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January 12 - 18, 2022

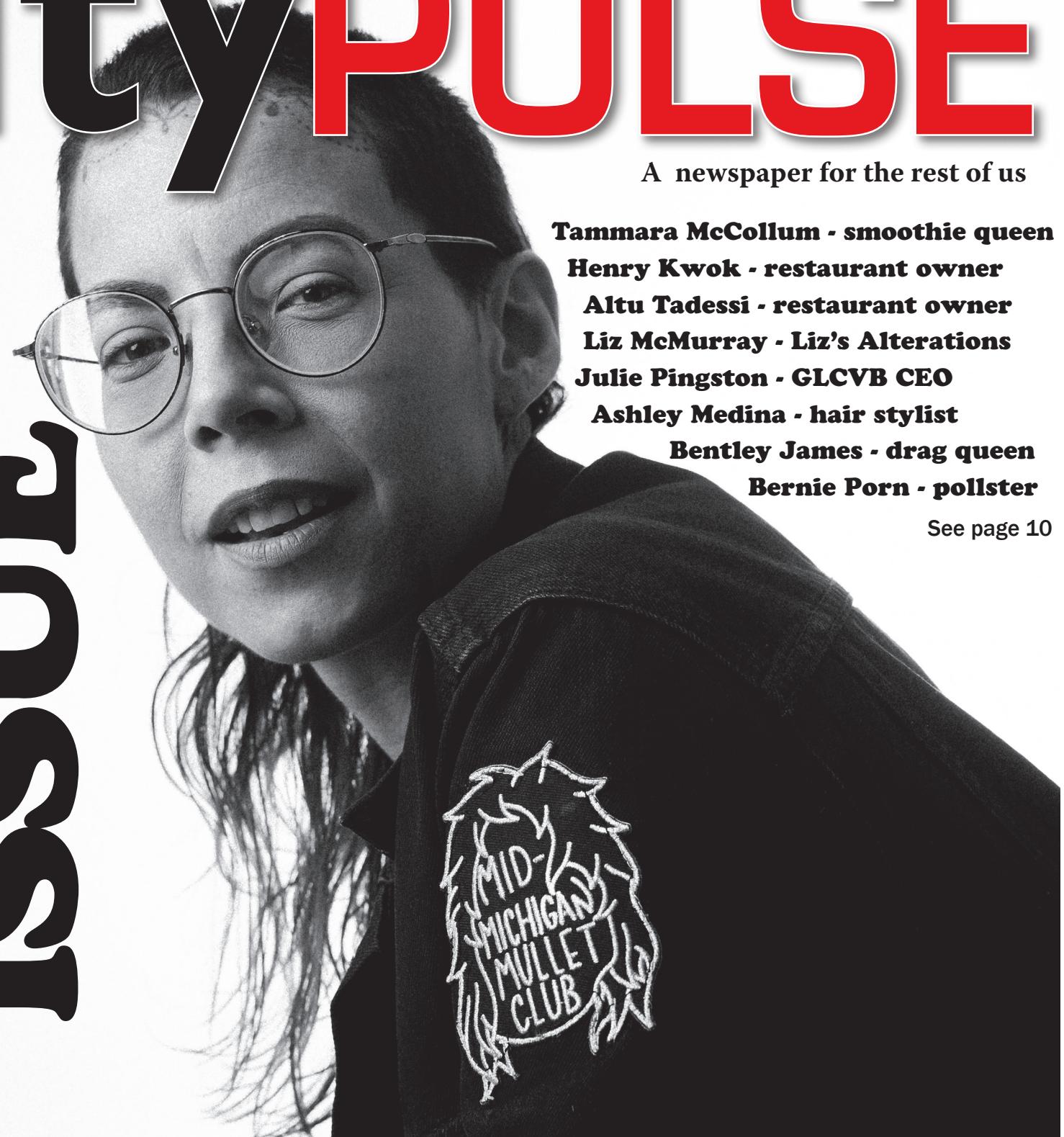
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# CityPULSE

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PEOPLE ISSUE



**Tammara McCollum - smoothie queen**

**Henry Kwok - restaurant owner**

**Altu Tadessi - restaurant owner**

**Liz McMurray - Liz's Alterations**

**Julie Pingston - GLCVB CEO**

**Ashley Medina - hair stylist**

**Bentley James - drag queen**

**Bernie Porn - pollster**

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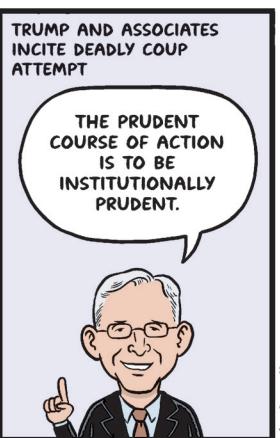
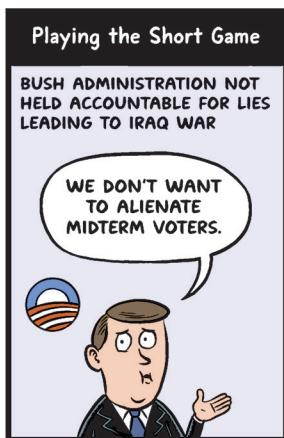
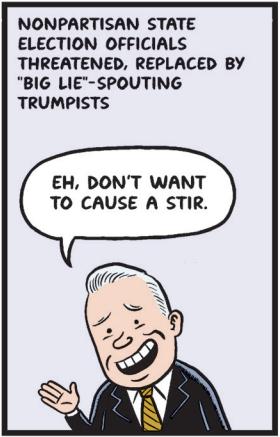


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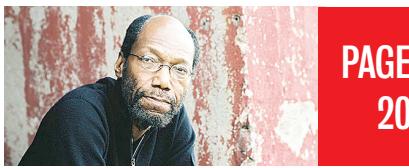
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# CityPULSE

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Art

By Khalid Ibrahim

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## THIS MODERN WORLD



IS THE HUMAN BRAIN CAPABLE OF ABSORBING THIS RELENTLESS ON-SLAUGHT OF DESPAIR AND OUTRAGE? WILL WE ALL JUST FALL TO THE GROUND SOMEDAY, BLEEDING FROM THE EARS?

I HAVE NO IDEA! I GUESS WE WILL ALL FIND OUT TOGETHER!

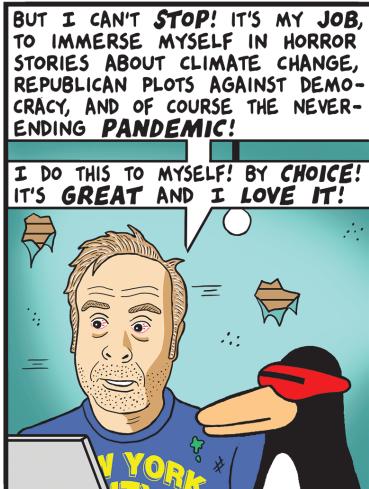


HAHAHA WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE!

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# PULSE



# NEWS & OPINION

## Messengers from the front lines

### Four members of Little Rock Nine join annual MLK Celebration Day

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Terrence Roberts is a patient man. "I get questions all the time, like, 'Why can't we stop this critical race theory business? Why can't we stop Black Lives Matter?'" Roberts said. "There's a lot of fear out there."

In 1957, Roberts and eight other African-American students, all in their teens, ran a daily gauntlet of rage, resistance and officially sanctioned violence to desegregate Little Rock Central High School.

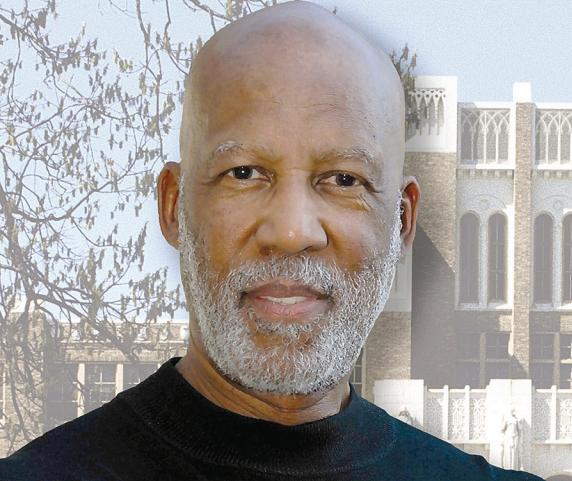
Four of the Little Rock Nine, as they became known, will take part in the 2022 MLK Day of Celebration Monday (Jan. 17,) sponsored by the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan.

It took three successive attempts, and a year-long deployment of the National Guard, to keep the Little Rock Nine in school. They were beaten, kicked, harassed and burned in effigy. Their houses were firebombed and many of their parents lost their jobs.

Despite being beseched, exhorted and even warned to learn from the past, many Americans still resist looking back on such dark days, but it's harder to turn away when the messenger carries the historical weight of Terrence Roberts.

"Look at what those youngsters carried on their shoulders," MLK Commission Chairwoman Elaine Hardy said. "It was right against wrong, good against evil, literally."

Little Rock closed its high schools for the 1958-'59 year because of the desegregation brawl. Roberts finished his senior year at Los Angeles High School,



Courtesy photos

Terrance Roberts and the statue that depicts him in Little Rock, Ark.

graduated from California State College and went on to a career in psychology, serving as director of mental health services at St. Helena Hospital and Health Center and co-chairing the Master of Arts in Psychology program at Antioch University Los Angeles.

His expertise in psychology comes in handy when he tells students, community groups and law enforcement agencies things they may not want to hear.

"I have to be very careful, because if I say the wrong thing, or say it in the wrong way, I will lose them," he said. "The connection will be cut. I try to ease my way into it and bring them along, help them to understand."

In addition to Roberts, Monday's panel, moderated by Michigan Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist, will include Ernest Green, the oldest of the group and the only student who went to Central as a senior; Carlotta Walls LaNier, the youngest of the group, who was only 14 when she attended Central; and Minnijean Brown Trickey.

Hardy finds the Little Rock Nine's experience as relevant to the nation's turbulent civil rights struggles as ever.

### Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Celebration

Guest speakers Ernest Green, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Terrence Roberts and Minnijean Brown Trickey from the Little Rock Nine

7 p.m. Mon., Jan. 17  
WILX TV-10, WLNS TV-6

"There are still segments in our society who would deny democracy," Hardy said.

Last week, watching coverage of the one-year anniversary of the storming of the U.S. Capitol, Hardy found the mob's angry faces all too familiar.

"That anger we saw Jan. 6 was always there," Hardy said. "If you look at any of the iconic photographs of Little Rock in those years, you saw angry mobs accosting those children, trying to do the basic thing we encourage every child in this country to do: go to school."

Roberts, 80, volunteered to join the Little Rock Nine in the energizing wake of the Supreme Court's 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision that struck down school segregation.

"The Brown decision, for me, was simply magic," Roberts said. "I was not naïve enough to think it was the endpoint, but in the wake of the Brown decision, the voices began to yell very loud."

In recent years, many Americans who wondered if racism was over with the election of President Barack Obama were shocked to discover how brutal the cycle of civil rights breakthroughs and blowbacks can be. Roberts knew better.

"I learned in my research that this was not unusual,"

Roberts said. "It's always the same

— one step forward, then a giant fist in your face. That's how it's been. I'm fairly used to it. I'm not welcoming it, but it's the reality."

Nevertheless, Roberts doesn't get weary of telling his story.

"In a sense, I feel privileged, because growing up as a Black kid in Little Rock, it was Ground Zero all the time," he said. "I had two options — to opt out altogether, focus on myself, or I could jump into the fray and see what I could bring from my perspective."

He traces his energy and inspiration to being a "pretty committed" Christian, although he doesn't go to church.

"I find that sometimes going to church interferes with my ability to be a Christian, but the principles are still sound," he said.

A few years ago, Roberts was at a conference, doing work with a group of middle managers. "I gave my spiel about leadership," he said. "During the lunch break, a guy came up to me and said, 'You can't fool me. That's the Gospel.' He nailed me. Busted on the spot."

Hardy expects the speakers' message to fall on fertile ground in greater Lansing.

"We are deeply honored that the community we live in embraces the ideas of Martin Luther King Jr. and pours forth its support of the MLK Commission so generously," she said.

This is only the second time in 37 years the King commemoration will be held virtually. The event will be broadcast on TV instead of being held in person at the Lansing Center.

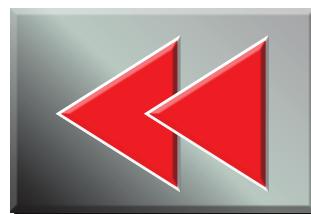
Hardy is disappointed that the speakers aren't coming in person, but there is a bright side. The event usually packs the Lansing Center to its capacity of 2,200, but last year's virtual event reached 15,000 people, and Hardy anticipates up to 40,000 viewers this year.

"If the Little Rock Nine can tell their story to more people in this format, that's a silver lining to this pandemic," Hardy said. "But I just hope to God that we're able in 2023 to be back together in person."

# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

By KYLE KAMINSKI



### Appointment to replace Betz on Council

The Lansing City Council plans to appoint a new member to replace First Ward Councilman Brandon Betz, who abruptly quit the job last week in order to refocus on his “personal relationships and health” following a controversial roller-coaster ride of a half-term on the dais.



Betz

In a letter to the Council, Betz said his decision to resign followed a period of reflection on the past year — a tumultuous one that included his being fired from his day job, censured and stripped of his committee assignments and repeatedly urged to resign over a fiery exchange with activist Michael Lynn Jr. Eastsiders have also sought to circulate a recall drive against him.

“This last year has brought growth and realization in both my personal life and career,” Betz’ resignation letter said. “I have had a major change of heart toward many causes I supported during my campaign. I decided last year to continue my commitment to my ward. I have come to the realization that I need to focus on my personal relationships and health.”

Now, the Council is looking for an interested eastsider to take Betz’ place through Dec. 31, which would have been the third year in Betz’ four-year term. The fourth year will be filled at a special election in November.

First Ward residents who have paid their taxes can apply through Jan. 21. Interviews with all qualified candidates are set for Jan. 31. The Council plans to appoint the next day.

So far, City Pulse has identified two interested applicants: Eastside Neighborhood Organization Secretary Ryan Kost and Farhan Sheikh-Omar, a candidate for mayor of Lansing last year.. Several others, including Former First Ward Councilwoman Jody Washington, have said they are not running.

### Sister-in-law accuses Chatfield of sexual assault

Former Michigan House Speaker Lee Chatfield was alleged to have repeatedly molested his sister-in-law, Rebekah Chatfield, 26 — including allegations that date back to when she was a 15-year-old student at Chatfield’s church and continuing up until as recent-

ly as July, according to her lawyer, Jamie White of Okemos. City Pulse was the first to report that the alleged victim had filed a criminal complaint to the Lansing Police Department. Bridge Michigan reported her allegations in detail over the weekend.

Chatfield’s sister-in-law alleges that the former legislator began sexually assaulting her when she was a student and Lee Chatfield was a 21-year-old teacher at Northern Michigan Baptist Church and its associated Northern Michigan Academy School, which she attended. Lee Chatfield has since admitted to an extramarital affair but said it was with a consenting adult. In a statement from his attorney, he also denied “false rape claims.” Lee Chatfield, 33, is one of seven children of Rusty Chatfield, pastor of the church and school administrator.

According to Bridge, the Capitol was just one site of many alleged sexual assaults. Rebekah Chatfield’s attorney said that he expects the case against Chatfield will grow extensively, including allegations “involving financial improprieties when he was speaker,” reports Michigan Advance.

### Lansing gunman faces charges after police standoff

Gregory Michael Sanders, 41, of Lansing, was arraigned on several felony counts of assault with intent to murder — among other criminal charges — after authorities said he barricaded himself inside a home for nine hours on the 4900 block of Pleasant Grove on Sunday (Jan. 9). After authorities entered the home, they said they found Dominique Elizabeth Hawn, 28, of Lansing, dead in the basement. Those with tips for police are asked to call (517) 483-4600.

### City Council honors retiring reverend

The Rev. Dr. Melvin T. Jones, of the Union Missionary Baptist Church in Lansing, announced that he will preach his last sermon on March 6, closing a 32-year career. Jones has served as the president of the Lansing Clergy Forum and was a founding member of the Lansing chapter of Black Lives Matter. The City Council paid tribute to Jones on Monday.



Jones

### Chief 54-A judge announces retirement

Judge Louise Alderson, who has served on the bench for the 54-A District Court in Lansing since 2001, has retired, according to a Council resolution in recognition of Alderson’s work. Alderson moved to Lansing in 1967 and has served in various roles across Michigan, including as a legislative liaison for the governor. The resolution wished her well on her “next chapter.”

### Hussain forms new housing committee

Newly installed Council President Adam Hussain has formed an ad-hoc Committee on Housing and Resident Safety, a four-member body of Council

members led by Councilwoman Patricia Spitzley that’s tasked with reviewing current ordinances and policies to address and assist residents in housing safety and tenant issues. A report is due in September.

