

1st Quarter 2021

DESCRIPTION OF (WILX-TV) PROGRAMS PROVIDING THE MOST SIGNIFICANT TREATMENT OF COMMUNITY ISSUES

PROGRAM	DAY	TIME
Local		
News 10 Today	Monday through Friday	4:30-7:00 am
News 10 Weekend	Saturday/Sunday	7:00-8:00 am
News 10 at Five	Monday through Friday	5:00-5:30 pm
News 10 at Five Thirty	Monday through Friday	5:30-6:00pm
News 10 at Six	Monday through Sunday	6:00-6:30 pm
News 10 at Eleven	Monday through Sunday	11:00-11:35 pm

All of the above programs are locally produced news programs presenting a mix of news, weather, sports, including some issue-responsive segments and multi-part series.

Local Segments:

<u>What's Going Around</u>	Monday	6:00 pm
	Tuesday	5:00 am

This segment comes to us by area doctors who report about the illnesses they're seeing in their practices. It runs for about 1.30 seconds.

Recalls: When we receive product recalls we run them in our newscasts. Information to our local viewers on various recall items and warnings of purchases, etc that may be too good to be true.

WILX.COM 24 hours a day, 7 days a Week

Our website puts the stories of community interest from our News Programs on our web channel for our viewers to see.

Pet Pals

Friday

7:00am News

This segment features a pet from Lansing's Capital Area Humane Society. They tell viewers about the pet and where they can go to adopt that particular cat, kitten, dog or puppy.

Missing in Michigan

Friday

6:00pm News

Segment covering missing people in Mid-Michigan.

Positive Parenting

Thursday

5:00pm News

Our local evening Anchor Mallory Anderson hosts a weekly segment geared toward positive parenting. She provides helpful tips, speaks with experts, and keeps you up to date on recall information.

Watching Your Wallet

5:00pm News

Segment airing 2 times a month in our 5pm newscast. Informational segment features anything from consumer warnings to saving money.

Michigan Association of Broadcasters (MAB) Local PSA's.

The MAB and WILX have a partnership and we air several spots during each quarter. They send the spots to us on various subjects such as volunteering, pregnancy, gambling, smoking, baby health.

Syndicated**Dr. Oz**

Monday-Friday

12:00pm

This one hour program gives viewers an insight into several Health Issues relating to today's problems. Information on Diet, Diabetes, Heart Health, Eating disorders, and Depression.

PROGRAM SEGMENTS PROVIDING THE MOST SIGNIFICANT TREATMENT OF COMMUNITY ISSUES

January 1, 2021 – March 31, 2021

Public Safety/Community Issues

January 13, 2021

6:00am

Lansing Police Department opens safe online selling location for any online shopping that turns into face-to-face meetings between buyers and sellers, the Lansing Police Department is offering a new 'safe zone.' It's located in the parking lot of the LPD Operations Center on Wise Road in Lansing. Customers are asked to use the southeast entrance of the parking lot. The area is marked by a sign and is open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. You do not need to reserve a time slot or call the police department before a transaction meeting.

February 3, 2021

5:00pm

The East Lansing Police Department will explain the changes they've made since two complaints of excessive use of force in 2020. Police Chief Kim Johnson and Deputy Chief Steve Gonzalez will give a presentation to the Human Rights Commission. In 2020, there were six complaints against East Lansing Police officers from residents and four from inside the department. Some of those complaints caused ELPD to change its policies. There were two complaints from Black men who were injured while they were being arrested. Since then, the police department has changed its policy to restrict the use of a technique called head stabilization. Other complaints include a Middle Eastern man who says he was followed by officers. It turned out they were not on duty at the time. Another man claimed he was arrested for trespassing because of his race. An employee in the jail told him "not to play the race card." That officer was disciplined. "All of our police employees will be engaged through a city-wide diversity, equity, and inclusion training program that is a long-term training program. It's not just eight hours. It's projected to last about a year," said Deputy Chief Gonzalez. Deputy Chief Gonzalez says the changes are in response to calls for local and national police reform. "We've created a community engagement team here at East Lansing Police Department, and that consists of two full-time social workers, police social workers, that are highly engaged with our police officers in responding to situations that officers traditionally have responded

to. Now there's quite often a joint response," he said. The City of East Lansing hired a diversity, equity, and inclusion administrator to advise the police department on policy decisions. Chuck Grigsby, a member of the Human Rights Commission, hopes to hear about more changes to the department since the last time the two groups met. "I will give them a pat on the back for some of the commitments and some of the different things the leadership has done, but by far, it's not enough. We still have, if you look at the numbers on our agenda for tonight's meeting, there's a high disproportionate of minority disparity in contact and policing and over-policing," said Grigsby.

