

FREE

June 24 - 30, 2020

# CityPULSE

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## Inclusion Awards 2020

SEE PAGE 23



# Andrew P. Abood

Attorney At Law

517.332.5900 | #thisisntover

# COVID-19 Heroes

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**Julie Davis**, Capital Area Community Service Head Start  
Preschool Teacher

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**Horrocks Farm Market Essential Employees**

**Mike Karl**, Founder of Cardboard Prophets

**MSU 3D PPE Maker Team**

**Jessy Rae**, owner of SEAMS

**Scott Rolan** of Lou & Harry's

**Kristi Schneider**, ER Nurse at Sparrow Hospital

**Julie Stephenson**, Clinton-Eaton-Ingham Community Mental  
Health Crisis Therapist

**Pamela Vandervest**, Sparrow Hospital Clinical  
Laboratory Scientist

**Tracey Lynn Van Deusen**, Physical Therapist

**Gov. Gretchen Whitmer**

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Honorees  
Announced:

July 15

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**Nancy Smith is an Ally**



Nancy Smith is a passionate believer in LGBTQ equality. As a teacher, Nancy spent nearly 25 years fighting for the rights of her LGBTQ students, helping to establish the district's first GSA. Now, she's ready to take that fight to the state legislature. For too long, our state government has failed the LGBTQ community, and Nancy is running to fix it by amending Elliott-Larsen, expanding our hate crime laws, and banning "conversion therapy."

**If you support a fair and inclusive Michigan, support Nancy Smith for state representative in District 65!**



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# CityPULSE

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**THIS WEEK in AUTHORITARIAN NEWSPEAK:**  
"Cancel Culture"

**WE'VE ALL SEEN THIS:**

THAT PERSON OR THING IS PROBLEMATIC.

**CANCEL CULTURE!**

**THIS TERM IS AN IDEOLOGICAL WEAPON THAT LETS ONE APPEAR OPEN-MINDED WHILE SHUTTING DOWN DISCUSSION.**

THE TRUMP CAMPAIGN SHOULDN'T BE USING NAZI SYMBOLS IN A FACEBOOK AD.

**CANCEL CULTURE! CANCEL CULTURE!**

NA NA NA NA, I CAN'T HEAR YOU!

**CURIOSLY, IT'S ONLY "CANCEL CULTURE" IF CONSERVATIVES DISAGREE WITH IT.**

WHAT ABOUT THE RIGHT "CANCELING" CLIMATE SCIENCE, PEACEFUL PROTESTS, MEDICAL EXPERTS, JOURNALISM, TRYING TO "CANCEL" PBS AND NPR...

THAT'S NOT CANCEL CULTURE! THAT'S GETTING RID OF THE DEEP STATE.

**MAYBE THE REAL CANCEL CULTURE IS THROWING AROUND LAZY INSULTS LIKE "CANCEL CULTURE."**

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**POLITICALLY CORRECT! YOUNG WOKE!**

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Lansing got its own BLACK LIVES MATTER mural

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Meet James McGrath

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The Dish: Jerusalem Pita and More's chicken shwarma

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Layout by Abby Sumbler

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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

DEMONSTRATORS ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE PROTESTING THE DEATHS OF AFRICAN AMERICANS WHICH, AH, HAPPEN TO INVOLVE POLICE! NOT TO MENTION ALL THE OTHER INSTANCES OF SO-CALLED "ABUSE" AND "BRUTALITY"!

POLICE

POLICE

THEY'RE DEMANDING CHANGE--AND LEGISLATORS ARE LISTENING! PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT DEFUNDING THE POLICE! WHO KNOWS WHERE ALL OF THIS COULD LEAD, IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL?

POLICE

POLICE

I WONDER IF WE SHOULD TAKE THINGS DOWN A NOTCH FOR A LITTLE WHILE? TRY NOT TO SHOOT ANY BLACK CITIZENS IN PARKING LOTS? GO EASY ON THE TEAR GAS? STOP SHOOTING PROTESTERS' EYES OUT WITH RUBBER BULLETS?

POLICE

POLICE

NOT THAT WE'RE NOT TOTALLY ENTITLED TO DO THOSE THINGS! BUT MAYBE, IF WE WANT TO CONVINCE THE PUBLIC THAT WE DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH RACISM AND BRUTALITY, WE SHOULD EASE UP ON ALL THE RACISM AND BRUTALITY? YOU KNOW, JUST FOR A FEW MONTHS, AT LEAST?

POLICE

POLICE

POLICE

POLICE

ER-- JUST KIDDING?

**HAW! YOU REALLY HAD ME GOING FOR A SECOND THERE!**

**NOW--LET'S GO KICK SOME PROTESTER ASS!**

POLICE

POLICE

TOM TOMORROW © 2020

# Pride's progress

While America convulses through a painful, long overdue reckoning with the ongoing manifestations of its deeply racist past, the U.S. Supreme Court last week delivered a thoroughly unexpected and historic breakthrough for the LGBTQ community in *Bostock v. Clayton County*, ruling that job discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity is impermissible under the federal Civil Rights Act. The case was brought in part by Aimee Stephens, a transgender individual from Michigan who was fired from her job at a funeral home after coming out to her employers. Sadly, Stephens passed away from a chronic illness a month before the ruling was issued, but she will forever be remembered as a heroic pioneer in the fight for equal rights and justice for LGBTQ citizens.

Finally securing a fundamental right that has long been settled for every other protected class of citizens — the right not to be fired from your job based on who you are and who you love — is a seismic event on par with some of the most profound civil rights victories in American history. Given the court's conservative majority, the decision is nothing less than astonishing and a welcome comeuppance for Donald Trump and his bottom-feeding, LGBTQ-hating acolytes. It is both ironic and deeply gratifying that Chief Justice John Roberts, a conservative appointed by President George W. Bush, and Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch, a conservative Trump appointee, joined the court's four liberals to deliver a resounding 6-3 win and a major human rights advancement. We hope it is a harbinger of future decisions that move our nation steadily toward eradicating discrimination in all its forms.

The landmark *Bostock* ruling comes less than a week after the Trump Administration continued its relentless attacks on the rights of marginalized citizens of every stripe by issuing a new rule that rescinds Obama-era protections against discrimination in health care and health insurance for transgender people. The good news is the abhorrent rule is unlikely to survive judicial review, which will necessarily follow the *Bostock* precedent. For now, it illustrates once again that the current occupant of the White House will stop at nothing to roll back federal protections



## The CP Edit

### Opinion

for LGBTQ citizens.

Cause for celebration to be sure, the *Bostock* ruling is nonetheless no reason to rest. We still have work to do, both at the federal level and here in Michigan. Chief among them is adding protections for sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression to the state's civil rights act. Legislation to achieve this goal has languished literally for decades in the Republican-controlled Legislature. We harbor no delusions that Republican leaders will have a change of heart, mirroring the courage and conviction of Justices Roberts and Gorsuch. The only certain path to the governor's desk is to elect Democratic House and Senate majorities.

Similarly, it's long past time to secure congressional approval of the federal Equality Act (H.R. 5), which would amend the Civil Rights Act to once and for all prohibit discrimination against LGBTQ citizens in education, housing, employment and public accommodations. Passed more

than a year ago with marginally bipartisan support in the U.S. House of Representatives, the bill still languishes in the U.S. Senate, firmly under the reactionary heel of the repugnant Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. There is no chance the measure will move forward unless and until Democrats regain control of the upper chamber and the White House.

Another significant front in the battle for LGBTQ rights is pushing back against discrimination that masquerades as religious belief, as in the *City of East Lansing v. Country Mill Farms* case, where a local apple orchard was banned from the city's farmers market because it refused to host LGBTQ weddings at its facility runs afoul of East Lansing's anti-discrimination policies. The case is pending in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan. Earlier this year, the U.S. Supreme Court also agreed to hear *Fulton v. City of Philadelphia*, in which a faith-based foster agency sued the city after its contract was canceled because the organization refused to license same-sex foster families, in violation of Philadelphia's anti-discrimination policies. While the outcome of both cases is uncertain, legislative action to clarify that one's religious beliefs do not countervail basic human rights would also be far more likely if Democrats take control of the state and federal legislatures.

We are reminded once again of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s timeless observation that "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." It affirms that there is value in incremental change, even as we seek a veritable revolution that finally creates a fair and just society, where white privilege and straight privilege give way to a new American enlightenment that explicitly recognizes the worth of every citizen and systematically eradicates our nation's shameful legacy of discrimination against people of color, the LGBTQ community and other oppressed groups. Given that the most obvious obstacles to continued progress are found within the ranks of the Republican Party, we recommend turning them all out of office in November.

**Send letters to the editor on this editorial or any other topic to [letters@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:letters@lansingcitypulse.com). Please limit them to 250 words.**

# Artist saw BLM murals elsewhere ... ... and decided Lansing needed one

Lansing has joined the list of communities with large-scale BLACK LIVES MATTERS street murals, thanks to Farrin Mitchell.

Mitchell, 34, a Lansing native and member of Lansing BLM, started painting their own Black Lives Matter mural on Capitol Avenue last week. (Mitchell uses they/them pronouns.) They saw murals popping up around the country and thought that Lansing should have its own.

"I saw Kalamazoo had plans to paint their street. I thought, well, Lansing is the state capital. We can't be shown up, right?" said Mitchell. They thought Capitol Avenue was the perfect location to make their statement, in eyeshot of City Hall, the Governor's Office and the state legislative offices.

Mitchell had been formulating plans to paint a mural before they ever contacted BLM about it. When she did, she said, "They told me what they needed from me. There was a large group of allies of BLM. Whatever instructions I gave, they followed," said Mitchell. "I took some time to come up with a vision while they ran to get paint. I came up with a sketch and went forward from there."

Mitchell didn't want their mural to look like all the others. In cities like Washington, D.C., and Flint, the murals are painted in white or yellow block letters. Mitchell wanted Lansing's to stand out.

She decided to use a lot of African print and patterns in it. "It adds a kind of symbolism. It represents our movement."

Mitchell has added to the mural for a few days now. The other day, they were touching up the "I" in "lives" because "some people told me that the 'I' looks like an 'O,'" laughed Mitchell. "So I'm gonna change that up." They have also been checking on the mural to make sure no one defaces it.



Mitchell

(One helper, Emily Dievendorf, a longtime LGBTQ activist, received minor injuries in a hit-and-run Friday involving a motorcycle. Police are investigating.)

Mitchell joined Lansing BLM about three years ago, but they've been an artist basically their whole life. In preschool, they neglected nap time. Instead, Mitchell wanted to do art while their classmates slept.



Cole Tunningley/City Pulse

A BLACK LIVES MATTER mural started taking shape last week on Capitol Avenue in front of the Capitol.

"One day, I got the nerve to ask if I could sit there and color," they explained. "I would color quietly, and they'd be in awe of how I could already stay in between the lines."

From preschool forward, Mitchell never stopped creating. They have worked with digital media, graphic design, photography. "I work with mixed media. Anything I can find," they said.

"Spray paint is a bit more fun and flexible, though. It's one of my favorite mediums."

Besides creating art, Mitchell works as a basketball coach and trainer. They also have a pro-black brand called Look What Farrin Did, which they said is designed to "empower and inspire people of color."

In their free time, they speak with at-risk youth in the community. Mitchell graduated from Everett High School and has lived in Lansing since birth. Their connection to the community is strong.

Mitchell said that their many jobs and hobbies keep them feeling happy and fulfilled. In a time where police brutality against Black people is at the forefront of people's minds and plastered all over the news, they need all the happiness and fulfillment they can get. They said this moment makes them feel two, almost paradoxical emotions.

Firstly, Mitchell said that the Black community seems inspired right now.

"A lot of us are feeling inspired to really move and to try to exist in our individual spaces in a way that is powerful, unapologetic. Even just to stand our ground, to be heard and acknowledged,"

they explained.

But, along with that, Mitchell acknowledged that the Black community is in great pain right now. "I would also say that a lot of us are really angry. It's like, I told you so. We've been screaming and shouting about this since the day Trayvon Martin was killed for carrying Skittles," they said.

Mitchell has seen both hope and rage expressed on the streets. They have been out to a few protests since the death of George Floyd. They said that they feel optimistic when they see other people — specifically, non-Black people — marching along with them, fighting for the same cause.

"One day, we marched down to MLK, and I never felt so safe," said Mitchell. "I wasn't just surrounded by my own people. There were so many of our white allies there with us. Latinos and Latinas were there as well. Indigenous people. I felt safe, I felt heard. I really felt seen."

Mitchell said that they hope the mural can act as a call-to-action for people not involved in the struggle. They said that anything helps. Posting on social media, bringing food and water to protests, helping out as a medic, marching in the street. Mitchell specifically called for more white people to get out on the streets and fight for Black Lives Matter.

"Call it out when you see it," they said. "Because we've been doing that. It can be even more powerful when non people of color do that."

— COLE TUNNINGLEY

# Lansing residents: Enough talk. More action on racial equity.

## Council president floats 'dismantling' of Lansing Police Department

George Floyd was murdered about 30 days ago.

Protests that erupted in Minneapolis quickly spread across the country and have since landed in Lansing, which for weeks have included a growing voice to defund the police and ramp up community-based programs and services to support Black residents and promote racial equity.

Several dozen have spoken out at City Council meetings. Activists with Black Lives Matter and the NAACP (among other individuals and groups) have rallied in the streets and hosted press conferences. A massive "Black Lives Matter" mural is spray painted downtown along Capitol Avenue. The message is clear: Many Lansing residents want to see fundamental changes.

But is the city of Lansing prepared to give it to them?

City officials — including Mayor Andy Schor — have talked almost exclusively of big-picture ideas for weeks. Everybody wants to listen. Plans are being made to make a plan. The City Council symbolically declared racism a public health crisis. A town hall is being scheduled.

A date for that event, however, hasn't been picked. The City Council has yet to have any substantive public conversations about police reforms — let alone divestment — in Lansing. And residents are growing increasingly frustrated with a city government that is trying to talk the racially equitable talk but, at least so far, has been relatively slow to walk the actual walk.

"What we are hearing is that people are totally overwhelmed and our message of hope is being dulled by the lack of deliberate action to change and overturn the systems that keep black and brown people subjugated and out and on the underside of power," explained the Rev. Sean Holland, an activist affiliated with the Lansing chapter of Black Lives Matter.

Holland and Lansing BLM cofounder Angela Waters Austin spoke during a live video last week.

"We're talking about defunding police. We're talking about having elected officials that actually support and will advocate and will actually join arms with us as we move toward a condition of life where Black lives can thrive,"

"We're talking about dismantling the Police Department in the way we've come to know it. That doesn't mean abandoning law enforcement, but it takes time to rethink how we'll deliver public safety services in Lansing, and that all begins with listening."

— Peter Spadafore  
Lansing City Council President



"Big change needs to be done in a deliberative manner, and I want to make sure that all of the pieces are in place to listen and to get a sense for what makes sense in this community. We're taking action to start the plan. We're working on that daily. It's in progress."

— Andy Schor  
Mayor of Lansing



"Defunding the police has to do with the reallocation of resources and wealth and putting it back into the community. That is a righteous demand, so we can educate and empower. We can mentor our own. We don't have to be over-policed."

— The Rev. Sean Holland  
Activist



said Waters Austin, who has demanded Schor resign.

Schor, who confirmed again this week that he has no plans to resign, offered a response.

"I think big change needs to be done in a deliberative manner, and I want to make sure that all of the pieces are in place to listen and to get a sense for what makes sense in this community," Schor said. "We're taking action to start the plan. We're working on that daily. It's in progress."

Schor announced the city's first concrete response to the unrest last week in the form of a one-page outline that calls for the hiring of a diversity officer, a review of police policies and procedures, training on racial biases and the creation of a diversity, equity and inclusion plan.

It seems to have garnered mixed reviews from the community, with many generally pleased to see steps toward tangible changes but others skeptical about whether they'll come to fruition.

"The mayor realizes there's a problem with racism in Lansing and is willing to address the problem. That's good. And pledges are one thing, but acting on them is another. We need to have more qualitative and quantitative data that shows that things are being done," said Maxine Hankins Cain, a retired public

school educator. "We just can't afford to walk down the same trajectory we've seen for decades."

A pledge signed by the mayor last week largely reaffirmed existing Police Department policies geared toward deescalating violence, exhausting non-lethal alternatives and reviewing the use of police force. Police Chief Daryl Green said each of those policies had been in place for years.

The diversity officer hasn't been hired; the full scope of that position hasn't been finalized. A review of the police budget is quietly under way, but no proposals have surfaced, Schor said.

"The town halls and things are all in progress," Schor explained. "There's work to be done. We know that. We're putting together plans to figure out how Lansing can be a better place. We're listening and gathering that feedback, which will translate into how we move forward as a city."

Community activists, over the last week, have issued a broad array of



Cain

demands ranging from an enhanced review of police policies and misconduct complaints to additional training in de-escalation and support for social services for things like mental health and substance abuse.

Perhaps the most specific proposal came from Black Lives Matter, which has called for a \$9.6 million cut to the Police Department's annual budget.

About 20% of the city is African American, so local leaders demanded that an equivalent portion of the budget be redirected to the immediate and long-term needs of Black residents.

"Defunding the police has to do with the reallocation of resources and wealth and putting it back into the community," Holland explained last week. "That is a righteous demand, so we can educate and empower. We can mentor our own. We don't have to be over-policed."

City Council President Peter Spadafore said a conversation about police divestment, or at least the concept of reallocating police funding to other community services and programs, can only begin at the Mayor's Office. Under the City Charter, Council members cannot propose budget amendments, he said.

That doesn't mean the Council isn't willing to have a conversation about the long-term direction and financing of the Police Department, he added. Spadafore just wants to take a holistic approach to mitigating racism — including a focus on education, housing and health care.

