying close attention to the rules and guidelines to make this a safe experience. We just wanted to let the governor know that many of us were taking this seriously and felt like we were ready to begin safely reopening, that now was the time to get going again.”

COVID-19
FEB. 1: GATHERING GUIDELINES

Open			
 Two-household gathering (high precautions)*	 Public transit	 Funerals (25 people)	 Indoor group fitness classes
 Small outdoor gatherings (25 people)	 Hair salons, barber shops, other personal services	 Health care	
 Retail	 Gyms, pools, roller and ice rinks	 Theaters, movie theaters, stadiums, arenas	
 Preschool through 12th grade (local district choice)	 Restaurants and bars*	 Bowling centers	
 Childcare	 Professional sports**	 Bingo halls, casinos, arcades	
 Manufacturing, construction, other work that is impossible to do remotely, including technical education	 Parks and outdoor recreation	 Non-contact sports	

Not open

- Workplaces, when work can be done from home
- Night clubs
- Contact sports, except professional sports
- Water parks

*See DHHS guidance for safety practices. **Includes a limited number of NCAA sports.

For more information about the order, visit Michigan.gov/Coronavirus. Questions or concerns can be emailed to COVID19@michigan.gov.

From living in a car to being her own boss

Tammara Ramona is Lansing's 'Smoothie Queen'

By SKYLER ASHLEY

The past year of Tammara Ramona's life has been a roller-coaster ride.

From living in her car to running her own successful smoothie business out of the Allen Neighborhood Center, Ramona's story is inspirational for anybody looking to finally step out on their own. And today, she proudly sits on the throne as the "Smoothie Queen" of Lansing.

After being let go from a call center job in late 2019, Ramona, who is 28, decided to pursue a living where she could be her own boss. She spent an evening looking up smoothie recipes online and after making her own and realizing how delicious her creation was, she decided to give it a go selling her own smoothies. She had seen other people selling homemade food online and figured there was definitely a market out there for her product.

Smoothie Queen

Located inside Allen Neighborhood Center
1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing
Monday, noon to 4 p.m.
Wednesday, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday, noon to 4 p.m.
(517) 512-2635,
Facebook.com/
SmoothieQueenLansing

“I made a post on Facebook that said, ‘Hey I’m starting a smoothie business. If you’re interested, this is what I am offering.’ To my surprise, a lot of people were interested,”

Ramona said. “I made \$300 in one day — just selling smoothies out of my apartment.” (For a story on the legality of unlicensed food sales and the safety of consuming such products, see P. 11.)



Courtesy

Tammara Ramona preparing a batch of smoothies.

Despite some initial success moving smoothies from home, she couldn't keep up with her expenses and could not afford a permanent residence. “Sales slowed down and I started falling behind. I didn't plan and I didn't save. I was no longer able to support myself and I had to live in my car. From January to April of 2020, I was sleeping in my car and living in Airbnbs and hotels,” Ramona said.

But no matter what, she refused to return to a corporate job.

Ramona informed her Facebook followers of her situation after receiving messages asking why she was no longer selling smoothies. It didn't take long before she received public support.

Several people reached out to her with donations. Some allowed Ramona to use their kitchens for making smoothies, which she would sell and deliver from her car. Eventually, she saved enough to purchase licenses to open up Smoothie Queen at the Allen Neighborhood Center. Ramona was so determined to pursue her own career and be her own boss that she spent her savings on licensing fees before finding a place to stay.

“A lot of people thought I was crazy for putting that before finding a permanent residence. The food licensing cost me around \$2,000, but I knew that once I had it, more money would come in and I'd be able to afford a place,” Ramona said.

Since October, Ramona has had her own place and her smoothies have become more popular. They are unique because they are dairy-free and are highly elaborate in their preparation and presentation. Ramona purposefully creates off-the-wall smoothies so people will share pictures of them on social media and expand her clientele through word of mouth. “That was how I grew, people sharing their pictures on social media,” Ramona said.

Most of all, Ramona thanks the Lansing community for supporting the vision of a young Black female business owner.

“I knew I didn't want to return to the 9 to 5 life. I knew I would feel like more of a failure if I went back to that instead of following my dreams,” Ramona said.

Outdoor dining options

While indoor dining returns to Michigan on Monday, there is still plenty of apprehension about dining inside during the pandemic. Fortunately, plenty of Greater Lansing restaurants still offer heated outdoor options, so you can avoid the crowds and still keep warm for a meal through our lovely Michigan winter weather. Here are the ones we are aware of. (Know of others? Email skylar@lansingcitypulse.com and he will add them online.)

Peanut Barrel

Patio area with heat lamps
521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
Sunday-Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Thursday-Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
(517) 351-0608, Peanutbarrel.com

English Inn

Heated igloos
677 S. Michigan Road, Eaton Rapids
Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wednesday-Friday, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
(517) 663-2500, englishinn.com

People's Kitchen

Heated patio
2722 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Wednesday-Friday, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
(517) 507-5730, Eatpeoples.com

Brookshire Inn & Golf Club

Heated igloos
205 W. Church St., Williamston
Monday-Saturday, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.
(517) 655-4694, brookshiregolfclub.com

Burgdorf's Winery

Heated igloos
5635 Shoeman Road, Haslett
Tuesday-Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.
(517) 655-2883, burgdorfwinery.com

American Bistro

Heated patio
2328 Showtime Dr., Lansing
Monday-Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Wednesday-Sunday, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
(517) 708-8803, theamerican-bistro.com

Arcadia Smokehouse

Heated Igloos
2101 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
(517) 482-2739, arcadialansing.com

Coach's Pub and Grill

Heated Patio
6201 Bishop Road, Lansing
Tuesday-Friday, 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Sunday, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
(517) 882-2013, coachspubandgrill.com

Dagwood's

Heated patio
2803 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing
11 a.m. to midnight, daily
(517) 374-0390, dagwoodstavern.com

Lansing Brewing Co.

