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August 4 - 10, 2021

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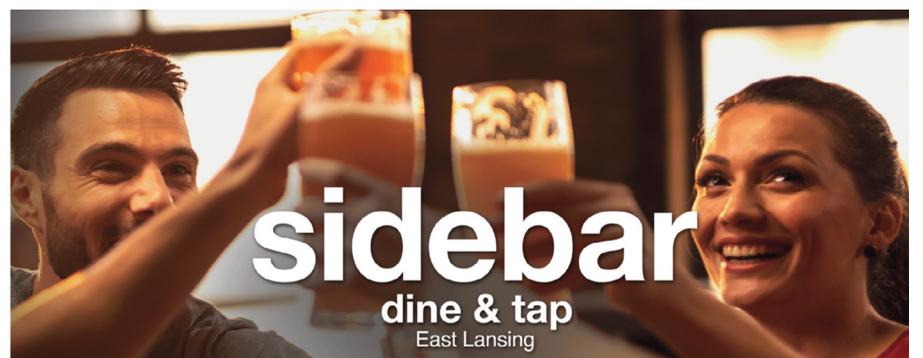
Lansing siblings reunite after 40 years

See page 12

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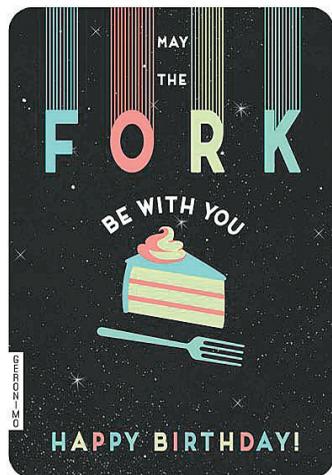


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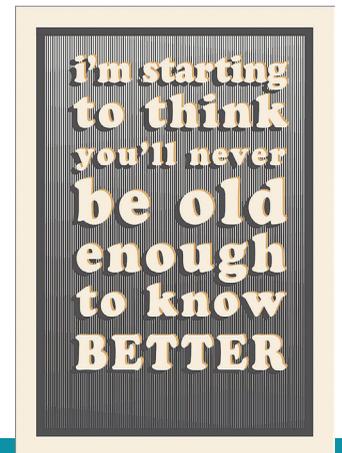
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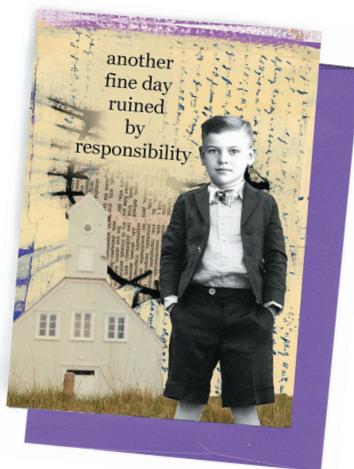
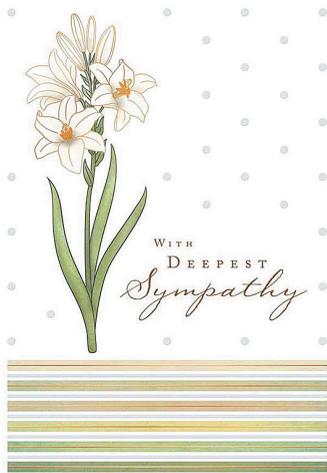


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How — and why — to support City Pulse

Ever heard of a news desert? It's what you call a community that has lost its local newspapers. Over the past two decades, it's happened far more often than you might think. More than 2,100 local newspapers, including 70 dailies and 2,000 weekly publications, have permanently turned off the lights, leaving hundreds of communities across the nation with no local print journalism.

The rise of the Internet, Facebook and other social media platforms has certainly contributed to the trend, fundamentally changing the habits of news consumers and bulldozing newspaper economics, especially for small publications like this paper. Gone are the days when subscriptions and print advertising revenues were more than sufficient to cover operating expenses. It's fair to say that the traditional business model supporting independent journalism has all but collapsed, forcing publishers to cut costs by laying off staff, scaling back coverage, downsizing their physical product, and exploring the potential for alternative sources of revenue.

City Pulse is not immune to these challenges. Worsened by the disastrous effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which crushed our advertising revenues over the past year, this newspaper is admittedly struggling to stay afloat. That's why we — Lansing's "newspaper for the rest of us" — are asking for your help.

You may be familiar with our nonprofit City Pulse Fund for Community Journalism. If you've made a donation to the Fund in the past, we thank you. But now we ask you to give directly to City Pulse, not the Fund, which is limited in its purpose: We can only use its resources to pay journalists to write stories; we can't use it to pay the rent or keep the lights on. As we consider ways to make ends meet, we have resisted the temptation to move to a subscription-only model or putting up a paywall on our website. Those options leave too many people of limited means with zero access to the news that matters in their lives. So it's up to those of us with a few extra dollars in our pockets to keep City Pulse available



Perhaps you enjoy our restaurant reviews and our annual Dining Guide as a way to introduce new flavors to your palate. Are you a cannabis connoisseur? Our weed reviews can help you find the right strain to achieve your desired results.

Our Top of the Town Awards (now moved to the Fall) celebrate the "best of the best" in hundreds of categories, from your favorite watering hole to the Lansing area's best cheeseburger. We sponsor and host the annual Inclusion Awards, to highlight champions of equality and

social justice in the LGBTQ+ community, and the Pulsar Awards to honor local theater. And, we're particularly proud of our election offerings, with in-depth coverage, profiles and candidate questionnaires that provide valuable information for voters as they head to the polls. After Election Day, we continue to hold public officials accountable and demand transparency on behalf of our readers so they can gain insight and perspective on issues that matter.

City Pulse goes where other newspapers fear to tread. We were founded on the principle that "objectivity is bullshit" and we continue to embrace this provocative idea. We're not afraid to tackle controversy, or to "create" it when necessary, in the sense of recognizing an issue that ought to be controversial. Our editorial page, created in the vacuum left by the daily paper, which has largely abandoned print's traditional role as a community opinion leaders, fearlessly tackles all manner of issues, from racial equity and social justice to government ethics. Not everyone is happy with everything we write, but that's OK. Even when we are criticized, the exchange of viewpoints is usually constructive — and instructive. We learn from our readers as much as we hope you learn from us.

But all of this goodness doesn't come cheap. It takes real money to publish a real newspaper. Please consider making a donation to City Pulse to keep independent local journalism alive and well in Lansing.

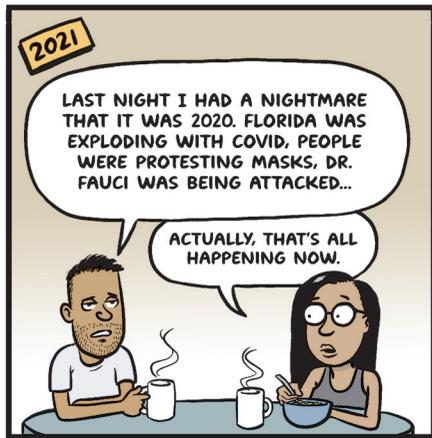
The CP Edit

Opinion

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for free on newsstands across the region. Thus, the drive we kick off today is for City Pulse, not the Fund, which will focus its efforts on those seeking tax deductions for large gifts.

Why give to City Pulse? Let us count the ways: Tired of the dearth of quality local journalism in the corporate daily? Look no further than this paper to get your fix each week. Looking for in-depth coverage and insightful analysis of state and local politics? We've got it in droves. How about mid-Michigan's most comprehensive event listings and our special sections featuring Lansing's top festivals and seasonal attractions?



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Racial equity money is approved by Lansing Council

PAGE 9



Live folk music returns to Ten Pound Fiddle

PAGE 24



Flash in the Pan: Fermentation station

PAGE 30



Photo by Lawrence Cosentino

Cover Art

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

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

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

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

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

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

MARKETING/DIGITAL DIRECTOR • Aimee West
aimee@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6708

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

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

SALES ASSISTANT
Earlisha Scott • earlisha@lansingcitypulse.com

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

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

JOURNEY WITH US NOW INTO A STRANGE, ALTERNATE REALITY THAT SOMEHOW COEXISTS WITH OUR OWN, A UNIVERSE IN WHICH THE NORMAL RULES OF CAUSE AND EFFECT NO LONGER APPLY...THE SURREAL AND CHAOTIC WORLD OF...

THE MAGAVERSE

THE DELTA VARIANT SURGE
A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF VACCINATED PEOPLE ARE STILL GETTING MILDLY SICK, WHICH **PROVES** THAT VACCINES DON'T WORK AGAINST COVID, WHICH IS A HOAX ANYWAY!

DON'T THINK ABOUT IT TOO DEEPLY! WE CERTAINLY DON'T!

MAGA

NEW MASK MANDATES
FIRST THEY SAY WE DON'T NEED TO WEAR MASKS ANYMORE, AND NOW THEY SAY WE DO?

HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO TRUST **ANYTHING** IF THE RULES FOR A CONSTANTLY EVOLVING PANDEMIC WITH DANGEROUS NEW MUTATIONS ARE NOT SET IN **STONE** FROM THE **BEGINNING**?

MAGA

THE JANUARY 6 INSURRECTION
IT WAS JUST AN ORDINARY GROUP OF TOURISTS VISITING THE CAPITOL AND BEATING COPS WITH FLAGPOLES, AS ORDINARY TOURISTS DO!

WHY DO THESE HATE-FILLED DEMOCRATS WANT TO PERSECUTE **ORDINARY TOURISTS**?

MAGA

WORSENING CLIMATE CHANGE
THESE FIRES, FLOODS, HEAT WAVES AND LITERAL HELLSTORMS PROVE **NOTHING!** IT'S ALL JUST A LIBERAL HOAX TO JUSTIFY IMPOSING **MORE REGULATIONS!**

THERE'S NOTHING LIBERALS LOVE **MORE** THAN IMPOSING **REGULATIONS!**

MAGA

ANY TENUOUS GRASP ON REALITY
WE ARE NOT CONSTRAINED BY YOUR TEDIOUS NOTIONS OF "OBJECTIVE TRUTH" AND "SCIENTIFIC FACTS!"

WE DO OUR **OWN** RESEARCH, WHICH MOSTLY CONSISTS OF WATCHING **RANDOM** YOUTUBE VIDEOS!

WHAT PART OF **RIGOROUS, INDEPENDENT** INQUIRY DO YOU FAIL TO **COMPREHEND**?

MAGA

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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Traffic stop policy makes sense

Ingham County Prosecuting Attorney Carol Siemon made waves last week by announcing that her office will no longer authorize criminal charges that result from vehicle searches conducted during traffic stops, except under very limited circumstances. Siemon's new policy is driven by data that shows people of color in Ingham County are disproportionately subjected to "pretextual" stops for minor traffic infractions, such as broken tail lights or tinted windows, and more frequently searched and arrested for reasons unrelated to the initial stop. Though controversial, we think her decision will help reduce racial disparities in enforcement of the law. Siemon implemented the new policy over fierce objections from area police agencies, who claimed they weren't consulted before the policy was announced. It turns out she did consult them but didn't agree with their concerns and moved ahead with the new policy anyway. We're not surprised that the people who unfairly target people of color now object to Siemon's effort to rein them in. We also note that some communities are doing away with traffic enforcement by armed police officers altogether, opting instead to deploy unarmed personnel on the theory that fewer violent confrontations will occur and fewer people of color will lose their lives while getting pulled over for a minor traffic violation. We support Siemon's new policy because, in this case, ending racially biased policing practices serves the greater good and because it allows exceptions in cases where the traffic stop was necessary to protect public safety or if the police had a separate investigatory reason for the stop.

Get vaxxed, get paid?

Ingham County Commissioner Mark Grebner has introduced a proposal to pay county residents \$200 if they get their COVID-19 vaccination. While his idea is well meaning, we're against it, mostly because we've reached our limit of tolerance for those who still refuse to get vaccinated because it impinges on their "freedom" and other such nonsense. Most anti-vaxxers are so entrenched in their delusions that a few hundred bucks won't mean anything to them anyway. At the same time, at least some of the remaining unvaccinated are low-income residents who have had trouble with transportation, child care or other barriers to getting their shot; those whose vaccine hesitancy is founded in historic medical abuses of people of color; and immigrants for whom language barriers and cultural differences can be an obstacle to understanding and obtaining their vaccination. We think it's better for the county to invest additional resources in expanded outreach to these populations, rather than rewarding the mindless anti-vaxx intransigents.

No vaxx, no job?

Following announcements by three of Michigan's largest hospital systems — Henry Ford, Beaumont and



The CP Edit

Opinion

Spectrum — that they will require their employees to get vaccinated against the coronavirus or lose their jobs, we now look to our local healthcare providers to do the right thing and follow suit. Neither Sparrow Health System nor McLaren Greater Lansing has yet imposed a vaccine requirement on their employees. We urge them to do so. Given the continued dangers posed by COVID-19, a hospital is the last place you should have to worry about contracting a deadly disease from the very people who are supposed to help you get well. Combined with the emergence of the far more contagious Delta variant, it is clearly in the best interest of the community for both hospitals to ensure that their staff, volunteers and vendors are vaccinated. Failing to do so undermines public confidence in the safety and efficacy of the vaccines and further fuels the sort of anti-vaxx gibberish that is giving new life to the pandemic and putting us all at risk. Moreover, except for those with bonafide religious or medical reasons, for trained medical personnel to refuse the vaccine falls somewhere between ignorance and professional negligence. It turns the idea that medical providers have an obligation to "first, do no harm" completely upside down. We think it's only a matter of time before Sparrow and McLaren fall in line, but the sooner they adopt and implement a vaccine mandate, the sooner they will preserve their own credibility and reaffirm their commitment to quality care for all.

New voting plan implodes

We were disappointed to see the proposal for Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) in Lansing come off the rails due to questions about the legality of RCV elections under Michigan law. According to the state Bureau of Elections, RCV conflicts with state election law in myriad ways that make it untenable for the proposal to move forward at this time. Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum also weighed in, noting that the county's current voting machines are incapable of processing RCV ballots. A significant investment will be required to bring them up to speed. We're a bit surprised that a ballot proposal to amend Lansing's City Charter to allow RCV advanced to the City Council floor without these concerns coming to light, which suggests a lack of due diligence on the part of RCV advocates. Nonetheless, the concerns raised by Clerk Byrum and the state appear to be legitimate. There is only one way to resolve them: amend state law. We still believe RCV offers a compelling model for choosing our elected officials that will increase voter participation and save money in the long run by eliminating the need for primary elections. Therefore, we call on state lawmakers to update Michigan's election laws to accommodate RCV for communities that choose to adopt it.

From cosplay to 'cause-play'

League of Enchantment brings Avengers on a mission of healing

The weekend bustle was down to a late Sunday afternoon snooze in Lansing's Old Town. Suddenly, three colorful figures came out of nowhere.

A teen on a scooter skidded off the River Trail and watched from a respectful distance.

Iron Man, Thor and Captain America were having a conference at the Brenke Fish Ladder, in full super-regalia. Bystanders spotted a host of heroes assembling in the nearby pines: Spider-Man, Doctor Strange, Ant-Man, Captain Marvel, even that lovable creep with the horns, Loki.

The costumes were opulent and finely detailed. A couple walking from Arctic Circle gaped at the triumvirate as their ice cream melted.

"Colin, you've got to get over here," the man whispered into his phone. "Just come."

Something big must have been up

for the Avengers to assemble in north Lansing. And there was.

The League of Enchantment, an all-volunteer, Michigan-based non-profit, arranges for superheroes, princesses and other "enhanced individuals" (in Captain America's lingo) to visit hospitals and trauma centers, bringing outsized delight to kids, their parents, and even doctors and nurses.

With pandemic restrictions winding down (for now), the League will return to Sparrow Hospital in early August. Before the fall rush, they invaded Old Town on a July Sunday for a round of promotional photos.

"Ancient One, I need you over by that wind chime," photographer Marquan Jones barked out. The Sorcerer Supreme dutifully obeyed.

In a parking lot behind the fish ladder, League vice president Kate Whittaker peeled plates of gold and red armor from the group's president, Tony Stark, er, Shamus Smith. She carefully stored the battle-torn costume in a minivan until Smith was



Photos by Marquan Jones

League Vice President Kate Whittaker, bullied for her size as a kid, now wows crowds as Wonder Woman.

down to a bright red body stocking.

Whittaker, who lives in DeWitt, plays a show-stopping Wonder Woman at many League events, but she was in civilian garb that day, soaking in the

celebration.

"I got the email that we're going back to Sparrow and I just started crying," she said.

Some Leaguers have origin stories nearly as dramatic as their comic-book counterparts. A little over five years ago, Smith was involved in a tragic accident.

"I hit a little boy, 3 and a half years old — massive amount of trauma," he said.

A week later, he got to meet the boy. They watched "Batman v. Superman" together. The boy told Smith he loved Batman.