### No suspects ID'd in Monday shooting

A 19-year-old man died after he was found late Monday afternoon near the 700 block of North Pennsylvania Avenue with multiple gunshot wounds. Authorities said the incident is under investigation, but they do not suspect the shooting was a random act. No other details were provided. Those with information to share with the Police Department can call (517) 483-4600.

### Attendance plummets at East Lansing schools

Nearly half of East Lansing High School students were absent from class last week amid another COVID-19 surge, the Lansing State reported. Attendance reportedly fell from about 68% on Monday (Jan. 3) to bout 55% on Thursday (Jan. 6). School officials there said they have no plans to switch to virtual learning options as caseloads continue to rise.

### Schor loses another deputy mayor

Deputy Lansing Mayor Nicholas Tate, who was promoted to the second-in-command job last year, has left the city for another job in Southern California — leaving Mayor Andy Schor without any deputy mayors or a chief of staff as he kicks off his second term. Executive assistant Mark Lawrence is filling in amid a search to replace Tate. In a press release, Schor said that he also expects to announce “soon” the hiring of a new chief of staff.



Tate

### Shuffleboard Club plans downsize

Plans to transform the former City Market building into the Lansing Shuffleboard and Social Club have been delayed, but they’re still underway with construction set to begin next month. Recently released renderings show that the venue will now be contained to only one floor, complete with shuffleboard courts, several restaurants, two bars, a lounge and other suites.

### County shifts gears on gun intervention

Ingham County officials again changed their recommendation for a nonprofit organization to operate a gun violence interruption program called Advance Peace in Lansing this year. Initially slated to go to The Village Lansing, county officials now expect to offer funding for the program to Peckham Inc., who will reportedly subcontract with People Ready Activating Youth or P.R.A.Y. The recommendation will still require formal approval from county commissioners this week.

## Schor makes progress on race

In an effort to identify persistent racial inequities in Lansing, Mayor Andy Schor last week rolled out a data-driven dashboard that tracks, among other things, the racial composition of Lansing's neighborhoods and the city government workforce. Giving credit where it is due, we think Schor's dashboard will be a useful tool as the mayor and his team seek to implement policies that close service gaps in communities of color and remedy hiring inequities at City Hall to create a workforce that looks more like the city it serves. Although the demographic data concerning the city's neighborhoods has always been readily available through the U.S. Census Bureau, the dashboard will certainly make visualizing and analyzing the data much easier. And, of course, understanding the dimensions of a problem is the first step toward solving it. The mayor's next step should be rolling out a public-facing scorecard that tracks the progress his administration is making toward implementation of his Racial Justice and Equity Alliance recommendations. That's what transparency demands. It's what accountability looks like.

## Bring on the COVID crackdown

In 1901, overwhelmed by a vicious smallpox pandemic, local authorities in Boston and Cambridge issued a mandatory vaccination order for city residents. They dispatched police officers to accompany health officials during a door-to-door campaign that aimed to vaccinate the city's adult population as quickly as possible. Declining the jab got you a \$5 fine, the equivalent of about \$150 today. Yes, there were anti-vaxxers back then, and they were predictably irate. They took their case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court — and lost. In a landmark 1905 ruling, the high court put a dagger through their claims that the government doesn't have the authority, in times of great national peril, to compel its citizens to get vaccinated.

More than a century later, faced with a perpetual pandemic, we would do well to embrace the idea that mandatory vaccination isn't a violation of anyone's individual rights. It's a necessary response to a plague that has already killed more than 800,000

# The CP Edit

## Opinion



restaurant, entertainment facility or public accommodation. No jab, no service. But we would go even further: No getting on a bus or airplane. No Uber or Lyft. No renewing your driver's license. We'll be perfectly happy to see those who refuse

to get vaccinated sit at home pondering the consequences of their choices while the rest of us do our part to get off this crazy train and back to some semblance of normal.

## Prosecuting the insurrectionists

Last week marked the one-year anniversary of the Trump Insurrection, an event that certainly will live in infamy, and one that still makes us mad as hell. There's no doubt we're still in the mood for retribution and justice. It is mildly satisfying to see some perpetrators sentenced to multi-year terms in federal prison for offenses like unauthorized entry of a restricted building or malicious destruction of property. But we're still waiting for prosecutors to pull out the big guns and bring treason charges against the principal ring leaders, including the Grand Orange Poobah and his enablers. Failing to exact severe punishment against those who attempted to overthrow our democratic government will constitute an historic failure and sends the unmistakable message to the insurrectionists that there is little risk in trying again.

## Losing Betz

After a tumultuous year on the Lansing City Council, former First Ward Councilman Brandon Betz has thrown in the towel. We're sorry to see him go. Despite his quirkiness and periodic episodes of bad behavior, we think Betz had tremendous potential to learn from his mistakes and grow into his role as an elected official. His rocky experience in the public spotlight highlights once again that public service isn't for the faint of heart. Betz might have stayed on but for an aggressive recall campaign that had a reasonable chance to remove him from office. It would have been courageous to stand and fight, but we also understand that sometimes it's best to retreat, retool and return for another round after the smoke has cleared. We hope that taking a break from public service will help Betz find his personal rudder and chart the best path forward for him. We wish him success in his future endeavors.

**Have something to say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages? Now you have two ways to sound off:**

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

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

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

# Small business, education, farming are at the heart of my campaign

By JON HORFORD

## OPINION

(The writer is a former NBA player from Lansing. He is seeking the Democratic nomination for the new 77th District state House seat.)

Over the years, I have had many different titles in this community: student, athlete, coach, volunteer, mentor and small business owner, to name a few. Now, I am working to earn the title of state representative in the 77th district to add to my history of service.

I grew up in Lansing, went to Grand Ledge schools, and, after living all over the country, my wife and I have settled where we're from because we genuinely care about the people here. I believe mid-Michigan holds the key to keeping our state on a path that prioritizes the well-being of all Michiganders. To make that happen, we will need strong, compassionate leaders, and we will need to work together.

What do we need in Lansing to support our families, bolster our economy and prepare for our future?

1. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and the source of most job growth. Although Michigan's



Horford

## Why I'm running

Beginning today, City Pulse is running an occasional series of opinion pieces by candidates who have filed for the Legislature in mid-Michigan. Email publisher@lansingcitypulse.com if you wish to participate.

economy is beginning to recover, the pandemic has had a significant and lasting impact on our small businesses. State and federal programs have helped, but mid-Michigan small businesses continue to face significant challenges in staffing and price inflation.

For these reasons and more, I will work with community partners to support our local businesses and provide more opportunities for people in our district to start and grow successful businesses. As a small business owner, I know that when we support small businesses, business owners have a chance to innovate, create jobs, and serve in ways that create opportunities and strengthen our communities.

2. Students and teachers have suffered greatly due to the pandemic, and it will take systemic changes to help our kids recover academically, socially, and emotionally. I have over a decade of experience developing and mentoring young people in our community. I know that creating nurturing learning environments at home and at school can change lives and transform families in deeply impactful ways. We need to provide educators with the resources necessary to expand their ability to positively impact our children.

Michigan needs to prioritize education funding along with college and career readiness to ensure our students have the skills they need to compete for good-paying jobs. As a state, we continue to fall behind on meaningful metrics such as student literacy, math proficiency, and post-secondary preparedness — and we can't afford to wait any longer to invest in our children.

As a legislator, I will work with educators to address necessary reforms and fight to make sure there is increased funding to prepare our stu-

# Does his dad's church play a role in alleged Lee Chatfield abuse?

His church quickly becoming the center of a question whether former Lee Chatfield used his positional power to take advantage sexually of a teenager some 12 years ago, the Rev. Rusty Chatfield spoke vaguely about the issue from the pulpit Sunday.

## Opinion

The minister of what is now Northern Michigan Baptist Church near Burt Lake since 1983 is facing some serious family and public relations problems.

Later, they could be criminal problems. At another point, they're likely to be a civil court problem.

From what he said Sunday, he's not going to back down and hide in a corner.

"We're not going to flee," said the Rev. Chatfield during his sermon. "We have done nothing wrong. Nothing. There you have it. Our church. Nothing. We have done nothing wrong. We can't let false accusations stop us from doing the work of God."

Chatfield essentially runs both the church and the school. He hired his son Lee to be a teacher and be involved in the athletic program. The question may be whether the school's leadership, through the church, empowered Lee's conduct and then covered it up under a religious cloak of piety and male superiority.

If a jury or a judge finds the answers to be yes, the church could be on the hook for civil fines. Theoretically, he could force the reverend to shut his doors.

Sister-in-law Rebekah Chatfield is claiming former House Speaker Lee Chatfield, then 21, forced himself on her when she was 15 or 16 and he was a teacher and soccer coach at the church's school, the Northern Michigan Christian Academy. He continued to take advantage of her sexually for 11 years until it ended this past summer, she is claiming in a police report.

The Lansing Police Department kicked the case to the Michigan State Police in Northern Michigan, where the alleged abuse happened. Is there enough to pursue a criminal case? Maybe, maybe not.

Either way, I'd expect a civil suit to move forward.

The alleged victim has hired an attorney known for doing big sexual assault cases like Larry Nassar at Michigan State and Robert Anderson and the University of Michigan. The public unveiling of her story sounded the call for others who feel they were assaulted by Lee Chatfield.

The reverend told his congregation, "You can't believe everything you read in the newspaper, on the internet or whatever ... . Truth will come forward."

Rebekah Chatfield has her truth that she shared with Bridge Michigan and City Pulse. In a courtroom, she could claim Lee Chatfield's alleged predatory conduct was not countered by the Chatfield patriarch. Instead, Lee's conduct was covered up under the guise of faux piety.

It's not unheard of. Ask Kaitlyn Buss.

The mother of four and communications specialist said religious extremism and the purity culture can be harmful to women. She, herself, a victim of sexual abuse in an evangelical setting, Buss said there are layers of psychological confusion for the victims in situations like this.

"Your identity, to some extent, can get bound up with these experiences, so even as you're recognizing that it was trauma or abuse ... you're mourning your own identity loss," Buss said.

This, in turn, is wrapped into your own religious beliefs, forcing you to question whether breaking the cycle of abuse is even the right thing to do.

Up in Northern Michigan, does this perspective penetrate a jury? For religious individuals, do they see Lee Chatfield's offense as being more or a morale failing? Did he simply fail to resist evil temptations and need saving? Does he need God, now more than ever? Does he need a penance and then, at some point, forgiveness?

Does the church deserve a penance?

It may be up to survivors like Rebekah to prove that predatory sexual activity wrapped tightly in the cloth of Christianity is still predatory sexual activity.

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



KYLE MELINN

## CRIMINAL DEFENSE

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See Horford, Page 9

## LETTERS to the editor

### Lansing residents deserve safe homes

Lansing officials are allowing landlords to rent out homes without any regard for safety codes or regulations. In 2020, the city issued pink tags to more than 800 apartments in Lansing, according to reports in the Lansing State Journal.

Two years later, nothing has changed. In fact, residents are paying hundreds of dollars for apartments infested with rats, cockroaches, mice, exposed wiring, holes in the walls or ceilings, leaking plumbing, lack of running hot and cold water, functioning toilets and smoke alarms that don't work. Landlords are making profit off of others' poverty and desperation, collecting rent for properties in which no one should have to live. This is immoral, inhuman and un-American.

Where is the red line? When will city officials intervene? When will we see accountability?

Lansing residents have been very, very vocal. However, those pleas seemed to have fallen on deaf ears. Our local government has no plans to address this issue. Landlords have refused to make the necessary repairs and families are forced out onto the street. America is a First World

country, but Lansing residents are treated as Third World citizens.

I know what a Third World citizen treatment looks like. I was born in a Third World country. Anyone who thinks they are doing a good deed by providing slum housing to Lansing residents is highly mistaken. In fact, they are causing more harm and disservice than good. We have many homes in low-income areas that are dealing with an abundance of lead in paint and plumbing. Lansing will become the new Flint if changes are not implemented properly and urgently.

We must hold landlords accountable and educate Lansing residents of their rights and responsibilities. We must require landlords to pay for all relocation costs for tenants who are temporarily displaced because of code violations. Our local government needs to help displaced families find homes by creating an affordable housing trust fund. This trust fund would allow our city to build more affordable housing and it would give tenants an opportunity to find safer homes in case they are temporarily displaced because of code violations. No one should be at the mercy of slumlords. This needs to be a priority for Mayor Andy Schor and the Lansing City Council. Lives are at stake!

**Farhan Sheikh-Omar  
Lansing**

(The writer was a candidate for mayor of Lansing in 2021 primary election.)

## Horford

from page 8

dents for success.

As the grandson of dairy farmers, I experienced firsthand the importance of local farming and the emotion and responsibility these hard-working people feel for the land, their animals, and their communities. Farming isn't just a job — it's a way of life and one that is often undervalued.

Agriculture, food processing and related technology companies contribute \$450 million to our local economy and provide more than 5,000 jobs to our residents. The success of farming and associated industries in our region is vital to the prosperity of our communities and families. I commit to ensuring that our farming families

and agriculture remain a priority in our shared future.

I'm running for state Representative because I believe that the people of our great state are more similar than we are different. These three priorities reflect our commonalities and serve as a reminder that this campaign is about all of us and that the only way to lead effectively is to put people first.

One of the things I enjoy most is learning from individuals and groups with different experiences than myself, which is why I want to hear from you.

There are many opportunities to get involved with this campaign. Follow us on social media; send us an email; attend a campaign event; talk to voters with us; become a financial supporter; and, of course, make sure you vote on Aug. 2nd!

For this information and more, visit [JonHorford.com](http://JonHorford.com)



## CityPULSE LOCAL EXPERTS

### GIFTS

#### Did you know?

Supporting small businesses ensures more money stays in the communities those businesses serve. The U.S. Small Business Administration says \$48 out of every \$100 spent at a small business stays in the community. Shopping in person during the year — not just the holiday season helps our community retain more money.

On the flip side, when a person spends \$100 at a big-box store or a national chain, only \$14 remains in the community.

Local businesses are more likely to utilize other local businesses, such as banks, service providers and even farms. Small businesses also pay employees, many of whom are local and shop local, thereby keeping even more dollars in their communities.



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### CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

#### PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED STATE AND FEDERAL OPERATING ASSISTANCE AND PUBLIC HEARING

All citizens are advised that CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY ("CATA") has prepared an application for federal assistance as required under the federal transit laws, as amended, as follows:

#### Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act:

Section 5307 Federal Operating Assistance (including Public Transportation Security Projects)	\$ 17,203,421
Acquire Stationary Bus Fare Collection Equipment	\$ 100,000
Acquire Furniture/Graphics	\$ 50,000
Rehab/Renovate Bus Terminal	\$ 75,000
Acquire IT Hardware and Software	\$ 100,000
Acquire Mobile Surveillance/Security Equipment	\$ 150,000
Acquire Mobile Fare Collection Equipment	\$ 500,000
Rehab/Renovate Admin/Maintenance Facility	\$ 75,000
Other 3rd Party Contractual Services (Safety & Security, IT)	\$ 35,000
Security & Emergency Response Plans	\$ 25,000
Purchase Bus Shelters and Signage	\$ 30,000
Section 5311 FY 2020 FTA Rural Operating Assistance	\$ 474,168
Section 5311 FY 2021 FTA Rural Operating Assistance	\$ 481,777
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 19,299,366</b>

Operating and capital funds listed above include both urban and rural funds. This notice meets the Federal Transit Administration public notification requirements of 49 U.S.C. 5307. The above program will be the final program, unless amended.

CATA ensures that the level and quality of transportation service is provided without regard to race, color or national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For more information regarding our Title VI obligations or to file a complaint, please contact our Deputy CEO at 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI 48910.

The proposed application is on file at CATA, 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI and may be reviewed during a 30-day period (Jan. 10, 2022 – Feb. 9, 2022), Monday – Friday, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Written comments regarding the application and/or written requests for a public hearing to review the application must be received by 5 p.m. Feb. 9, 2022. If a hearing is requested, notice of the scheduled date, time and location will be provided at least 10 days in advance.

Submittals should be sent to CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY; Emergency Relief Grant Funding; Attn: Planning and Development Department; 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI 48910 or via email to: [marketing@cata.org](mailto:marketing@cata.org).

CP#22-004

# A fistful of nuggets

## The 2022 City Pulse People Issue

**T**he snow on the sidewalks is getting dirtier by the day. An uncertain new year is off the chain, waiting for you like a tricky hyena in a zoo after midnight.

An hour or two of beachcombing would be real nice right about now.

City Pulse's 6th annual People Issue doesn't put you on a pebbly shore with the sun on your shoulders, surrounded by random treasures, but the principle is the same. Each year around this time, we share the words and images of several local people we found particularly interesting. It's not a People of the Year, or Hotshots to Watch Out For, or a Best-Dressed or Most Influential list. It's just a shiny handful of nuggets from our big, diverse, hard-working, self-expressing, busy-just-being-themselves community.

