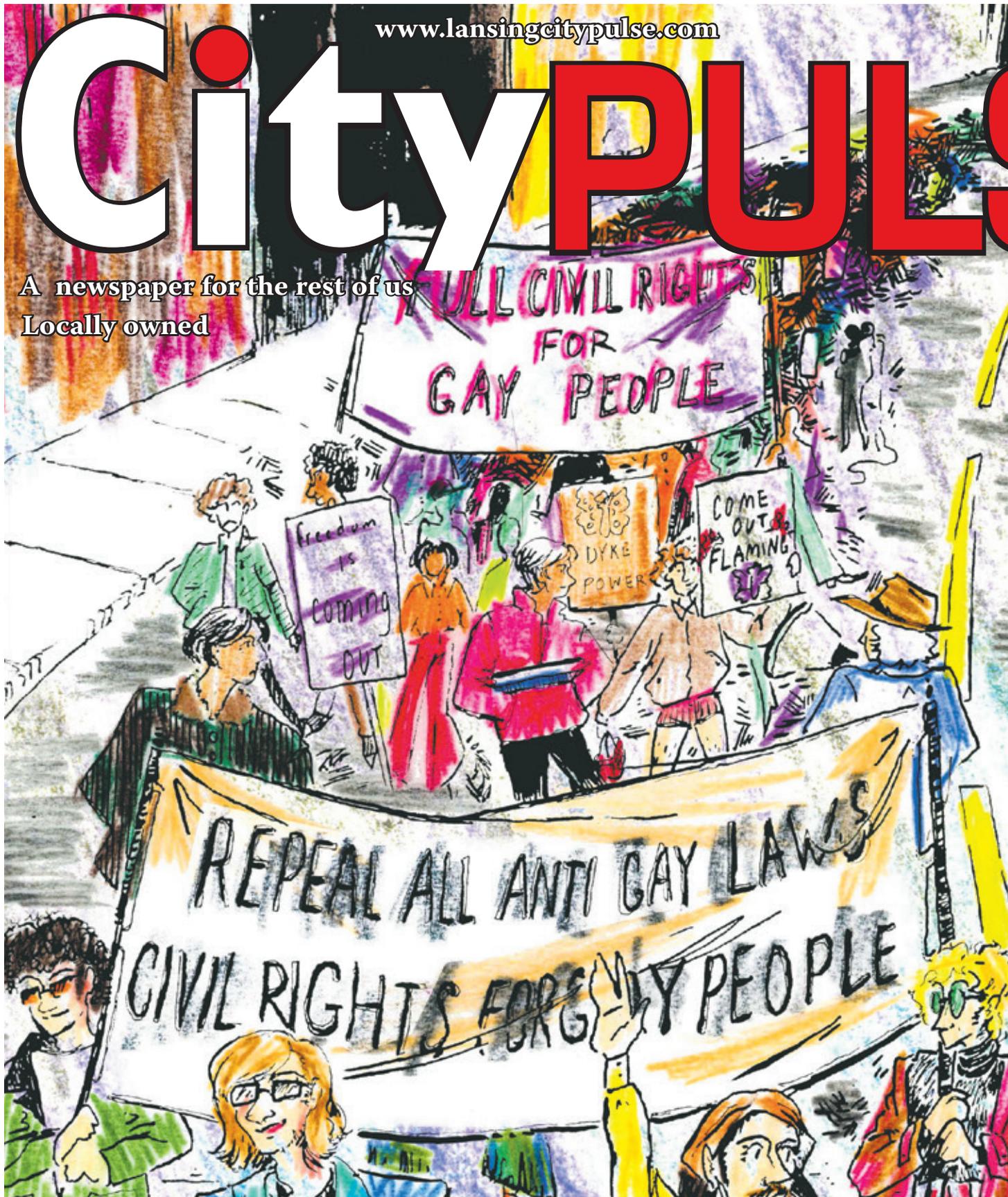


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June 8-14, 2022

# CityPULSE

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# LGBTQ PRIDE 2022

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# CityPULSE

**VOL. 21  
ISSUE 44**

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**Delivery drivers:** Dave Fisher, Melodee Mabbitt, Curt Lauck



Hive Hair Studio Offers Gender-affirming cuts

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LGBTQ Pride 2022 section

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Louise Norton Little

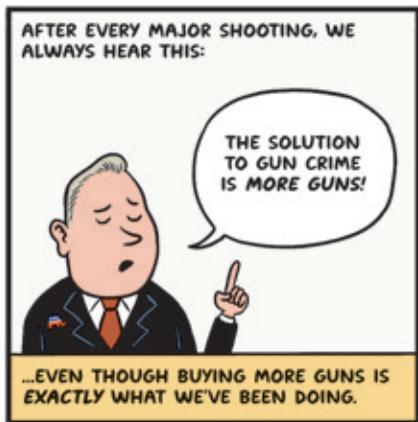
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Book explores mother of Malcom X



**COVER ART**

Illustration by Isabel Clare Paul



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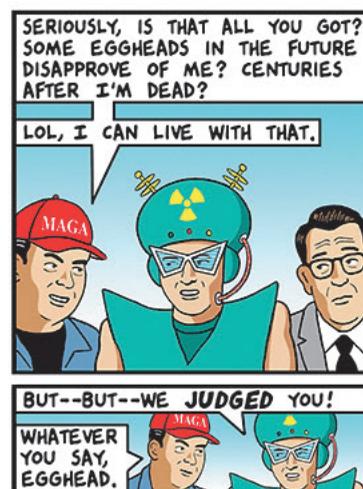
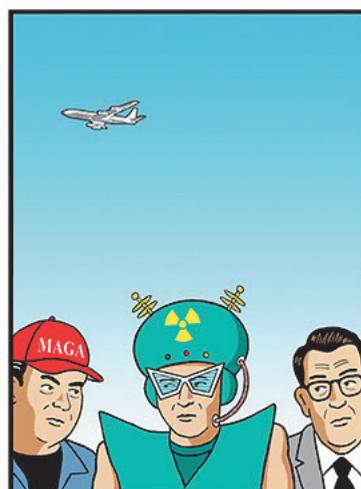
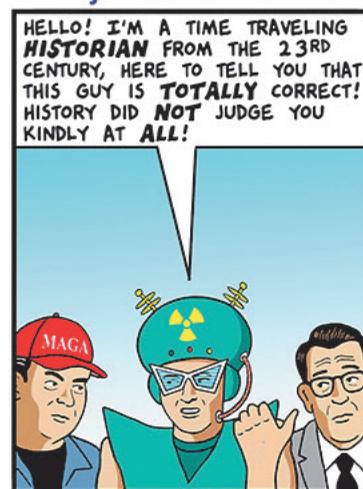
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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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## PULSE

## NEWS &amp; OPINION

# Male sex assault survivors face uphill fight for justice

## 'Red Barn' report prompts a victim to tell his story

It was just supposed to be nude pictures for a gay men's magazine, with a promised payday of a \$1,000. The 16-year-old high school student from Mason, with the liquid courage of whiskey and two Vicodin the man making the offer had provided him, hesitantly signed an agreement to allow the magazine to purchase his photos. The man promised the teen he would change his birthdate to make the nude photos appear legal.

What he didn't know is that he was the victim of a scam perpetrated by Clinton Decker, then known as Clinton Lockard — and, the young man alleges, of rape.

Decker was the victim in the Red Barn House homicide reported on extensively in the May 18 issue of City Pulse. The story reported that Decker, who was 44 when he was killed in 2018, preyed sexually on homeless men.

As a result of the story, the young man contacted City Pulse to tell the story of his experience from 21 years ago with Decker, then in his early 20s, who was convicted in the youth's case and placed on the sex offender list.

More broadly, it is also an example of an underreported problem in the United States of sexual abuse of male youths by other men.

The young man, whom City Pulse is identifying only by his first name of Ted, is now 37. He told City Pulse that he and a teenage male friend posed for Decker at his residence in Locke Township, adjacent to Williamston. (The friend declined to be interviewed, but City Pulse obtained information about his experience from a police report.) The friend broke his promise not to immediately cash the \$1,000 check. It bounced. Soon thereafter, the friend's girlfriend, who was Decker's niece, along with Decker's brother, searched Decker's room for a credit card. The duo discovered seven manilla envelopes, each carefully labeled with the name of the photography subject and with paperwork for Young Stud Magazine. Three of those envelopes included digital storage devices with

images of three different underage males: Ted, his friend and another male youth who was never identified.