"I wanted him to be able to meet Batman," Smith said.

Donning the cape and cowl at a fundraiser for the boy changed his life.

"It helped me sleep, it helped my mental clarity," he said. "It just — became something I needed to do."

There's an iron-clad connection between Smith's lifelong love of superheroes and his own destiny.

"They all come from trauma, loss, pain or grief," he explained. "Batman came from the loss of his parents.

See Avengers, Page 7

The GOP candidate Whitmer should be most concerned about

Who in a potential 10-person Republican gubernatorial field should Democrats be most concerned about?

OPINION

Probably not the person you



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

think.

Betsy DeVos and her unlimited money. Gretchen Whitmer and her Washington pals have lots of that, too ... certainly enough to frame DeVos as more unlikable than she's already been framed.

James Craig? The former Detroit Police chief makes a lot of sense on paper, but is he drawing big crowds? Is he talking about issues that excite people?

The George Floyd demonstrations have long been pushed out of the headlines. Law and order doesn't ignite the same passion it did last year when Portland, Oregon, was burning every other night.

How about this Kevin Rinke guy? He's a former southeast Michigan car dealership owner who made headlines last week when he said he'd throw \$10 million of his own money into a GOP primary.

That's in the ballpark of what Rick

Snyder dumped into his 2010 effort and things worked out for him. But Snyder didn't cut a settlement in court for calling a Black employee the "n" word or for making sexual advances toward female employees.

Rinke did. It was 30 years ago, but Whitmer's campaign will make the whole experience seem like yesterday. Besides, didn't we do the deep-pocketed businessman thing last go-around?

Tudor Dixon? The host of a national TV news and commentary program that only the right of the right watch in the middle of the afternoon? Her story is compelling. Her first campaign finance report was not.

She raised \$132,000, but spent a third of it (\$45,211) to cover for the cost of the online fundraising platform she used. That's taking three steps forward and one step back.

Of her contributions, 17% (354 people) came from folks with Michigan addresses. The rest were people who can't vote here.

So, who poses the biggest threat to Whitmer? Meet Garrett Soldano.

The former all-MAC linebacker from Western Michigan led one of the first organized opposition groups against Whitmer's stay-at-home

policies. The married, 42-year-old father of two started something called Michiganders Against Excessive Quarantine, which had more than 400,000 Facebook members before it was shut down.

When it came time to launch a gubernatorial campaign, he said he had 75,000 people as part of his gubernatorial exploratory offshoot — Michigan Needs An Adjustment.

The Kalamazoo-area chiropractor raised eyebrows last week when he reported raising \$625,000. His 40% burn rate wasn't ideal, but the money went toward running an actual campaign — a staff, a video shoot, mail and other stuff candidates need to spend money on.

Maybe more impressive, though, is he recorded 10,060 unique contributions, and close to 97% of them came from Michigan residents, not political action committees. Real people.

Whitmer raised a lot more money than Soldano (\$10 million), but it came from 8,931 contributors, of which 66% of them (5,907) came from Michigan. She's been raising it since Jan. 1, too, and may need to give about a quarter of it back. Soldano announced in April.

As much as we don't want to say it,

COVID isn't done. The Delta variant is moving north and roughly 3 million Michiganders 16 and older still haven't been vaccinated.

Louisiana is bringing back mandatory masks, for crying out loud. Louisiana!

"You know, a lot of people think that I stood up because my business was lockdown. It wasn't," Soldano told the Your Defending Fathers radio show Monday. "I was deemed essential and I hate that word. Anybody who goes to work and is providing for themselves and their family, your job is essential."

Yup, this is rhetoric regular folks are talking about and can relate to.

Whitmer's performance number is already hovering around 50% due primarily from her old emotionally taxing COVID restrictions. If you thought vaccine inquisitions and masks were unpopular before, wait until they come back.

Soldano wasn't at the Jan. 6 insurrection. He's personally engaging.

For now, he's in the best position to grapple with Whitmer on the exact issue she'd prefer not to: a 2020 Redux.

(Kyle Melinn of the Capitol news service MIRS can be emailed at melinn-ky@gmail.com.)

Avengers

from page 6

Superman is an orphan. Wonder Woman was molded from clay and sent out into the world to just try to figure herself out. Their therapy was doing good. It always seemed so real to me."

He met Whittaker on her first day in full Wonder Woman costume, at a 2017 Grand Rapids Comic Con. She hailed the Caped Crusader from across the hall with the deathless words, "Hey, Batman!"

Fans mobbed the pair within seconds. As the bulging coffers of Marvel and DC can attest, the only thing more popular than one superhero is more than one of them, banding together.

An alliance was born.

Smith went into recruitment mode, like Ben Affleck in "Justice League."

"He's very good in that role," Whittaker said.

Unlike Smith, Whittaker didn't care about comics as a kid, but the 2017 "Wonder Woman" film with Gal Gadot captivated her. Whittaker was bullied as a kid for a variety of reasons, particularly her height. At age 11, she was taller than most of her teachers — nearly 6 feet.

"I've been called an Amazon most of my life, sometimes derogatory and sometimes not," she said.

The final scene in "Wonder Women," in which Gadot was mobbed by a knot of joyous children, hit home for Whittaker. "I really relate to kids," she said. "I nannied for a family of 10 at age 19 and loved it."

At a "How-To Halloween" event at the Lansing Center in 2018, Whittaker's charisma was "off the charts," according to Smith. Kids clamored for hugs and photographs with Wonder Woman.

While on stage, she spotted a young girl in the crowd, bouncing with delight. The girl's mother told Whittaker she was bullied at school because of her short hair and dark skin.

"I talked to her about how she was beautiful and unique and didn't need to be a cookie-cutter kid," Whittaker said. "That was my moment. I felt that I went through my troubles and my heartache for this."

Smith and Whittaker agreed that their great power to thrill and inspire kids carried great responsibility.

"We needed to do better," Smith said. His motivational skills and her facil-



Captain America (Jason Kolokithas), Iron Man (Shamus Smith) and Thor (Grant Paplauskas) popped up in Old Town July 11 for a publicity shoot marking the nonprofit League of Enchantment's return to Sparrow Hospital and other Michigan hospitals and trauma centers.

ity with numbers (she's an accountant by day) made them a good match out of costume as well.

Smith already belonged to the League of Enchantment, an informal group with about half a dozen members. He and Whittaker helped to turn it into a nonprofit with a plan.

Two years later, the League swelled to 30 members and its schedule was crammed with 250 events, including weekly hospital visits.

Now the League has over 80 members, with applications coming in nearly every day. New blood is always welcome. On some weekends, nine requests for appearances come from across the state and the League has to turn a few down.

Smith has five kids; Whittaker has four. All the Leaguers have full-time jobs, but they make time for what Smith calls "cause-plan."

"For a lot of us in the group, this is therapy, it's mental health," Smith said.

On a typical hospital visit, the madness starts when Smith suits up in a men's room, takes one step out the door and is instantly accosted by a nurse, a doctor or a random staffer.

"The janitors thank us for the way it makes the whole floor feel," he said.

Sponsorships from Meijer, the MSU Federal Credit Union, Chase Bank and Dart Bank have enabled the League to bear gifts such as comic books and action figures on hospital visits. During the pandemic, the League crafted heroically themed packages for 1,200 kids, working with the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Last month, Smith and Whittaker saw 4,000 kids in two hours on Sparrow Health System Kids' Day at Ionia Free Fair.

"Kids bounce in, yelling 'This is the

best day ever,'" Smith said.

Smith never cracks a smile as Batman. He pitches his voice to a stentorian baritone modeled from the Arkham Batman video game.

"I'm sullen but approachable," he deadpanned.

Smith and Whittaker both studied theater. The experience comes in handy when kids ask questions like, "Where's the Batmobile?"

"It's in the parking lot," Smith tells them.

"I don't see it."

"Today I drove a vehicle that no one suspects."

"It's like doing improv," Whittaker said. If someone asks her "Are you the real Wonder Woman?" she comes back with, "Are you the real Sally?" "That usually quiets them down," she said.

Kids always ask her where she parked her robot plane. (Fortunately, Wonder Woman's plane is invisible.) Before each event, she scans about for an inaccessible spot she can wave at. At Lugnuts Stadium, she pointed to a platform on the nearby Lansing Center.

"If you look carefully, very special little kids will see a glimmer," she told them. (It was really the HVAC vent.)

Inevitably, someone says, "I see it!"

"So now you have kids taking pictures of an invisible plane," Smith said, shaking his head. "It's hard to wrap your head around all of this sometimes."

The League's two Spider-Men (Ryan Bolton and Keith Higbee) are limber, loose and jokey.

"It just doesn't work to have Spider-Man stand up straight," Smith said.

Thor (Grant Paplauskas) is impossible to pry out of character, even after an event is over. "See you next time, my brother," he tells Loki (Eli Daley) when they part.

At a recent Balloon Festival in Jackson, a brand new Leaguer, Cody Thorne, soaked up Captain America's speech patterns as well as his stamina.

Three grueling hours into the event, after submitting to hundreds of photos with candy-crazed kids, flirty women, patriotic veterans and vibranium-shield-coveting cops, Thorne was dripping with sweat.

When a fresh swarm of kids formed, a worried Smith herded Thorne into a tent for water and food.

"Are you OK?" Smith asked.

Every fan of Cap's film exploits knows the reply:

"I can do this all day."

— LAWRENCECOSENTINO



Christopher Neville was the first person to correctly identify the Eye for Design last month as one of the words on the exterior of the Hall of Justice (below) in the Capitol Complex. On one side appear the words Freedom and Equality; on the other, Truth and Justice. The reveal is from the Frank J. Kelley walkway that runs from the Supreme Court to the Capitol. It was so named in 2012 for Michigan's "eternal general" – the longest-serving state attorney general in U.S. history. Kelley passed away this year.

This month's Eye for Design (above) can be found on the east side of East Lansing. The first person to correctly identify it will receive a City Pulse Eye for Design mug. Send your answer to carriesampson@micourthistory.org.

— CARRIE SAMPSON



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

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS



By KYLE KAMINSKI

Ingham County considers bribes for shots

A proposal from Ingham County Commissioner Mark Grebner could put \$200 in the pockets of those who wait to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Grebner said his goal is to bump up lagging countywide immunization rates from 59% closer to the statewide goal of 70%. The proposal — set to be funded in part by federal relief funds — still needs final approval from the commission and wouldn't offer any cash incentives to those who are already vaccinated.



Grebner

McLaren unveils 'Birth Place'

A finished labor and delivery room at McLaren Greater Lansing's new 240-bed health care campus in southeast Lansing, Construction — which began on the \$600 million facility in 2018— is nearly finished. Child and Family Charities reportedly plans to take over the five buildings on McLaren's Greenlawn campus once they are fully vacated by early next year.



Cops investigate 'suspicious' death

Ingham County Sheriff's deputies are investigating a "suspicious death" after an unidentified person was found dead in a pond near the 2200 block of South Onondaga Road on Saturday afternoon. In a release, authorities noted "there is nothing to indicate that local residents are in danger." Still, those with any information about the incident are asked to call 517-676-2431.

Levin remembered as 'champion'

Former U.S. Sen. Carl Levin died at 87 and was memorialized as a "champion for Michigan," in a statement released by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. Levin's 36-year tenure in the Senate is the longest in state history and was marked by a tireless commitment to the automobile industry.



Professor accused of sexual harassment

Matthew Phillips, a communications professor at Michigan State University, quit the job about a week after he received a letter that indicated he was going to be fired for sexual harassment, reports FOX 47 News. The letter stated that Phillips broke university policies on sexual misconduct when he sexually harassed two graduates of the communications program.

Want to police the police?

The city of East Lansing is accepting applications through Friday (Aug. 6) from local residents to join an 11-member independent police oversight commission. The purpose of the commission is to bolster racial equity and officer accountability. Visit cityofeastlansing.com for more information.



LCC erases student debt

Nearly 4,000 Lansing Community College students are eligible to have their outstanding student loans forgiven. The college announced plans to use federal emergency relief funds to cover student debt that accumulated for students between the fall 2017 and spring 2021 semesters.

Lansing man charged with murder

Adolfo Benito Luiz, 19, of Lansing, was arrested and charged with one count of open murder homicide in the April killing of Adrien Jayce Price, 19, of Lansing. Authorities suspect Luiz shot Price in his car near the 1100 block of West Allegan Street. Luiz is due back in court this month.

State cracks down on pot products

Just about every pot shop in Michigan has been forced by state regulators to pull several edible products from their shelves that feature cartoons, artistic renderings, caricatures, toys, designs or shapes that would appeal to minors — including distinct shapes of humans, animals or fruit. Many product labels simply need to be redesigned. Others that too closely resemble popular candy brands (like Nerds Ropes or Reese's Peanut Butter Cups) can no longer be sold at all.



MSU: Masks and vaccines required on campus

Students and staff returning to Michigan State University this fall will be required to wear masks indoors and be fully vaccinated by Aug. 31 unless they're able to cite a religious or medical exemption. Those who are not fully vaccinated will be required to undergo COVID-19 testing.



East Lansing cops probe shooting

The East Lansing Police Department is investigating a shooting that occurred downtown at about 2:40 a.m. Saturday. Authorities said one person was shot and injured following an argument between two people. Everyone involved has been identified and the gun used in the incident has been recovered. No arrests have been made. The probe will continue.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF INGHAM
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE
OF HEARING

FILE NO. 21-897-GM
In the matter of Alecia R. Brown,
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS
including: whose address(es) is/are
unknown and whose interest in
the matter may be barred or
affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be
held August 19, 2021, at 9:45 a.m.
at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing,
MI 48933 before Judge Richard J.
Garcia for the following purpose:
Guardianship hearing.

Date: 08/03/2021
Brenda Seaton
2409 Turner St.
Lansing, MI 48906

CP#21-178

Council approves \$300K for ‘immediate’ action on racial equity at City Hall

Survey: ‘Mixed perceptions’ among staff on workplace discrimination in Lansing

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor is charging forward with a \$300,000 plan to build an “anti-racist and bias-free environment” at City Hall following a recent stamp of approval from the City Council.

The funding for the mayor’s initiative was released by the City Council through a 5-2 vote last week. It includes about \$154,000 to be spent on consultants and more training for city staff.

Another \$70,000 will be used for individual departments to craft two-year “equity action plans” that include specific strategies to curb workplace discrimination and chip away at racial biases.

The rest will be used to develop an online mapping tool to ensure that underserved neighborhoods receive a more equitable share of the city’s attention.

“This is a good first step, and certainly not the only step,” Schor added.

The funds were approved by the Council when it passed Schor’s latest budget proposal, but they were held in a reserve account that required Council approval before Schor could begin spending the cash.

Only Council members and mayoral challengers Kathie Dunbar and Patricia Spitzley voted against releasing the funds. Councilman Brian Jackson was absent from the 5-2 vote.

Spitzley said Schor’s yearlong efforts to guide reforms related to racial equity have lacked transparency and have been “tainted from the start” — beginning with the requirement that members of the Mayor’s Racial Justice and Equity Alliance sign non-disclosure agreements.

Dunbar mostly criticized the timeliness of the proposal, contending that most of the recent recommendations had already been assembled more than a year ago by the Mayor’s Inclusion and Advisory Council. She also said the \$76,000 to create “heat maps” could be better spent.

“I won’t support this proposal, though I do believe that this work needs to be done,” she said.

“It’s a starting point,” added Council President Peter Spadafore. “We have to start somewhere.”

Schor’s latest plan follows a damning new report from the Michigan



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Human Resources Director Linda Sanchez-Gazella and Paul Elam, of the Michigan Public Health Institute, present a staff survey on racial equity to the City Council.

Public Health Institute that outlined a litany of concerns from people of color over unfair treatment at City Hall.

The City Attorney’s Office contracted with the nonprofit organization in January to conduct an employee survey that aimed to gauge staff perceptions of racial equity, diversity and inclusion under Schor’s administration. The institute’s chief strategy officer, Paul Elam, presented an overview of the responses to the Council last week. City officials have not yet released the full results. A mayoral spokeswoman also couldn’t provide a cost summary for the study.

Of the 888 employees invited to fill out the survey, 289 submitted a response, Elam said. Of those, 60% of respondents were aware of any equity plans being made in the city. In total, about 70% of the respondents were white. About 17% were Black. Another 36 employees participated in focus groups, including at the Police and Fire departments.

Among the findings: Employees cited inequitable employment opportunities and work-related practices based on race as well as biological sex. Staff also reported inequities in Schor’s administration handled subsequent complaints over that treatment.

Elam said, “Employees regardless of race indicated grievances were not handled in an appropriate manner and shoved under the rug. This was predominant in a few departments.”