Outdoor area with fire pit
518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing
Tuesday-Friday, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturday, noon to 9 p.m.
Sunday, noon to 7 p.m.
(517) 371-2600, lansingbrewingcompany.com

EagleMonk Pub & Brewery

Outdoor area with heat lamps and fire pits
4906 W. Mt. Hope Hwy., Lansing
Tuesday-Friday, 3 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Saturday, noon to 10 p.m.
Sunday, noon to 9 p.m.
(517) 708-7350, eaglemonkbrewing.com

Reno's

Heated Patio
East Location
1310 Abbot Road, East Lansing
Sunday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to midnight
Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.
(517) 351-7366
North Location
16460 Old U.S. 27, Lansing
Sunday-Thursday, noon to 9 p.m.
Friday-Saturday, noon to 10 p.m.
(517) 487-8686

El Azteco

Heated outdoor area
West Location:
1016 W. Saginaw St., Lansing
Monday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Tuesday-Thursday & Saturday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Friday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Sunday, noon to 9 p.m.
(517) 485-4589
East Location
225 Ann St., East Lansing
Sunday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
(517) 351-9111

Red Cedar Spirits

Heated outdoor area
2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing
Tuesday-Wednesday & Sunday, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Thursday-Saturday, 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.
(517) 908-9950, redcedarspiritsdistillery.com
(Compiled by Skyler Ashley.)

Ghost restaurants

A gourmet pizza ordered from the same kitchen as Chuck E. Cheese? A burger joint with the same address as an Italian restaurant? There are many culinary oddities available through restaurants that seem to only appear on food delivery apps such as GrubHub and Uber Eats. These places, often dubbed “Ghost Restaurants,” can offer some of the best-kept secret grub in town. In order to eat at these restaurants, you must download an app like UberEats and sign up for an account. Search these restaurants by name and you can find their full menu and place an order.

Pasqually's Pizza & Wings

Delivery
Noon to 9 p.m. daily

American Grilled Cheese Co.

Delivery
Monday-Friday, 3 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Mr. Beast Burger

Delivery
Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.
Sunday, 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Nashville Hot Chicken Shack

Delivery
Monday-Friday, 3 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Rotisserie Roast

Delivery
11 a.m. to 10 p.m., daily

Twisted Tenders

Delivery
Sunday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

The Wing Experience

Delivery
Noon to 11:30 p.m., daily
(Compiled by Skyler Ashley.)

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Ele's Place celebrates 30 years of helping grieving children

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

For 30 years, Ele's Place has helped more than 30,000 children learn to healthily grieve and to heal from the trauma of the death of a loved one.

To kick off 2021, the nonprofit's 30th anniversary, Ele's Place is holding a fundraising drive with a unique twist. Each person who donates to the organization will receive a hand-drawn birthday created by an Ele's Place participant.



1145 W. Oakland Ave.,
Lansing
(517) 482-1315
Learn more at
Facebook.com/
ElesPlaceLAN
Donate at
ElesPlace.org/About-
Us/Capital-Region

"There's been such a push to buy local this year. Anyone who wants to spend money locally but doesn't necessarily want to buy anything can donate to us and get a nice birthday card."

Kuhnert started at Ele's Place as a volunteer. When her husband was killed by a drunk driver, she took her three children there to help them cope. She continued to volunteer there and got hired on as a staff



Kuhnert

member about seven and a half years ago.

She said that grief is a solitary feeling. When someone close to them dies, it can be hard for children to discuss their feelings with a parent or guardian.

At Ele's Place, kids get peer-to-peer support that helps them realize that they are not alone.

"Kids aren't at a level where they can understand what's going on. And kids don't like to feel different," explained Kuhnert. "When they walk through the door at Ele's Place, they're surrounded by kids experiencing the same complicated emotions."

To illustrate her point, Kuhnert told a story about a young boy who came to a group session excited to share something with everyone. He told them, "I got my dad back," and held up an urn for the whole group to see.

"That was an amazing moment," said Kuhnert. "If you're not grieving, something like that might make you very uncomfortable. But all his friends in the group understood his excitement."

Since the outbreak of COVID, Ele's

Nonprofit News



City Pulse is developing a new monthly feature highlighting events and milestones at local nonprofits. If you would like to submit a suggestion please email skylar@lansingcitypulse.com

testament to the value of the work we do. It's life-changing."

Kuhnert listed all the self-destructive ways that humans tend to cope with death: drugs, alcohol, suicidal thoughts. She said that Ele's Place teaches children healthier ways of dealing with their emotional pain.

The impact of Ele's Place is so strong that some participants come back and volunteer as adults. They work as facilitators and interact directly with the kids.

"They want to give back. They know how much it helped them, and now, they want to help other kids," Kuhnert said.

Ele's Place accepts donations through a portal on its website. Donors will receive their 30th anniversary cards through email.

Ele's Place is completely supported by contributions from the community. When a family calls for help, service is completely free. That way, no one has to worry about the cost. Instead, grieving families can focus on making sure their kids get the help they need.

"Some people have lost jobs, have huge medical bills. I just want people to know we're still here. If you need help, reach out to us," said Kuhnert. "You know, we're named after Ele Stover. But E-L-E. That stands for 'Embrace Love Effectively.'"

Lake Trust Credit Union opens new downtown Lansing location

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

Since 1944, Lake Trust Credit Union has provided banking services for people across Michigan. That tradition continues with its brand new location in downtown Lansing.

"We've been here a long time," said Theresa Dubei, a representative from Lake Trust. "We love being downtown, and we love the community here."

To keep its members and staff safe during the pandemic, an appointment is required in order to visit the lobby. Dubei also emphasized that staff at Lake Trust are following proper COVID safety precautions including mask-wearing and social dis-

Lake Trust Credit Union

624 S. Washington Ave.
Monday-Thursday,
9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
(888) 267-7200,
Laketrust.org



tancing.

Making an appointment should be for critical needs only. For all other banking matters, Dubei suggested taking advantage of Lake Trust's new video ATMs. "Lots of places have drive-thru ATMs, but not a lot of places offer face-to-face contact," Dubei said. "This way, you get to speak to a teller face-to-

face." Utilizing the video teller machines also allowed Lake Trust to extend its operating hours.

The new branch's heating system, lighting and windows are all energy-efficient. Outside the building are both bike racks and a bus stop to encourage members to utilize alternative methods of transportation.

The new bank also includes a community room set aside where folks from Lake Trust can communicate with its partners and with members of the community. This will open up whenever it is safe for people to meet up in person again.

Lake Trust also works with the community is through its scholarship

fund. The Michigan Impact scholarship offers a full ride to Cleary University to five members. All ages can apply for it, including people who never continued education after high school and those looking for a career change.