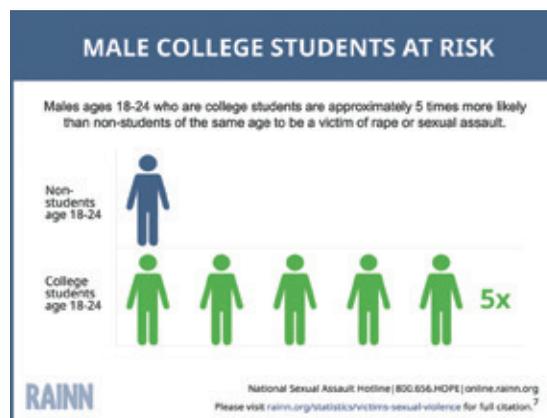
The niece took the photos of her boyfriend to him. The Ingham County Sheriff's

Department was contacted by that young man's mother and an investigation was launched. Decker was charged with two counts of violating the Child Sexually Abusive Materials Law and nonsufficient funds for a check.

When Ted received an urgent call to go to his friend's home, he was met by a detective who showed him a color photograph of himself nude and passed out, according to a 2001 police report obtained by City Pulse. The deputy asked Ted if that was him, and when the 16-year-old confirmed it was, the deputy put the photo away and left. The police report and Ted do not note whether any discussion was had about sexual touching or assault during the meetings. Ted said he was in no place emotionally to volunteer the information about the sexual assault.

"I was embarrassed," Ted said of the entire incident, particularly the sexual assault. "I just wanted it to go away."

His friend told law enforcement the same thing. The result was that Decker was let out on a plea deal. According to documents on the case obtained from the Prosecutor's Office, he agreed to plead guilty to one count of Child Sexually Abusive Material Commercial Activity, then a 20 year felony, in exchange for one count being dropped and the check case being tossed as well. He was sentenced by Circuit Judge Peter Houk to 81 days in jail — the length of time he was behind bars because he could not raise the \$35,000 bond — three years' probation, sex offender treatment and being listed on the sex offender list. He



was also prohibited from accessing computers during that period.

But now more than 20 years later, Ted said in an interview, there was much more to the story and that law en-

forcement didn't take the time to truly investigate. Had they done so, he said, they would have learned that Ted alleges Decker provided him with whiskey that he mixed a drug into. Ted said he does not recall much after drinking the laced booze, but he distinctly recalls Decker handing him a note.

"Do you want to have sex with me? Yes or No." Each answer had a box for him to mark. He lost consciousness at that time and awakened hours later on Decker's front lawn, he said. He had an urge to defecate and dropped his pants while standing on the lawn and, he said, released a mucus-like substance he believed to be semen. He'd been drugged and sexually assaulted, he said. He was so out of it, he said, he walked from Decker's Locke Township home to his girlfriend's home in Mason. He still doesn't recall how he retrieved his car.

He did not reveal the assault until years later, when Decker appeared in the news as a victim of a brutal murder in Eaton County.

Unfortunately, experts in the field of sexual assault said, Ted's experience as well as many males who are assaulted is not uncommon.

"I'd like to say it's changed in 20 years," said Carol Siemon, the Ingham County prosecutor. "But it really hasn't.

Not for female survivors and not for male survivors."

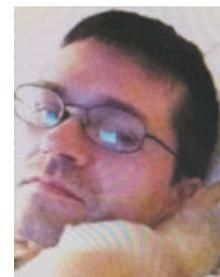
The National Sexual Violence Resource Center reports that one in five women and one in 71 men will be raped. The stats are more grim, the organization reports: "40.2% gay men, 47.4% bisexual men and 20.8% heterosexual men reported sexual violence other than rape during their lifetimes." And sexual assault is a massive financial burden on the country, the organization says. The total annual cost of sexual assault to the U.S. economy is \$127 billion.

Lauren Allswede, a local therapist with a practice centered on sexual violence survivors and trauma recovery, said men are burdened not only with the usual doubts of reporting sexual assault that women deal with: fear of not being believed and fear of shaming. Men have to also overcome gender role bias and face questioning about their sexual orientation by law enforcement, prosecutors and family support systems. They also have to overcome the perceived loss of masculinity as a result of the sexual assault. All combine to create a toxic symbiosis blocking the male survivor from reporting.

"There's a lot of work for the survivor just to come forward," she said. "Then they often face a hostile law enforcement and prosecution process. We still have not done enough to address any of that."

Both Siemon and Allswede said certification and trauma-informed training are essential to break through the barriers preventing reporting sexual assault by men and women. But neither exist at this time.

Katherine Redmond runs the national nonprofit WeLeadProject working with survivors of sexual assault and abuse, particularly with athletes. She said she has sat in trainings on sexual assault with law enforcement officials who openly joke about and demean survivors and make outlandish claims that as many as 50 percent of the sexual assault cases are "made up." Stats show that at most 9 percent of sexual assault cases are false claims.



Decker



1119 N. Seymour St., Lansing

This multilevel home broken into apartments was boarded up by city officials as unsafe in November 2015. Since that time, the property owner, East Lansing resident Brian McEwen, has not pulled permits to work on the property. It sits back off the street with an overgrown front yard filled with trees and a small sport of grass.

The property has been issued 16 citations since 2013 for weeds and grass, and five trash citations since 2013. McEwen has owned the property since 1996, according to city property records.

The roof on the building is sagging and bulging with clumps of moss growing out of the shingles. The garage in the back is held shut by a piece of lumber. The back door is boarded over. The front door, while not boarded over, has a weather-faded red tag on the storm door that is falling off. Next to the front door are three rusting mailboxes. The driveway is essentially clear but the south side of the building is filled with trees and weeds well over 3 feet high.

McEwen did not return a phone call seeking comment.

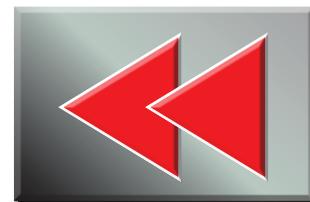
— TODD HEYWOOD

“Eyesore of the Week” is our weekly 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](mailto:eye@lansingcitypulse.com) or call in a nomination at 517-999-6715.

# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

BY TODD HEYWOOD



Gas in Greater Lansing remains at record highs, as the prices at a station on Michigan Avenue reflect — busting the 2008 record of \$4.11 per gallon. The Russian oil embargo, pandemic production slowdowns and vacation consumption are the causes. The average price could hit \$6 this summer.

suspicion and skepticism, rather than confidence.” The report also encourages appropriate training and credentials for all HR staff members, including Director Linda Sanchez-Gazella. It also found problems with aging equipment. For example, three out of eight ambulances were out of service.

### Funky orange things pop up

Reader and Lansing resident Larry Stegman sent a picture to City Pulse a week ago of an odd-shaped orange item on the River Trail near GM wondering what it was. So we sent the photo to parks Director Brett Kaschinske. “This is for surveying that is taking place in that area for a Combined Sewer Overflow project,” he responded. “The project will include a River Trail closure in the area and a closure notice will be coming out on that shortly.”



### Michigan parolee charged in Florida murder

Matthew Terry, 47, a former Ingham County man, is the Hillsborough County Jail on a murder charge in the stabbing death of a woman. In 2017, he was convicted in Ingham County of assault with intent to do great bodily harm to his girlfriend. In 2020, Prosecutor Carol Siemon requested the Parole Board give Terry two years’ parole with strict supervision. Instead, he received one year’s parole and left MDOC parole status in January.



Terry

### Over the Ledge saved by a net

Over the Ledge Theater, which learned last week its historic barn home was “not safe for human habitation,” has struck a temporary deal allowing two of the company’s shows to be staged at Riverwalk Theatre instead of in the rustic old barn in Fitzgerald Park. “Songs about Stuff,” a musical featuring local musician Wally Pleasant, will be performed July 7 through 17. The original season opener, “The Realistic Joneses,” a dark comedy, will be July 28 through 31.