"The reason I think we need to take a long-term, deliberative approach is it's important work. We're talking about dismantling the Police Department in the way we've come to know it," Spadafore said. "That doesn't mean abandoning law enforcement, but it takes time to rethink how we'll deliver public safety services in Lansing, and that all begins with listening."

Schor isn't opposed to reallocating resources and services, but he still isn't prepared to make any immediate cuts to the police. Subsequent service gaps tied to divestment — like calls related to mental health or homelessness — would still need to be handled by another agency.

He voiced support this week, however, for a fundamental shift in law enforcement in Lansing. In some instances, he recognized, it's possible that officers could be over-policing certain issues.

"We should absolutely be looking at

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS  
EAST LANSING ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

**Notice is hereby given** of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Zoning Board of Appeals on **July 15, 2020** at 7:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 1, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from 220 Milford St., LLC for the property located at 220 Milford Street, in the R-2, Medium Density Single-Family Residential District, for a variance from the following requirement of Chapter 50 – Zoning Code of the City of East Lansing:

*Section 50-816(4). Parking and driveway setbacks. In no case shall a parking space or driveway be placed closer than eight feet from a rear lot line or three feet from any other property line, except where the driveway must penetrate across the lot line to provide access to the adjacent street or alley.*

The applicant is proposing to replace the existing two-track driveway with new concrete driveway set back one foot from the side property line.

2. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from 262 Milford St., LLC for the property located at 262 Milford Street, in the R-2, Medium Density Single-Family Residential District, for a variance from the following requirement of Chapter 50 – Zoning Code of the City of East Lansing:

*Section 50-816(4). Parking and driveway setbacks. In no case shall a parking space or driveway be placed closer than eight feet from a rear lot line or three feet from any other property line, except where the driveway must penetrate across the lot line to provide access to the adjacent street or alley.*

The applicant is proposing to replace the existing two-track driveway with new concrete driveway up to the side property line with no setback.

3. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Kathleen Edsall and Alice Parr for the property located at 920 Narcissus, in the R-2, Medium Density Single-Family Residential District, for a variance from the following requirement of Chapter 50 – Zoning Code of the City of East Lansing:

*Sec. 50-816(3). Yard paving restriction. In all residential districts, the amount of paving in a front yard and in a side yard along a street on a corner lot shall not exceed an amount equal to 25 percent of the front yard area as defined in section 50-9 of this chapter or up to 35 percent where 10 percent of the paving is pervious paving material. On lots within the RA, R-1, R-2, and R-3 districts, no more than 30 percent of the rear yard may be used for parking and access facilities, inclusive of garages, carports, and surface paving.*

The applicant is proposing to split the existing lot, which would change the front of the lot at 920 Narcissus to Daisy Lane due to lot frontage width. The existing driveway at 920 Narcissus would then be located in the rear of the yard, bringing the rear yard coverage for parking and access facilities to 68.8%.

4. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Diane Wing for the property located at 1024 Huntington Road, in the R-2, Medium Density Single-Family Residential District, for a variance from the following requirement of Chapter 50 – Zoning Code of the City of East Lansing:

*Sec. 50-301. - Table of lot and building requirements. Zoning District: R-2 allows 25% of maximum building coverage and a total of 40% for a maximum ground coverage ratio.*

The applicant is proposing to replace their deck and replace a portion of their driveway with pervious pavers. The application is to allow 44.8% of total ground coverage on the lot, which exceeds the maximum allowed by 4.8% and reduces the existing ground coverage from 45.5%.

5. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from 3400 West Road, LLC for the property located at 3401 Coolidge Road, in the OIP, Office Industrial Park, zoning district for a variance from the following requirement of Chapter 50 – Zoning Code of the City of East Lansing:

*50-633(7)(f)(3) – Minimum driveway setback.*

The applicant is proposing to construct a driveway that is located 2.17 to 4.63 feet from the north boundary line of the property where a minimum of 10 feet is required.

Call (517) 319-6930, the Department of Planning, Building and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, for additional information. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard.

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 should write or call the Planning Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823. Phone: (517) 319-6930. TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777.

Note: This hearing is currently scheduled to occur as a regular public hearing at the meeting. If, at the time of this hearing meetings are still not permitted under an Executive Order of the Governor and an Executive Order permitting meetings electronically allows for an electronic meeting, this hearing will occur electronically and a notice of participation in that hearing will be published in compliance with the Open Meetings Act and any relevant Executive Orders.

Jennifer Shuster  
City Clerk

**CP#20-147**

# Equity

from page 7

whether people should be pulled over for broken tail lights or air fresheners hanging from rearview mirrors,” he said. “I’m very open to that conversation to see what needs to be changed. I’m certainly open to reducing the number of equipment stops.”

As part of the mayor’s efforts to assemble a more comprehensive diversity, equity and inclusion plan for the city of Lansing, attorney Teresa Bingman will be hired this year to conduct an “environmental scan” and help piece together recommendations for Schor’s administration.

The goal: Foster a racially equitable future in the capital city by identifying longstanding inequities and finding ways to allocate more resources to address those social disparities.

Bingman said her plans include gathering community input and develop-

ing meaningful action — which could include the possibility of recommended police reforms and budgetary adjustments.

“The dialogue has changed. It seems there has been some type of an awakening,” Bingman said. “We certainly want to produce a plan with some type of tangible action steps. It’s all tied to resources. Without resources, this plan will just end up on a bookcase, and that’s not the goal.”

The exact scope of that tangible action, however, is to be determined. Bingman said plans are still being developed. As of this week, she hadn’t yet been formally contracted to work for the city. As a result, the Mayor’s Office has yet to assign a price to Bingman’s contracted services.

“I’m not making the decisions about how much is spent and where it comes from, but I’ll certainly help provide input on those conversations,” Bingman said. “Expediency is a priority. We’d certainly like to see some type of tangible action steps well before the end of the year.”

— KYLE KAMINSKI

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING  
NOTICE OF REGISTRATION  
FOR THE  
PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2020**

**TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING, COUNTY OF INGHAM, STATE OF MICHIGAN:**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that any qualified elector of the Charter Township of Lansing who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the Township Clerk; the office of the County Clerk; a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated state agency. Registration forms can be obtained at [mi.gov/vote](http://mi.gov/vote) and mailed to the Township Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at [www.expressSOS.com](http://www.expressSOS.com).

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the Township Clerk is **Monday, July 20, 2020**.

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the Lansing Township Clerk’s office, located at 3209 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48917 at the following times:

- Regular business hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, August 1, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Election Day, Tuesday, August 4, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** this election is for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following offices from the Democratic and Republican parties:

- United States Senator
- Representative in Congress – 8th District
- Representative in State Legislature – 68th District
- County Commissioner in 1st and 10th Districts, Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, Clerk, Treasurer, Register of Deeds, Drain Commissioner
- Township Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, Trustees
- Delegate to County Convention

**PLEASE ALSO TAKE NOTICE** that Ingham County will be voting on the following millage proposals as presented and listed below.

**INGHAM COUNTY PROPOSALS**

- Ingham County Elder Persons Millage
- Emergency Telephone Service (911 Service) Millage

Full text of the ballot proposals may be obtained at the Lansing Township Clerk’s office, 3209 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48917, telephone: (517) 485-4063. A sample ballot may be viewed at [mi.gov/vote](http://mi.gov/vote).

Persons with special needs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Clerk’s office.

Susan L. Aten, Clerk  
Charter Township of Lansing

**CP#20-140**

# The (fear of) coronavirus has ended in Mid-Michigan

Greater Lansing adjusts to a new normal as COVID-19 cases decline

As pandemic-related restrictions continue to be relaxed and more businesses reopen here this summer, residents and entrepreneurs are itching for normalcy.

And if it weren't for the masks, one might easily forget the virus still poses a threat in Michigan.

Bars and restaurants that have been closed for months are flinging open their dining room doors. More and more retailers, including big box giants and smaller boutique shops, are restarting their operations across Lansing. And customers are certainly supplying the demand.

Several dozen strolled Meridian Mall last week. Lines formed outside some shops. The Frandor parking lot (and the traffic to go with it) is back to causing headaches. Local restaurants, with expanded outdoor dining, are regaining customers.

But does this mean the pandemic is subsiding? Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail understands how people can get that impression. Residents, however, should think twice before throwing caution to the wind, she warned.

"It's a mix. Some people are being incredibly diligent, following all of these guidelines and even denying entry to customers without masks," Vail added. "Others are not. At this point, it's really incumbent on businesses to stay vigilant and for people to take some personal responsibility."

Case in point: At Harper's in East Lansing, at least 18 confirmed cases of coronavirus have been tied to customers who visited the bar since it reopened, Vail announced Tuesday. It remained closed this week while staff ramps up sanitation protocols and to make adjustments to its social distancing procedures.

"I wouldn't call it a second wave. It's just a leaky spot in getting this under control," Vail said, noting that businesses have a responsibility to enforce social distancing measures and masks. She urged anyone with symptoms or concerns who visited Harper's between June 12 and 20 to be tested.

Ingham County tracked just one remaining hospitalized patient with the coronavirus this week. At least 450 residents have fully recovered since March.



Berl Schwartz/City Pulse

A long line of unmasked customers waiting to enter Harper's in East Lansing on June 8, the first day dining-in was permitted again. Yesterday, the Ingham County Health Department reported that 18 customers were diagnosed with the virus.

About 350 more are recovering at home and still being monitored by health officials.

The percentage of positive tests tracked locally has also diminished in recent weeks, falling from more than 20% of those tested in April to less than 3% a day in June. The coronavirus case curve, at least locally and across the rest of Michigan, appears to be a sustained flatline.

And along with fewer cases, the fear of coronavirus also appears to be fading locally. But Vail warned that a newfound sense of carelessness could pose problems over the coming weeks.

Revised modeling from the University of Washington predicts that Michigan will see the fourth most COVID-19 deaths nationally this fall from a potential second wave of infections, reports The Detroit News. Vail is also tracking a small uptick of confirmed cases in Lansing over recent days. It's not enough to sound the second wave alarm just yet, but Vail isn't ruling out the possibility.

"We're seeing a low-level rumbling of activity that could possibly be due to reopening some of these places, especially with more people getting out of the house," Vail said. "Wearing masks might be the most effective and practical tool in preventing a significant second wave. We might see an uptick in cases, but wearing masks could be the key to avoiding another big shutdown."

This month, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer lifted her stay-at-home order to allow residents to travel anywhere in the state

and gather in groups of up to 100 people outdoors — provided they maintain a 6-foot distance from people outside of their immediate household.

Retail stores could also reopen earlier this month, though with limited capacity and enhanced sanitation protocols. Bars and restaurants can also open at half capacity. Swimming pools and day camps for children are in the process of reopening, as well as most museums and libraries.

According to Bridge Magazine, only a handful of business types remain closed in Michigan, including gyms, hair salons, indoor theaters, casinos and similar establishments that "involve close contact and shared surfaces" that could again allow the virus to spread to other patrons.

And just about every local business is either asking or demanding masks be worn inside. Under Whitmer's orders, all customers and employees are encouraged to wear them. Staff that work in close proximity with people, like checkout personnel, are required to keep their faces covered.

Nothing in the orders, however, provides for any criminal penalties for those who fail to follow the rules, though businesses are free to deny service to

maskless customers. Vail said standard restaurant and bar licensing inspections are the only routine tool to ensure rules stay enforced.

And while individual complaints are investigated, personal responsibility plays a big role.

"I'm comfortable with the guidelines we have in place," Vail said. "At some point in time, we had to reopen, so we're doing so cautiously and incrementally. As soon as people stop paying attention to these rules, then we'll have some more issues, but I'm guessing that if governors and health officials see the need to close things down again, they won't hesitate."

Most customers and staff at local stores seem to have allowed masks and face coverings to fully assimilate into the mainstream. Signs and floor markings still routinely warn shoppers to keep their distance. Some businesses have gone as far as to refuse entry to their maskless clientele.

A clerk at the Rite Aid on Cedar Street was spotted asking a group without masks to leave. Other places — like Horrock's, Target, Meijer and Walmart — seem to rely more on signage.

See COVID, Page 10

**B/20/112 FERRIC PUMP** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids electronically on line at [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info) or at the City Of Lansing Purchasing Office, at 124 W. Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI 48933 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **July 1, 2020** at which time bids will be opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 483-4128, or [stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov](mailto:stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov) or go to [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info).** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#20-142

# COVID

from page 9

Shoppers themselves have made masks a habit, if only for appearances, but the 6-foot social distancing circle appears to be shrinking. Crowded stores are making it more difficult to avoid bumping into others. Alcohol flowing from reopened bars is also causing recklessness.

Bartenders at Stober's were doing their best last week to check temperatures, but some guests invariably missed the initial screening process. Moriarty's Pub requires masks to be worn inside, but guests often forgot to put them back on to walk past the kitchen and toward

the bathrooms.

Outdoor seating has been expanded at dozens of bars and restaurants, but those can quickly become crowded as well. Patrons at Lansing Brewing Co., for example, were offered a mask upon entry but still needed to walk within six feet of other full tables to find their seats. (Lansing Brewing closed voluntarily for several days to disinfect after it learned someone who tested positive had entered the building.)

East Lansing closed a section of Albert Avenue for more outdoor dining at places like HopCat.

Some restaurants are also growing impatient with the rules. Asian Buffet in Okemos keeps guests at least six feet from other tables, but it reopened its buffet despite Whitmer's latest orders that still clearly prohibit restaurants from again allowing self-service dining

inside.

Vail said that buffets shouldn't be allowing patrons to fix their own plates, largely because of the contagion risk posed by shared utensils and other commonly touched surfaces. Staff there ignored questions from City Pulse about their dining policies and hung up the phone twice.

Other troubling experiences locally have been at convenience stores and gas stations, where staff almost always wear masks but guests — often in a rush to grab lotto tickets or cigarettes — routinely failed to consider the safety of others and forgetfully headed inside without masks on.

An initial springtime anxiety tied to COVID-19's arrival, where streets were empty and residents were considerate of others' space, seems to have been only a fleeting moment in Greater Lansing, as many stores become crowded and social distancing takes a backseat to freedom.

Many seem to have adopted a more carefree mentality as the COVID-19 curve flattens locally. Many shoppers

and staff wore masks, but some kept them below their noses and chins. Others skipped them altogether and were growing impatient with the continued call to keep socially distant.

Friends and family members were also gradually readjusting to larger social gatherings. Backyard barbecues have returned. Elbow bumps, after a few months off, seem to be back in local style.

According to recent reports from MLive, epidemiologists have reached a consensus that Michigan is all but assured to experience a second wave of COVID-19 infections this year. The severity of another surge, however, depends on how people behave as the state reopens.

And with nationally renowned epidemiologists — including the director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — expecting an increase in cases during the fall and winter months, a failure to take precautions could pose problems, Vail emphasized.

She urged residents to cautiously enjoy their newfound freedoms to socialize and shop but continue to stay vigilant, wash hands, wear masks and avoid unnecessary contact with others.

"It's really unfortunate that there was so much conflicting information early on about whether or not to wear a mask, because that has contributed to the confusion," Vail said. "Now, we know masks are extremely effective at preventing the spread. If even 70% of us can remember to consistently wear a mask, that could go a long way in keeping this under control later this year."

*(Staff writers Cole Tunningley and Skyler Ashley contributed to this observational analysis.)*

— KYLE KAMINSKI

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

In the Matter of: Smith and Oesterle Drain

### NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DETERMINATION

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** to you as a person liable for an assessment, that the Board of Determination, composed of Paulette Hatchett, Cheryl Risner, Dennis Williams, and Jennie Nerkowski (Alternate), will meet on **Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the Village of Webberville Hall, 115 S. Main Street, Webberville, MI 48892** to hear all interested persons and evidence and to determine whether the actions prayed for in a Petition dated May 20, 2020 for the cleaning out, relocating, widening, deepening, straightening, tiling, extending, improving, relocating along a highway, providing structures or mechanical devices that will properly purify or improve the flow of a drain, or pumping equipment to assist or relieve the flow of a drain, adding lands to or deleting lands from the existing drainage district, and adding branches, extensions, enlargements, and/or relief drains are necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare of Leroy Township, in accordance with Sections 72 and 191 of Act No. 40, PA 1956, as amended, and further, to determine whether it is necessary to add lands to and/or delete lands from the Smith and Oesterle Drain Drainage District pursuant to Section 197 of Act No. 40, PA 1956, as amended. Please take notice that the meeting will be conducted following the guidelines of Michigan Governor's Executive Order 2020-110, Executive Order 2020-115, and all other Executive Orders that may be applicable at the time of the meeting.

**Please be advised that in the event that Michigan Governor's Executive Order 110, which prohibits indoor meetings of more than 10 people, remains in effect on the date of the meeting, July 8, 2020, then all interested persons may only attend via Zoom or by telephone.** Zoom may be accessed using the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81260164100>. The public may also participate by calling the following toll-free number: 833-548-0276 and entering Meeting ID: 812 6016 4100. On or before July 8, 2020, you may contact the Drain office by telephone at (517) 676-8395 or access the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's office website at [dr.ingham.org](http://dr.ingham.org), to determine whether the meeting will be conducted in person or via Zoom and by telephone. Should the meeting be conducted via Zoom and by telephone, the Board of Determination will recognize persons wishing to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Proceedings conducted at this public hearing will be subject to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, as amended by Executive Order 2020-75, or any other applicable subsequent Executive Orders.

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

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

Dated: June 17, 2020

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

CP#20-141

**VOTE August 4, 2020**



Bob Peña

candidate for  
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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

**Notice is hereby given** of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1483, an ordinance to rezone the property at 3400 West Road from OIP, Office Industrial Park District, to B-5, Community Retail Sales Business District, and Conditional M-1, Manufacturing District, and 3401 Coolidge Road from OIP, Office Industrial Park District, to B-5, Community Retail Sales Business District.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable accommodations, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at this meeting, upon notice to the City of East Lansing, prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations or services should write or call the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 319-6920, TDD 1-800-649-377.