Once again, Khalid Ibrahim of Eat Pomegranate Photography has created portraits of each subject. Ibrahim's deep curiosity, empathic soul and keen eye give him the uncanny ability to capture their essence.

This year's sampling is strong on entrepreneurs who parlayed their unique skills and personalities into thriving businesses: Altaye Tadesse, owner of Altu's Ethiopian restaurant in East Lansing; restauranteur Henry Kwok, owner of Henry's Place in Meridian Township; Liz McMurray, owner of Liz's Alteration shop on Lansing's east side; Tammara McCollum, owner of Smoothie Queen in the Allen Neighborhood Center's Accelerator Kitchen; and Bernie Porn, president of the influ-

ential polling firm EPIC MRA.

These entrepreneurs share a key trait with two more of our 2022 picks: hairstylist Ashley Medina and Jared Waltrip, aka drag queen Bentley James. They all have found effective and distinctive ways to share their particular experiences, tastes and aspirations with a larger community.

In Medina's case, that community includes hundreds of thousands who follow her on Tik-Tok as well as her customers at Bliss Salon, many of them from the LGBTQ community, who prize her styling skills, personal warmth and ability to rock a mullet. Waltrip shares his thoughts on becoming and being a drag queen, a skill he practices full time, and explains how drag creates a "safe space" for mainstream people and the LGBTQ community to party together and relax.

The People Issue isn't out to send any particular message, but this year's profiles tell us a lot about self-determination and persistence. McMurray tells us how hard it was to get a loan as a single Black woman in the 1970s and what it's been like to run a business solo for 43 years, watching everyone come and go around her. McCollum tells us about living in her car, listening to people carp at her to "get a regular job." Nevertheless, she stuck to her guns until she established a thriving smoothie operation on the east side. Similarly, it took a lot of love and persistence for Tadesse to get Altu's through its first year. She had to accustom her diners to unfamiliar tastes and textures and slow them down to enjoy the lingering social rituals

that go with Ethiopian food and culture, but she stuck with it, and the place is a local institution now. Henry Kwok gives us an inside look at how businesses evolve, creating unexpected dead ends and opportunities. Many successful entrepreneurs seem to feel obligated to tell younger people to "go for your dreams," but Kwok refreshingly warns us away from the rocky restaurant business. He urges anyone with a dream to "go slow," because "everything doesn't come at once."

Pollster Bernie Porn tells us how a person gets into such an esoteric field, and admits that, yes, his surname gives him some trouble.

Finally, with so many business owners in the bunch, it's only fitting that we also include someone with a bird's eye view of the business landscape: Julie Pingston, president and CEO of the Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau. Pingston took charge of the bureau in March 2020, just when the pandemic took off, an experience she called a "trial by fire." She tells us how an unprecedented crisis brought out the amazing resilience and resourcefulness of Lansing's hotel, restaurant and retail industry.

On second thought, maybe there is a message in this year's People Issue. Whether you decide to boldly go for your dreams or just sit in a corner and wait for the ice to melt outside, it won't hurt to take a little time and look around. The community is still strong, and there are some bright nuggets of humanity out there.

— LAWRENCE COSENTINO

## 5 Years of City Pulse People Issue Highlights • 2016 - 2021

**Farha Abbasi**, psychiatrist 2017

**Abolarin Agnona**, veterinarian 2017

**Haimen Al-Sumaidee**, refugee job development coordinator 2019

**Jose Aste**, head chef/owner of Tantay 2021

**Guadalupe Ayala**, Lansing diversity officer 2021

**Ligia Romero Balcarcel**, military veteran 2016

**Ryan Basore**, Weed activist/entrepreneur 2020

**Amy Bigman**, rabbi, Shaarey Zedek 2021

**Twyla Birdsong**, blues/soul singer 2016

**Melina Brann**, exec. dir., Women's Center 2021

**Debbie Carlos**, artist 2017

**Oscar Castaneda**, advocate for immigrants 2019

**Etienne Charles**, trumpeter/jazz prof 2018

**Ryan Claytor**, comic book artist 2016

**Suban Nur Cooley**, writer/editor 2017

**Guillermo Delgado**, painter 2020

**Morgan Doherty**, LGBT leader 2020

**Aarin Dokum**, Nokomis Center leader 2019

**Tana Fedewa**, survivors advocate 2019

**Steve Flaster**, salesman/educator 2018

**Krista Fuerst**, expectant parents advocate 2020

**Chana Kraus-Friedberg**, poet 2021

**Nic Gareiss**, dancer/musician 2017

**Deborah Guthrie**, Meridian Twp. clerk 2021

**Muhammad Hamdan**, physician 2016

**Lucas Holiday**, vocalist 2018

**Twesigye "Jackson" Kaguri**,

children's HIV/AIDS activist 2020

**Todd Karinen**, metal guru 2020

**Ezra & Marshall Kelly**, trans twins 2019

**Cameo King**, Grit, Glam & Guts founder 2021

**Tiesha King**, artist 2019

**Sarah Kovan**, Rhodes scholar 2016

**Rev. Phiw Langeni**, Salus Center director 2019

**Bill Lett**, Retired owner, Lett's Bridal 2019

**Liz McDaniel**, musician 2016

**Mark Meadows**, East Lansing mayor 2016

**Thierry Nana**, student, designer, artist 2018

**Jennifer Nagel**, fitness expert 2020

**Jerry Norris**, Fledge owner 2021

**Marilyn Plummer**, public servant 2018

**Amy Rickett**, actor/director 2018

**Jeana-Dee Allen & Dylan Rogers**,

Robin Theatre owners 2017

**Theresa Rosado**, journalist, artist, activist 2019

**Bob Rose**, artist 2021

**Robin Schneider**,

medical marijuana advocate 2017, 2019

**Alice Sessions**, preservationist 2018

**Jeff Shoup**, musician 2017

**Robert Song**, restaurateur 2017

**Whitney Spotts**, vocalist 2018

**Nick Stachurski**, director/marketer 2016

**Joseph Steinhardt**,

record producer, educator 2018

**Tashmica Torok**, Black rights activist 2016

**Willard Walker**, public servant 2021

**Eugene Wanger**, death penalty opponent 2020

**Elaine Womboldt**, neighborhood activist 2018

**Geri Alumit Zeldes**, journalism educator 2017



## LIZ MCMURRAY - OWNER OF LIZ'S ALTERATIONS

*Liz McMurray, 87, opened Liz's Alteration's & Gifts, at 1810 E. Michigan Ave., on Lansing's east side in 1978, 44 years ago. She has seen dozens of businesses come and go on the east side while serving her own loyal clientele and running a gift shop on the side.*

**Did you ever imagine you'd spend so much of your time sewing masks?**

I'm making tons of masks lately, of course. I never dreamed of having to make a mask. This pandemic is really something. God is trying to get the attention of all the people. I never figured I would live to 2000, much less 2020.

**You've come up with a lot of creative designs. Is it fun to make masks?**

Oh yes. I have fun hemming a pair of pants. I love what I'm doing. I really do.

**When did start sewing?**

I've been sewing, and getting paid for my work, since I was 7 years old, and I'm 87 now. My mom and my great-aunt started me off, making quilts on a pedal sewing machine. I had 16 siblings, eight boys and eight girls, and I made clothes for all of them, out of flour sacks, clothes that people gave us — you name it, whatever material you could find, I could make something out of it. I got a blue ribbon at the county fair for a white apron made out of a sack of flour. I made a dress for my baby sister, a doll dress I copied out of a Sears catalog without a pattern. I was 14 then.

**Where did you grow up?**

We had a 100-acre farm in Arkansas with everything on it — cows, chickens, guinea hens. I built a bird trap. We caught birds and ate 'em. I hated chopping cotton, plowing with a mule, but I did it. We'd go back and visit it, but I'd never want to go back there and live.

### How did you come to Lansing?

I had my own boutique shop in Sacramento, California, between 1965 and about 1970. I made dresses for ladies going to the president's inauguration. My husband was stationed out there, and when he got discharged, I came back home to Lansing with him.

When I first came here, I got me a steady job going with my mother-in-law to clean up rich folks' homes, all over, in Williamston, Mason, Eaton Rapids. I worked at just about every ladies' store and men's store in Lansing — Green's, Knapp's, Wisnick's. You probably never heard of them. That was a cleaning business, and they did alterations too. I did my apprenticeship for men's clothes at Holden Reid at 1600 E. Michigan. I learned how to do everything — shorten sleeves, turn a collar, shorten pants, take in a waist. The hardest part was putting in a zipper in men's pants. It used to take me an hour, and now it takes me 10 minutes.

### How did you get the shop at 1810 E. Michigan?

It was difficult. I went to every bank in Lansing to get a loan but they wouldn't give it to me because I was single, female and African American. I divorced my husband, got the house that my husband and I had, and he went with this woman into her house. I had equity in the house, and I went to a high-risk bank called First National Bank of East Lansing, which loaned me the money.

The doctor that owned this place was my customer. He moved to another part of town. So I moved on up to the east side! I was the owner, the manager, the accountant, the janitor, I was everything. I moved into the back. It was a doctor's house, really nice. It's a big old house with a fireplace, five bathrooms, and I manage it all. The only commute I have is across the street, to Gabriels Credit Union.

### Do you ever get lonely?

I get lonesome, but never lonely. I got Jesus, and that's all that I need. I remarried, met a young man named James and got married in 1982, and he just passed away last year. That was a great help. Everybody comes in here and asks, 'Aren't you afraid to be in here by yourself in this big old place?' No, I got a lot of hammers all through the house. I'll hit you upside the head with a hammer. But I don't even have to worry about that. I've been here all these years and nobody ever bothered me.

I wanted to tell you one thing, though.

### What's that?

Your photographer wanted me to come into his studio to take a photo, but I'm not coming. Either they take it here or I'm not coming. My shop, my business, identifies me, not somebody else. I want to be in my own environment.

(Khalid Ibrahim took the photo at the shop.)

— LAWRENCE COSENTINO

**See People, Page 12**



# People

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## **Henry Kwok - RESTAURANT OWNER**

*Henry Kwok, 36, owns Henry's Place, a neighborhood pub and restaurant in Meridian Township that specializes in "New American" cuisine along with some globally inspired flare. His family moved from Long Island to Michigan and opened Asian Buffet in 1998. Kwok laid out his own shingle and launched Harry's Place in a neighboring suite in 2016. He graduated from Okemos High School, earned a degree in supply chain management from Western Michigan University and lives in Okemos with his wife, Sharon, and their two daughters, Victoria and Isabella.*

### **Your family has been running restaurants for decades. Did you help out as a kid?**

There wasn't much choice. The restaurant on Long Island was close to home, so I could walk between them. From a young age, food was really the comfort zone that mended the family. We didn't talk much about politics or religion or anything. It was food that brought us all together.

### **Was it a big adjustment to move from Long Island to Okemos as a kid?**

It was a culture shock. New York is like a melting pot with thousands of people from different countries. Okemos is a little town without high rises, traffic and all the hustling and bustling.

It was also frigid and dark when I moved up here. I remember think-

ing on my first day of school: "I don't know if I can handle this." But everyone was so nice. It made the transition pretty easy.

### **Do you remember much from the early days of Asian Buffet?**

I always came straight from school to help out with the counter, seating people and busing tables. My worst and fondest memories were making dumplings — thousands of them.

It was brutal work, but it was also nice because we had great conversations when we were doing it. That's when we got together. I really didn't have a social life outside of the restaurant in middle and high school. I don't think I went to a single football game in high school. But it was worth it. I wouldn't change anything because I think it helped prepare me for today. I learned how much hard work and patience is needed to run a restaurant from my parents.

### **What made you want to open up Henry's Place next door?**

It was a combination of luck and poor planning. The Christian bookstore next door went through a bankruptcy and didn't renew the lease. I was thinking about branching off on my own and opening up another restaurant that incorporated more of my own personal style and flavors.

### **What is that personal style?**

We're just rolling with it. The whole menu is kind of experimental. We just picked things and thought, "Oh, this sounds good. Let's try it." And that's kind of how Henry's Place was born. About 90% of the food on the menu is made in the kitchen. We also specialize in craft cocktails — with real fruit juices and house-made syrups. We also have a lot of craft beer on tap. We try to support a lot of Michigan-based purveyors in deciding what items to put into the menu. A lot of the menu just comes from me dining out and finding things I like. Don't get me wrong: I love Asian food, but there are all sorts of other cuisines that are really

good too. It's selfish, but the menu is just me assembling everything that I like. It's all a reflection of my personal taste.

### **What are some of your favorite restaurants in Greater Lansing?**

Bridge Street Social. StateSide Deli & Restaurant. I try to support local businesses.

### **Any favorite experiences or noteworthy customers from over the years?**

There was a couple — Carl and Marilyn — that came into Asian Buffet every single day. Carl was a magician and would tell me jokes and stories. I remember him showing off magic tricks in the restaurant and him joking about how he came there often enough to have paid for my car.

### **What do you do when you're not working?**

Ironically, I don't really cook at home, mainly because I spend most of my time here at the restaurant. I do like to delve into high-end steaks. There's an online group where we all get together to buy some premium steaks — like Japanese Wagyu. Again, I think that's all because I like to try new things and help other people try new things, then hear their feedback about it.

Otherwise, I like to go to the gym a lot. I try to reduce all of that restaurant stress by working out.

### **Any advice for others looking to get started in the restaurant business?**

Don't do it. It takes a toll on your body, mind and soul. It's demoralizing. If you have to do it, do it because you really want to do it, not because of the money. Do it because you have a passion for the restaurant and your products. Also: Go slow. Everything doesn't come all at once.

— KYLE KAMINSKI



# People

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## JULIE PINGSTON - GLCVB PRESIDENT

*Julie Pingston became president/CEO of the Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau as the COVID-19 epidemic descended on the state. At 54, the Clawson native helped lead the organization through uncertain times and worked behind the scenes to support numerous local businesses impacted by the epidemic.*

**You have worked your way up at GLCVB, holding multiple roles since 1993. How did you end up here?**

[After completing studies at Alma] I got appointed to the [U.S.] Commerce Department in the travel and tourism administration in D.C., because it was always my goal to live in D.C. I had that goal when I was in third grade. So I moved to D.C. and got appointed. And then, three years later, when I wanted to come back to Michigan, I really liked tourism.

**Are you seeing the growth of ethnic and specialty eateries in Lansing aiding your efforts to market the community?**

We're absolutely seeing that growth. And we're also seeing that our visitors are looking for that. They're looking for something that is unique to our community. And so we do have such international connectivity here with our number of refugees that who have settled here. And so that becomes part of our story and part of what we are as a community. So people then look for that and are inspired to then try new things and go to different places.

**How has the epidemic impacted your work?**

I became president and CEO March 11, 2020. So the very first thing I got to do was meet with our team and start to slowly tell everyone they were just going to work remote a couple of weeks until we get this all behind us, right? That's where we all started. On that Friday we actually had two pretty significant trade



show setups. One over at Michigan State, one at the Lansing Center.

We watched the numbers of people just diminish by the second. It was so quick, it went from 250 to 50 to 10 in about a day and a half it seemed, but it was probably about a week.

By the next Friday, we had to put our whole staff on furlough except for five people because obviously with no one in the nation moving that affects everything we do. And the hotels were immediately seeing the effect of cancellations and no one coming and all the events, obviously, not being able to take place.

So it really does give you a trial by fire. I just started, "OK, what can we do? How do we continue to get any kind of message out? And how do we do the right things and stay connected and keep our doors open as an organization?"

We started doing things really differently. We spent so much time previously promoting outside of our four walls of our region. We needed to promote inside. All of a sudden we were collecting every patio that was offering food or curbside takeout. We had lists for all of that. And that's what was getting shared by many people and what people were relying on to keep the businesses going.

**The day you're appointed is literally the day after the pandemic reached Michigan and the state of emergency was declared. What's the biggest takeaway? What did you learn about Lansing, in this last 20 months, that you never thought about?**

I actually said this in our annual meeting on Zoom a year-plus ago, last March, because the creativity of everybody in our industry — hotels, restaurants, retail — was just amazing. Who would've thought that we would've been able to accomplish some of the things that we did or that people would make a tent village just to get people to eat outside. We helped promote

that and answer questions. In our community, we have not had any hotels go out of business. Obviously there's been a few restaurants, but there's been new ones open. So we've worked with some of them as well to get their message out, and the same with retail.

