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April 6 - 12, 2022

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See Page 13

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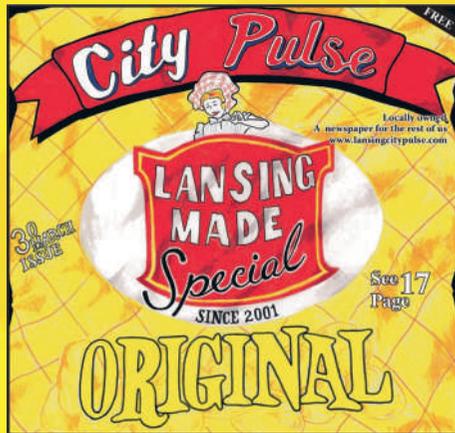
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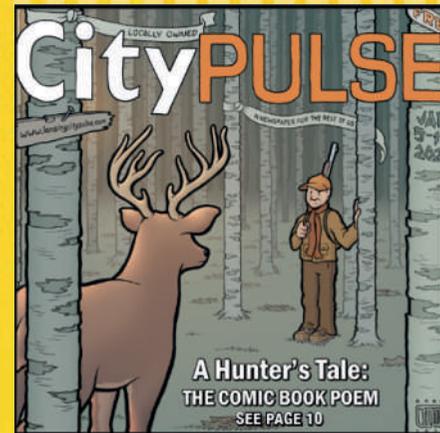
I hope you've been enjoying the uptick in local coverage that City Pulse has been providing – much of it thanks to contributions by readers like you. In print and online, donations are making a difference. Here are some examples since the first of the year:



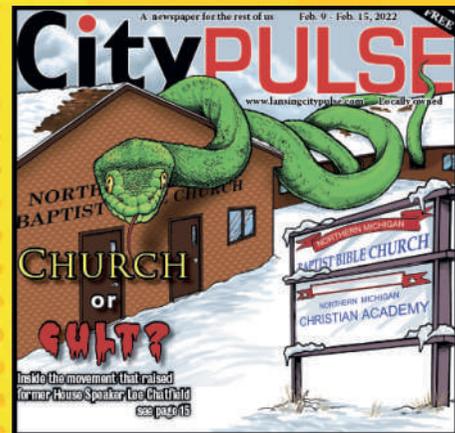
• Made in Lansing. A look at the wide range of manufacturing, from cheese to organic farming to the Internet of Things.



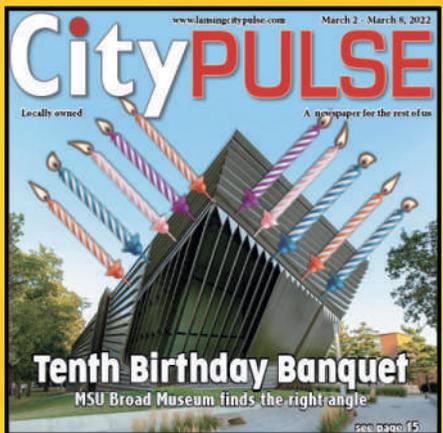
• "Two years of pandemic survival" – a special issue on how Greater Lansing is dealing with COVID-19.



• "The Hunter's Tale" – a serialization of a new graphic novel by local cartoon artist Ryan Claytor.



• Former House Speaker Lee Chatwell's sister-in-law accuses him of sexual assault. Todd Heywood broke the story online, then followed up with a look at the Up North church – or cult – that produced Chatwell.

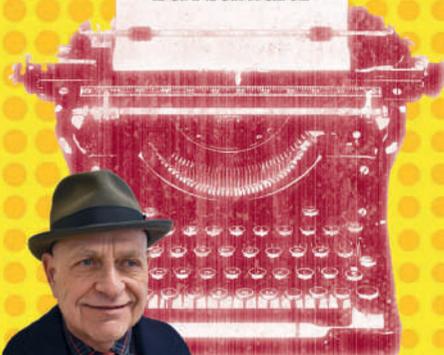


• The Broad Museum at 10. Senior staff writer Lawrence Cosentino has followed the Broad from its inception. As the Broad marks a decade, he provided a knowledgeable look back and also broke the news that the museum will bring the Kresge collection out of storage in a new gallery.

Those and other stories, including weekly staples such as Kyle Melinn's statehouse column, Rich Tupica's Turn It Down music feature, restaurant and theater reviews, and much more, are thanks to your gifts to City Pulse and to the City Pulse Fund for Community Journalism.

Like every business, City Pulse is coping with inflation, now estimated at 7.9%. Our second biggest cost is paper – and in the last 15 months, it has gone up about 25%. Any gift from you would help us maintain the print edition, which is still the mainstay of City Pulse.

A message  
from City Pulse  
editor and publisher  
Berl Schwartz



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Sincerely, **Berl Schwartz**  
Editor & publisher

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# CityPULSE

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Lansing's new fire chief is Brian Sturdivant.

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Lansing Art Gallery's director goes east to MSU.

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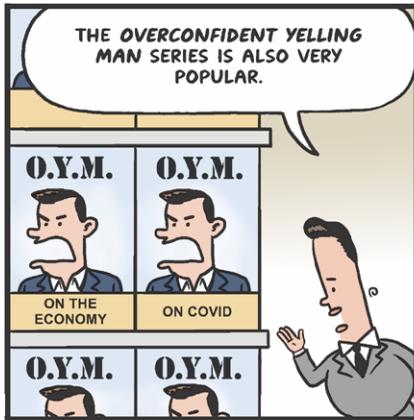
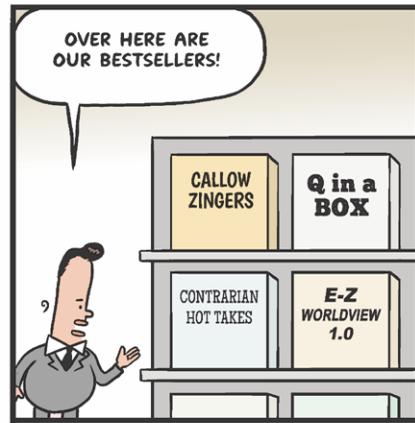
Let them see "The Cake" at Williamston Theatre.

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**Cover Art**

Cover by Nevin Speerbrecker



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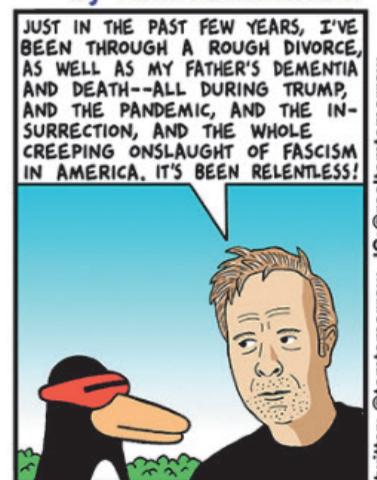
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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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# PULSE

# NEWS & OPINION

## Malcolm X's family backs redevelopment of his childhood school

### Developers plan summer demolition at old Pleasant Grove

Ilayasha Shabazz hopes to be able to visit Lansing's former Pleasant Grove Elementary School before developers tear it down this year to make way for a \$16 million development.

"I was curious to see where my father went to school as a little child."

Shabazz had originally hoped to walk through the school's old hallways, but because the building is in such disrepair, she learned it would likely be unsafe for her to do so, she said in a telephone interview.

Her father was Malcolm X, who was assassinated in 1965. Shabazz has authored two books related to her father: the 2002 "Growing Up X" and a 2014 children's book, "Malcolm Little: The Little Who Grew Up to be Malcolm X." In 2017, she coauthored "X: A Novel," which was named a Michigan Council for the Humanities Michigan Read that year.

Local developers working with Ferguson Development have spent years drafting a development plan for the school. They've worked with community leaders from the Southwest Lansing Action Group to determine the scale and scope of the development.

That development will cost \$14 million to \$16 million, said Christopher Stralkowski, the executive project manager at Ferguson Development. That cost, he noted, could increase due to inflation and the increased costs of labor and materials in a post-pandemic world.

Ferguson Development purchased the 3.9-acre property on the northeast corner of Pleasant Grove and Holmes roads in southwest Lansing, from the Ingham County Land Bank last year for \$100,000. The school had been purchased previously, but it fell into tax foreclosure, which put the property in the hands of the Land Bank in 2017.

Neighbors and activists have been working on strengthening the vibrancy of that corner for years. Lansing City Council President Adam Hussain said this new development was an important

piece in stabilizing the often-troubled intersection and lifting the entire area up for continued economic investment, new businesses and traffic.

Developers put out two pages of quotes from leaders throughout the city praising the project:

"As many folks know, I was born and raised on the south side, so it just has a really special place in my heart," State Rep. Sarah Anthony said. "This development is going to be a game-changer, particularly for southwest Lansing. What you have about to happen here is a transition from potential and possibility to reality and opportunity."

In a statement, Ferguson, a longtime political leader and the first Black Lansing resident to serve on the City Council, said: "This is where I lived when I first got married. I really believe we can make a statement in this community and get people to realize that this project is more than just a redevelopment of an abandoned school, it is about creating an environment that will attract new residents, new business, and new investment in Southwest Lansing."

Under the plan, the asbestos-ridden school building would be torn down and hauled away. In its place will be two buildings: Building 1 will be a two-story commercial building with about 27,400 rentable square feet of finished office, banking or medical practice space. Building 2 will be about 19,400 square feet, a two-story multi-family building with about 30 residential apartments.

Demolition is set to begin this summer; the project is expected to be finished by summer 2024.



STATION HILL PRESS

Michigan State University Archives & Historical Collections

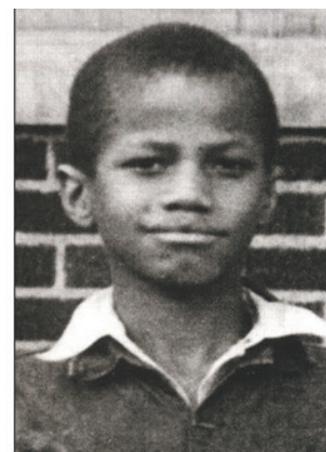
Malcolm X is fifth from right in the top row in this undated photo of his class at Pleasant Grove Elementary School, where he enrolled in kindergarten in 1931.

The Lansing City Council approved a Brownfield tax credit on the project last month, which will reimburse Ferguson Development \$4.9 million over 30 years for rehabbing costs out of property tax payments. Brownfields are meant to encourage rehabilitating out-of-date and derelict properties.

Stralkowski said that developers have also discussed the potential of adding a Ingham Community Health Centers medical clinic at the site. Hope Lovell, who chairs the the ICHC Board of Directors, said the agency is reviewing the proposal as well as digging into the demographics around the area and budgets. As a federally qualified health center, ICHC is required to

provide care to anyone, regardless of insurance status. It is also chartered to help reduce inequities in health. Federal rules require funded locations to be located in areas of the community with low insurance rates and higher than average health inequities, such as uncontrolled diabetes, heart disease and high blood pressure.

Stralkowski said the project will also include "a tribute respectfully and appropriately representing the legacy of Malcolm X" and his family. Malcolm attended kindergarten at the former elementary school beginning in January 1931.



STATION HILL PRESS

Malcolm X, then Malcolm Little

See Malcolm, Page 6

# Malcolm

from page 5

Shabazz said she is excited to continue to connect with developers to design something to remind the community about Malcolm X's roots and his family's activism in Lansing in the 1920s.

Shabazz said she feels a connection to the city because it was where her father grew up. She called Lansing "one of her favorite places," noting that her father held the state in high regard as well. When he married her mother, the two came back to Michigan for the ceremony, instead of marrying in New York where they had lived.

"It's where his foundation began," she said. "It's where his foundation was."

Shabazz noted that her father had been born into a family of activists. His mother and father, Earl and Louise Little, were active in the Garveyite movement. Marcus Garvey started the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League, known as UNIA.