Note: This hearing is currently scheduled to occur as a regular public hearing at the meeting. If, at the time of this hearing meetings are still not permitted under an Executive Order of the Governor and an Executive Order permitting meetings electronically allows for an electronic meeting, this hearing will occur electronically and a notice of the means of participation in that hearing will be published in compliance with the Open Meetings Act and any relevant Executive Orders.

Jennifer Shuster  
City Clerk

CP#20-144

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# Legislature slips into irrelevancy as COVID-19 days tick by

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer extended her emergency declaration until mid-July the other day. It's another 28 days she has to suspend laws and regulations to control the spread of the coronavirus.

Before July 16 comes and goes, she'll issue another one. And probably another one after that. And another one after that. And so on.

Until everyone gets injected with a COVID-19 vaccine, the governor has all but promised she'll continue extending her emergency declaration. There's not much the Republican-led Legislature can do about it. Except sue. And they've already done that.

In fact, right about the time House Speaker Lee Chatfield and Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey filed suit against the governor for issuing rolling executive orders without legislative approval is about the time she stopped paying much attention to either of them.

Whitmer doesn't seem to trust them. They're put off that she doesn't value their input.

So here we are. The state Legislature — the branch of government closest to the people — is all but irrelevant amid an international health crisis.

If there's a bill Whitmer could sign to assist the state's response, they haven't found it.

Lawmakers are spending their time advocating for their unemployed constituents who keep getting the spinning wheel of death or a busy signal every time they call UIA.

The governor is working seven days a week overseeing the state's pandemic response. The Legislature struggles to fill its daily session calendar.

Their top priority this week seems to be creating new vaping regulations — essentially giving adults the freedom to inhale nicotine with fruity flavorings at a time the governor is trying to prevent people from inhaling the airborne coronavirus.

They could send her the bills. But unless some health groups start liking the bills, it's hard to see how the same governor who called youth vaping a public health emergency



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

10 months ago is going to sign bills backed exclusively by the vaping industry.

Without a supermajority in either chamber to override vetoes, there's not much the Republicans — again — can do about it.

In years past, legislators threatened to withhold funding for this or that.

Nowadays, though, the governor's popularity is north of 60%. Hitting the repeat button on last year's budget battles and appearing to be obstructionists won't be helpful to the state House Republicans' bid to keep their slim four-seat majority.

COVID-19 has sucked away the Legislature's leverage. Whitmer seems to be running Michigan's economic reopening by gut feelings, which drives Republicans crazy. Yet, the flattened case numbers and high public poll ratings would show Whitmer seems to have a handle on things.

Most everything the GOP has tried to taint her with hasn't stuck. They called her a dictator. Few cared. They claimed she was diminishing the power of the Legislature. Few cared. Her husband appeared to try to hop the line to get his boat in the water. She apologized, and after a day or two, few cared.

An interest group grumbles about not being open — golf courses or restaurants or hair salons. Whitmer opens them up shortly afterwards, killing another GOP talking point.

We learn there's a \$2 billion budget hole. Republicans signaled big cuts and reforms were on the way. Then they realized there isn't anything close to \$2 billion to cut in the budget and they joined Whitmer's call for federal help.

Their biggest accomplishment in the last three months was working with Whitmer's budget director on spending \$1 billion in federal money.

Otherwise, they're passing rewritten versions of Whitmer's executive orders in the off chance the Supreme Court rules they're right with their separation of powers argument. Few believe that will happen.

Amazingly, the Republican House and Senate majority find itself being in the awkward position of reacting as a party in the minority. They're resorting to politically charged rheto-

ric to claw back attention and power. They're getting some mileage with Whitmer's decision to put COVID-19 patients in nursing homes. They're doing well complaining about it. But like everything else with the coronavirus, coming up with a solution is much harder.

At the end of the week, the

Legislature is taking off until basically Labor Day. The way 2020 has gone for them, maybe they'll need to wait for a vaccine.

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

## CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2020 ELECTION

To the qualified electors of the City of Lansing:

Please take notice that the City of Lansing will hold an Election on Tuesday, August 4, 2020.

**For the purpose of nominating candidates to the following offices:**

U.S. Senator, U. S. Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, County Prosecuting Attorney, County Sheriff, County Clerk, County Treasurer, County Register of Deeds, County Drain Commissioner, County Commissioner, Delegates to County Convention

**For the purpose of voting on the following proposals:**

County: Elder Persons Millage (Ingham County ONLY), Emergency Telephone Service Millage Renewal (Ingham County ONLY)  
City: Parks and Recreation Millage Renewal

Any qualified elector who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the Lansing City Clerk; the office of their County Clerk; a Secretary of State Branch office, or other designated state agency. Registration forms may be obtained at [mi.gov/vote](http://mi.gov/vote) and mailed or dropped off at the office of the Lansing City Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote).

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the Lansing City Clerk's Office is **Monday, July 20, 2020.**

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the following locations and times:

Location	Address	Regular Business Hours
Lansing City Clerk – City Hall	124 W Michigan Ave Lansing, MI 48933	Mon - Thu 8am - 5pm
Lansing City Clerk – Election Unit	2500 S Washington Ave Lansing, MI 48910	Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm  Wednesdays 8am - 7pm

**Additional times outside of the above listed regular business hours are as follows:**

Location	Address	Regular Business Hours
Lansing City Clerk – City Hall	124 W Michigan Ave Lansing, MI 48933	Election Day August 4 7am - 8pm
Lansing City Clerk – Election Unit	2500 S Washington Ave Lansing, MI 48910	Saturday August 1 11am – 5pm  Sunday August 2 11 am-5 pm  Election Day August 4 7am – 8pm

**ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS**

Any registered voter may request an Absent Voter Ballot. No reason required.

The Lansing City Clerk's Office must have a signed application to issue an Absent Voter Ballot. Applications are available at the locations referenced in the above table or by visiting our website at [lansingmi.gov/clerk](http://lansingmi.gov/clerk).

Monday, August 3, 2020 at 4:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot except for those who register to vote on Election Day. Ballots issued on Monday, August 3, 2020 must be requested and voted in person at the Lansing City Clerk's Office, locations referenced in the above table.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, August 4, 2020, are eligible to receive an absent voter ballot at the Lansing City Clerk's Office, locations referenced in the above table.

**Chris Swope, MMC/MiPMC**  
Lansing City Clerk  
Phone: 517-483-4131  
Email: [city.clerk@lansingmi.gov](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov)  
Website: [www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk](http://www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk)  
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**Council Member Kathie Dunbar**



**Tyjuan Thirdgill**

I am proud to have received a positive rating from the Lansing Area Human Rights Pac.

Being an ally to the LGBTQ+ community has always been an essential aspect of my activism. The intersectionality of movements has never been more important; it is right now.

I look forward to running an inclusive campaign and being a board member that advocated for the equal rights of all individuals.

**for Delhi Township Trustee**

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**SPONSORED CONTENT**

**Is Pre-exposure Prophylaxis to Prevent HIV a Good Fit for You?**

By Erik Wert, DO, MPH, FACOI

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (or PrEP) is a medication used when people are at risk for contracting HIV. Currently, there are two medications approved for HIV prevention. PrEP has been widely used since 2011-2012 to help protect people without HIV from contracting HIV. PrEP reduces the risk of contracting HIV from a sex exposure by about 99%, and among people who inject drugs by about 74%.

PrEP is a single pill that is taken daily. The most common side effects include nausea, vomiting, and headache which may occur during the first two weeks and then normally subside. PrEP is indicated for almost all individuals regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. PrEP is prescribed in three-month intervals.

PrEP should be part of routine preventative healthcare. Unfortunately, healthcare providers are sometimes unaware of this option and which patients may benefit from this medication. Often, providers are simply unaware that a

*Dr. Erik Wert, DO, MPH, FACOI, is a Board Certified Internal Medicine Physician working with Capital Internal Medicine Associates*



*and an Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine at Michigan State University. Some areas Dr. Wert's focuses on are sexual health and the health disparities experienced by the LGBTQ+ population. He has spoken on these topics at both local and state level events. Dr. Wert is accepting new patients and consultation relative to sexual health and PrEP.*

patient has an elevated risk of contracting HIV.

I focus my first meeting with new patients on having an involved discussion to understand their pre-existing health concerns, lifestyle, and their personal wellness goals. The goal of this meeting is to build the foundation of a comprehensive prevention and treatment plan that addresses all physical health aspects of the patient. PrEP, or other HIV prevention approaches may be a portion of this plan in addition to other proactive treatments for other health risks such as high blood pressure or obesity.

It is important to keep in mind that PrEP does not protect against other Sexual Transmitted Infections (STI). Condoms should be combined with PrEP to decrease the risk of gonorrhea, chlamydia and syphilis. Condoms provide less protection against STIs spread through skin-to-skin contact, like HPV (genital warts) and genital herpes.

**People should discuss PrEP with their healthcare provider if they are HIV negative and:**

- Have had anal and/or vaginal sex in the past 6 months; and
- Have a sexual partner with HIV (If the partner has an unknown or detectable viral load); Or
- Have not consistently used a condom; Or
- Have been diagnosed with an STD in the past 6 months Or
- Have an injection partner with HIV; or
- Share needles, syringes, or other equipment to inject drugs (for example, cookers).

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# Pride 2020

## ‘I’m Black and I’m gay’

Intersectionality, vulnerability and resilience

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Thierry Nana was an aspiring fashion designer when he left Lansing in 2017 to attend the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising. He’s still set on his dreams, but it hasn’t been easy.

“Every time I wake up and I have to walk down the street, I have to remind myself that I’m Black and I’m gay,” Nana said. “Black means that I can be hated by white people and gay means that I can be hated by my own community. I ask myself, how do I belong?”

The white, heterosexual, cisgender world is belatedly waking up to a mode of experience known to queer and transgender people of color all their lives: intersectionality, the overlapping forces of discrimination and inequality that ripple and clash through everyday life.

Nana came to Lansing from Douala, Cameroon, in West Africa in 2014. Back home, his family did not accept that he is gay. His father beat him and his mother hoped an aunt who lived in Lansing would “cure” him.

Things looked up when he studied art at Lansing Community College and mounted art and fashion exhibits in Lansing. He had high hopes for a new life, but his experience in the United States, especially a stint at Kendall College of Design in Grand Rapids, has been disappointing.

“Do you know what it is to be black and gay in this world, in this country? I have to worry about being black and being killed, but even in my own community, people don’t understand what it is to be black and gay in the right way,” he said.

Mauricio Franco, one of this year’s City Pulse Inclusion awardees, works with Queering Medicine, a network of health care practitioners and students who work to make health care more accessible to the LGBTQ community.

“Our work has always been intersectional,” Franco said. “Our work

has always recognized that racism is a public health crisis. We, as a group, recognize the health impact on black communities.”

The word “intersectionality” has become a political football, embraced by the left and ridiculed on the right, but the complex experience behind it is real enough for the people who live it.

“As we are embracing those terms, as we are learning about histories of oppression, it’s also really important to recognize that people have been saying these things for a very long time and it’s just now that people are starting to listen,” Franco said. “Intersectionality was coined by an African-American law professor, Kimberlé Crenshaw, at UCLA, to really give a sense of how an African-American woman of color, specifically a black woman, experiences oppression in many forms all at once.”

Numbers are a cold way to measure heartbreak, but they offer an entry point. Health outcomes for LGBTQ people of color are alarming across the board. The Centers for Disease Control reports that young, Black bisexual men are among the communities hardest hit by HIV. Economic insecurity hits the Black LGBTQ community extra hard as well. Black transgender people face a poverty rate of over 30%, compared to 9% for the general population.

Black transgender women face the highest levels of fatal violence in the LGBTQ community, and they are the most likely to be re-victimized by the police. According to the National Transgender Discrimination Survey, 38% of Black transgender people who interacted with police reported harassment, 14% reported physical assault and 6% reported sexual assault.

Many more disturbing numbers could be cited, but Franco urges people to look past the numbers at the forces behind them.

“As a queer person of color, what I think is that there are many systems in play here that have a long history of affecting queer communities, communities of color and their health



Nana

outcomes,” Franco said. “Too often, you see these alarming numbers and just accept them as alarming, without understanding that there are reasons why, and there are things that can be done to eliminate them.”

Improvements in the economic, health and political condition of LGBTQ people of color are inextricably linked to major shifts in national priorities.

“When I think about it personally, it’s about addressing racism, addressing white supremacy, it’s about addressing the ways queer people are discriminated against in health care, in employment,” Franco said. “You need to do that work and look all the way back and understand the root cause.”

Numbers have their use, but they also place undue attention on “victims” and leave open the nefarious inference that among certain populations, “things are just that way.”

But Franco stressed that it’s not being black and gay that causes these outcomes, but rather the surrounding web of classism, heterosexism and racism.

The pattern plays out in myriad ways. A 2019 study published in *Social Science & Medicine* found that “intersectional stigma” contributes to low use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for Black gay men in the United States. HIV infection in the United States still affects Black gay men more than white and Hispanic

gay men, even though Black gay men “consistently report fewer sex partners and less risk behaviors.”

Black men face race-based judgments from healthcare providers that “erode trust,” the study found. As a result, many Black gay men are reluctant to disclose their sexual orientation and approach doctors as straight men to avoid being judged— but posing as straight limits access to PrEP.

Isabella Copeland, also one of this year’s City Pulse Inclusion awardees, knows all about the dispiriting numbers.

“A black trans person is more vulnerable than a white gay guy,” she said. “We’ve had about 15 black trans people murdered just this year.”

But Copeland would like to focus more on strength than vulnerability. Copeland has met and befriended an impressive array of voices that won’t be silenced in the past two years, while planning and leading several popular LGBTQ gatherings, including *Queers Who Brunch*, *Thought Club* and poetry readings featuring the work of queer women of color.

“One thing that’s coming out from the research is something the queer community has known forever,” Copeland said. “For people of color and black people in particular, resiliency is a factor that cannot be undervalued. We can see that resilience playing a role in our community gatherings.”

These days, Thierry Nana is finding his own form of resilience. After suffering through a series of workaday jobs, financial woes and near-suicidal bouts of loneliness, Nana did a stint in the Army, saved some money and is looking forward to going to fashion design school.

“By the beginning of next year, you’ll see my brand out there,” he said. “I’m getting ready to get involved in fashion in a really big way.”

He’s not sure whether conditions around him will change, but he’s determined to tap his own strength.

“Maybe we change, maybe we never change,” he said. “But for the time being, it’s about my own happiness. I’m in my room, there’s no black or gay. I can pour myself a glass of wine and watch TV and nobody will come and kill me for that.”



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# Law school's new leader once a law breaker for gay rights

*The official biography of James McGrath, who joined Western Michigan University College Law School, in Lansing, as president and dean a year ago says: "His focus has been on public health and the law issues, particularly the law's effect on the health of populations with little or no political power, including lesbian and gay, transgender, and intersexual legal issues."*

*That was not a random choice. McGrath, 63, is a gay man who is raising a 7-year-old daughter with his husband. Editor and publisher Berl Schwartz interviewed him recently. This interview has been edited and condensed. A video of the complete interview is available at [www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com).*

## How did you come out?

In high school, there were not any positive role models. Doing anything homosexual was a crime in most places. The only images I had of gay people were men who were more like women, and not that there's anything wrong with it, but I just didn't identify that way. I thought, "Well, I'm not gay, but I don't know what I am. Something's different about me."

Then I joined the Air Force right after high school. What a great place to question your sexuality. It dawned on me that I did have an attraction to other men. I had my first crush, my first boyfriend, my first kiss in the military. There was no such thing as don't ask, don't tell. They did ask, and I told. Because I'd been a fairly exemplary young airmen — I had a medal for good conduct medal and for some superior service — I was given an honorable discharge after about three years. It was really fortuitous in that I discovered what's different about me is that I'm gay and there's a whole gay world out there.

## Where did you go to college?

I went to Rhode Island College studying theater. I was hired by a local children's theater. It was probably one of the most fun jobs I've ever had, but it paid minimum wage. And, at the time I had bought this house in Rhode Island for a dollar that had been abandoned for 20 years that I fixed up.

So I was doing all of that and had a lot going on and minimum wage was not cutting it, so I started working as a DJ at clubs and doing sound for bands and singing in a band and playing saxophone. We toured and put out a couple of vinyl records that were just horrendous.



James McGrath, the new president of Western Michigan University Cooley Law School, once helps shut down the New York Stock Exchange in a civil rights action.

dous. I listen to them today and cringe.

I was around clubs a lot, and they were closing this one club and over a couple of drinks I was poo-pooing the way that this guy managed the place. "He's an idiot and I would do so much better." And what everybody didn't tell me was he was standing right behind me, and he says, "If you think you can do it better, I'll sell you my liquor license."

It was \$25,000. So I sold my house, but it took about eight to 10 times that amount, I had to borrow a lot of money, it was really hard. And I had the benefit of a high school education plus about a year and a half in theater, so I wasn't really ready for this. But the club worked out OK. And just for your information, in case this should ever arise in your life, a single mattress will fit perfectly on a pool table. The little pockets become drink holders.

I would invite some friends over on Tuesday night because we were closed, mostly gay people. Before I knew it, we had 40 or 50 people showing up on Tuesday night and I thought, "Maybe there is a market for this." It became the biggest night of the week.