— TODD HEYWOOD

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# People

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## ALTAYE TADESSE RESTAURANT OWNER

*Altaye Tadesse, 58, grew up in western Ethiopia and came to the United States in 1986. Her husband had been accepted to study chemistry at the University of Michigan. They and their two daughters moved to East Lansing for his post-doc studies at MSU before he was hired by the state. Tadesse, who prefers being called Altu, opened Altu's Ethiopian eatery in 1996.*

**What motivated you to open an Ethiopian restaurant in East Lansing?**

I've always loved cooking from early on, and when I first came to Lansing, I really wanted to start an Ethiopian restaurant. There was nothing in Lansing, even ethnic foods were very little — I remember Woody's, and even the Indian restaurants came after I opened. Woody's was the only one I remember as ethnic food. And so that got me really excited. And so I started working on it. Five years I tried and tried and tried, finally I got a little spot in where I am right now and then started very small.

**The food was more than just feeding somebody, there was a whole emotional, social connection process to it as well as cultural trying to bring community together, is that correct?**

Mealtime eating is not just grabbing something and running in my culture. The family gets together and have a big plate they share from, they sit and they talk, and they eat and they laugh, and it takes a process actually, takes time. It's a family time, and we don't really do just running like the Americans, like grab a sandwich and eat as we drive. That is not our case. So you can see it in the way that the food is served too. You can't really get it to go and eat on your way. **You didn't change that cultural aspect of food when you opened in 1996. How has that helped you succeed all these years?**

It's a new experience for Americans too, for people who just tried it for the first time. And the first few

years people asked how to eat it, and I showed them personally how they have to cut the bread and take their sauce. Actually, I would take a small plate and go to people's tables when they are starting. This is how you eat. It's family time, take your time and eat. So, it's an experience that everybody embraced. I didn't want to change it because the whole idea of starting that Ethiopian restaurant is to bring that culture and somehow open people's eyes to a different culture and how it can be enriching culture that it would open people's eyes to having different ethnic food. Food is the learning into the culture of the country too.

**When you opened the restaurant, how did the community originally react?**

In 1984 was the big starvation in Ethiopia that everybody knew. I had to explain that it's not the whole country that's starved. There were people who had to share their food. I mean, it wasn't like all of us were starting at that point. That's what I explained to people. I took so much energy into turning that around, but then after second year I could see people being curious and coming in and seeing it and loving it and sharing it. So, yeah, it did take long for the community to embrace it.

**What is your favorite story of people discovering Ethiopian food in your restaurant?**

I have couples who came in on their first date to the restaurant, and then continued dating and then got married and had children, and their children's favorite food becomes this one too and still continue doing that. So I have like generations, their parents and the couple that got married and their kids. That's my favorite story to tell. I have a few families that still like to send me Christmas cards or send me their kids getting married or children growing up. I have a connection that way to the community.

**How does your success help build a sense of community for you as a woman, an immigrant, a woman of color?**

My hope is all that I've done so far has encouraged many other immigrants or people of color or women to compete or to just say, "I am here. I can do it." When immigrants come here, it's hard to navigate job situations, with the language and the culture difference, but when they see what has happened with me, I think they get encouraged to step out of their comfort zone and explore what's available to them, and I believe I helped some see the light that way.

— TODD HEYWOOD

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# People

from page 14



### ASHLEY MEDINA

#### Hairstylist

*Ashley Medina, 42, is Lansing's mullet master. Featured on NPR, she has more than a half-million followers on Tik-Tok. A session with Medina can feel cathartic and therapeutic, as her clients — many of whom identify as LGBTQ+ — share their stories and life experiences with Medina. Medina's bold haircuts are a powerful form of self-expression that give confidence to those who sometimes need it the most.*

#### When did you decide to become a hairstylist?

My aunt Pat was a hairstylist with a salon at home. Whatever we could think of, we would go to her, and she could make it happen. There was a lot of stylists in family — cousins and aunts — even my dad and my grandfather used to cut people's hair in the kitchen. Maybe we're a vain family, that could be possible. I first got into hair strictly for my own vanity. I wanted to have good hair. I was never fully satisfied when I left the salon, so I would do my hair myself. After many years of doing my hair, people would say, 'You did such a good job on yours, will you do mine?' I said, 'I can help you guys!' Then I realized how much more fulfilling it is to help others than it is to just have good hair myself.

#### When did your fascination for mullets begin?

In 2009, I got pregnant. And when I was pregnant, that's when I got into minimalism. My mullet came about with that, as did wearing all black and wearing the same hoodie daily. I told myself, 'I'm pregnant; I need to minimize my life to simplify things and focus on this little nugget I'm growing.' But the honest truth is that my daughter had a birthday party, and I didn't have time to look at myself and get ready. When the pictures came back, I was disgusted with

how my hair looked. I said, 'Fuck this, I need a hairstyle that always looks badass.' That was the moment when I said, 'I need a mullet.' It was 2011 when I first shaved my head and began growing a mullet, so it's been about 10 years.

#### How did you get connected with Bliss Salon?

I was looking around for a new job, and the manager at my beauty supply shop told me to talk to Dallas Angelosanto, the owner of Bliss. I met her and it went really well. I knew it was going to be a good fit when Dallas told me she hired based on personality, not skill level. What she has cultivated has a great energy, everybody that comes in notices it. You can feel it, and that's what really sold it to me. When I first started working there, Bliss was up and coming. Over the years, we've really grown together. I could not do what I do and have the success that I have had without them. I've thought about opening my own place plenty of times, but it's just such a great team that it's just not time for me yet.

#### What is it about you that attracts media attention and thousands of social media followers?

All of my videos that blow up are never the ones that are like, "Hey look at this amazing work I did." The ones that go viral are the ones of me talking to my clients about what they want to get. I do think that I'm a great hairstylist, but it means more to me that I am touching people. I am so honored that they're trusting me to be a part of this transitional period in their life, whether they're transitioning genders or they're not feeling comfortable in their body and their hair isn't matching how they picture themselves on the inside. It's sensitive and vulnerable, and there's so much emotion on their end. It's a

nerve-wracking thing to sit in a chair and hope that this hairstylist will listen to you and actually be able to execute what they say they're going to execute. It proves how many people can relate to sitting in that chair; being nervous and trying to figure out how to explain things that you yourself might not understand.

— SKYLER ASHLEY

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## BERNIE PORN

**Pollster**

Bernie Porn, 72, is the president of EPIC MRA, a Lansing-based survey research firm with decades of polling experience on a variety of topics to help guide campaigns for candidates, millages, bond proposals and other political advocacy. Porn was raised in Flushing, attended Mott Community and Aquinas colleges and worked in the Michigan House of Representatives for 19 years — including a stint as the House communications director from 1990 to 1992.

**Have you always wanted to be involved in politics?**

I had illusions of playing professional basketball or coaching. I also played the drums in my high school band, so I thought I might be a band director. It was my father who got me into politics. In 1960, he was the head of the Genesee County Republican Party and he had a chance to meet Vice President Richard Nixon. My dad was helping with my homework and his secretary came in and said, "Mr. Porn, the vice president is here." And he said, "Tell him I'll be with him in a few minutes. I'm just finishing up Bernie's homework." So, one of my earliest memories is him keeping the vice president waiting for a few minutes while he finished up a few more problems. After I graduated college, I sold shoes, but it was my dad who was always bugging me to look for political jobs in Lansing. I got sick of selling shoes and took a campaign job for a state Rep. John Otterbacher. It was either \$100 a month or \$100 a week — not a whole lot.

**How did that transition into polling?**

I did some polling as early as 1972 in college, but it was working on campaigns that hooked me. In 1985, we established a partnership and moved these political operations offsite so that nobody could say that we were working on campaigns on state House time and equipment. In 1992, that turned into a full-time job with EPIC MRA. I joke that the EPIC means "everybody pays in cash," but it's actually Education, Political, Industrial, Consumer, Market, Research and Analysis.

**Before we continue: I have to ask about that**

**unique last name.**

There are more people named Porn in the Greater Genesee County area than anywhere else on the planet. I believe, in Denmark, at one point the name was Bjorn. And it had somehow been changed to Porn. My father took jokes about it very seriously, but I don't really mind them.

And yes, I have been teased. A guy who worked in the Treasury used to call me "Softcore."

**How often are you surprised by your results?**

Fairly frequently. We just finished polling for a school district, and for one reason or another people do not usually like to see tax dollars spent on artificial turf for a high school football field. In the district that we just polled, people didn't oppose it at all. They actually supported it.

On the whole, I find surprises all the time. That's part of what keeps the job interesting to me.

**Are there any particular memories of any particular polls that stand out to you?**

When Howard Wolpe ran for governor against John Engler, we had polling that showed Engler was going to win handily. Howard called me and said, "Your poll numbers are killing us." And I said, "Well, Howard, they're not our numbers. They're your numbers. You're not running a particularly effective campaign." And sure enough, our polling exactly matched the results. We also had polling about whether Lansing would support a baseball team and build a stadium. Right before former Lansing Mayor Dave Hollister took office, I told him to push the baseball stadium. Sure enough, he did, and it worked. That's something that has benefitted the region.

**What do you do outside of work?**

I have some underlying health issues, which has made me paranoid over the last two years with the pan-

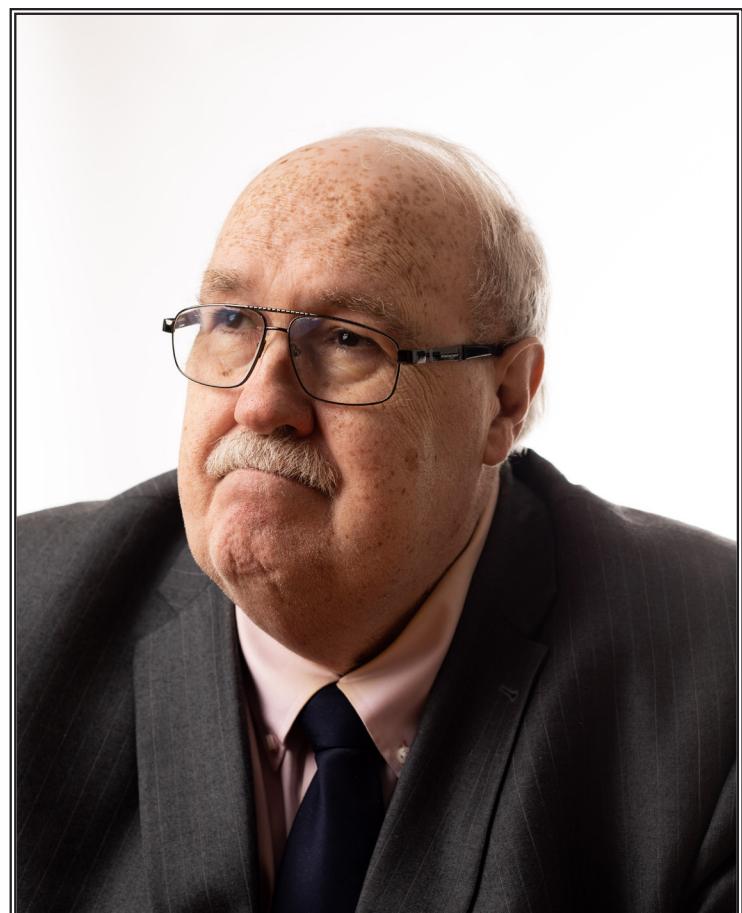
demic. Even though I'm vaccinated to the hilt, I haven't gone into the office in a while. I used to run karaoke shows at Irish pubs and I got to know a lot of people in the area from doing that. I've probably sung 300 songs ranging from Frank Sinatra and Elvis to Johnny Cash.

**Any predictions on 2022 elections?**

There's so much up in the air. I don't think Democrats can ignore Trump in 2022 or 2024 because he's always going to be the 800-pound gorilla in the room. He may be impossible to stop. The bigger question may be whether he'll be fitted for an orange jumpsuit before then.

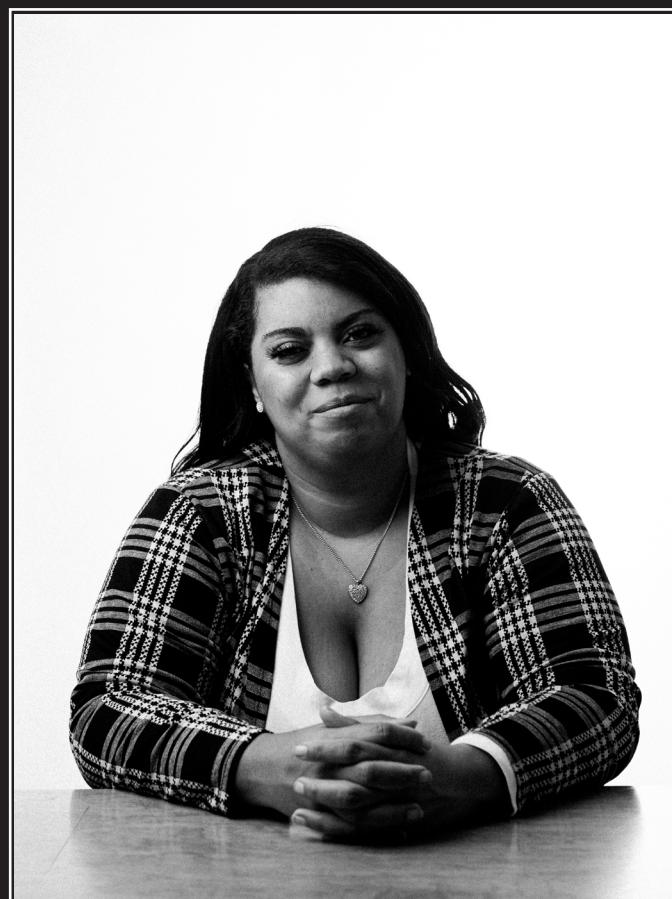
— KYLE KAMINSKI

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## TAMMARA MCCOLLUM

**Owner of Smoothie Queen**

*Tammara McCollum, 29, is the owner of Smoothie Queen, a successful shop that operates out of the Allen Neighborhood Center's Accelerator Kitchen. McCollum lost her home and lived in her car after she left behind the day-job grind to be her own boss. McCollum worked day and night on her dream, serving smoothies out of friends' apartments and tirelessly promoting her new business on social media. While it would've been easy to find another 9 to 5 job and call it quits on Smoothie Queen, she didn't give up.*

**How did you discover your passion for making smoothies?**

Smoothies actually kind of found me. I've always liked to cook and create new things, but back then I noticed there wasn't a place to get smoothie bowls here in Lansing, at least to my knowledge. So, I wanted to make a smoothie bowl and see what it was like. I went out and bought a blender, got some fruit and made one. It was one of the best things I had ever had. I was like, 'I've got to tell people about this!' I put it on Facebook, and it gained a lot of attention. I thought I could probably sell them and make some money, because at that time I wasn't employed. I lost my job and was trying to figure out what was next for me.

**Before you found success with Smoothie Queen, you experienced some hard times. What was that time in your life like?**

I was trying to make it happen just by selling smoothies. I didn't know the right way. I didn't have my license, and I was just selling smoothies out of my apartment. That wasn't really feasible, and I learned that the hard way. In January 2020, I lost my apartment and I had to live in my car. It wasn't a sustainable business, and I didn't have the right resources around me. That's how I ended up at Allen Neighborhood Center, and now I have a lot of great people surrounding me and helping me every step of the way.

**What kept you motivated through such a hard time?**

A lot of people were trying to convince me to go back to a regular job. I was already miserable living in my car, I didn't want to be more miserable doing something I hate and feeling like I gave up on myself just because it got hard. People thought I was crazy, and I would have thought I was crazy too. Like, girl, you're living in your car! You've got to do something. It was this strong internal belief in myself, I knew that if I kept going it would get better. I don't know how to explain it better. I still have that belief, even when we have zero sales or there's a real cold day and roads are bad. I know it's going to get better, and the sun will shine again.

**How did you get connected with the Allen Neighborhood Center?**

I realized that I needed a real licensed kitchen to do my business. I did a quick Google search for 'licensed kitchens near me' and Allen's website popped up. The Allen Neighborhood Center offers tours where they walk you through their kitchens. I called to set up a meeting and a tour. Then, once I could get enough money for a food license and all of the certificates I needed, I was able to start there. When we got started at Allen, my numbers were like I had never seen before. I was reaching new demographics and getting way more opportunities. I was getting new customers from the farmers market, and all of the press and articles I was getting helped boost my business and get more eyes on me. It happened really quickly, all of a sudden everybody knew about Smoothie Queen, and I had to hire employees.

**What advice would you give to people thinking about starting their own business?**

First, have a plan. I didn't have a plan; I just went for it. So, write out a

business plan. Make sure you have some savings to get you through the harder start-up phase. This is going to sound cliché, but you really have to believe in yourself and persevere. It's not always going to be an easy, straight route. There's going to be ups and downs, and you have to be just as mentally prepared for the downs as you are for the ups. If people really believe in themselves, they can do it.