The organization worked to improve the economic and social well-being of Black people around the globe. UNIA has also advocated for Black-only states and racial separation.



Ferguson Development

A rendering of Ferguson Development's plans for the old Pleasant Grove Elementary School, on the northeast corner of Pleasant Grove and Holmes roads in southwest Lansing.

Because of the Little's activism, they were targeted by the Klu Klux Klan, which had a large presence in Michigan in the 1920s. Earl Little was run over by a street car at the corner of Michigan Avenue and Detroit Street near the present-day US-127 overpass that spans Michigan Ave. His death in 1931, allegedly at the hands of a racist organization

called the Black Legion, left the family in a financial struggle. His mother was institutionalized in 1939. Malcolm X and his seven siblings were forced into foster care.

The move by developers to focus on community needs and partnership fits neatly into Malcolm's philosophy, Shabazz said. Even with so many siblings, Shabazz said her father grew up

in a tight-knit family. Their home was often the center of activity with local kids visiting, she said.

"His parents likely instilled in him the values of self-love, the values of community, the values of respect and justice," she said. "My mother instilled those values in us as well."

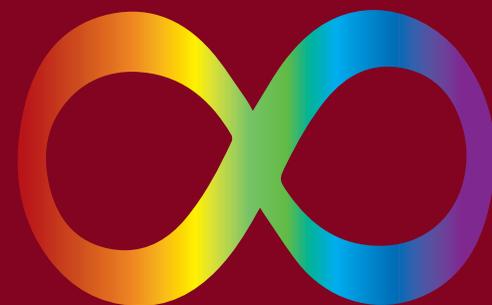
— TODD HEYWOOD

At Coontz Law, we believe the justice system can do better. We believe in holding the Government accountable. We believe in empathetic representation of the accused. We believe Black Lives Matter. We believe we can—and will—change the world, starting right here in our backyard.

We were voted Top of the Town for a reason. It's because we have a vision for a better and more just society. And it starts with the work we're doing right now.

**I don't want 'Autism Awareness' for April. I want Autism acceptance, understanding, empowerment, respect, love, value and inclusion.**

**Can we have those please?**

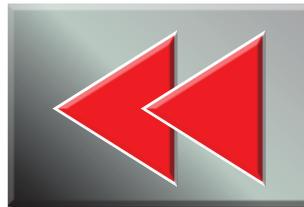


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# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

By KYLE KAMINSKI



### New chief hired at Lansing Fire Department

Battle Creek Fire Department Chief Brian Sturdivant has been hired to take the reins at the Fire Department. Beginning May 2, he will become the sixth chief. Mayor Andy Schor said that Sturdivant “stood out” for his history of diverse leadership experience

that spans three decades, four departments and four states.

*Read more at [lansingcitypulse.com](https://www.lansingcitypulse.com).*

### Lansing cops may face federal lawsuit

Attorney Brendon Basiga is considering quitting the Lansing Ethics Board because he may soon bring federal litigation on behalf of an unnamed client against the city’s Police Department over “potential constitutional violations,” according to an affidavit filed with the City Council. He’s worried that his continued presence on a board that oversees ethical standards for city employees may pose a conflict of interest.

*Read more at [lansingcitypulse.com](https://www.lansingcitypulse.com).*

### Mason McDonald’s settles \$1.5 million lawsuit

Former employees who filed a class action lawsuit against McDonald’s in Mason alleging sexual harassment by a former manager have reached a \$1.5 million settlement with the franchise owner, reports FOX 47 News. The class action suit reportedly involved about 100 women and teenage girls who allege that a single manager had repeatedly groped and propositioned them for sex over four years while company officials ignored the issue.

### Lansing plans to sell portion of cemetery

Voters could decide in August whether the city can sell off the vacant slice of land that abuts the western end of North Cemetery, possibly enabling a two-story apartment to be built at the site along Miller Road in South Lansing. The City Charter requires voter approval before the city-owned land can be sold. A recent request from Mayor Andy Schor for a ballot proposal is for City Council review this month.

*Find all the details at [lansingcitypulse.com](https://www.lansingcitypulse.com).*

### Gillespie plans new Stadium District project

Developer Pat Gillespie has offered \$125,000 to purchase a city-owned parking lot on the southwest corner of Shiawassee Street and Pere Marquette Drive that he hopes will help enable the development of a new corporate headquarters for an unnamed company on Larch Street. Early plans call for renovating the old meat-packing plant at 300 N. Larch St. into a two-story office building with a private rooftop bar for its employees.

*Read more at [lansingcitypulse.com](https://www.lansingcitypulse.com).*



### ‘Luxury’ apartments vacant at Red Cedar

About 70% of the 181 “luxury” apartments at the Gateway Lofts inside the Red Cedar development — which start at a

whopping \$1,150 a month for a studio unit — are still vacant about two months after leasing began in February, reports the Lansing State Journal. The adjacent student housing portion is about 86% leased for the upcoming fall semester. Developers attributed the slow start, in part, to poor visibility during the ongoing construction.



### Interim president named at Sparrow Hospital

Chief Medical Officer Denny Martin has been promoted to the role of interim president following last month’s abrupt yet “amicable” departure of former President Dr. Alan Vierling. Martin, an MSU graduate, has served as the hospital’s chief medical officer since the pandemic arrived.

### GM idles Grand River Assembly plant

The production facility on Townsend Road, which produces the Chevrolet Camaro and Cadillac CT4 and CT5, will be shut until Monday (April 11) due to a temporary parts shortage, reports the Lansing State Journal. The specific reason for the shutdown is a secret, but officials said the shortage is not related to a semiconductor chip shortage or the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

### Strange Matter applies for booze licenses

The popular coffee shop is set to apply for a state liquor license this month, setting course for the cafe to expand to three locations, stay open six hours later and incorporate some boozier options into its menu — all within the next six months.

*Read more at [lansingcitypulse.com](https://www.lansingcitypulse.com).*



### Cops: Dewitt woman stole \$300K from vet clinic

Jennifer Miller, 44, a Dewitt resident and former employee at the Abbott Road Animal Clinic, has been accused of embezzling more than \$300,000 from the clinic over three years, the Lansing State Journal reported. Miller’s attorney proclaims she is innocent and that there is “another side” to the story that will be revealed as court proceedings continue.

### East Lansing may reimburse illegal BWL fees

East Lansing could be forced to pay back about \$6.6 million in “franchise fees” that were charged to its residents over the last six years by the Lansing Board of Water & Light following a recent ruling in a class action lawsuit, the Lansing State Journal reports. Since 2017, the additional 5% surcharge was billed to consumers and passed onto the city to put in its general fund. An Ingham County judge found that represented unlawful tax on residents. If the city doesn’t stop collecting the fee, the amount owed could rise by about \$1.4 million annually.

### Schor pitches bonuses for frontliners

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor has proposed sending out \$2 million in federal COVID-19 relief money to offer hazard pay to city workers who reported to work during the pandemic, reports FOX 47 News. The details haven’t been finalized, but about 300 workers could split the cash.



### Arts & Sciences Building

### Lansing Community College

The Arts & Sciences Building on Lansing Community College’s downtown campus was built in 1968 and remodeled in 2013. The remodel was primarily interior, but you can see in the photo that the façade received an update too, in the form of glass-paneled, cantilevered offices above the entrances.

This structure boasts more than a nice splash of modernism, though; it defies traditional ideas of what a four-story school building should look like. Take its windows for example. Instead of rows, they are assigned vertically in a slim, tall fashion throughout the exterior. Its huge sections of uninterrupted brickwork are a nice surprise as well. With help from the vertical windows and columns of masonry, the otherwise subtle panels of brickwork become center stage. Finally, it is not very often that a four-story academic building has a protruding roofline. The large overhangs might help shield the sun for a 2 p.m. class on the top floor, but their purpose is best served as a horizontal stop for the eye as it moves upward. The dramatic roofline keeps the tall structure grounded.

The building’s edges are softened by a curved sidewalk and generous space of landscaping. As spring continues, expect the swaths of pointy grasses and rows of planted flowers to liven up this cool, subtle structure.

— JAMES KNARIAN

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

# Rein in public safety pensions

This week's editorial begins with a hat tip to Lansing resident Steve Harry, a state retiree and public policy enthusiast who regularly uses Michigan's sunshine law to obtain public records that illuminate how our tax dollars are being spent by city government. Most recently, Harry obtained and posted on his website a full list of Lansing city employee salaries, overtime payments and payments to retirees, among other interesting data.

It isn't the first time Harry has cracked open the city's payroll records. He's been filing Freedom of Information Act requests since at least 2011 and beating the drum about excessive city pensions, especially for police officers and firefighters, for at least that long. We think he'll be gratified to know that today we're grinding one of his favorite axes.

One of the more interesting tidbits in Harry's data dump is the fact that the highest paid city employee in 2021 wasn't City Attorney Jim Smiertka, who earned \$173,191. It was Shannon Powell, a Lansing Fire Department captain who earned \$173,916. Powell's compensation included \$76,029 in annual salary, \$83,718 in overtime, and \$14,169 in miscellaneous compensation.

Capt. Powell, who began working for LFD in 2002, is still a few years away from retirement. But senior Fire and Police Department employees have a long history of loading up on overtime as they prepare for their final pension calculation. That's because pensions are based on a three-factor formula that includes the number of years served, the average compensation received over the employee's last 24 months of service, and what's known as a multiplier. The higher the employee's compensation in their last two years of work and the higher the multiplier, the more generous the resulting pension.

Readers may also be familiar with the fact that high-ranking Lansing public safety officials are very adept at maximizing their pensions, then getting another job after they retire from city service. There's nothing inherently wrong with that — lots of people pursue second careers after they retire — but we think the generous retirement benefits that top police and fire employees receive constitute an unnecessary burden on Lansing taxpayers.

Public safety officials defend their lucrative pensions by noting that police officers and firefighters aren't eligible for Social Security, which most of us rely on when we retire. The maximum Social Security benefit you can earn, if you retire at age 65, is about \$40,000. But allowing police officers and firefighters to opt out of Social Security is a choice, not a mandate. There is an argument to

be made for putting the city's public safety employees back in the Social Security system since it would effectively cap their maximum retirement benefit.

Although real progress has been made in reining in excessive pension benefits through the collective bargaining process, mostly by lowering the multiplier for new hires and raising the minimum age for retirement, the questionable practice of accumulating massive amounts of overtime to amp up final average compensation appears to be alive and well — and it is costing the city a fortune.

Lansing taxpayers spent \$58.6 million last year for employee pensions. The entire city budget is only about \$242 million. As retirement costs escalate, including for retiree health care, they crowd out spending on today's vital public services, like fixing roads and paying the salaries of city employees.

It's time to slow down the retirement gravy train for public safety employees. One way to do that is by prohibiting overtime and other extra forms of income from being used to calculate final average compensation. Another is raising the retirement age. The earliest one can draw

Social Security is age 62, yet some Lansing public safety employees can still retire at any age once they have 25 years of service.

As much as we respect our first responders and appreciate everything they do to keep our community safe, it's not enough to overcome our sense of fiscal responsibility and our belief in the need for reforms in the way public

pensions are calculated. We don't fall into the school of generalized hero worship, which says the work police officers and firefighters do is so dangerous that they deserve higher pay and generous pensions for putting their lives on the line. Yet federal occupational data demonstrates that many other jobs, including construction workers and truck drivers, are at least as dangerous if not more so.

To be perfectly clear, we're not advocating for reducing anyone's pension benefits. What's done is done. City employees of the past worked hard at their jobs for 20 years or more, and did so with the promise that they would receive a pension to support them in retirement. That promise should be kept.

Nonetheless, we call on city leaders to take a hard look at excluding overtime and other forms of compensation from the final calculation for future city employee's pensions, reducing excessive multipliers and raising the minimum age of retirement. It's fair to compensate employees for the extra hours they work, but it goes too far to put city taxpayers on the hook for overtime-boosted pensions for the rest of the employee's post-retirement life.