### 12 hours of shootings

Lansing Police reported three unrelated shootings Thursday and Friday within 12 hours. The victims were 39, 17 and 16. No arrests have been made. The shooting of the 17-year-old is being investigated as potentially linked to another shooting in the same block of Cabot Avenue in south Lansing on May 30, Capt. Christopher Baldwin noted in a press release. The 16-year-old was shot near Westmoreland Avenue and Hyland Street on the west side. The 39-year-old was shot near Indiana Avenue and Taft Street on the north side. Last year over 100 people were shot in Lansing.

### Fire Department report finds concerns

The Lansing Fire Department is divided into two camps: those who think racial and sexual comments and jokes are job safe and those who don’t. That’s according to a report released by the Center for Safety Assessments and Inclusion. The same group completed a similar review of the Lansing Police Department. One key issue common to both departments is how the Human Resources Department is handling matters. The conclusion: not well. The report noted that current human resources practices “are engendering



Sanchez-Gazella

## Assault

from page 5

“This is going to require a full flip socially and within law enforcement and the courts,” she said.

She and Allswede were clear: Decker was a predator. His 2001 conviction and subsequent police involvement

show a pattern of exploiting young men in need of money. In 2001 it was high school students. In the mid-2000s it was homeless men he’d offer a place to stay and to work on his farm.

“He’s a predator,” Allswede said. “That

‘81 jail sentence emboldened him. He learned that even when caught, the punishments are minor and he could handle the time. That made it possible for him to exploit more people without concern.”

— TODD HEYWOOD

# Michigan marches backwards

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the first Michigan celebration of gay liberation, spawned by the Stonewall Rebellion in New York in 1969. Since that time, we have witnessed an explosion of court rulings and laws nationally to protect the LGBTQ community from employment and housing discrimination and to include its members in hate crimes laws. The biggest step forward was the U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage.

But here at home in many ways, Michigan is lagging.

It does not have a comprehensive state law protecting LGBTQ people from discrimination in housing and employment. Instead, the state relies on an interpretive statement by the Michigan Department of Civil Rights that falls in line with federal court rulings — an administrative move under threat.

Only a third of Michigan's residents live in a municipality where discrimination on the basis of LGBTQ identity is explicitly prohibited by local ordinance, according to the Movement Advancement Project, a national organization that tracks LGBTQ-specific policies and laws.

Only eight Michigan municipalities, including East Lansing, explicitly ban conversion therapy for minors. Conversion therapy is a form of counseling that has been condemned by major psychiatric and psychological associations as not only ineffective but dangerous to youth. We encourage Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel to use the powers of her consumer protection unit to crack down on conversion therapy offerings for youth.

Nationally, moreover, many gains are being challenged. An unprecedented number of laws were introduced and passed in the last year that directly endanger not only young LGBTQ people, but also foster an environment of ignorance that feeds violence against the LGBTQ community. Laws such as the Florida "Don't Say Gay" law threaten not only LGBTQ youth but the uneasy truce between public education and religious beliefs. No one is teaching kindergarten through third graders about gay sex and gender identity, despite what critics want you to believe. It's a red herring meant to shove queer folks back into invisibility. Republican candidates have made clear statements they would push similar legislation and brand anyone opposed to such a law as a "groomer" — implying they are child predators. It's a disgusting rhetorical tool that harms LGBTQ people.

The transgender community is a significant target for lawmakers in Michigan and beyond. More than 300 pieces of legislation assailing transgender youth in particular have been introduced nationwide, according to the ACLU. And that was just by April 2022.

Trans people face far more barriers to life — from access to basic identification showing a person as their true self to using the bathroom of their choice to significant violence. A jury in Virginia just let a college football player go free after he murdered a transwoman he'd been connected to by a social media app. He claimed, and the jury bought, that he was so surprised she was a "man" he had to kill her. It's called the trans panic defense, and it's not different from the gay panic defense used for decades to justify the murder of gay men for flirting.

Michigan's hate crimes law does not explicitly add time for a conviction for hate violence driven by sexual orientation or gender identity. But a Michigan Court of Appeals judge this year ruled that trans people are covered in the hate crime law under the definition of sex. Wayne County prosecutors are using this to pursue additional prison time for a suspect who attacked a brutalized transwoman.

Most of the focus as it relates to transgender people has arisen in the conflicts over minors and gender-segregated sports and locker room or bathroom access. When and how to start gender-related transition medicine is hotly contested even in the medical field. In sports, people of good will — who have fought hard for equality for women in sports — are struggling with the push to allow transwomen to compete in women's sports. We ask those with different views on both of these hot-button issues to respect one another as society sorts through the inherent complexities and tries to come to a reasonable consensus. The struggle for transgender inclusion in America is at its infancy, and we believe people of good will are seeking conversation and solutions. We applaud that, but we also caution there is a thin line between good will and demonization of entire groups of people. We also recognize this hyper-focus on gender identity and expression has created a dangerous rhetoric born of bigotry that is being exploited to scare the community. The fear, and the ignorance it feeds, leads inevitably to violence against transgender people and gender-nonconforming persons. Those of

good will must be respected, but they must also clearly condemn isolation and violence targeting transgender people.

Finally, we await with apprehension the anticipated U.S. Supreme Court ruling on *Roe v. Wade*, not only because of its immediate effect on abortion rights but what it may mean to LGBTQ civil rights, which are based in part on the same principle of privacy. Just as abortion would be left up to the states, so may marriage and other civil rights. Michiganders should keep this in mind in this major election year as they decide up and down the ballot whom to keep in office and whom to turn out. Press them on these issues at every opportunity. And turn out to vote. Your marriage and those of your siblings and friends may depend on it.



## The CP Edit

### Opinion

#### Letter: 'Ragtag' writing

I welcome the monthly feature "Behind the Curtain" to City Pulse. It is certainly going to be a feature to watch. I want to praise Todd Heywood's article on "West Side Story" coming to downtown Lansing. It was very comprehensive and well written. However, I can't help wonder why Heywood chose the word "ragtag" when talking about Starlight Dinner Theatre. It is true Starlight does not have its own theater building, but that hasn't affected the quality of their productions. I don't believe a "ragtag" theater company is likely to last 17 years consistently producing quality, award winning theater — even receiving the 2018 Robert Busby Award "for overall contribution to local theater." I trust Heywood will put more thought into his adjectives in the future.

Ruth Tepin, Lansing

#### Clarification

Our editorial on Joan Nelson last week urged the city to rename Hunter Park after her in a fitting tribute for her contributions to the east side as the founding executive director of the Allen Neighborhood Center, not the least of which was her role in bringing about vast improvements to Hunter Park. The editorial said we were "pretty sure" it was not the surname of the family that donated land for the park. Now, thanks to a reader, we have learned from a report in the Lansing State Journal in 1938 that the land is indeed named for a Hunter family. But the family, which operated a gravel pit there, did not donate the land. Rather, the city paid \$8,000 for the land — which an inflation calculator tells us would be \$164,000 and some change today for 9.25 acres. We stand by our suggestion.

# Michigan's 'damn roads' remain political landmine for governor

It was almost four years ago when Garlin Gilchrist stood on a stage built up on downtown Lansing's bombed-out Seymour Avenue and Shiawassee

Street intersection and accepted then-Democratic gubernatorial nominee Gretchen Whitmer's nod for lieutenant governor.

The symbolism of using that particular spot for the announcement was obvious. The visuals were stunning. The Capitol, where Gilchrist would presumably serve as president of the Senate, stood boldly in the background for all of the TV cameras and still photographers to see.

Juxtapose the view with the road. Shiawassee between Capitol Avenue and Pine Street is an uneven patchwork of potholes. It's jarring to travel over for motorists and bicyclists. I speak from personal experience.

Whitmer didn't need to re-utter "Fix the Damn Roads," her 2018 campaign slogan. Everyone there knew what needed to be done. Gilchrist said it anyway.

"We have so many infrastructure challenges that we need to fix, like these roads," said Gilchrist as his young daughter was seen playing in a pothole.

Age hasn't done Shiawassee any favors. The street has gotten a little worse in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Finally, this week, crews mercifully began the prep work to repave that dreadful piece of road, the main conduit for firetrucks traveling from Station 1 to the Westside Neighborhood or any point west.