— SKYLER ASHLEY

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## Jared Waltrip AKA BENTLEY JAMES - Drag Queen

*Jared Waltrip, 30, was born in Flint and grew up in near Detroit. He moved to Lansing after marrying his husband, Trennen Reich. Waltrip is a full-time drag queen who performs under the flashy and feminine persona Bentley James. As Bentley James, Waltrip tours the country to appear at drag shows and festivals and is a permanent cast member at Hamburger Mary's dinner theater. Through drag, Waltrip has found a loving community and a way to fearlessly express himself.*

### How were you introduced to drag queen culture?

I was 18 and in college. I wasn't even out of the closet. A roommate was gay, and he invited me to a club for his birthday. I was like, 'Sure I'll go, whatever.' I was trying to play it like I was straight, and I was just cool with everybody. I saw a drag performer and I remember immediately forgetting about all of my problems. I was like, 'I want to do that for other people!' I wanted to make them happy and make them forget about all of the other crap in their lives. I started, and I never stopped.

### How did you develop your Bentley James drag persona?

A lot of it comes from my appreciation of strong beautiful women. I get a lot of my style and the way I carry myself from my drag mother, Melony Munro. She is an absolutely stunning transwoman, showgirl and performer. She carries herself with a lot of femininity, beauty and grace. Things like that really inspire me.

### When you came out, did you have the support of your friends and family?

I feel like I had it a lot easier than most people. When I came out, it was 2010. I told my parents over the phone, and the only thing they had to say was, "OK, cool. When are you going to be home for dinner?" I feel like it was something they already

knew and were cool with. There was never anything issue with it. Since then, they have been my biggest supporters. My mom and my dad are my best friends.

### Where do you perform as Bentley James? Where are your favorite places for drag shows?

I am lucky enough to have drag queen performances as my full-time job. I do a lot of traveling and I am a cast member at Hamburger Mary's in Grand Rapids and Ypsilanti. I do shows out in Detroit, and I've performed out in Chicago, Las Vegas, Los Angeles and Florida. But Hamburger Mary's is my home base, I'm there more often than anywhere else. It's really cool. It's a restaurant that's open seven days a week, and we have shows every night. It's a dinner-with-a-show kind of vibe. In Lansing, we also do brunch performances at Ellison Brewery in REO Town. We started that last summer, and so far, it has gone really well.

### What are some misconceptions people have about drag queens?

The biggest one is that all drag queens want to be women, and that's why we're doing what we're doing, like we have a big crossdressing fetish. That's not always the case. There are drag queens who are women, and we love and accept them. There are transgender drag queens too. For myself, I do it for a sense of artistic expression and to make people happy. I do a lot of good with it too. We raise money for a lot of different charitable organizations. But when I come home, I am a man and I like that.

### What is the importance of drag in bringing LGBTQ+ culture and acceptance to the mainstream?

I think that drag is a really easy and fun way for mainstream communities to see what the LGBTQ+ culture is about. It's a big party, it's somewhere you can relax and enjoy yourself. It's a safe space. Usually, you can talk to performers after the show, which is a good way for the mainstream population to see that we're just like everybody else. After getting to talk to us, people say, 'OK, I understand more about who these people are. They're just like me, but they're in fabulous costumes and rhinestones.'

— SKYLER ASHLEY

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January 21, 2022 - 12 p.m.  
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# ARTS & CULTURE

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## Take the Coltrane

Trumpeter Charles Tolliver brings 'Africa Brass' to MSU

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

A mighty roar is coming to the MSU College of Music's annual Martin Luther King Jr. commemoration this year, courtesy of an American jazz legend.

Make that two jazz legends.

Charles Tolliver, the clarion trumpeter and composer who coruscated across the jazz scene in the 1960s, will conduct MSU's powerhouse Jazz Octet Sunday in his own arrangement of the landmark John Coltrane album, "Africa Brass," as the centerpiece of a multi-faceted celebration of King and his legacy.

By crude medical standards, Coltrane is no longer with us, but he'll be there, too.

The chance to hear "Africa Brass" live is rarer than a total eclipse. The 1961 album was unique, even in Coltrane's mind-blowing run of quantum leaps — a stampede of trumpeting elephants, drumming out the cosmic unity of mankind and music and the deep African roots of both.

"This work probably would have been a memory on record, had not Reggie Workman in 1998 asked me to see if I couldn't transcribe it," Tolliver said in a phone interview. (Workman was Coltrane's bassist in 1961 and plays on the original "Africa Brass" album.)

A formidable phalanx of horns, trumpets and trombones unfurl a bird-of-paradise extension of Coltrane's classic quartet, rumbling like a volcano and glowing with harmonic and textural sophistication.

"The story goes that the original arrangements, by alto saxophonist Eric Dolphy and pianist McCoy Tyner, were lost in a fire at Dolphy's mother's home during the Watts riots," Tolliver said.

"Nothing had been done with it from 1961 until 1998."

The Tolliver arrangement premiered at Lincoln Center's outdoor Damrosch Park and a handful of universities, then sat on the shelf until 2011, the 50th anniversary of "Africa Brass," when Tolliver brought it to the Frankfurt Jazz Festival, with no less a soloist than powerhouse tenor saxophonist Archie Shepp.

"I mean, it's really all about the tenor solo," Tolliver said, savoring the understatement.

Most of the original "Africa Brass" arrangements are credited to Dolphy, who also plays on the album. But in Tolliver's view, the ringing, joyous chords favored by Coltrane's pianist, McCoy Tyner, are the big bangs that power the big band.

"Eric was looking over McCoy's shoulders and used those grand harmonic voicings McCoy had," Tolliver said. "It's very uplifting. To see it performed, viscerally, it's really grand."

Tolliver worked on the arrangements for three solid months.

"I was faithful to the original music on the record, note for note," he said. "I didn't want to fool with this grand idea. The instrumentation is exactly as it is on the record."

Workman suggested that Tolliver add a choir. That took another four months.

"The choir makes it a spectacular event," Tolliver said.

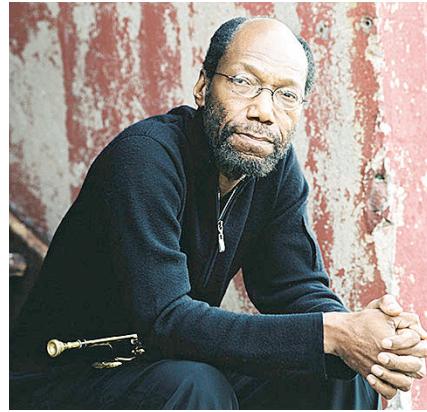
Tolliver premiered the choir-enhanced version of "Africa Brass" Dec. 4 at the University of California at Santa Cruz, as the climax of a three-month-long residency there.

Unfortunately, the current COVID surge makes it impossible to include a choir Sunday at Fairchild Theatre.

"Hopefully, when things quiet down and this scourge is a thing of the past, maybe we can do it with a choir, as Reggie Workman originally envisioned it," Tolliver said.

Tolliver had no trepidation about recreating a jazz masterpiece, nor does he doubt MSU musicians will live up to the legacy Sunday.

"When it premiered, I was satisfied with it," he said. "It sounded like the



Courtesy photo

Trumpeter and composer Charles Tolliver bring his arrangement of John Coltrane's "Africa Brass" to Sunday's Martin Luther King Jr. commemoration.

record. As long as there are good performers, it'll be OK. Rodney Whitaker has a wonderful program there."

Tolliver, who turns 80 in March, will have some priceless stories to share with MSU jazz students. Born in Jacksonville, Florida, Tolliver got his first instrument, a cornet, from his grandmother. He went to pharmacy school at Howard University, but the trumpet's clarion call drew him to New York. Biographies usually say that his first gig was with cutting-edge alto saxophonist Jackie McLean (dig their Blue Note CD "Action"), but that's not quite true.

"My first gig with professionals was with Ike and Tina Turner, with backup singers, dancing, the whole revue," he recalled. "Students of today don't get schooled in these kinds of bands."

When Tolliver hit the scene in New York in the mid-1960s, jazz was exploding with the avant-garde concepts of Coltrane, Albert Ayler, Ornette Coleman and other sonic alchemists that dissolved the music's formal and emotional boundaries and opened portals into interstellar space.

Tolliver likes to remind his students that these musical gods were just people.

"Coltrane was still playing when us kids were coming up," Tolliver said. "You could go see him, see the quartet. He was accessible. After he left the stage, he would either be in the dressing room, still playing, or quietly reading a book and smoking his favorite brown cigarillos. I had a chance to say hello to him."

Tolliver absorbed and distilled the innovations of the early 1960s into his own muscular sound, open to wild side journeys yet always grounded in the greats that came before. In epic tracks like "On the Nile" (a worthy companion piece to "Africa Brass"), his trumpet bursts with rapid-fire fanfares and urgent calls to arms that shoot like contrails over rolling mountain ranges of rhythm.

"It's called the king of the instruments, but it's also the most dangerous," Tolliver said. "It's totally unforgiving. Any mistakes are quite evident."

Tolliver and pianist-composer Stanley Cowell were among the first jazz artists to take ownership of their music, forming the Strata-East jazz label in 1971.

Today, Strata-East recordings by Tolliver's dynamic combo, Music Inc., are thrilling a new generation of listeners on glorious vinyl.

"It was a labor of love," Tolliver said. "We did it, not thinking it would succeed or survive. It was in the moment, and once we did it, it took on a life of its own."

Tolliver thinks the big labels should have stuck with vinyl all along.

"As a young person, you went to the music store, went through the bins, and you could pull out this 12-by-12 inch album, look at the beautiful artwork, take that vinyl out and put it on your turntable," he said. "Then we got to this small, little CD package. Beautiful as it's been done, it's not the same. No question that the industry was going to have to come back to vinyl at some point."

Tolliver has played with many jazz icons, from saxophonist supreme Sonny Rollins, drum legends Max Roach and Art Blakey to brilliant pianists like Herbie Hancock and Andrew Hill. Still, there are a few musicians he missed, and would have loved to encounter.

"I would love to have had an audience with Fats Navarro," he said.

Navarro, a blindingly fast bebop pioneer, died in 1950, when Tolliver was 9. The mind immediately conjures up an imaginary, cross-generational trumpet battle, but that's not what Tolliver had in mind.

"No, no," he said. "Just to sit in a corner while he's practicing, just listening."

# New store in Lansing Mall doesn't charge its customers

By SKYLER ASHLEY

A new store in the Lansing Mall eliminates the single biggest barrier between the under privileged and necessary items like a new jacket or a pair of shoes: money. The Fretail Store invites those in need to come in, shop and take whatever they need, free of charge.

Fretail Store owner Michael Karl, founder of the volunteer organizations Homeless Angels and Cardboard Prophets, as well as the Capital Area Diaper Bank, wanted to create a safe haven for people who don't have the money to shop elsewhere to get important quality of life goods without



## The Fretail Store

Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.  
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Lansing  
[Facebook.com/lansingmallfretailstore](https://Facebook.com/lansingmallfretailstore)

worrying about cost or judgment.

"It allows people that would never have a shopping experience, to have one with dignity. It allows them to come in the mall and shop just like they would in any other store. They have stuff put in a bag at checkout, with a receipt that

**See Fretail, Page 22**



Samples of merchandise that is given out for free at The Fretail Store in the Lansing Mall.

Courtesy

# Dancing on hot coals

Trauma and loss haunt  
Lansing Symphony concert

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Amid the mass casualties, bomb blasts and dancing dictators of the mid-20th century, the dark art we now call "processing" trauma was perfected by Soviet composer Dmitri Shostakovich.

In Shostakovich's searing first cello concerto, the centerpiece of Friday's Lansing Symphony concert, soloist Suren Bagratuni will have to push beyond his instrument's mellow songfulness and chop into the viscera of life like a butcher.

The cello sings, sobs and sighs in an almost human voice, and at the end it even dances — with naked feet on hot coals.

The evening's opener is no less unorthodox: LSO composer-in-residence Patrick Harlin's magnum opus, "River of Doubt," a mesmerizing voyage into the Amazon rain forest that blends orchestral music with forest sounds Harlin recorded himself. The evening's grand closer is the sixth symphony of Czech composer Antonin Dvorak.

Shostakovich's first cello concerto was written in 1959, nearly a generation after World War II and five years after the death of dictator Joseph Stalin, but human wreckage haunts the work from beginning to end.

Its demands on the cellist, both technical and emotional, are extreme.

"It's a very physical experience for me," Bagratuni said. "I've played it many times around the world, and I think it's one of the most important pieces in the cello repertoire."

This Friday's concert will be Bagratuni's first orchestral concert in the United States in two years.

He was born in Erevan, Armenia, and grew up in the Soviet Union when it was still reeling from a cataclysmic war and waves of Stalinist purges that, taken together, caused deaths in the tens of millions.

For music Director Timothy Muffitt, just having Bagratuni on stage makes the night an event.

"This has been a long time coming," Muffitt said. "There aren't very many people who play the cello the way Suren plays."

Muffitt is almost chagrined that he hasn't worked with Bagratuni yet. After years of doing the schedule dance, the Shostakovich concert was finally set — in the totally lost season of 2020-21. Muffitt restored it to the top of his priorities for this season.

"This concerto is part of his DNA — it's going to be among the great readings of this work," Muffitt said.

After the jabbing, sarcastic melodies and countermelodies of the first movement, the second movement brings a melancholy, hushed melody Bagratuni calls a "tragic lullaby" — the core of the concerto and his favorite part.

The cello sings its heart out over an uneasy, slow rocking from the orchestra until the lullaby drifts into a glassy, spectral register of ultra-high harmonics. A celeste, a keyboard instrument that



Courtesy MSU College of Music

After a year's delay because of the pandemic, cellist Suren Bagratuni will dive into Dmitri Shostakovich's first cello concerto at Friday's Lansing Symphony concert.

sounds like tiny bells, quietly snatches the thinning song into the stars, as if a soul had just left the Earth.

The passage often brings listeners to tears.

"It's the first time you hear the celeste in the whole work, the only time, and the moment has incredible impact," Muffitt said.

"I don't like to share this with people, because it is rather dark, but I imagine a field of war," Bagratuni said. "A mother realizes she is singing a lullaby to a baby who is dead. Growing up in the Soviet Union, I was born less than 20 years after the end of the war, and this is what comes to my mind."

The stunning solo passage, or cadenza, that follows, seems to take us inside the brain and pinch the central nerve that holds a human being together. Frantic glissandos go up and down the instrument, grabbing for a lifeline. Bits of former melodies struggle for

air under the building ice pack. Crash — the cello breaks through and rides the orchestral chaos to the bitter end, even throwing in a dance figure or two. Might as well. Chaos doesn't care.

"The pandemic is a world war, too, a cataclysmic world event, and the way art responds will be increasingly powerful," Muffitt said. "Shostakovich was one of the few composers who was still responding in a contemporary way, creating artwork that was of his time, but it had an immediacy that other composers were not finding."

The concert will open with Patrick Harlin's "River of Doubt," a half-hour orchestral journey through the Amazon rain forest inspired by Candice Millard's 2005 book.

The book details an ill-fated voyage of exploration that nearly killed former president Theodore Roosevelt.

In addition to composing music, Harlin also researches and documents natural sounds from around the world. "River of Doubt" weaves real insect and bird noises, captured by Harlin on tape, into a fluid orchestral tapestry. (Muffitt described the delicate blending of acoustic and recorded elements as "feathering," without apparent irony.) Harlin even specifies the bird species depicted by the musicians on the written score.

Although Shostakovich and Harlin are a century of history and half a world removed from one another, Muffitt said their music has an important element in common.

"Patrick's music also connects with the listener on the first hearing," Muffitt said. "Composers like Patrick, composers like Shostakovich, have found a way to be uncompromising in their style and their language and still be visceral and evocative."

# These edibles are strong enough to make Darren McCarty chill out

Former Red Wings ‘enforcer’ partners with Pincanna for new pot gummies

By KYLE KAMINSKI

Some of my closest childhood friends are hockey players. My family is also filled with hockey fanatics. So, when they heard that I had a chance to interview the great Darren McCarty last week, there was a bit of jealousy in the air — especially because I don’t really care about sports.

I know that there’s a puck, some ice, a couple of nets, something-something about an Octopus and that the players can occasionally beat the living hell out of each other without any real consequences. I also know that McCarty was really big on that last part, particularly for his involvement in the infamous “Fight Night at the Joe” against the Colorado Avalanche in 1997.

Nowadays, you can’t run a Google search on McCarty without hearing about his penchant for picking fights with other players on the ice. So, when I heard that his new cannabis-infused gummy lineup at Pincanna in East Lansing was capable of making this scrappy, four-time Stanley Cup champion chill out, I knew it would be some pretty good stuff. And I was right.

McCarty’s new gummies left me in a euphoric and relaxing haze for most of the weekend.

“Cannabis changes lives,” he said. “It’s the reason I didn’t stroke out or have a heart attack.”

McCarty told me that he began his foray into cannabis about two years ago when he partnered with Pincanna to launch his own namesake brand of marijuana products — a cannabis wellness “journey” that he said has helped



him stay clean from other drugs and alcohol since late 2015.

This month, McCarty’s brand expanded to include five different types of gummies infused with full-spectrum cannabis oil — all based on the former athlete’s personal lifestyle and preferences.