## The CP Edit

Opinion

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

# Trump's short-term victories here may have long-term costs to GOP

By **KYLE MELINN**

U.S. Rep. Fred Upton, southwest Michigan's member of Congress since "Platoon" was a box office smash in early 1987, became the latest political casualty of former President Donald Trump when he faced reality this week. He said this term, his 18th, would be his last.

At age 68, Upton wasn't ready to step away from Congress. One of the founding members of the Problem Solvers Caucus was ready to run in a revamped Kalamazoo-based district again this year.

Had he done so, he would have been beaten, probably badly, in the Republican primary and he knew it.

Upton showed political courage in not only refusing to kiss Trump's ring, but in defiantly voting with nine other congressional Republicans for Trump's impeachment after the then-president arguably incited the Jan. 6 riots that killed five people and caused \$1.5 million in damage to the U.S. Capitol.

That defiance came with a political price. Trump made it known he wanted Upton, fellow U.S. Rep. Fred Meijer, R-Grand Rapids, and the eight others taken out in the next GOP primary.

If Upton's 6th Congressional District had stayed the same this year, he might have survived. But with Michigan losing a congressional seat this year, the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission created a southern Michigan border district that left Upton without 35% of his population.

Instead, Upton's new 2nd Congressional District picked up Battle Creek and part of Holland.

The \$1.5 million Upton banked following his 2021 fundraising efforts might be enough to fend off some newbie, particularly in a crowded Republican field.

The Trump-backed candidate back in December — state Rep. Steve Carra — was an unknown. He didn't even live in this new district.

Once it became clear U.S. Rep. Bill Huizenga was running in the same district as Upton and he had Trump's endorsement, the writing was on the wall.

Internal polling showed Huizenga beating Upton soundly. Carra bowed out. He said he was running for reelection to the state House as opposed to stick-

ing around in a three-horse race. At that point, Upton's political goose was cooked.

"UPTON QUILTS! 4 down and 6 to go. Others losing badly, who's next?" Trump crowed to his email group.

What's next? The 3rd Congressional District, where Meijer faces a competitive primary against former Trump administration official John Gibbs, who showed up with Trump at the Macomb County rally last Saturday. Macomb County is nowhere near the Grand Rapids-based MI-3. Trump didn't care.

"He's a brilliant guy," Trump said of Gibbs.

Like every other Republican who isn't lockstep with Trump these days, Meijer is being called a Republican In Name Only, or RINO. The former Tea Party acronym that once referred to moderate Republicans long since hijacked by Trump to mean anyone he doesn't like.

Trump and redistricting effectively cleared the field for Gibbs in Grand Rapids, and the two have their work cut out for them.

Trump might not know how to pronounce "Meijer," but everyone in Michigan does. Anyone who lives in Grand Rapids anyway.

John Gibbs is a different story. Gibbs grew up in the Lansing area. He went to school at Harvard and Stanford. He never lived in 3rd Congressional District up until a few months ago.

He believes widespread systematic fraud cost Trump reelection in 2020. He doesn't have any proof. He just doesn't understand how Trump lost an election in which he received more votes than he did in 2016. It never happened before in American history. How could it happen now?

Democrats are salivating over the prospects of running their candidate, Hillary Scholten, against Gibbs in this new politically competitive, 50/50 district in Grand Rapids. In the short-term, Trump victories in Grand Rapids and in the attorney general and secretary of state contests at the state convention later this month would move Trump's stranglehold on the Michigan Republican Party in Michigan beyond question. Polling to be released later this week will show, however, a Trump-backed party is more likely to be a minority party. This, too, is beyond question.

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

**Opinion**

the latest political



KYLE MELINN

**POLITICS**

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Andy Scher, Mayor

CITY OF LANSING  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, April 25, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI for the purpose of considering:

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Lansing Codified Ordinances by amending Chapter 1300, Sections 1300.07, 1300.10, and 1300.11 to update the ordinance to reflect changes in laws and rules and the recently adopted Form-Based Zoning Code.

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

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

**Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/MIPMC**  
[www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk](http://www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk)  
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CP#22-078

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

The East Lansing City Council of the City of East Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan will hold a meeting and public hearing on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at 7:00PM. This meeting and public hearing will be held at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider the FY 23 Community Development Block Grant Budget.

The public may attend and participate at all meetings in person. Additionally, members of the public may participate electronically in all meetings. Please contact the City Clerk or visit the City's public meeting portal for electronic access information:

Jennifer Shuster – City Clerk  
 410 Abbot Road  
 East Lansing, MI 48823  
[jshuster@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:jshuster@cityofeastlansing.com)  
<https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/>

The CDBG Budget recommendation for FY 23 drafted by East Lansing's CD Advisory Committee is available for viewing at the Department of Planning, Building, and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm or on the City's website located at <https://www.cityofeastlansing.com/2243/Community-Development-Advisory-Committee>. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to City Council, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to [council@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:council@cityofeastlansing.com)

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6920 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at [nmostel@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:nmostel@cityofeastlansing.com).

**This notice is posted in compliance with P.A. 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and published in compliance with the City of East Lansing's CDBG Citizen Participation Plan.**

Jennifer Shuster  
City Clerk

CP#22-077

# ARTS & CULTURE ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## ‘Bittersweet’ move: Whitney leaves Lansing Art Gallery for MSU museums

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

There’s nothing quite like the enthusiasm of Barb Whitney as she grabs you by the hand, yanks you over to a painting or sculpture at the Lansing Art Gallery and expands your mind with a breathless appreciation.

From now on, any yanking she does will be in a civilian capacity.

Whitney, director of the Lansing Art Gallery and Education Center since 2014, has moved to Michigan State University to do fundraising and development for the MSU Broad Art Museum and the MSU Museum. Michelle Carlson, the Lansing Art Gallery’s education director, took over as director Friday (April 1) and will serve until the end of June. The gallery board has not yet decided on a timetable for choosing a new director.

In her eight-year tenure as director, Whitney shepherded the gallery through some of its toughest times, ratcheting up its artistic standards, bringing art to the streets and parks of Lansing and expanding its statewide educational programs.

Yet there are some things she won’t miss.

In the darkest days of the pandemic, she worked into the middle of the night, writing grants and applying for pandemic aid that would keep the gallery’s doors open.

“The gallery is so close to my heart that at times I’ve compromised my health and well-being, to my own detriment,” she said. “I had a six-part job description.”

As director of a dedicated but tiny staff, Whitney had to juggle exhibitions and educational programs with hiring, marketing, communications and managing the facility. The crucial lifelines of grant writing and donor relations were also in her hands.

When times got tough, she thought of her predecessor, Cathy Babcock, who retired in 2014 after 15 years as director. Babcock held her ground against strong pressure, “even from internal stakeholders,” to dissolve the gallery in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, according to Whitney.

“We are still here, in part, because Catherine Babcock said, ‘Over my dead body,’” she said. “That happened

during the pandemic as well.”

Unlike many small arts and culture nonprofits across the country, the Lansing Art Gallery survived the pandemic, but it’s still in flux.

Whitney hopes to be among the last directors to skipper the gallery equivalent of the Flying Dutchman, doomed to wander from one port to the next as leases expire and rents go up. In early 2022, the gallery moved from its basement home at 119 N. Washington Square to a two-story showcase at the renovated Knapp’s Centre downtown, the most recent of five moves since the gallery began in 1965.

Whitney and her staff have been working with Mayor Andy Schor’s Arts and Culture Commission to keep the gallery in consideration for a permanent home in a future downtown performing arts center, but that project is still in the early stages. The gallery’s lease expires in a year, with an option to renew.

“The conversations regarding the performing arts center, and whether the gallery has a place in it, go back many, many years,” she said.

Whitney said it will be “bittersweet” not to be around when the question is finally resolved, but she has “complete trust” in Carlson.

“There’s no one I’d rather share my password with,” Whitney said. “She will be the eye in the hurricane through all the next steps.”

One of Whitney’s most recent fans is her new boss, Paul Andrews, who came to MSU in July 2021 to take on a new position as senior director of development in cultural arts.



Courtesy Lansing Art Gallery

Barb Whitney along the trail of ArtPath on the Grand River, one of the innovations she oversaw as executive director of the Lansing Art Gallery, from which she has resigned to become a fundraiser and development officer for the MSU Broad Art Museum and MSU Museum.

“Barb’s an incredible writer who has had perfect scores with Michigan Arts and Culture Council grants,” he said. “She’s also a tremendous fundraiser with individuals. She has deep, deep connections in the Greater Lansing community.”

At first blush, the Broad Museum and the MSU Museum look like polar opposites. The Broad is a sleek, 10-year-old swoosh of stainless steel designed by the late world class architect Zaha Hadid; the MSU Museum is a classic brick pile, a 165-year-old, ivy-covered cabinet of wonders haunted by Allosaurus and Stegosaurus skeletons.

But both museums are exploding out of their assigned roles, especially under recent leadership. In July 2021, Devon Akmon took the helm of the MSU Museum, along with MSU’s Science Gallery in Detroit.

“Barb will be the key to starting a fundraising program at the MSU Museum,” Andrews said.

Whitney will dig in right away at the MSU Museum to support a fall 2022 exhibit on climate change, “1.5 degrees Celsius,” and a spring 2023 exhibit on forests in Michigan, in tandem with the Smithsonian Institution.

“Devon is awakening a sleeping dragon,” Andrews said. “Barb’s ability to help us fundraise for programs that bring in a more diverse audience will be critical.”

Likewise, the MSU Broad has recently ramped up its local outreach and local exhibit content under its new director, Mónica Ramirez-Montagut.

“I’ve been a fangirl of the Broad Art Museum for many years,” Whitney said.

The two museums appear to be converging in a single, broader mission and taking pages from each other’s books. The MSU Broad is using museum-like materials such as documents and archival objects to enrich recent exhibits on automobile culture and the life of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. For its part, the MSU Museum (“Where Science and Culture Meet”) is lighting up with glitzy science exhibits like last fall’s “Tracked and Traced,” about the surveillance state, and cultural hybrids like the current exhibit on Marvel’s Black Panther and Afro-Futurism.

“The MSU is so new, so contemporary, so innovative, international in its reach, and the MSU Museum is a mainstay in our community, but also with incredibly innovative vision from the new director,” Whitney said.

“I’m really excited to follow again, to learn, grow under the direction of someone I trust.”

Andrews said he’s “overjoyed” to have her on board. “We’ve also managed to keep a community asset in East Lansing, hopefully for the rest of her career,” he added.

Instead of burning midnight oil, Whitney looks forward to spending more time with her husband, Jon, and the small mob of siblings and other relatives who live near their home on the rural outskirts of Lansing.

“We recently made Monday nights ‘sister days,’” she said, slipping back into board meeting mode. “We’ve made it a priority to convene more often.”

# Favorite Things

## Joshua Fitzgerald and his Magic the Gathering cube



Joshua Fitzgerald loves the card game *Magic the Gathering*. His favorite thing is a special collection of Magic cards known as a “cube,” which is used to supply everything he needs for an all-night Magic session with his group of friends who also love the game.

I was on vacation Up North, I was 15, and that’s when I bought my first starter deck. My friends were already playing, but that’s when I started — about 10 years ago. I was interested in it because of the overall nerdiness of it. I’ve always liked fantasy, sci-fi, that sort of stuff. It was pretty natural.

My collection started from there. There are only a few cards I still have left from that time, but it has grown exponentially since then. The cube was a natural part of the growth, accumulating a bunch of cards. There is a pretty strict market with *Magic the Gathering*, everybody in the community knows all the prices. It’s generally like this: You go into your local gaming store — I go to Evolution Games — or you trade within your community of local Magic players. As long as you price match things, you can get good trades and nothing is taken off the top. That’s usually the best way to do it.