It took four years since Gilchrist said the street should be fixed. I understand Shiawassee is a city street and it's a Lansing issue, but the state can earmark local road money. The point stands. Running a Michigan political campaign on our crummy roads is a short-term winner and a long-term hazard. It's one Whitmer has aggressively tried this year to address.

The task in front of her was daunting. It's still daunting. A national transportation research report found 67% of Michigan's roads are in fair or poor condition. The remaining 33% were in good condition.

The National Transportation Research Nonprofit report concluded that

unless Michigan changes the way it funds its roads, the percentage of roads in fair and poor condition will go up. It's not a close call.

If nothing changes, if we continue to have the status quo, roads will go bad faster than they can be repaired. The average Michigan household will pay \$6,273 more in traffic crashes, traffic snarls, vehicle repairs and expensive, emergency road/bridge repairs, the report reads.

Whitmer tried to push through a long-term funding fix in the form of a 45-cent a gallon gas tax, which was a political impossibility at \$3 a gallon, let alone the current \$5 a gallon. She's bonding for roads now, but that's paying for today's problems on a credit card.

Nobody knows she has a problem more than the governor. Since February, she has appeared personally at no fewer than 30 press conference across the state at various locations heralding major road improvements.

It's not sinking in. A May 11-17 poll of 600 people from EPIC-MRA found that 93% of voters have an unfavorable impression of Michigan's roads — 65% of voters said they're poor and 28% said they're fair.

You can't get 93% of people to agree on whether a banana is yellow. That's an amazing number.

Outside of bonding and pleading with legislators for more funding, there's not much she can do about it. The Legislature controls the purse strings.

Whitmer had a chance to strike a compromise with the Legislature to raise the gas tax 15 cents back in 2019. She said, no. She wanted more. She ended up with nothing. Then COVID hit, changing everybody's focus.

Now it's 2022 and the top issue after inflation and economy is ... roads, of course.

Whitmer knows this. She said last week, "No one ever said that with decades of under investment we could fix (the roads) overnight or even in one term. That's not ever a promise I made."

Republicans call it "moving the goalposts." She calls it doing the best with what she has.

They can both agree the damn roads still present a political landmine.

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



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

## Opinion

### CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, June 13, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI for the purpose of considering:

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Lansing codified ordinances by amending Chapter 1460, Section 1, and the International Property Maintenance Code, adopted by reference, to provide for issuance of trash, weed, and grass violation notices and compliance orders, and that uncorrected violations are nuisances; and to provide an appeals process, and to permit the City to abate uncorrected violations and recover costs.

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

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

**Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/MiPMC**  
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CP#22-129

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### EAST LANSING BUILDING BOARD OF APPEALS

Thursday, June 23, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.  
East Lansing City Hall, 2nd Floor  
410 Abbot Road, Conference Room A

#### PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

I. Appeal of Sam Eyde, II (Cooloff Group, LLC, owner) requesting a variation for the property at 3001 Coolidge Road from the following requirement of Chapter 32 of the Sign Code. To add a 80 sf sign on a 4 story building. Building is 72,000 sf. Tenant 12,500 sf.

**Sec. 32-105.(b)** - Signs permitted for commercial premises, office and professional premises, or located within the O.O.A. district.

(b) On all premises used or occupied for professional or business offices, there shall be permitted one directly or indirectly illuminated ground sign where there is at least 50 feet or more of frontage on a major street. The sign may not exceed five feet in height and must be set back 25 feet from the nearest existing curb or future curbline, or, in the absence of curbs, 25 feet from edge of pavement. Such signs may be multi-faced and may not exceed 20 square feet in surface display area per face. Buildings containing one or more business or professional office shall be permitted one additional sign. Such signs must be located on the first floor of the building. The sign may be five square feet per tenant; provided, however, in no circumstance shall the sign exceed one square foot per lineal foot of building on the street.

All persons interested in this appeal will be given the opportunity to be heard.

Call (517) 319-6871, the Department of Planning, Building and Community Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, for additional information.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services should write or call the Building Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823. Phone: (517) 319-6871. TDD: 1-800-649-3777.

Scott Weaver, Building Official

CP#22-130

**STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT INGHAM COUNTY. NOTICE TO CREDITORS, Decedent's Estate. Case No. 22-711-DE.** Estate of Cynthia Kay Sewell. Date of birth: 07/16/1958. **TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO CREDITORS:** The decedent, Cynthia Kay Sewell, died 05/09/2022. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Cynthia Jessup Sewell, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo, Lansing, MI 48933, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice. 05/27/2022. Cynthia Jessup Sewell, 17710 W. Pleasant Lake Rd., Manchester, MI 48158-8529. 734-417-2370

CP#22-128



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# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

By SARAH SPOHN

It's no secret that people's identities are often tied to their fashion choices, including their hairstyle. From color and texture, to length and styling, it's, hypothetically, an easily attained visible mode of self-expression. But for some, going to a salon and asking for a specific cut can create an uneasy, unsafe experience.

That's especially true for transgender and non-binary folks. Going to an archetypal salon or shop that uses masculine or feminine descriptors of haircuts or styles creates unnecessary tension and does not feel welcoming.

Hive Hair Studio hopes to remove some of that concern in the LGBTQ+ community by helping Lansing-area people match how they feel on the inside with how they look on the outside. It's about helping them see their true reflection in the mirror after they leave the salon.

With that in mind, on Sunday (June 12) from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the studio is giving away 20 gender-affirming haircuts to new clients at its Gender Free Haircut Club Day. These are available by appointment only. The event is in partnership with The Dress Code Project, a global initiative that envisions "a world where every hair salon and barbershop is a gender affirming, safer-space for LGBTQ2S+ clients."

### Gender Free Haircut Club Day

Hive Hair Studio  
Sunday, June 12  
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
1824 E. Michigan Ave.,  
Lansing  
hivehairstudio.com  
By appointment only  
Call or text (517) 338-3073

Lexan Cranfill, a stylist and co-owner of Hive Hair Studio, said that international mission aligns seamlessly with their locally owned studio's inclusive ethos.

At its genesis in December 2020, amid the pandemic, Hive Hair Studio launched in response to the pandemic. The owners wanted to provide a COVID-safe atmosphere. But that mission of inclusiveness rapidly expanded.

"That kind of branched into wanting to create a safer space for everybody, no matter what their lifestyle is or how they identify," Cranfill said. "It really became clear to us that we needed to branch out more to the LGBTQ community and really make this a safe space for them because there's a lack of that in this area with hair salons and within our industry."

Cranfill said the uneasiness felt by the LGBTQ community at salons can vary, including being refused service. She attributes this to the aging idea that only



Courtesy

Hive Hair Studio co-owners (from left) Jamie Ferris, Katie Pickett and Lexan Cranfill.

## HIVE HAIR STUDIO OFFERS GENDER-AFFIRMING CUTS

men go to barber shops and only women go to salons. Even in booking services, there's a big difference between haircut styles, based on genders and even a difference in pricing. Hive Hair's price points are: short, medium and long — not male and female.

"There's definitely some stigma where clients might want a haircut that isn't traditional and stylists will tell them no," she said, adding that a stylist "won't do a certain thing for them because it's not traditional, or they'll talk them out of it because it's 'not a good idea.'"

"Our belief really is more of helping people realize their own visions they have of themselves, and feeling comfortable enough to ask us what they want," she added. "We will do what they want, regardless of their gender or anything like that."

Historically, there's a stark contrast

between the types of guests at hair salons versus barber shops, but Hive Hair Studio is one of many in the cosmetology industry that's bucking this outmoded model.

"It's just been in the history of our career, in this business, that you book a women's haircut or a men's haircut," Cranfill said. "There's been a big movement in our industry, within the last two years, especially in bigger cities, to take gender out of the occasion. Charge based on our time and really make people feel more comfortable."

"We would hope our industry can catch up, become a little more progressive, open-minded and realize that true equality is the way of the future," she added.

Hive Hair Studio is also owned by stylists Jamie Ferris and Katie Pickett.

"We have a salon, but we are all three our own independent businesses within

these walls," Cranfill said. "The Hive is a cohesive brand and we stand for something, but we all have our own individual businesses and personalities within this. I think that's why our clients really enjoy it, because we are three really different people, but we stand behind one mission."

As for the upcoming free haircut event, Cranfill said their team hopes to attract people who have been too apprehensive to ask for what they actually want.