McCarty also assured me that the new products aren’t just some dumb branding gimmicks. He actually spent quite a lot of time at Pincanna’s cultivation facility in Pinconning to develop the products. He also uses all of them daily and vouches for their potency and therapeutic benefits.

There’s “Power Play” with 100mg of THC, which McCarty said he uses for pain management. There’s “Intermission” with 100 mg of CBD. Then, there’s “Game Day,” which combines both THC and CBD and helps McCarty to “relax and feel balanced,” he explained in a brief interview.

The other two varieties — “Shut Out” and “Lights Out” — are relatively rare on the recreational pot market for their inclusion of CBN, or cannabidiol rather than only CBD, or cannabidiol. Both are similar, non-intoxicating cannabinoids naturally found in pot plants, but far less is known about CBN’s potential health benefits because most processors simply don’t bother with it.

Some studies have shown that the specific combination of THC and CBN may produce a more sedated, couch-locky sort of high. Another study also reportedly showed that CBN carries anti-inflammatory and anti-convulsant properties for better muscle relaxation

## Lansterdam in Review: Darren McCarty X Pincanna



Darren McCarty

and pain relief.

McCarty labeled CBN as “the new frontier for those who are looking for a restful night’s sleep.”

Each of the packages are \$15 and contain 10 individually wrapped gummies, all the same fruity “Red Punch” flavor with no lingering medicinal or herbal aftertaste. I started in the morning with the straight-THC blend before transitioning to the CBN-infused gummies later in the evening — which turned out to be a good call, because the CBN varieties left me feeling very sleepy.

Also worth noting: These had some long-lasting effects. I was still sort of groggy in the morning.

My friends and family will probably be pleased to hear that my video interview with McCarty lasted only about 10 minutes. He was also driving the whole time — and his cellular service was so poor that I wasn’t able to understand much of anything he said. Y’all didn’t miss out on much.

I was able to confirm, however, that these gummies are indeed capable of keeping McCarty calm. And with his history of fighting with just about every team that the Red Wings have played,

that’s a pretty impressive testament to the potency and therapeutic power of his new gummies.

### While you’re there ...

Pincanna still holds the record for the cheapest weed in Greater Lansing with a wide variety of ounces for only \$99 plus tax. The Smallz is one of the lowest tier product lines at the store, but local stoners shouldn’t discount the brand just because the buds are tiny. This stuff isn’t shake.

I had an ounce of Banana Punch Muffin and an ounce of Undercover Butter delivered to my house on Sunday for only about \$230. Both strains were delightfully pungent, dusted with a thick, sticky layer of trichome goodness and were plenty potent enough to get me totally baked.

*Kyle Kaminski is City Pulse’s managing editor and a cannabis enthusiast who has been smoking marijuana just about every day for the last decade. Editor & Publisher Magazine has also labeled him as “arguably, the state’s authority on everything you need to know about cannabis.” Have a suggestion for a cannabis product? Email kyle@lansingcitypulse.com.*

## Fretail

from page 21

tells them they matter. They can walk out with dignity with the things that they need,” Karl said.

Items at the Fretail Store are all

tagged, and customers take what they’ve selected to the front desk and the merchandise is then given to them without exchanging any cash.

The Fretail Store, so far, has been successful. Since opening in December Karl said there have been more than 2,000 visitors to the shop. Karl and his volunteers log what is given out at the Fretail Store; Karl claimed the store has been responsible for handing

out 3,600 articles of clothes, 7,000 new toys, 1,500 diapers and “countless” personal care items.

“I thought what a cool idea to have a regular retail store but have everything be free, and so the Fretail Store was born. We have tags like any other store, but we give everything out for free. Everything from clothing, toys, shoes, food and diapers,” Karl said.

Karl said he was inspired to dedi-

cate himself to working with charitable organizations and creating foundations of his own, thanks to his own experience with homelessness. Help from a good Samaritan inspired Karl to continue paying it forward.

“I was homeless myself in the early-00s, and a pastor I met from Kalamazoo put me in a hotel. How I began helping people started with him helping me,” Karl said.

# Favorite Things

## Mychal Shaw and his Sylvan fishing boat



*Mychal Shaw likes to get his hands dirty. He has a lot of old school hobbies that see him spending time with his dogs roughing it outdoors. But above all else, his favorite past time is fishing, which is why his favorite thing is his 1994 Sylvan Pro Select fishing boat.*

I got the boat in the spring of 2018; it's got a motor with 150 horsepower and two livewells. The reason I like it so much is I love to go, and it's given me a great way to spend time with my dad. We didn't really have a whole lot that we did together before I got the boat. It has helped me bond with him. We'll take the boat down to Detroit and float the Detroit River fishing for walleye. I also like to take it out to Thorn Apple Lake in Nashville and down the Grand River here in Lansing.

I had to get used to the boat. I feel like the motor is actually kind of oversized, it gets kind of scary if you throttle it too hard. It was a bit of a learning curve for me. Now that I am more comfortable, it feels great. It's freeing, that would be the best way to say it. I always wanted a

fishing boat, and a good friend at work was selling it for a fair price. I had been looking for one for basically my whole adult life.

I've been fishing since I was only 10 years old, so I've been doing this for 20 years. When I was a kid, my dad would take me to an annual fishing contest down at the VFW Hall in Eaton Rapids. There were a couple of years where that was the only fishing we did, and then we slowly started fishing for carp and catfish more often.

When I was a teenager, I would just go to downtown Eaton Rapids and fish in the river whenever I had spare time. When I started fishing with my dad again, we hit our limit fishing for walleye within just a couple of hours. We caught a ton of them. For him, it was unheard of, and I had never been walleye fishing before. That whole spring was a great experience, and it was really memorable for me.

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

## Actor Joseph Dickson rises above the clouds

By DAVID WINKELESTER

Joseph Dickson is an actor, director and head of a theater company that closed over two years ago. Flying has been a way to keep creative while the stage is dark.

"Without theater, being able to focus on flying has probably been the only thing keeping me somewhat sane," Dickson said.

Since founding Over the Ledge Theatre in 2011, Dickson has been the president and executive director. Because of COVID, "The Great American Trailer Park Musical" in September 2019 was OTL's last production at the playhouse in Fitzgerald Park.

"Pretty much everyone ended up in the dark in the summer of 2020," he said. "Vaccine availability in 2021 didn't really happen until fairly late in order to be able to plan and implement a summer season."

"Even with vaccines, trying to figure out how to safely and successfully hold events is tough," Dickson said. "Several local productions have been delayed or canceled due to outbreaks. There's no easy path. My OTL duties have mostly been trying to research and educate myself on what protocols need to be put into place to return to theater safely."

With no play productions, the daytime IT director of a small company was able to complete a childhood dream. In September, he became a licensed private pilot after earning his pilot's instrument rating.

"The time-off definitely gave me the time I needed to work on my instrument rating," Dickson said. "Without that time, I probably would still be chipping away at it."

"Gaining the skills and knowledge to get that rating has definitely been the most challenging for me so far. It was also great, though, because I got to fly with my dad for a good chunk of time," Dickson said. "He was in town and able to act as my safety pilot for some required training hours."

His father was always an inspiration. "My dad got his pilot's certificate when I was probably 10 years old, so I had experienced small airplanes when I was a kid," Dickson, 42, said. "Growing up, we'd go to airshows all the time."

Dickson's certificate process started about two decades ago while living in Ann Arbor. "Then I ran out of spare money for a good while — flying has always been hideously expensive — and ended up taking a long break from aviation," Dickson said. "I had just picked aviation back up

again a few months before COVID hit."

"The primary flight training process is pretty simple," Dickson said. The first 10 flight hours focus on skills to fly solo. Then tasks like navigating longer distances and flying at night are learned. There is a knowledge test and a practical exam with an examiner.

"You need a minimum of 40 flight hours, though it takes most folks a bit more than that," Dickson said. "I think I did it in around 55."

He often compares being a pilot and being on stage. "Both acting and flying demand 100% of your focus on the task at hand," Dickson said. "That aspect is one of the things I love most about both acting and flying. When you're in command of an aircraft, that's the only thing that you can focus on. It's very relaxing to me."

Cost and license limitations keep Dickson flying single engine planes.

"I've flown mostly small Cessna and Piper aircraft. I just recently started flying some newer Diamond aircraft, which are fairly different," he said. "I've been having a blast flying them. I've been flying as often as my schedule, wallet, and the weather will allow. I flew about 140 hours in the last year."

Because of difficulties in scheduling friends on short notice, and mostly because of COVID risks, most flights were done solo since getting licensed.

Dickson has frequented a significant number of little airports in lower Michigan. His longest day flight was around 500 miles. "Highest altitude I've personally flown an aircraft up to was 12,000 feet, which is 500 feet below where you start thinking about supplemental oxygen," Dickson said.

Getting cleared to fly solo and flying through clouds alone were major triumphs.

"I've always loved airplanes. There's a great feeling of freedom and peace from earthbound stresses," he said. "It's just a unique way to view the world and I really enjoy that perspective, especially these days."



Courtesy  
Joseph Dickson flying in the cockpit.

# 'Letter From Birmingham Jail:' Kids teaching adults

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

AnnaMarie Horn learned a lot about working with kids and teens.

"They truly care what's going on in the world, and they are capable of creating the most beautiful art when given the opportunity," she said.

Horn has made a career from giving such opportunities.

## "Letter From Birmingham Jail"

Saturday, Jan. 15, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.  
Sunday, Jan. 16, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.  
Sycamore Creek Church  
1919 S Pennsylvania Ave.,  
Lansing  
Tickets available at sycamorecreekchurch.org/LBJ  
Audiences will be limited to 100 masked ticketholders.  
Livestream available at facebook.com/sycamorecreekchurchmi

1963.

For the third year, Sycamore Creek United Methodist Church is hosting a presentation of "Letter From Birmingham Jail" — but this time

without adult actors. The performances reveal events related to King's letter that outlines the need for change and peaceful protest to make those changes. Horn was a member of Sycamore Creek's 2020 production.

The professional gospel singer, touring musical theater member, and artist-in-residence for numerous area schools is uniquely qualified to helm a different interpretation of "Letter from Birmingham Jail" that features only kids and teens.

Touring schools and performing to youngsters is something Horn considers a highlight of her singing career. She credits her performance skills to "natural born talent developed through various opportunities." Since elementary school, Horn was educated in the arts and appreciates its importance.

Horn founded Hope Central Urban Arts to provide inner city kids with similar opportunities. Since 2014, the organization has offered music and theater classes to kids while such programs keep being reduced in pub-

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Courtesy

The youth cast of "Letter From Birmingham Jail" in rehearsal.

lic schools.

Classes in creativity are offered Monday through Friday after school at the Windemere Park Charter Academy. "You must attend the school in order to enroll," Horn said. The classes provide an affordable after school childcare — an issue that also motivates Horn.

The four "Letter From Birmingham Jail" stagings are a joint production between the Sycamore Creek Church — led by Tom Arthur — and Hope Central Urban Arts. Each performance will be livestreamed.

COVID dealt a harsh blow to the company. "We had to quarantine the entire program last year, as well as having various students quarantined at different times," Horn said. "We stay masked at all times, and masks are required for the show."

The 15-member "Letter From Birmingham" cast comes from Hope Central Urban Arts members and students and participants from the community. Actor's ages range between six and 17. Horn's five children range from six to 14.

This script is slightly different for the kids' version. "This was rewritten

to be palatable for children and youth," Horn said. "MLK used language that most ordinary adults wouldn't recognize."

Something Horn said she would remember most about the production is "having a student who has never participated in something like this find their voice and perform beautifully."

She was surprised by the willingness of the kids to tackle the subject.

"They seem to connect with the script because it addresses the same issues they are dealing with today," she said. "We've come a long way and yet we have a way to go in order to see equality and equity within the U.S. for its citizens, especially its African-American citizens."

Performing the "Letter" is important to Horn because she understands — as King preached in his missive — how continued conversations lead to actions.

"By engaging our children and youth we let them know they are leaders," she said, "people with power and influence who can do good to everyone everywhere, every chance they get."

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# Madcap publicist W.T. Rabe remembered by banned phrases list

By BILL CASTANIER

We're taking a deep dive into the 2022 Banished Word List, compiled by Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie. LSSU has been compiling the annual list since 1976, when the university's publicist, W.T. Rabe, decided that exposing lazy writing could garner some publicity for his institution. He never had to circle back on that decision, and the concept grew and grew. There were no supply chain issues, and the university has fielded tens of thousands of nominations. There are more than 1,000 words and phrases that have been officially "banned."

Rabe was a public relations genius who began using unique ploys to get publicity while at the University of Detroit. In 1964, he dreamed up the anti-Beatles campaign, "SOB," an acronym for Stamp out the Beatles. Radio stations worldwide covered the scheme, and when the Beatles arrived in New York in 1964 for their United States tour, Paul McCartney was quick to respond: "We're here to stamp out Detroit."

In 1969, Rabe would move to Sault Ste. Marie, where his public relations antics and proclivity for good ideas were especially noticeable. During the summers, he would take on the job of promoting the Grand Hotel and would become its chief spokesman, continuing on with his madcap ways.

I first started corresponding with Rabe in 1975, offering up some juicy phrases from my job in state government that were ripe for a LSSU nomination. Back then, all the nominations came from phone conversations or letters to Rabe. For the life of me (that phrase should be on the list), I can't



Courtesy Lake Superior State University

W.T. Rabe

recall what words I suggested, but I remember the glee I felt when the list came out.

Soon after, I got to meet Rabe at his home. The nearby airbase was set to close, so I and a fellow staff writer at the Michigan Labor Department went north to talk to him about enlisting his college journalism class to write a series on the impact of the closure on the community for The Labor Register, the Labor Department's periodical.

Bill was a wonderful host and entertained us in his office, which was out-

fitted with his collection of Sherlock Holmes memorabilia. As an active member of the Baker Street Irregulars, he was an expert on the British detective and a frequent contributor to Sherlockian publications. True to form (also should be banned), he opened up a door that led to a secret office.

Rabe was also an active member of the Laurel and Hardy fan club, "The Sons of the Desert." As a fan of the duo, especially Laurel in the early-'60s, he sponsored the silent record concert performed by the fictional group The Hush as a response to what he called "all the noise."

Rabe had the most impact on a local level. He was responsible for countless Associated Press photographs that showed a strategically placed thermometer in front of an LSSU sign, which often displayed some of the lowest temperatures recorded in North America. At the end of season, he would preside over a paper mâché snowman burning at LSSU, signaling the end of winter.

Rabe would go on to host the World Champion Stone Skipping Contest in 1969, now named for Rabe, which is still held every Fourth of July on Mackinac Island and is covered by ESPN, along with Nathan's Hotdog Eating Contest. One of his other major coups is the Pet Rock Beauty Contest, which was held on the island in 1975, with entrants coming from across the world. I can attest to the

craziness, since I was on a plane flying to Sault Ste. Marie that was filled with entrants carrying boxes, some quite elaborate, holding their pet rock.

And that would be just the beginning. While working as the spokesman for the Grand Hotel, he dreamed up the idea of sponsoring Aug. 28 as World Sauntering Day in 1979, as a counter to the decade's jogging phenomena. It was sponsored by his own umbrella for craziness, the Unicorn Hunters Society. It is commonly believed that his successful sauntering events led to the Grand Hotel instituting a \$2 porch fee, now \$10, when thousands of sauntering people descended on the Grand's famous front porch. Rabe called himself the "Head Stroller" and cautioned those sauntering: "Never saunter with a dog so large the lady you're with can't carry it in her arms."

With all his gimmicks, and I use the phrase affectionately, Rabe pursued unique way to raise money for charity. Rabe created a DBA for the Tooth Fairy, which he used to funnel money to deserving groups. If he owed you a few bucks for lunch, he would write you a check from the Tooth Fairy account. He told me, "No one ever cashes them."

Prior to his death in 1992, Rabe, ever the publicist, sent a three-page self-written obituary to journalists. He paraphrased the author Sabatini, "I was born with a gift of laughter, and a sense that the world was mad."

Rabe and his spouse, Ann, are buried on Mackinac Island, where their gravestone epitaph reads: "Life is a grave matter."