I kept the club for just over three years. We had a country band, a Las Vegas band, we had the caveman band, a heavy metal band, it was really fun. On Heavy Metal Night, though, one guy got crazy with this guitar, smashing it against the pole in the club, and a piece flew out and hit a woman directly in the face as she opened the door. And

I learned my very first legal lesson that we owe the people coming to our place of public accommodation the highest duty of all. I was sued, and it was clear I was going to lose. I was horribly under-insured, so I gave the club to my employees because I didn't want to fire 40 people. They actually found someone to pump some money into it and kept it open for another 10 years, at least.

## So now we're in the '80s. And that, obviously, is a dark time for the gay community with the AIDS crisis. How did you deal with that?

We did all sorts of dance benefits to raise money for people with HIV. But it was like a drop in the bucket. Things were so expensive. The only medicine that could treat HIV disease was AZT, which cost \$10,000 per year per patient. I got very angry and heard about this group in New York called ACT UP doing these great demonstrations and really putting the public spotlight on the government's inaction against this epidemic. Then we had a local group in Rhode Island start too called ACT NOW, and after about six weeks, I said, "You need to change your name to ACT UP." And they said, "Why?" And I said, "Because it's been six weeks and you haven't done a damn thing. So you're not really acting now." They said, "Well, what ideas do you have?" And mine were kind of grown out of my New York experience. I would go every Monday to

ACT UP New York's meetings at the gay community center. I came back with great ideas.

Public reporting of test results was keeping people from getting the test, so we fought against that with a sit-in the Governor's Office and were arrested. That's the whole point of non-violent civil disobedience: You get arrested and media attention. We were doing things like that.

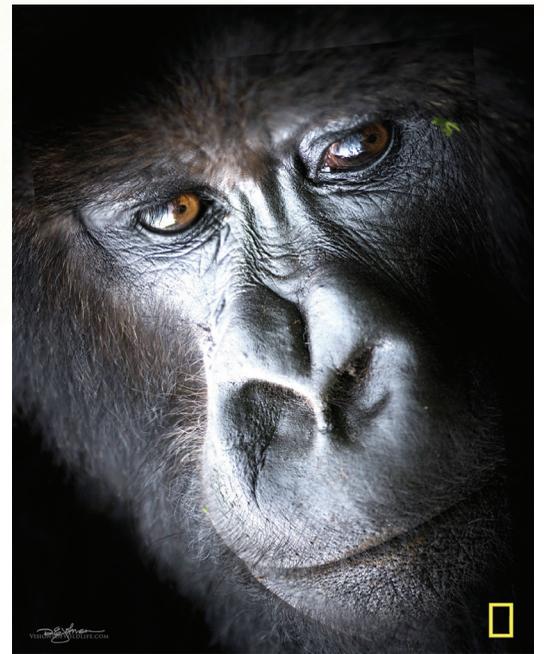
The state had big billboards that said, "Call this number for testing," and it sounded very caring, but they were going to track you. So we went around at night and painted over the phone number of all of those billboards ... little art projects like that. At the Rhode Island borders, there were big signs that say, "Welcome to Rhode Island, the ocean state." And we actually had these big metal plates we riveted on that said, instead of the ocean state, "Home of mandatory HIV testing."

I was going to New York every week and ended up sitting near Peter Staley (an important AIDS activist then) who's now very, very famous, you can read about him in the Smithsonian. I became part of his little group called Power Tools, a small group that would infiltrate.

Our most famous action was at the New York Stock Exchange. Burroughs Wellcome (which made AZT) wasn't actually publicly traded, but there was a way to trade interests in Burroughs Wellcome. We dressed in what we called business drag, which was just a suit with a little pin that said I was from Bear Stearns, other people from other companies. We went up in the balcony just a few minutes before the bell, and three minutes, exactly, before the bell went off, we pulled the trigger on air horns and it was deafening. There was six of us up there and the air horns went for five full minutes. We had timed it of course, and nobody heard the starting bell. People were furious and they were yelling at us, "What are you doing?" And we have a big banner up that either said, "ACT UP" or "Fuck your profiteering." Either way, they were incensed by it. And we started throwing out these fake \$100 bills that had a message about Burroughs Wellcome on them. The people were not, in any way, positive about this action. And we're trying to get at us to probably kill us. So I was so relieved when the police showed up this time because we had handcuffed

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**James McGrath**

63  
2019-present: President, dean and law professor, Western Michigan University Cooley Law School  
Lives in East Lansing.  
Married with one child.

Degrees:  
B.A. San Jose State University, cum laude, 1994  
J.D. Howard University School of Law, cum laude, 1997  
M.P.H. Harvard School of Public Health, 2000  
LL.M. Temple University Beasley School of Law, 2002

Professor & associate dean, Texas A&M Law School, 2005-2019

Fulbright Scholar, Beijing University of Chemical Technology, 2011-2012

# McGrath

from page 20

ourselves to that balcony and we had no keys. Luckily, we had regulation handcuffs, they extricate us from the balcony and get us out. People are trying to hit us, but we all get out alive.

**And did you end up going to jail for that?**

Yes. That was the point.

When we went to Burroughs Wellcome in the South, we weren't sure how much the bail was going to be set at, so, if I may name drop, Keith Haring, a very famous artist who actually succumbed to HIV disease, gave us \$10,000 each in traveler's cheques in \$100 denominations, and each one had Keith Haring's signature on it, which was worth a lot. And I was like, "Oh man, I want one of those." But no, it was only in case we needed the bail.

Because three of us were actually infected with HIV, Burroughs Wellcome did not want us to spend considerable time in jail and actually lobbied to get us out of jail. We ended up staying there just one day, Which was very lucky

because we were charged with amazing things, like fraudulently representing ourselves by using those name tags. We were told we kidnapped someone by running past them to get in the elevator — like ridiculous charges. We could have been in jail for a long time awaiting trial, so we're very thankful that Burroughs Wellcome was actually an ally in that. And, by the way, after each of these actions, Burroughs Wellcome dropped their price 20%, but it was a "coincidence" each time that they had been planning that the next day already.

**You had some encounters with the late great Larry Kramer. What was he like?**

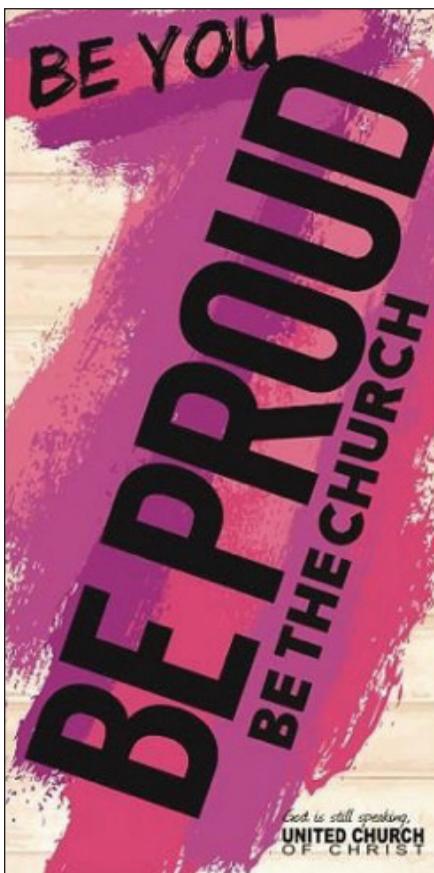
He is a real hero of mine. We didn't see eye to eye on everything and, to be honest with you, I met him, but I doubt he would even have remembered my name because he had such disdain for me. I can't really blame him, I was the new person to the group, I was very unsophisticated compared to like Peter Staley and David Levitt, who's a very famous author, and there's a lot of people there just really steeped in the knowledge you needed to really be a great activist. I was still learning and I was willing to take chances, that got me into the group. And so Larry, fortunately for me, never vocalized his disdain

because it probably would have ruined me, but you could tell he had no love for me.

I don't agree with everything Larry did. He had very Victorian views on sex. He thought sex should be between two people who were in love and stuff like that. I was a little more sex positive at the time, I wasn't married either. And he wrote the novel "Faggots" that really was excoriating the "gay lifestyle." Not every gay man is a crazy sexual debauchery kind of person as in that book. But he was that way a long time before HIV hit and it kind of solidified his view like, "Well look, if we're not doing this stuff, these horrible things won't happen." People were very upset with him because, certainly, it wasn't what's caused HIV, but it did help it spread faster in the community.

But he was just an amazing man, he kept us on our toes. He kept people angry, which was really important to get this stuff done, angry enough to get arrested, angry enough to help change the laws.

It was a really great, exciting, but sad and deadly time. When I look around my cohort, there's not a lot of men my age ... far fewer than should be alive today because of HIV.



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# Inclusion Awards 2020

## To your health

2020 City Pulse Inclusion Awards raise a virtual toast

There should have been a banquet. Then came the coronavirus.

Each year, at Pride Week, City Pulse honors up to eight people from greater Lansing who have advanced the well being of the LGBTQ community.

It’s fitting that this year’s Inclusion Awards focus on health.

In former years, legal and political advances in the LGBTQ community have taken center stage. This year, as a deadly virus tears through the world and leaves economic catastrophe in its wake, the mental and physical resilience of our most vulnerable populations is being tested as never before. Six of our eight 2020 awardees are dedicated to improving the mental or physical health of their LGBTQ clients or patients.

Transgender people, especially trans people of color, still experience stress, anxiety, violence and a range of unacceptable health outcomes. Many of this year’s awardees are deeply involved in

the push to bring the best health care, and the latest information, to people in the community, through their own clinics and practices and networks like Queering Medicine.

Although we can’t have an awards banquet this year, our community is still seeded with outstanding people who deserve recognition — people who are doing everything they can to help the LGBTQ community keep body and soul together.

To be considered for an award, a person must be nominated by a colleague, friend, admirer or supporter. Our editorial board narrowed the nominees to eight, which wasn’t easy.

The shadow of the pandemic loomed over every awardee in one way or another. Two of this year’s awardees, Isabella Copeland and Colleen Kelley, were chosen by virtue of their ability to create or host safe spaces where LGBTQ people could gather to socialize, be entertained or discuss various

aspects of their lives.

Social life, for gay and straight alike, is still on hold, but we long for the return of welcoming places like Gone Wired Café, which plans to reopen in July, and LGBTQ gatherings like Queers Who Brunch and Thought Club, two of Copeland’s many projects.

Another striking thing about this year’s awardees is that some of them have only been in the Lansing area for a couple of years or so, but have made a disproportionate impact in that short time. The reputation of Michigan’s capital city as a welcoming place for LGBTQ people, and the growing strength, resilience and mutual support of the LGBTQ community here, is drawing energetic, enthusiastic young people who are working toward another growth spurt of equality and justice for all, pandemic or no pandemic.

— LAWRENCE COSENTINO

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# Inclusion Honorees 2020



**Isabella ("Izzy") Copeland**

A live burlesque show at the do-gooding Allen Neighborhood Center, a place most people associate with fresh veggies, tai chi and healthy cooking classes, brought the concept of Pure Lansing to sublime heights last Dec. 7.

"Some performers were queer, some were black and they were big," organizer Isabella Copeland said with a laugh. She could see from some visitors' faces that it was their first experience with traditional burlesque.

"To have these amazing fat rolls and feathers in their faces — I could see their brains just expand," Copeland said. "It was pure joy, electric energy, positivity through the roof. I was high off of that for days."

The show was part of Queers Who Brunch, a series of get-togethers showcasing LGBTQ life and just one of the many events Copeland has helped to organize in the two years since she moved to Lansing.

When her partner came to MSU to study clinical psychology, Copeland didn't know anybody in Lansing. She resolved to build her own community and host the kind of meaningful social events she herself would want to attend.

"I'm pretty sure I could go the rest of my life without small talk," she said.

Gatherings like Thought Club, a monthly cocktail hour, and a monthly reading group featuring the poetry of queer women of color have had a major impact on the city's cultural life, bringing hundreds of people together for thoughtful discussions, poetry readings and other events that fill a crying need in the LGBTQ community.

Copeland credits Phiwa Langeti, founder and director of the Salus Center (Lansing's LGBTQ resource hub) and "man about town" Lorenzo Lopez, a highly visible local advocate for Latinx and LGBT people, for ushering her into the world of queer Lansing.

"Both of them welcomed me with open arms and taught me about what Lansing has to offer, which is amazing," she said.

The groups allow space for deep conversations.

"We talk about things you might not bring up to a stranger sitting next to you at the bar," she said.

"It's about depth, concepts that queer people experience, especially queer people of color. That is unique and rare."

Copeland is trying to keep the camaraderie via Zoom and other virtual events, including a virtual dance party, but she admits it's just not the same.

"Things are going to look different, and that's OK, too," she said. "And this is not the end for me. I have other ideas."



**Jessica Heselschwerdt**

A few years ago, a patient told East Lansing physician Jessica Heselschwerdt she was transgender and requested hormone treatment.

"I never learned how to do that in medical school or in my residency," Heselschwerdt said. "But I did learn how to take care of post-menopausal women with hormones, and men with low testosterone, treating them with hormones."

Heselschwerdt told the patient she could either go to an endocrinologist or give her a little time to study up and do the treatment herself.

"She wanted me to go on this journey with her," Heselschwerdt said. She went on line to research the subject and consulted colleagues.

"I learned a lot about disparities, barriers to care," she said. "I thought it was really terrible and wanted to help."

Heselschwerdt grew up in Jackson, went to medical school at Wayne State and interned in Austin, Texas. She's always loved the idea of caring for families from birth to death, but there's a strong note of activism in her love of family practice.

"I knew the medical system is not great and I wanted to be a supportive person in a system that frequently isn't," she said.

She cited a recent survey finding that about 23% of transgender people postponed medical care because of discrimination, 33% postponed care because they couldn't afford it and 33% reported a negative experience with health care.

"Up to one half of transgender people reported having to teach their doctor about transgender care, which is totally not their job," Heselschwerdt said. "It should be the other way around."

She runs into some persistent misconceptions when she teaches students about doing physical exams and other aspects of caring for LGBTQ patients. She has also lectured on the subject for several residency programs in the region and at conferences such as the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians.

"Doctors who haven't learned about this think that it's hard, it's complicated and it's something they can't do, but it's very doable," she said. "There are guidelines out there."

Someday, she hopes, helping transgender patients will be a routine part of every physician's bag.

"Sending patients to a specialist is just another barrier," she said. "We know our patients best and they have the most access to us, so we primary care doctors should be doing this."



**Colleen Kelley**

Colleen Kelley has been involved in political action and activism for over 30 years, but her 15 years as owner of The Avenue Café were like graduate study.

"I've learned and grown so much as a person from the examples of members of the community," she said.

Kelley is the embodiment of the inclusive, welcoming east side spirit.

The variety of events The Avenue has hosted over the years is staggering: hip-hop, punk rock, belly dancing, jazz, city planning brainstorm sessions, charity events, political campaign launches, drag shows — anything that makes people feel good, improves their lives, furthers a good cause or stirs up a beautiful ruckus.

The café's scope and business model have changed a lot since Kelley bought the former camping supply store at 2021 E. Michigan Ave. and christened it Gone Wired Café in 2005.

It started as a coffee shop and cybercafé, but after the 2008 recession, student traffic began to dry up. It was clear to Kelley that her business model wouldn't sustain a place that large.

"That really tested my survival," she said. "It was tremendously difficult."

She put in a generously proportioned bar to make the establishment "recession resistant" and made many other changes that took about four years in all to finish.

Typically, she deflects the credit for turning an old camping supply store into a critical community gathering place.

"The activists creating neighborhoods that are dedicated to inclusivity — that has been true for about 50 years around here, maybe longer," she said. "We didn't create the environment of inclusivity."

She said The Avenue has made it through the spring lockdown "all right." Careful plans are under way to reopen, probably in June.

"We have such a large space that even half capacity is still a lot of people, and we just want to make sure that when we reopen, it's safe to do so," she said.

A 16th birthday bash is tentatively set for Aug. 1, although it might be bumped to Oct. 1.

Kelley thinks of The Avenue as "a work in progress" and feels the same way about herself.

"The most important part has been being really vulnerable about where I needed to grow to be a more inclusive person," she said. "What I've learned from the culture of the community is that being a person who strives toward inclusivity isn't something you arrive at. It's a constant journey."



**Jae Puckett**

Is the news making you sick? You're not alone. Jae Puckett is hip deep in a massive study showing a direct link between social and political shifts and changes in health for transgender people.

Last year, Puckett drove around Michigan and interviewed transgender people across the state. Many of them had never participated in a study before.

Busting out of academia and meeting people where they are is a big priority for Puckett, an assistant professor of psychology at MSU and an out gender-queer advocate.

Puckett's findings are dispiriting. Most trans people reported spikes in stress after the 2016 election. Nearly 90 percent reported increased fear, social uneasiness and anxiety and 80 percent reported increased exposure to hate speech.

"The social climate is shaped by leadership, and without changes, we'll continue to see oppression of trans people grow," Puckett said. "It's important to see people who are supportive and affirming of the trans community come into leadership positions."

This fall and beyond, as the 2020 election arrives, the groundbreaking study will track the link between shifting political winds and public health.

"We will have data to show you what people's experiences were like before the upcoming election, during it and after it," Puckett said.

After three years as an assistant professor at the University of South Dakota, Puckett fled to MSU two years ago.

"It was very hard to live in South Dakota, as a trans person, and as a queer person," Puckett said. "It's very isolated, and there aren't a lot of supports. Every year there was a piece of legislation targeting the trans population in some way."

Puckett has taken on many roles at MSU, including teaching a class of 300 students, supervising a sexual and gender minority clinic with low-cost services and working with the Queering Medicine project to make information more accessible to the LGBTQ community.

Puckett is determined to right some historic wrongs.

"The field of psychology has a very negative history when it comes to LGBTQ people, a history of stigmatizing and pathologizing," Puckett said. There are still clinical psychiatrists who try to "repair" or "cure" LGBTQ people, "which is very harmful," Puckett said.