About 7% of employees said they were satisfied with the city’s efforts to bolster diversity, but far more employees of color submitted negative feedback compared to their white counterparts, Elam explained. Other top

complaints included a lack of diversity at the Fire Department, a philosophical disconnect on diversity between top executives and rank-and-file staff, a workplace culture largely dominated by white men and general lack of inclusivity.

“Employees who identified as white and BIPOC had different perspectives regarding their perceived diversity within their respective departments,” Elam said. “That just means everyone is not in agreement on this particular question. Depending on who you asked, they had a different perspective. Some perceived their departments diverse, while others did not.”

Elam said two women “really raised some concerns” regarding sexism at City Hall. Other Black staffers also told him they feel pressured to work twice as hard as white personnel. He also mentioned concerns about “culturally inappropriate symbols” in work-related text messages.

“There is this sort of cafeteria-style experience people have. People of color tend to hang out with people of color. White people tend to hang out with white people,” Elam added, noting that an ongoing sense of “cancel culture” and turnover among top executive roles hasn’t helped.

“By cancel culture, we mean it’s an approach when employees are silenced or dismissed if they don’t agree with something or someone,” Elam explained. “They sort of feel like they’re being pushed to the side. Several employees shared their opinion of this actually happening to them.”

Schor’s latest \$300,000 plan marked some of the first concrete financial steps that his administration

has taken in the wake of several allegations that paint a racially discriminatory picture at City Hall and the Fire Department, where several complaints have stemmed.

Most recently, former Battalion Chief Shawn Deprez told City Pulse that she was sexually assaulted by a superior and subjected to unchecked homophobic and sexist harassment. Several current and former Black staffers — including a former scheduler in Schor’s office — are also suing Schor and the city for alleged discrimination and race-based retaliation.

In the aftermath of racial tensions only heightened after the murder of George Floyd, Schor formed the 40-member Racial Justice and Equity Alliance in July 2020 to examine the potential for reforms. That group worked for the last year in tandem with local attorney Teresa Bingman, who was paid \$63,000 to serve as a consultant. At that time, she also served as a senior consultant for Vanguard Public Affairs, which previously assisted Schor with campaign fundraising efforts.

All members of the Equity Alliance were also asked to sign “confidentiality agreements” that prevented disclosure of their discussions, only the polished release of their final recommendations — the latest plan for more staff training and an online map tool among them.

Elam also presented a list of 13 staff recommendations for progress, including recruiting and hiring more diverse employees, focusing on equity at an individual departmental level rather than a citywide scale, hosting more social events for all employees, retaining programs like the Citizens Police Academy and ramping up training related to diversity, equity and inclusion.

Elam’s organization also crafted another specific list of recommendations for Schor’s administration, including a charter amendment that incorporates additional funding every year for racial justice strategies, the formation of another diversity-related advisory board, more employee outreach and a policy that “sets a tone at the top that starts with the mayor,” Elam explained to Council last week.

Putting the plans in motion will “actually move the city forward in the right direction,” Elam said.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

Former employees assail operation of sexual-assault nonprofit

They find fault with its founder, Nassar victim Amanda Thomashow

Of the hundreds of alleged victims of convicted sex offender Larry Nassar, one of the most prominent is Amanda Thomashow.

Abused by Nassar, a former sports doctor at Michigan State University in 2014, while she attended grad school, Thomashow has been recognized as one of the first survivors to push for an investigation. She was featured in the HBO documentary on the former MSU sports doctor and honored with other victims with an ESPY by the sports network ESPN.

Helped by the attention, Thomashow launched the Lansing nonprofit Survivor Strong three years ago to aid victims like herself.

But now that nonprofit is struggling. Board members have resigned, a key funder has cut off his contributions and staff and former clients have alleged ethical improprieties.

Former staffers point to Thomashow's mercurial leadership as an issue. Among the allegations: a lack of clear policies and procedures — particularly related to ethical conduct with clients — and allegedly a blurring of professional and personal boundaries with staff where the personal needs of Thomashow have been treated as professional expectations, they said.

For example, "Susan," who multiple sources said was the only licensed professional to have worked at the organization, befriended Thomashow a decade before her hiring. (Thomashow, 32, who earned a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University, herself has no degree or certificates in human services care. However, she had worked for the state of Michigan reviewing grants for domestic violence organizations and assisting in coordinating and putting together conferences. In her role at the state, she said she watched hundreds of hours of training videos on working with survivors.)

Susan said that she "quickly" realized that the boundary between friend and employer didn't exist. She was hired in March and fired in April while at Thomashow's home assisting her after Thomashow returned home from a hospitalization. (City Pulse is protecting her identity at her request.)

When Susan and her husband



Thomashow

attempted to leave Thomashow's home, after spending hours caring for her, Thomashow exploded, both told City Pulse. Thomashow demanded Susan return the organization's technology, accusing Susan of not being able to care for — or be sensitive — to the needs of survivors because she was unwilling to continue to stay at Thomashow's home.

Both Susan and her husband described Thomashow as verbally "abusive" during the firing. And the event ended not only their professional relationship, but their friendship of about a decade.

Thomashow sat down for an interview with City Pulse last week in a Zoom meeting with her attorney, Kevin Winters, board member and local attorney Kelly McClintock and new board member Annie Haas. McClintock is one of two daughters of former Mayor Virg Bernero.

"There are definitely a number of questions regarding clients and employee stuff that I think just, ethically, I can't really talk about," Thomashow said at the onset of the two-hour interview with City Pulse.

Haas, who just joined the board in July, also said that she understood that many of the nonprofit's employees had been hired in part because of their friendships with Thomashow.

In two different instances during the interview, however, Thomashow cited this ethical barrier in discussing employees or clients then accused a former employee of criminal activity. She

provided no evidence to support her claims, and the employee has denied the allegations and provided evidence that contradicts the claims.

McClintock acknowledged that Thomashow is still growing into her leadership position.

Thomashow said she "has an opportunity for growth."

Another former client who was also a friend of Thomashow said Thomashow's efforts to counsel her "made things worse."

"She is all about the trauma bonding," said Jennifer, which is a pseudonym to protect her identity at her request. Jennifer is a sex-abuse survivor.

Jennifer said she and her friend Samantha — also a pseudonym — were frantically trying to move out of a home that she shared with her abuser in late 2019. Samantha had been long-time friends with Thomashow, while Jennifer had met her "two, maybe three times." They called on Thomashow to physically assist in moving Jennifer's belongings into a new apartment.

Thomashow declared Jennifer a client.

After the move, text messages from Thomashow to Jennifer began in earnest.

Thomashow, from that point on, continuously encouraged Jennifer to share her traumatic experiences — over and over again. Thomashow would compare and contrast with her own traumas. Jennifer labeled this as "trauma bonding," based on the label her therapist gave the relationship as she privately deconstructed the friendship with Thomashow.

"She always wanted to dig deep, even if you weren't feeling it," said Jennifer. "She always wanted to bring those emotions out and talk about what happened, and I realized now in the long run that was not what I needed. That did not help me. I think it made things worse. Her unsolicited therapy was not appreciated."

On at least two occasions, Thomashow also asked Jennifer to move into her home in Lansing.

Jennifer said she declined both times. Thomashow denied ever inviting a client to move into her home. City Pulse has identified one other active client who had stayed in her home.

On the day Jennifer appeared in 54-A District Court to testify against her abuser, Thomashow also took her out to lunch and offered her a full-time job at Survivor Strong.

Lauren Randazzo, 24, said she was hired last August to work on fundraising. When Thomashow was hospitalized this year, Randazzo said it was discovered that the organization's unemployment insurance had lapsed due to nonpayment. It was also discovered the organization's taxes had not been filed. This came after it was discovered the organization's website domain — and emails — were both offline for failure to renew the domain registration.

In her interview with City Pulse, Thomashow concurred that the organization did allow unemployment insurance payments to lapse. She also said tax returns and filings, including the organization's 990 forms, were still being reviewed by the accounting firm. She also confirmed the domain issues.

When Thomashow returned to the office from a medical leave, Randazzo said she was relieved of working on a variety of projects, including taxes and unemployment insurance. Although it was her job to raise money, she was told not to worry about the budget because Thomashow had a plan.

"She told me I shouldn't have had to deal with that stuff, and apologized," Randazzo said.

In June, Randazzo was fired by Thomashow in a call that was recorded. Thomashow gave no explanation for the dismissal, only that Randazzo's services were no longer necessary.

Randazzo received a letter from Winters, Thomashow's lawyer, pointing out she was an "at will" employee, which means she could be fired without cause or explanation. The letter dismissed what it called "protections" that the letter said Randazzo had cited.

Another staffer fired by Thomashow was Zack Whaley. Whaley, 30, came to work for Survivor Strong from a management position at Best Buy to help strengthen the nonprofit's policy infrastructure. He had some training through the Lansing nonprofit Firecracker Foundation in trauma-informed care with survivors. Although not legally required, he had no professional licensing or certifications in human services. He said he started the job in January and was fired in June.

Firecracker Foundation works to assist survivors of childhood sexual abuse and their families with recovery. The organization offers a wide array of services, including on staff therapists as well as referral therapists.

Thomashow

from page 10

Whaley said his firing came after Thomashow stopped communicating with staff. He said he went to her home, for which he had the security codes, with an emergency medical kit because he was uncertain what he would face since Thomashow had been making “concerning comments.” Whaley’s account was corroborated by Susan.

Whaley’s job ended over a dispute on how to fire two employees. Whaley said Thomashow had told him it was a board directive to fire the staffers, but he said she waffled for 10 days. Then he said she fired him after he allegedly failed to follow directions — which he said were unclear, at best.

City Pulse obtained a recording of Whaley’s firing, which also largely corroborated his claims. The recording shows that Thomashow asserted a specific directive, but when notes from a previous meeting were reviewed by another employee during that conversation, no such directive appeared to have been issued.

A former board member who resigned from the board, Tashmica Torok, specifically challenged the veracity of Thomashow’s board directive narrative related to the firings in her resignation letter. Torok, of Lansing, who founded and runs the Firecracker Foundation, declined to provide permission to republish her resignation letter, which City Pulse obtained from another source, or to discuss her resignation, except to confirm she had resigned and that her resignation supported Whaley’s claims.

Whaley has since been sent a “cease and desist” letter from Thomashow’s attorney for publicizing his complaints about Thomashow. Attached to that letter, which dealt with his email demands for his personnel record and COBRA, was a document Winters identified as evidence of Whaley’s inserting malware into the nonprofit’s computer system.

Whaley said he used an automatic feature of the Microsoft Teams program to monitor emails from users, which was set up about two hours after he was fired from Survivor Strong in June.

Outside IT experts consulted by City Pulse confirmed that the document was a Microsoft report, not evidence of malware.

Attorneys said Whaley didn’t “ethically” have permission to use the program after his dismissal.

In addition to Torok’s resignation

in June, Mick Grewal, an attorney at Grewal Law who represents survivors of sexual assault and was a major donor of the organization, resigned from the board. Grewal said he withdrew from the organization because his time was being consumed by his legal work and he was frustrated by the lack of an organizational business plan.

Since the organization began in March 2018, he said he has donated at least \$250,000 to Survivor Strong.

“But I don’t know what I got for that,” he said. “I wanted a business plan. I have not seen one.”

Winters, the attorney, said the organization is working on a business plan.

Thomashow and board members were unable to verify how many people the organization has served. The only number she could state was “50 plus” who are receiving “care packages” from the organization.

An internal financial document obtained by City Pulse for 2020 shows the organization raised about \$154,000 and ended the year with a deficit of about \$2,600. That document also shows that the organization spent about \$124,000 on employee compensation. Additional documents showed that there were nine employees at the organization in 2020, including Thomashow.

Under federal law, a 990 form, a legally mandated tax report on a charity’s fundraising and expenditures, must be available for immediate review when a person stops into the main business office and requests them. City Pulse stopped at the office location listed as the business office for Survivor Strong last week but found no employees or signage for the organization there. Thomashow acknowledged the office is no longer used by the organization.

Survivor Strong didn’t deny the accuracy of the documents but declined to provide any tax documents because they are still being reviewed by accountants.

“I guess if you wanted to do a piece on Survivor Strong that doesn’t just feel like gossip, we are working on a new business plan and working on restructuring some of our goals as an organization,” said new board member Annie Haas. “And what we’re going to focus on moving forward and we actually already — before all of these shenanigans came to light last week — had that on our plan for starting to go over this coming week in our next board meeting.”

Haas said there are additional, longer meetings scheduled to review job reviews, job descriptions and the budget to move forward in an “informed and educated and very driven light.”

— TODD HEYWOOD

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'I'm right here'

A Lansing family comes together after 40 years

By **LAWENCE COSENTINO**

Martin McCallum was puzzled by an unexpected voicemail at 10 p.m. Tuesday, July 13.

"It was kind of weird," he recalled. "I wasn't quite sure what she was saying. It was something like, 'This is Josie. I'm looking for Martin McCallum. If this is you, I'm your sister.'"

It must be a scam, he thought. McCallum, 44, had a fuzzy memory of one biological sister, Maria, and that was it. Martin and Maria lived in the same foster home as toddlers, but Maria was sent to a different home when Martin was 3 years old and Maria was 6.

"I knew as I got older that I had a sister that had brown skin, as I did, and I knew her name was Maria," Martin recalled. "But all I knew was that she was not there anymore."

So who was Josie?

"I texted her with the famous stupid question, 'Did you call me?'" McCallum recalled.

To his surprise, Josie knew about Maria. In fact, she told him, Maria was sitting right next to her.

He was stunned.

That wasn't all. Josie sent McCallum a photograph of a man she said was their brother, Jerry. She told him about another brother, Philip, who was sitting next to her. Did he want to meet them?

McCallum couldn't miss the resemblance between himself and Jerry in the photo. He knew he'd been adopted at a tender age — three months — but he had a good relationship with his adoptive family. He wasn't looking for long-lost relatives.

But his sisters were.

Fast forward to a hot July Saturday, two weeks after Josie's phone call, more than 40 years after Maria was parted from Martin. Four reunited siblings hugged, laughed and waved off mosquitoes in Lansing's Reasoner

Park as they gathered to tell their story.

They jostled for position in a group photo, goofing around as if they'd grown up together all along. They vied shamelessly to make each other laugh harder. "Who farted?" someone cracked.

In the general merriment, it was impossible to tell who asked the question, let alone who farted.

Philip was ill and couldn't get to the park that day, but he's also part of the story.

One more sister, Janie Lou, has yet to be found.

All the siblings and their mother lived in Lansing most of their lives, sometimes around the corner from each other, without knowing it.

"It has been an emotional rollercoaster for me," McCallum said. "I was set with my life

Family

from page 12

at the age of 44. Now I get to see my siblings that are like me. I went from a great family to a great big family.”

Dry years

Maria Gray squeezed Martin McCallum's hand and didn't let go for a solid hour as the siblings told their story in the park.

McCallum is a 26-year captain in the Michigan Department of Corrections. He grew up in DeWitt, moved around the middle of the state and ended up back in Lansing and DeWitt, which he calls “back home.”

He remembered Maria mostly from a photograph of the two of them in a hallway. “I was probably 2 or 3,” he said. “I grew up with that picture.”

Maria clung to her memories of Martin through the rougher times in her life.

“I remember getting sent to bed with no dinner for laughing at him,” Maria said. “He was eating with his feet. Apparently the parents didn't think it was funny and they told me not to encourage him.”

Martin left his past behind with barely a thought. Not Maria. Holding Martin's hand, she spoke quietly, as if she were in a dream and didn't want to pop the bubble.

“I've had so many emotional problems dealing with the adoptive family we grew up in,” Maria said. “It's been a real struggle, but I've always had Jerry with me.” Jerry calmly nodded from across the table. When Maria moved to her new adoptive family at age 6, losing touch with Martin, her brother Jerry moved in with them and they've been close ever since.

But she never forgot about Martin.

“I was looking for him as soon as I was old enough to use a computer,” she said. “I didn't know he was my brother until after I left. Had I known, things might have been different. But I did not stop looking for him. I couldn't. He's my little brother.”

The matriarch of this loving set of siblings was a Lansing native, Magdalena Salinas, later Magdalena Herrera, who died in 2015.

Magdalena struggled to keep her kids with her. She had her first child, Janie Lou, at age 15.

Now and then, Josie would find her mom crying. She and her mother were close.

“I didn't understand why, until I was older,” Josie said. “She told me she had other kids, and it was their birthday, or a song was playing that reminded her of one of them. She'd say, 'It's Martin's birthday. Another birthday I missed; things like that.'”

Four of Magdalena's children have the same biological father: Maria Gray, 48, Jerry Brian Gray, 47, Martin McCallum, 44, and Philip Herrera, 43.

Josephine (Josie) Herrera, 39, the youngest, and Janie Lou Salinas, 51, the eldest, have different fathers.

“Mom moved a lot and was struggling with her relationships,” Josie said.

The siblings have only a sketchy idea why Janie Lou, Jerry, Martin and Maria were taken away from their mother, and they aren't inclined to dwell on that part of the story. (Philip, like Josie, was raised with his mother.)