Lake Trust also offers the New Beginnings scholarship to those who are interested in enrolling in a career technical education program at any Michigan university. Six winners of the \$5,000 scholarship can put the money toward tuition, tools and other expenses.

"Going forward, we want to make sure that we stay connected to the community," Dubei said.

New book chronicles the historic Flint GM strike of 1936-1937

By **BILL CASTANIER**

In the dark winter of 1937, Flint autoworkers decided they had enough of low wages, harassment and unsafe working conditions. The protesters occupied three GM plants for 44 days while Gov. Frank Murphy and President Franklin D. Roosevelt scrambled to bring the nation's longest and largest sit-down strike to an end.

"Midnight in Vehicle City"

Online Release

7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 2
Online on the Everybody Reads' Facebook page
Facebook.com/EverybodyReads

In his new book, "Midnight in Vehicle City," author Edward McClelland details the courageous few

who helped bring the middle-class prosperity to the United States.

"Midnight in Vehicle City" is only the second significant book on the momentous strike. McClelland writes not only about the roots of the strike and its day-by-day intricacies, but also dispels numerous myths about its participants.

The workers' effort to shut the line down in an effort to secure better pay and working conditions is often portrayed as a spur-of-the-moment decision. McClelland details how the sit-down strike was actually planned well in advance by a group that supported the burgeoning movement to recognize the United Auto Workers as the exclusive bargaining agent.

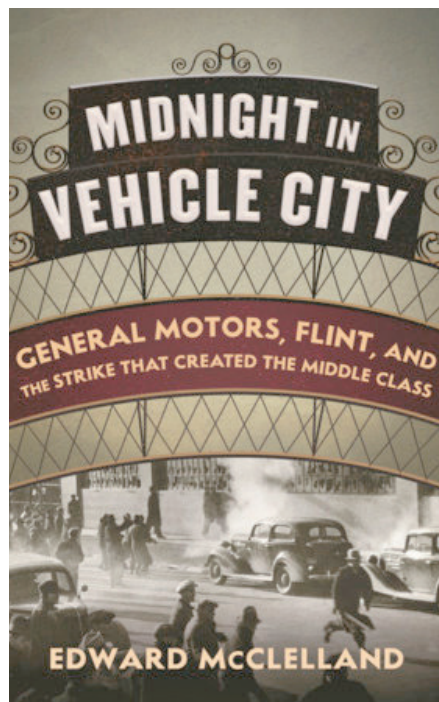
The author also provides a short history on the evolution of Flint from a town of carriage makers to the world's largest producer of automobiles. The author writes that by the mid-'30s Flint had become a company town with three quarters of the workforce drawing a paycheck from GM or suppliers.

With that power, GM could pretty much determine conditions of employment and wages and workers could accept them, leave or be fired. The company knew they held all the cards: Hundreds were waiting in line for jobs during the Great Depression.

McClelland is able to recreate the sit-down strike thanks to a vast collection of oral histories from workers and supportive community groups.

The author said he did the vast majority of his research at the University of Michigan Flint campus and the Reuther Library at Wayne State University. He spent days reading the strike coverage in *The Flint Journal*.

"I spent a lot of time in Flint," he



said.

However, McClelland can trace the impetus for his book to his hometown of Lansing, an auto city in its own right. Growing up, his father's close friend Everett Ketchum, who was one of the sit-down workers, would join their family for dinner on Sundays.

"He was the exemplar of the workers who participated in the strike," McClelland said.

Later, after his wife's death, Ketchum remarried and moved to Lansing, where he continued his career at Oldsmobile. In Lansing, he became active in the community and, according to McClelland, a minor celebrity known anonymously as the "Flap Jack Shop's Tooth Fairy." McClelland writes how if Ketchum saw someone in desperate need of dental work, he would pay for it out of his savings. The author is a graduate of Lansing Sexton High

School and his real last name is Kleine.

The book really shines when McClelland begins chronicling the actual strike. Organizers knew that the newly elected Democratic Gov. Frank Murphy would not evict the workers, despite GM's best efforts to create political and legal pressure.

Unlike previous governors, organizers were banking that Murphy would use his close ties with President Roosevelt to force GM to the bargaining table.

When the sit-down strike became violent — with Flint Police trying to forcibly evict the workers — Gov. Murphy would order the National Guard to Flint, but only as peacekeepers.

"Politically, Murphy knew where his bread was buttered," McClelland said.

Ultimately, McClelland said former Gov. Frank Fitzgerald, whom Murphy had previously defeated, beat Murphy in the following election, likely because of his role in the sit-down strike.

McClelland goes out of his way not to solely focus on the larger-than-life actors in the strike, such as GM executives Alfred P. Sloan Jr. and William S. Knudsen, United Mine Workers President John L. Lewis, the Reuther Brothers and U.S. Labor Secretary Frances Perkins, but also on individuals like Wyndham Mortimer, a Cleveland auto worker and first vice president of the newly formed UAW.

In the chapter "A Stranger in Town," McClelland rises to the level of the early proletariat writers in describing the lonely and dangerous life of Wyndham, a union organizer who has to be on a continuous watch for company-funded Pinkerton police while organizing in Flint.

Readers will also enjoy the chronicling of the day-to-day life of strikers and how they spent their idle time playing cards, exercising and fortifying the plants while holding out against GM. Of special interest is the community effort of the Women's Emergency Brigade and the UAW Women's Auxiliary, which tirelessly picketed the plants and provided food, water and warm clothing for the workers.

At one time, 70,000 autoworkers in Flint and 500,000 nationwide could trace their middle-class life style to the strike. Today, there are an estimated 6,500 autoworkers in Flint and an estimated 50,000 nationwide.

SCHULER BOOKS

Meridian Mall · Okemos

VIRTUAL EVENTS

Author Talks · Storytimes
Attend an event without leaving home!

A NIGHT FOR YOUNG READERS WITH LOCAL AUTHOR SARAH BAUGHMAN

February 3 · 7pm

Calling young readers ages 10+!
Author and educator, Sarah Baughman is stopping by (virtually) to celebrate her newest book, *The Wild Path*. Ever wonder what it's like to be an author? Join us and get your questions answered!

WEEKLY STORYTIMES

for kids on Facebook LIVE
Saturdays · 11am

Jump into the pages of our favorite books! We will sing songs, make a craft and go on a new adventure.