Chief Kim Johnson took over in October. At Wednesday's meeting, he'll be talking about some of his plans for the police department this year.

"The police chief has come in with an open mind. I believe, I think he has a commitment to work with some of the community issues that have been brought to the table, some long-standing issues that have been plaguing our city," said Grigsby.

February 25, 2021

Breaking News

John Geddert, the ex-Olympic coach and former owner of Twistars gym, has died by self-inflicted gunshot wound. He was facing 24 felony charges relating to his time as the owner of Twistars gym. Attorney General Dana Nessel released a statement shortly after Geddert's passing. "My office has been notified that the body of John Geddert was found late this afternoon after taking his own life," Nessel wrote. "This is a tragic end to a tragic story for everyone involved." On Friday, the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) released a statement from CEO Sarah Hirshland. "It's the voices of the survivors that matter most at this time," Hirshland said. "They continue to show bravery and strength in the most difficult circumstances - including today's events." Geddert, 63, coached the 2012 gold-medal-winning U.S. Olympics team, including Olympic champion Jordyn Wieber of Dewitt. He also has ties to disgraced sports doctor Larry Nassar and was previously the owner of Twistars in Dimondale, which closed just weeks ago. That's where Geddert formed a partnership with Nassar, who used his job treating gymnasts at Twistars to sexually molest young female athletes there. During Nassar's sentencing, some victims complained that Geddert was physically abusive and indifferent to injuries, and forced them to see Nassar. In the swirl of accusations, John Geddert stepped back from managing Twistars in 2018 and handed it over to his wife. Then in January of 2020, Michigan State Police and members of the attorney general's office raided Geddert's Grand Ledge home and Twistars in Dimondale, carrying boxes of records and potential evidence. The next day, Rita Wieber, mother of Olympic gymnast Jordyn Wieber, talked to News 10. "As a mother over the years dealing with John as a coach I was concerned about many things," Wieber said. "I was encouraged to think that there is still a chance justice is going to be served."

The Twistars name and assets were sold off last year. The location at "the Summit Sports and Ice Complex" in Eaton County where Nassar sexually assaulted young

women was shut down when the summit closed earlier this month. Attorney General Dana Nessel announced Thursday that Geddert was scheduled to be charged with 20 counts of human trafficking, one count of racketeering, two counts of criminal sexual conduct, according to the office of the Attorney General. In total, he faces 24 felony charges:

- 14 counts of human trafficking, forced labor causing injury, a 15-year felony;
- Six counts of human trafficking of a minor for forced labor, a 20-year felony;
- One count of continuing criminal enterprise, a 20-year felony;
- One count of first-degree criminal sexual conduct, a life offense felony;
- One count of second-degree criminal sexual conduct, a 15-year felony; and
- One count of lying to a peace officer during a violent crime investigation, a four-year felony

Nessel stated that Geddert would turn himself in at the Eaton County Sheriff's Office substation in Delta Township. His arraignment was set for Thursday afternoon.

"These allegations focus around multiple acts of verbal, physical, and sexual abuse perpetrated by the defendant against multiple young women. I am grateful for these survivors coming forward to cooperate with our investigation and for bravely sharing their stories," Nessel said. "The charges against Mr. Geddert are the result of a great deal of hard work by my investigators and prosecutors, and I would like to express my gratitude for their devoted service, as well as the cooperation and efforts of the Michigan State Police, Eaton County Sheriff's Office and Eaton County Prosecutor Doug Lloyd and his staff. This case has truly been a joint effort by law enforcement and another example of how authorities at multiple levels of government can work together in pursuit of justice." Geddert has insisted he had "zero knowledge" of Nassar's crimes, although some gymnasts stated he forced them to see Nassar and was physically abusive. During Nassar's sentencing, a woman said in the late 1990s, Geddert was aware that Nassar had performed an "inappropriate procedure" on her when she was 16 years old. That accuser's anonymous statement was read in court by a prosecutor. When News 10 spoke to Chris Bergstrom, Geddert's attorney, about the charges AG Nessel was compiling, he said Geddert would surrender peacefully if charged. "We'll make arrangements to surrender. We're not running from anybody or anything," Bergstrom said.