“They said she was neglectful,” Josie said.

But Magdalena loved her kids.

“She hitchhiked, walked, did what she could to see her kids when they were taken from her,” Josie said.

“Whatever the reason, it doesn't really matter anymore,” Philip said. “It matters most that we're together now.”

'I'm right here'

In 2016, after her mother's death, Josie contacted the “Long Lost Family” show on The Learning Channel, but nothing came of it. She found some cousins and aunts on the 23andMe site.

“I wasn't so interested in that,” she said. “I felt like that was a dead end.”

When Magdalena fell ill, she made it clear she wanted Josie and Philip to find their siblings, but they had little to go on.

“Mom didn't get birth certificates because it cost money and she wanted them to have diapers and milk,” Josie said. “But she always remembered their birthdays and birth names.”

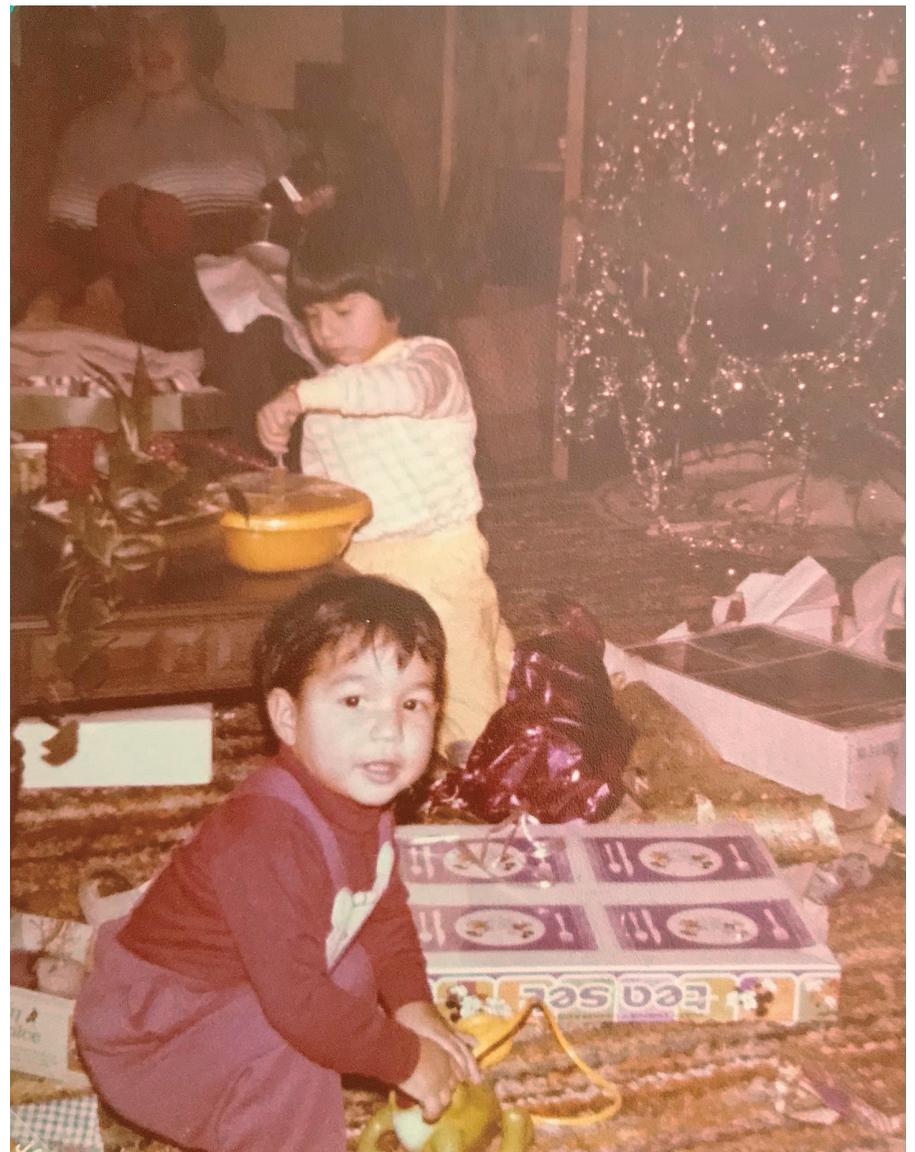
Philip started looking in the late 1990s, when he was in 10th grade.

“I didn't know much about the system, didn't have much money,” he said. He wrote to Troy Dunn, the author and TV personality known as “The Locator,” for help but didn't get a response.

“We were looking for four people and the fees would add up fast,” he said. “It was daunting, and I was losing hope.”

The first breakthrough came in March 2021. By then, Josie had taken up the search from Philip and gotten a set of results from AncestryDNA.

The name Maria Gray topped the list of likely relatives. Maria had signed up



Courtesy photo

(Above) Martin McCallum and his sister, Maria, lived in the same foster home until Maria was six and Martin was three. They lost track of each other until three weeks ago.

(Below) Reunited siblings Martin McCallum and Maria Gray hug at a July 24 reunion in Lansing's Reasoner Park.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

See Family, Page 14

Family

from page 13

and done a DNA test with AncestryDNA a year earlier.

“That was the first connection,” Philip recalled.

Elated, Josie messaged Maria at 11 p.m.

“I couldn’t wait,” Josie said. “I knew it was late but I had to do it.”

“I got her message at 11:15,” Maria said with a grin.

While waiting for Maria to answer, Josie found Maria on Facebook and TikTok.

“I was stalking,” Josie said.

She scrolled down Maria’s Facebook feed and saw a reference to a brother named Jerry Gray.

“What are the odds? We’re looking for a brother named Jerry,” she said to Philip.

“I don’t know,” Philip hesitated. He thought it might be a scam, but he was struck by Jerry’s resemblance to their mom.

“It’s there and I can’t deny it,” he said.

“He’s got my mom’s eyes,” Josie said of Jerry. “When I’m talking to him I don’t want to look into those eyes.”

Maria informed Josie via TikTok that she and Jerry were blood relations.

“That confirmed it,” Josie said. Maria had all the siblings’ full names and birth dates.

Josie burst out crying.

“My boyfriend woke up and said, ‘What’s wrong? What’s going on?’” Josie recalled. “I’m like, ‘I found my sister! And my brother!’”

Maria sent Josie an instant message: “I’m right here, sis. I’m right here.”

Jumping in

Like Martin, Jerry hadn’t been very interested in searching for lost siblings, he believes in “jumping in the door, 100 percent,” once it’s opened.

“I didn’t know if I was given away because I wasn’t loved or wanted,” he said. “After all of this happened, I realized I was 100 percent wrong.”

He said the feeling is “indescribable,” but he took a stab at it anyway.

“It’s like going to an amusement park, strapping yourself into a roller-coaster and enjoying the ride,” he said.

The next step was to find Martin. Maria told Josie she was in the same foster family with Martin for a few years, a long time ago.

Jerry suggested they try the name McCallum, the name of the foster fami-



Courtesy photo

All five reunited siblings — Maria, Jerry, Martin, Philip and Josie — got together Saturday to celebrate Martin’s birthday.

ly Martin and Maria had lived with.

“His name popped up on MyLife, the first on the list,” Maria said.

Bingo.

Josie was itching to text Martin, but first, she rounded up the expanding crew of siblings for support.

She called Maria.

“What’s Martin’s birthday?” she asked.

“August 1, 1976.”

“I think I found him.”

“Really? Can I come over?”

“Absolutely.”

“I’m on my way.”

Next, she called Philip at work. Philip runs a business cleaning buildings.

“Maria thinks she found Martin.”

“I’m on my way.”

They met up at Maria’s house and made the fateful call to Martin.

“I was like, ‘It’s gotta be him, it’s gotta be,’” Josie said. “And it was.”

“It was quite an experience,” Philip said. “In less than two months, finding three siblings is a great accomplishment.”

“I felt like our heart was content and we could go home and rest for that night,” Josie said. “It was hard, because we were anxious and wanted to meet him.”

Now there is one more sibling to be found.

Janie Lou Salinas, born July 30, 1970, was taken as an infant, like Martin. Magdalena was 15 when Janie Lou was born.

“She was a kid herself,” Josie said.

Maria has tried numerous ancestry- and people-finding websites.

“I keep coming up with nothing,” Maria said. Obituary searches have come up dry as well.

But Maria is sure they will find her.

“I know she’s coming,” she said.

Kick in the pants

McCallum agreed to meet with his newly found siblings at a cookout only two days after learning of their existence.

“I was stressed beyond belief at first,” he said. “I was thinking, ‘I can’t go to this. I just met these guys on Thursday.’”

His 21-year-old daughter, Loyalty, gave him “a kick in the pants,” he said.

“They’re my family too,” she told him.

“I had to suck it up,” McCallum said. “Once I saw Jerry, I was fine.”

“I’m the calm one,” Jerry said.

“He didn’t use to be like that,” Maria added.

As the siblings caught up with each other, they found out that they had all lived in Lansing nearly all of their lives, often within a few blocks of each other.

Maria learned that her mother and Josie lived around the corner from her, in the Churchill Downs neighborhood. Jerry lives in Eaton Rapids, just a few miles further south.

“I was going by her house every day, to and from work,” Jerry said.

“We were just all doing our own

thing,” Maria said.

On Saturday, the siblings gathered at Lake Geneva in DeWitt to celebrate Martin’s birthday.

Unfortunately, someone tipped Martin off to Josie’s tradition of smashing cake into the face of the honoree.

“He got away from me,” Josie said.

Philip, having fought off his bout with illness, joined his siblings at the party.

“Ironically, I outlasted them all,” he said.

Philip admitted he had all but given up the search over the years.

“I’m a little bit in disbelief, a little overwhelmed,” he said. “There are several things I never thought I’d see in my lifetime. One is the election of a Black president. Another is gay marriage. Actually, meeting my long lost siblings was the least likely on my list.”

At Saturday’s party, Martin suggested the siblings start a weekly get-together.

It was a striking turnaround for a man who thought his life was “all set” at 44.

“Come to find out, my mother had always wanted to find her children,” McCallum said. “Come to find out, I was really wanted and not thrown to the side.”

“I feel like Martin is going to be the sibling that keeps everybody together,” Philip said. “He’s really embracing what has happened. They all are. I see happiness in their eyes. I see a lot of relief and I see that they are looking forward to a lifetime together.”

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ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

JazzFest returns to the streets of Old Town

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Michigan JazzFest is back, live, in the streets of Old Town in 2021, with a variety of musical styles, some familiar faces and significant new wrinkles, including a new business model — paid admission instead of voluntary donations.

Musically, this year brings the festival back to its former glory after 2020's mostly virtual event, with one of its biggest headliners ever (trombonist Wycliffe

Michigan JazzFest

Aug. 6-7
Turner Street, Old Town
\$10-50
(517) 371-4600
Go to MichArts.org for full schedule

Gordon) kicking off the festivities Thursday night. Two outdoor stages and one indoor venue, Urban Beat, will

pulsate Friday and Saturday with traditional jazz licks, Latin flavors, Middle Eastern sounds and R&B and hip-hop hybrids. Visiting artists from Flint, Detroit and beyond will join a full slate of local jazz luminaries like organist Jim Alfredson and drummer Jeff Shoup.

The return to a live festival is reason to celebrate, but this year, for the first time, ticketed events will predominate after 24 years of free festivals.

Festival impresario Terry Terry said the loss of a beer tent, the prime source of revenue for JazzFest, made the change necessary.

Terry said the establishment of a “social district” in Old Town, where patrons can buy drinks in specially marked containers from local eateries and pubs and walk around with them, posed a “double challenge” to JazzFest's business model.

The usual beer tent, a prime source of revenue for JazzFest, is gone, compounding a pandemic-year financial crunch.

“Our costs go up, paying for musicians, stages, sound, fencing and so on, and every year it gets harder to find sponsors and grants,” Terry said. “If ever there was a time to try something different, it's now, after COVID.”

To keep the festival going, Terry and the board of directors opted for multi-tiered ticketing. Wycliffe Gordon's headliner gig Thursday, with proceeds going to the Lawrence ‘Lo’ Leathers Scholarship Fund, will cost \$50.

For the rest of the festival, Members Only seats, in designated areas closest to the two stages, will cost \$30 a night and include afterglow events — “eight or nine bands” total each night, Terry said. “Premiere” tickets, at \$10 each,



Courtesy photo

Trombonist, composer and multi-instrumentalist Wycliffe Gordon, voted Trombonist of the Year by the Jazz Journalists' Association a record 14 times, taught at MSU in the early 2000s and headlines the 2021 Lansing JazzFest.

will include shows at both stages, but farther away, and without access to afterglow events.

Terry and his staff don't know how the new model will play out. He hasn't ruled out the possibility of offering \$5 rush tickets if the streets, indoor spaces and lots don't fill to capacity.

“We're figuring it out,” he said.

Wycliffe Gordon's headline gig will benefit the Lawrence Leathers scholarship fund, named after the beloved New York drummer who studied and played at MSU jazz studies in the early 2000s and was murdered in 2019.

“Wycliffe was a big mentor to Lawrence, and they were really close,” MSU trombone Professor Michael Dease said. “Everybody that got to know Lawrence loved him, including me.” The scholarship fund supports emerging artists in the performing arts.

Snagging Gordon is a coup under any circumstances. Passionate mastery of multiple styles of jazz, from Dixieland to swing to bebop, hard bop and beyond, is only a part of his portfolio. Gordon plays over 20 instruments, including trumpet, tuba and didgeridoo, and excels as a composer for the concert hall, TV and film. In 2021, Gordon piled up another Trombonist of the Year nod from the Jazz Journalists' Association — his 14th — and is well on

his way to jazz immortality.

Dease said Gordon is a rare talent who “lights up the music” and changed his life at a personal level.

“Everything he does is so inviting,” Dease said. “If I hadn't encountered him, I'm not sure I would have had the inspiration to fight for a career in music.” Dease first heard Gordon at age 13, at a high school jazz workshop in Augusta, Georgia, where both men grew up. Gordon was playing with the Wynton Marsalis Septet and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra at the time.

“I knew it was special beyond words,” Dease said. “He epitomizes what being a jazz artist is all about, having his roots in the tradition, with all the things that make jazz so special, and then he brings his own voice to it, as a Southern, church-reared musician, as a singer and as a person influenced by classical music.”

Terry hasn't ruled out moving Gordon's gig to the outdoor River Stage, in the spacious parking lot between the River Trail and the building that houses Urban Beat, if sales warrant and weather permits. Several outdoor concerts have been held in the lot in the past year.

The remainder of the festival line-up is largely an extension of the ambitious concert series Terry has established at

his bustling Old Town venue, Urban Beat. Many of the scheduled performers, including trumpeter Walter White Jr., Dave Sharp's exotic Worlds Quartet and blues-and-beyond belters FatBoy and Jive Turkey, have already performed at Urban Beat.

The festival will also exude an international vibe, even when local artists take the stage. Ann Arbor-based Sharp's group deploys the oud, a Middle Eastern lute, along with violin and lush percussion to conjure Balkan, Middle Eastern and north African rhythms and melodies. Occidental Gypsy, a touring band based in New England, stretches “gypsy jazz” in the manner of Django Reinhardt into fresh territory. Ritmo Patria, with Lansing keyboard master Mike Eyia, brings Cuban inspired jazz.

Other bands, such as Reverend Ant (short for Anthony) Taylor and Soulfusion, mix jazz, R&B, hip-hop and soul into a churning vat of custom brews. The uplifting hip-hop-inflected Corzo Effect, based in Lansing and Flint, will appear twice, with two different special guests. Flint-based Caleb Robinson showers drum fireworks over a banquet of intermingling styles.

Local jazz stalwarts, like the above-mentioned Mike Eyia, are an integral part of the festival mix. Eyia will dive into a new set of compositions from his recent collaboration with local jazz patron and composer Gregg Hill. Organist Jim Alfredson, the 2021 Jazz Alliance of Mid-Michigan honoree, will get out of his “basement,” where he's been streaming pandemic concerts for months, to play a set with guitarist Will Bernard. Drummer Jeff Shoup, impresario of the long-running Jazz Tuesdays at Moriarty's, will back Ann Arbor vocalist and clarinetist Sarah D'Angelo.

Local jazz students will take a turn in the spotlight, including the JAMM Scholarship Band, an all-star combo of MSU alumni, and the Reuben Stump Trio, composed of top U of M students led by Stump.

True to 2021's mix of new and old, this year's JazzFest is reviving an old tradition that lapsed in recent years. Each band was asked to bring at least one tune or arrangement it has never performed in front of a live audience before.

“Come and hear all the bands, and you're going to be the first to hear a whole bunch of original stuff,” Terry said.