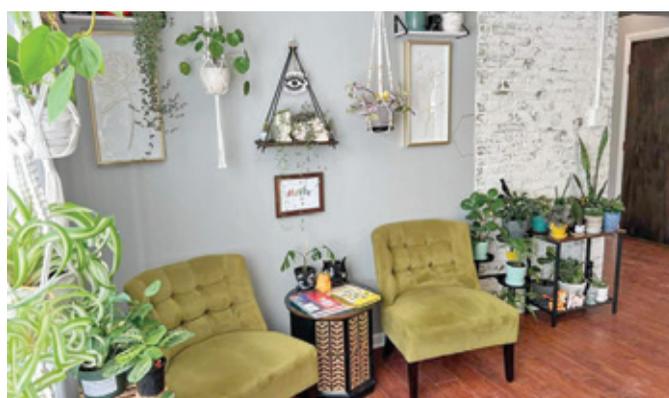
"There's going to be three stylists and one barber," Cranfill says. "People who have been too afraid or felt too uncomfortable to go into a salon and ask for what they want, this is their time when they can come to a judgment-free zone and get a haircut they need to be able to feel like their true selves."

"We are not making any profit, this is just us purely wanting to truly help some people," Cranfill added. "Aside from the Dress Code Project, we also registered with an organization called Strands for Trans. Basically, that's just a map resource where trans people can find a list of salons or studios in their area that are friendly allies."

Since being connected to The Dress Code Project, Cranfill said she's had a few clients book services after customers found the studio on the website. "I had the pleasure of giving someone their very first haircut who's in transition right now," she said. "The amount of gratitude they have and how life-changing it's been for them — it's really magical to be a part of that for somebody."

Ferris said while she is thrilled her studio is active in this growing crusade, she hopes all local salons can come together and further grow the mission.

"There are other salons in this town that do offer gender-neutral pricing and services," Ferris said. "The one thing I would love to see is all of us getting the movement going and being able to get the word out to our community that we are here and we are here for you to have a gender-neutral, safe space between all of us."



Courtesy

Hive Hair Studio, 1824 E. Michigan Ave., is a four-chair salon with the goal of making everyone feel comfortable and safe.

# Lansing-centric shop opening in Old Town

## Metro Melik 517 is hyper local

BY SARAH SPOHN

“Metro” Melik Brown is no stranger to Lansing. He’s worn many hats in many different avenues.

From photography and video work to founding Lansing Made and the annual 517 Day celebration, he’s kept busy.

But no matter the moniker or medium, he’s remained an unabashed cheerleader for the Lansing region, and his latest retail venture, Metro Melik 517,

Brown said the mission is to encourage his fellow locals to take pride in metro Lansing, to “wear it, show it, rep it, love it,” he said. “This area has a lot of cool stuff, and I think it needs to be celebrated more.”

The shop will stock locally sourced t-shirts, hoodies, upcycled leather jackets, hand-made blankets, pins, dog bandanas, tote bags, stickers, mugs, steins, pint glasses, 517 Coffee and music from area artists. It will also offer up items from Michiganology, the Michigan History Center’s gift shop.

The space formerly housed Curvaceous Lingerie, before it moved to the former Bradly’s Home and Garden farther west on Cesar Chavez Avenue. in Old Town. After meeting a few shop owners years ago, including Lauren Palmer, Curvaceous’ owner, and



### Metro Melik 517: Grand Opening

Saturday (June 11)  
Noon-4 p.m.  
513 E.César E. Chávez Avenue,  
Lansing, MI, 48906  
(517) 285-4224  
metromelik517.com

Summer Schriener, owner of Grace Boutique and Bad Annie’s, Brown said it’s a dream come true to have a brick-and-mortar shop in Old Town.

It’s an area he’s long been fond of. By a chance, decades ago, he was introduced to Ena Busby, daughter of the late Robert Busby, often referred to as the “Mayor of Old Town.”

“Busby was a retired GM worker and saw the potential of a blighted building. He purchased it and made it an art and performance space,” Brown said of the old Creole Gallery, which is now The Creole Burger Bar & Southern Kitchen. “It began the resurgence” of Old Town.

Years ago, having a space in Old Town was a pipedream for Brown, but today, he said it’s a reality he’s extremely grateful for.

“To be here all these years forward, it’s just very much a combination of blood, sweat and tears that I appreciate and most definitely pay homage to,” Brown said. “It’s very surreal.”

The wide-ranging, home-grown store will also sell chocolate from Oh Mi Organics in St. Johns and art from various local artists, including Sarah Hillman’s



Courtesy photo

“Metro” Melik Brown, the founder of Lansing Made, is a fixture in Lansing. His latest venture, Metro Melik 517, is a retail store.

continues that noble undertaking.

Located next to Grace Boutique in Old Town, the store’s grand opening is scheduled for Saturday (June 11) from noon to 4 p.m.



Courtesy photo

Metro Melik 517 encourage residents to have pride in the Greater Lansing area.

skyline designs and Daniel J. Hogan’s Art Path piece. Brown’s partner, Jessi Yeargin, also has plans to create mock rooms in the front of the store.

“It would be like if you walked into somebody’s living room or their patio,” Brown explained. “She’s going to be doing a collection of found items. You can purchase it as a whole set, or individual pieces.”

“I hope when people enter the space it feels like home,” Brown added. “I want it to be a comfortable space.”

# ‘Fun Home’ hits close to home

BY MARY CUSACK

Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.’s production “Fun Home” is not always fun, but it is an important story and one that will hit home with a diverse audience.

Review

As director Mary Job points out in her notes, “Many of us, whatever our background and natures, have complicated relationships with our parents: we not infrequently revere and resist them.”

The musical tells the story of Alison, a girl whose father is a high school teacher, part-time funeral home owner and closeted gay man in the 1970s and ‘80s. Alison realizes in college that she is gay and comes out to her parents, an event that may or may not have triggered her father to commit suicide. As a middle-aged Alison writes about her experience, she relives the past to try to resolve the mixed feelings she has about her parents and her upbringing.

Based on cartoonist Alison Bechdel’s autobiographical graphic novel of the same name, the play, which was adapted for the stage by Lansing native Joan Kron and Jeanine Tesori, won the Tony for Best Musical in 2015. In 2020, Jake Gyllenhaal bought the movie rights and plans to play Bruce Bechdel himself. With a pedigree like that, it would be easy to assume that a community theatre company might not live up to expectations, but Peppermint Creek rarely disappoints. In this case the company exceeds expectations.

Job’s set design and Kelly McNabb’s scenic pieces are spot-on in combining the graphic novel feel and the implied majesty of the Bechdel house, aided by the atmosphere of the venue itself. The flow between scenes is seamless as the cast swoops in and resets the stage quickly and smoothly.

The entire cast is strong, but hands down the most heart-wrenching scenes are in the hands of two incredibly talented actors, Matt Eldred and Laura Croff. As a wife who has suffered a sham marriage and the indignity of community gossip, Croff lays bare Helen’s soul with her gut-wrenching rendition of

### Peppermint Creek Theatre Company presents ‘Fun Home’

Through June 12  
Central United Methodist Church  
215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing  
(517) 927-3016  
Thursdays – Saturdays: 8pm  
Sundays: 2 p.m.  
Tickets start at \$28  
Senior, military and student discounts available  
peppermintcreek.org

“Days,” trying to explain to Alison the slippery slope that led her to give up her life to a lie.

Eldred is mesmerizing as the conflicted Bruce. Sometimes loving, sometimes demanding, but ultimately human in his need to be accepted for who he is,

his performance is a true tour de force, culminating in the penultimate song “Edges of the World.” Bruce is desperate and increasingly manic, and the song reflects the imbalance of his comforts and his demons.

Alison is presented in triplicate. The middle-aged Alison is played by Abigail Grill, “Medium Alison” (the college-aged Alison) is played by Sally Hecksel and “Small Alison” is played by Lorena Krauss. They are well-matched, talented singers, and each has a chance to shine. As she fully embraces her sexuality, Hecksel nails it with “Changing My Major,” sharing the common experience of falling in love in college and perhaps neglecting studies for sex.