The Michigan State Police confirmed that John Geddert was found dead by self-inflicted gunshot wound at 3:24 p.m. on Thursday afternoon.

Health/Medical

January 19, 2021

5:00pm

The COVID-19 variant that originated in the United Kingdom is making its way through at least 20 states- including Michigan. This variant is known as B.1.1.7. To date, there has only been one case in Michigan in a Washtenaw County woman. Still, more than 500,000 Michiganders have already had COVID. News 10 asked a doctor at Sparrow Hospital if those with antibodies need to be concerned. “No. Being that people have already had COVID, certainly their immunity is multi-faceted meaning that not just one component of the virus does their immune system recognize. It recognizes a great majority of that and will mount a response to that,” said Sparrow Lab director Dr. James Richard. According to the CDC’s website, more than 300,000 people in Michigan have received at least one vaccine dose. Dr. Richard says they’re also protected from this variant. “If they’ve had the vaccine, they also need not worry because whenever vaccines are manufactured, they’re manufactured to stimulate immunity in multiple sites on the virus in an effort to combat against having it so specific that, if there was a mutation, it would no longer be helpful,” he said. While the variant needs to be studied more, there is evidence that it spreads more easily, which means now is not the time to let your guard down. “All of the precautions that we’ve been doing will also be the same precautions we will be using in order to prevent this particular new variant. All the more important to wear masks, do social distancing, wash our hands, and sort of, if you will, shelter in place,” said Dr. Richard.

February 2, 2021

5:30pm

There could soon be another vaccine on the market. Johnson & Johnson is nearly ready to submit its COVID-19 vaccine for FDA approval. Trials of the vaccine have found it’s about 66% effective in preventing moderate to severe disease. Ingham County health officer Linda Vail says getting another vaccine out would help with supply issues, but she worried people might reject the shot from Johnson & Johnson. “I think that’s going to cause some problems in a sense that people are going to say, ‘I don’t want that vaccine. I want the other ones,’ and then how in the world are we going to manage all of that?... Please just take the vaccine that’s available to you and help us move forward,” said Vail. As of Tuesday, the Ingham County Health Department has received 15,920 vaccines. So far, 12,539 have been given out with thousands more appointments scheduled for this week.

February 3, 2021

6:00am

Stress increases as the pandemic continues. Amid the U.S. facing a bitter election season, political unrest and violence, an unsteady economy, and a rising death toll due to COVID-19, 84% of U.S. adults say the country has been dealing with serious societal issues that we need to address, according to a new poll. The poll reveals Americans are now reporting the highest stress level since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The survey included over 2,000 adults. It showed the average stress level in January was a 5.6 out of 10, the highest since April of last year. The future of the nation, the coronavirus pandemic, and political unrest were the most significant sources of stress. Two-thirds of respondents said the number of issues America is facing is overwhelming. The most common were feelings of anxiety (47%), sadness (44%), and anger (39%). Additionally, two in three adults (67%) said the number of issues America is facing is overwhelming to them. Experts from the American Psychological Association Say if you are feeling stressed out:

- Give yourself permission to take a break from the news, social media or even certain friends. Constantly exposing ourselves to negative information, images and rhetoric maintains our stress at unhealthy levels.
- Practice the rule of “three good things” and ask friends and family to do the same. The rule states that at the end of each day, reflect on three good things that happened — large or small. This helps decrease anxiety, counter depression and build emotional resiliency.
- Practice self-care in 15- or 30-minute increments throughout the day. This can include taking a short walk, calling a friend, or watching a funny show. Parents should encourage or help their children to do the same.
- Stay connected with friends and family. This helps build emotional resiliency so you can support one another.
- Keep things in perspective. Try to reframe your thinking to reduce negative interpretations of day-to-day experiences and events.