Beer-inspired vape cartridges hit the shelves at Skymint

Skymint grows Short's Brewing lineup with Soft Parade vape

By **KYLE KAMINSKI**

Do you like craft beer? Do you like pot? Well, strap in. Skymint is about to take you for a ride.

Soft Parade Vape Cartridge

Price — \$52/1g

THC content — 84.7%

Yet another dank collaboration between the cannabis brand and Short's Brewing Co. has landed just in time to finish out the summer with a familiar fruity splash — this time in the form of 1g vaporizer cartridges that taste just like Soft Parade, the Up North brewery's flagship fruit ale.

State law doesn't yet allow for alcohol to be combined with cannabis products, but that hasn't stopped the weed wizards at Skymint from packing all of the strawberry, raspberry and blackberry flavors (only without the booze) into a handheld pen that is totally loaded with THC.

Introduced last week under Skymint's Jolly Edibles lineup, each 1g cartridge retails for about \$52 and contains about 850 mg of THC — the dosing equivalent of about eight pot brownies. I puffed on a free sample cartridge all weekend long and still have plenty left over for this week.

Lansterdam in Review:

Skymint • 3 locations
3315 Coolidge Rd., East Lansing
1015 E. Saginaw St., Lansing
2508 S. Cedar St., Lansing
skymint.com



Having spent several summers living near the Short's Brewing taproom in Bellaire, I've had my fair share of Soft Parade straight from the source. It turns out those same fresh, fruity and bright berry flavors that permeate a pint carry over delightfully into a vape pen. Only a few tokes was enough to spend the morning (and much of the afternoon) relaxing in the sun on my front porch.

As an avid joint smoker, I'm often critical of the sterile sort of high that distillate-based vape cartridges are known to produce. Most of the time, they just make me inordinately sleepy. But this particular blend seemed to carry just enough of a terpene profile to add in some welcomed complexity to the mix in the form of a full-body high and a serious case of the munchies to boot.

If you want that authentic marijuana flavor, perhaps turn elsewhere. But if you're looking for something potent, discreet, fruity and affordable, this summertime vape is well worth a shot. Just take it easy. With nearly a full gram of straight THC, it can be way too easy to overdo it.



Short's Brewing Gummies

Price — \$20/10 gummies

THC content — 100 mg

Don't like vapes? Skymint and Short's Brewing still have you covered this month with an expansive lineup of other beer-inspired gummies. Flavors include Mule, Huma Lupa Licious, Starcut Ciders' Mosa and, of course, Soft Parade. Bartenders are sure to hate the Mule variety, which tastes strikingly similar to a Moscow mule with real lime flavors and a ginger infusion.

Mosa — which was absolutely loaded with citrus flavors — was my favorite of the whole bunch.

Outside of the Short's Brewing products, the pucker-inducing flavors of the

sour Michigan cherry gummies from North Cannabis Co. are another great option to trigger that Up North state of mind. With 10 mg THC in each gummy, it's also easy to dose precisely to personal preference. Consider starting with two or three and working up from there. My sweet spot is six gummies.

Fluresh — Good Vibes Drink Enhancer

Price — \$25/20 servings

THC content — 100 mg

I wrote about this product in April and absolutely hated its chalky, concentrated taste when mixed into a beverage. But that was before I realized using it to make popsicles leads to much better results — and the perfect summertime treat for stoners who want to try something new.

Just mix some orange or pineapple juice with a few squirts of the drink enhancer, pour it into a popsicle mold and let it freeze. If you want to be fancy like me, mix in a splash of cranberry juice and a few raspberries. Slurp it down, wait 15 minutes and then check out for the next four hours.

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

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Sozo Wedding Cake
/Hybrid/
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A fan favorite, Sozo Wedding Cake comes with peppery, earthy undertones and aromas. The terpenes expressed in this wonderful cultivar are typically connected with anxiety relief and a calming effect.

22-24% THC	\$30	NET WT.	SAVE \$5
INDICA		1/8 OUNCE	

Available for medicinal and adult use. Cannot be combined with any other offers or discounts. Offer valid 8/2/21-8/8/21, while supplies last.

Pure Options Triple Chocolate Chip
/Indica/
Effect: Sedating, Analgesic

Created by crossing Mint Chocolate Chip and Triple OG, this indica-dominant hybrid is perfect for those seeking a little couch-lock. The flavor is as advertised, with elements of mint and chocolate over an earthy base. Expect Pure sedation and relaxation.

21-23% THC	\$35	NET WT.
INDICA		1/8 OUNCE

Available for medicinal and adult use. Cannot be combined with any other offers or discounts. Offer valid 8/2/21-8/8/21, while supplies last.

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MICHIGAN **JazzFest** 2021 LANSING

THUR **AUG 5** • FRI **AUG 6** • SAT **AUG 7**

Order tickets at: bit.ly/MICAJazz21

or pick up at UrbanBeat
1213 Turner St. Lansing, MI 48906

On Turner Street in "Old Town"
MichiganJazzFest.com • 517.371.4600




WELCOME BACK!

We are so pleased to welcome Michigan JazzFest back to the streets of Old Town, Lansing. We have a terrific line-up of artists who are as excited to get back in front of an audience as we are to hear them. There will be something for everyone—even the kids! Enjoy a weekend of energy, excitement, music and coming together again as a community, where we can reconnect with old friends and make new ones.



SPECIAL SONG PREMIERES

As an added benefit, each artist has agreed to premiere a song, composition or arrangement that they've never performed publicly before.

HAVE FUN AND BE SAFE

Turner Street and River Stages are open-air. The Afterglow Stage is indoors at UrbanBeat. Attendees should be vaccinated or wear masks. Please show consideration of others.

TICKET INFORMATION

Seating at JazzFest 2021 will be by ticket. Here's why: In the past, beverages sales covered production expenses. Now, a variety of restaurants and bars have flourished in Old Town. While we love this (and take a bit of credit for it) we will not be running our own beverage tent. Instead beverages can be purchased at the Social District bars. Therefore ticket sales are how we can pay for the musicians, production crew, tables, chairs, etc. We've priced tickets to cover expenses only. As a non-profit organization, your donations to MICA beyond a ticket purchase are truly needed and greatly appreciated.

MEMBERS ONLY BENEFITS

By purchasing Members Only tickets, you get more than access to all three venues: You also become a MICA sponsor—with perks like discounted admission to MICA events and MICA Gallery rental, a complimentary 2021 JazzFest poster 50% off t-shirts and more. Be a patron of the arts in Michigan!

ENJOY THE SOCIAL DISTRICT

Old Town's new designation as a Social District means festival goers can buy and consume and walk on the streets with appropriately labeled alcoholic beverages from their favorite bars and restaurants, while seeing all that JazzFest has to offer. Please support Old Town's excellent establishments during JazzFest.

VENUES

There will be three venues this year: the Turner Street Stage, the River Stage and the UrbanBeat Afterglow Stage. See the map for details. All will feature Member Only and Premier admission seating.

FESTIVAL KICK OFF FUNDRAISER CONCERT

Thurs Aug 5 featuring:

Wycliffe Gordon and Friends

Rufus Ferguson • PIANO / Javier Enrique • BASS /
Michael Reed • DRUMS / and special guests

TICKETS:

AUG 5 Kick off Fundraiser with Wycliffe Gordon \$50

AUG 6 • 7 (Fri or Sat)

Members Only Seats \$30 day

Turner & River stages plus AfterGlow at UrbanBeat (limited seating)

Premier Seats \$10 day Turner & River stages



LAWRENCE "LO" LEATHERS FOUNDATION

International jazz legend Wycliffe Gordon joins us this year to headline a fundraiser for the Lawrence "Lo" Leathers (L3) Foundation, which provides scholarships and other assistance to emerging artists seeking higher education in the Performing Arts. The L3 Foundation was formed to memorialize Lawrence Leathers, the Lansing native and gifted young musician who lost his life in 2019.

Lo studied at the prestigious Juilliard School of Music in New York City, where he built on his talents before further honing them on the bandstand. Respected by the giants of contemporary jazz and appearing at major festivals worldwide, Lo won 2 consecutive Grammys performing with acclaimed singer Cecile McLorin Salvant.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will support this 501 (c) 3 nonprofit's important mission.



JazzFest 2021 Performers:

THUR AUGUST 5



Wycliffe Gordon & Friends

Rufus Ferguson • PIANO / Javier Enrique • BASS
Michael Reed • DRUMS / and special guests

7:00pm | UrbanBeat 1213 Turner

Renowned Musician, Composer, Conductor, Arranger

Veteran member of the Wynton Marsalis Septet. Original member of Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. Featured guest artist on Billy Taylor's "Jazz at the Kennedy Center." Performance experience includes work with David Sanborn, Wynton Marsalis, Paul Simon, Natalie Merchant, Rene Marie, Dianne Reeves, Anat Cohen, Ricky Skaggs, Arturo Sandoval, Doc Severinsen, Dizzy Gillespie, Lionel Hampton, Tommy Flanagan, Shirley Horn, Joe Henderson, Eric Reed, Randy Sandke and Branford Marsalis. "Jazz a la Carte" was named one of the five best moments in jazz by the Wall Street Journal. Arrangement of the theme song to NPR's "All Things Considered." For a remarkable 14th win, Wycliffe was named "Trombonist of the Year" in 2021 by the Jazz Journalists Association.

FRI AUGUST 6

Tom Duffield

5:00pm | UrbanBeat (1213 Turner)

Tom Duffield's piano work has been a part of the jazz and blues scene for decades. His repertoire includes interpretations of the standards as well as some surprises. A regular at music festivals on the west side of the state, we are glad to have him at the Michigan JazzFest.

JAMM Scholarship Band

6:00pm | Turner Stage

Vocalist Abigail Zerbe, awarded a JAMM scholarship in 2016, leads the JSB at 2021 JazzFest, along with 2019 winner Jackson Bohrer (drums), also Adam Dixon on bass and Danny Dixon on guitar.



Jeff Baldori

7:00pm | River Stage

Jeff Baldori, singer, songwriter, guitarist and pianist began his career studying classical, jazz and boogie under Wayne State's "Matt Michaels" one of the most respected music instructors Detroit has ever known. Jeff was a member of the band "The Woolies". On bass will be David Rosin and drums Bobby Gardner. They will be playing Jeff's own arrangements of many Mose Allison's tunes.



Sarah D'Angelo & Jeff Shoup Trio

8:00pm | Turner Stage

Singer and clarinetist Sarah D'Angelo performs with verve, class, confidence, poise, perfect intonation, spot-on phrasing, terrific dynamic, personal expression and loads of love.



Walter White & friends

9:00pm | River Stage

Walter White has been an in-demand trumpet player for over 30 years. He's played live and in the studio with many of the top names in the industry. Walter is noted for his rich sound, precision, and range on trumpet and flugelhorn. Joining Walter are Al Ayoub, Jack Dryden, Jeff Trudell and Xavier Davis.



Ritmo Patria

10:00pm | Turner Stage

Ritmo Patria, directed by Mike Eyia will be performing original compositions by Gregg Hill and Cuban inspired jazz. Mike has shared the stage with a number of recording artists such as Los Lobos, Salsa great Oscar D'Leon, Pete Escovido, Wycliffe Gordon and others.



Corzo Effect wsg Khalia Cummings

11:00pm | UrbanBeat (1213 Turner)

The Corzo Effect is a Lansing/Flint based band that plays music from genres like Jazz, Blues, R&B, Hip Hop and Soul. They have been gaining fans from all the hot Lansing Area venues.

SAT AUGUST 7

KidzBeat dance

Children's Ballet / Dance Lansing
2:00pm | Turner Stage

KidzBeat

Community Music School / Instrument Petting Zoo
2:30pm | UrbanBeat & Turner Tent



Fat Boy & Jive Turkey

3:00pm | River Stage

The Further Adventures of FatBoy & Jive Turkey is the brain child of Benjamin Hall, a Central Michigan-based musician, who's voice is said to be the illegitimate lovechild of Jeff Buckley & Nina Simone. They have over a decade of performances under their belt.



Caleb Robinson & Reaching

4:00pm | Turner Stage

Caleb Robinson is a young up and coming Drummer, producer, innovator that's paving his own way playing with numerous artist. Caleb integrates a unique style that he describes as aggressive yet dynamic, which can be compared to some of his musical influences like Tony Williams, Thomas Pridgen, Elvin Jones. Like them, Caleb plays by the beat of his own drum, choosing to create and work with music that's more embedded in jazz fusion, R&B and Hip-Hop. In 2020, he released his first album "Reaching". The album was supported by the fan favorite song(s) Minnie, She Wants Affirmation, A-Team.

Ammy Amorette

4:30pm | MICA Gallery (1210 Turner)

Chilean Artist who's paintings will be featuring at MICA Gallery will also be singing her own take on jazz standards and more.



Clique Vocals

5:00pm | River Stage

Dan Templin and Kelly Sandula-Gruner's approach to performing and a shared love of singing jazz standards led to the formation of Clique. The duo also performs with the Lansing Concert Big Band as featured vocalists.



Dago Schelin

5:00pm | UrbanBeat » Livestream from Germany

With mellow authentically Brazilian guitar style guitar playing and soothing voice takes us back to a 60s Bossa Nova feel. Dago's passion is the good old Brazilian Música Popular, from Tom Jobim to Caetano Veloso.



Brazilian Jazz Workshop

5:30pm | UrbanBeat

Brazilian Pêricles Varella Gomes will conduct a unique interactive jazz and percussion workshop, along with Chilean jazz singer Ammy Amorette.



Corzo Effect wsg Alixandria Dekker

6:00pm | Turner Stage

The Corzo Effect is a Lansing/Flint based band that plays music from genres like Jazz, Blues, R&B, Hip Hop and Soul. They have been gaining fans from all the hot Lansing area venues.



Jim Alfredson & Will Bernard

7:00pm | River Stage

Jim Alfredson is perhaps best known as a Hammond organist, mostly in jazz and blues. His jazz trio, organissimo, formed in November of 2000 and continues to this day, releasing albums on Big O Records label. Jim is the 2021 JAMM Tribute Honoree. Will Bernard from California is a world re-known jazz guitarist.



Occidental Gypsy

8:00pm | Turner Stage

Occidental Gypsy is a nationally-touring band that plays an exhilarating blend of gypsy jazz and folk music. Their pioneering approach to traditional hot club jazz music pays homage to Django Reinhardt and expands the genre to include elements of western (Occidental) sounds and rhythms, including blues, Klezmer and Latin.



Dave Sharp Worlds Quartet

9:00pm | River stage

Bandleader Dave Sharp leads the WORLDS QUARTET to explore music traditions from Turkey, Egypt, Ukraine, India, Bulgaria and Greece. Featuring oud, violin, electric bass, synthesizer and world percussion, the WORLDS QUARTET is fueled by the spirit of jazz, world music and dynamic exploratory improvisation.

Reverend Ant Taylor & Soulfusion

10:00pm | Turner Stage

Anthony (Ant) Taylor has shared the stage with a wealth of notable artists. He aims to inspire and uplift the hearts of his listeners with a message of Hope. With Desean Jones on saxophone Dwight Adams on trumpet, and Christopher Collins on trombone, Soulfusion is an incredible collection of jazz and soul players.



Reuben Stump Trio

11:00pm | UrbanBeat 1213 Turner

The Reuben Stump Trio has been playing together in various ensembles for the past 3 years, performing standards. The Trio features UofM Jazz students: Reuben Stump, Lansing pianist Eric Banitt and from Marquette drummer Eliza Salem.

MICA

MICHIGAN INSTITUTE
FOR CONTEMPORARY ART
GALLERY

Featuring artwork by:
Ammy Amorette

Her music, her painting, and her writing are unlike anything, however, she is in a dialogue with everything, which is one of the symptoms of an art that surpasses the ups and downs of the market, the petty scenes and brotherhoods, but beyond that, what she has been doing for more than twenty years is giving rhythm, color and words to a way of life. It is about expression, to be sure, but one where all the signs shine, sing and converse, which is at the same time a definition of life itself.

Ammy created the JazzFest poster art. She will also be singing jazz at MICA Gallery on Saturday afternoon.

COME SEE HER PAINTINGS
AT MICA GALLERY DURING JAZZFEST

SAVE THE DATES!

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SEPTEMBER 16-18

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 (CHARLIE BALLANTINE)

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 Program subject to change

ABOUT MICA

The Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art's mission is to create open spaces where people can come together, meet old friends, make new friends, and in the context of the arts take action to bring about positive community transformation. MICA's exhibitions in the visual arts and programs in music, performance, film and literature provide opportunities to entertain, educate and inspire. For more, see micharts.org

MICA Board

Terry Terry **David Barr**
Tammy Slavik **Brandon Leathers**
Tom Cathey **Sarah Eyde**

Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art (MICA) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that **serves as a catalyst for community transformation through quality arts programming.** Grants, donations, sponsorships and other revenues support art and artists.