POETRY + MUSIC NIGHT WITH GEOFF FIELDS AND EMILEE PETERSMARK

February 17 · 7pm

It's a great night for a night in as author Geoff Fields shares his new book of poetry, *Unspoken Thoughts of Birds*. He'll be joined by Emilee Petersmark, its illustrator, and incredibly talented singer/songwriter best known as the co-lead singer of the local indie-folk band The Crane Wives.

REGISTER FOR VIRTUAL EVENTS ON OUR WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK PAGE:

Facebook.com/SchulerBooks
SchulerBooks.com/Event

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307 E. Grand River, E. Lansing
332-0112 We validate parking
Mon.-Sat. 10-7pm, Sun. 12-5 pm



The snow is falling....
and books are calling!

Archives Book Shop

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thearchivesbookshop@gmail.com



Favorite Things

Danielle Hobbins and her Stone Cold Steve Austin collection

Danielle Hobbins is a hairstylist in Lansing. Her favorite thing is her collection memorabilia honoring the legendary WWE wrestler Stone Cold Steve Austin. Friends and family gave the majority of the collection to her, and she loves the feeling of nostalgia these wrestling artifacts provide her.

The first thing in the collection I got was three or four years ago, and it's a little Stone Cold Steve Austin racecar that I purchased at the DeWitt Mega Mall. That was the very first thing I ever got. I was walking around the mall with one of my friends, and they picked it up and made the joke that I always wanted Stone Cold Steve Austin to be my real dad, and they bought it for me. It was really funny.

After that, I got two Stone Cold Steve Austin beanie babies. They are

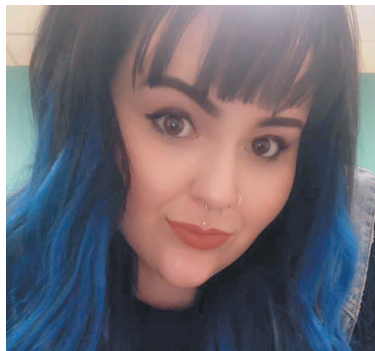


somebody across the ring, and it says "Stone Cold" on it. I haven't taken it out of the plastic. It's probably not a super rare find, but I've never seen anything else like it. On the back, it has his height and weight and stuff like that, sort of like a baseball card. It was really nice that my brother thought of me and got me that small gift.

And finally, I have a Stone Cold Steve Austin hockey jersey. On the back, it says "Hell Yeah" where the name goes, and 3:16 is the number. I got it as a gift for my 23rd birthday. It's not a vintage thing from the '90s, but it's still awesome. When a couple of my friends saw it, they wanted to steal it from me. I don't really wear it that much, because I don't want to ruin it.

Wrestling right now is kind of a trendy thing; for me it's nostalgic. I'm from a small Michigan town, and back then people thought wrestling was really cool. I grew up with two brothers who liked to suplex me throughout my childhood. I had a deep-rooted fear of the Undertaker for years. But I still joke that I want Stone Cold Steve Austin to be my dad. I think all of the bits he did were hilarious.

Interview edited and condensed by Skyler Ashley. If you have a suggestion for favorite things, please email Skyler@LansingCityPulse.com



probably my favorite things in the collection, and I got them on Mercari on a whim. Mercari is a marketplace app that's sort of like DePop or Etsy, where people sell random stuff. They say "Austin 3:16" on them, and they have a special Stone Cold Steve Austin tag. I wanted to buy them because they looked really cool, and there were two of them. When I found them, I said to myself, "Wow, I've never seen a Stone Cold beanie baby."

Then I have a Stone Cold Steve Austin card that is covered in gold, which my brother gave me. It's like a playing card that is coated in a gold film. The picture is of him throwing

'Laura you're everywhere'

Dancer, educator Laura Stein dies at 83

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Laura Stein, a mainstay of Lansing's folk music and dancing community and early childhood educator who touched thousands of lives in greater Lansing, died of a heart attack Jan. 21 at 83.

An online remembrance Sunday drew over 260 far-flung participants, from old friends and former students to leading musicians in the folk music world.

They swapped stories, played tribute tunes and held onto Stein's spirit any way they could.

Master folk fiddler and MSU math professor Bruce Sagan wasn't sure he could rise to the occasion, but he found a way.

"I woke up this morning and a waltz flew out of me," he said.

The melody of "Laura's Farewell" circled serenely, like an Arctic seabird, on Sagan's fiddle. Several participants fought back tears; others didn't try to fight them.

Stein and her husband, Bob, were known for their warm hospitality and passion for contra dance, a form of traditional folk dance similar to square dancing.

The Steins helped build a thriving folk dance scene almost from scratch in Michigan and helped to nurture it over four decades.

Early in their 63-year marriage, Bob and Laura Stein lived in New York, soaking up the folk revival scene from its roots. Laura Stein first fell in love with folk music as a young child, at Camp Woodland in upstate New York.

Bob Stein came to East Lansing to join MSU's Astronomy Department in 1976. The story goes that Laura told him she wouldn't follow until there was dancing in Lansing.

"That's mostly true," The Stein's daughter, Karen, recalled in a phone interview Monday.

Bob immediately helped establish a contra dance linked to the Ten Pound Fiddle folk music series. The first dance was held in the MSU ballroom in 1977. Laura joined her husband in East Lansing in 1978, taking a job at Elderly Instruments in East Lansing.

"She loved her time working there," Karen said. "Mom plunged right into the community."

Bob convinced Laura to form a band



Courtesy Photo

Stein

to play at the dances, even though playing keyboard meant doing less dancing.

The dances attracted all ages and were held at various venues, including Lansing Convention Center and Central United Methodist Church.

In the 1980s, Laura Stein embarked on a long career in childhood education.

She worked with educator Marjorie Kostelnik, now a professor at the University of Nebraska, on a series of textbooks on early education.

Joining Sunday's Zoom from Nebraska, Kostelnik held up a copy of the book, now in its ninth edition. Kostelnik said Stein combined keen intelligence with empathy in the classroom.

"She could let loose of her own feelings and totally apply herself to the kids' world," Kostelnik said. "That is the Laura we had for 40 years."

The ripple effect of Stein's multifaceted community involvement continues to spread.

Many of Stein's students went on to become teachers themselves, extending her touch to another generation.