Grill carries the emotional weight of regret with “Telephone Wire,” as she shares a twilight drive with Bruce and struggles to connect with him on the one thing that could draw them together. Krauss shines with snippets of song that bookend the play, desperately begging for attention from the remote father whom she loves but doesn’t understand.

The play may be about a gay daughter and her conflicted feelings about her relationship with her closeted gay father, but at its heart “Fun Home” will hit home with anyone who remembers the moment of realizing one’s parents weren’t super heroes, just regular human beings with hopes, dreams, weaknesses and faults.

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in the Park Series**

**William E. Tennant Performance Shell  
St. Johns City Park  
Wednesdays – 7:00pm**

June 15 – THE RFD BOYS – BLUEGRASS AT ITS VERY BEST  
June 22 – CAPITAL CITY BRASS BAND – CHAMPIONSHIP BAND  
June 29 – SURF ZUP – ICONIC SURF GUITAR HITS FROM THE ‘60S  
July 6 – LANSING CONCERT BAND – A GREAT EVENING  
July 13 – C.A.R.M.A – GRAMMY AWARD WINNERS – JAZZ/BLUES  
July 20 – TOPPERMOST – WONDERFUL TRIBUTE TO THE BEATLES  
July 27 – RYAN DEHUES – TIMELESS CLASSIC JAZZ STANDARDS  
Aug. 3 – THE LOUIE LONGORIA BAND – BIG TIME COUNTRY  
Aug. 10 – DETROIT RETRO SOCIETY – EXPERIENCE THE MUSIC  
Aug. 17 – FRENZDZ – BIG BAND SWING/50S ROCK/MOTOWN GREATS  
Aug. 24 – MIRANDA & THE M80S – THE BEST OF THE ‘80S  
Aug. 31 – MATT KING – HIS AWARD WINNING TRIBUTE TO ELVIS

*ALL CONCERTS WILL BE HELD RAIN OR SHINE*

*The “Concert in the Park” Series is presented annually by the  
Clinton County Arts Council & City of St. Johns*

St. Johns Lions Club – Food Booth



Courtesy

Isabel Clare Paul and Tim Retzloff with “Come Out! In Detroit,” a comic book they co-authored that commemorates the first gay pride march in Michigan 50 years ago.

## Coming out, in full color

### New comic book tells ‘heroic origin story’ of Gay Pride in Michigan

**BY LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

Some stories are best told from below the ankle.

Four entangled bare feet — two white and two black — nestle playfully at the top of the last page of a new comic book that chronicles Michigan’s first Pride march, on June 24, 1972.

In his zeal to learn as much as possible about the march, historian Tim Retzloff wrote to a participant, Dan Shafarman, hoping for some photos or an eyewitness account.

“I did go to Detroit in June ’72 for the express purpose of attending the Pride Parade,” Shafarman wrote back. “However, I ended up in bed with Richard Meador and we somehow managed to miss all the events.”

Feet, marching or otherwise engaged, are a running theme throughout the

story.

Ypsilanti artist Isabel Clare Paul shows the diverse assemblage from street level, as a jaywalking sparrow would see it.

“I wanted to show the 6-inch stiletto heels, the work boots, the Converse, the casual shoes, the drama versus the practical,” Paul said.

You get the feeling Paul could draw “War and Peace” by just following the feet, but she does a lot more than that in a free, 28-page comic that is being distributed at Pride events in Lansing and across the state this summer.

“Come Out! In Detroit” is a panoramic view of a life-affirming day, a beau-

tiful, messy, grassroots awakening of pride fueled by anger and protest.

The 1972 march assembled a diverse, statewide community that was just beginning to coalesce into a potent cultural and political movement. There were students and auto workers, young and old people, Black and white people, “short hairs, masculine men, feminine men, frail women, strong women, bisexuals, transsexuals, female impersonators and sex changes,” according to a press account Retzloff quotes in the book.

Retzloff was only 8 years old in 1972. The first pride march he attended was in Detroit in 1986.

“The organizers kept touting it as the

first one, but I knew there were earlier ones,” he said.

Retzloff, an adjunct history professor at Michigan State University, has studied the LGBTQ+ community for decades, first as an amateur, and later as an independent scholar. He even talked with some of the organizers and participants of the 1972 Detroit march as part of his dissertation research.

“Christopher Street Detroit ’72” was named after the 1969 Stonewall Uprising, when police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay club in Greenwich Village in New York, setting off six days of protests and resistance that energized the gay rights movement.

“I knew this event took place, and that it was important, but people didn’t know about it,” Retzloff said.

See Comic, Page 14

#### Come Out! In Lansing

Conversation with Tim Retzloff and Isabel Clare Paul  
MSU Libraries  
7-9 p.m. Tuesday, June 21  
MSU Main Library  
Green Room, 4 West

# LGBTQ PRIDE 2022

## Comic

from page 13

But he didn't want to write another scholarly article for a tiny audience. He'd been involved in newspaper and magazine articles, panel discussions and radio shows over the years, and he knew they all had brief lifespans. A documentary film would take too long and be too expensive to make.

It struck Retzloff that a free comic book with wide distribution could have broad appeal and staying power without sacrificing scholarly integrity.

Like most American kids, Retzloff, 58, was seduced at an early age by the visual appeal of comics. As a youngster, he repeatedly checked "The Art of Walt Disney," a "big giant doorstop of a book," out of the local library, piling up dozens of overdue notices.

"It shows how enthralling all of that work was," he said.

In junior high school, he created "Captain Vos," a satirical comic book about a real teacher endowed with super powers.

"Maus," Art Spiegelman's seminal graphic novel about the Holocaust, hit Retzloff at just the right time, when he was in his 20s, along with the grim "Dark Knight" run of "Batman."

Comics were tackling serious issues, from the war in Bosnia (Joe Sacco's "Safe Area Goradze") to civil rights marches of the 1960s (John Lewis' "March" trilogy).

Retzloff had built up formidable expertise as a historian and scholar, including a doctorate in history at Yale, but when it came to drawing, he was strictly a stick-figure man.

Fortunately, he knew a baby named Isabel Clare Paul, who called him "Uncle Timmy" as a kid and started drawing almost before she could walk.

"I've known Isabel since she was born, through her parents," Retzloff said. "She grew up and became a lovely young lesbian."

Paul, who is in her 20s, up in Michigan and graduated from Detroit's College for Creative Studies in 2020.

"There's never been a time in my life when I wasn't drawing," she said.

She admired the Gothic ink drawings of Edward Gorey and fell in love with the sharp wit and concise line work of comic artist Alison Bechdel, creator of the strip "Dykes to Watch Out For" and the



The East Lansing Gay Lib Choir kick dance at the Christopher Street Detroit '72 rally, June 24, 1972. Photo from the Fifth Estate newspaper.

graphic memoirs "Are You My Mother?" and "Fun Home."

"Seeing her ink style, and she was so involved with being out as a lesbian — I just wanted to be her when I grew up," Paul said.

"My husband and I went to her first student show," Retzloff said. "Her talent blew me away."

Retzloff asked Paul if she'd be interested in drawing a "four- or five-page comic" about the 1972 march.

Like Alison Bechdel, Paul prefers to stick to line drawings, but Paul and Retzloff knew color would be a powerful tool for attracting readers, especially in a documentary project.

From a stained-glass window in a church to a package of hot dogs on a grill, Paul's soulful, tie-dyed, rainbow-colored images bring Retzloff's text to vivid life.

She worked mainly from black and white photos and "blurry Polaroids" gathered by Retzloff from eyewitnesses and archives at MSU, the University of Michigan and Wayne State University.

"I wanted to make sure these photos come alive and vibrant, while also being nostalgic for the 1970s — purples and tans and

browns and greens," Paul said.

She soaked MSU's Beaumont Tower, where MSU students gathered the day before the Detroit march, in a prismatic bath of sunset hues.

"My brother went to MSU, so I knew what Beaumont Tower looks like, but I wanted to make it a little more surreal and a little more fun," she said.

Many locations, including Detroit's long-demolished Kennedy Square and the city's first gay community center, were reconstructed from historic black and white photos, Google street views and physical visits.

In the final pages, Paul's color pal-



Isabel Clare Paul rendering of East Lansing Gay Lib Choir from page 20 of Come Out! In Detroit.

ette flips from oily slicks of urban atmosphere to bright greens, yellows and browns for a picnic at Palmer Park the day following the march.