“Nearly a year into the pandemic, prolonged stress persists at elevated levels for many Americans. As we work to address stressors as a nation, from unemployment to education, we can’t ignore the mental health consequences of this global shared experience,” said Arthur C. Evans Jr., Ph.D., APA’s chief executive officer. “Without addressing stress as part of a national recovery plan, we will be dealing with the mental health fallout from this pandemic for years to come.”

February 11, 2021

5:30am

Wednesday the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its guidance on when to quarantine if exposed to the coronavirus. The CDC now recommends that people who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 do not need to quarantine. Those who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past three months and recovered do not have to quarantine or get tested again as long as they

do not develop new symptoms. Local public health authorities determine and establish the quarantine options for their jurisdictions. People in quarantine should stay home, separate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health department.

What counts as a close contact?

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them)
- You shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

Economy

January 7, 2021

6:00pm

Partly due to demands of the pandemic, Sparrow Hospital has hundreds of job openings available to local candidates. Sparrow officials announced the hospital is looking to fill some 800 job openings throughout the Health System, some created by the demands of the pandemic and others by the continued expansion of healthcare. Jobs are available in nursing, technology, advanced practice, information technology and more. Interested candidates may view job openings on the Sparrow Careers website. <https://careers.sparrow.org/>

January 26, 2021

6:00pm

New Program feeds community and helps local restaurants. It's no secret that restaurants have been struggling during the pandemic, but a new program in Jackson has a way to help. Consumers Energy and the City of Jackson are partnering together to give local restaurants some business and feed the community. The program is called Our Town. "We want to help our restaurants because they've struggled so much. They've done the right thing to stay safe during the pandemic, but that's often caused a lot of hardship and a lot of difficulties," said Brian Wheeler with Consumers Energy. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, those who need a meal can pick one up at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. "We expect to give out over 1,200 meals at the King Center in Jackson and then we're going to do that for three times a week and do that for ten

weeks. The total impact we're expecting right now will be about 40,000 or more meals," said Wheeler. There are about ten restaurants participating to start including Bella Notte, Candi's BZB Café, Grand River Brewery and Jackson Coney Island. \$500,000 will go to the restaurants making the meals. Consumers contributed more than \$200,000. The rest came from donations. "It's really great to see so many people coming together. Not only are people donating money, but they're really excited to volunteer. I think this is something where people see their neighbors who are struggling and they just want to do something to help," said Aaron Dimick with the City of Jackson. "We know that Michigan is on its way to getting back on its feet, and we hope that this effort is really going to hasten that process and help people along," said Wheeler.

January 31, 2021

Weekend 7:00am

Work begins on the vacant site of the former Lansing Mall movie theater, it is getting a new purpose. It's being turned into a production space to shoot movies and TV shows. Officials broke ground on the new site Saturday. The CEO says he hopes to give opportunities to young people of color in the community. "Imagine going to Michigan State for film school and then getting a job right in the same town. Up until now, that wasn't a possibility. Now they can say, 'Hey, you come to our school, we can not only get you as an intern, but we can possibly place you at a job in a career in filmmaking,'" said Amaru, founder and CEO of Greenwood District Studios. Amaru says the plan is to upgrade the exterior first so it can be used as a public drive-in movie theater starting in May. His goal is to have the space completely finished by 2022.

February 4, 2021

5:00am

As foreclosure loom for some residents due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Jackson is proposing the use of more funds to keep people in their homes. A virtual hearing will be held at the Tuesday, Feb. 9 Jackson City Council meeting for the council to hear public comments on the proposal, which plans to allocate an additional \$120,000 to foreclosure prevention. Supplementary money for this program would use CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) funds from the federal government. In May 2020, the City Council allocated \$60,000 in CARES funds to the foreclosure prevention program, including \$20,000 going to the Community Action Agency (CAA) to administer the program. City officials are now recommending an additional \$100,000 to the program and an added \$20,000 to CAA. Economic pressures created by the pandemic are putting residents in grim financial situations, which often involves not being able to afford their mortgage and property tax payments. These added fund allocations are being proposed to keep up with the growing demand for foreclosure help in Jackson and keep families in their homes. Residents wanting the assistance can apply through CAA and must meet certain requirements, such as residency within the city, be of a low-to-moderate income, and prove they have been financially hindered by the pandemic. Payments