"People seek immortality. They seek the fountain of youth or whatever," Stein's friend Rick Carter said at Sunday's memorial. Stein taught Carter how to play piano for contra dances. "Immortality is when you change the life of people around you and they change the life of the people around them. Laura, you're everywhere."

Don't pass a chance to see the new online play 'Pass the Ducks'

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

A play where the legs of actors are visible! Where characters sometimes speak over each other and give each other eye contact! And where the actors actually move around — and even change costumes!

That's right. This is not another "Zoom Talking Head Theatre" presentation while area playhouses are shuttered. "Pass the Ducks — A Dance for Two People" has the look of what live theater used to be before COVID-19.

"Pass the Ducks" was recorded safely last September at Lansing's First Presbyterian Church's Molly Grove Chapel. Angela Voit, Cecil McIntire and Matt Ottinger, who also edited, ran the cameras. Emily Clark directed and Marcus Fields was the assistant director.

The premiere of the Doak Bloss play is available on his YouTube site. The original Jan. 22-24 viewing window has

been extended to Jan. 31.

"Pass the Ducks" has interacting performers, a set and multiple camera angles and changing shots — more elements not available on the multi-panel, Zoom format most acting groups have had to resort to. The three-scene, about-an-hour-long play features Bloss as Jake, a father who has lost a son. Heath Sartorius plays Will, a friend of the son. Jake and Will both meet on park benches in the summer of 1991 during the initial AIDS crisis.

Despite neither character's being particularly likeable, Bloss and Sartorius make it hard to not stay fixated on them. The verbal Bloss — with an inconsistent German accent — appears quite genuine as the dad with a mysterious facade. The more animated Sartorius projects a believable anxiousness and a credible image of a young man in turmoil.

Both seem well rehearsed. If the duo had more than two days to perform together (rehearsals were done virtually) and if "Pass the Ducks" had a longer live run, Bloss and Sartorius would certainly have reached even higher heights.

The bonding of the unlikely pair



Courtesy Photo

Heath Sartorius (left) and Doak Bloss in "Pass the Ducks."

is revealed — and much more. Bloss' engaging script takes unexpected tangents. Attitudes towards gays, father and son relationships, pornography, the German's recordkeeping of atrocities and the dynamics of theater are included. And in the process, "Pass the Ducks" never has mundane chatter or wasted lines.

Clark keeps the movements appropriate and the conversations flowing. "Pass the Ducks" has fast-moving dialogue I sometimes found hard to hear clearly. But since the show is on YouTube, I

could rewind and get a second chance.

The set is a mere two benches, but with the charm of the unique, 3-D white backdrop of the Molly Grove Chapel. Street clothes shirts and pants are the only costumes, but "Pass the Ducks" doesn't require anything more.

Don't confuse the title with a notion that "Pass the Ducks" might be suitable for kids. It surely is not. To reveal the title's true meaning would spoil a great surprise. The recording is a limited chance for us stage-starved theatergoers to remember what we miss.

The cannabis industry needs racial equity. Not more taxes.

By KYLE KAMINSKI

A set of "final recommendations" released this month by the state's Marijuana Regulatory Agency calls for urgent measures to address ongoing racial disparities in Michigan's budding cannabis market. The problem: The industry has far too many white guys running the show.

State data collected in December showed massive racial inequities among those who have an ownership interest in a licensed adult-use pot shop in Michigan. By last count, only 3.8% of Michigan retailers are owned by Black people. And only 1.5% of owners identify as Hispanic.

Most local potheads weren't surprised by the state's data. I've been to just about every dispensary in Greater Lansing, and I can't think of any that are owned by Black people. Budtenders are usually white. Diversity doesn't broaden as you climb up the corporate ladder.

When voters passed the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act in 2018, they directed the state to create a plan "to promote and encourage participation in the marijuana industry by people from communities that have been disproportionately impacted by marijuana prohibition and enforcement



Lansterdam in Review

and to positively impact those communities." Two years later, it's abundantly clear that the broad language of that statute was not enough to address inequities.

Bureau of Justice statistics show that nearly 80% of people in federal prison and almost 60% of people in state prison for drug offenses are black or Latino. And as state laws regarding the legality of marijuana evolved, concerns about equitable opportunity remain paramount.

And new recommendations from the state's Racial Equity Advisory Workgroup show promise.

Among them: The introduction of new licenses for microbusinesses that would allow small shops to grow 300 plants rather than 150, and allow entrepreneurs to obtain mature plants from licensed growers and use third party processors. The changes would also significantly reduce the amount of upfront capital required to set up shop, chipping away barriers to the industry.

Other recommendations include cre-

ating a new "pathway" program where qualified applicants can team up with corporate partners and allocating licensing cash to individual business grants.

The Michigan Cannabis Industry Association signaled its "strong support" for the proposals to increase minority ownership and participation in the state's burgeoning cannabis industry, noting it endorses "almost all of the proposed ideas" — except for anything that would raise taxes.

One component of the recommendations would revive a 3% excise tax on medical marijuana, which would generate nearly \$10 million annually based on last year's year-end sales receipts. About 30% of that tax would be allocated back to ongoing social equity efforts — including the opportunity for loans or grants to minority applicants that need extra help with startup costs.

While "unequivocally opposing any tax increases," MiCIA officials said the focus should instead be on reducing costs.

"Lower taxes are needed to divert people away from the illicit market. We have to recognize that we're competing with a black market that will not go away," said Anquetta Sarfoh,

MiCIA board member and member of the Racial Equity Advisory Workgroup. "Minority-owned businesses are having much more difficulty entering the market, but higher taxes aren't the answer to that."

Sarfoh said the addition of more microbusiness licenses were determined by the group — and MiCIA members — as the "most effective" solutions to bridging racial inequities. The tax increase also received the least support among members of both groups, Sarfoh explained.

As part of the recommendations, state officials are also creating a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Workgroup to help advance the proposals. Those interested in joining the workgroup should email MRA-SocialEquity@michigan.gov with "WORKGROUP" in the subject line.

Kyle Kaminski is a City Pulse staff writer and cannabis enthusiast who has been smoking marijuana just about every day for the last decade. Most weeks, Kaminski samples some of the best cannabis products available in Greater Lansing, gets real high and writes about them. On occasion, he also writes on various issues that are facing the cannabis industry.