Paul donated her original art, "with my ink stains and scratched-out panels," to the MSU Library, in addition to the final renderings.

The art can be viewed through August at the Stephen O. Murray and Keelung Hong Special Collections at MSU, along with materials from MSU LGBTQ+ activists who helped plan the 1972 Detroit march.

Paul had fun making the jump to color, but drawing portraits of real people made her a little bit nervous.

"A lot of the portraits went through four or five renditions, changing the shape of their nose or changing their glasses to make it more accurate," she said.

A highlight of the book is a moving speech by Jim Toy, a pioneering gay rights activist who co-authored the Ann Arbor City Council's "Lesbian-Gay Pride Week Proclamation" in 1972 — the first such official proclamation by a governing body in the United States, according to Retzloff.

"I know that gay stands for love, and gay stands for life," Toy declares in the comic.



Shutterstock

The "Christopher Street Detroit '72" march was named after the 1969 Stonewall Uprising, when police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay club in Greenwich Village in New York, setting off six days of protests and resistance that energized the gay rights movement.

See Comic, Page 15



# Comic

from page 14

“Come out for love, come out for life.”

Paul wanted to meet Toy in person and talk about the comic, but Toy died Jan. 1.

“His caretakers told me he flipped through it and said, ‘I remember this, I remember doing this, I remember these people. It’s just exactly right,’” Paul said with pride.

For Retzlöff and Paul, the project took on an enhanced appeal as the pandemic dragged into spring 2021.

“Early on, you were reading about people who are exposed, and 21 days later, they’re gone,” Retzlöff said. “It’s a possibility I hadn’t experienced since I was in my 20s, and HIV and AIDS were a huge part of being a gay young man. I thought, ‘OK, what do I want to leave?’”

“It was almost a lifeline to something positive to think about,” Paul said.

The upcoming 50th anniversary of the march was another incentive.

“As a culture, we embrace history through anniversaries, and it didn’t seem like this should pass by without being acknowledged,” Retzlöff said.

Aside from dates and places, every line of text is sourced from a personal interview, oral history or another primary source.

“Not a lot of comics I know of have ‘works cited’ pages,” Retzlöff said.

When accounts contradict each other, Retzlöff lets the contradiction hang there and bear witness to the messiness of history. Various sources report that the march drew “more than 200,” “over 300,” and “about 400.” The march’s striking logo — a raised fist with butterfly wings, rendered in lavender — was designed by either Susan Swope or Jay Manning, depending on whom you ask.

The script Retzlöff sent to Paul for illustration grew to 20 pages, then 24, and, finally, 27. Support for the ever-expanding project came from private donors, a \$15,000 grant from Michigan Humanities, and a \$6,000 GoFundMe campaign.

Even with 27 pages to work with, deciding what to include, what to emphasize and what to leave out was not always easy.

There were some things Retzlöff and Paul had to deal with, one way or another. Although the march was positive and peaceful, every contemporary news story highlighted one embarrassing in-

cident. A car with four drag queens sitting on the hood suddenly came to a stop, sending three of them to the pavement.

No one was hurt, but the clip appeared repeatedly on TV.

“We couldn’t ignore that, but we didn’t want to buy into that being the punch line,” Retzlöff said.

In the final comic, the drag queens are only seen in mid-ride, looking poised and queenly. After they fall off the car, the emphasis

See Comic, Page 16



Isabel Clare Paul rendering of Miss Capital City pageant at Joe Covello's, a gay club on Michigan Avenue until it was torn down in the 1990s for urban renewal. From Page 5 pf Come Out! In Detroit.



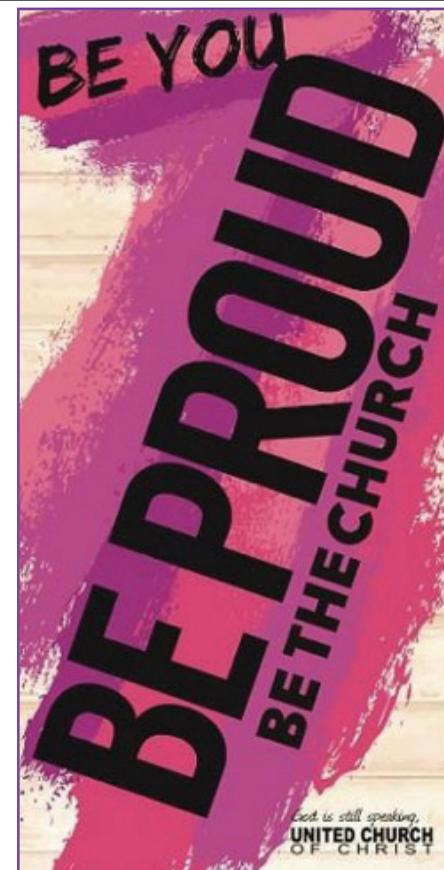
*Celebrates*  
**PRIDE MONTH**

In 2013, Delta Township was one of the first municipalities to pass a non-discrimination ordinance - *“no person be denied equal protection of the laws; nor shall any person be denied the enjoyment of his or her civil or political rights or be discriminated against because of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, height, weight, marital status, physical or mental limitation, source of income, familial status, sexual orientation, or gender identity/expression.”*

In 2022 - Delta Township remains committed to eliminating any and all discrimination.

Any complaints pursuant to Chapter 27 Non-Discrimination of the Delta Township Code of Ordinances should be made to the Township Manager’s office within 180 days of the incident to be reviewed by the complaint review committee.

**Delta Township Managers Office**  
Complaint Review Committee  
7710 W Saginaw Highway  
Lansing, MI 48917



## We Say Gay!

**Edgewood United Church**  
469 N Hagadorn, East Lansing

**Celebrating  
Queer and  
Trans Lives  
during Pride and  
every day  
for over 20 years.**

**Join us Sundays,  
10 am  
in person or online**

**YouTube:**  
**Edgewood United Church**  
**www.edgewooducc.org**

# LGBTQ PRIDE 2022

## Comic

from page 15

switches to a snooping TV reporter with a bulky camera on his shoulder, intent on capturing the spill.

Many such decisions had to be made as Paul and Retzloff Zoomed and emailed their ideas back and forth.

“Tim and I struggled with the line between being factual and historical but still being colorful, interesting and engaging,” Paul said.

Retzloff always hoped “Come Out! In Detroit” would cross over to traditional comic book fans, but he had his doubts.

About half of the 23,000 copies printed will be handed out at Motor City Pride in Detroit, Ferndale Pride, Michigan Pride in Lansing, Ann Arbor Pride and Hotter Than July in Detroit, the oldest running African-American U.S. Pride celebration.

However, Retzloff and Paul are also taking the book to comic book stores and comic conventions, where most visitors are not part of the LGBTQ+ community.

“Tim was worried that it’s a niche project and nobody would be interested,” Paul said. “But I was confident the whole time that a wide variety of people would go for it.”

Last month’s Motor City Comic Con in Novi proved Paul right. In three days,

comic fans grabbed over 850 copies from her table.

It was her first time working a table at a big comic convention, and she didn’t know what to expect.

“This very straight, heterosexual, cis-gender comic book collector-looking kind of guy — very gruff — came up to me and said, ‘You drew this?’” she recalled.

She told him about the project, unsure of the reaction it would bring.

“OK, I’m going to take one and add it to my collection,” he told her. “Then I’m taking another and giving it to my Aunt Diane, because this is about her people.”

Overall, Paul was pleased at the welcome the book received at the Comic Con.

“It’s a story they’ve never heard before, which is the whole point of it,” she said. “It’s a new kind of project. People are excited to add it to their collection and see that it gets preserved with the Marvels.”

In a way, “Come Out! In Detroit” is a traditional comic book after all. With a diverse, far-flung cast of characters who set aside their differences to assemble in a big city and fight for justice, it runs rainbows around any Justice League or Avengers saga ever told.

“Tim pointed out to me that it’s a heroic origin story, and I thought that was lovely,” Paul said. “What better way to tell a heroic origin story than a comic book?”