Thanks to our longest serving volunteers

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Thursday • August 5

7:00pm Wycliffe Gordon & Friends **UrbanBeat Stage** (1213 Turner)

Friday • August 6

5:00pm Tom Duffield **UrbanBeat Stage** (1213 Turner)
6:00pm JSB Band **Turner Stage**
7:00pm Jeff Baldori **River Stage** (behind UrbanBeat)
8:00pm Sarah D'Angelo w/ Jeff Shoup Trio **Turner Stage**
9:00pm Walter White & friends **River Stage** (behind UrbanBeat)
10:00pm Ritmo Patria **Turner Stage**
11:00pm Corzo Effect **UrbanBeat Stage** (1213 Turner)

Saturday • August 7

2:00pm **KidzBeat** dance **Turner Stage**
2:30pm **KidzBeat** music workshops **UrbanBeat & Turner Tent**
3:00pm FatBoy & Jive Turkey **River Stage** (behind UrbanBeat)
4:00pm Caleb Robinson & Reaching **Turner Stage**
4:30pm Ammy Amorette **MICA Gallery** (1210 Turner)
5:00pm Clique Vocals **River Stage** (behind UrbanBeat)
5:00pm Dago Schelin **UrbanBeat Stage**
5:30pm Brazilian Jazz Workshop **UrbanBeat Stage**
6:00pm Corzo Effect with special guest **Turner Stage**
7:00pm Jim Alfredson & Wil Bernard **River Stage** (behind UrbanBeat)
8:00pm Occidental Gypsy **Turner Stage**
9:00pm Dave Sharp Worlds Quartet **River Stage** (behind UrbanBeat)
10:00pm Reverend Ant Taylor & Soulfusion **Turner Stage**
11:00pm Reuben Stump Trio **UrbanBeat Stage** (1213 Turner)

Music Workshops

2:30pm Community Music School (UrbanBeat & Turner Tent)
5:30pm Brazilian Jazz Workshop with Péricles Varella Gomes & Ammy Amorette (UrbanBeat)



* Map is subject to change



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LiveStream Portions of the festival will be livestreamed.
 Go to MichiganJazzFest.com for the link.

DeAnna Ray-Brown is a self-made cheesecake entrepreneur

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

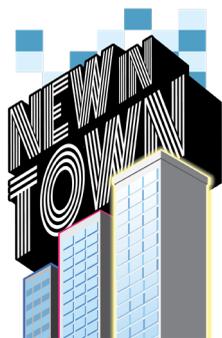
DeAnna Ray-Brown's long shifts at Enterprise Rent-A-Car often left her tired and stressed out. When she finally returned home, Ray-Brown found her favorite way to blow off steam was to bake. She quickly discovered that her favorite treat to whip up was cheesecake. Cheesecake takes skill to make, patience to perfect, and its many variations allow for some seriously creative baking.

Ray-Brown quit her day job in 2017 and turned her hobby into a bona fide business venture. Her cheesecake food truck, Everything is Cheesecake, became a local hit. Now she's expanding the operation into a brick-and-mortar restaurant on Cedar Street by the end of the year. "I decided that I wanted to leave my job at a Fortune 500 company and start this business," said Ray-Brown. "It's my true passion, and I wanted to be able to give everyone a taste of my cheesecakes."

Ray-Brown's signature cheesecake is the Strawberry Shortcake Crunch. As a child, she always favored the classic strawberry shortcake ice cream bar. Ray-Brown decided to translate her love of that frozen treat into the form of a cheesecake. "I checked Pinterest and I didn't see anything like that cake I made," said Ray-Brown. "After I added mine, I started to see it everywhere. I truly believe that I am the first person to make something like that."

Creating new and fresh recipes is part of the joy of baking for Ray-Brown. She pours her heart and soul into her cheesecakes. As a seasoned baker, she believes it's important to always look for new and better recipes. "I have always been a creative person," said Ray-Brown. "I try to focus on that when I'm baking. It's how you constantly improve, and I believe it's why I've been able to be successful."

Her strong work ethic has helped the business thrive. Ray-Brown has been receiving positive feedback from customers since the opening of her food truck. She believes that there is a healthy back-and-forth between herself and her regulars. "I owe it all to my customers. They help me decide which direction to go in, and I believe that my success has inspired them, too. I want to show people that they have the strength to open their own



Everything is Cheesecake

5433 S. Cedar St.,
Lansing
Saturday and
Sunday,
1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(517) 862-2979
everythingis
cheesecake.com



Ray-Brown

business."

Everything is Cheesecake is constantly evolving. Ray-Brown is continuing to shape the menu in order to draw in more customers. This enthusiasm will carry over into the upcoming brick-and-mortar location. "I am so excited for that. I want to have a place for my customers to come in and enjoy themselves," said Ray-Brown. "That way, they won't have to be waiting in line during some of that extreme Michigan weather."

For the new location, Ray-Brown plans to create a comfortable atmosphere perfect for enjoying a freshly-made delicacy. She wants to add warm milk and cookies to the menu.

"I want to serve only the best. All the ingredients are fresh. It really makes a difference," said Ray-Brown. "People should know that what they are getting is a product made with lots of care and attention to every detail."



Favorite Things Matt Gregory and his mannequin Becky

Matt Gregory works in the Lansing service industry and is a bit of a prankster. He collects toys and dolls, but the crown jewel of his collection of oddities is a Kid's Gap mannequin dubbed Becky.

I was working at a bar and one of my regulars, who was moving out of his house, just gave it to me. They said it showed up at their front door in a package that somebody sent to them anonymously. He was kind of a weird dude. He said, "I need to get rid of this thing, and you're the first person I thought of." It was in the middle of my shift; we voted on what to call it and it got the name Becky. That was about five years ago.

It's a Kid's Gap mannequin, so I guess it's a 15 or 16-year-old girl. I don't know how else to describe it. It has fake hair on its head and eyes — all of that stuff. I painted the eyes with glow-in-the-dark nail polish, so it would creep people out even more. I think she would be just an annoying white girl. She was a Gap mannequin, so she's that kind of girl.

It moves around, I use it to screw with people. I'll put it in my roommates' bedrooms when they're not home. Right now, it sits just past the top of the stairs. When you turn the corner, it's right there looking at you. It psyches people out all the time.

My ex-girlfriend hated Becky. She threatened several times that if it wound up in our bedroom again she would leave me. She hated dolls. When she came home and Becky was in a different spot and nobody else was home, she got really scared. She hated that thing so much.

I've always liked possessed dolls and stuff like that. So I used to



always play with a ouija board to try and get Becky possessed. It didn't work, but I tried really hard. For Christmas some years, I'll put lights on her and use her as a Christmas tree. I used to ride a tandem bike around by myself, and I couldn't ever figure out how to do it, but I tried really hard to attach her to the back. I couldn't get her to stay on. It's just fun to scare people with it.

Right now, she's dressed like a shark. I need to get new clothes for her, so I can drive around with her in my car. I used to bring her to my old job's Take Your Daughter to Work Day. I haven't taken it to my current's job event, I still have to get my boss to be OK with it.

Interview edited and condensed by Skyler Ashley. If you have a suggestion for Favorite Things, please email Skyler@Lansingcitypulse.com

Ten Pound Fiddle returns with a full season of live music

By SKYLER ASHLEY

The deep freeze on Mid-Michigan's rich folk music scene that was forced to go mostly dormant throughout the pandemic in 2020 is finally coming to an end.

And after a mostly virtual-only year, the Ten Pound Fiddle concert series is back in the saddle for the 2021-'22 season with a fully loaded schedule of 34 live shows beginning in September.

Ten Pound Fiddle will kick off its 47th season Sept. 17 with a concert headlined by Old Blind Dogs, a traditional Celtic folk group traveling all the way from its native Scotland to perform at several venues in Michigan.

"The Old Blind Dogs are a catch. They'll be featured at a big Irish night in Muskegon that Saturday. You need an anchor gig to get them across the pond, and we were able to get them on Friday. That was sort of a coup for Ten Pound Fiddle," said concert organizer Sally Potter.

While the upcoming season includes familiar hallmarks, including February's Mid-Winter Singing Festival and returning Fiddle favorites like the Sweet Water Warblers, there's a major change-up with the main venue. This year, the shows are moving from their



Scottish group Old Blind Dogs will open the 2021-'22 Ten Pound Fiddle season on Sept. 17 at University United Methodist Church.

home at the Michigan State University Community Music School to East Lansing's University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Road.

The move has deep roots in Ten Pound Fiddle's long history. The church previously hosted shows for the con-

cert series back in the '80s and '90s. Potter said the church should prove to be a great space. The old standard ticket prices, \$20 for general admission, \$18 for Fiddle members, \$5 for college students and \$2 for children, will also remain in place.

Ticket sales and a full schedule of events are available at TenPoundFiddle.org

"We can have intimate shows in the Copper Chimney Lounge. We can have shows that involve food and partying in the Asbury Hall and we can have huge shows in the sanctuary, which is a lovely room with new pews. It's a wonderful concert hall," Potter explained.

Potter said it has been an otherworldly hectic year to work in the live music industry, as frequent changes and updates to pandemic safety guidelines repeatedly threw a wrench into artists and promoters' attempts to schedule out of town gigs and book tours in the Greater Lansing region.

"You talk to agents all year and nobody wants to commit. You end up putting in so much time for something that you're not sure is even going to happen. It's still rusty. It still kind of starts and stops, but there are 34 acts that want to give it a go. They're our season this year," Potter said.

East Lansing Art Festival back in action this weekend

By SKYLER ASHLEY

A bustling art bazaar, musicians playing their hearts out, children chasing each other and people just trying to take a break and relax in the shade. That's what the East Lansing

East Lansing Art Festival

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.,
Saturday, Aug. 7
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
Sunday, Aug. 8
Downtown East Lansing
on Albert Street
Elartfest.com
[Facebook.com/ELArtFest](https://www.facebook.com/ELArtFest)

Art Festival hopes to get back to this weekend, even if it's a little scaled back, after being forced to go digital-only last year during the coronavirus pandemic.

The festival this year has nearly 80 artist booths — about half as many featured during an average pre-pandemic year — that will be spaced out along Albert Street and M.A.C. Avenue. Though the festival has a smaller lineup, the diversity of artforms covered by this year's roster still has a lot to offer. Among the bases covered are



Courtesy

Visitors to the East Lansing Art Festival walk along the rows of vendors.

precious jewelry, glassware, drawing, woodworking, sculpture and several different forms of digital art and photography.

"We have about half as many artists as before, so booths can be further apart. There's more space for people to hangout and move between

the booths," Heather Majano, East Lansing Arts Festival and Arts Initiative coordinator, said.

Great food, another staple of the East Lansing Art Festival, is thankfully returning. Normally situated at the Bailey Parking Lot, the food trucks and vendors will instead be found on the portion of Albert Street between Bailey Street and Division Street. Live entertainment from performers like All-of-us-Express and musicians like Ozay Moore will also go down throughout both days.

Young attendees to the festival will find a lot to keep them busy as well. The festival this year features several children's activity tents run by the Michigan State University Broad Art Lab and the East Lansing Library, which will have a bunch of fun art activities where children can participate. Each tent will also feature take-and-make options, where children can take the necessary materials with them, so they can do the art lesson at home.

"They can grab a pre-assembled project and do arts and crafts at home.

See Art, Page 25

Did the battle over automotive safety topple General Motors?

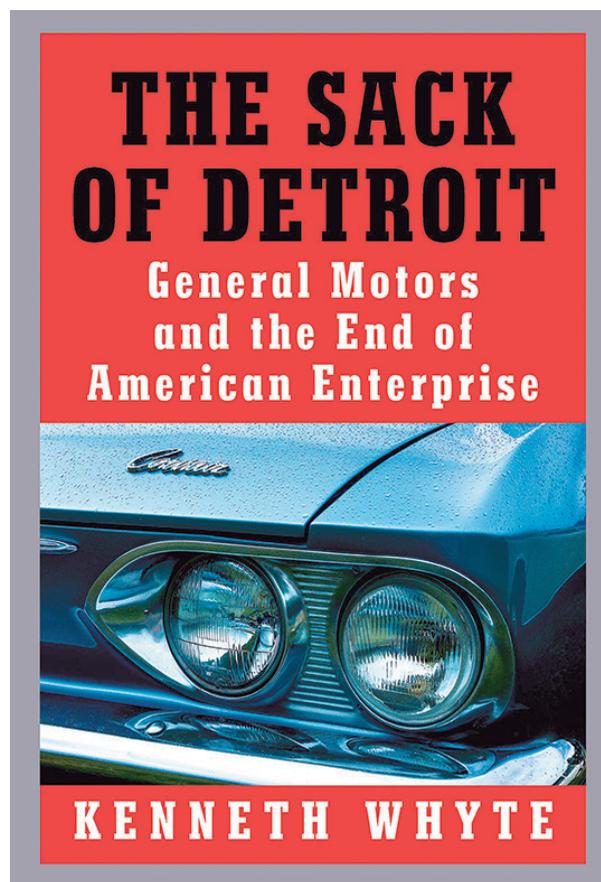
By **BILL CASTANIER**

Canadian journalist Kenneth Whyte's new book, "The Sack of Detroit: General Motors and the End of American Enterprise," is a close examination of the impact of consumer advocate Ralph Nader and his best-selling book, "Unsafe at Any Speed." Whyte believes its effect on GM in the mid-'60s led to the eventual decline of the automotive behemoth.

"Things were going in the right direction for GM — as it pertains to safety — when Ralph Nader came along," Whyte said.

Whyte contends that GM understood the need to compete with the emerging import market of small cars and had been investing heavily in the overseas market when a campaign to regulate safety in the auto industry was kick-started by Nader, Congress and a cadre of safety experts. Until then, safety experts primarily blamed drivers and bad roads for accidents, but a growing body of evidence began to show that the second violent collision of drivers and passengers with the interior of their automobile was the real culprit in the growing number of deaths.

After World War II, the auto industry was riding high. It contributed one in six of the nation's jobs and one in five of its retail dollars, while GM was directly employing nearly 1 million workers. Although often misinterpreted and misattributed, the book quotes Charles E. Wilson, who was nominated for secretary of defense by President Eisenhower in 1953. In the confirmation hearing, Wilson, the former president of GM, told the committee, "For years, I thought what was good for our country was good for General Motors and vice versa. The difference did not exist. Our company is too big. It goes



with the welfare of our country."

A little more than 13 years later, GM executives would be in front of another congressional committee led by Sen. Abraham Ribicoff, defending themselves against the claim they made unsafe cars. Nader — who became a self-trained expert on auto safety and, unbeknownst to most at the time, was working hand-in-glove with the committee — was not the federal payroll and, on the surface, had no formal role.

Whyte describes how Nader, hidden behind a door, would pass notes to the committee.

Whyte said he reviewed nearly 6,000

pages of testimony and concluded that GM was its own worst enemy. He also makes the case that Nader "wasn't who he appeared to be."

"He wasn't a crusading journalist. He was an activist who was working closely with government and with the tort industry," Whyte said.

Following the hearings, Nader would use all his research to pen "Unsafe at Any Speed," which itself would become the topic of a later hearing.

The meat of that hearing centered on the instability of the Corvair, a smaller, sporty rear engine vehicle designed to compete with the rising tide of imports. Whyte explains that GM saw the argument more as a PR battle and set out to

diminish the importance of Nader and "Unsafe at Any Speed."

In the chapter titled "Exposed," Whyte details how GM hired private investigators to find ways to discredit Nader. At the time, Nader went so far as to allege that GM, through its investigators, set up a "honey trap" to snare him. Whyte calls GM's action bone-headed. Whyte said he could find no corroborating evidence that happened in any of the material he reviewed.

However, it went public that GM put Nader under investigation, enraging Congress and those who were pushing

for regulatory oversight. Ultimately, more strict safety standards were enacted.

Early in his book, Whyte writes that by 1966, "the time was right for a well-educated, well placed, suit and tie wearing band of crusaders united by a determination to knock automakers and the whole of corporate American down a peg. Preaching new theories and belittling the ideas, evidence and experience of others, they brought the greatest industrial enterprise in human history to its knees."

Nader's book was one of several published in an era that could be classified as anti-establishment. Other popular books at the time included Vance Packard's "The Hidden Persuaders," Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring," Jane Jacob's "The Death and Life of Great American Cities" and Jessica Mitford's "The American Way of Death."

"There is a ton of mythology about the U.S. auto industry — everything from how the Mustang killed GM to the impact of fuel-guzzling cars — but we don't realize how devastating the safety battle was."

Whyte provides a different point of view in his book about why GM faltered. He attributes its decline in part to the "monastic" life of the chief executives, who dressed alike, lived in the same neighborhoods, went to the same churches and dined together in corporate dining rooms that were off limits to everyone else.

Whyte said he was inspired by his work with a Canadian telecom company.

"I was amazed at how both sides talked past each other. Something similar was going on in the automotive industry," he said.

