Locally owned

CityPULSE

August 25 - 31, 2021

FREE

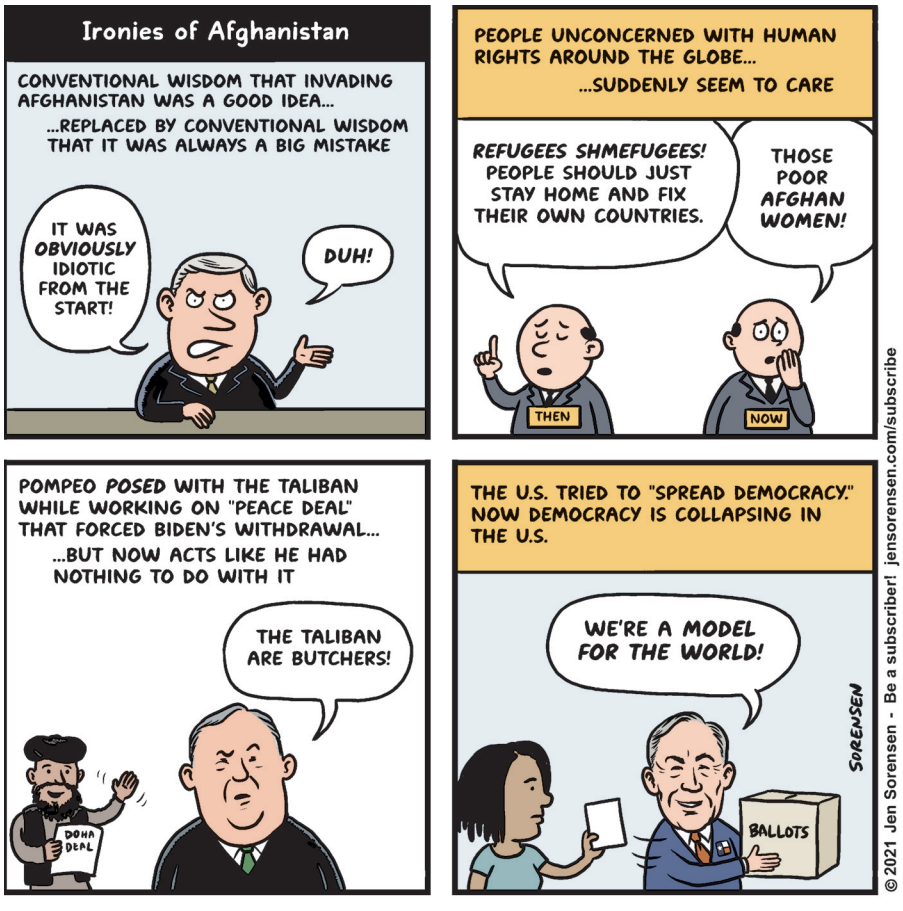
www.lansingcitypulse.com

A newspaper for the rest of us

It's FORECLOSURE season in Lansing.

What's up for grabs this year?

See page 12



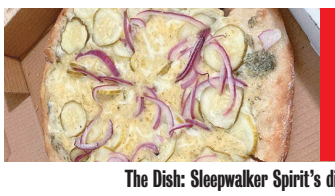
CityPULSE
VOL. 21
ISSUE 3
(517) 371-5600 • Fax: (517) 999-6061 • 1905 E. Michigan Ave. • Lansing, MI 48912 • www.lansingcitypulse.com

PAGE 9

The history of Old Town's temple building

PAGE 17

Owosso pot shop celebrates Jenny Kush



PAGE 26

The Dish: Sleepwalker Spirit's dill pickle pizza

Cover Art

Photos by Kyle Kaminski

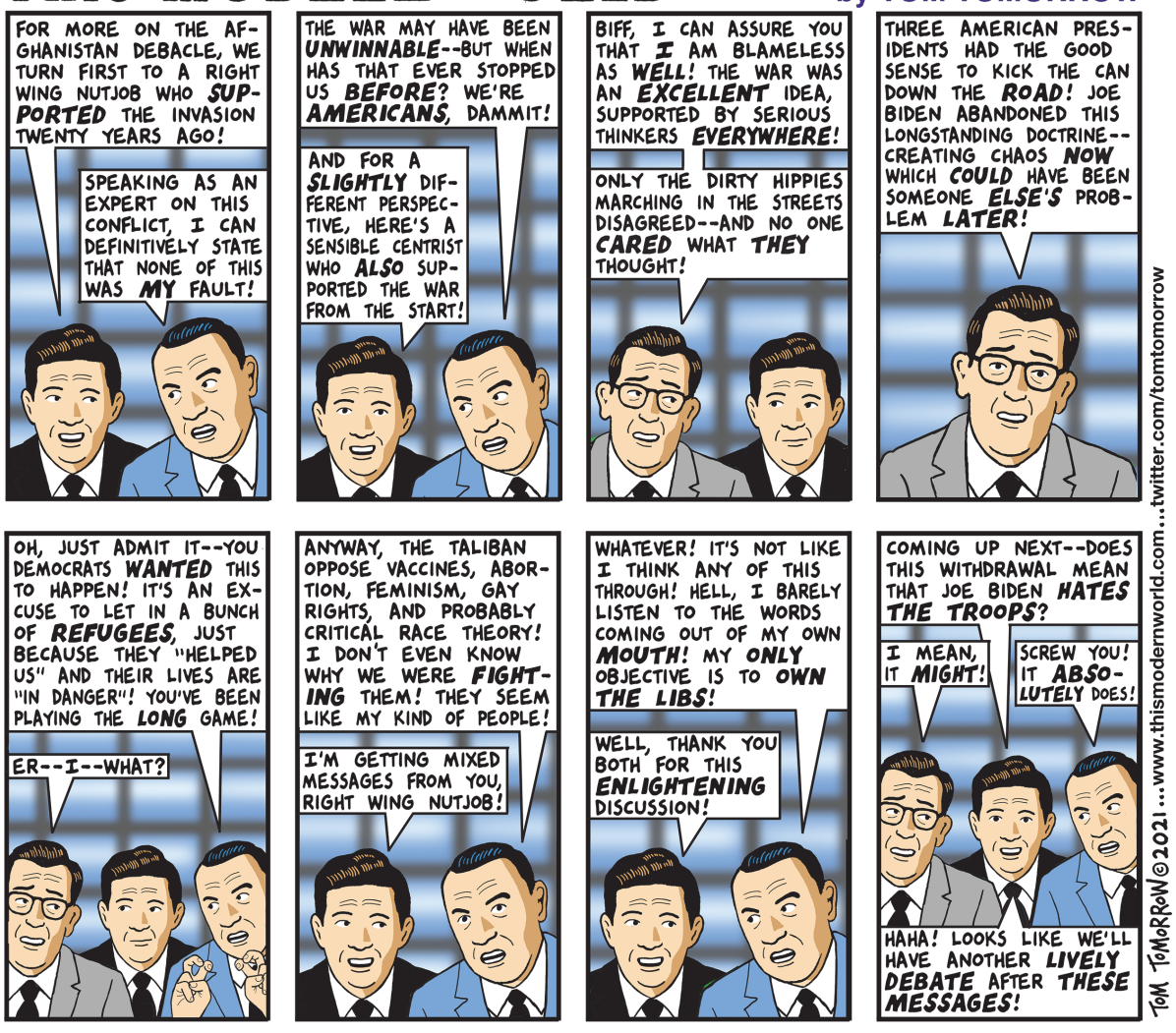
ADVERTISING INQUIRIES: (517) 999-5061
or email citypulse@lansingcitypulse.com
CLASSIFIEDS & OBITUARIES: (517) 999-6704

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER • Berl Schwartz
publisher@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5061
MANAGING EDITOR • Kyle Kaminski
kyle@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6710
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR • Skyler Ashley
skyler@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5068
EVENTS EDITOR/OFFICE MANAGER • Suzi Smith
suzi@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6704
PRODUCTION • Abby Sumbler
production@lansingcitypulse.com
(517) 999-5066
MARKETING/DIGITAL DIRECTOR • Aimee West
aimee@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6708
STAFF WRITER • Lawrence Cosentino
lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5065
SALES EXECUTIVE
Lee Purdy • lee@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5064
SALES ASSISTANT
Earlisha Scott • earlisha@lansingcitypulse.com

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

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



PULSE NEWS & OPINION

Three judges allege unchecked abuse from former Judge Collette

Collette denies accusations, says he may sue Baird

Three judges are speaking out against former Chief 30th Circuit Judge William "Wild Bill" Collette after he admitted to pulling a woman's hair in an Okemos restaurant this summer.

Three of Collette's former benchmates — Judges Laura Baird, Rosemarie Aquilina and Beverly Nettles — said that Collette repeatedly harassed and bullied them behind the scenes in the courtroom. Nettles also said that she filed complaints involving other allegations of abusive, sexist and racist behavior against Collette with the State Court Administrator's Office.

Collette, 76, was charged this month with misdemeanor assault after authorities said he pulled a female employee's hair in May at Dusty's Cellar. The woman alleged that the retired judge pulled her hair "hard" and said something inappropriate, according to her attorney. Collette admitted to pulling the woman's hair — but without any nefarious intent. He has since said that he only tugged at her hair to "get her attention" while picking up carryout.

Collette is due back in court this month as the criminal case continues. But in the meantime, his former colleagues on the bench are coming forward with stories of harassment and bullying perpetrated by "Wild Bill" — a nickname that Collette earned during his feistier days as a criminal defense attorney — during the years the three of them worked together.

Each judge said that her concerns (despite being reported) had only been swept under the rug.

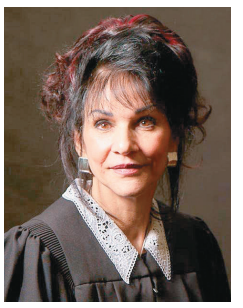
Baird said she was harassed to the point of feeling unsafe around Collette, which she reported to both state and federal judicial authorities. But because state courts are not subject to the Freedom of Information Act, a paper trail to document those complaints has not been released.

"My first year on the bench, he was angry at me for something I said at a judge's meeting, and he pulled his fist back at me," Baird explained. "I hadn't been there for long at the time that it happened. No one said anything. None of the other judges said anything, but three of them later said: 'You better watch out. You better be careful around him. He's going to hurt you.'"

Courtesy WLNS NEWS 6

After former Ingham County 30th Circuit Chief Judge William Collette was charged with assault, he was described as bullying by a former colleague, retired Judge Laura Baird.

Baird



Aquilina

Nettles

Aquilina told City Pulse that she watched Collette shove a stack of papers at Baird during a staff meeting. She also said that routine meetings of judges often devolved into loud arguments behind the scenes, where at times she thought "the judges were about to get into fistacuffs."

She said she also saw Collette cock back his fist in anger during meetings, specifically at Baird.

"That's bullying," Aquilina said, noting that she and Baird later made a "pact" to only attend meetings with Collette together. "You can't go to meetings with that kind of fear and physical aggression."

Aquilina said that Collette would also "storm" into her office and demand changes to her docket. She also alleged that Collette had called her demanding to know how much time she would be taking off after the birth of her children, or if she would need time off during her pregnancy. Aquilina also said that she never told Collette that she was pregnant.

"I was in law school during my first pregnancy," she said. "I was arguing before the Appeals Court two days after I got out of the hospital for the birth of my second child. I didn't take time off. I don't need to take time off."

Nettles also said that Collette had subjected her to racial and sexual comments. A State Supreme Court special review of her complaints, however, determined them to be unfounded.

Collette said that his issues with Nettles were based on her poor management skills and "erratic behavior." Nettles was also removed from the bench by the Judicial Tenure Commission in 2008 after finding, among other things, that she lied under oath on two occasions during her disciplinary proceedings. Collette added: "If you want to use her word over mine, that is up to you." Nettles was recently reinstated to the bar.

In an interview, he also "categorically" denied all of the other allegations against him and declined to discuss altogether the pending assault and battery charge in 55th District Court.

Instead, he discussed his displeasure with each of the three female judges, noting what he perceived as their failures. He said he stopped meeting with Baird alone because she "twisted" discussions. The two of them clashed so much that Collette banned her from meetings, he said.

Collette also said that he's considering filing a lawsuit against Baird for impugning his character.

As for Aquilina? Collette said that she doesn't spend enough time in court. He also noted that he was rankled by her book-signing events while she also oversaw the sentencing of Larry Nassar.

The State Court Administrator's Office has also pushed back on the recent allegations from the current and former judges. A spokesperson noted that the office takes bullying "very seriously."

Just don't ask administrators to open up their files on judges.

"With respect to your questions about complaints SCAO has received, these are private and exempted from disclosure in order to protect the individuals making the complaints," a spokesman told City Pulse. "Without such protec-

See Collette, Page 6

Collette

from page 5

tions, they might be afraid or unwilling to come forward. Conversely, those who seek to game the system might file spurious complaints."

Another former trial judge in a different jurisdiction in mid-Michigan (who spoke on the condition of anonymity) said that abusive behavior from a former colleague had also led to her being "siloed" or "shunned" while serving as a judge. At one point, she even sought private counseling services to help address workplace hostility.

"It was difficult to walk in there, day after day, knowing you were going to be ignored," she said.

All four judges said that they attempted to get the attention and support of the State Court Administrator's Office, but to no avail. Collette also said that the office maintains a "very thick file" on Baird. Those documents, however, cannot be released to the public under court rules.

All of the judges indicated that more transparency is necessary to allow voters to know more about allegations of improper conduct against judges. Collette, however, said those concerns should not be made public without some vetting to prevent the release of frivolous complaints.

Any formal changes to those rules would need to come from the Michigan Supreme Court — something that the former judges and advocates for judicial transparency think would be helpful.

"All governmental bodies should be transparent to the taxpayers who fund them," remarked Lisa McGraw, public affairs manager at the Michigan Press Association.