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

**"Start to Change"-
-out with the old, in
with the new.**

by Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Door frame component
- 5 Roadside digital display?
- 10 "Doubtful"
- 14 Laos's locale
- 15 Concrete strengthener
- 16 "Scream" actress Campbell
- 17 "Bring on the carillons"?
- 19 James of "The Godfather"
- 20 Actress Keanan of "My Two Dads"
- 21 English actor McKellen, when traveling?
- 23 The NBA's Thunder, on scoreboards
- 25 Rising and falling periodically
- 26 Pink Floyd box set released in 1992
- 30 "___ Rae" (Sally Field movie)
- 34 Actor Danza
- 35 Service group for GIs
- 37 "Yup"
- 38 Before, in verse
- 39 Dish set with a double helix pattern?
- 41 Partnering word
- 42 Liveliness
- 44 Pen end
- 45 Otherwise
- 46 Fix the names attached to the picture?
- 47 Burma, today
- 49 "___ something I said?"
- 53 Healing spring
- 54 Descriptor for about 79% of a certain group of Dalmatians?
- 58 Actress Cornish of "Three Billboards Outside

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- Ebbing, Missouri"
- 62 Berry that's not so exotic since it's seemingly in everything
- 63 Prank where a link leads to a video of "Unforgettable"?
- 65 ___ packing (oust)
- 66 "A League of ___ Own"
- 67 City in northern Nevada
- 68 Barely beat (out)
- 69 Alex of "Taskmaster" who's releasing new #Hometasking challenges during the pandemic
- 70 Much-needed partner of relaxation
- 7 Undersea WWII threat
- 8 Movie soundtrack singer Nixon
- 9 Ciabatta, e.g.
- 10 Like most modern movies
- 11 Actor Bridges
- 12 "Dear ___ Hansen"
- 13 Care for
- 18 Karaoke night need
- 22 Major kitchen appliance
- 24 Tally
- 26 Take the wheel
- 27 Mister Ed, for one
- 28 Blundering
- 29 Cryptanalysis org.
- 31 Royal domain
- 32 Group of geniuses, supposedly (I mean, what is this trying to prove?)
- 33 Snake with a puff variety
- 36 Pay for completely
- 37 "We Have the Meats" chain
- 39 Probe persistently
- 40 Dart thrower's asset
- 43 Chew toy material
- 45 One who shouldn't be helping
- 48 "Be ___!" ("C'mon, help me out!")
- 50 New wave instrument, for short
- 51 Pocatello's state
- 52 Luggage lugger
- 54 Move with care
- 55 Secured
- 56 The Sugarhill ___
- 57 Happy reaction
- 59 Bitter humor
- 60 Stamp pad fillers
- 61 Quadruple awards honor, for short
- 64 Mine extraction

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Answers Page 24

SUDOKU

Beginner

2			8			6	4	1
	8	1	4					
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9			5	8				
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		4					8	

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 24

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

Jan. 27 - Feb. 2 2021

ARIES (March 21-April 19) In the 1950 film Harvey, James Stewart plays a middle-aged man named Elwood whose best friend is a tall invisible rabbit named Harvey. The relationship causes problems with the people in Elwood's life. At one point a psychiatrist tries to convince him to "struggle with reality." Elwood replies, "I wrestled with reality for 40 years and I am happy to state that I finally won." I'm happy to tell you this story, Aries, because it's a good lead in to my counsel for you: I suspect that one of your long wrestles with reality will yield at least a partial victory in the coming weeks. And it will be completely real, as opposed to Elwood's Harvey. Congratulations!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The light of the North Star takes a long time to reach us, even though it's traveling 186,000 miles per second. The beams it shows us tonight first embarked when Shakespeare was alive on Earth. And yet that glow seems so fresh and pure. Are there any other phenomena in your life that are metaphorically comparable? Perhaps an experience you had months ago that is only now revealing its complete meaning? Or a seed you planted years ago that is finally ripening into its mature expression? The coming weeks will be an excellent time to take inventory of such things, Taurus. It will also be a favorable phase to initiate innovations that will take some time to become fully useful for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In 1971, astronaut Alan Shepard had the great privilege of landing on the moon in a spacecraft, then walking on the lunar surface. How did he celebrate this epic holy adventure? By reciting a stirring passage from Shakespeare or the Talmud? By placing a framed photo of Amelia Earhart or a statue of Icarus in the dirt? By saying a prayer to his God or thoughtfully thanking the people who helped put him there? No. Shepard used this sublime one-of-a-kind moment to hit a golf ball with a golf club. I'll ask you not to regard him as a role model in the coming weeks. When your sacred or lofty moments arrive, offer proper homage and honor. Be righteously appreciative of your blessings.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): William Shakespeare worked with another playwright in creating three plays: Henry VIII, The Two Noble Kinsmen, and Cardenio. The lucky collaborator was John Fletcher, who was popular and influential in his era. I propose that we name him one of your role models in 2021. Here's why: You will have an enhanced potential to engage in fertile partnerships with allies who are quite worthy of you. I encourage you to be on the lookout for opportunities to thrive on symbiosis and synergy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Canadian journalist Nick Ashdown is amazed that while people in North America are so inhibited about revealing their real feelings. He writes, "How bizarre that in English, the word 'emotional' is used pejoratively, as though passion implies some sort of weakness." He marvels that the culture seems to "worship nonchalance" and regard intense expressiveness as uncool or unprofessional. I'm going to encourage you to embody a different approach in the coming days. I don't mean to suggest that you should be an out-of-control maniac constantly exploding with intensity. But I do hope you will take extra measures to respect and explore and reveal the spirited truth about yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Virgo actor Ingrid Bergman appeared in three movies directed by Alfred Hitchcock. In Notorious, set after the end of World War II, she played the daughter of a Nazi spy. During the filming, Bergman had trouble with a particular scene. She explained her doubts to Hitchcock, saying, "I don't think I can do that naturally." Hitchcock seemed receptive to her input, but in the end had an unexpected response: "All right," he told her. "If you can't do it naturally, then fake it." I'm going to suggest that you follow Hitchcock's advice during the next two weeks, Virgo. "Fake it till you make it" is an acceptable—probably preferable—approach.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The 17th-century Libran polymath Thomas Browne had a brilliant, well-educated mind. He authored many books on various subjects, from science to religion, and was second only to Shakespeare in the art of coining new words. He did have a blind spot, however. He referred to sex as the "trivial and vulgar way of union" and "the foolish act a wise man commits in all his life." Most of us have pockets of ignorance like that—aspects that qualify as learning disabilities or intellectual black holes. And now and then there come times when we benefit from checking in with these deficiencies and deciding whether to take any fresh steps to wiser them up. Now is such a time for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "There is no sunrise so beautiful that it is worth waking me up to see it," declares actor and comedian Mindy Kaling. Is that an unromantic sentiment? Maybe. But more importantly, it's evidence that she treasures her sleep. And that's admirable! She is devoted to giving her body the nurturing it needs to be healthy. Let's make Kaling your patron saint for now. It's a favorable time to upgrade your strategies for taking very good care of yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): All of us go through phases when our brains work at a higher level than usual. I'm guessing that you're about to enjoy one of these times. In fact, I won't be shocked if you string together a series of ingenious thoughts and actions. I hope you use your enhanced intelligence for important matters—like making practical improvements in your life! Please don't waste it on trivial matters like arguments on Facebook or Twitter.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Today the Capricorn artist Paul Cézanne (1839-1906) is regarded as an important and influential painter. Early in his career, though, he was rejected and even ridiculed by critics. One reason was that he loved making still-life paintings, which were considered low art. Of his 584 works, about 200 of them were of inanimate, commonplace objects. Fruit was his specialty. Typically he might spend 100 separate sessions in perfecting a particular bowl of apples. "Don't you want to take a vacation from painting fruit?" he was asked. In response, he said that simply shifting the location of his easel in relation to his subject matter was almost more excitement than he could bear. That's the kind of focused, detailed attitude I hope you'll cultivate toward your own labors of love during the coming weeks, Capricorn.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "We all want everything to be okay," writes author David Levithan. "We don't even wish so much for fantastic or marvelous or outstanding. We will happily settle for okay, because most of the time, okay is enough." To that mediocre manifesto, I reply, okay. I accept that it's true for many people. But I don't think it will apply to you Aquarians in the coming weeks. According to my assessment of your astrological potentials, you can, if you want, have a series of appointments with the fantastic, the marvelous, and the outstanding. Please keep those appointments! Don't skip them out of timidity or excess humility.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): DON'Ts: Don't keep scratching an old wound until it bleeds. Don't try to snatch away the teddy bear that belongs to the 800-pound gorilla. Don't try to relieve your tension by pounding your head against a wall. Don't try to convince a stone idol to show you some tenderness. DOs: Do ask supposedly naive questions that may yield liberating revelations. Do keep in mind that sometimes things need to be a bit broken before you'll be motivated to give them all the care they need and deserve. Do extinguish the fire on a burning bridge, and then repair the bridge.