"If you can't even go to the doctor without being discriminated against, that has implications for your health," Puckett said. "We need to do some critical self-reflection."



**Nicholas ("Nick") Royal**

About 10 years ago, Nicholas Royal came out to his father. They had some long and difficult conversations.

Flash forward to late 2019, when Royal got a nudge from his supervisor at MSU's Office for Institutional Equity. A youth detention center in Eaton County was looking for someone to train the staff on how to interact with queer and trans residents, and Royal had already done similar training at MSU.

"How often do we get a youth facility in rural Michigan wanting to make sure they're doing well for their trans students?" Royal said. "It's the first time I've experienced it."

Royal found that Juvenile Division director Amanda Pollard and her staff were keenly receptive to his message.

"It was wonderful for me on so many levels," Royal said. "They were ready to learn and we were ready to teach them."

"Nick has opened eyes, educated minds and brought real change to our corner of the world," Pollard said.

Joe Royal, a career law enforcement officer, is the probation supervisor for the 15th District Court in Ann Arbor — and Nick's father.

His son had spent years working with queer and trans youth. Royal senior had decades of experience with youth detention facilities. It was only logical for father and son to work together on the training program.

"I think about coming out to my dad 10 years ago, and the worry that comes with that, and the conversations we've had since then," Royal said. "I really got to see it come to fruition."

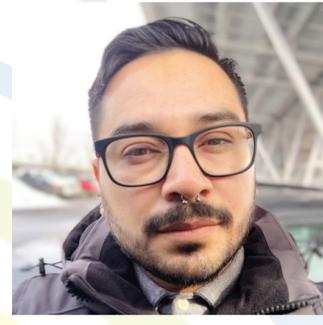
Royal proudly watched his father dive into research with colleagues in the justice system on how best to serve trans and queer youth.

"He's talking about the intersection of sexual identity and gender identity and race in a way he wouldn't have 10 years ago," Royal said.

These days, Royal bears the formidable title of civil rights investigator at MSU's Office of Institutional Equity.

"I feel like I have to soften it, calling on the phone," he said. "Hey, I'm with OIE, I just want to talk."

He looks into claims of stalking, dating violence, sexual assault, rape and sexual harassment, discrimination based on membership in classes protected by Title VII and MSU, "which at Michigan State, post-Larry Nassar, is interesting work," he said.



**Mauricio ("Jimmy") Franco**

Mauricio "Jimmy" Franco is a leader in a 2-year-old group called Queering Medicine, a grassroots coalition aimed at helping LGBTQ people take their health care into their own hands.

Franco, a fourth-year medical student at MSU, wants ordinary LGBTQ people to have access to the latest scientific research and health practices.

Compiling a directory of LGBTQ-friendly providers is a small part of that work. Queering Medicine already has ties that extend all over the county, from MSU's College of Human Medicine to the Salus Center and the Ingham County Health Department.

Through the Ingham County Health Department's Ryan White Program, Queering Medicine collected masks, disinfecting supplies and other hard-to-get items to pass on to immune-compromised people in the LGBT community.

He's also a part of Queering Medicine's "Mythbusters" group, digesting a week's worth of COVID-19 information — a daunting task in itself — and boiling it down to essentials.

"It was really important for us to lean in to the pandemic and figure out a way to leverage our access to information," he said. "What is the virus actually doing? What do you need to do to keep someone safe? What do these terms actually mean?"

When he's not studying or taking on some new task for Queering Medicine, he takes a minute or two to count his blessings.

"I'm a queer, Latinx person from Los Angeles with a large family that has supported me along the way," he said. "In the grand scheme of things, I'm quite lucky to be able to say that my biggest challenge is adapting to changes in medical school during the pandemic."

It helps that his house is within walking distance of Sparrow Hospital.

"My walk home from the hospital allows me to kind of digest the day and the patients that I saw," he said. A garden and a dog named Gizmo help him wind down.

"I try to spend as much time as I can with my husband," he said. This year, Franco plans to apply for a residency in pediatrics and infectious diseases at Sparrow.

"We're fortunate to be able to live in Lansing and to have a community," he said. "It's been nice, coming from out of state, creating roots here and meeting so many wonderful people."



**Beth Sanford**

Hair is a very personal thing. You can bet there were tears — carefully dabbed away before they contaminated any hard surface — when owner Beth Sanford reopened Rubies Paradise Salon, 2316 E. Michigan Ave., after three months of lockdown because of the coronavirus.

It's not the first time Sanford has felt like the practitioner of a potent, liberating ritual. The current surge in haircut lust reminds her of 2016.

"After Trump was elected, everybody wanted an emotional haircut, because they couldn't control anything in their lives but they could control their hair," she said. "It's almost like a primal urge."

For 15 years, Sanford's salon has held aloft the rainbow flag of East Side diversity.

"We have men, women, nonbinary, transgender, young people, old people, people of color, kids," she said.

Sanford's staff excels at affirming their boldest choices.

"People think there are women cuts and men cuts, and there are not," Sanford said. "People come in, and here and here — 'I want a man's haircut.' No, it's just a haircut."

Sanford grew up in Alpena and came to Lansing in the early 2000s. Paradise Salon was around for about a year when she took it over and renamed it after her baby daughter, Rubie. Before long, the salon began to generate a very particular vibe, warm and kind yet fiercely protective. Everyone who works at Rubie's and much of the clientele are a part of the LGBTQ community.

"We didn't choose to run a woman-owned, queer business," she said. "That's just what it is, and the community embraces it because that's what they all are too. They don't get questioned, they're welcomed warmly and they're not getting the side-eye."

Sanford once shaved the head of a client who was about to go into chemotherapy and wanted to take control of the experience. The woman showed up just as Sanford was closing up shop, but she stayed open, shaved her head and didn't charge her for it.

Sanford has been able to pay the bills and keep the business alive during lockdown, but she knew she couldn't pay for all of the cleaning supplies, ultraviolet sterilizers, masks and other paraphernalia needed to reopen the salon.

Reluctantly, she launched a GoFundMe campaign. The response was so swift and enthusiastic the goal was met within a few hours.

"The kindness has really come through during this whole ordeal," she said.



**Jennifer Briere**

Jennifer Briere's advocacy for the mental health of the LGBTQ community has gone hand in hand with her own personal evolution.

Briere is coordinator of Adult Mental Health Services at the Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties. She has worked at CMH for 23 years and been an active mainstay of its Diversity Advisory Council for almost as long.

She also has a private practice in therapy and serves on the Mental Health Advisory Committee for the East Lansing school district.

"I really love social work," she said. She was born and raised in metro Detroit, "in a pretty conservative Baptist family." She went to Calvin College, at her parents' urging, but quit after a year.

"It was just not aligning with who I wanted to be as a person," she said.

The light went on for her in senior year, when she went on an alternative spring break and worked at a facility for men with mental illness and substance abuse issues.

"I don't know what it was about that, but I was working on the street and I really connected with those guys," she said. "I knew immediately that this is what I wanted to do with my life."

After graduating from Western, she worked in group homes for people with mental illness in Kalamazoo. Shortly after moving to Lansing, she joined Community Mental Health.

Briere experienced another phase of personal growth when she helped several graduate students start the weekly Open Minds support group.

"We weren't telling them how run it," Briere said. "They were organically creating the group themselves."

When grad students were no longer available, Briere ran the sessions herself. Open Minds sponsored a table at Pride Week, not just to promote CMH's services, but also to spread the word about diversity in employment and hiring practices and information on foster parenting programs for same-sex couples.

Leading the group is one of the most rewarding experiences she's had at CMH. "I just have a heart for it," she said. Along the way, she evolved from identifying herself as an ally when the group started to "identifying as a member of the community."

"I've been open about that, and that's important, that they see people who are willing to identify with them and stand up for them. It's just been a meaningful piece of my work."

All profiles were written by Lawrence Cosentino.



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# These four strains help to strengthen LGBTQ rights

## Free joints: Skymint launches dank Pride Month special

By **KYLE KAMINSKI**

Want to support basic human rights? Also want some free weed? How about both?

Skymint locations in Lansing, including its new dispensary on Saginaw Street, are running a Pride Month special through June 28. Here's the deal: Buy an eighth (of a few select strains) and get a free joint. And the proceeds go straight to a ballot initiative for stronger LGBTQ rights.

Through a partnership with the Fair & Equal Michigan campaign, proceeds from each purchase support an ongoing movement to amend the state's Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act and better protect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people from discrimination across Michigan.

Following some delays tied to the coronavirus, organizers plan to get the proposed amendment on the 2022 ballot. Meanwhile, Skymint is supporting the cause through sales of some of the gayest marijuana in Lansing: Lava Cake, Ice Cream Cake No. 4 and 5, and Rozay No. 1.

Naturally, I had to try all four. And each are indica-dominant strains that pack a flavorful punch.



### Lansterdam in Review: Skymint

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[skymint.com](http://skymint.com)

#### Lava Cake

**Price — \$55/3.5g**  
**THC content — 17.31%**

These bright green, crystalized buds are layered with orange hairs and deep purple leaves. And while I'm told the darker shade has a lot to do with a cooler growing temperature, I just know that purple pot is usually always a solid way to start the weekend — especially with a bong.

The strain is a 70/30 Indica cross



of Thin Mint Girl Scout Cookies and Grape Pie, well known for its in-your-face flavor profile and a quick-hitting but relaxing high. Don't say you weren't warned.

Most of these dessert-type strains were exceptionally smooth, but this one might take the cake. Sweet notes with a creamy sort of vanilla herb finisher. Dangerously smooth. After a few hits, I couldn't regather my initial energy to make it to the park, even if it was only to lay in a hammock.

The wave of relaxation, however, allowed me to quickly forget my work week. A light sleepiness may be a downside for some, but I think it's the perfect bud for a relaxing evening spent at home. Also: I managed to make it through a 90-minute movie, so don't expect a total knockout.

#### Ice Cream Cake No. 4 & 5

**Price — \$55/3.5g**  
**THC content — 14.76% and 16.11%**

These two are both a phenotype of the same badass strain — a cross between Wedding Cake and Gelato No. 33. The subtle difference, according to Skymint budtenders, is that the No. 4 takes on more of the characteristics of the Wedding Cake. No. 5 takes after the Gelato No. 33.

Both smelled like that glorious scent blitz that emanates from a Yankee Candle shop. Is that vanilla? Cocoa butter? Sugar cookies? Caramel? No. Maybe lavender? A little of all of them?

These dessert-named weed varieties each tasted and smelled like a slice of frosted cake and went down like a cold glass of milk. Immediate sedation, but still a solid daytime smoke. After the Lava Cake,



Ice Cream Cake No. 4



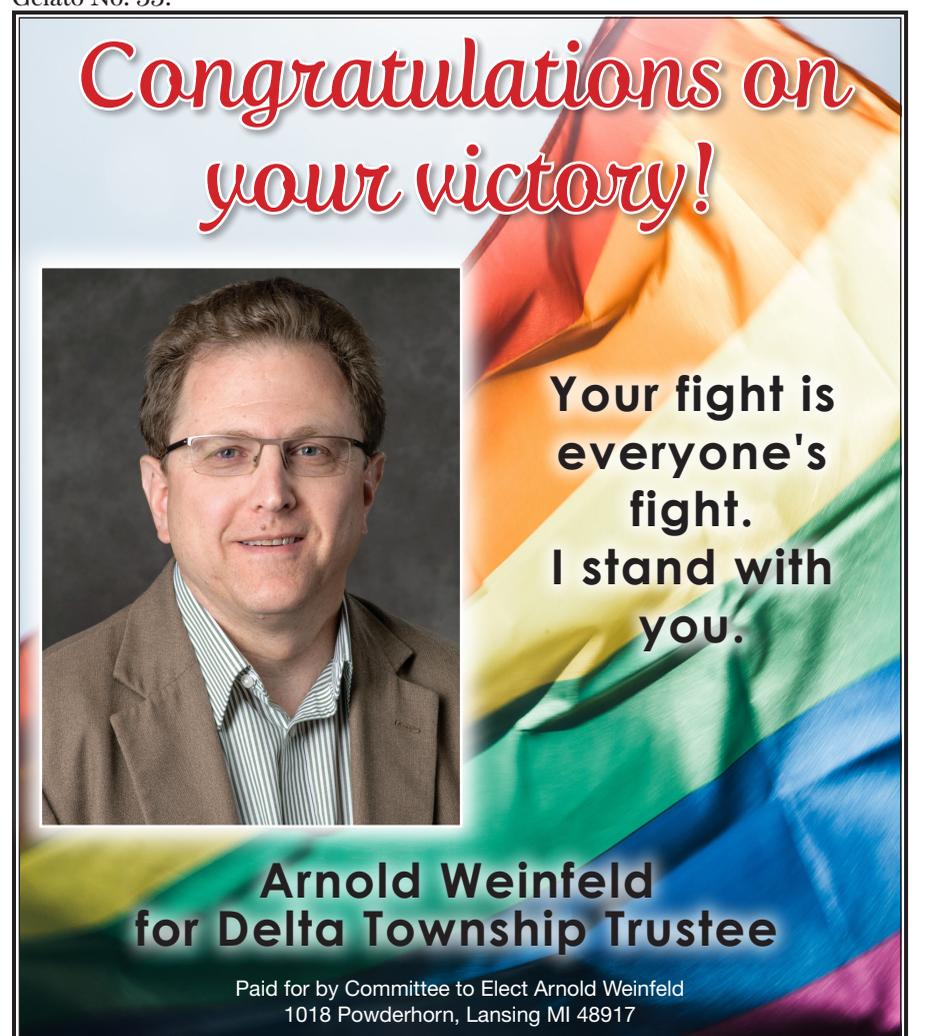
Ice Cream Cake No. 5

See Lansterdam, Page 28



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# Lamsterdam

from page 26

eties each tasted and smelled like a slice of frosted cake and went down like a cold glass of milk. Immediate

sedation, but still a solid daytime smoke. After the Lava Cake, I figured I'd wait until I had actually strung up the hammock to light up these two.

This high — which hits the head before quickly traveling throughout the rest of the body — is certainly a slaphappy type of buzz. I really don't remember laughing this hard in a

while. I also don't really remember what we were all laughing about. So, mission accomplished, I guess.

This weed is reportedly a good choice for those with depression, chronic pain, insomnia and appetite loss. And I can see why. The only thing that eventually pried me loose from a two-hour swing in the hammock was the idea of ordering a pizza delivery when I made it back home.

Someone must've told S k y m i n t that I have a thing for purple weed. This stuff was the darkest of the bunch, so naturally, I saved it for



the last. And it was the perfect way to end the evening. Instantly, I was hit with a rich, fruity smell that's probably best described as a bunch of concord grapes — and maybe a few raspberries — colliding with a fresh bag of mulch or wood chips.

Indicas like these are just better suited for the bong. And Rozay was no exception. A savory sort of pine-on-berry flavor on the front end was just as smooth as the others from Skymint. It gave way to an immediate, cerebral sort of buzz that cleared the mind and slouched the shoulders.

This bud had served its sole purpose: Washing away anxiety and sending me straight to bed. No grogginess either. I awoke the next morning feeling refreshed and ready to take on the day.

*Lansterdam in Review* is a new column written by Kyle Kaminski, a City Pulse staff writer and cannabis enthusiast who has been smoking marijuana just about every day for the last decade. Kaminski samples some of the best bud in Greater Lansing, gets real high and writes about it.

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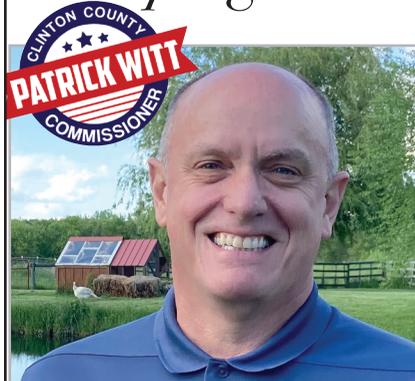
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# Nonbinary musician Bilal Baeza finds their way through friendship

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Raised in Detroit, but coming of age in Grand Ledge and Lansing, Lansing musician Bilal Baeza is a black and nonbinary — indentifying with neither traditional male nor female gender roles — artist navigating a predominantly white and straight music world.

Baeza, who prefers to use gender neutral pronouns they/them, creates music that's hard to label. Their current projects, Brillo, a solo act, and Crawl Spaces — which features Jaxon Kolhoff, Nathan Hallman, Thalia Wells and Ezra Kelly — have a unique, gothic electronic flavor. But one important aspect when discussing Baeza's music is to avoid mislabeling it as rap. It's a common faux pas Baeza suffers as they are black and don dreadlocks.

"Being black and nonbinary in the music industry, it does get a little weird. Everything from tiny things, from people just assuming I'm a rap artist and dismissing before even giving me a chance. It's disrespectful to me, because I love rap so much," Baeza said.

Baeza is best friends with Crawl Spaces member Jaxon Kolhoff, who is an international model as well as a musician. "He's very calm and peaceful, like a turtle. It was refreshing to meet him and I wanted to know more immediately," Baeza said. "The next day we started playing music together. From then on, either him or me will say, 'Wanna jam?' And we'll bust out the instruments and work on something."

Baeza's other close friend and frequent collaborator, Thalia Wells, sings on the track "No Mo" from Crawl Space's EP "After The Sun Goes Down." While Baeza and Wells met on the dating app Tinder, the two just ended up becoming best friends instead of romantic partners.

"Just from hearing her voice without any instruments, my jaw dropped. She has this amazing natural talent and is so much fun to work with," Baeza said. "Her vocal range is ghostly, as if a ghost was singing to you from a different floor in a house."

When discussing influences, Baeza rattles off locals Nonbinary, a group formed by two of Baeza's closest friends, Ezra and Marshall Kelly. The Kellys are transgender twins whose captivating story of helping each other discover their gender identity side by side has received national attention from LGBTQ media outlets and has made them popular fixtures in Lansing's young LGBTQ scene.