A cube — and anyone who plays *Magic* can build one — is a collection of cards that you use to draft with your friends without having to buy booster packs, field cards or pay any money. A draft is where you take a bunch of cards, pass them around the table and build a deck out of what you get. Generally, that

entails buying cards, but when you have a cube, you don’t have to, because you’re using cards you already own.

The person who designs the cube is going to feel pretty rewarded after a cube night — after seeing how everybody reacts to the card. But anybody who is in the play group can contribute to that pool of cards that you play with. It really becomes very communal, and you form a lot of relationships and friendships that way — by playing the game.

Cube nights can get pretty rowdy. Depending on your feeling, there can be high stakes in the games, or it can just be casual and fun. It has a lot of classic party game night things — pizza, beer, that sort of stuff.

It can be difficult financially to get into *Magic* for some new players. But the most important thing is to check out your local game store, and a lot of times the people there will find joy in teaching you how to play. Finding other new players that are just getting into the game and getting into the community is another great way to get into *Magic*.

The reason my *Magic* cube is my favorite thing is of all the memories formed. Playing this game with my friends for 10 years has been awesome. The cube has been my baby for a long time. There’s a lot of cards that have come from friends, other scenarios and they all have distinct memories.

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

# Capital Hippy wants to make downtown a more colorful place

By CHLOE ALVERSON

Four years ago, Laura Castle started the rainbow apparel and accessories shop. While attending concerts and festivals, Castle could never find tie-dye tank tops in her size. So, Castle decided to make her own. As friends bought her colorful, tie-dye clothing, Castle began selling online, where she estimated she’s sold to around 30 states.

“In all the items that I make, I try to get as many sizes as I can,” Castle said. “Right now, we have extra-small to five-x in some of our products. I try to get all sizes for everyone.”

The shop was among the first group of vendors, along with businesses like A Novel Concept and MI Alchemy, inside of Middle Village when it first opened last October.

The handmade tie-dye clothing shop has relocated across the street from the Middle Village Micro Market at 112 S. Washington Square into its own storefront. Its grand opening is



Courtesy

Laura Castle is moving her business, Capital Hippy, to its own storefront on Washington Square.

scheduled for today (April 6).

Castle said her experience in Middle Village was “fantastic,” and she’s excited that Capital Hippy is just across the street, 121 S. Washington Square.

“I love that we’re all going to be a part of bringing downtown back,” Castle said. “I really enjoy being a part of it. And I want to bring a lot of rainbows.”

At Capital Hippy’s new shop, customers can expect to see “a lot of color, more tie-dyes” from Castle. She’d like to bring in other local artists to sell their work, too. One of Castle’s goals as a business owner is to be active in the community. She’s open to sponsoring teams, and she’ll be participating in a downtown cleanup. Capital Hippy is

### Capital Hippy

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# New pot shop makes loud entrance in South Lansing

By KYLE KAMINSKI

Last summer, this column featured plans for a new pot shop that was initially set to open last year along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard between I-96 and Miller Road. Signs surrounding the construction site had billed it as the future fifth retail location for Common Citizen — a company founded by Michigan State University alumnus Michael Elias that labels itself the “largest” vertically integrated weed brand in the state



with other shops in southeast Michigan.

At some point, those plans changed.

The Common Citizen banners were taken down this year and LIV Cannabis Co. set up shop there last month, becoming at least the 18th marijuana dispensary to open — and stay open — in Lansing within the last two years (Homegrown was the first to open its doors in early 2020).

The white brick storefront is sleek and ultra-modern with some major Apple Store vibes. The large windows and open floor plan made the space seem larger — and it's already pretty big.

Customers have two options after they walk in the door: To the left is one of the most expansive (and expensive) head shops in the city. There are bubblers, bong, vaporizers and pipes; just about every accessory you can imagine. The exceptionally friendly staff pointed me to a large hand-blown, tree-shaped glass piece inside their most prominent display. The price? \$40,000.

I told them I'll come back after I hit the Powerball.

To the right is heaven. Two unnecessarily large steel doors automatically swung open to reveal one of the widest assortments of cannabis goodies I've ever laid eyes on. It was like walking into Willy Wonka's chocolate factory — a remark I'm sure the staff has already heard more than once. Large glass cases are filled with dozens of different strains, edibles, tinctures and concentrates. If you can't find what you're looking for here, then you don't know what you want.

Aside from a focus on stunning interior design and a wide product selection, LIV co-founder Dennis Zoma also offered a brief statement about how the company is designed to be “community-forward” and provide “safe, high-quality” weed to patients and adult customers.

“Lansing has welcomed us with open arms, and we look forward to creating

job opportunities, helping grow the local economy and giving back to this vibrant community,” Zoma said.

The grand opening festivities — which last through Thursday (April 7) — include steep discounts on several brands including Common Citizen, MKX, Kiva Confections, Dixie Brands, Mary's Medicinals and High Life Farms. I naturally gravitated toward some of the cheaper stuff.

The Runtz and the East Side OG (among about six other Common Citizen strains) came in affordably priced prepackaged eighthers for only \$20. The Runtz were exceptionally dry nuggets with a light, sugary scent and a mild, fruity flavor profile that resulted in a lackluster high: a short-lasting head buzz that left me wanting to smoke another joint as soon as I was finished.

But I'll be back for some more East Side OG. These dense nuggets were absolutely caked with creamy yellowish trichomes that radiated this perfectly complex, skunky-sweet sort of odor. The old school OG Kush lineage also came through with a spicy flavor profile with a hint of citrus. It also caused me to spend most of Saturday glued to a video game in a dazed state of relaxation. My



budtender told me the shop's first batch of East Side OG sold out in two days, forcing them to rush in more to meet local demand. Apparently, I'm not the only local pothead who loves it.

LIV is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The company — which also has retail locations in Ferndale and Battle Creek — also plans to expand into Lake Orion, Detroit and Pontiac this year and open a cannabis consumption lounge attached to the Lansing shop sometime next fall.

“Michigan's Capital City — the epicenter of our state — was the most logical place to continue our expansion and further our mission of connecting people through the many wellness benefits of cannabis,” Zoma said in his statement. “The entire LIV Cannabis team is excited to help consumers in Greater Lansing create memories that enhance their lives through cannabis.”

Orders can be placed online at [livecannabis.com](http://livecannabis.com). Free local delivery is available.

*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](mailto:kyle@lansingcitypulse.com).*

## LIV CANNABIS TO HOST MIKE TYSON AHEAD OF 420 MUSIC FESTIVAL

LIV isn't just focused on selling affordably priced weed and ridiculously expensive pipes.

It's also bringing some live entertainment to downtown Lansing next month as the official sponsor of the second annual 420 Music Festival at Adado Riverfront Park from noon to 11 p.m. on April 23. The concert will feature several artists, including Too \$hort and Curren\$. General admission (for ages 21+) is \$40. Guests will be able to legally smoke marijuana on site.

Common Citizen also recently partnered with boxing legend Mike Tyson to bring his California-based cannabis line to retail shelves in Michigan — including his favorite strains “Knockout OG” and “Pound for Pound Cake.” Both are available now at LIV. Tyson will also be at the store on April 23 to meet customers and sign some merchandise before the festival.

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# Kicking COVID: Capital City Film Festival returns after two years

By CHLOE ALVERSON

Over at The Fledge, a screening of the independent horror film “Good Madam” will soon be projected in front of an enthusiastic crowd of local cinephiles. A few blocks away, the All of the Above Creative group will prepare to pump up the jams at The Avenue Café with a hip-hop takeover.

Two dissimilar mediums, but both upcoming events will be part of the Capital City Film Festival — Lansing’s answer to dynamic events like South by Southwest and the Sundance Film Festival.

“We wanted to bring something closer to the Midwest — blue-and white-collar roots together,” said Jason Gabriel, the festival’s co-founder and program director. “It has a party emphasis at times, and it has a re-sounding spirit of togetherness that I’m not sure everyone gets.”

Unfortunately, that “party” temporarily ended when the pandemic started.

The annual festival was ramping up for a milestone 10th year celebration when

COVID-19 put the world on pause. But after staying connected with audiences — from a safe distance, of course — through drive-in events in 2020 and 2021, the festival is back to its original form. As we’ve come to navigate pandemic life in a safer way, the CCFE is prepared to officially celebrate its 10th festival.

With two movie venues and one for music, the festival is a bit scaled back compared to past years, but festival-goers can still expect to see or hear something all day, every day for 10 days. The Lansing Public Media Center, The Avenue Café and The Fledge are the places to be from Thursday (April 7) through April 16.

## The roots of CCFE

After moving back to Michigan, Nicole Szymczak reconnected with Dominic Cochran and Gabriel. The three had worked on independent movie projects and contests together in Lansing, but they wanted more. In 2011, they founded the Capital City Film Festival.

“We thought there was a bigger need for film, an outlet for film, some inspiration to be creative and inspired to do film,” Szymczak said.

With similar backgrounds in the cinematic arts, Szymczak, 41, said the trio values the video storytelling experience. The mission was to empower people to create cinema, while also bringing strong independent movies to Lansing. The first year of CCFE, the slogan was “There’s film in Lansing.” Szymczak, who is the senior communications director at Michigan State University’s College of Communication Arts and Sciences, added that it was a statement to express that yes, people can find indie movies in the Capital City.

## Capital City Film Festival

April 7 – 16  
Lansing (see program between pages 14 and 15)  
Film screenings & concerts: \$5 at the door  
capitalcityfilmfest.com

See Festival, Page 14

# Festival

from page 13

“You can see independent film in Lansing, not just these big feature films,” she said. “You can see these documentaries that are life-changing, you can experience these exciting narratives, and you can see a great show.”

The festival was also established shortly after the start of the Lansing Public Media Center on South Washington Avenue, where Gabriel serves as the City-TV manager. There, community members can access equipment to make projects and other media.

“The inspiration for the festival was to inspire those people,” said Cochran, 46, the media center’s founding director. “We were like, ‘Let’s show these folks what’s possible by showing them world-class filmmaking on the big screen so they can aspire to that in their own work.’”

Back then, and to some extent still now, there were not many opportunities to see independent productions on a big screen in the Capital City. Finding an audience for independent movies and video projects was not difficult. The demand was there for fresh content.

Cochran, also a partner at Ahptic Film & Digital in Lansing, said the CCFF is sometimes the second festival to play a film that premiered at a bigger festival, like South by Southwest. But that’s something the CCFF team is proud of. Another feather in their cap is the diverse bill of events scattered throughout the festival.

The CCFF has movies, music and more, and encourages attendees to appreciate the “more.” Aside from all the flicks, visitors can anticipate games, contests, virtual reality simulations and other forms of interactive media. Cochran noted they wanted to have a packed schedule at various venues to “create that sense of excitement.”

The CCFF also runs as a volunteer-based nonprofit, with Szymczak as the board president. She works to get funding from local, state and national levels. Businesses sponsoring the event “assist with creating community” around CCFF, she said. The festival also gets funds through ticket and concession sales.

Szymczak said motion pictures have been important to her since she was young, when she would attend movies with her mother, who was in a wheelchair due to multiple sclerosis. Szymczak said it was a “great shared moment” between the two, and some-



Xiaoxing Han

Volunteer Karles Steller, left, and Jason Gabriel, the festival’s program director and co-founder, set up at The Fledge.

thing they could learn from.

“When you share a movie with someone, you’re opening yourself up, you’re sharing ideas,” she said. “You’re learning and understanding people on a whole new level. It’s a really intimate experience.”

The experience is something Szymczak hopes to recreate for the CCFF attendees. She wants attendees to find a connection, whether through movies, music or more.

## What to expect at this year’s CCFF

The festival’s lead programmer, William Corbett, and Gabriel are the go-to guys when it comes to curating festival movies and shorts.