— **TODD HEYWOOD**

PUBLIC NOTICE OF VEHICLE AUCTION
September 3, 2021 at 12 PM
2008 Ford Fusion 272097
2005 Jaguar X Type E29602

P.J.'s Towing
1425 Rensen St.
Lansing, MI 48910
NO PHONE CALLS

CP#21-194

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING
SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICES LOCATED AT 3209 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Hayes, Treasurer McKenzie
Trustees: Harris, Brewer, Broughton, Ruiz
MEMBERS ABSENT: Clerk Sanders
ALSO PRESENT: Michael Gresens, Attorney

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:
Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.
Approved minutes of meeting held on July 20, 2021 as presented.
Agenda approved as amended.
Approved Request for Rezoning – R-21-04 – 3707 W. Michigan, "D" Administrative to "A Residential.
Approved Request for Rezoning – R-21-05 – 3326 W. Saginaw, "D" Administrative to "A" Residential.
Approved 2021 Amusement Device Licenses: Boston's Restaurant & Sports Bar, Dispatch Sports Pub & Grill, Jumpin Jax, NCG Cinema, Westgate Tavern, VFW 6132, and Eagles – Aerie #1039.
Approved Resolution 21-12: Reappointment to Downtown Development Board.
Approved Resolution 21-13: Reappointments to West Side Water Advisory Committee.
Approved budget amendment for road work as presented.
Approved moving into Executive Session for the purpose of attorney-client privileged communication.
Approved returning to regular session.
Approved claims as presented.
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor
Maggie Sanders, Clerk

CP#21-191

SORE OF THE WEEK

With dozens of decaying properties featured in this issue as part of the cover story on Ingham County's tax foreclosure auction, there was plenty of competition for Eyesore of the Week.

There's a real stunner on Teel Avenue with "Da Trap" spray painted across its boarded-up front windows. Another home on Roosevelt Avenue looks like it could be on the verge of collapse. Some of the worst properties also come along with demolition orders. And don't even get us going on that shabby shopping plaza on the corner of Washington Avenue and Miller Road.

But as ugly as some of those properties might be, we're going to skip the usual trash talk this week in hopes that auction buyers step in and give some of these homes the love they deserve.

Instead, we turn our attention to a different type of eyesore: Larry Hutchinson's campaign signs.

Hutchinson garnered only 211 votes in this month's primary election, putting him in last place by more than 300 votes amid his failed bid to face off against Mayor Andy Schor in November. His platform was eccentric, controversial and also provided some needed comic relief to this year's election tension. But with every failed campaign, Hutchinson blesses Lansing with a ton of litter.

Hand-painted posters and printed signs with Hutchinson's mugshot are still plastered on dozens of street signs, electrical poles and other public land across Lansing. And although three weeks have passed since his defeat, Hutchinson said he has no plans to help clean up the Capital City.

"I relish it," Hutchinson said. "I'm now also running for governor, so they aren't going anywhere."

Some municipalities have attempted to enact ordinances that mandate political signs be removed within a few weeks of the election. Those restrictions don't exist in Lansing. City Clerk Chris Swope said any restrictions on campaign signs would cross with the First Amendment.

But that doesn't mean Hutchinson is in the clear. Any signs placed in any public rights-of-way are still illegal, considered as litter and are subject to removal, Swope explained. Residents should feel free to rip them down without consequence. Consider it a public service to the city.

— **KYLE KAMISKI**

"Eyesore of the Week" is our look at some of the seedier properties in Lansing. It rotates with Eye Candy of the Week and Eye for Design. Have a suggestion? Email eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call it in at 517-999-6715.

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

By KYLE KAMINSKI

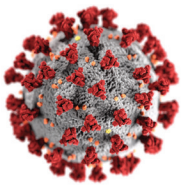
Giraffe returns to Meijer gas station

The iconic giraffe statue has returned to the roof of the Meijer Express Gas Station after it was briefly removed amid ongoing renovations last week. Its absence caused a social media panic.

Boji Group buys Masonic Temple

The historic Masonic Temple on Capitol Avenue in downtown Lansing was sold by WMU-Cooley Law School to the Boji Group, reports the Lansing State Journal. The temple was built in 1924, placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 and was briefly considered for renovations into a performing arts center in 2019. The Boji Group reportedly has no firm plans for redevelopment, though company officials are considering plans for market-price apartments.

Ingham Co. explores vaccine mandate



County commissioners are considering a resolution that would mandate COVID-19 vaccines for all county employees and contractors — the first of its kind among any local government in Michigan. Schor has said that he has no plans to issue a vaccine mandate for city personnel.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
INGHAM COUNTY
FAMILY COURT
313 W. KALAMAZOO ST.
LANSING, MI 48933
FILE NO. 21-001043-CA

In the matter of Malcolm Pulley, especially to the attention of his children, whose names and addresses are unknown to the petitioner.

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on 09/16/2021 at 10:15AM for the following purpose:
CONSERVATORSHIP
You may attend in person or via a ZOOM conference before Judge Richard Garcia. If you require special accommodations to use the court because of a disability, or if you require a foreign language interpreter to help you participate fully in the court proceedings, please call the court immediately c/o: 517-483-6300 to make arrangements.

Date: 08/20/2021
Gene Mellen
517-763-1210
Adult Protective Services
Ingham County Department
of Health and Human Services

CP#21-192

Three killed in separate motorcycle crashes

Authorities said Jaycen Allen Glynn, 27, of Leslie, was killed after his motorcycle collided with an SUV on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard during a high-speed crash. Blayke Manauel Luna-Schwarz, 29, of Lansing, also died following another motorcycle crash on Washington Avenue. Garrett Miller, 24, of Owosso, was also killed after his motorcycle was struck by a car that had pulled out onto Cedar Street.

Cops ID victim in southside homicide

Authorities identified Victor D. Clayborn, 27, of Lansing, as the man who was found dead with an apparent gunshot wound at a home on the 800 block of Edgewood Boulevard. The incident doesn't appear to be an act of random violence. No arrests have been made. Those willing to assist cops with their investigation should call 517-483-4600.

Lansing opens racial equity grants

City officials are searching for proposals from both for-profit and nonprofit community-based organizations that can help research, develop and implement specific community programming designed to advance racial equity reforms in two yet-to-be-selected city wards. Two organizations will each receive $67,500. An online information session is set for 1:30 p.m. Wednesday (Sept. 1). Visit lansingmi.gov/hrcs for details.

Poll: Public safety is top issue in Lansing

Public safety is the "number one issue" for Lansing ahead of the general election, according to a poll of 300 likely voters conducted for the Lansing Regional Chamber Political Action Committee. About 31% identified public safety as their top concern, followed by jobs and the economy at about 26% and roads at about 21%. The poll also showed that about 38% feel the city is "on the wrong track" and 35% on the right track.

Lansing contractor pays up on back wages

The Christman Co. had to pay 18 subcontracted carpenters about $27,000 in back wages and benefits after a federal investigation found it shortchanged them. Investigators found subcontractors were paid $15 to 18 an hour without fringe benefits when they were required to be paid at least $18.14 in prevailing wages.

Charlotte man to face jury over bomb threat

Michael Varrone, 49, will go to trial on two counts of false report or threat of terrorism and one of a false report or threat of a bomb, felony charges that could carry a combined maximum sentence of up to 44 years in prison. Varrone was charged in January. Authorities said he made calls in December that threatened to kill State Rep. Cynthia Johnson and her family, as well as calling in a bomb threat at the State Capitol building in January.

Lansing man killed in downtown shooting

Ardis Tyveon-Lamar Davis, 24, of Lansing, was shot at about 1 a.m. Sunday on the 200 block of Museum Drive. Authorities reported evidence of several shots fired in a nearby parking lot, as well as a large crowd that fled the scene immediately afterward. No arrests have been made. Those willing to share any details with police should call 517-483-4600.

The mayor's race: A reconsideration

The CP Edit

Opinion

The sultry heat of August will soon give way to a different kind of heat as the mercury rises in the Lansing mayor's race. Pitting first-term Mayor Andy Schor against four-term Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar, the contest will determine who will lead Lansing for the next four years.

Going into the race, Schor has all the advantages of incumbency: control over a city government apparatus that churns out potential media opportunities nearly every day, buckets full of federal COVID relief funds to throw at city problems and constituencies, and a campaign war chest overflowing with cash from labor unions, law firms, lobbyists, developers and more. Dunbar has far less money, far fewer endorsements, and an uphill climb to persuade local media to cover her campaign, all of which puts her at a distinct disadvantage heading into November.

As readers of this space well know, Mayor Schor has disappointed us on many levels in his first four years. We hope he has learned from his past mistakes. But Dunbar has yet to show us that she's really up to the job. As a result, we want to make it clear that even though we endorsed Dunbar in the August primary election, we are keeping an open mind and will fairly evaluate both candidates before making an endorsement for the general election.

We previously endorsed Dunbar because her progressive politics more closely align with our own and because we believe her grassroots experience, considerable knowledge of city government operations and demonstrated financial acumen would benefit the residents of Lansing. Her quirky, unfiltered persona falls outside the traditional boundaries for mainstream politicians, but we're unfazed: We appreciate her passion and her unconventional approach to life. Throughout her 16-year tenure on City Council, Dunbar has been a fierce and effective advocate for the LGBTQ+ community, for people of color and for the less privileged among us.

Unfortunately, we've been underwhelmed by Dunbar's campaign thus far — had Councilwoman Patricia Spitzley, who finished a strong third, worked harder herself, Dunbar might well have finished out of the running — and consider it a harbinger of her potential performance in the mayor's office. As the challenger and as a significant underdog, beating Schor will require a herculean effort that includes a compelling message for change at City Hall, a clear agenda for how she will do things differently, and a capable campaign organization with sufficient resources to get her message out to city voters through the mail, through door-to-door canvassing, on social media, and probably on television. That's a tall order — and so far we see little evidence that she is capable of making it happen.

Mayor Schor has the benefit of four years in the driver's seat at City Hall, which is no small matter given the complexities of running a sprawling municipal operation that touches every corner of the city. The learning curve is steep, and it is always a challenge to meet the expectations of city residents, as previous mayors have learned. You can't please everyone, and if you do, you probably aren't a very effective mayor. We're encouraged by his new agenda to improve racial justice and equity in Lansing, but the proof will be in the actions he takes, not the plans he makes.

With the upcoming Labor Day weekend signaling the start of the fall campaign season, we expect it won't be long before Schor's allies start slicing and dicing Dunbar with all manner of scurrilous charges, conveniently delivered to your mailbox and your Facebook newsfeed. The mayor will likely disclaim any responsibility for the attacks, perhaps even condemning them in order to appear above the fray. But we're not that naive: Schor knows full well what his allies are planning to do and that he is the intended beneficiary. If she has any hope to win, Dunbar will have little choice but to return fire, provided she has the financial resources to do so.

Like most voters, though, we prefer to see both candidates run a positive campaign that focuses on their vision and plans for Lansing's future. But we're also realists who understand that both sides are likely to play rough because the stakes are so high. Sadly, today's ugly politics seems to demand a ruthless approach to winning at all costs. For what it's worth, we call on both candidates to kennel the attack dogs and run a clean campaign based on the issues that matter to city residents. Failure to do so will weigh heavily in our consideration of who deserves our endorsement in November.

In the August primary election, Schor managed to collect nearly half the votes cast, which means the remainder went to candidates other than the incumbent mayor. For Dunbar to make it a close race, she will need to convince voters who cast their ballots for Spitzley, Farhan Sheikh Omar and a handful of others that she's the best choice for mayor. Her campaign needs to gear up quickly to demonstrate that she's not only capable of running a robust campaign but of governing the city.

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

1.) Write a letter to the editor: E-mail: letters@ lansingcitypulse.com or mail: City Pulse 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
Fax: (517) 371-5800 • lansingcitypulse.com

2.) Write a guest column: Contact Berl Schwartz for more information publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5061.

(Please include your name, address and telephone number so we can reach you. Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. City Pulse reserves the right to edit letters and columns.)

Lansing's Bethlehem Temple, housing policy, and the reporting of history

BY JOHN AERNI-FLESSNER and BERKLEY SORELLS

(John Aerni-Flessner is an associate professor of African and world history in the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities at Michigan State University

Berkley Sorrells graduated from East Lansing High School and is a senior at Michigan State University double-majoring in history and arts and humanities.)

OPINION

The story of the African American community in Lansing is slowly being told through projects like the Pave the Way collaboration between the City of Lansing and the Historical Society of Greater Lansing. However, for most residents who are not African American, this history is often not well known. So, when this history does enter the mainstream, errors often go uncorrected and their significance remains unknown. The authors at MSU have been researching aspects of Lansing's African American history and wanted to correct the record on one of Lansing's oldest African American churches: the Bethlehem Temple.

Both City Pulse and the Lansing State Journal independently reported in 2019, and City Pulse did so again last week, that the former Temple Club building being renovated in Old Town was built in 1906 for the Bethlehem Temple, but this is simply not true. The building was constructed for the white First Methodist Church, Lansing's oldest Protestant organization, in 1906. The Bethlehem Temple only purchased it in 1965 when the Methodist congregation moved to the suburbs. While all the publications quickly corrected the stories when we contacted them about it, the fact that the error continues to be made suggests that while public knowledge of redlining has certainly increased recently, its deeper effects and reverberations into the present continue to be hidden.

The Bethlehem Temple was not founded as a church until the early 1930s. Further, African American churches and most African American residents were unable to purchase or use property outside of the Main Street/St. Joseph's neighborhood immediately south of downtown Lansing until at least the 1960s, and longer in some places. The Bethlehem Temple purchased the Old Town building in 1965 when the construction of I-496 displaced much of the African American community. The Bethlehem Temple remained in Old Town until 2000 when it moved to South Washington Avenue, where it goes by the name "The Bread House—Beth Temple." The space they vacated in Old Town became The Temple Club, a music/dancing venue for a few years, was put under renovation in 2019 and its owners plan to start renting out apartments there in early 2022.

Correction

Because of a reporting error in 2019 and again last week, City Pulse incorrectly reported the Temple Club building in Old Town was constructed for the Bethlehem Temple. We regret the error.