go from CAA directly to the mortgage holder or the Jackson County Treasurer, not the resident. Jackson residents are encouraged to review the proposed amendment by visiting the grant page and provide input. At the Tuesday, Feb. 9 virtual meeting, the City Council will receive public comment on the proposal in a hearing and vote on the allocation. The meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. Residents may participate in the meeting by watching live broadcasts on the City website and the City Facebook page. Citizens wishing to submit comments for the hearing are asked to submit written comments to the City Clerk's Office using the email citizencomments@cityofjackson.org. The city clerk will read comments aloud during the meeting. All comments will be summarized in the amendment report to the federal government.

Education

January 4, 2021

11:00pm

Mason Public Schools superintendent wants to resume classes with a hybrid model. Governor Whitmer gave the green light for all K-12 students to get back into the classroom this week. But very few are in Mid-Michigan. On Monday evening, the Mason School District held a special board meeting to figure out when its students will return to "in-person" learning. Members of the board met virtually for the first time in 2021 and laid out a few ideas for what the new school year will look like. "It is my recommendation that we start back up with the hybrid model that we were in and not to the fullest extent but certainly K-8 and continue with that for certainly until February. I'm recommending that we start that on the 19th of January. That will give us some time here to kind of see how the dust settles," said Ronald Drzewicki Mason Public Schools Superintendent. After Superintendent Ronald Drzewicki gave his recommendation, board members expressed their concerns. While some supported the idea of students back in the classroom, others warned that it could be rushed. "Why are we rushing back? What safety measures have increased from the last time when we went hybrid that we would be able to consider putting everybody back together on the 19 right after the holidays without being able to see what the outcome of all of that is," said Mason School Board Secretary Liz Evans. Several motions were made only one carried. "A return to in-person instruction via hybrid model on January 19 for K-12," said Mason School Board Vice President Christopher Mumby. The Mason School Board will meet again January 11.

February 2, 2021

5:00pm

State superintendent would like to see longer school year. Michigan students could be spending more time in the classroom. The Michigan Department of Education is recommending the legislature add days to the school year. In a normal school year, students are in the classroom for 180 days, but there is support in mid-Michigan to add to that. "I do think there needs to be, even in a non-pandemic year, more days in the school year," said Michigan Center Public Schools superintendent Brady Cook. Students across Michigan are falling behind this year because of the pandemic. That's why schools, like Michigan Center, are looking at ways to get them caught up. "We all understand in the past 10 months and counting that some learning has been compromised," said Cook. State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice told members of the House and Senate education committees Tuesday they should consider mandating more instruction time for students. "Many of our children haven't learned as much as they should have in the last year and we have work to do to catch them up," said Dr. Rice. Dr. Rice said it's time to rethink the entire education system. "It can't simply be a return to normal. Our children deserve better and more," said Rice. Cook said he supports having students in class 215 days a year. "I have always been a disciple of the balanced calendar. I do think you can still allow time for breaks, which we all need, but space them so learning loss isn't as prevalent," said Cook. He said school puts everyone on an even playing field, no matter their background. "That summer vacation model as is farther grows that divide and that gap between the haves and the have nots," said Cook. But Cook said the state needs to increase per-pupil funding to make it work. "If what we're doing, which we are, is looking out for kids and looking out for their learning and adding days to the schedule, then yeah, teachers need to be compensated accordingly," he said. Dr. Rice also told lawmakers Tuesday schools should look at smaller class sizes to help bridge the literacy gap.

Government

January 11, 2021

5:30pm

Open carry of guns banned at Michigan Capitol building. Monday the Michigan State Capitol Commission revisited the issue of whether or not to ban the open carry of firearms inside the Capitol building, voting this time in favor of the ban. The question was originally taken up in April of 2020, after an armed group forced their way inside Michigan's Capitol while lawmakers were present, but at the time no ban was put in place. The question was taken up again Monday, in light of the recent attempted insurrection in Washington D.C. This time, the ban passed.