“The coolest part about it is it transforms the venues that you drive past in Lansing and you might not think very much of them,” Corbett said of the festival. “But then you show up opening night, or wherever the party is, and it’s like, ‘Whoa, this is in Lansing? This is way cooler than I ever would have thought.’”

Corbett first got involved in 2017 through the festival’s Fortnight Film Contest, which takes place two weeks before the festival itself. Amateur and professional filmmakers create a short film, abiding by the festival’s list of rules

and required elements for a chance to win cash prizes. In 2019, Corbett began working for the festival, helping watch and organize movies along with Gabriel.

“To me, in Lansing, our culture is so divergent,” Gabriel, 44, said. “It presents itself in many ways, but it never seems to go to the mainstream level, with some expectations.”

This year, Gabriel and Corbett said there were 310 film entries from 30 countries. Filmmakers can submit their projects to CCFF, as well as other movie festivals, on a website called FilmFree-way. Just over 100 made the cut, determined by a committee of almost 60 volunteers who are passionate about indie films. Attendees of this year’s festival can expect to see titles that touch on topics such as racial injustice, gun violence and mental health.

“One theme that I feel was caused by COVID-19 was isolation and people having this energy that needs to be released,” Corbett said. “So, there’s a lot of films of people powering through struggling times, and then coming out, having it be some sort of tragedy. But usually, there’s some sort of uplifting theme.”

Gabriel added that many movies touch on relationships people have with themselves and others.

“A lot of relationship delineation, where people were trying to find themselves in their relationships as they dealt with things going on in their life,” Gabriel said. “And I also thought there was a considerable amount of people who did a non-narrative story — no spoken dialogue. So, it’s just through actions alone for the story to come out.”

Gabriel estimated that submission rates of non-narratives were two or three times more this year than usual. Michigan movies make up about 15% of this year’s catalog, he noted, between features and shorts.

The opening night film, “Disfluency,” comes from the mind of Anna Baumgarten, a Michigan-raised and University of Michigan-grad writer, producer and director.

“There’s a spiritual alignment we can find in these movies, and we can vote

them up with Lansing audiences so that the larger group can see it,” Gabriel said. “And we magnify everyone in the state, that’s the goal. Every time we have a successful screening for a Michigan film, it’s like a gold star in Lansing, to me. We love to do that.”

The closing night feature is set to be the Midwest premiere of Apple TV+’s upcoming docuseries “They Call Me Magic.” The series takes a look into the life and career of basketball star Earvin “Magic” Johnson, a Lansing native, which won’t premier until April 22.

Ken Turner, a Lansing native, was approached by the team working on the show. They learned Turner had video footage of Johnson playing basketball dating back to his ninth-grade days 40-something years ago. Over the years of videotaping him, Turner developed a relationship with Johnson, who would often stop by Turner’s home to watch the old footage.

“This guy from California called me and said they’re putting together some information about Earvin to do a documentary,” Turner said. “I’ve always been skeptical of things like that. I called Earvin and asked him, ‘Is this legit?’ And he says, ‘Oh, yeah, if you could help him out, that’d be good.’”

Turner said Apple TV+ sent out a team to help him comb through all the tapes he’d made and edited over the years, many of which had to be converted from Super 8 film. He considers himself lucky to have helped contribute material to such a production, with his only prior film experience during his time running the movie projector at school during lunch.

“I felt important and I felt needed,” Turner said.

Attendees can expect to see the Michigan premiere of many other movies over the 10 days.

Gabriel said this year’s festival “feels like a ramp-up year.”

“Next year, I have expectations that we’ll be quite bold and adventurous,” Gabriel said. “We can and have orches-



Xiaoxing Han

The Fortnight Film Contest screening and awards at the Lansing Public Media Center.

# Festival

from page 14

But it just didn't feel like the tone was right yet. It's about reaching as many people as we can, but in a safe way."

### What was it like in years past?

Payal Ravani, co-director of the festival with Cochran, said the festival presents "endless opportunity," which is one reason the festival was extended from five days to 11 days in 2019.

"We found ourselves really packing it in, and we found ourselves programming films and events at the same time as other things we thought would draw similar audiences," Ravani said. "In a way, we were making it hard on ourselves and harder for audiences to pick what to go to."

At times, there may have been three different music performances at three different locations, and multiple films screening around the city. People could check out what was going on at the House of More, which was in the Robin Theatre in 2019, and then go watch shorts at Hotwater Works Warehouse, an old hot tub store.

Extending the length of the festival gave its coordinators the opportunity to spread out events, form more community partnerships and incorporate more into the events. Ravani said, despite the cliché, they "really try and make sure that there's something for everyone."

"Over the years, we've built that trust up from our attendees, to really experience all of our bugs," she said. "And then, there's this whole other arm of the festival that's not films or music. It's this category that we lovingly call 'more.' It was super cool stuff that doesn't quite fit in a traditional film setting."

Ravani explained that the "more" category is mostly based around partnerships formed with CCFF. In the past, it included programs like an immersive

gaming showcase and an event for children at Impression 5 Science Center.

"When we see these opportunities arise, we try and connect what we're doing to the greater picture and the greater community," Ravani said.

Because this year is the festival's first year back since 2019, it's not going to be in as many venues as it was in years past, especially with the temporary closure of Mac's Bar and permanent closing of The Loft.

The locale of the festival after party is still under wraps, but its overseer, Crystal Gause, a freelance creative producer from Detroit, expressed excitement.

"We've got a really great location," she said. "It's something that people have never really experienced." Attendees should be prepared to dance to some house and techno music, though.



Eat Pomegranate Photography

DJ at the House of More, which was the festival's immersive media experience.



Eat Pomegranate Photography

The House of More digital art exhibition at the Robin Theatre.



Eat Pomegranate Photography

CCFF is more than movies and music. Here, two compete in a gaming tournament during a past festival.

### What's next for CCFF?

With new venues in Lansing on the way, the possibilities for growing the festival are seemingly endless. A former gay club on Washington Square is on its way to becoming a music venue capable of holding up to 800 attendees. And, of course, plans for a huge performing arts complex on Washington Avenue were unveiled this year.

Gabriel said that, next year, CCFF is working on forming partnerships with groups like the Media Sandbox at Michigan State University, a group of students within the College of Communication Arts and Sciences who work together on creative projects.

"We already have a list of things that are big, new, shiny ideas for next year," he said. "And it grows longer and longer and more ambitious. We're going to see where the moon lies next year."

Szymczak said she felt that the city has grown along with the festival. Challenges like bringing music acts and major filmmakers here to Lansing has "just gotten easier" each year.

"I think it's really time for another generation to move it forward," Szymczak said. "I'm really excited about that. I'm excited that we've kept thinking big about things and that the business gets new interest, because that's going to carry the festival for 10 more years."

# 'The Cake' is a bittersweet treat

By **MARY CUSACK**

A story based on a Supreme Court case about discrimination against a gay couple might not sound like a fun night out at the theater, but it is. Williamston Theatre's production of "The Cake" slices through the headlines and serves up a luscious, rich tale of human emotion with a sprinkling of personal evolution.

**Review**

Southern baker Della (Julia Glander) has just been booked as a contestant on a national baking competition show. The daughter of her late best friend comes home to plan her wedding and asks Della to make the cake. When Della finds out that Jen (Katie Terpstra) is marrying a woman, Della struggles between her faith and her love of Jen to make the right decision whether to make the cake.

A quality cake that is worth the calories has lots of sugar, fat, frosting and flavor. Della instructs the audience that you can't skimp on the ingredients when making a cake, and Williamston certainly doesn't skimp. "The Cake" has the highest quality ingredients, including Kirk Domer's spectacular set, Michelle Raymond and Emily Sutton-Smith's sumptuous cake props and the excellent acting.

Still, all of the production ingredients can fall flat if the script is lacking. In this case, playwright Bekah Brunstetter digs deep into her roots to write what she knows, and the script forms a fantastic batter for the final product. Brunstetter is from North Carolina and understands the complexity of this critical issue through the lens of people raised on the Good Book. She has empathy for all of the characters, and she develops them with love and respect while exposing their flaws.

Glander is outstanding as Della, who literally and figuratively lays herself bare

as the conflict between her beliefs and her love for Jen makes her face the emptiness in her own life. Glander's performance is so engaging that it would be easy to overlook the skill of the rest of the cast.

Terpstra at first seems high strung and shallow, but Jen is a young woman caught between two worlds, desperately trying to bring them together to heal the rift in her own heart. There is comfort in returning home to Southern roots, yet the Christian values with which she was raised and are still held by her friends and family would condemn the person she has become. Terpstra lets Jen be emotionally messy and raw, yet hopeful and loving as she continues to synthesize past and future.

## "The Cake"

Performances through April 24  
8 p.m. Thursday — Saturday  
3 p.m. Saturday & 2 p.m. Sunday  
Tickets start at \$28  
Williamstontheatre.org  
(517) 655-7469

The most easily under-appreciated performance is that of Alex Leydenfrost as Tim, Della's husband. Tim is a masculine everyman who quietly supports his wife while burying his feelings deeper than the septic tanks he works on. Leydenfrost's performance is subtle, but heart wrenching, when Tim's veneer cracks just a little as he shares his secret shame.

Brunstetter's script was inspired by the famous Supreme Court case Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission, in which the owners of the shop sued for the right to refuse service to gay couples based on religious beliefs. It can be easy to demonize others for beliefs that oppose our own, but Brunstetter opens up the conversation by creating deeply complex, flawed characters who may be a lot like the people in our neighborhood.



Chris Purchis

Julia Glander as Della in Williamston Theatre's production of "The Cake."

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# 'Notables' tops Lansing literary events this month

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Authors, poets and readers in the Capital City need to get ready to “kick out the jams” in April, because three major literary events are on the calendar — two of which were canceled for the last two years out of pandemic precaution.

On April 30 the Library of Michigan Foundation will host its Night for Notables event featuring authors who have won the Michigan Notable Book Awards in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Keynoting the event will be the legendary “Kick Out the Jams” MC5 member Wayne Kramer, whose memoir, “The Hard Stuff: Dope, Crime, the MC5 and My Life of Impossibilities,” was in the 2019 selection of Michigan Notable Books. Kramer’s book explores the depths and highs as one of the cofounders of the revolutionary band of the 1960s and his successful fight for sobriety.



“For someone who got his first library card at age 5, this award is a wonderful honor,” Jones said. “The Library of Michigan is so supportive of authors, libraries and librarians.”

Kramer and Jones will join more than 30 authors at the Library of Michigan for a night honoring Michigan literature. Kramer will speak at 6 p.m., followed by a reception with refreshments and drinks. Guests will be able to mingle with authors, purchase books and have the books autographed. The event is \$50 for in-person seats and \$20 for remote viewing. The proceeds go to the Library of Michigan Foundation to be used for a statewide author tour. To register, go online to Night for Notables – Library of Michigan Foundation.

It’s also not too late to register for the Rally of Writers, which is Saturday (April 9). It is one of the longest-running writers workshops in the country. The featured writer this year is Doug Stan-



Courtesy

MC5 member Wayne Kramer’s memoir “The Hard Stuff” was in the 2019 selection of Michigan Notable Books. Kramer is speaking at the upcoming Night for Notables event.

ton, whose book “In Harm’s Way” won a Michigan Notable Book Award in 2002. Stanton has written three successful non-fiction books, two of which have had movie treatments, including a film based on “The Horse Soldiers.”

The rally is at the Conference Center at the West Campus of Lansing Community College in Delta Township. Online registration is available here Registration – A Rally of Writers (wordpress.com). Registration is \$98.50 for adults and \$63.50 for students.

Other authors presenting include lo-

cal authors Lev Raphael, poet Ruelaine Stokes and Erin Bartels, Michael Zadorian and Jeff Vande Zande.