**Mark HAHN**  
Teacher, Artist

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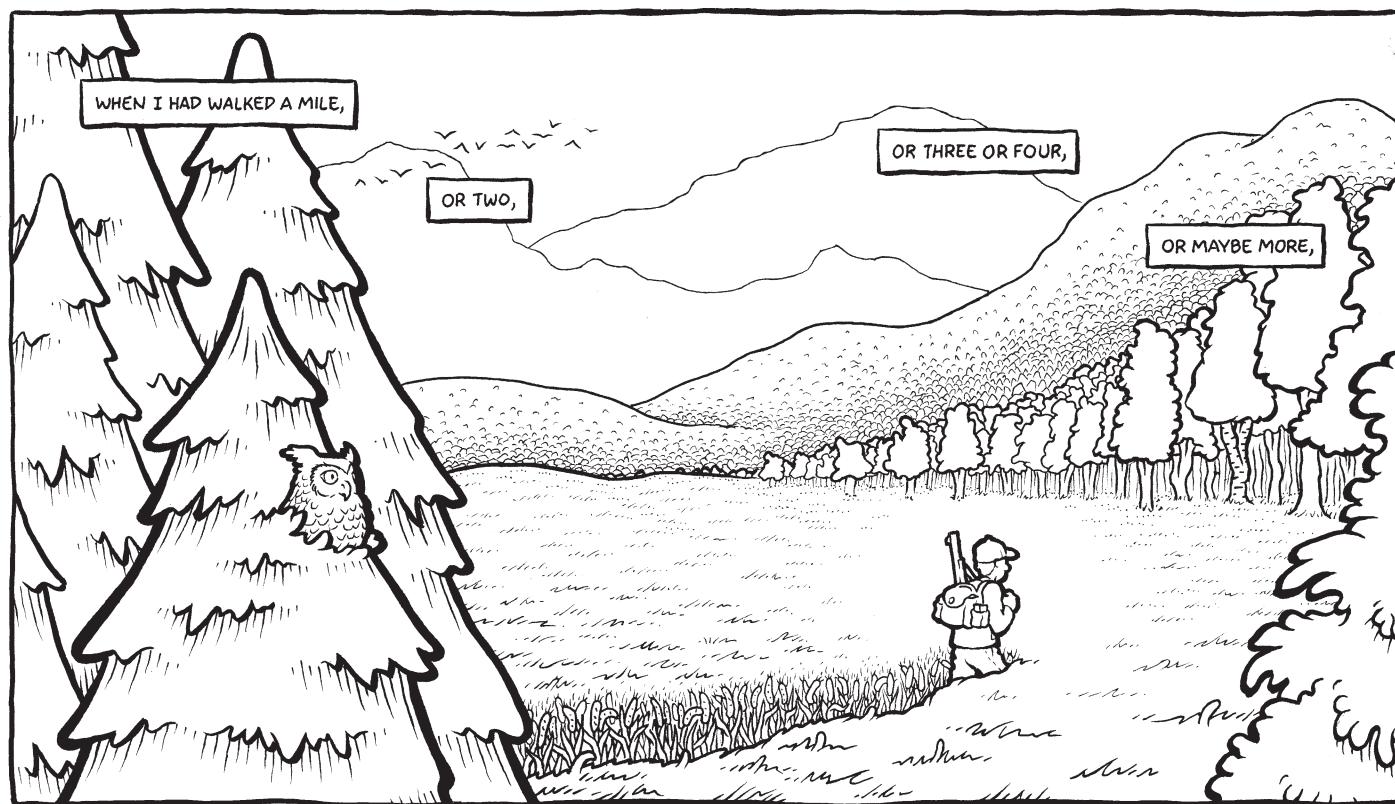
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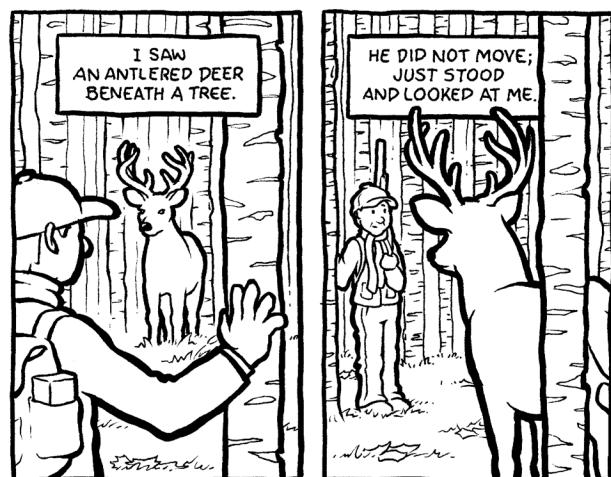
## A Hunter's Tale

City Pulse is serializing "A Hunter's Tale," by Ryan Clayton, throughout January. This is the second of four installments.



6

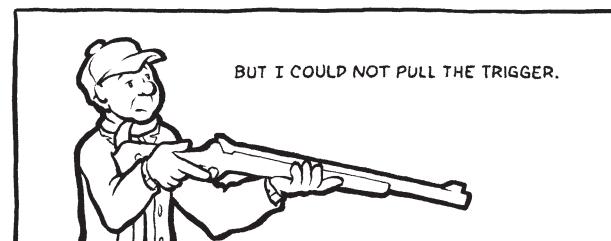
7



HE HAD A SPLENDID RACK,  
AND I THOUGHT  
HOW PROUD I'D BE,

TO HAVE THAT RACK  
TIED TO MY PACK  
UPON MY BACK.

8



9

To learn more about "A Hunter's Tale," visit [ahunterstale.com](http://ahunterstale.com) • For the next installment, pick up the Jan. 19 issue of City Pulse.

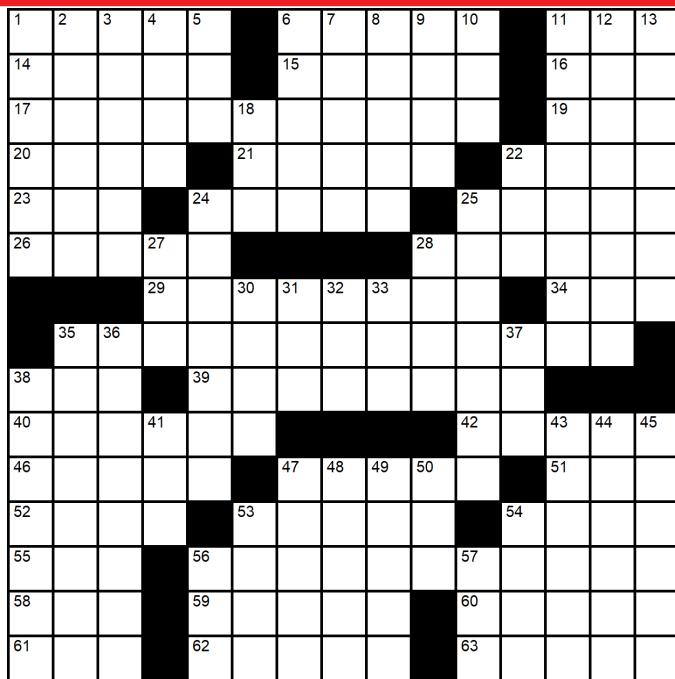
## Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Welcome to Two-Two"--they both appear.

by Matt Jones  
Across

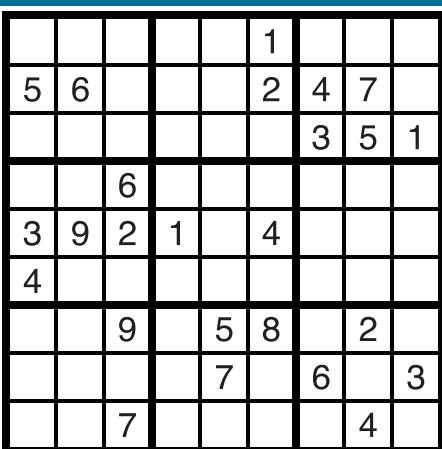
- 1 "This \_\_\_ really happening!"
- 6 "Beavis and Butt-Head" spinoff
- 11 It can be scrambled
- 14 \_\_\_ York (NYC, to some residents)
- 15 Monarch's domain
- 16 Former "Great British Bake Off" cohort Perkins
- 17 Computer character set that's mostly rainbows and macadamias?
- 19 Back-of-a-jigsaw hue
- 20 Evaporating Asian sea
- 21 Indicator that a new pope has been selected
- 22 Reactor part
- 23 Tripod part
- 24 Blokes
- 25 Time off, briefly
- 26 1990s Super Nintendo racing game (often on "top Nintendo games of all time" lists)
- 28 "Brave" princess
- 29 Special attention
- 34 Onetime owner of the Huffington Post
- 35 Inadvisable activity traveling down the slopes of Mt. Vesuvius?
- 38 MTV live show until 08
- 39 Tournament favorites
- 40 Continue the journey
- 42 Savory quality
- 46 Scared-looking, maybe
- 47 Donut flavoring
- 51 Stimp's partner
- 52 Forward-facing font type (abbr.)



- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 53 Paddled boat  | 5 Mai ___ (cocktail)                                    | 33 Belgium-to-Switzerland dir.          |
| 54 "___ I a Woman?"  | 6 Interpersonal conflict, so to speak                   | 35 Unspoiled                            |
| Black Women and Feminism" (1981 bell hooks book)                 | 7 He wrote "The Fox and the Lion"                       | 36 Seasoned pros                        |
| 55 "In the Heights" Tony winner ___-Manuel Miranda               | 8 Oven shelves  | 37 Suffix for skeptic or real           |
| 56 2000s Nintendo controller named for a 2000s "SNL" alum?       | 9 "Would ___ to you?"                                   | 38 It may get hauled around the country |
| 58 Conclude  | 10 Friend of France                                     | 41 "Electric" creature                  |
| 59 "My Dinner With Andre" director Louis                         | 11 From Tartu or Tallinn                                | 43 "The Magic Flute" passage            |
| 60 Elementary atomic particle                                    | 12 Snarly protector                                     | 44 Candy paired with Diet Coke          |
| 61 Low-___ graphics  | 13 Vague army rank?                                     | 45 Objective                            |
| 62 Medicine dispenser  | 18 "Well, sorta"  | 47 Sends with a stamp                   |
| 63 Get the cupcakes ready  | 22 Matchbox toy   | 48 Geometry measurement                 |
| <b>Down</b>  | 24 "Straight Outta ___" (2015 biopic)                   | 49 "The ___ of Positive Thinking"       |
| 1 Equally split  | 25 Stuff that sticks around                             | 50 Floral accessory                     |
| 2 Public radio journalist Ray with the podcast "Going for Broke" | 27 "Everybody Hurts" band                               | 53 Sicilian send-off                    |
| 3 Meditative genre   | 28 "Um, Actually" host Trapp                            | 54 Part of N.A. or S.A.                 |
| 4 Track layout   | 30 Lackey   | 56 Iraq War controversy, for short      |
|  | 31 Sciatic region                                       | 57 Global currency org.                 |
|  | 32 "___ for Alibi" (series-opening Sue Grafton mystery) |   |

Answers on page 29

## SUDOKU



## Intermediate

### TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 29

## Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsny

January 12-18, 2022

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** The coming months will be an excellent time for you to explore the art of Soulful Bragging. Do you deserve any of the titles below? If so, feel free to use them liberally throughout 2022. 1. Practical Idealist with Flexible Strategies. 2. Genius of Interesting Intimacy. 3. Jaunty Healer with Boisterous Knowledge of the Soul's Ways. 4. Free-Wheeling Joker Who Makes People Laugh for Righteous and Healing Reasons. 5. Skillful Struggler. 6. Empathy Master with a Specialty in Creative Compassion. 7. Playful Reservoir of Smart Eros. 8. Purveyor of Feisty Wisdom and Cute Boldness. 9. Crafty Joy-Summoner.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20):** Most people who use tobacco products are at risk of having shorter life spans than they might have otherwise had. Smoking is detrimental to health. Those who smoke in their twenties and thirties may cut ten years off their longevity. But here's some good news: If you kick your tobacco habit before age 40, you will regain most of those ten years. I bring this to your attention because I'd like it to serve as a motivational tale for you in 2022. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you will have more power than ever before to escape any harmful addictions and compulsions you have—and begin reclaiming your full vitality.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** In May 1974, the Grateful Dead introduced a new wrinkle to their live musical performances. Playing at the Cow Palace in San Francisco, they amplified their music through a "Wall of Sound": 604 speakers piled high, together channeling 26,000 watts of energy. Had any band ever treated their fans to a louder volume and crisper tones? I'd like to make this breakthrough event one of your top metaphors for 2022. According to my analysis, it will be a great year for you to boost your signal. I invite you to distribute your message with maximum confidence and clarity. Show the world who you are with all the buoyant flair you can rouse.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Philosopher Emil Cioran said he despised wise philosophers. Why? Because they practice prudent equanimity, which he regarded as empty and sterile. In Cioran's view, these deep thinkers avoid strong feelings so they can live in cool safety, free from life's nerve-wracking paradoxes. I agree with him that such a state is undesirable. However, Cioran contrasted it with the lives of the normal people he admired, who are "full of irreconcilable contradictions" and who "suffer from limitless anxiety." My question for Cioran: Are there no other options between those two extremes? And my answer: Of course there are! And you can be proof of that in 2022, Cancerian. I expect you'll be full of deep feelings, eager for new experiences, and infused with a lust for life—with less anxiety and fewer irreconcilable contradictions than ever before.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** In 1838, 29-year-old naturalist Charles Darwin was early in his career. He had not developed his theory of evolution, and was not yet a superstar of science. He began ruminating about the possibility of proposing marriage to his cousin Emma Wedgwood. If married, he wrote: "constant companion and a friend in old age; the charms of music and female chit-chat—good things for one's health." If not married: "no children; no one to care for one in old age; less money for books, loss of time, and a duty to work for money." I bring this to your attention, Leo, because I suspect that in 2022, you may be tempted and inspired to deeply interweave your fate with the fates of interesting characters. A spouse or partner or collaborator? Could be. Maybe a beloved animal or spirit guide? Have fun making your list of pros and cons!

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** What were your favorite toys when you were a child? Now would be a good time to retrieve fond memories of them, and even acquire modern versions so you can revive the joy they gave you. In my astrological analysis, you'll be wise to invite your inner child to play a bigger role in your life as you engage in a

wide range of playtime activities. So yes, consider the possibility of buying yourself crayons, Legos, dolls and puppets, video games, squirt guns, roller skates, yo-yos, jump ropes, and board games. And don't neglect the pleasures of blanket forts, cardboard boxes, mud pies, and plain old sticks.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** In his novel \*The Story of a Marriage\*, Andrew Sean Greer asks, "Does love always form, like a pearl, around the hardened bits of life?" My answer would be, "No, not always, but when it does, it's often extra sweet and enduring." One of my wishes and predictions for you in 2022, Libra, is that love will form around your hardened bits. For best results, be open to the possibility that difficulty can blossom into grace. Look for opportunities that are seeded by strenuous work.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** "It is worth living long enough to outlast whatever sense of grievance you may acquire." Author Marilynne Robinson wrote that, and I recommend her thought as one of your uplifting meditations in 2022. According to my reading of the astrological omens, the coming months will be a favorable time to dismantle and dissolve as many old grievances as you can. This could and should be the year you liberate yourself from psychic grunge—for the sake of your own mental, physical, and spiritual health as much as for the sake of others'.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Some critics view author Diana Wynne Jones as a genius in her chosen field: fantasy novels for children and young adults. She had a generous spirit, asserting, "I have this very strong feeling that everybody is probably a genius at something; it's just a question of finding this." If you are still unsure what your unique genius consists of, Sagittarius, I believe 2022 will show you in detailed glory. And if you do already know, the coming months will be a time when you dramatically deepen your ability to access and express your genius.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Capricorn biologist Robin Wall Kimmerer wrote a meditative book about moss. It was her response to questions she had been wondering about: Why has this inconspicuous plant persevered for 350 million years? While so many other species have gone extinct, why has moss had staying power through all the Earth's climate changes and upheavals? And what lessons does its success have for us? Here are Kimmerer's conclusions: Moss teaches us the value "of being small, of giving more than you take, of working with natural law, sticking together." In accordance with astrological omens in 2022, Capricorn, I believe moss should be your role model. (Kimmerer's book is \*Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses\*.)

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Author Joyce Carol Oates has been very successful and has won several major awards. But she describes her job as arduous and time-consuming. "I work very slowly," she testifies. "It's like building a ladder, where you're building your own ladder rung by rung, and you're climbing the ladder. It's not the best way to build a ladder, but I don't know any other way." I wouldn't always recommend her approach for you, Aquarius, but I will in 2022. As long as you're willing to accept gradual, incremental progress, you'll get a lot of fine work done.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** I've selected a quote for you to use as one of your guiding principles in 2022. I urge you to undertake a specific action in the next 24 hours that will prove you mean to take it seriously. Here's the wisdom articulated by Piscean rabbi and philosopher Marc-Alain Ouaknin: "People must break with the illusion that their lives have already been written and their paths already determined." It's reinvention time, dear Pisces.

# TURN IT DOWN!



**Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene**

BY RICH TUPICA

## LIFE CHANGING ALBUM: ELDEN KELLY TALKS KEITH JARRETT'S 'LA SCALA'



dori sumter



Elden Kelly, a local guitar virtuoso, recalls how a live jazz album by Keith Jarrett helped shape his improvisational style. (courtesy photos)

### Local guitar virtuoso tells how the 1997 LP still inspires him

Fitting in perfectly on a jazz or world music stage, Lansing-based musician Elden Kelly is many things: A seasoned jazz improviser, band leader and a highly skilled solo guitar fingerstylist, composer and songwriter. Here, he looks back on Keith Jarrett's "La Scala," a live 1997 piano jazz album. Kelly discovered the essential disc when he was 17 or 18, back in the early 2000s.