Go to 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

A LOOK BACK AT SMALL PLANET



The Shivers at The Small Planet, Fall 1992.
(Photo by Chuck Pollack)



The Small Planet, logo shown here, was a music-scene hub throughout the '90s.



Beatosonics at The Small Planet, Dec. 1992. (Photo by Chuck Pollack)

East Lansing's long-gone '90s alternative-rock spot

With local music venues still being shuttered due to the pandemic, it's a harsh reminder of what the Lansing area once had. The Loft, Mac's Bar, the Green Door—and various other spots—not only host area bands, but also beloved touring acts from all genres.

This rich history of music, of course, goes back decades. It all started back in the '60s and '70s with hippie-filled rooms like Grandmother's, The Dells, The Stables, among countless others. Digging back into their event calendars, you'll find a laundry list of certified music legends who entertained right here in our city.

That tradition continued on through the 1980s and '90s, notably thanks to Small Planet. Along with Rick's American Café, The Silver Dollar and other campus watering holes, Small Planet was a room that offered stage space to fledgling Mid-Michigan bands — like The Shivers and Beatosonics — during the alternative rock boom.

For 26 years, the rock venue also booked up-and-coming names, like Kid Rock and Weezer, to only name a couple. Almost nightly, live music could be heard resonating out its doors into downtown East Lansing, which then comprised other beloved spots like Bilbo's Pizza and Warehouse Records.

While it was first started in 1974, by owners Vaughan and Lana Schneider, it really hit its stride in the early '90s after its 1991 move from 225 Ann St. in East Lansing to its M.A.C. location. The busy calendar was stacked with Lansing regulars like Wally Pleasant, Groove Spoon, Assembly Required, Mustard Plug, The Holy Cows, Apollo 9, Big Blue Couch, The dt's, Born Naked, Botfly, The Hannibals, Knee Deep Shag, Material Issue and The Verve Pipe, among many others.

Bigger-name tours by Southern Culture on the Skids, Big Country and Jonathan Richman would also stop in for an intimate performance. In short, it was a place to hear live,

original music in the heart of East Lansing. That's something that's diminished over the years.

In a 2016 City Pulse interview, Wally Pleasant recalled that thriving '90s scene, which of course extended well beyond Small Planet.

"I'd play everything from the Small Planet to the East Lansing Art Festival," Pleasant said. "Prior to 1992, I played at Castellani's Market, Hobie's on Trowbridge, Warehouse Records, Erickson Kiva and the MSU Union. I also hosted an open-mic night at The Riv. My weekly shows at Cuppa Java usually drew between 30 and 60 people," he added. "Many times, they were high school kids who weren't old enough to get into other venues."

In 2000, after a East Lansing development deal caused Small Planet to be demolished to make room for retail and apartments, the owners left with an \$830,000 payout and many memories. Aside from loud music, comedy nights,

film screenings and countless benefit events were held at the venue. Back in August 2000, as the closing approached, Vaughn Schneider told LSJ reporter Ricardo Cooney, "It feels like a death in the family. I thought I would be here for another 10 years anyway."

Nearly a decade after its initial closing, Small Planet returned in 2009, but only briefly. Perhaps its location way out at 16800 Chandler Road was the cause of its quick demise. Still, that last incarnation of The Small Planet hosted wild shows by The Electric Six and a legendary performance from Dinosaur Jr. I still remember that April 2009 day when I ran into Lou Barlow, Dinosaur Jr.'s bassist, up the street from the venue at Eastwood Towne Center. Hopefully one day soon, when it's the right time, we'll once again be running into touring bands in Lansing.