The new rules prevent the open carrying of firearms within the Capitol building, but do not prevent concealed weapons. Governor Gretchen Whitmer offered public comment on the issue. “No lawmaker, reporter, staff member, or anyone who works in the Michigan Capitol should fear for their safety at work,” Whitmer said. “But in the past year, we have seen a rapid rise in violent rhetoric and threats to public safety that require our immediate action. In April of 2020, armed protestors stormed the Michigan Capitol and stood in the gallery, long guns in hand, looking to intimidate legislators doing their job to serve the people of Michigan. And last week, we saw an armed insurgency occur in our Nation’s Capitol. This cannot stand. We must take immediate action to protect everyone who steps foot in our state Capitol.” Michigan’s Attorney General, Dana Nessel, also commented on the decision. “Though I appreciate the Commission’s decision today to prohibit the open carry of firearms, it’s only a single step down the long path of reforms that are necessary to make our legislators, state employees and visitors safe in our state Capitol,” said Nessel. “Firearms – whether explicitly visible or concealed by clothing – possess the same capability to inflict injury and harm on others and only banning open carry does little to meaningfully improve the safety and security of our Capitol. I urge the Commission or our Legislature to take the proper action and pass the necessary reforms that truly take into account the safety of those visiting and working in our Capitol. Today’s actions are simply not enough to do that.”

January 27, 2021

6:00pm

On Wednesday, Governor Whitmer delivered her third State of the State address focusing on “fixing the damn road ahead”. Whitmer spoke for around 25 minutes. She focused a lot on the pandemic that dominated the past year and talked about what she plans to do to make this year better. “I’m going to use a Latin phrase: Annus horribilis: a year of horrors. Before I tell you more, take comfort in knowing that tough years like 2020, our annus horribilis, are usually followed by great years – and yes, there’s Latin a phrase for that too: annus mirabilis,” said Whitmer. In her words, the state of the state is resilient and the past year has proven Michigan’s determination to endure. “This year didn’t pan out like any of us wanted or imagined. It required compassion, strength, and a lot of Michigan grit,” said Whitmer. She went on to remember the more than 14,000 lives lost to COVID-19 and said ending the pandemic would be the key to restoring the economy. Governor Whitmer called on the legislature to work with her to make it happen. “While common ground seems less and less common these days, it’s never been more important that we work toward it,” she said. Republicans told News 10 they hoped for a tone of unity and call for bipartisanship. Governor Whitmer hit those topics hard throughout her speech. “Let’s commit to the strong bipartisan action we took last year and focus that same energy to end the pandemic, grow our economy and get our kids back on track. The people of Michigan are counting on us,” said Whitmer. Republicans will share their thoughts on Thursday during their response to the State of the State address.

March 11, 2021

5:30am

Michigan Lawmakers feed troops in D.C. A group of Michigan lawmakers served food in Washington D.C. on Wednesday to members of our state's National Guard. It comes after Michigan troops voiced their concerns about the quality of food provided to them during their mission guarding the Capitol. They claim the food was undercooked, raw, and moldy. Some even reported metal shavings in their meal and ended up in the hospital. Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-12th District) says their gesture of feeding the troops is a show of support. "It's about saying, thank you," said Dingell. "We have a quarter of the troops that are here. Most people don't realize that, and these men and women have been here since January. And they've been keeping us safe, and we're very grateful to them. We don't take it for granted." Senator Tom Barrett (R-Pottersville) says he plans to introduce a bill designed to provide service members with a stipend to purchase their own food while on-duty.