To hear Kelly pay homage to Jarrett, search "Elden Kelly: Solo Homage to Keith Jarrett" on YouTube to witness a truly amazing live-stream performance. Also be sure to check out Kelly's dynamic "Solo Guitar Journeys" on his YouTube channel.

Here's what Kelly had to say:

**Do you recall first discovering "La Scala"?**

It was at the Richmond Free Library, in my hometown of Vermont. I think it was the first Jarrett album I heard. My dad is a record collector and an avid jazz and world music fan, so I grew up with Coltrane, Bird, Art Tatum, Smithsonian Folkways. I am always looking for music that integrates classical, world and jazz and yet exists in a sphere of its own. I found this in Jarrett.

All of his solo improvised piano concerts reward deep listening. "La Scala," like many of the others, is a continuous work undivided into individual tracks so it demands a different attention span

than other music forms divided into tunes, songs or smaller parts. There are connections between sections, but it is an episodic listen — like an unfolding narrative. It is perhaps more like a classical listening experience in this way, and it compels you to listen to the entire album. It defies modern music forms that could be bite size hit songs or the Spotify playlist. It feels like a soundtrack of the dream world. Its spirit cannot be contained.

**So, it's all improv on "La Scala"?**

He comes to his solo improvised concerts with no prearranged material. It is the ultimate demonstration of improvisational ability, and a process-oriented art form. "Free improvisation" is misleading for the work of Jarrett, although that may explain the spirit of the process. When listening to him, depending on the album, you might hear several different idiomatic and stylistic areas within the span of one minute, 10 minutes, or 30 minutes. That's part of his sonic signature. Solo albums, especially instrumental, are a special and significant form. With Jarrett, it's a profound expression of an inward and outward journey.

I think that improvisation is actually part of the process of composition. When you are writing or developing an idea, it first arrives spontaneously. When we repeat something more or less the same way, it starts to gain

legitimacy. This is one of the lessons I got from Jarrett: you should aspire to have such a command of your playing that you should be able to repeat or replicate any musical idea you come up with spontaneously, and strive to be able to play whatever you hear. There are various misconceptions surrounding improvisation, one is that improvisation is just playing "whatever" or that it is completely off the cuff. For my discipline, although there may be surprise or a defying of listener expectations, there is at the same time a high level of intentionality and craft behind it, and I strive constantly for a sense of unfolding and inevitability to the sequence of ideas.

**In what ways has his style influenced your own playing?**

The work of Jarrett has turned out to have the deepest, most profound and longest lasting influence on my music up until the present day, although the impacts to my own music I only began unpacking more fully some years later. Not only are the sounds of "La Scala" impactful, but there's a mystique surrounding the process of creation as well. I relate to the album deeply because improvisation has been at the core of my musical practice since the beginning. And improvisation is not a style, it is a process. As my musical interests and practice have evolved over the years so has my perspective

on improvisation, and Jarrett had a lot to do with that transformation. His artistry helped me connect disparate areas between composition and improvisation, and styles and diverse idioms within the umbrellas of jazz, classical and world music.

**Why do you think the album had such an immediate impact on you?**

My favorite musical process is just to play "from nothing." To pick up the instrument and begin. Often this process can embody the sacred, acting like a meditation or a prayer. Also, as my musicianship has matured, I've developed ways for my improvisations to sound like cohesive musical statements and to mirror my favorite features of composition. Jarrett was the master and the guiding light for me in this discipline. By treating the solo improvised process as a concert performance, I could start to bring a seriousness and a rigor to the process that I had not attained before. By dedicating my improvisation practice to "performance," not only did this raise the musical bar for my attention and development of ideas, but also ended up providing missing clues to the artistic puzzle of solo guitar technique.

Follow Elden Kelly at [facebook.com/eldenkellymusic](https://facebook.com/eldenkellymusic) or visit [eldenkelly.com](http://eldenkelly.com).

# OUT on the TOWN

**Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week**

## LIVE + LOCAL

**B&I Bar**  
5247 Old Lansing Rd., Lansing  
**Darin Larner Jr.**  
Thurs., Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m.

**Blue Owl**  
1149 S Washington, Lansing  
**Elden Kelly and Gregg Hill**  
Thurs., Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m.

**Eaton Rapids Craft Co.**  
204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids  
**Keith Minaya**  
Fri., Jan. 14, 7-10 p.m.  
**Russ Holcomb**  
Sat. Jan. 15, 7-10 p.m.

**Green Door**  
2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
**Be Kind Rewind**  
Fri., Jan. 14, 8:30 p.m.  
**Bourbon Legends**  
Sat., Jan. 15, 8:30 p.m.

**Lansing Brewing Co.**  
518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing  
**BioMassive**  
Fri., Jan. 14, 8 p.m.-10:30 p.m.

**Urban Beat**  
1213 N. Turner St., Lansing  
**Orquesta RITMO**  
Fri., Jan. 14, 8 p.m. - midnight  
**"Out Cold" the Showcase Pt. 2**  
Sat., Jan. 15, 7 p.m. - midnight

## Wednesday, January 12

**Allen Farmers Market** - 3-6 p.m. Allen Market Place, 1611 E Kalamazoo, Lansing.

**Battle of the Books Kickoff Kits** - Grand Ledge Area District Library, through Jan. 23. gladl.org

**Threads of Wisdom: Book of Shadows** - in-person or Zoom. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Weavers of the Web. weaversoftheweb.org.

## Thursday, January 13

**Chipmunk Storytime** - 10-11 a.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta, Okemos. meridian.mi.us.

**Roller Derby Boot Camp | Winter 2022** - 8-10 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing.

**Tech Teardown** - What makes a cell phone run? 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St. gladl.org



Have a talent you're dying to show off to a live audience? It doesn't matter if it's poetry, spoken word, singing or anything in between, The Artist's Umbrella wants

you. The Artist's Umbrella is hosting a special open mic night with 15 open slots – sign up is first come, first served – at the MICA Art Gallery in Old Town, across

Events must be entered through the calendar at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://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.

## Artist's Umbrella presents The Open Mic

Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2022

MICA Art Gallery

1210 Turner Road, Lansing

[Facebook.com/artistsumbrella](https://www.facebook.com/artistsumbrella)

the street from UrbanBeat. Even if you don't want to perform, you can still enjoy the onstage acts and network with other people who share an interest in the arts.

## Friday, January 14

**Blind Date with a Book** - now through Feb. 13, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St. gladl.org

**Shostakovich Cello Concerto No. 1** - with Lansing's own Suren Bagratuni. 7:30 p.m. For tickets, [lansingsymphony.org](http://lansingsymphony.org).

**Wacky Weather** - 9:45 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Winter Take-Home Crafts @ GLADL** - 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St. gladl.org

## Roller Derby Boot Camp | Winter 2022

- East Lansing Roller Derby. 8-10 p.m. Court One, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing.

**With Cardboard: 3D Marble Design** - 1 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

## Monday, January 17

**Comedy Night** - 9-11:30 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. [crunchyseastlansing.com](http://crunchyseastlansing.com).

## Tuesday, January 18

**Board Game Meet Up** - Ages 18 & up. 6:30 - 10:30 p.m. Spare Time Bowling Alley, 3101 E Grand River, Lansing.

**International #LansingCommunity Potluck** - Umoja House's Mission is to foster multiculturalism and community unity. 6:30-9 p.m. East House, 324 Regent St., Lansing. 517-667-8178.

**Preschool Family Storytime** - 11-11:30 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St. gladl.org.

**Sporcle Live! Trivia** - 7:30 & 8:30 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. [crunchyseastlansing.com](http://crunchyseastlansing.com).

## Saturday, January 15

**Extreme Weather** - 9 a.m. & 1 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Letter from Birmingham Jail Youth Theater** - 2-8 p.m. Sycamore Creek, 1919 S Pennsylvania, Lansing. 517-394-6100. [sycamorecreekchurch.org](http://sycamorecreekchurch.org).

**Wacky Weather** - 9:45 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

## Sunday, January 16

**Letter from Birmingham Jail Youth Theater** - 2-8 p.m. Sycamore Creek, 1919 S Pennsylvania, Lansing. 517-394-6100. [sycamorecreekchurch.org](http://sycamorecreekchurch.org).

**Not A Resolution. A Personal Revolution!** workshop 12-6 p.m. Hannah Comm. Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing.

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 27

I	S	N	O	T	D	A	R	I	A	E	G	G
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F	Z	E	R	O		M	E	R	I	D	A	A
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## SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 27

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

# FOOD & DRINK

## Spud bisque

By ARI LEVAUX

Congee is a pan-Asian dish beloved wherever rice is grown. It goes by other names, and it comes in many different flavors, but the core principle never changes. Cook the rice into a starchy cloud, flavored with the likes of ginger, chives and hoisin sauce. Eat it when comfort food is called for.

I live in the Northern Rockies, where the spuds grow diverse and delectable, and farmers like Big Nancy bring multi-colored sacks to the winter market. Nothing against rice, but I wanted to make congee with local starches. I bought a bunch of different varieties, including Huckleberry, Mozart and Rose Finn, along with a few other wintertime ingredients, and brought them back to my laboratory of culinary science. That is where I invented spud bisque. It is as thick as any roux-based soup, with a grounding, fungal flavor. It's completely satisfying served as is, with a garnish of chopped greens and mayo, and the kids love it, which is the ultimate threshold to clear. It's also very useful as an ingredient. Think of it as a stock that thickens. Gluten-free.

The single most important tool to have for soup making is a big pot with a pasta boiler insert that you can remove, along with its contents, from the bubbling cauldron. I make a lot more soup



## FLASH in the pan

than pasta, and I use the pasta insert every time. It allows for the cooking of every part of the plant or animal in your soup, including parts some find unsavory, like bones or cartilage of a take-out chicken, or the root end of an onion or the non-root end of a carrot, or the butt of celery. You can cook those parts as long as you wish, letting their goodness into your soup, and then remove them whenever you like.

The other most important piece of "souping gear" is an electric pressure cooker – like an Instant Pot. This device will cook anything to the point of softness, including beans, bones or potatoes. When making spud bisque, we want the potatoes as soft as smoke. One hour in the pressure cooker and the potatoes – or what's left of them – are ready for the pasta cooker, and the second part of the recipe.

My favorite way to use spud bisque is to start by frying diced carrot, celery and onion in an olive oil. Then add diced meat from the chicken whose bones were in that pasta boiler. After about 10 minutes, add some spud bisque. Simmer 15 minutes. If you like chicken

pot pie, you will love this stew.

The other day, I was making spud bisque in the pasta cooker and as luck would have it, the kids wanted spaghetti. They got rigatoni because that's what I had, and I had to make their pasta the old-fashioned way, boiled in a regular pot and poured through a colander. I topped it with a sauce made with rehydrated tomatoes I had dehydrated last summer.

The next day, I reheated the leftover pasta, beginning with some chopped bacon in the pan, like one should do when reheating pasta. When the bacon was crispy, I added the noodles. It was going fine, but there wasn't quite enough sauce. It seemed to be heating too quickly, and the thick sauce was in danger of burning, so I dumped a ladle full of potato broth into the pan, and disaster was replaced with the pleasing murmur of starchy potato broth invading the rigatoni and sauce.

Cooks often use starchy water from the pasta pot to thicken the marinara. Potato broth thickens the sauce even more, giving each morsel of rigatoni a creamy flavor reminiscent of gnocchi, a pasta made with mashed potato. The bacon with which I had started the project, intended as a nod to carbonara, also turns out to be a perfect complement to potato soup.

### Spud bisque

*This soup is beloved by the kids, who are the toughest taste testers in town, and by cooks, who realize this potato*

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

*bisque can go in anything. My wife even makes potato sourdough rolls with the stuff. Make a double batch and freeze some for later. I wouldn't give it more than three days in the fridge.*

*I use a mix of russets, which atomize the most easily, mixed with some boutique varieties to make the flavor more interesting and complex.*

*2 pounds of potatoes, peeled and cubed  
2 large onions, sliced in half end to end  
1 stick butter  
1 cup white wine  
3 large carrots, cut in half  
3 stalks of celery, or the butt end of a celery head after the stalks were cut off  
1 sprig fresh thyme or tablespoon dried  
Optional: stew meat or bones, or beef stock*

*Cook the potatoes in at least a gallon of water in the pressure cooker for 60 minutes, or simmer in a pot, covered, until falling apart. At least two hours.*

*While that happens, preheat the oven to 350. Place the onions in a small pan, cut sides down. Add the butter and wine and bake for about two hours.*

*When the potatoes are done cooking and have cooled to the point where you can work with them, pour the pressure cooker contents, including the water, into the basket of a pasta cooker. With an appropriate utensil, mash the potatoes in the pasta basket. Add the carrots, celery and thyme to the mashed potatoes in the basket, and enough cold water to cover everything. Bring to a simmer. After an hour, stir it very well to help the remaining potato pieces break apart. Add the onions and butter, rinsing the pan with full ladles from the pot to make sure all the onion and butter juices make it to the pot. Simmer for an hour or two. By that time most of the potatoes will be in small enough pieces that they can filter through the pasta strainer and into the broth below.*

*If using meat, bones or stock, add them along with the carrots. But if you want the cleanest, purest potato stock for use in cooking other dishes, then you might want to skip adding bones or bouillon. The potato stock is the flavor, and the thickener, that you can add to whatever is next.*

*(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.)*

# THE PULSIFIEDS

BACKPAGE CLASSIFIEDS

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### STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT INGHAM COUNTY NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEASED'S ESTATE CASE NO. 22-16-DE

Estate of Margaret Louise McLouth. Date of birth: 12/12/1939.

#### TO ALL CREDITORS:

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS:** The decedent, Margaret Louise McLouth, died 2/25/2018. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Jeannie M. DeLong-Jackson, personal representative or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

1/5/22

Michelle A. Goetz P82491  
B. Vauter & Associates, PC  
11963 E. Andre, Ste D  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
517.853.8015

Jeannie M. DeLong-Jackson  
811 Middle Street  
Lansing, MI 48915  
517.391.8482 CP#22-008

### STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT INGHAM COUNTY NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEASED'S ESTATE CASE NO. 22-15-DE

Estate of Rita Frances Betz. Date of birth: 10/13/1931.

#### TO ALL CREDITORS:

Including but not limited to: The Marquette Senior Living. **NOTICE TO CREDITORS:** The decedent, Rita Frances Betz, died 11/17/2021. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Michelle M. Betz, personal representative or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

1/5/22

Michelle A. Goetz P82491  
B. Vauter & Associates, PC  
11963 E. Andre, Ste D  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
517.853.8015

Michele M. Betz  
1581 Jacqueline Drive  
Holt, MI 48842  
517.694.9328

CP#22-006

### STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF INGHAM PUBLICATION OF NOTICE FILE NO. 22-15-DE

In the matter of Rita Frances Betz.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Christine Lynn Betz whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

#### TAKE NOTICE:

Rita Frances Betz born on October 13, 1931 and died November 17, 2021 in Ingham County, Michigan. Her daughter-in-law, Michele M. Betz, has filed a petition for informal unsupervised probate with the Ingham County Probate Court (located at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933) and has been appointed as personal representative on January 4, 2022. A will dated November 10, 2021 has also been submitted to the probate court. The interested persons' interest named above may be barred or affected by this probate estate.

1/5/22

Michelle A. Goetz P82491  
B. Vauter & Associates, PC  
11963 E. Andre, Ste D  
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517.853.8015

Michele M. Betz  
1581 Jacqueline Drive  
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## CITY OF EAST LANSING

### 2022 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

#### Regular Meetings

Hannah Community Center, Banquet Hall, 7:00 p.m.

#### Discussion Only Meetings

Hannah Community Center, Banquet Hall, 7:00 p.m.

- |                       |                         |                        |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. January 11         | 12. April 19            | 23. September 20       |
| <b>2. January 18</b>  | 13. May 10              | 24. October 4          |
| 3. January 25         | <b>14. May 17</b>       | <b>25. October 11</b>  |
| 4. February 8         | 15. May 24              | 26. October 18         |
| <b>5. February 15</b> | 16. June 7              | 27. November 1         |
| 6. February 22        | <b>17. June 14</b>      | <b>28. November 15</b> |
| 7. March 8            | 18. June 21             | 29. November 22        |
| <b>8. March 15</b>    | 19. July 12             | 30. December 6         |
| 9. March 22           | 20. August 16           | <b>31. December 13</b> |
| 10. April 5           | 21. September 6         | 32. December 20        |
| <b>11. April 12</b>   | <b>22. September 13</b> |                        |

CP#22-005

## Appetizers

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