Lansing had a relatively small and slow-growing African American population compared to other Michigan and Midwestern cities in the mid-20th century, with the city only having 6,745 individuals (6.3% of the population) identifying as African American in the 1960 census. Most arrived as part of the Great Migration, but almost all were relegated to the Main Street/St. Joseph's neighborhood. It was here in the early 1930s that the Bethlehem Temple was founded in a small, rented clapboard house at 835 W. Main St. In addition to redlining and residential steering by Realtors, restrictive covenants in deeds prohibited the sale of properties in most of the city to minority populations (as well as immigrants, people of Jewish descent, and other categories). All of these combined to keep African Americans confined to this neighborhood.

While Lansing's African American population was relatively small, it was expanding rapidly by the 1950s, but the size of the available neighborhood remained static. With no increase in the supply of housing, even those African American residents who had been able to secure middle-class jobs often found it difficult to locate a house they could purchase. Finally, the redlining practices that limited loans in supposedly "high risk" areas meant that the lucky few who managed to purchase a house found it difficult to maintain it because they could not secure loans for home improvement. Thus, African Americans in Lansing most often could not build generational wealth through home ownership as many of their white counterparts did through the economic and housing boom of the mid-20th century.

So why does it matter if the basic chronology of the Bethlehem Temple is misreported in the contemporary

City Pulse archives

period? Situating a major African American church in Old Town before 1965 suggests that Lansing was a racially integrated community long before it was and also suggests that African Americans had an opportunity to build intergenerational wealth via home ownership. As noted earlier, this was not the case. Studies have shown that formerly redlined neighborhoods are linked to worse health outcomes in the present, and that these neighborhoods bear a disproportionate impact from climate change. In short, the disparities in health, current living conditions, and even family wealth that so often fall out along racial lines in our city and society can be directly linked to the redlining practices of the past. Thus, racist housing practices that denied African Americans the ability to purchase homes have led to a widening in the family wealth gap along racial lines that continues to increase.

But it is not only for negative reasons that properly situating the Bethlehem Temple in its correct neighborhood matters. While African Americans were confined to this neighborhood, they built a strong and resilient community here in Lansing. Thus, the ability of the Bethlehem Temple to move into new, integrated neighborhoods is a story of both success and failure. Its move was forced by the so-called urban renewal projects of the mid-1960s that deliberately destroyed the African American neighborhood to construct I496, much of the state office complex and expand the footprint of the GM factory that all continue to dominate this corner of Lansing.

Urban renewal greatly disrupted the live of individuals and the community as a whole. The ability of the Bethlehem Temple congregation to pool their resources to purchase a grand limestone and granite building in Old Town in 1965 suggests that African Americans were able to make gains despite the structural racism embedded in discriminatory housing policies. But the progress also came with a high price. The tight-knit community of the first Bethlehem Temple — where members walked to church and socialized easily and readily as neighbors — was destroyed in order to make way for a highway. Thus, the collective pain of social disruption was the price the community was forced to pay to move into the larger structure.

Failing to get the chronology correct for the moves of the Bethlehem Temple continues to hide the fact that the Lansing we see today, including the quick commute for folks on I496, the massive employment juggernaut that is the state government complex, and the expanded GM factory on the Grand River, were all able to be built only through the mass displacement of the African American community. Structural racism in housing policy was and is central to the story of who was made to move to make contemporary Lansing what it is. Thus, getting this story right is crucial in the quest to help people understand that the wrongs of the past are not bygones. They continue to reverberate in the health, wealth and inequality of our city and region in the present. Policies that look to bring about justice and equity in the present are needed to repay those for whom the city and state government forced to bear a disproportionate burden in the past to bring about the convenient, prosperous modern life we enjoy today.

LETTERS to the editor

Plaudits for political coverage

I lived in Oregon for a while, where the state government proactively mails out summaries of each political candidate, their positions, their bio, etc. Recently, preparing to vote in the Lansing mayoral/city council election, I started Googling candidates. The only source of any substance Google could produce was City Pulse. Kudos!

Similarly, the same is true, in my opinion, for events in the mid-Michigan area. If one wants a comprehensive list of what's happening, City Pulse is generally the best source.

John Stavros
Lansing

Critical Race Theory is no personal problem


Barker

I don't really know enough about Critical Race Theory to write at length about it, but I know that these days I love any phrase with the word "CRITICAL" in it. Emotion has reigned for too long, creating chaos and life-threatening conditions.

OPINION

Today, I long for my writing classroom where logic, ethics, questions and verification led the way, as it did with one of my students who wanted to examine cohabitation.

Cohabitation is when an unmarried couple lives together. Presumably they sleep together. Which is a phrase meaning sex.

Back in the day, way back in the day, the righteous folk called it living in sin. Which is another way of saying, sex.

My student — a white guy — was living with his girlfriend and seemed to be looking for validation, to know that what they were doing was OK. Maybe he was still defending their arrangement to his mother. I knew I wasn't going to give him approval. I am one of 13 children raised in a house with one small bathroom. I don't live with anybody that I don't have to.

My student would get more sympathy from Aretha Franklin, who sang, who's zooming who?

That's also a saying for sex.

When students bring a part of their lives to class, as the teacher you know the thing is a personal problem. The college composition classroom provides opportunity to look at personal problems to try to understand why the particular thing, like living together, is a problem. It is the place to be critical, to examine its economics, morals, and in terms of the future.

One can ask, based on all available information, does this make sense for the long run, or is it just another train wreck on the tracks of life?

My student did the research about cohabitation and came back to class to tell me the data showed that couples who live together have a lower rate of marriage than couples who wait until after saying "I do" to cohabit.

From his sad face, it was clear that he wanted that not to be true. He wanted to believe that people still buy the cow after getting the milk for free.

That is also a saying for sex.

My instruction was to write an argument he could support. Just as emotion swings some people every way but loose, data is king for some people, mostly men. But my student's data was a problem. Perplexed, he looked at me, then said, "I won't put it in my paper. Who's to know?"

I pointed to myself. "I know. You just told me."

He looked crushed. Now he would have to work harder to overcome that data, or concede the point. Or change his position and say that living together wasn't such a good idea. Even though he was doing it. What then? He might have to adjust his life.

Or he might persist with his idea of not putting the data in his paper — and fail my class.

I forget what happened, pass or fail for him, but his idea to unknow the data seems to be very much like what is going on today with Critical Race Theory. According to the Brookings Institution, eight states have adopted laws banning CRT. This nonprofit public policy organization, based in Washington, D.C., reports that nearly 20 additional states, including Michigan, are considering legislation to ban schools from teaching it.

People lose their minds over CRT. This is what happened at the public comment period of the June 14 Grand Ledge Board of Education meeting. The meeting had to be continued, like a soap opera, on the next Monday.

Now that schools are back in this week, I suspect CRT will rise up again, even though in Grand Ledge schools, for one, there is no evidence that CRT was on the instructional agenda.

In argument theory, that is called a straw dog. There was no one saying, let's do CRT. But there were plenty of protesters of CRT. One quoted by the Lansing State Journal was not a resident of the school district.

If they were just teaching what CRT is that would help us all, because it is a graduate school concept that can be challenging to understand, even for me, and I earned a Master's degree in graduate school. I researched CRT in the ever-accessible Wikipedia and apparently it is a way to explain why so many African Americans are overrepresented in the worst categories of life in the United States.

At base, CRT says that racism and separate racial outcomes are the result of complex, changing, and often subtle social and institutional dynamics. It is about systems. CRT ranks up there with wonky policy talk — Hi, Mayor Schor — that makes politicians so boring. Critics say CRT elevates storytelling over evidence and reason. It rejects concepts of truth and merit.

At base, it appears some people are afraid CRT will be used to teach American history to include the story of more citizens, especially African Americans and slavery and Jim Crow and other social changes that have held us down as fatally as Derek Chauvin's knee on George Floyd's neck.

They worry that white kids will be taught to hate themselves because some white people have done awful things to African Americans. In particular.

Data be damned. Emotion is everything.

It's not.

Conserving the image of America and Americans is not the be-all, end-all. There is much about American history of which to be proud. But not race and racism. And it's not going away because we don't look at it. The last 400 years is evidence of that.

American history where slavery in all its many forms have cut against African Americans must be considered. Michelle Alexander made that case in her book "The New Jim Crow" showing how mass incarceration of Black and brown men was a new form of discrimination, as Jim Crow had been a new form of slavery. Her book is full of compelling evidence and data that is stunning. Before I finished reading her book, I had to put it down several times, so overcome I was by the feeling that living Black in America was being in the belly of beast.

Someone was making my student think his living with his girlfriend without the sanction of marriage was a problem. It looked like he just wanted to get his "freak" on.

That is another way of saying sex.

He saw school as a way to puzzle through the objections to his living situation and resolve it, if only in his mind. The rejection of the teaching of race and racism in the United States, to coin a simple definition of CRT, is a problem and should not be accepted as a way of putting the white dunce cap on another generation.

(Dedria Humphries Barker, a Lansing resident, chairs of the Andrew and Mary Jane Humphries Foundation. She wrote "Mother of Orphans: The True and Curious Story of Irish Alice, A Colored Man's Widow." Her opinion column appears on the last Wednesday of each month.)

Dunbar takes on 'unchecked harassment' at the Lansing Fire Dept.

POLITICS

OPINION

The story of former Shawn Deprez — how alleged harassment pushed her to take an early retirement from the Lansing Fire Department in 2019 — has mayoral candidate Kathie Dunbar's blood boiling.

As Mayor Andy Schor's run-off opponent in November, Dunbar is hearing from more city employees, former and current, about a culture that she says is not unique to Deprez's claims in City Pulse recently of "unchecked homophobic and sexist harassment."

This week Dunbar, an at-large member of the City Council who is giving up her seat to take on Schor, told me she's using her platform to blow the whistle on an unacceptable culture of intimidation, pranks and boorish behavior that has no place in a professional work environment.

To her, it's more than advanced racial and gender sensitivity training can solve. It's time for heads to roll.

"You can't train racism out of somebody," Dunbar told me. "You can't give them a training module and put them in a room for a facilitated discussion and expect that that is going to change their heart. The only way you get to people is to have ramifications for the behavior."

Does that mean firing people, she was asked?

"Yes."

Dunbar offered specific complaints that she says she has been told. But between their secondhand nature and that City Pulse has not had enough time to look into them, City Pulse is not publishing them for now. The Mayor's Office said Tuesday there are many instances where complaints about inappropriate behavior involving inappropriate words or actions have been investigated and resulted in dismissals.

"I'm so disturbed by the lack of accountability," Dunbar said. "It seems to me that some of these issues, had they been addressed when they were brought forward, could have been addressed before they got to a pattern of behavior."

Dunbar said some cases are being litigated in court. Other cases, like Deprez's, likely will in time, she contends. When it does, the taxpayers of Lansing will be on the hook settling claims, Dunbar said, and that's outrageous.

Dunbar isn't a newbie to city government. She's wrapping up her 16th year on the City Council. She knows lawsuits come and go. Most of the time they are dismissed for being without merit.

If this behavior is so prevalent, why didn't she raise them before?

"I'm at a loss because in my position I have no administrative authority," she said.

From where she sits, Dunbar feels the employee complaints are louder than ever. Clearly, in the MeToo world, women feel more emboldened to speak out, their complaints will be taken more seriously. Those of color feel likewise about their experiences in the Black Lives Matter movement, she said.

Dunbar said she's been hearing stories on that front, too.

Cracks around people of color about "fried chicken" and "watermelon" shouldn't be tolerated in a 2021 professional environment. The racial lawsuits filed against the city of Lansing by former employees, likewise, is well documented.

"Andy could do something about it. You got to know what is going on in your departments," she said.

For his part, Schor has made diversifying his staff and his cabinet a priority. He has gone through racial sensitivity training for himself and his staff. Also, lawsuits against a government entity are not unique to the city of Lansing and, in many cases, end up getting dismissed for numerous reasons.

That said, Lansing is on its fourth fire chief since Schor took office. Greg Martin is the interim guy whose permanent address is in Minnesota while he lives in a downtown Lansing apartment for now. At $140,000, he's among the city's highest-paid employees. He makes more than Schor.

When will decisive leadership be brought in to right the ship, she questioned?

Surely, Lansing wouldn't have a permanent fire chief until after the November election. Then what?

"People are coming to me because I'm the opponent," Dunbar said. "I get that. They're laying a lot on my shoulders. They think I can do something about it."

She's going to start trying, anyway.

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

Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

This Lansing home, at 1732 Hillcrest St., has a starting bid of $14,447.30.

Foreclosure auction inspires developmental potential in Greater Lansing

Ingham County expects developer 'feeding frenzy' amid rising foreclosure rates

By KYLE KAMINSKI

Sold signs on vacant land and renovations in action. Landlords that give a damn and new business traction.

Corridor improvement and the investment it brings.

These are a few of Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing's favorite things.

And with more than 80 properties across Greater Lansing up for grabs at this week's annual tax foreclosure auction, Schertzing is hopeful that would-be homeowners, landlords and commercial developers will seize a financial opportunity and help galvanize those favorite things into reality.

A total of 84 properties — comprising 73 bidding lots — will be up for grabs on Thursday (Aug. 26) at the Lansing Center for the county's first in-person tax foreclosure auction since before the pandemic began. Last year's auction was entirely virtual, with fewer than half as many properties in the catalogue.