Baeza, who was still figuring out their own gender and sexual identity upon first seeing the Kellys perform as Non-

binary, was immediately entranced by the sense of freedom they two effortlessly displayed when performing their music to an audience. Baeza managed to witness Nonbinary's first performance, which was a concert at The Fledge's original Grand Ledge location.

"I saw how much they enjoyed expressing themselves through their gender, identity and their music. Watching them perform live is insane, and that alone is enough for anyone to be inspired to play, in my opinion."

Baeza met the pair personally while still attending Grand Ledge High School. Their first encounter came by chance at the Edru skate rink in Holt. Baeza remembers being immediately enamored by the Kellys' striking, gothic thrift shop fashion sense.

"The twins are, first and foremost, my best friends. We met at Edru. I used to go there when I was bored, and me and my best friend at the time, Red, saw Marshall and Ezra and I immediately swooned so hard. I tried to come up with a plan to hit on them, but I didn't even get within 10 feet of Ezra. I tried but I gave up and turned around," Baeza laughed.

As Baeza became closer friends with the Kellys, self-exploration became eas-



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

Lansing musician Bilal Baeza, who performs as Brillo and with Crawl Spaces, basks in the sun while wearing a custom-made outfit.

You can find Brillo and Crawl Space on music streaming apps such as Apple Music and Spotify.

ier and Baeza became comfortable with being out as nonbinary. "Up until I met the twins, I hadn't been able to have conversations about it and being more open; expressing myself and not caring what other people think. The internet helps, but it isn't enough. It takes somebody being there for you and saying, 'You can do what you want to do and you won't burst into flames over it.' It's important to have friends that are open and not afraid to have the conversation."

Ezra Kelly, who also uses they/them pronouns, said one of the most important things when somebody is going through a coming out process is receiving validation. The combined efforts of Marshall and Ezra Kelly gave Baeza

an overwhelming amount of comfort as they began accepting their nonbinary identity and writing the music that would eventually become the source material for Brillo and later Crawl Spaces.

"Bilal had two people on each side of them, saying 'Yes, it's OK that you feel this way,'" Kelly said.

"Being invalidated in anything, regardless of the situation, leads to feeling alone; cast out; not quite on the same par with everybody else," Baeza said. "That can compromise the presentation of your gender and sexuality, which can lead you to stuffing those feelings down and pretending they don't exist, which is a damn shame."

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# Lansing resident learns to tattoo during lockdown

Rowan Giffel decided to express their queerness through the art of stick and pokes

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

Getting a stick and poke tattoo is a brutal process. A tattoo gun can penetrate the skin around 100 times per second, according to Medical News Today. But to do a stick and poke, the tattoo artist has to stick the needle in by hand, slowly and carefully. If they accidentally stick it in too far, you can expect to see a lot of blood.

Stick and poke tattoos have been a staple of punk and DIY scenes for as long as punk and DIY scenes have

existed. They're a cheap and easy way to alter one's body. A professional tattoo can cost hundreds of dollars. All you need to do to get a stick and poke is buy a needle and some ink.

Rowan Giffel, 23, started doing their own stick and pokes when they got bored during lockdown. (Giffel uses they/them pronouns.) They're immunocompromised and can't leave the apartment much. But luckily, they had ordered needles and ink online right before the COVID-19 outbreak started.

"My first tattoo during lockdown was a glyph for Jupiter, the ruling planet of Sagittarius," said Giffel, referring to their astrological sign. "Then I did a ghost on my finger. And now I have four ghosts on my fingers." They held up their hand to reveal cartoon ghosts on each knuckle.

Giffel initially ordered tattoo supplies because they get really anxious going into tattoo shops. They also said that it feels good to put their own art on their own body.

"Most of the queer people that I hang out with like stick and pokes,"



Cole Tunningley/City Pulse

Rowan Giffel (right) and their partner Emily Anderson show off their stick and poke tattoos while enjoying some pizza.

said Giffel. "And I definitely have some gay tattoos on my body."

Giffel flashed a tattoo of an inverted cross on their belly as an example. "It's not because God made me gay. It's because he made straight people," they laughed and then paused. "That's not true, that's not true."

Since lockdown started, they have tattooed their several partners and their roommates. Every single person they've tattooed so far has been gay or trans. Giffel has tattooed them with daggers, mushrooms, frowny faces and smiley faces, a Pac-Man ghost and more.

"I had to buy sterilized needles and more rubbing alcohol and stuff," said Giffel. They've tattooed about five different people now. On their bed, they had multiple boxes containing hundreds of needles, some big and some small. Giffel said that the size 9RL hurts the worst, but you have to use it to get thick lines.

Emily Anderson, 25, one of Giffel's partners, has also given and received stick and pokes. She pointed at a tattoo of a dagger on her foot and said, "This was the worst for me. The foot. It's terrible."

Despite the pain, Giffel said that the stick and pokes are worth it. "Because I'm trans. Dysphoria's bad. I don't have a lot of control over my body in a lot of ways," they explained. "Because of money. Surgeries, hor-

mones. Being able to put tattoos on my body is something that I finally do have control over."

Anderson said she also likes how the tattoos lend her a sense of control over her body. "But my tattoos don't have a lot of meaning behind them. I just like how they look," said Anderson. "These are beautiful things, and I like having them on my body."

While I talked to Giffel, they were tattooing a tarot card named The Fool on their thigh. They said that this particular tarot card has personal significance. "I read this card in a queer way. The Fool represents naivete and being reckless and probably dumb. But it's also about preparing for a new journey and preparing for change."

Giffel said that they get frustrated with trying to be consistent. For example, they said they hesitate to change their name — even though they want to — because it causes confusion with relatives and friends.

On their arm, Giffel has a stick and poke of a dandelion. They said that that tattoo is probably their favorite. For a reason. "They literally grow from people's wishes. You blow the dandelion spores, and then they sprout into beautiful, yellow, resilient things," said Giffel. "And they look so happy. I want to be more like that."



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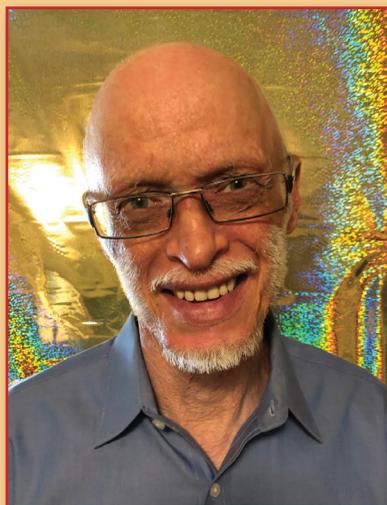
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Formed soon after the Stonewall Rebellion of 1969, Gay and Lesbian Pride Month promotes diversity and civil rights and liberties for all through various events held around the world. Flown at many of these events is the Gay Pride flag.

Debuting at the 1978 San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Freedom Day Parade, the flag consists of a rainbow of colors, each of which stands for a particular quality. The red stripe symbolizes life; the orange stripe, healing; the yellow stripe, the sun; the green stripe, nature; the blue stripe, harmony; and the violet stripe, spirit. Sometimes a black stripe is added to the bottom of the flag to represent victory over AIDS.

On, June 2020, The Supreme Court passed a decision, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which makes it illegal for employers to discriminate because of a person's sex, also covers sexual orientation and trans-gender status.

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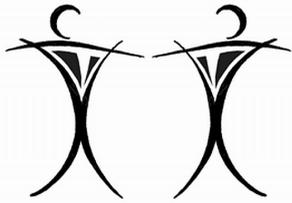
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# ARTS & CULTURE

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## The 2020 Pulsar Awards go digital via Zoom

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

The Pulsars Awards ceremony at 6 p.m. Monday, June 29 will reflect the ongoing need to social distance. Instead of the usual dinner gathering, presentations will be done via Zoom. Recipients have the opportunity to respond to winner announcements in 25 categories that reflect on and off-stage excellence. The public is welcome to watch.

For the first time in 16 years, instead of handing out trophies, special certificates will be mailed to the winners.

The host for the live-streamed ceremony will be Jamie Paisley, the director of programming for WKAR Radio. He started in radio hosting a Broadway program in central New York State for five years. For eight years — before joining WKAR in 2015 — Paisley was the musical director of Los Angeles' classical station.

Coordinating the Zoom presentation will be Paul Wozniak. Up to 300 people will be able to join the live presentation, but if you can't watch it live a recorded version will be available on [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com)

Despite an abbreviated season, the 2019-2020 Pulsar contenders included 30 plays. All theater companies considered were unable to complete their rosters.

The Curtainless Theatre was able to finish its run of "Julius Caesar" online. Williamston Theatre's "These Mortal Hosts" was also included because the play was offered as a virtual pay-per-view.

Because of the coronavirus shut down in March, Starlight Dinner Theatre's "A Lion in Winter" and Riverwalk Theatre's "A Hotel on Marvin Gardens" had to close before the required three judges had a chance to score them.

From a pool of 10 judges, ballots with 0-to-10 scores were submitted for plays before area theater went dark. Those with the highest numbers received nominations. Children's theater was not included.

The "Best Musical Ensemble" award was omitted this year because only one

play was completed in that category.

Although theater companies often save a blockbuster for the end of their season, the list includes many epic productions. Michigan State University Department of Theatre, Owosso's Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts, Riverwalk Theatre, Peppermint Creek Theatre Co. and Williamston Theatre all offered lavish shows before the stay-at-home order was initiated.

And, now, your Pulsar nominees:

### Best Play

"Boy Gets Girl" — Riverwalk Theatre  
"Apples in Winter" — Ixion Theatre Ensemble  
"900 Miles to International Falls" — Williamston Theatre  
"These Mortal Hosts" — Williamston Theatre  
"The Safe House" — Williamston Theatre

### Best Musical

"Into the Woods" — MSU Department of Theatre  
"Cabaret" — Owosso's Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts  
"Bright Star" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.  
"Pippin" — Riverwalk Theatre  
"The Great American Trailer Park Musical" — Over the Ledge Theatre Co.

### Best Director (Play)

Brian Farnham, "Boy Gets Girl" — Riverwalk Theatre  
Diane Cooke, "A Piece of My Heart" — Riverwalk Theatre  
Tony Caselli, "900 Miles to International Falls" — Williamston Theatre  
Paige Conway, "These Mortal Hosts" — Williamston Theatre  
Casaundra Freeman, "The Safe House"

### Best Director (Musical)

Garrett Bradley, "Cabaret" — Owosso's Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts  
Brian Farnham, "The Great American Trailer Park Musical" — Over the Ledge Theatre Co.  
Chad Swan-Badgero, "Bright Star" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.  
Deric McNish, "Into the Woods" — Michigan State University Department of Theatre  
Meghan Eldred-Woolsey, "Pippin" — Riverwalk Theatre

### Best Musical Direction

Carl Knipe, "Cabaret" — Owosso's Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts  
John Dale Smith, "Pippin" — Riverwalk Theatre  
Angie Schwab, "The Great American Trailer Park Musical" — Over the Ledge Theatre Co.  
Seth Burk, "Bright Star" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.  
Dave Wendelberger, "Into the Woods" — MSU Department of Theatre

### Best Choreographer

Karyn Perry, "Bright Star" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.  
Erica Duffield, "Cabaret" — Owosso's Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts  
Amanda Tollstam, "Pippin" — Riverwalk Theatre — Riverwalk Theatre Co.  
Brian Farnham, "The Great American Trailer Park Musical" — Over the Ledge Theatre Co.  
Alisa Hauser, "Into the Woods" — MSU Department of Theatre

### Best Properties Design

Brandon Barker, "Frankenstein" — MSU Department of Theatre  
Michael Windnagle, "Cabaret" — Owosso's Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts  
Michele Raymond, "The Safe House" and "A Christmas Carol: The Radio Show" — Williamston Theatre

Brian Farnham, "Boy Gets Girl" — Riverwalk Theatre

### Best Scenic Design

Joseph Dickson, Mary Jon, Jeff Miller, Miranda Hartmann, Brian Farnham, Adam Carlson, "The Great American Trailer Park Musical" — Over the Ledge Theatre Co.  
Michael Gault, "Frankenstein" — MSU Department of Theatre  
Dirk Rennick and Dan Wenzlick, "Cabaret" — Owosso's Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts  
Bartley H. Bauer, "900 Miles to International Falls" — Williamston Theatre

### Best Sound

Jason Painter Price, "900 Miles to International Falls" and "Frankenstein" — Williamston Theatre and MSU Department of Theatre  
Deb Keller, "Sunset Baby" — LCC Department of Theatre  
John Lepard, "A Christmas Carol: The Radio Show" — Williamston Theatre

### Best Lighting Design

Ted Daniel, "Boy Gets Girl" — Riverwalk Theatre  
Nick Frederick, "Cabaret" — Owosso's Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts  
Rachel Lauren, "Frankenstein" — MSU Department of Theatre  
Robert Fernholz, "Sunset Baby" — LCC Department of Theatre  
Reid G. Johnson, "900 Miles to International Falls" — Williamston Theatre

### Best Costume Design

Ketura Le'Audrey, "Frankenstein" — MSU Department of Theatre  
Chelle Peterson, "Belle Moral" and "Sunset Baby" — LCC Department of Theatre  
Lisa Bradley, Alissa Britten, Mistie Jordan, "Cabaret" — Owosso's Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts  
Camara Lewis, "Bright Star" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

### Best Hair/Makeup Design

Lori Bailey-Smith and Laura Croff, "Pippin" — Riverwalk Theatre  
Erica Duffield, "Cabaret" — Owosso's Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts  
Chantel Booker, "Frankenstein" — MSU Department of Theatre  
Gloria Vivalda, "Bright Star" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

### Best Original Script

Annie Martin, "900 Miles to International Falls" — Williamston Theatre  
Kristine Thatcher, "The Safe House," — Williamston Theatre  
Eric Coble, "These Mortal Hosts" — Williamston Theatre

### Best Specialization

Andy Callis (Dialect Coach) — "Belle Moral" — LCC Department of Theatre  
Deb Keller and Ashray Dravidian (Projection Design) — "Sunset Baby" — LCC Department of Theatre  
Matt Ottinger (Video/Projection) — "A Piece of My Heart" — Riverwalk Theatre  
Alison Dobbins (Projectionist) — "900 Miles to International Falls" — Williamston Theatre

### Best Lead Actor (Play)

Caleb Tracy, "Belle Moral" — LCC Department of Theatre  
Aral Gribble, "A Christmas Carol: The Radio Show" — Williamston Theatre  
Mark Colson, "These Mortal Hosts" — Williamston Theatre  
Ndegwa McCloud, "Sunset Baby" — LCC Department of Theatre

### Best Lead Actress (Play)

Paige Tufford, "Apples in Winter" — Ixion Theatre Ensemble  
Karen Sheridan, "The Safe House" — Williamston Theatre  
Janet Colson, "Boy Gets Girl" — Riverwalk Theatre  
Casaundra Freeman, "900 Miles to International

Falls" — Williamston Theatre  
Miah Nash, "Sunset Baby" — LCC Department of Theatre

### Best Supporting Actor (Play)

Jesse Frawley, "Unnecessary Farce" — Riverwalk Theatre  
Julian Van Dyke, "Sweat" — Riverwalk Theatre  
Ben Holzhausen, "Boy Gets Girl" — Riverwalk Theatre  
Connor Kelley, "Sweat" — Riverwalk Theatre  
Jon Kent, "900 Miles to International Falls" — Williamston Theatre

### Best Supporting Actress (Play)

Darah Donaher, "Frankenstein" and "900 Miles to International Falls" — MSU Department of Theatre and Williamston Theatre  
Heather Mahoney, "900 Miles to International Falls" — Williamston Theatre  
Dani Cochrane, "The Safe House" — Williamston Theatre  
Sabrina Dahlgren, "Boy Gets Girl" — Riverwalk Theatre

### Best Featured Actor (Play)

Edward Heldt, "Sweat" — Riverwalk Theatre  
Bob Purosky, "Boy Gets Girl" — Riverwalk Theatre

### Best Featured Actress (Play)

Ny'kieria Blocker, "Sunset Baby" — LCC Department of Theatre  
Madeline Nash, "Sweat" — Riverwalk Theatre

### Best Lead Actor (Musical)

Adam Woolsey, "Cabaret" and "Pippin" — Owosso's Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts and Riverwalk Theatre  
Matthew Bill, "Bright Star" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.  
Sam Sommer, "Cabaret" — Owosso's Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts

### Best Lead Actress (Musical)

Megan Mitchell, "Cabaret" — Owosso's Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts  
Rachel Cupples, "Pippin" — Riverwalk Theatre  
Amanda DeKatch, "Bright Star" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.  
Naomi Blansit, "Into the Woods" — MSU Department of Theatre

### Best Supporting Actor (Musical)

Robert Mueller, "Pippin" — Riverwalk Theatre  
Bill Henson, "Cabaret" — Owosso's Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts  
Ben Cassidy, "Bright Star" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

### Best Supporting Actress (Musical)

Anna Owens, "Cabaret" — Owosso's Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts  
Sarah Hayner, "Pippin" — Riverwalk Theatre  
Maeyson Menzel, "Into the Woods" — MSU Department of Theatre  
Sally Hecksel, "Bright Star" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

### Best Featured Actor (Musical)

Kevin Mazur, "Into the Woods" — MSU Department of Theatre

### Best Featured Actress (Musical)

Michael Windnagle, "Cabaret" — Owosso's Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts  
Oralya Garza, "Pippin" — Riverwalk Theatre  
Judy Evans, "Bright Star" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.  
Alissa Britten, "Cabaret" — Owosso's Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts

### Best Ensemble (Play)

Rick Dethlefsen, Gini Larson, Leigh Christopher, Sally Hecksel, Barbara Stauffer and Joe Clark, "The Humans" — Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.  
Kelly Jo Garland, Caila Conklin, Anasti Her, Jessa Bye, Brie Roper, Ann Glenn Carlson and Tyler Frease, "A Piece of My Heart" — Riverwalk Theatre

### Special Pandemic Award

To be named at ceremony

# Plans emerge to save LCC's radio station WLNZ

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Will the Lansing Public Media Center come to the rescue of Lansing Community College's WLNZ, 89.7 FM? It might have to.