On Sunday (April 10), the Mid-Michigan Antiquarian Book Dealers Association will host its semi-annual Antiquarian Book and Paper Show at the Causeway Bay Hotel and Conference Center. It’s been around for over 30 years and is organized by Ray Walsh, owner of Curious Book Shop and Archives Book Shop in East Lansing.

This year, more than 30 book sellers will participate selling both rare and popular books. The variety of books will range from children’s books to miniature books and everything in between. Expect to spend anywhere from a few dollars for a book to a few thousand for a Civil War-era map. Parking is free and admission for adults is \$5. Children under 13 are free.

## Rally of Writers

Saturday, April 9  
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
West Campus, LCC  
5708 Cornerstone Dr., Lansing  
Arallyofwriters.wordpress.com  
\*Registration must be complete by noon Friday (April 8)

## Antiquarian Book and Paper Show

Sunday, April 10  
9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Causeway Bay Hotel & Conference Center  
6820 S. Cedar St., Lansing  
Curiousbooks.com/shows

## Night for Notables Reception

Saturday, April 30  
6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
Library of Michigan  
702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing  
libraryofmichiganfoundation.org/  
mnbnightfornotables

Stephen Mack Jones, one of the award-winning authors with Lansing roots, will also attend. Jones, 67, wrote three thrillers set in Detroit, two of which have won Michigan Notable Book awards. Jones grew up in Lansing, graduating from Sexton High School in 1972 and then Michigan State University in 1977 with an advertising degree.

Jones began writing after retiring from a long career in the Detroit advertising industry. He said he is in the final stages of his fourth book featuring ex-Detroit cop August Snow, whom Jones refers to “as defending what is right for those you love.”

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# How children can have memorable summer camp experiences

## By STAFF

As hours of sunlight increase, thoughts may turn to summer vacation. For many children, summer vacation wouldn't be the same without camp.

Adults may have their own fond memories of going to summer camp when they were children because of the opportunities it presented to be independent and meet new people. Campers often bond over shared experiences, whether they are planned activities or unexpected "disasters" like a rainstorm washing out a canoe trip. That is why so many parents choose to carry on the

summer camp tradition when they have their own children.

However, some kids may not be ready to jump right into the summer camp lifestyle. Such youngsters may need extra reassurance and support to make the most of their time at camp. The following are some tips for making summer camp an enjoyable experience.

### Plan ahead

Families can visit the camp in advance and get a lay of the land. Knowing what to expect in terms of facilities and activities can assuage some anxiety. It also will help campers hone in on what to pack and what to expect over the summer.

### Try many new activities

Summer camp is about expanding boundaries and interests. Campers should sign up for many activities, including those that normally may be out of their wheelhouse. A camper may be pleased to learn

that a new craft activity or a sports game piques his or her interest.

### Connect with fellow campers in advance

If the camp has a social media presence, follow the camp's posts and connect with other like-minded campers even before they arrive. Talking with others who share similar interests can help campers feel more comfortable about meeting up

once they arrive at camp.

### Develop a rapport with camp counselors

The saying "you only get one chance to make a first impression" extends to campers meeting camp counselors. When campers interact with counselors for the first time, they should be outgoing, polite and open to new ideas.

See Camp, Page 19



Courtesy

Summer camp is an opportunity for youths from different backgrounds to expand their horizons.

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Matilda (Ages 6-10)  
June 20-24 • 114501-C22

\*Dungeons & Dragons • (Ages 11-15)  
June 27-July 1 • 114501-E22

### JULY CAMPS

Nightmare Before Christmas  
(Ages 11-15)  
July 11-22 • 114501-F22

Scooby Doo (Ages 6-10)  
July 11-15 • 114501-G22

Percy Jackson (Ages 9-12)  
July 18-22 • 114501-H22

Superheroes (Ages 9-12)  
July 25-29 • 114501-I22

### AUGUST CAMPS

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August 1-12 • 114501-J22

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August 1-5 • 114501-K22

### INFORMATION

The purpose of these camps is to put together a small performance on the final day of each camp. During the week, the participants will determine how they want to tell their story; this may involve using an existing script, or writing a new one of their own. Each performance will feature simplistic props, sets, and costumes that are needed to tell the story effectively. Two-week camps are set up the same way, but offer more time to practice more involved material – such as longer scripts or musical numbers.

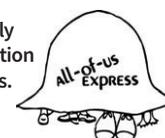
\*These camps are priced differently than other camps and more information can be found under Special Camps.

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CHILDREN'S THEATRE



# Camp

from page 18

Counselors will appreciate easy-going campers and could be good resources of useful information, such as how to score

an extra dessert at mealtime.

### Follow the safety rules

While campers may spread their wings a bit at summer camp when not under the watchful eyes of parents, any mischief should not come at the expense of safety. Campers should stick to

the safety protocol so that camp is not memorable for the wrong reasons.

### Change another camper's experience

A camper who recognizes a fellow camper is reserved and shy can invite that person to come sit with other friends at meals or to participate in an

activity. This can help build a lasting friendship and make camp that much more enjoyable for someone in need.

Summer camp season is on the horizon and campers can take several steps to foster memorable and fun experiences along the way.

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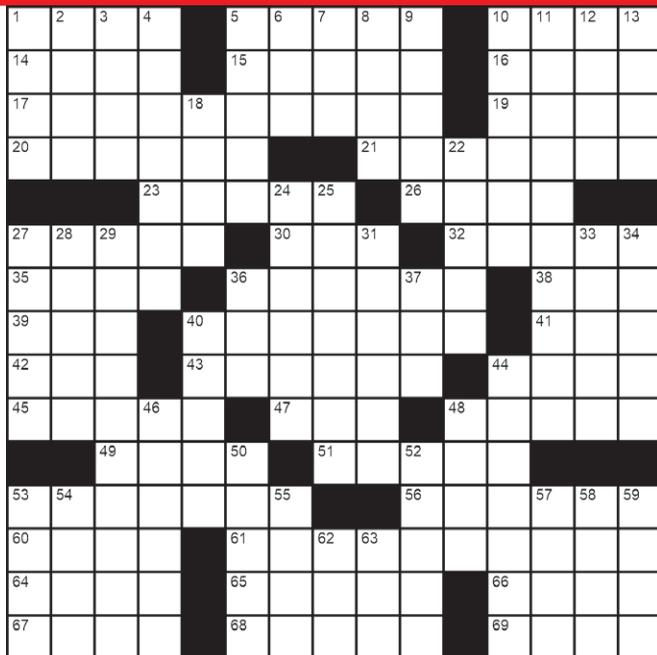
# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Can I Finish?"--  
yes I can.  
by Matt Jones

**Across**

- 1. Popeyes side
- 5. "Surprise" subtitle in "The Price Is Right"'s "Hole in One" game
- 10. Sherman \_\_\_\_, CA
- 14. Nautical prefix
- 15. Ecstatic hymn
- 16. "On Air with \_\_\_\_ Seacrest"
- 17. Cash cab, really?
- 19. Architect Saarinen
- 20. Construction worker on "Fraggle Rock"
- 21. Brand in the dairy aisle
- 23. Dumbstruck
- 26. Too inquisitive
- 27. On the clock?



- 56. 22-Down variant
  - 60. "Yeah, I get it"
  - 61. Magazine for the discerning Abominable Snowman?
  - 64. Lt. Dangle's city
  - 65. Prolific writer Asimov
  - 66. Finn on a raft
  - 67. Words of clarification when spelling
  - 68. Lose intentionally
  - 69. Accident-monitoring gp.
- Down**
- 1. Right \_\_\_\_ Fred
  - 2. Host of the recent "You Bet Your Life" revival
  - 3. Gas brand that's also a musical direction
  - 4. More dizzy
  - 5. "Jerry Springer: The \_\_\_\_"
  - 6. Templeton, in
  - 7. Spilled drink
  - 8. Like some cheese rinds
  - 9. Vegetable for which goggles may be used when prepping
  - 10. End of an ultimatum
  - 11. Electronic assistant for a Madagascar lemur species?
  - 12. Byron of "MythBusters"
  - 13. Runny nose problem
  - 18. Become well
  - 22. See 56-Across
  - 24. Triumph in the end
  - 25. Countersign
  - 27. Margot played her in 2017
  - 28. Elite eightsome of higher ed
  - 29. Author Morrison, when writing poetry?
  - 31. Two-unit home
  - 33. Team of judges
  - 34. Like a winding road
  - 36. "Foucault's Pendulum" author Umberto
  - 37. "Curious George" author H.A. \_\_\_\_
  - 40. Display unit
  - 44. Word to a hound
  - 46. Japanese radish
  - 48. Means of escape
  - 50. Ark measurement unit
  - 52. "Penn & Teller: Fool Us" network
  - 53. Bilingual explorer
  - 54. Jake Shimabukuro instruments
  - 55. Phil who jammed with Jerry Garcia
  - 57. God, to Caesar
  - 58. Carve in stone
  - 59. "Morning Joe" cohort Brzezinski
  - 62. Stuff in a pit
  - 63. Principle behind yin and yang

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

April 6-12, 2022

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** To provide the right horoscope, I must introduce you to three new words. The first is "orphic," defined as "having an importance or meaning not apparent to the senses nor comprehensible to the intellect; beyond ordinary understanding." Here's the second word: "ludic," which means "playful; full of fun and high spirits." The third word is "kalon," which refers to "profound, thorough beauty." Now I will coordinate those terms to create a prophecy in accordance with your astrological aspects. Ready? I predict you will generate useful inspirations and energizing transformations for yourself by adopting a ludic attitude as you seek kalon in orphic experiments and adventures.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** I love your steadfastness, intense effort, and stubborn insistence on doing what's right. Your ability to stick to the plan even when chaos creeps in is admirable. But during the coming weeks, I suggest you add a nuance to your approach. Heed the advice of martial artist Bruce Lee: "Be like water making its way through cracks. Do not be assertive, but adjust to the object, and you shall find a way around or through it. If nothing within you stays rigid, outward things will disclose themselves."

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Gemini-born basketball coach Pat Summitt won Olympic medals, college championships, and presidential awards. She had a simple strategy: "Here's how I'm going to beat you. I'm going to outwork you. That's it. That's all there is to it." I recommend that you apply her approach to everything you do for the rest of 2022. According to my analysis, you're on course for a series of satisfying victories. All you have to do is nurture your stamina as you work with unwavering focus and resilient intelligence.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** In Britain, 70 percent of the land is owned by one percent of the population. Globally, one percent of the population owns 43 percent of the wealth. I hope there's a much better distribution of resources within your own life. I hope that the poorer, less robust parts of your psyche aren't being starved at the expense of the privileged and highly functioning aspects. I hope that the allies and animals you tend to take for granted are receiving as much of your love and care as the people you're trying to impress or win over. If any adjustments are necessary, now is a favorable time to make them.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** TV show creator Joey Soloway says, "The only way things will change is when we're all wilder, louder, riskier, sillier, and unexpectedly overflowing with surprise." Soloway's Emmy Award-winning work on Transparent, one of the world's first transgender-positive shows, suggests that their formula has been effective for them. I'm recommending this same approach to you in the coming weeks, Leo. It will help you summon the extra courage and imagination you will need to catalyze the necessary corrections and adjustments.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** "Find a place inside where there's joy, and the joy will burn out the pain," wrote mythologist Joseph Campbell. I don't think his cure is foolproof. The lingering effects of some old traumas aren't so simple and easy to dissolve. But I suspect Campbell's strategy will work well for you in the coming weeks. You're in a phase of your astrological cycle when extra healing powers are available. Some are obvious, and some are still partially hidden. It will be your sacred duty to track down every possible method that could help you banish at least some of your suffering and restore at least some of your joie de vivre.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** You know who Jimi Hendrix was, right? He was a brilliant and influential rock guitarist. As for Miles Davis, he was a Hall of Fame-level trumpeter and composer. You may be less familiar with Tony

Williams. A prominent rock critic once called him "the best drummer in the world." In 1968, those three superstars gathered in the hope of recording an album. But they wanted to include a fourth musician, Paul McCartney, to play bass for them. They sent a telegram to the ex-Beatle, but it never reached him. And so the supergroup never happened. I mention this in the hope that it will render you extra alert for invitations and opportunities that arrive in the coming weeks—perhaps out of nowhere. Don't miss out! Expect the unexpected. Read between the lines. Investigate the cracks.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Poet Anne Carson claims that "a page with a poem on it is less attractive than a page with a poem on it and some tea stains." I agree. If there are tea stains, it probably means that the poem has been studied and enjoyed. Someone has lingered over it, allowing it to thoroughly permeate their consciousness. I propose we make the tea-stained poem your power metaphor for the coming weeks, Scorpio. In other words, shun the pristine, the spotless, the untouched. Commune with messy, even chaotic things that have been loved and used.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Sagittarian author Martha Beck articulated the precise message you need to hear right now. She wrote, "Here is the crux of the matter, the distilled essence, the only thing you need to remember: When considering whether to say yes or no, you must choose the response that feels like freedom. Period." I hope you adopt her law in the coming weeks, Sagittarius. You should avoid responses and influences that don't feel liberating. I realize that's an extreme position to take, but I think it's the right one for now. Where does your greatest freedom lie? How can you claim it? What shifts might you need to initiate?