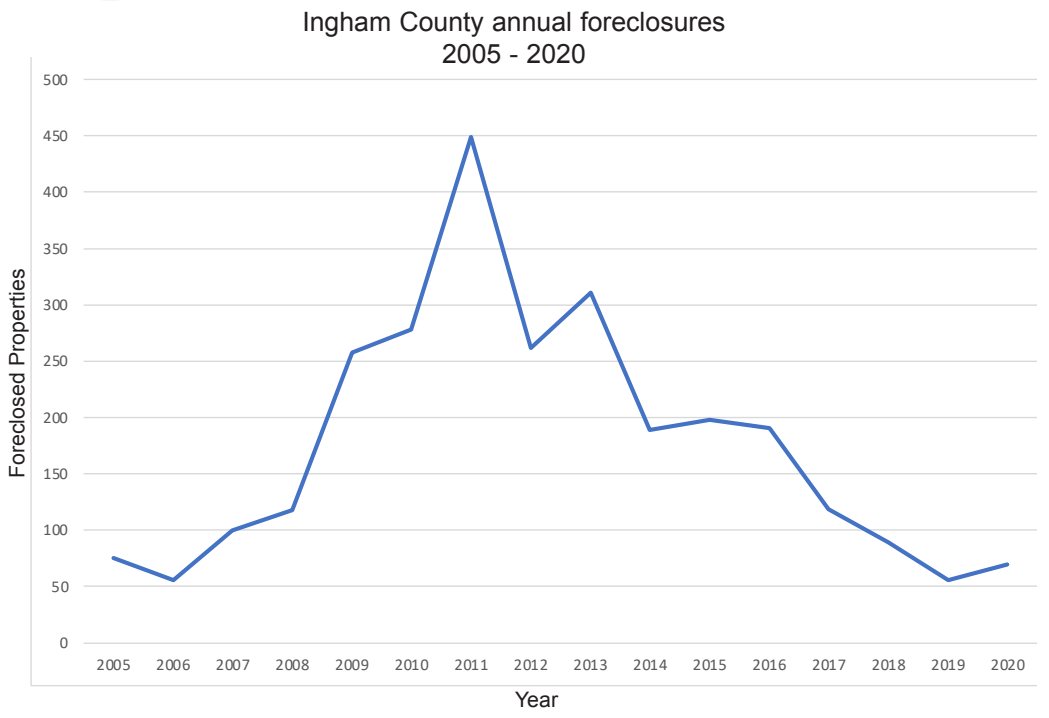
This year, four commercial properties are for sale along with 45 homes and 24 vacant parcels. And with a cumulative minimum bid of more than $1.1 million, Schertzing anticipates their sale (and eventual redevelopment) will serve as a catalyst for future economic growth in Lansing.

"We do all sorts of things to prevent foreclosures. Foreclosures are never a good thing. But when they happen, the goal, as always, is to make a more significant impact in the communities where these properties are being sold, to help revitalize and build up these neighborhoods," Schertzing said. "This year, I think we'll see a lot of activity. It's a real estate feeding frenzy."

Landowners who fail to pay property taxes or special assessments are eventually forced to forfeit their property to the county Treasurer's Office. For more than two years, officials will call and send letters to tax delinquent residents, hold public hearings and publish public notices.

Those who work to set up payment plans or show "some modicum" of financial responsibility can be granted leniency — especially if the foreclosure threatens to put a family on the street, Schertzing said. Most properties still unspoken for by March are sold to the highest bidder in August. Minimum bids are established, in part, on the amount of back taxes owed on the land.

Bankers and Realtors have long predicted the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to lead to an eventual surge in foreclosures nationwide. Schertzing said that unemployment benefits, stimulus checks, forgivable loans



Source: Ingham County Treasurer

See Foreclosures, Page 13

Foreclosures

from page 12

and grants have helped prevent property owners from falling behind on their mortgage payments and taxes. Only 70 properties were foreclosed in 2020 — up from 56 in 2019, but a far cry from the 449 foreclosures Schertzing carried out in 2011 in the Great Recession.

"When the federal stimulus checks came out, we saw payments come in. There was definitely a connection between unemployment benefits, stimulus checks and our office getting paid," Schertzing said. "We had a huge crest of activity from the recession, but it has essentially been improving each and every year since. Now, again, we seem to be hitting some sort of plateau."

Schertzing projects foreclosure rates to climb as much as 50% over the next two years, sending more and more local property back onto the market. The benefits dam can only hold for so long.

"Everyone who has got more time is not going to be successful," he added. "Somewhere, you have to conceive coming out of this pandemic response. A number of people who are delinquent have been given more time, and they're going to find themselves even deeper in the mud than they were two or three years ago. Maybe they'll get lucky. Maybe there will be recovery dollars in the pipeline for these people. But unfortunately, it can be expensive to owe money to the Treasurer's Office and that cost will bury some people too deep for recovery."

Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

This commercial building on the corner of Quaker Court and Saginaw Access Road has an opening bid of $21,385.17. An old sale listing labeled it as a block-and-brick structure that is "as solid as they come" with wide open spaces for "anything you can imagine."

An average of 176 properties have been foreclosed annually in the county over the last 16 years, but those rates are skewed by a large spike tracked in the wake of the Great Recession.

A total of more than 500 foreclosures were tracked in 2009 and 2010, followed by the all-time annual high of 449 in 2011. Those rates (except this year) have been on a steady decline, county records showed.

"It would be pretty hard for somebody to not see this coming," Schertzing said. "Even before the pandemic, if people were working with us and getting financial counseling, we've been giving extra time for the folks who want it and need it. At some point, the process does take over."

This year's auction catalogue includes a diverse array of land from all quadrants of the city of Lansing, as well as a few properties in East Lansing, Okemos and other neighboring townships. Like in most years, foreclosures are concentrated in neighborhoods directly adjacent to I-496.

Schertzing said about 70% of the land consists of "rundown properties" that are wholly defined by redlining, the now-illegal practice of refusing loans in certain areas of the city based on race.

Between 1963 and 1970, close to 890 families in Lansing received letters from the state demanding they relocate for the I-496 construction project, which took 35 years to finish and displaced several thousand residents of once-thriving ethnic communities in the city of Lansing.

"That historic discrimination against properties and people really outlines a lot of the areas where we spend a lot of our time," Schertzing said. "It's always very consistent over time, and a lot of our foreclosures are truly defined by the

See Foreclosures, Page 14

Ingham County foreclosure auction

10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 26, Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Bidders are also required to submit a $2,000 deposit to participate. Visit BippusUSA.com for details.

Other residential properties

Auction Lot	Minimum Bid
Lansing	
Lot 3305: 904 & 906 N. Pennsylvania Ave.	$23,496.50
Lot 3307: 3200 Garland St.	$12,273
Lot 3308: 1519 Biltmore Blvd.	$14,770.78
Lot 3310: 3017 Sheffer St.	$2,393.91
Lot 3311: 1601 Robertson Ave.	$7,899.07
Lot 3314: 1333 Roosevelt Ave.	$18,378
Lot 3315: 1315 & 1315 ½ W. Maple St.	$41,535.91
Lot 3316: 824 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.	$25,951.93
Lot 3318: 508 W. Maple St.	$7,927.04
Lot 3319: 917 Johnson Ave.	$13,445.21
Lot 3320: 929 Johnson Ave. & 1027 Cady Ct.	$25,015
Lot 3324: 1314 E. Oakland Ave.	$14,002
Lot 3325: 217 N. Fairview Ave.	$31,975.16
Lot 3327: 616 S. Mifflin Ave.	$3,801.14
Lot 3328: 223 Hill St.	$4,717.17
Lot 3329: 414 S. Pennsylvania Ave.	$19,851.05
Lot 3330: 1008 & 1012 Bement St.	$8,579.02
Lot 3332: 409 Clifford St.	$9,437.70
Lot 3333: 1233 & 1235 W. Michigan Ave.	$15,495.81
Lot 3334: 216 & 222 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.	$18,098.48
Lot 3336: 904 Nipp Ave.	$14,526
Lot 3337: 927 S. Grand Ave.	$14,355.62
Lot 3339: 1721 Teel Ave.	$8,046.91
Lot 3340: 409 Norman St. + 1727 & 1729 Herbert St.	$28,716.69
Lot 3341: 1717 S. Cedar St.	$8,804.73
Lot 3342: 1108 S. Holmes St.	$12,886.25
Lot 3343: 1107 Bensch St.	$10,526.28
Lot 3344: 1423 Ada St.	$29,632.58
Lot 3345: 913 Motor Ave.	$10,210
Lot 3346: 1735 Lyons Ave.	$16,498.23
Lot 3347: 2312 Teel Ave.	$14,946.32
Lot 3349: 1522 W. Holmes Rd.	$30,921.44
Lot 3352: 1732 Hillcrest St.	$14,447.30
Lot 3353: 1318 Mary Ave.	$16,103.51
Lot 3354: 1906 REO Rd.	$11,985.88
Lot 3356: 4630 Christiansen Rd.	$13,746.91
Lot 3357: 4711 Christiansen Rd.	$19,163.22
Lot 3358: 638 Fenton Ave.	$8,411.28
Lot 3361: 1001 Edgewood Blvd.	$19,122.71
East Lansing	
Lot 3369: 934 Michigan Ave.	$28,627.07
Leslie Township	
Lot 3366: 4733 Blackmore Rd.	$17,051.36
Stockbridge Township	
Lot 3368: 3495 ½ Morton Rd.	$11,115.13
Lansing Township	
Lot 3371: 2805 W. Washtenaw St.	$12,736.85

Foreclosures

from page 13

redlining maps that have discriminated on mortgages."

With low interest rates and a relatively narrow inventory of available real estate in Lansing, Schertzing said interest in this year's auction is uncharacteristically high. He expects up to 100 buyers to register for the auction — with some parcels selling for six times their reserve price.

"Auction prices have strengthened considerably. We also have plenty of new buyers coming out of the woodwork daily. What that means exactly, I think, is yet to be seen," Schertzing said.

The lot with the most expensive minimum bid of about $59,000 includes a shopping plaza on the corner of Washington and Miller roads in south Lansing, the former home of Binni's Bar and Grill. Other big-ticket parcels include a 5,800-square-foot commercial space on Saginaw Street and the former Gus's Bar & Grill, 2321 W. Michigan Ave., a working-class watering hole that closed its doors in 2018.

Also up for grabs is the former CC Greenery (and H20 Hydroponics) in downtown Okemos, once owned by James Sinadinos, a local all-star high school and college wrestler-turned-coach.

This unkempt south Lansing plaza — the former home of Binni's Bar and Grill — was the subject of more than 50 emergency calls in under two years. It's the priciest parcel at auction this week with an opening bid of $58,833.64.

Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

This reporter visited at least a third of the properties last week, most are in shabby condition, with boarded-up windows or overgrown shrubs. Six of the homes have been ordered demolished.

Still, Schertzing said he spots plenty of opportunities for those with the vision to pursue them.

And when the pandemic strikes, when unemployment climbs, when Schertzing is feeling sad, he simply remembers his favorite things and then hopes Greater Lansing doesn't feel so bad.

"The auction can really be a fascinating room," Schertzing said. "We're talking about people with visions of a better future for these spaces who can often end up making a huge difference in the community by taking a real risk on a property, testing their skills and abilities and hopefully then turning an unloved property into something that looks and feels like it's truly being loved again."

Here's a closer look at some of the properties featured in this week's foreclosure auction:

Lot 3301: 909 E. Saginaw St. in Lansing — Minimum Bid: $21,385.17

This commercial building on the corner of Quaker Court and Saginaw Access Road was owned by Sunshine REO Management LLC and was foreclosed last July. It's about 5,800 square feet, was built in 1929 and remodeled in 1989 with a handicap accessible bathroom and small office space off the

See Foreclosures, Page 15

Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

The old site of Gus's Bar & Grill, 2321 W. Michigan Ave., is up for grabs this week with a minimum bid of $15,531.80. The bar closed for good in 2018.

Vacant properties

Auction Lot	Minimum Bid
Lansing	
Lot 3309: Land on Kaplan Street	$1,644.24
Lot 3312: Land on Lansing Avenue	$1,359.45
Lot 3313: Land on Roosevelt Avenue	$3,088.01
Lot 3317: 203 E. Reasoner St.	$25,071.33
Lot 3321: Land on N. Pennsylvania Avenue	$6,868.58
Lot 3322: 1000 Mahlon St.	$1,963.36
Lot 3323: 1558 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave.	$4,504.12
Lot 3326: Land in Lansing	$824.49
Lot 3331: Land on Clifford Street	$956.10
Lot 3335: Land on Buffalo Street	$11,062.67
Lot 3338: 518 Christiancy St.	$2,638.04
Lot 3348: Land on E. Willard Avenue	$1,103.67
Lot 3350: 3005 Herrick Drive	$20,518.28
Lot 3351: Land on W. Jolly Road	$38,783.12
Lot 3355: Land on Hughes Road	$31,459.27
Lot 3359: 4615 Ora St.	$11,150
Lot 3360: 840 Maplehill Ave.	$31,020.67
Lot 3362: Land on S. Cedar Street	$2,425.42
Stockbridge	
Lot 3372: Land on E. Main Street	$7,449.61
Webberville	
Lot 3373: Land on Clark Street	$1,666.37
Meridian Twp.	
Lot 3363: 6227 W. Lake Drive	$15,948.14
Lot 3364: Land on Dawn Avenue	$5,730.02
Bunker Hill Twp.	
Lot 3367: 4625 Freiermuth Rd.	$17,501.50
Lansing Twp.	
Lot 3370: Land on S. Charles Street	$25,115.03

Foreclosures

from page 14

main room, records showed. An old sale listing labeled it as a block-and-brick structure that is "as solid as they come" with wide open spaces for "anything you can imagine."

Lot 3306: 820 W. Miller Ave. in Lansing — Minimum Bid: $58,833.64

This unkempt plaza was the subject of more than 50 emergency calls in under two years, which pushed local cops to label Binni's Bar and Grill a "nuisance" property in 2018. The Michigan Liquor Control Commission also revoked its license following a long history of violations.

Among the issues: Someone was shot there on New Year's Day in 2017. Another incident left a man with a bullet in his leg. Other calls included robbery and assault. Former owner Love Singh threw in the towel in 2018 and stopped paying property taxes, eventually triggering foreclosure.

In total, the site includes more than 12,000 square feet of retail, restaurant, market and laundromat space. The new owner will have to spend time replacing shattered windows and boarded-up doors, scrubbing off spray paint, repairing siding and repaving the entire parking lot.

Despite the poor reputation, Schertzing hopes new development will revitalize the space.

"I think someone with a foodie bend or someone who can actually put some time in that building will find success," Schertzing said. "I think that building and that location — with the right ownership — could really begin a transformation of that whole area. It's a busy intersection."

Lot 3303: 2321 W. Michigan Ave. in Lansing — Minimum Bid: $15,531.80

This 4,900-square-foot commercial building was built in 1948 on the corner of Michigan Avenue and Hungerford Street, just northwest of Saint Joseph Park. Attached to an operating liquor store, it's also the former site of Gus's Bar & Grill. Former owner and Greek immigrant Gus Caliacatsos, who came to the United States in 1962, decided to open the blue-collar bar in 1982. A nearby automotive assembly plant closed in 2005 and took most of his customers, leading him to sell the bar in 2008 and retire to Greece. He returned in 2010 after the buyer stopped making payments. It closed in 2018.

Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

(Above) County officials anticipate the former CC Greenery building in Okemos — one of only a few commercial properties at auction — to sell for upwards of $300,000 this week, although the reserve price is only set at about $39,000.

(Below) Some bidding lots include two parcels, like these two homes along Oakland Avenue in Lansing. County officials expect those types of package deals will help accelerate meaningful development projects across Greater Lansing.

Lot 3302: 4708 Okemos Rd. — Minimum Bid: $38,703.50

Schertzing said he expects this downtown Okemos parcel could fetch up to $300,000 on the open market and will be sure to garner bids far behind the initial reserve price of about $39,000.

Among those expected to put in an offer: The property's most recent owner and all-star wrestler, James Sinadinos, 88, who wants to reclaim a building that his family has owned for decades.

James Sinadinos' son Andrew Sinadinos told City Pulse that his father's short-term memory is "shot to shit" and that he somehow didn't realize that property taxes were being left unpaid until after the land had already been foreclosed. Despite pleading with Schertzing's office for a second chance to reclaim the property, the parcel will still be included in this week's auction.

"I'm disappointed because my father is a freaking great guy — a really caring guy who has been in this community for his whole life. He's a two-time state champion. He has worked with United Way. And just because he didn't see the paperwork, his shit is being forfeited," Andrew Sinadinos said, noting that he and his father hired an attorney to help sort out his concerns.

A last-minute legal compromise led to Schertzing's pulling one of Sinadinos' other properties from the auction last week, namely because he didn't want to displace a local family that was renting the place. The former site of the CC Greenery, however, will still be up for grabs at the auction.

"We've bent over backwards here to keep a roof over somebody's head. I think that's where the community, the public, the taxpayers, the voters want to see things go. We've built some flexibility into the process but you cannot have infinite flexibility," Schertzing explained.

He added: "The people that put up a fight are not the poor people living in older neighborhoods in blighted properties. The $40,000 house doesn't call me up. The $250,000 commercial property, however, will try to run a full-scale media assault. It does get a little old."

Lot 3304: 512 & 514 W. Oakland Ave. — Minimum Bid $23,336.03

These adjacent multi-residential homes are situated between Pine and Chestnut streets. Schertzing said he cobbled them together into one bidding lot in hopes that a one motivated buyer will scoop them both up for a more significant (and lucrative) neighborhood investment.

It's the same strategy associated with several lots that include multiple parcels in the catalogue.

"We're auctioning them off together because some private buyer is better off, for various reasons, owning them as one to maximize their income on those lots," Schertzing said. "That's a tough area for development, even with the Hall of Justice across the street. That eastern edge of the West Side Neighborhood has had its challenges, so we really need a couple owners to come in with a grander vision for that corridor, as well as on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard."

The Ingham County Land Bank, which under Schertzing's leadership was established in 2005, receives whatever property is left over from the foreclosure process. Schertzing, its founding chairman, sits on its board of directors and has worked to put those properties back onto local tax rolls and into productive uses in local neighborhoods.

Its inventory includes over 600 vacant lots. The website also lists three residential homes for sale, as well as four commercial properties. Schertzing said several foreclosed properties are also situated near existing Land Bank properties to further maximize development potential.

"Just selling that corner house is not nearly as powerful of a move as selling that corner house and the lot next door. With some properties, you can pretty much control an entire city block," he said. "Who knows what some of these will become in five, 10 or maybe 20 years down the line?"

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Live music in flux as The Studio at 414 takes over The Loft

New space offers events, but big concerts are off the table

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Sweaty mosh pits, spilled beer and healthy doses of loud rock 'n' roll, dope hip-hop, pulsating electronic music and breakneck speed metal. Those were the hallmarks of The Loft, a shuttered venue that was once a reliable fixture in several local music scenes and host to countless concerts. In its place is The Studio at 414, a new venue that officially debuted in late July that will host functions such as wedding receptions, standup comedy nights, variety entertainment shows and perhaps, eventually, smaller live music gigs. Its inaugural events were a comedy show and a party for the Lansing-based Moneyball sportswear brand.

The Loft announced its closure in August 2020 with a post to its Facebook page. The announcement's subsequent deletion and The Loft's owner, Jerome White, keeping tight-lipped about the venue's future raised some hope that it might eventually come back, but The Studio at 414 is The Loft's permanent replacement.

The Studio at 414 is managed by a partnership of Doug Johns — who owns the building and 414 Entertainment, the company that is also behind Duke's Saloon, Tin Can and Taps 25 — Shawn Elliott and Stacey Wesolek. Wesolek, who has worked with 414 Entertainment for more than a decade, said the original business model of The Loft was no longer financially viable, thanks to the coronavirus pandemic taking a severe bite out of the live concert industry for the foreseeable future.

"It hurts to have a space that large just sitting empty. We decided it was time to bring something to Lansing where we could have more intimate events," Wesolek said.

She added that The Studio at 414's downtown location right next to several bars, the Radisson Hotel and, eventually, the new Courtyard by Marriott hotel, makes it prime real estate as a rentable wedding venue.

"I thought it was a cool concept to bring downtown," Wesolek said.

While The Studio at 414 has potential to fill in some gaps left behind by the pandemic, The Loft's permanent closure, along with the recent announcement that Mac's Bar will also not be returning in its original state, has some questioning what will become of the Lansing music scene.

Alfonso Civile is the lead singer of the Lansing metal group Heartsick, formerly known as Know Lyfe, which regularly performed at The Loft. Civile also worked for The Loft booking shows at the venue before it shut down.

Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

Signage on the front of The Studio at 414.

"I myself was really attached to The Loft. That was Heartsick's hometown venue, as our fanbase grew to the point that playing Mac's was difficult," Civile said. "I was working there as well booking shows and acquiring talent. It was a place I really loved."

Civile said he is trying to stay optimistic but is uncertain what impact the loss of The Loft and Mac's Bar might have on the local heavy music scene.

"We don't have Mac's Bar. That's basically where almost every band in the heavy scene cuts their teeth at," Civile said. "The Loft being gone really affects Lansing. We worked hard to build a community that was vibrant and being taken as seriously as Grand Rapids, Detroit and Flint. Seeing it crumble is really hard. It's hard to see that gap being filled any time soon."

A.J. Glaub, a local musician and concertgoer who frequented gigs at The Loft both as a performer and an audience member, said The Loft's closure is another step toward a music scene that could come apart at the seams.

"The local music scene has been completely decentralized. Mainstay venues for touring and local acts are disappearing, and artists and booking agents will have to build something new," Glaub said. "If people are going to put the effort into hosting an event, it's going to require everyone involved to make it something with longevity."

Edward Emmerich is the guitarist of Dead Hour Noise, a hardcore noise rock group that played several shows at The Loft over the years. He is disappointed by the closure and hopes Lansing doesn't wind up as a wasteland for live music.

"It's disappointing for Lansing to lose a space like that where you could bring in larger, mid-level touring acts," Emmerich said. "Without that anchor for larger shows, which helps the overall health of the local scene, it just feels like no man's land between Grand Rapids and Detroit. It's rough."

Forget 420. Lume is gearing up for 'Jenny Kush Day.'

Owosso pot shop pays tribute to late Colorado cannabis activist

By KYLE KAMINSKI

You don't have to smoke pot to know about the 420 holiday. April 20 is the single biggest day of celebration in marijuana culture. You may have also heard of 710 — a popular but lesser known cannabis commemoration for concentrates and oil products known as "Dab Day" on July 10.

Both can be formally recognized by calling in sick to work, spending a lot of money on weed, getting as ripped as mentally possible and then totally emptying out the refrigerator. And now cannabis enthusiasts have another date to circle on the calendar:

Lansterdam in Review: Lume Cannabis Co.
116 N. Washington St., Owosso
(989) 494-4527 • lume.com

Jenny Kush Day on Aug. 28, which is Saturday.

Amid efforts to mainstream the festivities, Lume Cannabis Co. is rolling out dank deals, handing out a free tattoo session and offering other giveaway goodies to celebrate the life of cannabis activist Jennifer "Jenny Kush" Monson from Saturday through Tuesday.

"Jenny Kush is definitely one of our most popular products, and a lot of folks enjoy the products, but they don't really have any idea that they were all based on Jennifer Monson and her work," said Maddie Gibbs, marketing director for Lume. "It's one of our biggest products, but it's also about the woman and the cannabis advocate who really helped to inspire this whole lineup."

Monson, who went by the name "Jenny Kush," was a renowned cannabis activist from North Dakota who moved to Colorado in 2010 and was killed by a drunk driver in 2013. She was a founding member of Moms for Marijuana and helped to start its first chapter in Colorado.

She also reportedly worked as an organizer for Mile High NORML and numerous other groups, in addition

See Kush, Page 17

Kush

from page 16

to being a frequent fixture at monthly cannabis rallies at the State Capitol and for her "SexPot Radio" podcast that blended together topics like sex, cannabis and politics.

Monson's car was struck by a drunk driver on the way home from a concert. She left behind a loving partner and four children. Friends remembered her as a gregarious, ornery pistol of a woman with a heart of gold, according to reports in Westword. She was also known as a maternal type with a foul mouth, a somewhat dirty sense of humor and rainbow-colored hair.

"And among Colorado's cannabis activists, she quickly became known as the girl who got shit done. This wasn't a hostile takeover, though; it was a labor of love," William Breaths wrote for Westword, noting that Monson also sat in front of cop cars during the Occupy Denver event.

Monson has since been memorialized at major league cannabis events like the High Times Seattle Cannabis Cup and the Boston Freedom Rally. The latest tribute: The highest-testing marijuana available in Michigan is named her honor and on sale now at Lume Cannabis Co.

The strain was initially bred by Rare Dankness Genetics in Colorado, but many cannabis brands across the country have since added the phenotype to their shelves. And it's a real hit at Lume.

"As things have evolved in the industry, many brands have picked it up, but a lot of the story behind the strain has been left behind," Gibbs added. "We want people to know how it got here."

From Saturday through Tuesday (Aug. 28-Aug. 31), all Jenny Kush products — including flower, pre-rolls, vaporizer cartridges and concentrates — will be 20% at every Lume location, including Owosso. A portion of the proceeds will go to support families of those incarcerated for pot-related crimes.

And this isn't your grandfather's pipe weed. Lume's signature Jenny Kush strain is consistently the highest testing strain in Michigan with THC levels that routinely range from 30-34%. One batch tested as high as 36%. THC percentages aren't everything. But they are something. I've been to every pot shop in Greater Lansing and have yet to find a more potent bag of weed.

The live rosin jam is also liquid gold, made only from fresh plants that are plucked, frozen and quickly pressed into a solventless potion of THC goodness that absolutely explodes with citrus terpenes and provides a soothing and uplifting buzz with a long-lasting cerebral head rush.

I've gone through two whole jars now; It's potent as hell and as pure as it comes.

Lume's weekend of festivities also includes art, music and tattoos — a few of Monson's other favorite things. Guests who sign up for the loyalty program will have a chance to win two tickets and a VIP experience to see Dead and Company at the DTE Energy Music Theatre on Sept. 10.

A Jenny Kush inspired music playlist will also be included with every purchase that includes an item from the Jenny Kush lineup. Customers will also receive a set of temporary tattoos designed by illustrator and tattoo artist Dawn Smith, as well as a chance to win a five-hour appointment at Harlequin Tattoo in Hamtramck at a mutually agreed upon time next year.

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

Favorite Things

Roy Lawrence's photo of water buffalo, taken in Cambodia while he was working with the Peace Corps.

Roy Lawrence and his Canon AE-1

Roy Lawrence, 25, is a FEMA employee who enjoys taking photos, traveling and watching movies in his spare time. He views the world through the lens of his favorite thing.

My camera is a tiny little 35 millimeter. It's a Canon AE-1.

I was working in a campaign office when I bought it. Next to one of our old offices, there was a camera shop. So, I wandered in one day on break knowing that I wanted to join the Peace Corps after the campaign was over.

I wanted a camera and I was set on that. But I didn't know which one. I was thinking I was going to get a digital at first, but then my eyes landed on that film camera.

Right after the campaign was over, I took it coast to coast. From New Hampshire back to Michigan, down to the Gulf Coast, to California, then back to the middle of the country.

In Cambodia, I stayed out in my village for six to eight weeks. Over that time, I started to notice things that you wouldn't if you were operating at a faster speed.

I got this photo of these water buffalo that my friend's niece was actually walking by to graze. Just as the sun was going down, she was walking them back from a field to their pen. The lighting worked out perfectly.

My first three rolls I shot, I got maybe six out of every 36 photos. One-sixth of what I shot turned out right.

A lot of them came out blurry because my hands were shaking. Really rookie mistake that I would have avoided if I had read anything about it beforehand.

I like the process of shooting on film. Shooting on digital, I take 50 photos of the same thing and pick the ones I like later.

With film, I have to pay for every shot. It forces you to take a step back and figure out how you want the shot to look beforehand. With this camera, I frame the photo, worry about the exposure, then worry about depth of field and aperture.

I shoot lots of architecture lately because I've been really bored. Plus, you don't need people around to make it work.

I really like the fact that, with any given subject, a hundred people are going to shoot it a hundred different ways. We all see the same things, but we all have different backgrounds and different ideas of what a photo should look like.

Next, I'm planning a trip to North Dakota. I've been to South Dakota to Badlands National Park and loved every minute of it. As the fall gets going and things start to cool down, I think that would be a nice trip to take. I'd love to shoot some bison.

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

Riverwalk's latest season is a longtime coming

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

Riverwalk Theatre recently announced productions for the fall and beyond. Instead of its usual 12 shows per season, five are planned. The selections — and decision to reopen after shutting down 17 months ago because of COVID — came only after much thought and planning.

Magnuson

"We have had nonstop meetings and workgroups since March 2020 to understand the best, most current information," Jeff Magnuson said. "Our production committee and reopening workgroup were determined to prioritize risk mitigation and safety."