Art

from page 24

As a mother myself, I'm really excited about this option," Majano said.

While many of the traditions of the East Lansing Art Festival are returning in-person, much of the digital streaming content that first debuted in 2020 will also make a comeback. People that are still taking heavy precautions and avoiding public crowds altogether can still enjoy much of the

weekend's festivities. Artist demonstrations, live performances, poetry readings and much more will be posted to the festival's official website, elartfest.com, and its Facebook page, facebook.com/elartfest.

"We did try to bring back the standbys people expect from the festival, but COVID precautions in mind, we did change a few things," Majano said. "We'll have some streaming performances, one in the morning and one in the evening. We'll also have artist demonstrations taped live and shared on our Facebook page."

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Check out our
great selection of
**SUMMER
READS!**

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Yes, Lieutenant"—an unexpected ending.
by Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Disappear gradually
- 5 Olivia of 2018's "The Predator"
- 9 Off-price event
- 13 "Amadeus" director Forman
- 14 Mayberry kid
- 15 "Fathers and Sons" novelist Turgenev
- 16 Lazy attempt at a scare?
- 18 Repair books, in a way
- 19 Gather in the field
- 20 1,000,000,000 years, in geology
- 21 Secondary songs, once
- 23 Celeb's promoter
- 25 2020 Pixar offering
- 26 Santana hit based on a bank?
- 32 Actor Whishaw
- 35 Detach, as a trailer
- 36 Small jazz combo
- 37 Wilson of "The Office"
- 39 "Ah, I see"
- 40 Many are empty for the 2020 Olympics
- 41 East, in Spain
- 42 Deliberately misinforms
- 44 Primus frontman Claypool
- 45 News anchor Lester on location in California?
- 48 Spike Lee's "___ Gotta Have It"
- 49 Incurred mobile charges, maybe
- 53 With 61-Across, cheap price on some granular seasoning?



- 56 Lower, as lights
- 58 Almond ___ (toffee candy)
- 59 Singer Ora
- 60 See 54-Across
- 63 God on an eight-legged horse
- 64 "Voice of Israel" author Abba
- 65 Mother of Perseus
- 66 Social Distortion frontman Mike
- 67 Prepare the laundry
- 68 Bedframe strip
- 7 Nothing, on scoreboards
- 8 Laptop with a smaller screen
- 9 Make a hissing sound
- 10 Ready and eager
- 11 "Stay in your ___"
- 12 Has a series finale
- 13 Abbr. on a new car sticker
- 17 Country home to Mocha
- 22 Its U stands for "utility"
- 24 Olympic runner Jim who later became a congressman
- 25 Squish down
- 27 Groups on risers
- 28 Gaspd with amazement
- 29 River through Kazakhstan
- 30 Miller beer brand
- 31 Play some Cornhole
- 32 Make kombucha
- 33 Lack of intensity
- 34 They can be picked
- 38 They may have tickets at Barclays Center
- 40 Millennium Falcon pilot
- 42 Brother of Ophelia, in "Hamlet"
- 43 Singer nicknamed "The Velvet Fog"
- 46 "Never heard of them"
- 47 Foot bone-related
- 50 Disney title character voiced by Auli'i Cravalho
- 51 Flamboyance, from the French
- 52 Time to remember
- 53 "___: Legacy" (2010 sci-fi sequel)
- 54 Like the Amazon River
- 55 Singer Redding
- 56 One of the few words not to be repeated in "Happy Birthday"
- 57 "It just ___ my day"
- 61 "Succession" network
- 62 Flyer contents

Down

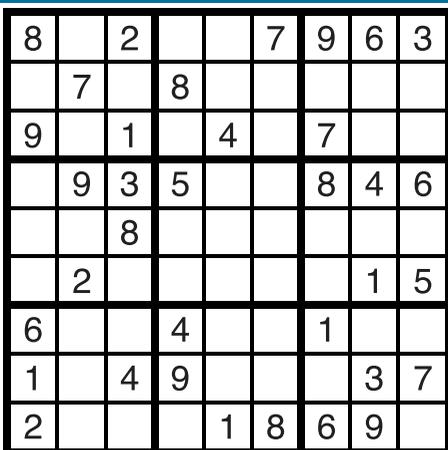
- 1 Clerk at work
- 2 "Half ___ is better than none"
- 3 Strong drink also called double espresso
- 4 Sixth sense letters
- 5 "Got My ___ Working" (Muddy Waters classic)
- 6 Second word of "The Raven"

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Answers on page 29

SUDOKU

Beginner



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 29

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezсны

August 4-10, 2021

ARIES (March 21–April 19): Filmmaker Federico Fellini had an unexpected definition of happiness. He said it was "being able to speak the truth without hurting anyone." I suspect you will have abundant access to that kind of happiness in the coming weeks, Aries. I'll go even further: You will have extra power to speak the truth in ways that heal and uplift people. My advice to you, therefore, is to celebrate and indulge your ability. Be bold in expressing the fullness of what's interesting to you.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): "Look for a long time at what pleases you, and longer still at what pains you," wrote the novelist Colette. What?! Was she making a perverse joke? That's wicked advice, and I hope you adopt it only on rare occasions. In fact, the exact opposite is the healthy way to live—especially for you in the coming weeks. Look at what pains you, yes. Don't lose sight of what your problems and wounds are. But please, for the sake of your dreams, for the benefit of your spiritual and psychological health, look longer at what pleases you, energizes you, and inspires you.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): If you deepen your affection for butterflies and hummingbirds, I will love it. If you decide you want the dragonfly or bumblebee or lark to be your spirit creature, I will approve. You almost always benefit from cultivating relationships with swift, nimble, and lively influences—and that's especially true these days. So give yourself full permission to experiment with the superpower of playful curiosity. You're most likely to thrive when you're zipping around in quest of zesty ripples and sprightly rhythms.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): Life is showing you truths about what you are not, what you don't need, and what you shouldn't strive for. That's auspicious, although it may initially feel unsettling. I urge you to welcome these revelations with gratitude. They will help you tune in to the nuances of what it means to be radically authentic. They will boost your confidence in the rightness of the path you've chosen for yourself. I'm hoping they may even show you which of your fears are irrelevant. Be hungry for these extraordinary teachings.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): The next two months will be a propitious time for you and your intimate allies to grow closer by harnessing the power of your imaginations. I urge you to be inventive in dreaming up ways to educate and entertain each other. Seek frisky adventures together that will delight you. Here's a poem by Vyacheslav Ivanov that I hope will stimulate you: "We are two flames in a midnight forest. We are two meteors that fly at night, a two-pointed arrow of one fate. We are two steeds whose bridle is held by one hand. We are two eyes of a single gaze, two quivering wings of one dream, two-voiced lips of single mysteries. We are two arms of a single cross."

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): Virgo spiritual author Don Miguel Ruiz urges us not to take anything personally. He says that if someone treats us disrespectfully, it's almost certainly because they are suffering from psychological wounds that make them act in vulgar, insensitive ways. Their attacks have little to do with what's true about us. I agree with him, and will add this important caveat. Even if you refrain from taking such abuses personally, it doesn't mean you should tolerate them. It doesn't mean you should keep that person in your life or allow them to bully you in the future. I suspect these are important themes for you to contemplate right now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): "People who feel deeply, live deeply, and love deeply are destined to suffer deeply," writes poet Juansen Dizon. To that romanticized, juvenile nonsense, I say: NO! WRONG! People who feel and live and love deeply are more emotionally intelligent than folks who live on the surface—and are therefore less fragile. The deep ones are likely to be psychologically adept; they have skills at liberating themselves from the smothering crush of their problems. The deep ones also have access to rich spiritual resources that ensure their suffering is a source

of transformative teaching—and rarely a cause of defeat. Have you guessed that I'm describing you as you will be in the coming weeks?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): Professor of psychology Ethan Kross tells us there can be healthy, creative forms of envy. "Just as hunger tells us we need to eat," he writes, "the feeling of envy could show us what is missing from our lives that really matters to us." The trick is to not interpret envy as a negative emotion, but to see it as useful information that shows us what we want. In my astrological opinion, that's a valuable practice for you to deploy in the coming days. So pay close attention to the twinges of envy that pop into your awareness. Harness that volatile stuff to motivate yourself as you make plans to get the very experience or reward you envy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): Poet Walt Whitman bragged that he was "large." He said, "I contain multitudes." One critic compared him to "a whole continent with its waters, with its trees, with its animals." Responding to Whitman, Sagittarian poet Gertrud Kolmar uttered an equally grandiose boast. "I too am a continent," she wrote. "I contain mountains never-reached, scrubland unpenetrated, pond bay, river-delta, salt-licking coast-tongue." That's how I'm imagining you these days, dear Sagittarius: as unexplored territory: as frontier land teeming with undiscovered mysteries. I love how expansive you are as you open your mind and heart to new self-definitions. I love how you're willing to risk being unknowable for a while as you wander out in the direction of the future.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): Poet Ezra Pound wrote a letter to novelist James Joyce that included the following passage: "You are fucking with my head, and so far I've been enjoying it. Where is the crime?" I bring this up, Capricorn, because I believe the coming weeks will be prime time for you to engage with interesting souls who fuck with your head in enjoyable ways. You need a friendly jolt or two: a series of galvanizing prods; dialogs that catalyze you to try new ways of thinking and seeing; lively exchanges that inspire you to experiment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): Blogger Mandukhai Munkhbaatar offers advice on the arts of intimate communion. "Do not fall in love only with a body or with a face," she tells us. "Do not fall in love with the idea of being in love." She also wants you to know that it's best for your long-term health and happiness if you don't seek cozy involvement with a person who is afraid of your madness, or with someone who, after you fight, disappears and refuses to talk. I approve of all these suggestions. Any others you would add? It's a favorable phase to get clearer about the qualities of people you want and don't want as your allies.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): I gave my readers homework, asking them to answer the question, "What is your favorite rule to break?" In response, Laura Grolla sent these thoughts: "My favorite rule to break is an unwritten one: that we must all stress and strive for excellence. I have come up with a stress-busting mantra, 'It is OK to be OK.' In my OKness, I have discovered the subtle frontier of contentment, which is vast and largely unexplored. OKness allows me not to compete for attention, but rather to pay attention to others. I love OKness for the humor and deep, renewing sleep it has generated. Best of all, OKness allows me to be happily aging rather than anxiously hot." I bring this to your attention, Pisces, because I think the coming weeks will be a favorable time for you to investigate and embody the relaxing mysteries of OKness.

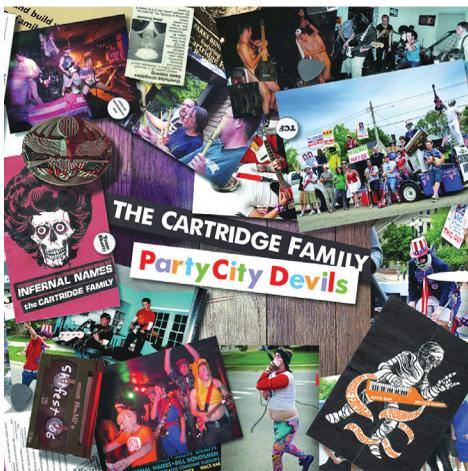
Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Brezсны's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.

TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

THE CARTRIDGE FAMILY DOCUMENTED ON VINYL



The Cartridge Family is documented on a new vinyl release, the "Party City Devils" LP via Scumbros Records and Bermuda Mohawk Productions. (courtesy images)

'Party City Devils' compiles tracks from Lansing's most notorious punk band

Ask any 2000s Lansing rock-show promoter about booking the Cartridge Family (tCF) and you will surely get an interesting response, or at least a troubled look. Every gig the band played consisted of wild shenanigans, including (but not limited to) flying debris and historical reenactments. The large "band" also consisted of a large crew of plush-costumed chaos starters whose main goal was to consume the entire venue with a party vibe. Every concert was a theatrical low-budget happening, with the music serving as the soundtrack to the bedlam — which ended in 2011 after the outfit's final show.

With a heavily rotating lineup (no single band member played every tCF show), it's hard to trace the exact lineage of the group, but core members comprised founding members Craig Horky (guitar) and Gabe Rehklau (drums), as well as other long-term players like Nick "Ozzie" Oswald (lead vocals), Scott Bell (vocals), Cale Sauter (keyboards), Gabe Rehklau (drums), Ryan Horky (drums/percussion) and Nick "Otis" Pierce (bass).

Ben Hassenger was an early member who joined to perform impromptu stunts to the music, and would often brainstorm theatrical gag ideas with the band. Meanwhile, Dan Fox was "the primary inhabitant of whichever of the nicer plush mascot costumes we had," according to Sauter. The result was

some of the most bizarre, sometimes unsettling, gigs this city has ever seen.

However, with the upcoming release of "Party City Devils," the first ever full-length retrospective on the defunct band, this new (dark purple) vinyl LP sonically encapsulates the group's batch of lo-fi punk recordings. The long-shelved songs were compiled by Benjamin Pereogi, owner of Scumbros Records in Arizona. It's being co-released by local label Bermuda Mohawk Productions — who's operated by a few tCF members. This first release in years serves as an overdue bookend to the band's long-out-of-print EP, split 7" and DVD.

The result is a sort of "greatest hits" collection and will be officially released on Aug. 13, 2021. The online orders come with a digital download of the album, some puzzles, games "and a bunch of other secret digital download goodies," according to Pereogi, who met tCF years ago while playing shows in his former hometown of Toledo.

"Cartridge Family shows were, to me, always just unbridled fun," Pereogi recalled. "They were a whirlwind of energy and excitement — and partially naked people. You never knew what to expect. One show would be a Gettysburg address recreation, the next would have a moon bounce castle in a venue along with a slam dunk contest, another might have 20 bags of popcorn thrown around. For me, it was always a

positive experience."

"The guy who would book them in Toledo was fully supportive of their shenanigans, and by the time I was seeing them at Mac's Bar, they were accepted there," he added. "I never really experienced the shows where venues would get angry."

Perhaps one reason the band got away with making messes was that it was always in good fun, according to Sauter, who said "having fun" was the only constant rule for its laundry list of members.

"With people's experiences playing in bands that were more stressful or contentious, the band was sort of founded under the single rule that everyone had to be having fun," Sauter recalled. "It didn't seem that unique of an objective at the time, but the format it took was. If someone wasn't having fun, they left and someone else joined."

"Eventually, musicians wanting to just have fun started joining when we didn't even have needs with any of the on-stage instruments," Sauter added. "We didn't turn anyone away, we just challenged them to find something to do that would add to the live shows. Clearly this got out-of-hand quickly. Or at least well beyond I think anything we initially anticipated."

Seemingly, it wasn't until tCF grew out of control that the band truly took shape.

"It created a carnival atmosphere with the live shows," Sauter said. "It was really easy to embrace the next step by adding more party features like Moon Bounces, cakewalks, cotton candy machines, and all that. The extra bodies also allowed us to do some more theatrical things like doing a Halloween set where we staged a 'Clue'-esque murder mystery and somehow found a way to incorporate that and actually playing our songs. The extra bodies came in handy for other things too, like picking up and moving a stranger's car when they double-parked a friend's car outside of a show we played."

Sure, the good ol' days might be behind tCF alumni, but Sauter said he is happy their vaulted material will finally be properly documented on wax.

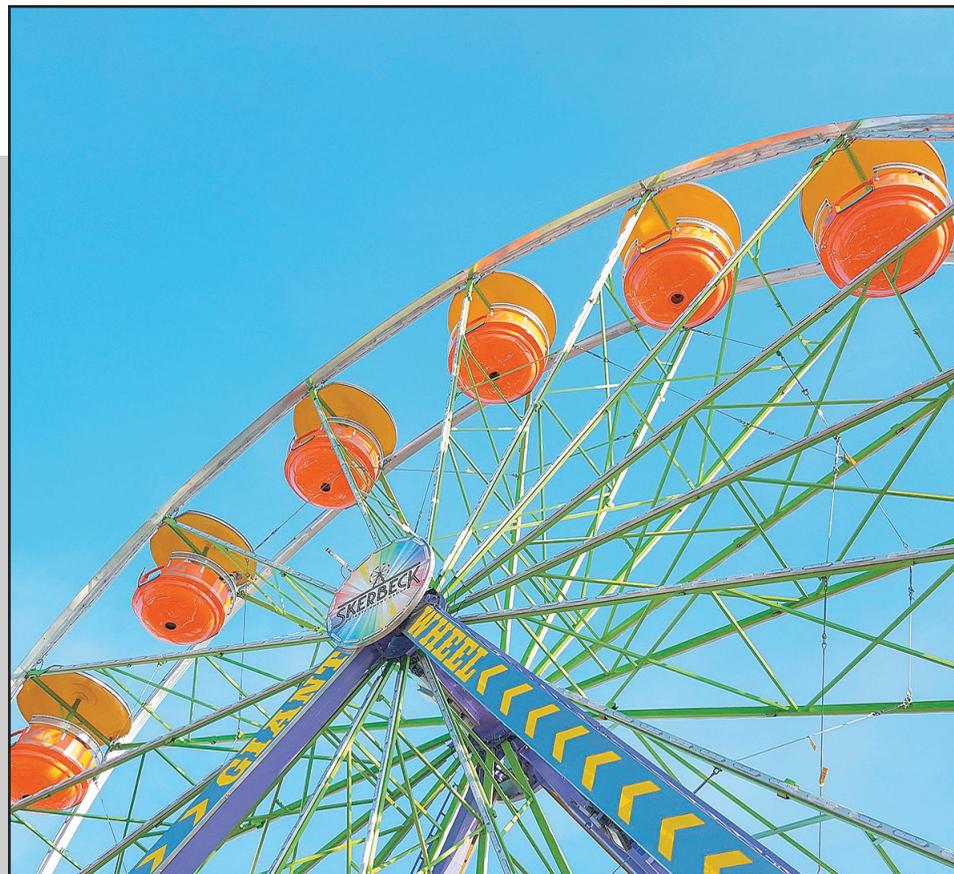
"Being a band with a much bigger reputation for antics and crazy live sets, recording and releasing music was really sort of secondary — if even that high of a priority," Sauter admitted. "Really, the whole second half of the band's existence went by without a release aside from a joke 'beefcake' calendar. But we love Ben from Scumbros Records and trusted him to do it justice, so we teamed up to do the release."