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** I'm glad you have been exploring your past and reconfiguring your remembrances of the old days and old ways. I'm happy you've been transforming the story of your life. I love how you've given yourself a healing gift by reimagining your history. It's fine with me if you keep doing this fun stuff for a while longer. But please also make sure you don't get so immersed in bygone events that you're weighed down by them. The whole point of the good work you've been doing is to open up your future possibilities. For inspiration, read this advice from author Milan Kundera: "We must never allow the future to collapse under the burden of memory."

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Aquarian historian Mary Frances Berry offered counsel that I think all Aquarians should keep at the heart of their philosophy during the coming weeks. She wrote, "The time when you need to do something is when no one else is willing to do it, when people are saying it can't be done." I hope you trust yourself enough to make that your battle cry. I hope you will keep summoning all the courage you will regularly need to implement its mandate.

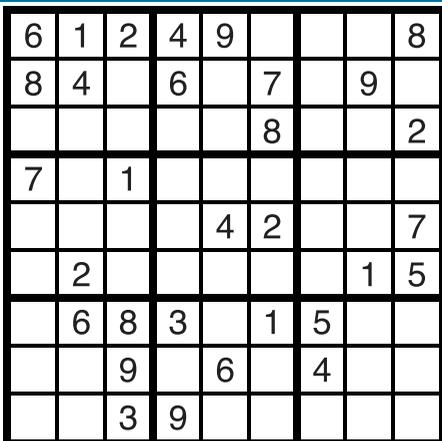
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** What's the leading cause of deforestation in Latin America? Logging for wood products? Agricultural expansion? New housing developments? Nope. It's raising cattle so people everywhere can eat beef and cheese and milk. This industry also plays a major role in the rest of the world's ongoing deforestation tragedy. Soaring greenhouse gas emissions aren't entirely caused by our craving for burgers and milk and cheese, of course, but our climate emergency would be significantly less dramatic if we cut back our consumption. That's the kind of action I invite you to take in the coming months, Pisces. My analysis of astrological omens suggests that you now have even more power than usual to serve the collective good of humanity in whatever specific ways you can. (PS: Livestock generates 14.5 percent of our greenhouse gases, equal to the emissions from all cars, trucks, airplanes, and ships combined.)

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Answers on page 24

# SUDOKU

Beginner



## TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 24

*Stormy Kromer*  
— IRONWOOD, MICHIGAN —



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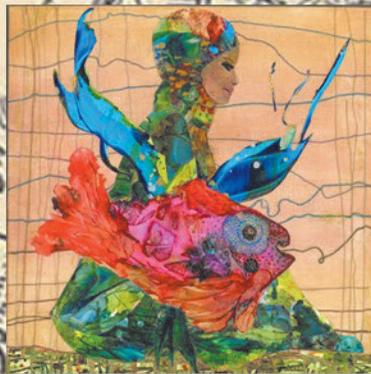
**Ann Willey —  
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**Cora Smith —  
Harbor Springs**



**Michael Sincic —  
Williamsburg**



**Stephanie Gregg —  
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**Big Mitten  
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**John Gregg—Eaton Rapids**



**Jeff Johnson —  
Jackson**

# TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

## LIFE CHANGING ALBUMS: PHILIP WINTERS OF TYRANT TALKS YES

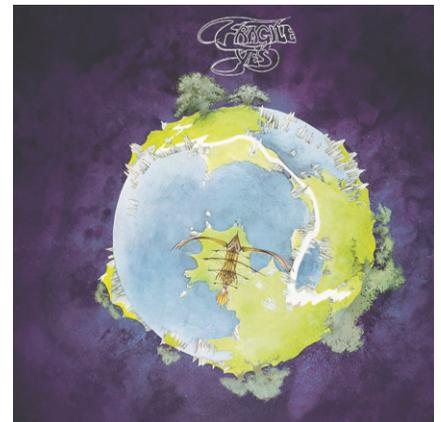


Photo: 1887 Media

Tyrant is a Lansing, Michigan-based heavy metal band formed by brothers Philip and Andrew Winters in 2012. Today, the band has a new lineup and are working on a new album.

## How a Lansing-based metalhead stumbled on 1971's 'Fragile' LP

For the last decade, Tyrant has been a fixture in the local heavy metal scene and beyond. Formed by brothers Philip Winters (vocals, guitar) and Andrew Winters (drums) while they were still in high school, the band has progressively dealt out a powerful fusion that tastefully echoes the likes of early Metallica, Megadeth and Kiss — by way of Pantera.

Outside of Tyrant's recorded works, like its 2018 debut album "The Pact," the band has grown into seasoned road warriors, touring all over the country. That hard work led to opening slots for metal legends like Decide, Metal Church and Diamond Head, to name a few.

The Lansing outfit has also benefited from consistent radio play, including hitting No. 21 on the NACC Metal Chart and No. 3 on the Metal Contraband Chart. Beyond that, the group has garnered positive press from headbanger outlets like Metal Insider, Metalsucks and Metal Injection.

Last week, Tyrant announced its new band members: Lead guitarist Charles Barber and bassist Salvador Mora. The new lineup formed in late 2021 and has been working on its sophomore album, due out this summer.

Tyrant might be known for its heaviness, but Philip Winters' album collec-

tion goes way beyond that one genre. In this week's "Life Changing Albums" series, the songwriter talks about the mind-bending influence of a sprawling prog-rock masterpiece released back in 1971. Here is what he had to say:

**What album in your collection would you consider "life changing"?**

**Philip Winters:** There have been many, many albums that have had a fundamental impact on my life, but the first one that comes to mind is "Fragile," by Yes. I believe I was 18 or 19 when I first heard the album. Right around 2014 — many years after it was released.

**How did you discover this album?**

To be quite honest, I think I stumbled across this album on YouTube. I was slowly venturing into the world of prog-rock around this time. I remember clicking on the thumbnail one night because it caught my eye. This is one of those albums where, on the first listen, I kind of sat back and thought, "What the hell did I just listen to?"

Then I found myself yearning to listen to it again and it quickly became the soundtrack to my life for the following 18 to 24 months. I'd often go running in the woods just listening to this album and letting it transport me to this other world. It was so meditative and liberating. The artwork has a planet that looks

similar to Earth, but you can tell it's not quite Earth. It seems so different, but it still feels like home.

**What aspects of "Fragile" impact you the most?**

Literally, everything is deeply moving: The ornate compositions, the textures of Rick Wakeman's synths. The fiery and dynamic approach to guitar from Steve Howe. The pulsing and driving bass from Chris Squire. The grounding percussion from Bill Bruford and the nonsensical but absolutely breathtaking lyrics from Ian Anderson. To be fair, Ian Anderson wrote the lyrics just humming syllables to the tracks and wrote the words to the syllables he sketched. So, if you read them, they don't quite make sense. They're a bit cryptic, but on some deep, intrinsic and spiritual level.

This album is like a cool summer breeze on a bright and shiny July day — from high upon a foreign mountain top, overlooking a crystal-clear lake, while hearing eagles make exclamations of freedom.

**In what ways has the album directly affected your life, or musical style?**

It completely restructured the way I listen to and view music. It not only allowed me to see all of the cool things that can be done with music, it also

taught me how to apply it to my own musical compositions.

Beyond that, "Fragile" happened to come into my life when I was in a very confused state. I was still trying to figure out what I was supposed to do after high school — who my friends were, how to navigate life and essentially what it meant to "be," if you will. That old, familiar confusion of being a young adult.

This album seemed to alleviate a lot of the frustration, confusion and general misdirection I was experiencing. As I stated earlier, it took me to places that were comforting and reassuring. The piece "Mood for a Day," near the end, reminds me of that the most.

**What are a couple other honorable mentions?**

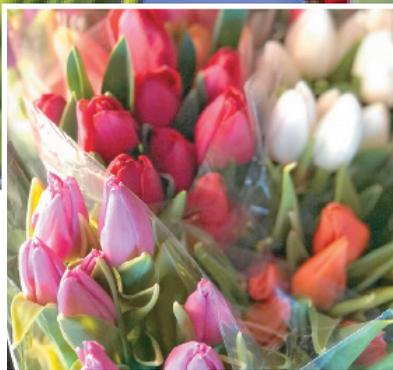
The first is Kiss' "Alive!" It's the only live album I've heard that truly captures a band's live energy. That album oozes energy and rock stardom. The second is Megadeth's "Killing Is My Business ... and Business Is Good!" Pure and unadulterated ferocity.

**For more information, visit [tyrant-band.com](http://tyrant-band.com) or follow [facebook.com/TyrantMetal](https://www.facebook.com/TyrantMetal).**



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# OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com). Deadline is 9 a.m. Monday 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.

## LIVE + LOCAL

### B&I Bar

5247 Old Lansing Rd.  
Lansing

### Devyn Mitchell

Thurs., Apr. 7, 7:30-10:30 p.m.

### Joe Wright

Fri., Apr. 8, 7-10p.m.

### Flipside

Sat., Apr. 9, 8-11 p.m.

### Blue Owl

1149 S Washington, Lansing

### Elden Kelly and Gregg Hill

Thurs., Apr. 7, 6-8 p.m.

### Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids

### DownRiver Dan

Fri., April 8, 7-10 p.m.

### Russ Holcomb

Sat. April 9, 7-10 p.m.

### Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

### Corzo Effect

Fri., April 8, 8:30 p.m.

### The Rotations

Sat., April 9, 8:30 p.m.

### Lansing Brewing Company

518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing

### Troy Page

Sat., April 9, 8-11 p.m.

### Peanut Barrel

521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing

### The Swift Brothers

Fri., April 8, 8-10 p.m.

### Reno's North

16460 Old US 27, Lansing

### The New Rule

Fri. & Sat., Apr. 8-9, 6-10 p.m.

### Robin Theatre

1120 S. Washington, Lansing

### Lansing Symphony Orchestra

Thurs., Apr. 7, 7:30 p.m.

### Urban Beat

1213 N. Turner St., Lansing

### Diego Rivera – Mestizo Tour

Fri., Apr. 8, 8-11 p.m.

## Susan Werner

**University United Methodist Church**  
1120 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing

**Friday, April 8**

**7:30 p.m. — 10 p.m.**

**tenpoundfiddle.org**



The Ten Pound Fiddle is hosting singer-songwriter Susan Werner. Over the course of her nearly 30-year-long music career, the Iowan has challenged herself to tackle new songs and genres ranging from rock to gospel. Werner's latest recording of original songs, "The Birds of Florida," was released in January. The songs are inspired by Werner's stay in Siesta Key, Florida, where she spent most of a pandemic winter. Tickets for the event can be purchased online or at the door, starting at \$20 for the public and \$18 for Fiddle members.