Magnuson is president of Riverwalk's board of directors. He also acts and directs. The last time Magnuson was involved in a play was when he directed "Unnecessary Farce" in February 2020 — just before the pandemic hit Michigan hard.

Riverwalk's upcoming plays:
"Doubt" Oct. 7-10, 14-18
"All Together Now!" Nov. 12-14
"Lobby Hero" Feb. 10-13, 17-20 (2022)
"Art" April 21-44, April 28-May 1
"The Revolutionists"
June 9-12, 16-19 (2022)
Tickets at:
riverwalktheatre.com
Box Office: (517) 482-5700

"Actors were jumping in and out of beds while kissing each other," Magnuson said. "It was definitely a different time, then."

Riverwalk's last indoor show was "A Hotel on Marvin Gardens." It closed after only one performance in March 2020. Its next inside play, "Doubt" — directed by Bob Robinson — happens in October. The John Patrick Shanley parable was dropped last year because of the pandemic. Lansing audiences might know "Doubt" from a 2007 BoarsHead production, or from the Meryl Streep and Philip Seymour Hoffman movie.

Like all of Riverwalk's upcoming shows, "Doubt" is being presented in its Rotary Main Stage Auditorium. No Black Box plays will be featured and only one production will take place at a time inside the theater on Museum Drive.

"We are currently planning distanced seating with only 50% of the seats available," Magnuson said. Only half of the Auditorium's 200 seats will be sold for each performance.

The COVID-canceled Riverwalk musicals — "Once on This Island," "Shrek" and "Sweeney Todd" — are not being rescheduled.

"With so much ambiguity around audience comfort and safety, it felt right to get some smaller shows under our belts," Magnuson said. More expensive musicals are also hard to afford at a time of no ticket sales. "We will get there again," he said.

In November, Riverwalk presents "All Together Now!" Magnuson called it "an exciting way for Riverwalk to have a musical revue."

Music Theatre International is offering the rights and format for "All Together Now!" at no cost. All 50 states and dozens of countries are participating in the one-weekend event. Tricia Rogers will direct Riverwalk's version, which includes songs from "Beauty and the Beast," "Guys and Dolls," "Les Misérables" and other favorite Broadway tunes.

In February, George Popovich will direct "Lobby Hero," Kenneth Lonergan's 2001 dramedy about the moral uncertainty of modern life set in a high-rise in Manhattan. In April, Yasmina Reza's "Art" comes to the main stage. The raucous comedy is set in Paris and will be directed by retired WKAR broadcaster Scott Pohl.

Riverwalk's reopening season will close with "The Revolutionists," by Lauren Gunderson. Tom Ferris — a Riverwalk founding member and familiar face in local theater — directs. The pandemic-rescheduled "The Revolutionists" is a dream-tweaked comic play about the French Revolution.

Magnuson remains hopeful that the 33rd season will be completed. "I'm not much of a worrier," he said. "I am someone who prefers to focus on what we can control."

Riverwalk is requiring all volunteers and staff who participate in their building to be fully vaccinated. A new air purification system has been budgeted. The five productions intentionally involve smaller casts and crew.

"We have made and continue to make the safety of our staff, volunteers and audiences the highest priority as we reopen," Magnuson said. "We are the longest-running community theater in the area for a reason," he said. "We are resilient. We will be here when the pandemic ends."

New shop intersects science, art, everyday life

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

When Renee Leone was a child, people told her to get a Ph.D. They said she could research a subject that's never been studied before. She was convinced that it would be impossible to find something that no one knows.

With age and experience, Leone came to realize that — with every answer we find — more questions reveal themselves.

Leone is the proud founder of Quark! Yes, exclamation point included. It's a new gift shop that sells merchandise celebrating the intersection of art, science and everyday life.

"Opening a brick-and-mortar business is a risky thing right now," admitted Leone. "But I felt that it was the best way to share what I wanted with the community. So I took the risk."

As a former therapist, Montessori teacher and founder of the Michigan State University Science Festival, Leone has tons of experiences in many different fields. She's also casually studied gardening, mixed media art, astronomy and paleontology.

Photo courtesy of Ella Signs from the City of East Lansing

Renee Leone proudly standing at the counter in Quark!

"This has all fed my knowledge and helped inspire me to open the store," said Leone. "My goal is to make people smile with these items that can remind them of their connection with science."

Quark!
549 E. Grand River Rd.
East Lansing
Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Tuesday through Saturday
11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday
(517) 889-0829
quarkgifts.com

Leone has so far enjoyed running Quark! and meeting new people every day. She loves to see the excitement on customers' faces when they walk into the store. Allowing them to realize that science can imbue magic into their everyday lives has brought her joy.

"I am not a scientist. I just take great joy in the complexity and the wonder in pursuing curiosity," said Leone. "I just love it when scientists share what they do and make it accessible to everybody."

The store has something for studied scientists and hobbyists alike. She wants people to know that it isn't just for diehard researchers. In her opinion, having a connection and understanding of the sciences can make people feel more grounded, ready to engage with the world.

"Just a basic understanding of what's going on around us can help us understand ourselves," said Leone. "That appeals to the therapist side of me."

If you're curious by nature, she thinks that you will find something to appreciate on the shelves of Quark! It has everything you'd expect to find at a gift shop — postcards, jewelry, T-shirts, posters. The shop is a perfect fit for Grand River Road and will probably be a hit when college students return this fall.

Leone is happy she took the risk and opened up Quark! despite her initial concerns about starting a brick and mortar storefront.

"It's just been going good," she said, with a sense of relief. "The response I've gotten from the people who have come in so far has made me incredibly happy."

My reading list for the end of summer

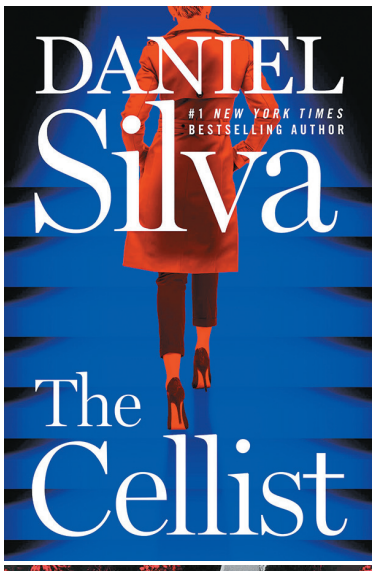
By BILL CASTANIER

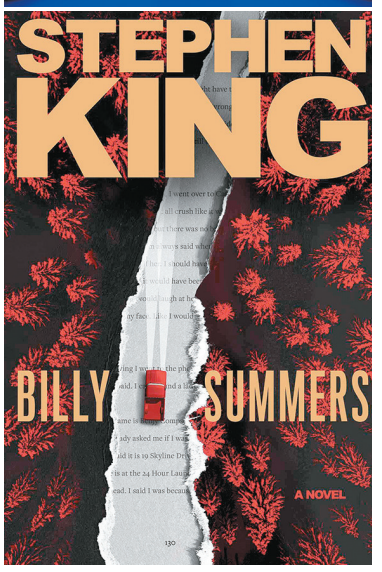
The dog days of August have most readers looking around for what they are going to read next. Now that bookstores and libraries have reopened, you can once again browse their shelves looking for the next great read.

I'm looking at Daniel Silva's new thriller, "The Cellist," featuring legendary art restorer and spy Gabriel Allon, along with James Lee Burke's new book, "Another Kind of Eden." Although not set in Louisiana bayou country, anything by Burke is fabulous. This one takes you to '60s Denver, where an aspiring author confronts cults, drugs and grotesque murders.

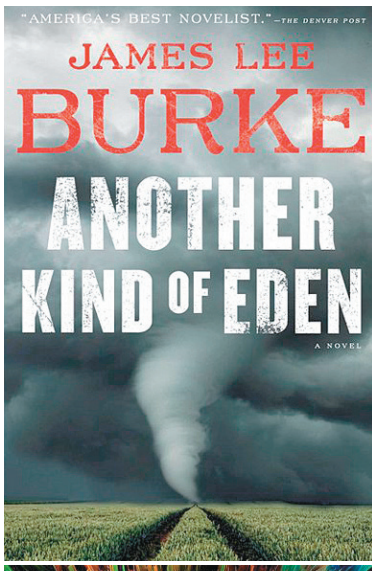
I know that sooner than later I will visit Stephen King's new summer thriller, "Billy Summers," which features an assassin looking for an exit strategy. Also on my list is the new book by acclaimed mystery writer Louise Penny, "The Madness of Crowds," featuring Chief Inspector Gamache. Penny's Gamache is back home in the Quebec Village of Three Pines and murder is afoot.

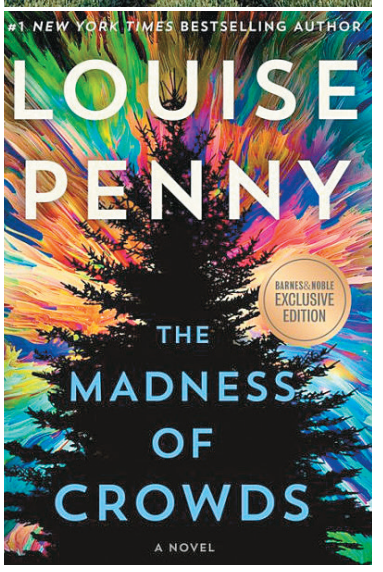
While putting my list together, I began wondering what readers were spending their time with over the last 100 years. There weren't a lot of titles I recognized from 1921 but several stood out, including "Main Street," by Sinclair Lewis; "The Brimming Cup," by Dorothy Canfield, a heralded author and activist who wrote more than 30 books and is credited with bringing the Montessori movement to the United States, and Zane Grey, the author and dentist behind "The Mysterious Rider." Also on the list of bestsellers was "The Valley of Silent Men," by Owosso's own James Oliver Curwood, who was at the height of his popularity with his adventures in the great white North.





Jumping forward to 1931, you were likely to be reading "The Good Earth," by Pearl S. Buck, or "Shadows of the Rock," by Willa Cather, and "Age of Innocence," by Edith Wharton. In 1931, many readers were also introduced to Fannie Hurst through her book "Back Street." Hurst was a populist writer whose fiction focused on social issues including feminism.





Stride into pre-war 1941 and readers were enjoying Ernest Hemingway's "For Whom the Bell Tolls," "The Keys of the Kingdom," by A.J. Cronin, "Random Harvest," by James Hilton, and "What Makes Sammy Run," by Budd Schulberg, which became a Broadway musical in 1965. "Sammy," the rags-to-riches story of a young man escaping the Jewish ghetto, is still a popular read.

Post-war, the 1951 adventure memoir "Kon-Tiki," by Thor Heyerdahl, raced to number one on the New York Times Best Seller list, while Rachel Carson's "The Sea Around Us" held the anchor slot of number two.

"The New Joy of Cooking" also made the 1951 list. Irma S Rombauer and Marion Rombauer wrote "The New Joy of Cooking" in Northern Michigan during family vacations. Creeping up on the list was "The Catcher in the Rye," by J.D. Salinger, and the World War II classic "From Here to Eternity," by James Jones.

The year 1961 was blessed with several books on the best-sellers list that are still read today. These include "The Agony and the Ecstasy," by Irving Stone, who would write books on Vincent van Gogh and Michelangelo, and "To Kill a Mockingbird," beginning a long run for the book that would become a staple for high school reading classes. In addition, the racy novels "Tropic of Cancer," by Henry Miller, and "The Carpetbaggers," by Harold Robbins, made the best sellers list.

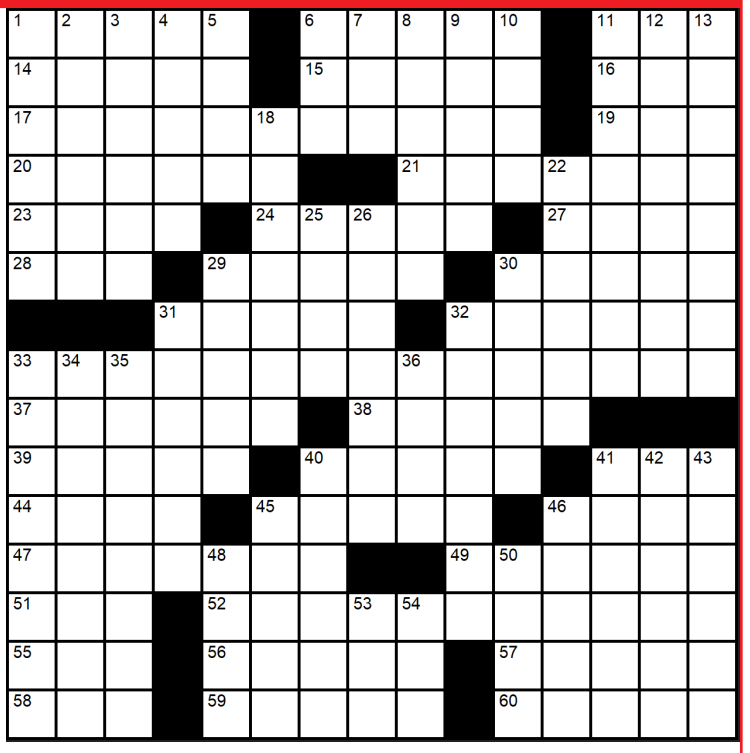
"Never having to say your sorry" became a pre-Internet meme for young lovers in 1971, after the book "Love Story" popped up on best-sellers list for Professor Eric Segal. Cue the tears.

1971 was no slacker, with best seller books like "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee," by Dee Brown, and the entrance of two lifestyle books, "The Female Eunuch," by Germain Greer, and "Future Shock," by Alvin Toffler. Another groundbreaking book was "The Day of a Jackal," a spy thriller by author Frederick Forsyth, which sparred with another spy thriller, "Message from Malaga," by Helen MacInnes, who would revolutionize the espionage novel genre.

What will you be reading this summer before it gives way to fall?