For more information on "Party City Devils" vinyl, visit: scumbrosrecords.bandcamp.com

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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.



Ingham County Fair

Through Saturday, Aug. 7
Gates open at noon daily
Ingham County Fairgrounds
700 E. Ash St., Mason
(517) 676-2428, fair.ingham.org
\$10 adults, \$8 for children and seniors

There's no better summer activity than a classic American county fair. Here you can find the best fried food in the world — whether that's elephant ears, corn dogs or the many different deep-fried cheese creations that are out there. You can even get your hands on monstrosities like deep fried Twinkies and Oreos. Nobody is going to judge you.

And you can't forget about all the amazing rides. You can hop on the Ferris wheel if you want a calming, romantic ride with a great view, or you can go on of those rides that spins in circles at ridiculously high speeds if puking your guts out is more your speed. Just be courteous and wait to vomit until after you've exited the ride.

But if none of that interests you, you can always stroll around and enjoy the flashing lights, flea markets, live entertainment and look at some cute animals at the petting zoo. There's always something for everybody at a good county fair.

Wednesday, August 4

167th Ingham County Fair - August 3-7. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Asher, Mason. More info at fair.ingham.org

Allen Farmers Market - Open 2:30-7 p.m. May-September at 2100 E Michigan Ave. Lansing. 517-999-3911.

ArtPath 2021 - through August 31. 20 works by Michigan artists! Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 119 N Washington Sq, Ste 101, Lansing. 517-374-6400. lansingartgallery.org.

Alluring Nature 2021 Art Show: En Plein Air Exhibition - through Aug. 27. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Framers' Edge and Gallery, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. 517-347-7400. framersedge.net.

Free Reading/Writing Refresher Courses - Session 3: August 2-5. Class times on section. Register at lcc.edu.

Michigan Young Birders Network Virtual Meeting - 7-8 p.m. Michigan Audubon, 2310 Science Parkway, #200, Okemos. michiganaudubon.org.

Play in the Park - interactive children's entertainment series. 7 p.m. Patriarche Park, 960 Alton Rd., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

St Johns Concert in the Park Series - featuring Kari Holmes. 7-9 p.m. William E Tennant Performance Shell, 801 W Park St. 989-224-2429. clintoncountyarts.org.

Wednesday Night Steak at Reo Town Pub - 5:30-8 p.m. Reo Town Pub, 1145 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-285-7726.

Wednesday Workdays at CCBS - 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Capital City Bird Sanctuary, 6001 Delta River Dr., Lansing. michiganaudubon.org

Recalculate Your Career - a partnership between Davenport University, LCC and Capital Area Michigan Works! Virtual. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Info at lcc.edu.

Wheel of the Year: Lammas - Join us in-person or on Zoom 6:30-7:30 p.m. Weavers of the Web, ATC, 809 Center St. #7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

Thursday, August 5

Artist Talk with Sinclair Chase Korte - ArtPath Artist Talks are fun outdoor events that provide the opportunity to engage with artists. 6-7 p.m. River Front Dock, Lansing. lansingartgallery.org

Bath Farmers Market - 3-7 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13753 Main St, Bath. shopbfm.org.

Cristo Rey Church - Food Booth fundraiser - 3-7 p.m. South Lansing Farmers Market, 800 W. Barnes Ave.

Dimondale Farmers' Market - 3-7 p.m. 136 N Bridge St, Dimondale. 517-230-0520. villageofdimondale.org.

Flower Arranging - Learn how to create bouquets and plant the gardens that grow them. Workshop facilitated by neighbor Cait Schneider! 6 p.m. 526 Clifford St, Lansing.

Neil Diamond/Elvis Tribute Show - 7-9 p.m. McCormick Park, 300 N. Putnam, Williamston. 517-490-2813

In-Person Picnic Playdate at the Playground: Wacousta. Bring chairs and a lunch. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Wacousta Community UMC, 9180 Herbison Rd., Eagle.

REACH Virtual Meet-up: Arts Incubator for Young People - 4-5 p.m. For Zoom link: reachstudioart.org.

Sara/Eli at Reach - 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

South Lansing Farmers Market - 3-7 p.m. 800 W. Barnes Ave. 517-374-5700.
Tardigrade Watercolors - 1-2 p.m. Playground Of Dreams, 100 Howe Drive, Eaton Rapids.

Virtual Refugee Foster Care Information Session - 5:30-7:30 p.m. via zoom. Email RFCinfo@samaritas.org for link or call 517-449-3270.

"Vodka" Staged Reading of Original Play - 7-8:30 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Events

from page 28

Weekly Hiring Fair - 12-4 p.m. Community Mental Health, 812 E Jolly Rd. Lansing. ceicmh.org

Friday, August 8

2021 Movies in the Park - presented by the City of Eaton Rapids. Show begins at dark. 315 W Knight St, Eaton Rapids.

Can You Dig It? - 4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Extreme Survivor - 4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Fizz Boom Chemistry - 4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

St Johns Brown Bag Concert Series - Featuring Jackson's Steve Berkemeier. 12-1 p.m. St Johns Rotary Park Pavilion, 107 E. Railroad St. clintoncountyarts.org.

TGIF Weekly Friday Dance - Everyone welcome. 7 p.m.-midnight. Hawk Hollow Golf Banquet Center, 15101 Chandler Rd., Bath. 734-604-5095. tgifdance.com.

Ultimate Video Game - 4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Saturday, August 7

2021 East Lansing Art Festival - Aug. 7-8 in the heart of downtown East Lansing. Festival hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Downtown East Lansing, Albert & Ann Streets.

Back to School Jubilee - in Methodist Church parking lot,; 1-3 p.m. for K-5 graders. First United Methodist Church parking lot, Mason.

Bikwe to Build 2021 - 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Northpointe Community Church, 505 E. Webb Rd., DeWitt.

Country Mill Wine Run 5k - 8 a.m. Country Mill Winery, 4648 Otto Rd., Charlotte. indyrunners.org.

Jewelry, Books and More Sale - 2 Sales. 2 Days. Sat. & Sun. 9-5 pm. The Peoples Church, Snyder Social Hall, 200 W. Grand River, East Lansing.

Lammas Ritual - Celebrate the First Harvest with Weavers of the Web with a ritual, raffle, and picnic! 4-9 p.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

The Legend - 5, 10 and 13.1 miles. Custom medals to ALL finishers! 7:45 a.m. The Legend, 7835 E. Price Rd., Laingsburg. Info at runlegend.com

Looking Glass 2021 StreetFest - Downtown DeWitt with music performed by Be Kind Rewind. 3-9 p.m. Looking Glass Brewing Co, 115 N. Bridge St., DeWitt.

Mason Farmer's Market - 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Austin Park pavilion, 300 block of W. Ash, Mason.

Moneyball 3 on 3 - Register now. Divisions: Male & Female. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mount Hope Park, 7419 E Mt Hope Hwy, Grand Ledge. moneyballsportswear.com

Sunday, August 8

2021 East Lansing Art Festival - Aug. 7-8 in the heart of downtown East Lansing. Festival hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Downtown East Lansing, Albert & Ann Streets.

East Lansing Farmers Market - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 280 Valley Court, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com

Moneyball 3 on 3 - Register now. Divisions: Male & Female. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mount Hope Park, 7419 E Mt Hope Hwy, Grand Ledge. moneyballsportswear.com

Monday, August 9

Comedy Night - 9-11:30 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. crunchyseastlansing.com.

Forensics - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Heroes of the Bible VBS - 3-day event for kids Pre-K- 5th grade. 6:30-8 p.m. Mason Assembly of God, 425 E South St, Mason. business.masonchamber.org.

Inked Up! - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

In-Person Intro to Ukulele! - Ages 8 -adult. Learn the basics! 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. Register at gladl.org.

Jump Into Reading - Join Ms. Anna for stories, songs, and activities. 11-11:30 a.m. Playground Of Dreams, 100 Howe Dr., Eaton Rapids. eradl.org.

Meaningful Mondays - 8-9 p.m. Self Realization Centre, 7187 Drumheller Rd., Bath.

Science of Toys! - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Shooting "Stars" & Meteor Showers: presented by MSU/Abrams Planetarium - Virtual. 1 p.m. Premieres on our YouTube channel. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

YouTube Star! - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Tuesday, August 10

Board Game Meet Up - for ages 18 & up. Everyone welcome! 6:30-10 p.m. Spare Time Bowling Alley, 3101 E. Grand River, Lansing.

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End of Summer Reading Dance Party - 1-2 p.m. Playground Of Dreams, 100 Howe Dr., Eaton Rapids. eradl.org.

In-Person Picnic Playdate: for kids of all ages. 11-11:30 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson. gladl.org

Teen Cornhole - Meet outside of the library to create teams and start our very first cornhole tournament. 6-7:30 p.m. Mulliken District Library, 135 Main St, Mulliken.

Touch-Base Tuesdays - MI Reconnect and Future for Frontliners students-we want to know how you are doing! 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Lansing. lccedu.webex.com or FB.



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CityPULSE

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Fermenting contentment

By ARI LeVAUX

In the early days of human civilization, before there were canning jars, refrigeration and freezer bags, fermentation was the most common way to preserve food. To this day, many of our favorite delicacies, including booze and chocolate, depend on fermentation. But a lot of home cooks and food savers, myself included, feel intimidated by the prospect. We're more likely to make vinegar pickles than fermented sour pickles, in part because the rules are clearer with canning. There's less sniffing involved. The word "ferment," after all, also means "a state of confusion, change, and lack of order or fighting," all of which apply to the fermentation behind your beer. It's a fight between the microbes you want to win and the ones you want to die, and you tip the field in your favor, causing the change you want.

Conceptually, fermentation is the antithesis of most conventional food preservation techniques, as it encourages bacterial growth, while most other techniques aim to create a sterile environment in a quest for suspended, lifeless animation. Fermented food doesn't usually look anything like what it once did, but it's very much alive with microorganisms. Inside these microbes are living enzymes that preserve food by transforming it, converting sugars into alcohol and acid.



There has never been a case of food poisoning from the fermentation of vegetables, I was told by Sandor Katz, a teacher and author and, first and foremost, a fermenter who is coming to Hamilton, Montana to keynote a gathering of fermentation enthusiasts. "You could end up with a mushy texture that you hate or end up with a surface growth that's ugly and scares you, but there's no case history of making anyone sick. I've thrown stuff away. I've removed a top layer. But I've discovered that the bottom is fine. The surface phenomenon is almost always caused by oxygen."

One of his newer pet ferments, Katz says, is a Chinese brine called Pao cai (pronounced "Pao tsai"). It's made with spice mixes that vary region to region in China. Some of the seasonings are familiar, like ginger and garlic, and some are Chinese herbs that are less known, but certainly available at Chinese herb stores or online. Katz details this brine in his new book *Fermentation Journeys*, which is based on his worldwide travels and the ferments he discovered along the way. Katz will be unveiling his Pao



Ari LeVaux's first pepper sauce, version one.

Cai as well as other tricks this September in Montana at his first live workshop since the pandemic hit, and he's excited.

"It's been wonderful to connect with people via Zoom given the circumstances, but food is all about flavors and smells and direct sensory experience, which isn't possible when teaching remotely online."

I barely know the basics of fermentation, though I've got pretty much every other preservation technique down, from blanching and freezing my green vegetables to the perfect pickled peppers, to any of my tomato products. But I've always avoided fermentation like some final frontier I wasn't worthy or ready to breach.

To help get up to speed before Sandor shows up, I drove out to a local commercial food kitchen to meet Erin Belmont, a local fermenter and co-organizer of the Bacteria Bazaar. She was making a batch of pepper paste for her House of Ferments label of fermented products, and I was there to make my own batch of paste.

I've been a fan of fermented pepper paste since long before I knew it was fermented. My friend Pedro used to bring it home from Panama. Then I got some at a West African restaurant in New Mexico. When I tried some of Erin's, I

realized that the unmistakable flavor I'd fallen in love with was fermented. And after a few minutes in Erin's rented kitchen, it was clear that preparing a reasonable-sized batch of Panama Hot Sauce is less work than making a salad on most days. With the caveat that, unlike a salad or most other dishes, a ferment needs to be stewarded for weeks after it's been made, like carefully docking a ship in port. But slower.

First, we cleaned and weighed some fresh habanero and mini yellow peppers. They were all I could find at the store in early July that wasn't green or a sweet bell, both of which were off limits, she said. Erin herself was using dried peppers from last year, which she'd purchased in bulk from a farmer named Mr. Sunshine.

My peppers came out to 1217 grams. We put them in a food processor with a few cloves of garlic and added 24 grams of salt for about a 2% brine — standard for a vegetable ferment. "I'm tempted to add more salt," Erin mused.

This leeway, this wiggle room, this ability to steer, steward, and even season your ferment and ultimately get it where you want it is part of the attraction, admits my wife, a solid fermenter herself. She recently used 2% salt and cabbage to make a perfect batch of sauerkraut. She also makes Jun Tea, a type of kombucha made from green tea and honey, and of course she has her sourdough, named Savage.

Angi Hronek, the other co-organizer of Angi and Erin's Bacteria Bazaar, says they planned the event in hopes of giving people the confidence and tools they need to give fermentation a try, and also to learn some cool stuff themselves. Katz's workshops on brining beyond sauerkraut and grain fermentation are just the beginning.

"I'm really excited for the tempheh making class taught by Dan Dean of

See Fermentation, Page 31

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Fermentation

from page 30

Bouilla Restaurant, as I love tempeh and have zero idea how to make it. I'm also excited about the classes we have that build on each other, as I think they are an awesome opportunity to get fully immersed. The kombucha brewing class and kombucha cocktail mixing classes, for example, or the sourdough starter basics combined with souring grains and long fermentation for baking, and fermenting honey, and small batch wine, beer, cider, mead and more. I'm excited about them all ... that is why we organized this!"

I returned home from the commercial kitchen with my activated pepper paste and set it on the shelf, with the lid loose so gas could escape as the fermentation began. I'd give it a gentle shake every day because it seemed to want to separate into liquid below and pepper paste up top. Each time I shook it around it would foam a bit and then settle. After about a week I could taste the fermentation happening. It was promising, but evolving slowly, and I wasn't happy with how it kept separating, and the daily shaking routine to keep the ferment active didn't feel right. I added more salt, and things got right in a hurry. Within days, which is just a few moments in Fermentation Time, the separated pulp and liquid recombined into a homogeneous mixture. And the flavor became sharply more acidic, which made it more interesting and satisfying and useful.

The reason I was so stressed about my separating paste is that, to paraphrase Katz, oxygen can make things ugly at the surface of the ferment. If I hadn't been able to get it to mix, my wife says, I'd have had to weight it down somehow or risk a bad outcome. She weights her sauerkraut down with a bag of water. "But what I really want is a boiled river rock."

My pepper paste hasn't separated since I added salt, but I can't say it has yet hit full maturity. And I can't say it's ever going to reach full maturity at the rate I have been "evaluating" it, especially since adding the salt. Lately, I've enjoyed evaluating it mixed with mayonnaise and chopped fresh onions atop tomato slices. I don't know what tomorrow will bring, but I'm sure it will involve that sour, spicy brine.

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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Come see us today for a 3D scan of your feet!
 3D printed inserts made to give you the exact support for each foot's needs!
 (Please allow 6-8 weeks for custom inserts)

CHARLOTTE CSR SHOE REPAIR

215 S. Cochran Ave
 Charlotte, MI 48813
 517-543-6988
 charlotteshoerepair.com