Diversity

January 11, 2021

6:00pm

The Lansing Poor People's Campaign hosted a car caravan and rally to raise awareness on issues low-income families are facing during the pandemic. Approximately 80 cars and a total of 100 people supported the campaign driving from Union Missionary Baptist Church to Lansing City Hall. "It really infuriates me to think that somebody could shut off the water during the middle of a pandemic. It's just wrong all the way around," said Founding Organizer of the Metro Lansing Poor People's Campaign, LaShawn Erby. Overcharges and water disconnects by the Lansing Board of Water and Light are just one of the reasons Lansing Poor People's Campaign held a caravan rally on Monday. However, BWL responded with the following statement, "No BWL residential water customers have been shut-off since the start of the pandemic in March. Additionally, no residential electric or water customers are currently without their utility services. This shut-off moratorium will remain in place until at least April 15, when BWL will reevaluate the state of the community given the status of COVID-19. Whenever shut-offs resume, customers will be provided with ample notice and multiple warnings prior to any service being shut-off," said BWL Communications Manager, Amy Adamy. "How the people in the Porter apartment are living in unsanitary conditions, death in the city jail, we want to address that," Erby said. Erby told News 10 they hope to "raise awareness in the city," so it will lead to policy changes at the Porter Senior Apartments. She also

stated that people are living in poor conditions, with “rats, bed bugs, and roaches.” “Our hope is that the city will see this and either assess the landlords more fines [or] do something to get the people out of this condition because there’s no reason that people should live this way in a pandemic or even out of a pandemic,” Erby said. “The people who oversee those situations, there needs to be pressure put on them, this is not an acceptable situation,” said Poor People’s Campaign Supporter, Tom Arthur. “We have gotten a tremendous amount of support,” Erby said. “We have people signing up wanting to volunteer wanting to get involved to see how they can help. We understand people are not being served like they should and we’re hoping this will improve the conditions for the people.” Along with the caravan, members of the non-profit “Meta Peace Team” showed up in Lansing City Hall on Monday. The group says it is continuing to work toward empowerment through non-violence. They placed themselves in the middle of the protest to try and promote a calm and safe environment. On top of the support, their top priority was keeping everyone safe. “Today, we have come to make sure that the peaceful car caravan that the poor people campaign has organized remains peaceful, uninterrupted, and able to have their right to speak,” said Meta Peace Team Member Linda Tomala.

January 14, 2021

6:00pm

Lansing Community College hosts virtual Racial Healing and Transformation Week: From Jan. 18 to Jan. 22, 2021, Lansing Community College Office of Diversity and Inclusion will lead the college in a week-long virtual engagement of racial healing, equity, and justice. A celebration of the National Day of Racial Healing, an annual observance hosted by W.K. Kellogg Foundation, takes place Tuesday, Jan. 19. On this day, people are encouraged to reflect, listen, discuss social justice and racial equality and take action towards racism by using the #HowWeHeal. Activities during the week include the ongoing Courageous Conversations series with guest facilitators The Learner’s Group.

February 1, 2021

6:00am

The City of Jackson and the Ella Sharp Museum are partnering up to tell the stories of the city’s African American community.

Throughout the month of February, the city will be sharing black history artifacts and displays from the museum on their social media pages. Artifacts range from an 1893 African American City Directory to a 2020 Black Lives Matter protest sign.

“The Ella Sharp Museum is a wonderful resource for all things Jackson history,” John Willis, Chief Equity Officer for the City of Jackson said. “As the City begins multiple racial equity efforts, it’s important that we’re mindful of Jackson’s Black

History and what it can teach us.” Jackson is entering its third year of celebrating Black History Month via social media. Each post will have photos of the artifacts and an explanation of the magnitude of the item.

In 2019, the city shared stories of local African Americans who have impacted both the community and the nation.

Last year, city staff highlighted important places that impacted the lives of Jackson’s African American community.

“We hope you find them inspiring and that they paint a richer picture of Jackson’s diversity,” Diane Gutenkauf, Executive Director of the Ella Sharp Museum, said. “We are actively working to expand our collections and want to tell more stories by and about people of color. We would love to hear your story and add it to our collection.”

February 4, 2021

5:00am

The Lansing Area Economic Partnership, or LEAP, is developing a new department to expand opportunities for low-income and minority residents. It is called the Department of Equitable Economic Planning. It will help entrepreneurs be successful across Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, and Shiawassee counties. First year goals include helping existing businesses become more structured as LLCs, especially within the Black and Hispanic communities. Long term goals include programs to help strengthen management practices. LEAP hopes the department will help to close the racial wealth gap and increase competition in the local economy.