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones



"Spuh Day"--or is it schwa day?

by Matt Jones

Across

1 Raises, as children

6 "___ Paradise" ("Weird Al" Yankovic song)

11 Acad. or univ.

14 Former inmate

15 Expensive drive in Beverly Hills

16 Nail polish target

17 Billy Idol song about Italian ice cream?

19 Gp. with many specialists

20 BLT ingredient

21 Jotted down

23 Manipulates

24 Repair bill item

27 Terrier treaters

28 Part of a desk set

29 1977 American League MVP Rod

30 Personnel group

31 Bits

32 Succeeded at an escape room

33 Commercial photo source that's only for pasta pics?

37 "Catch-22" author

38 Core

39 Acrylic fiber brand

40 Turn to God?

41 Psychological org.

44 Gas station still available in Canada

45 "___ do everything myself?"

46 "Back in the ___" (Beatles song)

47 You can't make a silk purse out of it, it's said

49 Anti-allergy brand

51 Hex- ender

52 Boxing match with a Dutch philosopher and ethicist?

55 California NBA team, on a scoreboard

56 Lacking fruit on the bottom, e.g.

57 Italy's largest lake

58 Capital of Liberia?

59 Gossipmonger

60 Actor Williams of "Happy Days"

Down

1 Get plenty of sleep

2 Reveal, as a secret

3 Insight

4 Some 20-Acrosses

5 Obnoxious brat

6 Jackie's husband #2

7 Mid-May honoree

8 Comment from someone who changed their mind after an epiphany

9 Title with a tilde

10 "Joy to the World" songwriter Axton

11 Alaskan Malamute or Boston Terrier, e.g.

12 What dreams may do

13 Call center equipment

18 On or earlier (than)

22 James Cameron movie that outgrossed "Titanic"

25 "I smell ___!"

26 Closer-than-close friends

29 "Famous Blue Raincoat" singer Leonard

30 Former FBI director James

31 Arctic homes

32 Cocktail with lemon juice and soda

33 Vans may get a deep discount here

34 Kind of pronoun

35 First part of a Shakespeare title

36 Quick doc. signature

40 Fruit banned on Singapore subways

41 Fur-fortune family

42 Fake prefix?

43 Certain inverse trig function

45 Canada's official tree

46 Rural opposite

48 Notice from afar

50 Baba ___ (witch of folklore)

53 Annual coll. basketball contest

54 Words before whim or dime

Answers on page 24

SUDOKU

Beginning

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

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 24

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsny

August 25 - 31, 2021

ARIES (March 21–April 19): Aries mythologist Joseph Campbell advised us to love our fate. He said we should tell ourselves, "Whatever my fate is, this is what I need." Even if an event seems inconvenient or disruptive, we treat it as an opportunity, as an interesting challenge. "If you bring love to that moment, not discouragement," Campbell said, "you will find the strength." Campbell concludes that any detour or disarray you can learn from "is an improvement in your character, your stature, and your life. What a privilege!" Few signs of the zodiac are inclined to enthusiastically adopt such an approach, but you Aries folks are most likely to do so. Now is an especially favorable time to use it.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): The brilliant Taurus dancer and choreographer Martha Graham spoke of "a vitality, a life force, a quickening that is translated through you into action," adding that "there is only one of you in all time." She added, "It is not your business to determine how good it is, nor how it compares with other expressions. It is your business to keep it yours clearly and directly, to keep the channel open." But even if you do this very well, Graham said, you will nevertheless always feel "a divine dissatisfaction, a blessed unrest" that will fuel you. This is the perfect message for you Tauruses to embrace in the coming weeks.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): There's growing scientific evidence that we make ourselves stupid by complaining too much—or even by listening to other people complain a lot. Excessive negative thoughts drain energy from our hippocampus, a part of our brain that's essential to problem-solving. This doesn't mean, of course, that we should avoid dealing with difficult issues. But it does suggest we should be discerning about how many disturbing and depressing ideas we entertain. According to my reading of the omens, all this will be especially useful advice for you in the coming weeks.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): Your brain contains one hundred billion nerve cells. Each cell has the potential to be linked with tens of thousands of others. And they are always busy. Typically, your grey matter makes a million new connections every second. But I suspect your number of connections will increase even beyond that in the coming weeks. Your most complex organ will be working with greater intensity than usual. Will that be a bad thing or a good thing? It depends on whether you formulate an intention to channel your intelligence into wise analysis about important matters—and not waste it in careless fussing about trivial details.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): "You should have a sticky soul," counsels author Elizabeth Berg. "The act of continually taking things in should be as much a part of you as your hair color." I especially endorse that attitude for you during the next four weeks, Leo. Your task is to make yourself extra magnetic for all the perceptions, experiences, ideas, connections, and resources you need most. By September 23, I suspect you will have gained an infusion of extra ballast and gravitas.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): "I sing like the nightingale whose melody is crowded in the too narrow passage of her throat," wrote author Virginia Woolf. That was an insulting curse for her to fling at herself. I disapprove of such behavior—especially for you in the coming weeks. If you hope to be in alignment with cosmic rhythms, don't you dare say nasty things about yourself, even in the privacy of your own thoughts. In fact, please focus on the exact opposite: flinging praise and appreciation and compliments at yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): The blogger at www-wlw.tumblr.com says the following are the top tender actions. 1. Fastening clothes or jewelry for your companion. 2. Letting them rest their head on your shoulder. 3. Idly playing with their hands. 4. Brushing a leaf out of their hair. 5. Locking pinkies. 6. Rubbing their back when you embrace. 7. Both of you wearing an item that belongs to the other. Dear Libra, I hope you will employ these tender actions with greater frequency than usual in the coming weeks, Libra. Why? In my astrological opinion, it's a ripe time to boost your Affection Quotient with the allies you care for the most.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): Naturalist Henry David Thoreau wrote in his journal, "I feel slightly complimented when nature condescends to make use of me without my knowledge—as when I help scatter her seeds in my walk—or carry burs and cockles on my clothes from field to field. I feel as though I had done something for the commonweal." I mention this, Scorpio, because the coming weeks will be an excellent time for you to carry out good deeds and helpful transformations in nature's behalf. Your ability to collaborate benevolently with plants and animals and elemental forces will be at a peak. So will your knack for creating interesting connections between yourself and all wild things.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): You may have never heard of Sagittarian artist Baya Mahieddine (1931–1998). At age 16, she experienced a splash of acclaim with a show in Paris. Famous artists Pablo Picasso, Henry Matisse, and George Braques came. They drew inspiration from Mahieddine's innovative use of color, elements from her Algerian heritage, and her dream-like images. Picasso even invited her to work with him, exulting in the fresh perspectives she ignited. But her art never received the full credit it warranted. In accordance with astrological omens, this horoscope is a small way of providing her with the recognition and appreciation she deserves. It also authorizes you to go out and get the recognition and appreciation you deserve but have not yet fully received.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): "Who knows what is unfolding on the other side of each hour?" asked Capricorn poet Juan Ramón Jiménez (translated by Capricorn poet Robert Bly). "How many times the sunrise was there, behind a mountain. How many times the brilliant cloud piling up far off was already a golden body full of thunder!" Your assignment, Capricorn, is to imagine what is unfolding just beyond your perception and understanding. But here's the twist: You must steer your mind away from inclinations to indulge in fear. You must imagine that the events in the works are beautiful, interesting, or redemptive. If you're not willing to do that, skip the exercise altogether.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): "Better than any argument is to rise at dawn and pick dew-wet red berries in a cup," wrote author Wendell Berry. I mostly agree with that sentiment, although I will also put in a good word for certain kinds of arguments. There are moments when it's crucial for your psychological and spiritual health that you initiate a conversation about delicate issues that might lead to a dispute. However, I don't think this is one of those times, Aquarius. In my astrological opinion, picking dew-wet red berries is far more sensible than any argument. For further inspiration, read this testimony from actor Natasha Lyonne: "I definitely would rather take a nap than get angry."

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): For painter Vincent van Gogh, love wasn't primarily a sentimental feeling. Nor was it an unfocused generalized wish for health and happiness in those he cared for. Rather, he wrote, "You must love with a high, serious, intimate sympathy, with a will, with intelligence." His love was alert, acute, active, and energized. It was animated with a determination to be resourceful and ingenious in nurturing the beloved. For van Gogh, love was always in action, forever moving toward ever-fresh engagement. In service to intimacy, he said, "you must always seek to know more thoroughly, better, and more." I hope you'll make these meditations a top priority during the next seven weeks.

TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

20 YEARS LATER: A LOOK BACK AT 'ULTRAGLIDE IN BLACK,' BY THE DIRTBOMBS

The Dirtbombs' "Ultraglide in Black" LP was released just over 20 years ago.

Tom Potter and Mick Collins performing at Maxwell's in New Jersey. (courtesy photo)

Jim Diamond, a former Dirtbomb, continues to produce bands. (courtesy photo)

Two Lansing area musicians played on classic underground LP

The Dirtbombs will forever be tied to its deep Motor City roots, but going back to the brilliant garage band's early days reveals a couple Lansing connections. On bass was Jim Diamond, on guitar was Tom Potter — both musicians of who cut their teeth playing in Mid-Michigan bands throughout the '80s and '90s.

Having two capital city guys in the Dirtbombs' tour van was not surprising, since the group's lineup is always obnoxiously lengthy and loud thanks to its unusual presence of two drummers and two seasoned bassists. While "garage rock" is often rooted in primal minimalism, band leader Mick Collins (guitar/vocals) pushed the genre to its limit, and the results left the band peerless. Perhaps it was a reaction to his previous outfit, The Gories, a crude trio. Collins wanted something new and unconventional to devote his time to. Fitting into the Dirtbombs mix perfectly was Diamond and Potter, two musicians not afraid to get loud and experimental.

In May 2001, that sonic magic was properly documented with the release of the The Dirtbombs' "Ultraglide in Black" LP, released via In The Red Records. A follow up to 1998's "Horndog Fest," the album was recorded in August of 2000 at the now-demolished Ghetto Recorders in Detroit, Diamond's own analog studio.

In a 2007 interview, before it was torn down, Diamond described his Ghetto Recorders studio space to me. It's not shocking at all that "Ultraglide" was made in such a Detroit-style facility.

"It's like a big practice space on the second floor of this building downtown and there are amps and organs and guitars all over the place," Diamond explained. "I think most recording studios are like the doctor's office, very sterile. I like people to feel comfortable and have a good time. This studio used to be a chicken processing factory way back in the 1920s and '30s. The control room, where all the equipment is, used to be the freezer where they stored the chickens!"

In a nutshell, "Ultraglide" consists of all '60s and '70s soul covers — songs the band members love and were able to put their own stamp on. Some obscure tunes are there, some well-known cuts, too — but they all blend into a seamless album that tips its hat to soul legends, while not losing The Dirtbombs' gritty edge.

Track one, "Chains of Love," is the stand-out scorcher of the bunch. When it was originally recorded by JJ Barnes in 1967 for the Groovesville label, it was a straightforward, yet raw, soul single. Compared to other Northern Soul 45s of the time, it's a raw chunk of R&B. But in 2001, The Dirtbombs pushed the song even more. At the drop of the needle, Collins' distorted intro guitar riff kicks in like a buzzsaw and you know this isn't going to be a typical covers album. It's tastefully amped up in all the right ways, without losing the true soul of the song — and that chemistry keeps going throughout all 13 tracks on the record. On the list: Smokey Robinson & the Miracles, Sly & the Family Stone, Curtis Mayfield, Marvin Gaye and Stevie Wonder. Ever wondered what they'd sound like backed up by a roomful of talented garage-punks? Pick up "Ultraglide in Black."

The release of the album coincided with another Detroit garage rock happening: the rise of The White Stripes. That wave of press on the close-knit scene pushed The Dirtbombs up as well, and soon the group, including Potter and Diamond, were touring the world. In the years after the two Lansing cats left the band, they both kept busy. Diamond still engineers and produces bands from across the world. Potter has played in a few other bands, like The Detroit City Council, and Choke Chains. He even fronted The Seger Liberation Army, a group dedicated to raising awareness to Bob Seger's early (oft overlooked) catalog.

In a 2006 interview I did with Potter, he said that influx of band activity is what ultimately ended his notorious Lansing-born duo, Bantam Rooster.

"Actually, I never really ended Bantam, I suppose," Potter said. "I just hit a point around that time where I was busy with the Detroit City Council and The Dirtbombs and couldn't give 100 percent to Bantam ... and Bantam Rooster kind of requires 100 percent."

That said, to hear some stone-cold Lansing punk rock, be sure to check out Bantam Rooster's entire catalog of LPs and singles. It's unreal rock 'n roll havoc.

In the meantime, you can also easily stream The Dirtbombs catalog, just go here: thedirtbombs.bandcamp.com.

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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

Eastside Summer Fest

Friday, Aug. 27, 4 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 28, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Michigan Avenue, from Marshall Street to Foster Avenue
Search "Eastside Summer Fest" on Facebook for more info

The Eastside Summer Fest is a celebration of local artists and the Lansing community. The festival will transform the eastside Lansing neighborhood into a pop-up bazaar of vendors dealing all sorts of arts and crafts. You could find a neat treat for yourself as a reward for getting through the work week.

The pop-up marketplace features more than 90 vendor booths and will stretch from Marshall Street to Foster Avenue. There will be a lineup of live entertainment going down in the lot on the corner of Fairview Avenue and Michigan Avenue. Those who head out to the festival on Saturday will be able to enjoy a classic car show that will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If that wasn't enough, there is also a schedule of family-friendly activities that children of all ages can participate in.

Wednesday, August 25

Allen Farmers Market - Allen Farmers Market from 2:30-7:00 at 2100 E Michigan Avenue. 2:30-7 p.m. 517-999-3911.

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

ArtPath 2021 - through Aug. 31. 20 works by Michigan artists on the Lansing River Trail. Lansing Art Gallery, 119 N Washington Sq., Lansing. lansingartgallery.org.

Dog Days of Summer - 4:05 p.m. Cooley Law School Stadium, 505 E Michigan Ave, Lansing. 517-483-7400.

GLADL's LEGO Building Challenge Returns! - Submit entries until August 29. Create something original for a chance to win! 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson. gladl.org

LAFCU Listen & Learn Count on Slime - Free virtual event for children 12 & up. 7 p.m. LAFCU, 106 N. Marketplace Blvd., Lansing. LAFCU.com.