## Wednesday, April 6

**Adult Book Group** – 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main. [eradl.org](http://eradl.org).

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

**Art Exhibit** – This Rebirthing – Coming Alive with Oils. Through 5/18. 12-4 p.m. The People's Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing.

**Easter Bunny** – through April 16. 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Meridian Mall, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos.

**Indoors/Outdoors Art Show** – Andrea Jeris' Art Show: "Indoors/Outdoors" through April. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Framers' Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. [framersedge.net](http://framersedge.net).

**Michigan Young Birders Network Virtual Meeting** – 7-8 p.m. Michigan Audubon, 2310 Science Parkway, Ste# 200, Okemos. Zoom link at [michiganaudubon.org](http://michiganaudubon.org).

**Our Mysterious Lives Art Show** – Artist, Mark Hahn. Through April 30. Catalyst Gallery, 1214 Turner, Lansing.

**Photography Class** – (3 weeks) - 6:30-9 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos. [meridian.mi.us](http://meridian.mi.us).

**Poetry of Witness, Poetry of Resistance** – 7-9 p.m. Kellogg Center Auditorium, 219 S Harrison Rd, East Lansing. [poetry.rcyah.msu.edu](http://poetry.rcyah.msu.edu).

**TPC Art Display Honors People of Ukraine** – through 4/29, Noon-4. Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing.

**Wetlands Walk** – 5-6:30 p.m. Lake Lansing

North Preserve, 1000 Wild Ginger Trail, Okemos. 517-853-4614. [meridian.mi.us](http://meridian.mi.us).

## Thursday, April 7

**America at Crossroads** – Discover how to enjoy better health. 6:30-8 p.m. Lansing Church Auditorium, 5400 W. St. Joseph Hwy, Lansing. [crossroads.to](http://crossroads.to).

**April Daily Events @ GLADL** – 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**Capital Area Audubon Society April Meeting** – Alexa Witcombe will present on the birds and wildlife she saw in Uganda. 7-8:30 p.m. Zoom link: [capitalareaudubon.org](http://capitalareaudubon.org).

**Capital City Film Festival** – April 7-16, 2022. 5pm - midnight (except weekends noon - midnight). Multiple venues. Schedule at [capitalcityfilmfest.com](http://capitalcityfilmfest.com).

**Claywork's Spring Pottery Sale** – 5-8 p.m. New location: Faith Church, 2300 Lake Lansing Rd., Lansing.

**DDL Egg Dash (Ages 16+)** – 7-8 p.m. DeWitt District Library, 1640 DeWitt Rd, DeWitt. 517-669-3156. [dewittlibrary.org](http://dewittlibrary.org).

**Egg'Strava-ganza!** [Reg. Req.] - decorate Easter eggs with dye, paint, glitter, feathers and more! 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org)

**Finding Color in the Collection: Art, Science, and Social Justice** – Associate Professor Jon Frey. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu)

**Open VR** – Try Virtual Reality! - The VR lab is back and in-person! 2-4 p.m. MSU Main Library, East Lansing. [lib.msu.edu](http://lib.msu.edu)

**Stitch 'n Bitch** – 5-8 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center St. #7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. [manifestlansing.com](http://manifestlansing.com).

**Tina Gorter, piano** – Free. 7 p.m. College of Music Cook Recital Hall, East Lansing. [events.msu.edu](http://events.msu.edu).

See Events, Page 25

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 20

S	L	A	W		O	R	T	W	O		O	A	K	S	
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## SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 20

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

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# Events

from page 24

**Vox Humana** – Tenor Nils Neubert. 8:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Rd, East Lansing. 517-355-1855. events.msu.edu.

## Friday, April 8

**Claywork's Spring Pottery Sale** – 10 a.m.- 8 p.m. Faith Church, 2300 Lake Lansing Rd., Lansing.

**Exploding Egg Dye Kits** – available starting today. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St. eradl.org.

**Fish Fry Friday's** – through April 15. 5:30-7:30 p.m. VFW Post 701, 123 N. Rosemary St., Lansing.

**Kaitlin Gaynor, flute** – free. 9 p.m. MSU College of Music, Cook Recital Hall, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

**Make & Take Pop Up: Painting Pride** – 1-4 p.m. MSU Main Library, East Lansing. msu.edu.

**Nathan Salazar, saxophone** – Free. 7 p.m. MSU College of Music, Cook Recital Hall, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

**Stress Less with Mindfulness** – Can you tell when you are starting to get stressed? 12-1 p.m. MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. 517-884-6897. museum.msu.edu.

**Susan Werner** – 7:30-10 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

**TGIF Dinner and Dance** – 7-11:30 p.m. Hawk Hollow, 15101 Chandler Rd., Bath. tgifdance.com

## April 9

**A Festival of Keys** – 9 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Rd, East Lansing. 517-355-1855. events.msu.edu.

**A Rally of Writers** – Keynote: Doug Stanton, Writing Lives. 8:30-4 p.m. LCC Conference Center, 5708 Cornerstone Dr., Lansing. arallyofwriters.wordpress.com.

**America at Crossroads** – Discover practical answers on how to enjoy better health. 6:30-8 p.m. Lansing Church Auditorium, 5400 W. St. Joseph Hwy, Lansing. crossroads.to.

**Children's Cultural Concert Series** – 11 a.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

**Claywork's Spring Pottery Sale** – 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Faith Church, 2300 Lake Lansing Rd., Lansing.

**David Binder, trombone** – free. 1 p.m. MSU College of Music, Cook Recital Hall, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

**Eliza Beutler, voice** – free. 3 p.m. MSU College of Music, Cook Recital Hall, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

**If Music Be The Food Concert** – a free concert by students from MSU's School of Music. 7-8:30 p.m. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 218 W. Ottawa, Lansing. 517-482-9454.

**Laingsburg Community Singers** – 4-6 p.m. Laingsburg High School Auditorium, 8008 Woodbury Rd., Laingsburg.

**Mei Shyuan Chiou, percussion** – free. 3 p.m. MSU College of Music, Murray Hall, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

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SERVES 8



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SERVES 8



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# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

# Jackfruit of all flavors

By **ARI LeVAUX**

Jackfruit has become a popular meat alternative in the last few years. You can find it on vegan tacos, or on a vegetarian “pulled pork” sandwich at a barbecue joint and at your local grocery store.

The trees are native to South Asia, and the fruit is used widely in sweet and savory dishes. The watermelon-shaped fruit can be three feet long and weigh 100 pounds, and is covered with spikes like a medieval weapon. A single tree can produce hundreds of fruits in a single year. When mature, the bright yellow flesh is sweet. Younger jackfruit flesh is firmer, closer to white in color and not sweet at all, tasting somewhere between palm heart and mushroom.

During my time in Brazil, I never tried eating young jackfruit. There, it's more commonly eaten sweet and ripe. It tastes like extra-fruity bubblegum,

with a sticky aroma you can smell a mile away. I was not impressed.

At an Asian grocery store in Salt Lake City the other day, my son snagged a can of jackfruit from the shelf, hoping for a sugary snack, and stuck it in the shopping cart. I didn't notice until I got home, so I did what I had heard a lot of jackfruit chefs do, and prepared it with habanero huckleberry barbecue sauce. First, I simmered it in a cup of sauce



David Lowry

Jackfruit has become a prominent meat alternative — and the fruit itself can grow up to 100 pounds.

and water until the liquid was reduced by half. Then, I marinated it for three days in the fridge.

I felt sheepish following this path, because I think dressing up “meaty” vegetables to pass as flesh is a set-up for failure. A serving of jackfruit contains less than three grams of protein — 6% of an

average daily allowance. Our bodies can taste protein, and lack thereof. When we expect a meaty experience, a meaty texture alone won't cut it.

Rather than serve my barbecue marinated jackfruit as a “pulled pork” sandwich, I spooned the stringy chunks onto

See Jackfruit, Page 27




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# Jackfruit

from page 26

some rice and ate it like some exotic curry. The mild jackfruit flavor mixed exquisitely with the flavors of the sauce. The texture of young jackfruit, as others have noted, is fun.

I had a little jackfruit left, so I fried it with some bacon bits, like the omnivore I am. It was glorious. The loose flesh of the fruit soaked up the grease, and the firm, chewy texture created a lovely contrast against the crispy pieces of bacon. I wanted more.

In small town Montana, where I live, I think I'd find jackfruit on the shelves. I hit the supermarket just in case and was pleasantly surprised. There was a bag of frozen ripe jackfruit pieces, but that wasn't the pleasant part. I also found a package of "Bar-B-Que Jackfruit." I brought it home to the lab.

The Bar-B-Que jackfruit was fine, if inferior to my own creation. I was ready for something different than pretend meat. In the jackfruit's ancestral homelands, unripe jackfruit has long been used in savory dishes like curries. I was hoping to make an authentic jackfruit recipe, with spices tailored over many generations specifically for it, and for that I needed unflavored jackfruit. Happily, I found cans of young jackfruit at a small international foods market and brought some home. To celebrate, I invented a recipe for Indian-style jackfruit masala, a rich gravy with lots of aromatic spices. It doesn't taste like fruit, and it doesn't taste like meat. Nonetheless, I can't stop eating it.

## Green jackfruit masala

It's not meat. It's fried jackfruit in a fragrant tomato gravy. Serve it with rice, a green garnish, and spicy condiments.

Serves 4

1/4 cup cooking oil or ghee

1 15-oz can of young jackfruit in brine, drained and cut into pieces about an inch on a side

1 teaspoon garam masala spice powder (or Indian spices of your choice)

1 teaspoon whole cumin (preferably toasted in a dry pan)

1 teaspoon whole coriander (preferably toasted)

1 teaspoon fenugreek (optional)

1 large onion, chopped

2 cloves garlic

1 inch of peeled ginger, sliced

1 large tomato, diced, or a can of diced tomatoes — save the water in the can

1 bunch of cilantro

Add the oil to the pan and heat it on medium-high heat until a flick of water sputters in the oil. Add the jackfruit pieces to the pan, evenly spaced so they aren't touching each other and fry until browned, stirring as necessary.

Remove the browned jackfruit and potatoes and set aside. Lower the heat to medium. Add the garam masala and leave it long enough to almost brown, and then add the onions and stir into the spices. When the onions become translucent add the garlic and ginger. A minute later the tomatoes, including the water from the can, if possible. Stir it all together and add salt to taste. Add the browned jackfruit to the sauce and simmer for 30 minutes to thicken. Serve with fragrant rice like basmati or jasmine, garnished with chopped cilantro.

# The Dish: Stuffed mushroom caps

By CHLOE ALVERSON

On a rainy evening a few weeks ago, a few friends and I ventured to Piazzano's on North Grand River — the place "where good friends meet." The family-style restaurant was buzzing at the start of the dinner rush.

The menu has a little bit of everything, from Italian fare to Mexican dishes. I wasn't sure what to pick, but I was hungry. I wanted an appetizer to start, and I debated between the fried mushrooms and spinach artichoke dip (which is my go-to). I decided on something that would combine the two: Stuffed mushroom caps. The mushroom caps come filled with either spinach or crab (I chose spinach) topped with cheese and "baked to perfection," as the menu described it.

The dish came fresh out of the oven, piping hot and overflowing with cheese. I could hardly tell there were mushrooms under the thick layer of all the cheese. When I dug in, I found four giant mushroom tops.



The mozzarella was gooey and melting off of the mushrooms, and the dish was basically spinach dip on four mushroom caps. It was so delicious. I almost didn't save room for my entrée. Almost



Chloe Alverson/City Pulse

Spinach stuffed mushroom caps from Piazzano's.

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