LCC approved a budget Monday taking effect July 1 that doesn't include funding for WLNZ, but LCC President Brent Knight — reacting to concerned calls and emails from the public — has declared that doesn't mean the station will go off the air. LCC has a handful of options, Knight said. One sees the Lansing Public Media Center, a city government operation with independent funding, using its funding to cover the \$250,000 annual cost of WLNZ. Knight confirmed that LCC is interested in a proposal by the media center, but declined to explain the other options in LCC's pocket, saying they were credible but confidential.

"There will probably be several viable choices to review in the coming weeks. I think the college will make a good choice, and I am very hopeful that it will all work out," said Knight, who retires at the end of the month.

So how exactly can the Lansing



Courtesy photo

LCC's radio station, which is facing defunding, is housed in the Abel B. Sykes Building on Capitol Avenue at Shiawassee Street.

Public Media Center help? Director Dominic Cochran said it's possible for the center to offer some of its own funding to LCC. The Lansing Public Media Center receives its funding by the federal PEG Fee. PEG Fees — PEG is an acronym that stands for Public, Educational and Governmental — are the payments made by companies like Comcast from user fees to broadcast in municipalities such as the city of

Lansing.

"It's required by law that the city can only use those funds for capacity-building and investments in public access endeavors. I look at it as dedicated funding, which is rare and precious," Cochran said. "We have a sustainable funding source, so let's invest it into this super valuable community resource."

While Cochran is trying to help pull some strings to see the station survive, he said he empathizes with LCC's decision to cut funding to WLNZ — especially in the wake of the coronavirus. "I don't blame LCC, they had to cut a huge amount because of the coronavirus. Unfortunately, music and the arts are always the first on the chopping block," Cochran said.

If WLNZ does go off the air, even temporarily, it would be extremely difficult to bring it back, according to WLNZ's former station manager, Dave Downing, who is also the spokesman for a citizens' group seeking a way to keep the station going.

"I consider it a valuable community resource and I don't want it to go away.

If you allow a license to lapse, it's not an easy thing to get back," Downing said, citing governmental red tape that is extremely difficult to overcome.

Downing was the station's original manager, from its inception in 1994 all the way until his retirement in 2012. "Our main goal is to try to let the college know that citizens of this community consider it as a valuable resource," he said. "The license is really something to cherish. You can't say, 'We can turn it off and come back later,' the FCC will make it really difficult for you if you try to do that."

In a phone interview with City Pulse, Knight said he recognizes the community's concern.

"There are many people who appreciate WLNZ and we acknowledge that," Knight said.

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## *Favorite Things*

### Joe Haines and his modified gasmask



*Some might recognize Joe Haines for his day job as a van driver for CATA/SpecTran, others might know him as the president of Blind Alley Comics, a small-press, Lansing-based comic book group. He is also the creator and illustrator of his own comic, "Strange Adventures of Bone Boy." But Haines, in some circles, is best known for his work in Nocturnal Aviators in Action, a Lansing band that's been on hiatus for the last five years. His favorite thing is an oddity from his past work in that loud and hyper group. Here's what he had to say:*

Back in 2006, my bandmate Ben Southwell bought me this gasmask at the Foxhole PX store on S. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd. We used it for a photo shoot we were doing for our band, Nocturnal Aviators in Action. But I didn't want to let it go after that.

A few months later, I decided to remove the filter canister thing, put a microphone in a customized empty Monster Energy can and duct tape that to the schnoz. I then ran the microphone through a couple guitar effects pedals and out a Pignose portable amp strapped to my waist and went to the Mac's Bar Halloween

Party and costume contest. I won a fifth of Jameson.

The gasmask itself is useful for a number of reasons:

- 1.) It's scary.
- 2.) It's weird.
- 3.) I'm a notoriously shy vocalist, and wearing that mask while screaming my head off and sounding awesome helps get me over that.

4.) It's both a "shield" and a "weapon." Before we would play a show, I'd always be a little nervous, but once we're rolling and everything works, I'm fine. I just enjoy performing the ultimate catharsis in real time.

More recently, I've performed on-and-off as Noiseghost. It's mostly been "on" as hell the last couple years. Right now, we're recording our first LP, "Psychodelic Island." Beyond that, I also collaborate with a band called Decreption, and together we have become the most despicable force to ever rock your face off. Of course, I still use this old gasmask at our shows and about twice a week at rehearsals.

*(This interview was edited and condensed by Rich Tupica. If you have a suggestion for Favorite Things, email rich@lansingcitypulse.com.)*

# Great LGBTQ novels to celebrate pride with

By **BILL CASTANIER**

For decades, unsuspecting high school literature teachers assigned “The Picture of Dorian Grey,” by Oscar Wilde, for reading and discussion. Read between the lines and you will find a subtle gay thread. Not surprising, since Oscar Wilde spent time in a British prison for homosexuality.

“The Picture of Dorian Grey,” along with James Baldwin’s “Another Country,” are two of the earliest books that Lev Raphael, a former MSU literature professor and noted pioneer in gay and Jewish writing, recalls reading as a young man.

In 1996, Raphael published his first Nick Hoffman mystery, “Let’s Get Criminal,” featuring a gay professor and his husband. In 2018, Raphael sold his literary papers and his book collection to Michigan State University Special Collections.

“It’s a 40-year history of my writing and the full life of an author growing up in the ‘50s,” he said.

The 54-box collection, which the author adds to each year, includes journals, fan mail and an unpublished manuscript, along with important association copies from other authors.

“This next semester a graduate student will be coming to study the collection and do archival work for his dissertation,” Raphael said.

“It’s exactly how I hoped it would be used,” he said.

When I was asked to put together a reading list for Pride Week, I began scouring Publishers Weekly and The New York Times weekly Book Review for ideas, but I also made a call to Raphael. He’s right in our back yard and is extremely knowledgeable about the genre.

Raphael compiled this list of 20 fiction and nonfiction and poetry titles:

## Fiction

“Tipping the Velvet,” by Sarah Waters  
“Dancer from the Dance,” by Andrew Holleran

“Less,” by Andrew Sean Greer  
“The Sea of Light,” by Jenifer Levin  
“The Gilda Stories,” by Jewelle Gomez

“The Line of Beauty,” by Alan Hollinghurst  
“Stone Butch Blues,” by Leslie Feinberg

“Giovanni’s Room,” by James Baldwin  
“Funny Boy,” by Shyam Selvadurai  
“Maurice,” by E.M. Forster

“Orlando,” by Virginia Woolf

## Nonfiction & Poetry

“Reports from the Holocaust,” by Larry Kramer  
“The Celluloid Closet,” by Vito Russo  
“The Gay Revolution,” by Lillian Faderman  
“Skin,” by Dorothy Allison  
“My Lesbian Husband,” by Barrie Jean Borich  
“The Road Before Us,” by Assoto Saint  
“Borderland/La Frontera,” by Gloria Anzaldúa  
“Ceremonies,” by Essex Hemphill  
“Nice Jewish Girls,” by Evelyn Torton Beck

It’s amazing the breadth of titles that have come out since the first gay pride march was held in New York City 50 years ago this week. Just a few years earlier, universities like MSU and the University of Michigan were using undercover cops to entrap gays in restrooms, and the state’s Liquor Control Board still enforced a 1948 ruling that forbade establishments serving alcohol to become rendezvous for known prostitutes, homosexual and vagrants.

In addition to Raphael’s extensive list, I’ve added a few titles of my own and recommendations from other friends.

Truman Capote’s “In Cold Blood” is another of those whisper and listen closely books with a gay thread running through it. Certainly on anyone’s list should be Jeffrey Eugenides’ “Middlesex,” which 50 years from now will still be a classic. Not to be left out is “The Color Purple,” by Alice Walker, along with Armistead Maupin’s “Tales

of the City” and “The Price of Salt,” by Patricia Highsmith, who would become an exalted mystery writer. Another cult status book is “Rubyfruit Jungle,” a coming of age novel written in 1973 by noted mystery writer Rita Mae Brown, who began her career at “Rat” — New York City’s feminist liberation newspaper.

Recently two non-fiction entries in the genre are James Polchin’s “Indecent Advances: A Hidden History of True Crime and Prejudice Before Stonewall,” which follows minor indignities and major crimes involving homosexual relationships throughout the years, as covered in newspaper crime stories. The other is a magnificent photographic history, “50 Years of Parades and Protests from the Photo Archives of the New York Times.”

Of course, I have to add to the list Alison Bechdel’s phenomenally successful graphic novel “Fun Home,” which was turned into a Tony-winning musical by Lansing’s own Lisa Kron in collaboration with Jeanine Teson.

There is also a flood of graphic novels with pride themes including “Magic Fish” by Trung Le Nguyen; “Bingo Love,” by Tee Franklin; “Liebestrasse,” by Greg Lockard; and “Flamer,” by Alden Navarro.

Also on the list are the play “Boys in the Band,” by Mart Crowley, “Last Exit to Brooklyn,” by Hubert Selby Jr., and “City of Night” by John Rechy, who is now nearly 90 years old.

Raphael, whose first book “Dancing on Tisha B’av,” won a Lambda Award, said that since he first started writing for publication, independent presses and self-publishing has resulted in a “lot more room for a lot more people.”



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## SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Register on our website. Readers (K-8) can earn up to three \$5 Schuler Books Coupons.

**VIRTUAL EVENTS**  
*Author Talks, Book Clubs, Storytimes · Attend an event without leaving home!*

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Facebook.com/SchulerBooks  
SchulerBooks.com/Event  
Meridian Mall · Okemos

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**WE ARE OPEN!**

Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 12-5 p.m.

332-0332 ~ We validate parking

For online store and GoFundMe links, go to [curiousbooks.com](http://curiousbooks.com)

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**Quality Used Books at Great Prices!**

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# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

**"That's the Joint"-- taking a few.**

By Matt Jones

**Across**

- 1 Activity that may use multiple dice, for short
- 4 Friedlander of "30 Rock"
- 9 Former Soviet spy org.
- 12 What the snooty put on
- 14 "Fingers crossed!"
- 15 "The Matrix Reloaded" role
- 16 Esoteric bit of pop culture that's mired?
- 18 Do a sub service?
- 19 Keen observer of surroundings
- 20 Twitch subscription levels, e.g.
- 22 "Well, \_\_\_-di-dah!"
- 23 Burger topper
- 26 Concave cooker
- 29 Ill-mannered guy
- 31 Decent stand-in
- 34 Novelist Patchett
- 35 MLB figures
- 37 Entertainment awards acronym
- 38 Use as a bed
- 40 Carte lead-in
- 41 Put on \_\_\_
- 42 "Stay (I Missed You)" singer Lisa
- 43 "Angels and Earthly Creatures" poet Wylie
- 45 Tax preparer busy in Apr. (but later this year)
- 46 Defunct Microsoft encyclopedia made obsolete by Wikipedia
- 48 "Tic \_\_\_ Dough"
- 49 Georgia, from 1921 to 1991 (abbr.)
- 50 Creature on a slide
- 52 Word ignored when alphabetizing
- 54 Rapper whose hologram appeared at Coachella
- 56 Improve
- 61 Abbr. at the bottom of

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12			13		14						15	
16				17							18	
19								20	21			
			22			23	24	25				
26	27	28		29		30		31			32	33
34				35		36				37		
38			39			40				41		
42					43			44			45	
46				47			48				49	
			50			51		52		53		
54	55					56	57			58	59	60
61				62	63	64						
65					66					67		
68					69						70	

- some applications
- 62 Noodle dish that gears up for skateboarding?
- 65 Bustle of activity
- 66 "Layer Cake" actress Sienna
- 67 Kirlian photography phenomenon, supposedly
- 68 May celebrant
- 69 Facilitated
- 70 Tax form ID
- Down**
- 1 Shed tool
- 2 "Escape (The \_\_\_ Colada Song)"
- 3 Bryant Gumbel's brother
- 4 "Friends" spinoff
- 5 Bunk-bed choice
- 6 12 of 12, briefly
- 7 Sch. that's home to the Sun Devils
- 8 Racetrack advantage, theoretically
- 9 Notes for sopranos that
- are only so tall?
- 10 Equipment
- 11 Automated programs
- 13 Move merchandise
- 14 Country/comedy series with Buck Owens
- 17 Clergy official
- 21 Archipelago components
- 24 Roving adventurously
- 25 Electric guitar pioneer Paul
- 26 2008 Pixar film about a robot
- 27 Ring-making material?
- 28 Protective covering that released Mega Man and Street Fighter?
- 30 Place for paternity testing
- 32 Backyard buildings popping up now that people have chickens for pets
- 33 Battling
- 36 Pharmaceutical founder Lilly
- 39 One of two presidents with two Ivy League degrees
- 41 Like an angry cat's back
- 43 Summer, in France
- 44 Granola concoction, in some places
- 47 Falco's request to Amadeus
- 51 "Hello" singer
- 53 "Let's Roll" jazz singer James
- 54 Giants or Titans
- 55 Backtracking computer command
- 57 Commentator's page
- 58 Consequently
- 59 Some Mr. Potato Head parts
- 60 "Knives Out" director Johnson
- 63 "Boyz n the Hood" actress Long
- 64 Chicago Loop carriers

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Answers Page 42

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

June 24-30, 2020

**ARIES (March 21–April 19):** In addition to being a magnificent storyteller, Aries author Barbara Kingsolver raises chickens at her home. "There are days when I am envious of my hens," she writes, "when I hunger for a purpose as perfect and sure as a single daily egg." Do you ever experience that delightful rush of assurance, Aries? I suspect that you're likely to do so on multiple occasions in the coming weeks. And if you are indeed visited by visions of a perfect and sure purpose, your next task will be to initiate practical action to manifest it in the real world.

**TAURUS (April 20–May 20):** Nobel Prize-winning Taurus physicist Richard Feynman got his undergraduate degree from prestigious MIT and his PhD from prestigious Princeton University. Later he taught at prestigious Caltech. But his approach to education had a maverick quality. "Study hard what interests you the most in the most undisciplined, irreverent, and original manner possible," he advised his students. I think his strategy will work well for you in the coming weeks, which will be a favorable time to gather valuable information and polish your existing aptitudes.

**GEMINI (May 21–June 20):** You're entering a phase when you'll have the potential to upgrade and fine-tune your relationship with money. In the hope of encouraging that prospect, I offer you the counsel of author Katharine Butler Hathaway. "To me, money is alive," she wrote. "It is almost human. If you treat it with real sympathy and kindness and consideration, it will be a good servant and work hard for you, and stay with you and take care of you." I hope you'll consider cultivating that approach, dear Gemini: expressing benevolence and love toward money, and pledging to be benevolent and loving as you use the money you acquire.

**CANCER (June 21–July 22):** "Who would deduce the dragonfly from the larva, the iris from the bud, the lawyer from the infant?" Author Diane Ackerman asks her readers that question, and now I pose the same inquiry to you—just in time for your Season of Transformation. "We are all shape-shifters and magical reinventors," Ackerman says. I will add that you Cancerians now have the potential to be "exceptional" shape-shifters and magical reinventors. What new amazements might you incorporate into your life? What dazzling twists and twinkles would you like to add to your character? What will the Future You be like?

**LEO (July 23–Aug. 22):** Qabalistic teacher Ann Davies asked, "If you stick your finger in the fire, do you then complain that it is unfair when your finger gets burned? Do you call the fire bad?" I offer you this caution, Leo, because I want to encourage you not to stick your fingers or toes or any other parts of you into the fire during the coming weeks. And I'm happy to inform you that there are better approaches to finding out what's important to learn about the fire. The preferred way is to watch the fire keenly and patiently from a modest distance. If you do so long enough, you'll get all you need.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22):** In accordance with upcoming astrological portents, I urge you to engage in a vigorous redefinition of the term "miracle." That will open you up to the full range of miraculous phenomena that are potentially available in the coming weeks. For inspiration, read this passage by Faith Baldwin: "Miracles are everyday things. Not only sudden great fortune wafting in on a new wind. They are almost routine, yet miracles just the same. Every time something hard becomes easier; every time you adjust to a situation which, last week, you didn't know existed; every time a kindness falls as softly as the dew; or someone you love who was ill, grows better; every time a blessing comes, not with trumpet and fanfare, but silently as night, you have witnessed a miracle."

**LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22):** When Libras become authoritative enough to wield clout in their own sphere of influence, it's often due to three factors: 1. the attractive force of their empathy; 2. their abilities to listen well and ask good questions, which help enable them to accurately read people's emotional energy; 3. their knack for knowing specific tricks that promote harmony and a common sense of purpose. If you possess any of these talents, dear Libra, the next eight weeks will be a favorable time to employ them with maximum intensity and ingenuity and integrity. You're primed to acquire and wield more leverage.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21):** There is only one kind of erotic intimacy between consenting adults that can truly be called "unnatural": an act that is physically impossible to perform. Everything else is potentially vitalizing and holy. No one knows this better than you Scorpios. You're the champions of exotic pleasure; the connoisseurs of blissful marvels; the masters of curious delight and extraordinary exultation. And from an astrological perspective, the coming weeks will be a time when these aspects of your character could be especially vivid. But wait a minute. What about the pandemic? What about social-distancing? What about being cautious in seeking intimate connection? If anyone can work around these constraints so as to have sexual fun, it's your tribe. Use your imagination!