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, January 27

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

Focus Tour: Soil Health - One artwork. One guest. One theme. The artwork soil-erg by Claire Pentecost. 4-5 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Future Present Exhibition - MSU's Science Gallery Detroit debuts exhibition in E. Broad Art Lab, 565 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing, through April 11th. Info and reservations: detroit.sciencegallery.com.

Jackbox Games: Quiplash XL - Join the GLADL Crew via Zoom and we'll bring the games to your screen. 7-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. gladl.org

MiLibrary Quest Mystery Edition - A thief plans to steal a Michigan landmark on Valentine's Day! Who? What? Where? All week. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. gladl.org

Wheel of the Year: Imbolc. Discussion of Imbolc on the Wheel of the Year. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Zoom link at weaversoftheweb.org.

Thursday, January 28

Curator Brown Bag Talk | Beyond the Black Panther: The Secret Comic Origins of Afrofuturism. 12-1 p.m. museum.msu.edu

Erika Morgan, Owner of "Up the Crick" - 5-5:30 p.m. lcc.edu for link.

Future Present Exhibition - MSU's Science Gallery Detroit debuts exhibition in E. Broad Art Lab, 565 E. Grand River Avenue, East Lansing. detroit.sciencegallery.com.

January Lansing Economic Club - Join the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce at its Lansing Economic Club. 10:40 a.m.-12:15 p.m. lansingchamber.org

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

Tidy with Kate - Virtual. Organizing professional Kate Sood will offer guidance and an approachable way to organize using the KonMari method. 6:30-7:30 p.m. dewittlibrary.org

Friday, January 29

Funday Friday with Melik Brown - will wrap up the week at 6pm, beginning with Melik Brown, Founder of Lansing Made. 6-7 p.m. lcc.edu

Mid-Winter Singing and Folk Festival Highlights - From the Archives. Go to tenpoundfiddle.org.

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

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

Saturday, January 30

Design Workshop: Hand Lettered Snail Mail w/ Sara Pulver - Resolve to send more mail in the new year! 1-2:30 p.m. MSU Broad Art Lab, 565 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Imbolc Ritual - Join us on Zoom as we set our intentions and goals for 2021 in our Imbolc ritual. 6:30-7:30 p.m. weaversoftheweb.org.

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION
From Pg. 22

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Roquette Science

By **ARI LeVAUX**

“Anybody gone into Whole Foods lately and see what they charge for arugula?” asked then-Senator Barack Obama, during an Iowa campaign rally in 2007. There was no Whole Foods in Iowa at the time, and his gaffe, and the inevitable backlash, all became known as “Arugula-gate.”

Thus, the fates of arugula and Obama became inextricably linked. His alleged elitism sealing the spicy green’s fate for at least two election cycles, according to agriculture industry observers. At the time, kale had sales on par with arugula, but went on to dominate the dark leafy greens category— while arugula has languished ever since.

I too got off to a rocky start with rocket aka roquette, as arugula is variously called. Maybe it was too many bowls of salad that were too heavy on the arugula. But the scrappy plant from the mustard family found a home in my heart and belly, as a flavor adjuster, not the entire flavor. It’s the difference between a touch of mustard and a bowl of mustard.

As a leafy condiment, our pungent green has a lot going for it. It stays stiff and crunchy long after harvest, yet remains tender. Arugula has been a staple for centuries across Europe, with deepest recorded roots in ancient Rome, where it gained repute as an aphrodisiac. Virgil wrote that its fiery flare reinvigorated the weary goddess Aphrodite, and the rest was history.

In the field, this lovable plant is all toughness. It can handle the cold. It can grow in the weeds. It thrives on adversity, through the winter in greenhouses far away from the E. coli hotspots of California and Arizona.

With a new year, a new administration and a divided nation upon us, I decided to give arugula another chance. And I began to see my sassy new friend everywhere I turned.

At my local deli I noticed a wad of this dressed arugula in a sandwich of lox, onions, capers and cream cheese. At Sunday brunch in Madison, Wisconsin, last week, as I was driving across country, the arugula was hiding beneath a decadent plate of eggs Benedict. The Italians, of course, have been on it for-



ever. These days they add fresh handfuls to pizza and chop it onto pasta. I don’t know if the Brazilians are on it, but I put a pile of arugula on a bowl of feijoada — black bean stew — and the sharp bite was perfect. It’s almost always tossed in some kind of simple vinaigrette like lemon juice with olive oil.

One of my favorite ways to use arugula is as the final stroke in a winter pan salad. It’s a continuum of raw and cooked roots, tubers, bulbs and leaves. I like tossing it with scrambled eggs, which gives it a breakfasty feel. Made exciting with the wild flavor of arugula, like a splash of green hot sauce, but with more fiber.

Winter Pan Salad

You can skip the eggs to make it more salad like. Or double down on breakfast and add bacon, in the spirit of that trendy arugula salad with the warm bacon vinaigrette. Assuming it’s fatty enough, use it instead of some or all of the oil by cooking a slice and breaking it into bits, leaving the grease in the pan. Serves 2

- 2 tablespoons olive oil (or oil of your choice, including bacon fat)
- 1 good-sized potato — about a half-pound — sliced into ¼-inch coins, or as thin as possible
- 2 cloves garlic, coarsely chopped
- 1 medium carrot, grated
- ½ cup minced onion
- ½ cup parsley, chopped coarsely
- 2 cups Arugula Mix (recipe below)
- 2 eggs, scrambled or fried



Courtesy photo

Winter pan salad.

Optional: hot pepper flakes

Heat the oil on medium in a skillet. Carefully place the potato coins in the oil, making sure each coin has full contact with the pan. Arrange the fatter pieces in the center of the pan. Deglaze with water or stock if it start to burn. After about five minutes, grate in the carrots, add the garlic, and stir it around. Cook until the potatoes are soft and browned on at least one side. Turn off the heat, add the onions and parsley, and allow to cool for five minutes.

To serve, toss the potato mixture with the arugula mix and the eggs, and arrange into a big heaping pile. Dust with red pepper flakes for a spicy garnish.

Arugula Mix

This magic mix can be your secret weapon and finishing touch to anything from soup to sandwich to salad, pizza

- and pasta, and everything in between.
- 2 cups fresh arugula
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- Good shakes of salt and pepper

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

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