Live Music with Mike Eyia - 5pm-10pm 6-9 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Moonlight Film Festival - Outdoor film series. 9 p.m. Valley Court Park, 280 Valley Court, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

St Johns Concert in the Park Series - The Amazing Dave Bennett and his quartet. 7-9 p.m. William E Tennant Performance Shell, 801 W Park St, St.Johns. clintoncountyarts.org.

Wednesday Night Music at Meridian Marketplace - 6 p.m. 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos.

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

Thursday, August 26

ArtPath Artist Talk with Nancy DeJoy - Opportunity to engage with artists along the River Trail in Lansing. 6-7 p.m.

Battle of the Bands - 7-8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

Cristo Rey Church - Food Booth Fundraiser – 3-7 p.m. South Lansing Farmers Market, 800 W. Barnes St., Lansing.

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

Grand Ledge Music in the Park - 7-9 p.m. Jaycee Park, 525 E. River St., Grand Ledge. grandledgechamber.com

Live Music with Charlie Richardson - 6-9 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

REACH Virtual Meet-up: Arts Incubator for Young People - Sara Gothard. 4-5 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

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

South Lansing Farmers Market - 3-7 p.m. SLCDA, 800 W. Barnes Ave, Lansing. 517-374-5700.

Weekly Hiring Event - Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties (CMHA-CEI) 12-4 p.m. CMH-CEI, 812 E Jolly Rd., Lansing. ceicmh.org.

Zoo Nights – #4 - For our 21+ guests: Join us after-hours for a night of Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing. 517-483-4222. potterparkzoo.org.

Friday, August 27

2021 Movies in the Park - Shows will begin at dark. 315 W Knight St, Eaton Rapids.

ArtPath Art Adventure - Join us for a morning of family-friendly fun along the ArtPath! 10-11 a.m. Under the Kalamazoo Bridge, Lansing.

Eastside Summer Festival - 4-11 p.m. Michigan Avenue from Marshall St. to Foster St., 2000 Michigan Ave., Lansing.

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

Friday Night Concerts at Lake Lansing Park –7 p.m. Lake Lansing Park South Band Shell concert stage, 1621 Pike St, Haslett.

See Events, Page 24

Events

from page 23

Lansing Flo-Fest (Hip Hop Festival) - Features local and nationally known Christian rap artists. 6-9 p.m. Rotary Park, 325 City Market Dr., Lansing. mediamessengers.org.

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

Orquesta RITMO - Michael Eyia. 7-11 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

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

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

St Johns Brown Bag Concert Series - Featuring Kitty Donoho. 12-1 p.m. St Johns Rotary Park Pavilion, 107 E. Railroad St., St. Johns. 989-224-2429. clintoncountyarts.org.

St. Michael FunFest - 5-10 p.m. St. Michael Parish/School Grounds, 345 Edwards St., Grand Ledge.

Summer Concert Series - 7 p.m. Ann Street Plaza, corner of Albert & M.A.C., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Summer Take-Home Crafts @ GLADL - First come, first serve at check out. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. gladl.org

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

Saturday, August 28

Annual Ice Cream Social - 3-6 p.m. Redeemer Church, 2727 W. Holmes Rd., Lansing. redeemerlansing.com.

Family Deal Drives for Impression 5 - 8 a.m. LaFontaine Buick GMC of Lansing, 3625 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing.

Lansing Bless Fest (Variety Concert Festival) - Live music, free food, fun and freebies! 1-9 p.m. Adado Riverfront Park, 300 N Grand Ave, Lansing.

mediamessengers.org.

Lansing Public Media Center Production 101 - 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Lansing Public Media Center, 2500 S. Washington, Lansing. facebook.com/lanmediacenter/

Sundried Music Festival Vendor Row -11 a.m. Ingham Co. Courthouse Square, 315 S Jefferson St. business.masonchamber.org.

Sunday, August 29

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

East Lansing Roller Derby Basic Skills Bootcamp - 6-8 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing.

The Extra Inning at Capital City Market - 1 p.m. Capital City Market, 600 E. Michigan Ave., Suite 100, Lansing.

Love Your Hometown Grocery Giveaway - Journey Life Church is doing a large-scale grocery and personal need items giveaway! 1-2:30 p.m. Midway Early Learning Center - Playground, 4552 Spahr Ave., Holt. journeylifechurch.com.

Rock the Arts at the Hub - Pure Performance Arts Hub is a South Lansing business that is made by creatives for creatives. 3-6 p.m. Pure Performance Arts Hub, 2706 W. Jolly Rd., Lansing.

Monday, August 30

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

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

Tuesday, August 31

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

The Happening – Hosted by Craig Hendershott - 7-9 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St. Old Town, Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION
From Pg. 21

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION
From Pg. 21

R	E	A	R	S	■	A	M	I	S	H	■	S	C	H
E	X	C	O	N	■	R	O	D	E	O	■	T	O	E
S	P	U	M	O	N	I	M	O	N	Y	■	A	M	A
T	O	M	A	T	O	■	■	N	O	T	A	T	E	D
U	S	E	S	■	L	A	B	O	R	■	V	E	T	S
P	E	N	■	C	A	R	E	W	■	C	A	D	R	E
■	■	■	I	O	T	A	S	■	G	O	T	O	U	T
S	P	A	G	H	E	T	T	I	I	M	A	G	E	S
H	E	L	L	E	R	■	I	N	N	E	R	■	■	■
O	R	L	O	N	■	D	E	I	F	Y	■	A	P	A
E	S	S	O	■	M	U	S	T	I	■	U	S	S	R
S	O	W	S	E	A	R	■	■	Z	Y	R	T	E	C
A	N	E	■	S	P	I	N	O	Z	A	B	O	U	T
L	A	L	■	P	L	A	I	N	■	G	A	R	D	A
E	L	L	■	Y	E	N	T	A	■	A	N	S	O	N

FOOD & DRINK DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Creamy salad dressing

By ARI LeVAUX

"Creamy," said my friend Luci Brieger, when I asked how her summer was going. Creamy has many meanings at her farm, Lifeline Produce in Montana's Bitterroot Valley, all of them good, all of them rooted in Brieger's creamy salad dressing, also known as "Creamy," which tastes like what might happen if Caesar dressing had a love child with a bottle of ranch.

For decades, Brieger's kitchen has provided the perfect environment for Creamy to evolve and flourish, thanks to the parade of delicious vegetables to put Creamy on, like romaine, cabbage, cauliflower, peas, love, happiness. They all wear Creamy like a tailored suit. But romaine is special. "I only have eyes for romaine," she says. "I'm a uni-lettuce type of gal."

Creamy vinaigrette salad dressing long predates Brieger or her farm. While some recipes for vinaigrette call for sour cream or yogurt, Brieger's Creamy does not contain actual cream, which would curdle on contact with the lemon juice. While Creamy is dairy-free, Brieger regularly customizes it with dairy, including yogurt, buttermilk and grated cheese, depending on what else gets added to the romaine.

Mayonnaise is not just the main ingredient in Creamy, but also its patron saint. "It's the mortar of life," her husband, Steve Elliot, once told me, with a gentle, paternal tone. Through the artifice of emulsion, mayonnaise achieves its smooth, creamy flavor despite not containing any actual dairy materials. That creamy magic is passed along to the Creamy (or anything else) to which it is added. That magic, in turn, is passed along to whatever is touched by Creamy.

To say something is creamy is to say, in so many words, that it's summertime, and the living is easy. The leaves are fresh, the Creamy is creamy, and things are as they should be. The centrality of creamy to quality of farm life makes it more than an adjective named after a salad dressing, but a way to eat vegetables, and a way of life.

That's why Elliott laughed deeply, straight from the bottom of his belly to my phone, when I called to ask Brieger how to make Creamy.

"She doesn't even know how to make it," Elliott said, when he'd partially recovered. "She has that innate sense, and I'm not sure how to teach that. She just acts, stream of consciousness, like the Jack Kerouac of Creamy."

Brieger is wiry, with a dark ponytail, wide peripheral vision and a persona that lacks nonsense. She contends daily with a parade of kids, farm help, visitors and other "random people" who, if the coast is clear, will dart across the kitchen, open the fridge and scan for Creamy; once located, they will search for substrate.

"When they see leftover Creamy in the fridge, they put it on bread or other stuff," Brieger says. "Or they dip stuff in it. I frown on that."

For all its absolute perfection, Creamy is a fluid, shape-shifting sauce, as much a process and sensibility as a formula. Like a jazz musician adjusting his groove to the other players, virtuoso salad dressing makers like Brieger will adjust their art to fit the context.

The recipe below is for the core essence of Creamy. After the recipe I list some of Brieger's favorite adjustments. But ultimately, it's up to you to learn the ways of Creamy, by feeling the flavor, and intuiting where it needs to be.

"Don't get bogged down in the details," Elliot offers. "And pay attention."

Ari LeVaux

A basic romaine salad, dressed with creamy dressing.

Creamy Salad

The basic creamy is meant to dress what passes for the House Salad at Lifeline Produce. Made of romaine, cucumber, sweet onions and fresh dill.
4 servings
Creamy Dressing
2-4 cloves fresh garlic (about 15 grams if we're being exact. Or to taste.)
1 teaspoon salt
½ cup lemon or lime juice or white balsamic
2 teaspoon grated lemon zest
1 squeezed section of lemon, peel, pulp and all
1 teaspoon dry mustard powder
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
½ cup mayo (or Vegenaise, which Brieger and I both prefer)
About the same amount of olive oil

Combine ingredients in a blender, food processor or in a bowl under a submersion blender. Whizz the dressing until, as Brieger puts it, "the texture pleases me." In plain speak, that would be an emulsion, smooth, thick and, well, creamy.

Basic Romaine Salad

1 large or 2 small heads romaine, chopped crosswise into inch-wide ribbons
½ sweet onion, thinly sliced
1 cucumber, thinly sliced
½ cup fresh dill or cilantro, chopped

Variations on Creamy

After years of working with Creamy, Brieger has come up with ways to customize it. Whatever version she makes, the one constant across all of her summer salads is romaine.

When Brieger makes a midsummer basil Creamy, she skips the Worcestershire sauce and mustard, so the flavor doesn't get too busy. She adds just a handful of basil leaves; you don't want it to taste like pesto. Rather, you want an aromatic, slightly greenish Creamy.

For Caesarean Creamy, Brieger adds anchovy paste, parmesan cheese, capers and fresh ground black pepper to the dressing, and croutons to the salad. This time of year, a piece of fresh salmon goes well atop a Creamy Caesar, or any creamy salad.

When Brieger makes her fabled Pea & Mutton Salad, she replaces half the mayo with whole milk yogurt, adds mint, a little curry powder and grated cheddar to the dressing. To the salad, she adds shelled peas and the remains of a tough piece of meat that has been browned to deliciousness and braised into submission.

Flash in the Pan is food writer Ari LeVaux's weekly recipe column. It runs in about 100 newspapers nationwide, nourishing food sections large and small with complete protein for the belly brain.

Dill pickle pizza

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Pizza is a perfect template for what some might call bold and adventurous culinary experiments, and what others might refer to as cheap gimmicks. The basic building blocks of bread, cheese and sauce give way to potential ingredient combinations that are far too numerous to even attempt to list. You can technically do just about anything with pizza, and restaurants are finally taking advantage of that.

Sleepwalker Spirits
Wednesday-Friday,
4:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, 3 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Sunday, 3 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
1101 S. Washington Ave.
Lansing
(517) 918-4046
drinksleepwalker.com


Skyler Ashley/City Pulse
Dill pickle pizza from Sleepwalker Spirits.

THE DISH

This time around, the unorthodox pie we are dealing with comes from Sleepwalker Spirits in REO Town. Enter the dill pickle pizza, an oddity that was subject of a heated debate on social media. For many, the inclusion of pineapple is too offensive for a pizza. Imagine what they would think about this?

Pickle slices are, of course, the star attraction, as is a white dill-based sauce in place of the typical marinara. Each individual pickle is placed along the pizza evenly like they were little slices of pepperoni. Before biting in, I marveled at how ridiculous this concoction seemed to be. But I was pleasantly surprised. The dill pickle pizza is just as every bit delicious as it is goofy. Think fried pickle spears — this pizza has that same vibe. It's great pub food. The hot cheese blends with the pickle slices, and that tangy white sauce goes perfectly with the crispy pizza dough.

If you are feeling brave, or just looking for something totally off the wall, I recommend the dill pickle pizza. Even if you don't like it, at the very least it will make for a great story or conversation piece with your friends.

THE PULSIFIEDS
BACKPAGE CLASSIFIEDS

CityPULSE seeks Arts & Entertainment Editor

Lansing's weekly alternative newspaper is looking for a new arts & entertainment editor.

Can you:
- **—Write well?**
- **—Write accurately?**
- **—Write in depth?**
- **—Uncover what's new in town?**
- **—Assign stories to contributors?**
- **—Edit their stories?**
- **—Meet deadlines?**

Let's talk. A journalism background is preferred, but we can train the right person. This is an equal opportunity job search.

Email a cover letter, resume and writing samples (no more than 5) to publisher@lansingcitypulse.com by Thursday, Sept. 5. Email any questions there as well.

Dandelion Landscaping. Expert gardner/landscaper specializing in native plants and pollinator gardens. Any size project. Free estimate. emmalzbaker@tutanota.com

Delivery Driver

City Pulse has an opening available for a newspaper delivery driver for Wednesday mornings. Haslett/Okemos area, approx. 3 hours. Pay is per stop and mileage. Must have reliable vehicle, current driver's license, good driving record and proof of insurance. To apply or get more information, please call Suzi Smith at 517-999-6704 or email: suzi@lansingcitypulse.com.

CityPULSE

CLASSIFIED RATES

Rates start at $24 for 4 lines. Each additional line is $6.
EXTRAS:
Boldface Type: $7 per line
HEADLINE: $11 per line
Border: $11
LOGO: Space needed

Contract rates available, all rates net. Classified ads also appear online at no extra charge. Deadline for classifieds is 5 p.m. Monday for the upcoming Wednesday's issue. You can also submit your classified ad to Suzi Smith at 517-999-6704 or at suzi@lansingcitypulse.com.