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21):** When he was 22 years old, Sagittarian-born Werner Heisenberg received his doctorate in physics and mathematics from a German university—even though he got a grade of C on his final exams. Nine years later, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics because of his pioneering work on quantum mechanics. What happened in between? One key development: He was mentored by physicists Niels Bohr and Max Born, both of whom also garnered Nobel Prizes. Another factor in his success was his association with other brilliant colleagues working in his field. I hope this story inspires you Sagittarians to be on the lookout for catalytic teachers and colleagues who can expedite your evolution. The planetary omens are favorable for such an eventuality.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19):** You Capricorns aren't renowned for causing controversy. For the most part you're skillful at managing your reputation and keeping it orderly. But there may soon be a departure from this norm. A bit of a hubbub could arise in regards to the impressions you're making and the effects you're generating. I'm reminded of Capricorn author J. D. Salinger, whose book "Catcher in the Rye" was for a time widely taught in American schools but also widely banned because of its allegedly controversial elements. These days the book is regarded as a beloved classic, and I suspect you will weather your commotion with similar panache.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18):** Novelist Tom Robbins articulated a vision of what it means to be bold and brave. He said, "Real courage is risking something that might force you to rethink your thoughts and suffer change and stretch consciousness." I'm hoping you will make that formula your keynote in the coming weeks. The time is right for you to summon extra amounts of fortitude, determination, and audacity. What new possibilities are you ready to flesh out in ways that might prod you to revise your beliefs and welcome transformation and expand your awareness?

**PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20):** Joan of Arc performed her heroic and magical feats in 1430 and 1431. But she wasn't canonized as a saint until 1920—almost five centuries later. It took a while to garner the full appreciation she deserved. I'm sure you won't have to wait as long to be acknowledged for your good deeds and fine creations, Pisces. In fact, from what I can tell, there'll be a significant honor, enhancement, or reward coming your way sometime in the next four months. Start visualizing what you'd like it to be, and set your intention to claim it.

# SUDOKU

# Intermediate

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

## 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 42

# TURN IT DOWN!

## LOCALS PICK LOCALS: VOL. 11

BY RICH TUPICA

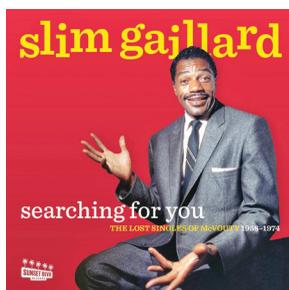
THE ELEVENTH INSTALLMENT OF LOCALLY-SOURCED MUSIC, CHOSEN BY LANSING'S OWN

This week, "Locals Pick Locals" returns with a few more nuggets from Michigan's back catalog of amazing — and sometimes strange — music. From '90s alt-rock to primitive old gospel records, here's a few records worth digging around for.

**Rich Tupica (Turn it Down! writer, "Inzane Michigan" co-host)**

**Pick: Slim Gaillard "Baked Beans and a Bottle of Beer"**

Blue-Chip Records is a Lansing mystery that needs to be uncovered. During the late-'50s, this locally based label pressed up a few 45 rpms, including 1958's "Baked Beans and a Bottle of Beer" by the legendary Slim Gaillard, aka McVouty. The jazzy singer is also a bit of a mystery. He claims to have been born in Santa Clara, Cuba — while others say he was born in Detroit. If he was indeed born in Michigan, it might explain his connection to Lansing's own Blue-Chip Records. Bulee "Slim" Gaillard (Jan. 9, 1911 – Feb. 26, 1991), emerged in the late-'30s with oddball hits like "Flat Foot Floogie (with a Floy Floy)" and "Cement Mixer (Put-Ti-Put-Ti)."

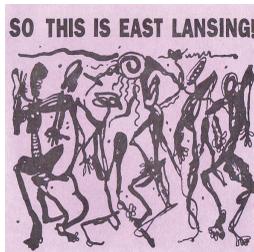


Gaillard was known for his ability to lean into comedic word play — he also constructed his own language called "Vout-o-Reenee" and he even made a dictionary for it. During the 1940s, he spent time serving as a World War II bomber pilot in the Pacific. Though, after he returned to civilian life, he picked up his music career and was eventually performing alongside the likes of Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie. Gaillard's "Baked Beans and a Bottle of Beer" is only one of the many upbeat rollicking R&B tunes in his cannon, the multi-instrumentalist played through the '80s at festivals across the globe. Check out his remarkable catalog of swing, bop and jive gems, and also be sure to contact City Pulse if you have any clue as to how this mysterious musician wound up on a Capital City imprint.

**Steve Butts (Local music aficionado)**

**Pick: Big Blue Couch "Slaine" from the "So This is East Lansing!" compilation**

Not many bands had the audacity to be featured in a comic book series about a metaphysically powerful Big Blue Couch (at least without sounding pretentious and hopelessly dull), but this '90s Lansing area band did it. Big Blue Couch were like a lot of bands that played college campuses during the '90s, they were certainly influenced by hardcore punk and metal, but also '70s arena rock and nearly everything before Nirvana. These guys played tirelessly at campus and community events, keg parties and at The Small Planet, alongside of a roster of popular bands. They also benefited from having an all ages venue called Ruskin's Reef on Lake Lansing — an under-appreciated component of Lansing '90s music. (Side note: Today, the absence of local all-ages venues and house parties has been detrimental to the scene.)



Back in their day, Big Blue Couch worked hard and they played hard — always with smiles on their faces and a mildly self-deprecating sense of humor. For an intro, check out their song "Slaine" from the 1993 "So This is East Lansing!" compilation via Yikes! Records. Other bands on it include Verve Pipe, Wally Pleasant and The dt's.

**John Olson (Musician, Wolf Eyes, "Inzane Michigan" co-host)**

**Pick: Ambassadors Quartet "Singing His Praises" Monotone LP.** Headquartered in Lansing proper, this vocal/reed instrument harmony squad sure can lay out a strange sonic landscape. This is a weird one. Beyond that, how can they do LP after LP in "this style" and have not a single hook creeping? That has to be a world record for ... something. Yeah, they have tunes and intense sodden harmonies in the grooves, but can you hum one? You can't. But please, never let that stop your band from putting out phenomenal homemade, non-commercial local cultural gems like this. EVER. If you seek these records, trust me, they are waiting quietly somewhere — brooding in the shadows. Incredible damage — Lansing style. Monotone Studios greatness.



**CITY PULSE'S MITTEN MUSIC QUIZ**

1. This Michigan guitarist played in Damn Yankees, a late-'80s super group.
2. This singer portrayed Billie Holiday in the 1972 film "Lady Sings the Blues."
3. "Baby I Need Your Loving" was a 1964 hit for this vocal group.
4. Michigan folk-rock legend Sixto Rodriguez was the subject of this 2012 documentary.
5. On Aug. 13, 1966, The Beatles played its final Detroit show at this now-demolished venue.

Answers on page 42

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING  
SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES

**A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD VIA A ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING UNDER THE GOVERNOR OF MICHIGAN'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-75 ON TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Hayes, Clerk Aten, Treasurer Rodgers  
Trustees: Broughton, Harris, McKenzie, Bankson

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Gresens, Attorney

**ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:**

- Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.
- Approved minutes of the meeting held on May 26, 2020.
- Agenda approved.
- Referred to Planning Commission, Ordinance No. 31.171: Amendments to Chapter 85-"G" General Business Zone and "H" Industrial Zone.
- Approved the extension of the agreement for the assessing services.
- Approved Claims.
- Executive Session held to discuss attorney-client privileged communication.
- Board returned to regular session.
- Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor  
Susan L. Aten, Clerk

CP#20-146

**CITY OF EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN**

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION  
ORDINANCE NO. 1485**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING USE DISTRICT MAP OF CHAPTER 50 -- ZONING -- OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING

Please take notice that Ordinance No. 1485 was adopted by the City of East Lansing City Council at their meeting held on **June 9, 2020**, and will become effective upon the expiration of seven (7) days after the publication of the following summary of ordinance.

**SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 1485**

**THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:**

Ordinance 1485 amends the Section 32-105 of the sign code to correct an error caused by the adoption of Ordinance 1464 relative to projecting signs. The amendment allows projecting signs to be located within the sign band no closer than five feet from the edge of that portion of the building which the commercial premises occupies.

A true copy of Ordinance No. 1485 can be inspected or obtained at the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan during normal business hours.

Jennifer Shuster  
City Clerk

CP#20-143

# OUT ON THE TOWN

Events must be entered through the calendar at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com). Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesdays for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Suzi at (517) 999-6704.

## Wednesday, June 24

**Allen Farmers Market 2020-** 2:30-7 p.m. 2100 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

**ARTpath - Public Art** along the Lansing River Trail - 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Lansing River Trail. 517-374-6400. [lansingartgallery.org](http://lansingartgallery.org).

**Inventors Workshop** - Let your kids become real inventors in this camp! 9 a.m.-12 p.m. tinkrLAB, Meridian Mall, 982 W. Grand River Ave.

**MSU Museum Virtual Learning and Activity Resources** - Visit <https://www.museum.msu.edu/virtualresources/> for links to MSU Museum resources and great things that other museums are offering right now.

**Virtual Code Club** - Chat about coding and share projects 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library Facebook page.

## Thursday, June 25

**14th Annual Golf Fore Giving- At A Distance!** - Join us for a day of safe and meaningful fun as we once again, tee off for a great cause! 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Wheatfield Valley Golf Course, 1600 Linn Rd, Williamston.

**Bath Township Farmers Market** -3-7 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13751 Main St., Bath. [shopbfm.org](http://shopbfm.org).

**Dimondale Farmers' Market** - 3-6 p.m. Village Square, 136 N Bridge St, Dimondale. 517-646-0230. [villageofdimondale.org](http://villageofdimondale.org).

**Inventors Workshop** - Let your kids become real inventors in this camp! 9 a.m.-12 p.m. tinkrLAB, Meridian Mall, 1982 W. Grand River Ave.

**Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual)** - 6-7 p.m. [facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing](https://facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing)

**South Lansing Farmers Market** - 3-7 p.m. Casimir Catholic Church, 800 W Barnes Ave, Lansing. 517-374-5700.

## Friday, June 26

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

## Saturday, June 27

**Artists Umbrella 1 Year Anniversary Homecoming** ft. Ozay Moore - 7 p.m. The Loft, 414 E Michigan Ave, Lansing.

**Meridian Township Farmers' Market** - 8 a.m. 5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos.

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

## Monday, June 29

**4-H Spin Club** - Make Plant Based Spa Products (Registration Req) - This program is tentatively scheduled. 3 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge.

**Build Your Own Dream Dollhouse** - 1-4 p.m. tinkrLAB, Meridian Mall, 1982 W. Grand River.

**Make a Fire Breathing Dragon With a Take-Home Craft Kit!** - Imagine Your Story and bring a mythical creature from legend to life! 3-3:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge.

**Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual)** -6-7 p.m. [facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing](https://facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing)

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

**STEMinist** - Empowering our girls! 9 a.m.-12 p.m. tinkrLAB, Meridian Mall, 1982 W. Grand River.

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

## Tuesday, June 30

**Blackout Poetry** - Blackout Poetry Craft kits will be available in the Library vestibule 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 South Main Street, Eaton Rapids.

**Build Your Own Dream Dollhouse** • 1p - 4p - 1-4 p.m. tinkrLAB, 1982 West Grand River Avenue, Meridian. [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com).

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

**Fairy Tale Storytime** - Join us for virtual fairy tales and adventures via Zoom! Grand Ledge Area District Library Facebook page.

**Myths & Legends** - Join us for a virtual exploration of many lands and cultures. 1 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library Facebook page.

**STEMinist** - Empowering our girls! 9 a.m.-12 p.m. tinkrLAB, Meridian Mall, 1982 W. Grand River Ave.

## CITY PULSE'S MITTEN MUSIC ANSWERS

From page 41

1. Ted Nugent
2. Diana Ross
3. The Four Tops
4. "Searching for Sugarman"
5. Detroit Olympia, aka Olympia Stadium

## SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 40

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

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 40

R	P	G		J	U	D	A	H		K	G	B			
A	I	R	S		H	O	P	E	S	O		N	E	O	
K	N	E	E	D	E	E	P	C	U	T		E	A	T	
E	A	G	L	E	E	Y	E				T	I	E	R	S
			L	A	H		R	E	L	I	S	H			
W	O	K		C	A	D		R	E	P	L	I	C	A	
A	N	N		O	W	N	E	R	S		E	G	O	T	
L	I	E	O	N		A	L	A		A	S	H	O	W	
L	O	E	B		E	L	I	N	O	R		C	P	A	
E	N	C	A	R	T	A		T	A	C		S	S	R	
			A	M	O	E	B	A		T	H	E			
T	U	P	A	C			D	O	B	E	T	T	E	R	
E	N	C		K	N	E	E	P	A	D	T	H	A	I	
A	D	O		M	I	L	L	E	R		A	U	R	A	
M	O	M		E	A	S	E	D			S	S	N		



In celebration of the Landmark US Supreme Court ruling; which prohibits sexual orientation and gender identity based discrimination in the workforce. A great defeat for discrimination!

**- Victor Celentino**  
Ingham County  
Commissioner - District I

Paid for by committee to reelect Victor Celentino, County Commissioner. 1029 Andrus Ave. Lansing, MI 48917

# Happy Pride Week!

It's an honor to work with the LGBTQ community as Ingham County Prosecutor - and to be rated "very positive" by the Lansing Association for Human Rights LAHR PAC.



**CAROL SIEMON**  
DEMOCRAT FOR PROSECUTOR

Paid for by Carol Siemon for Ingham County Prosecutor, PO Box 4488, East Lansing, MI 48826

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Start your day out right with over 20 delicious, locally-sourced Breakfast Options made from scratch and under \$10

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For the Kids  
Hot Dog and  
Fries .....\$4.00



Royale with Cheese, served with crisp lettuce, red onion, tomato, pickle and our own Bistro bite sauce, your choice of cheese on a Michigan made, grilled sesame seed brioche bun .....\$10



American Bistro is steeped in the traditions of America's Diners that first started when a horse-drawn carriage was converted to serve coffee, eggs, and pie in 1913. Over time and through many generations, the American Diner has evolved to add lunch and dinner, modernized decor and architecture, but has always provided value and a welcoming place for Americans from all walks of life to enjoy homemade, great tasting food at affordable prices. At American Bistro, we are honoring that tradition with a commitment to fresh food, featuring homemade sauces, dressings, and mixes made from scratch daily in our kitchen and served to you at affordable prices.

Thanks for joining us today. American Bistro is working hard to become your favorite place to meet friends, family and business partners for a home cooked meal, or just a cup of coffee and slice of pie.

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**Outdoor Seating Available**



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WELCOME TO  
*Delicious*



# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

### Chicken shawarma from Jerusalem Pita and More

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Jerusalem Pita and More, which you might also know as Jerusalem Bakery, is an east side stalwart that, until recently, I have somehow neglected. Now I realize what a long-time mistake I have made. As I still prefer takeout over dining in — hey, it works with my busy schedule — I ordered the chicken shawarma combo for delivery via UberEats. After a



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wait of just 20 minutes, the delivery driver left my order at the door — very convenient!

If there is one type of cuisine I do not give enough attention, it would definitely be Middle Eastern. Every time I eat at a quality Middle Eastern restaurant I am more than enamored with the food. After this experience, I think it's time I stop being a gross creature of habit — I eat way too much fast food — and just made it more of a regular fixture in my lunchtime routine.



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

Jerusalem Pita and More's chicken shawarma

Jerusalem's chicken was delicious and savory, thanks to a perfectly

executed blend of spices. Though I absolutely cannot claim to be a shawarma expert, I felt perhaps it could've been a little spicier. That said, I am definitely guilty of overwhelming food that doesn't need to be extra spicy with seasoning or hot sauce.

To eat each item of the combo separately would be weird and boring. Combining the chicken with rice, tabouli and hummus inside of the soft pita bread created a wrap that I could not get enough of. Even though one single combo entrée was more than enough for a satisfying lunch, I definitely could have eaten extra.




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# The perfect summer cocktail is DIY

By **ABBY SUMBLER**

In my house, we're slowly expanding our circle after the stay-at-home order, but because of children and aging parents, when we see our friends, it's mostly outside of someone's house. Thankfully, a friend has helped me discover a wonderful DIY beverage for an evening on someone's porch, or a cookout: Ketel One botanical cucumber & mint vodka, lemon-lime soda. Squeeze a wedge of lime and, if you're fancy and you have your own mint growing, throw in a sprig of mint.

One word: Refreshing! Like having cucumber-infused Sprite. After my initial marvel at this drink and its freshness, I began to think about other ways to garnish and enjoy. If you are carb-conscious, you could substitute club soda or a diet mixer. A bonus with this particular vodka is that there aren't any carbs to begin with, and no added sweeteners. Tonic



when you want.

Ketel One has come out with two other botanical flavors: grapefruit & rose and peach & orange Blossom. I could see using either of these for a brunch drink. Special belinis or mimosas to go with eggs, bacon and that homemade toasted sourdough we've all mastered over the past weeks.

A summer day or evening outside has never been so sweet after being cooped up during the stay-at-home order. This cocktail makes it even more so.

water could add a zing. Muddling mint and lime and a bit of sugar would turn this into a cucumber-mojito flavor. If you could find watermelon juice, the refreshing factor could increase exponentially. I love a simple drink that you can dress up

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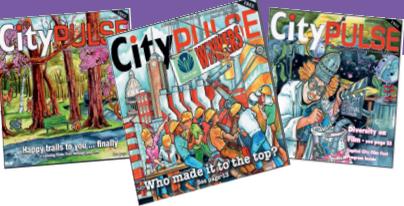
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