# A blast from Lansing’s past



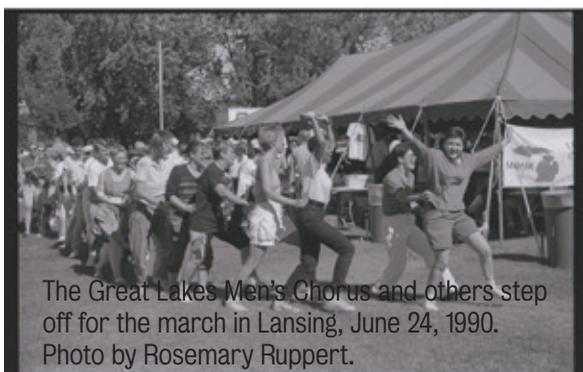
Gay Pride Week banner at the MSU Abbot Road entrance in 1973, a year after school officials denied permission to display the banner. From private collection of Greg Kamm.



The Great Lakes Men’s Chorus and others step off for the march in Lansing, June 24, 1990. Photo by Rosemary Ruppert.



Nadine, a.k.a. John Schallberg, with Patrice, a.k.a. Dan Vigliarolo and Alex McGehee at Joe Covello’s club in Lansing, June 22, 1972. From private collection of Greg Kamm.



The Great Lakes Men’s Chorus and others step off for the march in Lansing, June 24, 1990. Photo by Rosemary Ruppert.



Festival-goers at the 1990 Michigan Pride in Lansing. Photo by Rosemary Ruppert.



Marchers carrying the Claiming Our Freedom banner, June 24, 1990. Photo by Rosemary Ruppert.



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# LGBTQ+ Pride in Michigan 50 years on

By **TIM RETZLOFF**



Tim Retzloff

Marching down Woodward Avenue in Detroit on June 24, 1972, Greg Williams carried a hand-made poster-board sign that read “Come Out Flaming.” Flickers of fire drawn on each side echoed the young man’s wavy red hair.

Wearing tight pink short shorts, despite temperatures in the mid-50s, Williams was indeed out and flaming. The former Michigan State University student was among hundreds of people who participated in Christopher Street Detroit ’72, Michigan’s very first Gay Pride celebration, held 50 years ago this summer.

The demands of the march were twofold: repeal all antigay laws and full civil rights for gay people.

On June 12, 1972, the Ann Arbor City passed a resolution proclaiming June 19-25 as Gay Pride Week, the first known official proclamation by a governmental body in the United States. With a new Republican majority, the Council refused to issue a proclamation in 1973.

Michigan State University administrator Jack Breslin denied the Michigan State GLM — Gay Liberation Movement — permission to fly a Gay Pride Week banner at the campus’s Abbot Street entrance. Activists won the right to fly the banner a year later.

Five decades on, Gay Pride is now known as LGBTQ+ Pride. Over the years, Pride has morphed and grown and splintered, transformed now into

dozens of local events geographically dispersed across the state.

**Essay**

This year there are LGBTQ+ Prides in Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Holland, Battle Creek, Flint, Detroit, the Upper Peninsula, and the Mackinac Straits. Yes, it is called Straits Pride. (For details on the various Pride events this month, see Page 28.)

Ferndale Pride, as its own event, dates to 2011, when Motor City Pride moved to Hart Plaza, returning to Detroit after more than 20 years in the suburbs. Now there are also local Prides in many of the Detroit burbs, from Grosse Pointe to Canton, from Madison Heights to South Lyon, from Royal Oak to Hazel Park and Macomb County.

There’s a Pride in Lowell, a small town outside Grand Rapids. There’s a Pride in Fenton, south of Flint. There’s even an Ortonville Pride.

Some are quite large, corporate and polished. Others carry a more grassroots do-it-yourself feel, closer to the original 1972 gathering, a gathering that one observer described as “ragtag” and another called a “fiasco.”

The balkanization of Pride may feel like an unraveling, especially as LGBTQ+ Michiganders face an uncertain future, possibly an existential threat.

Justice Samuel Alito’s leaked draft opinion in the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* currently before the Supreme Court indicates that the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision is all but certain to be overturned, with the protection of abortion rights left up to the states.

As NPR’s Nina Totenberg reported in October 2020, Alito and Justice Clarence Thomas both have same-sex marriage in their crosshairs.

The implications are real.

When we need to unite against enemies as a community, this seems no time for LGBTQ+ folk to be fragmented. Yet it’s unclear that so having many different prides is necessarily a weakness. Maybe it’s a reflection of new permutations emerging to meet new challenges.

And we’ve experienced potential existential threats in the past.

Anita Bryant’s “Save Our Children” campaign that landed in June 1977 has echoes in politicians of today flinging ridiculous accusations that we and our supporter are “groomers” intent to recruit young people into a vile lifestyle.

Remember that Harvey Milk won election to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and delivered his famous “Hope speech” at the Gay Freedom Day rally that same year.

with a screening of gay porn films.

The first pride I attended was in 1986, when MOHR resumed having parades in Detroit after a 10-year hiatus. Organizers didn’t even know there had been parades and marches before. I remember the exhilaration I felt afterward, followed by deep hurt and fear when the Supreme Court the next week in *Bowers v. Hardwick* declared that gay people could still be deemed criminal.



Members of the Michigan State University Gay Liberation Movement (from left) Graff, Michael Christianson, Alex McGehee, Orville Hayes and John Mathison take part in the Christopher Street Detroit ’72 march, June 24, 1972. Photo from Sunflower newspaper.

Anita Bryant also prompted the founding that autumn of the Michigan Organization for Human Rights — MOHR — the precursor to Equality Michigan.

In 1983, an onlooker wielded a shotgun at the Ann Arbor Pride rally until he was disarmed by police. A group of heterosexual students attempted to upend MSU’s pride week in 1987

In Michigan, a sodomy conviction could bring a sentence of up to 15 years in prison. The law remained in effect until the *Lawrence v. Texas* ruling in 2003, 17 years later.

Year by year, pride in Michigan has reflected changing needs and immediate circumstances.

See Retzloff, Page 22

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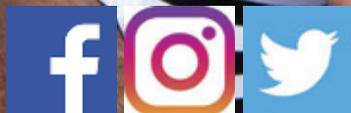
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# LGBTQ PRIDE 2022

## Retzloff

from page 19

By the late 1980s, pride had become a major statewide event. MOHR organizers switched from calling the procession a parade to calling it a march, and moved it to Lansing for the 20th anniversary of Stonewall in 1989 with the specific intent of marching on the state Capitol to demand change. Local poet Terri Jewell and U.S. Rep. John Conyers addressed the rally that year.

Historian Christina Hanhardt crystallizes the dichotomy between marches and parades in the 2016 documentary "Pride Denied," a harsh critique of World Pride 2014 held in Toronto.

"The difference between protests and parades is a significant difference. While the first is about political collectivity in the face of trying to fight for a better and different world," Hanhardt says, "parades are often about celebrating a community that assumes that it knows who already belongs and who doesn't.

That doesn't always recognize that some of those terms of belonging are deeply bound up in forms of exclusion."

Hanhardt goes on to argue that protest and pleasure have long gone hand in hand in how queer people celebrate pride.

There was the year that Michigan Pride emcee Kate Clinton auctioned off her brassiere. There was the year that filmmaker John Waters told the crowd, "I feel like Angela Davis and Paul Lynde."

And another year Pedro Zamora spoke at the Capitol before he gained fame on MTV's "Real World," before he died from AIDS the night his last episode aired.

For a time, organizers held mass commitment ceremonies and the recited names of people lost to HIV and AIDS. Some 520 names were read aloud at the AIDS remembrance ceremony on the steps of the State Capitol on June 16, 2000.

### Whose Pride is it anyway?

It's undeniable that so-called "rainbow capitalism," with displays of Pride merchandise at Meijer and Walmart, is chasing a market niche. Corporate sponsors have indeed transformed how

the big Prides are conducted.

In the words of Gil Scot Heron, "All consumers know that when the producer names the tune, the consumer has got to dance."

Queer people have navigated exploitation before, in particular during the pre-Stonewall days when most owners of gay bars were straight.

There are logistics and costs. Most prides are mostly volunteer efforts.

No all Prides have been co-opted.

In 2019, during the last in-person Pride in Lansing prior to COVID, People's Pride made itself heard, chanting "Ho Ho! Hey Hey! We won't pay to be gay!" to protest the \$10 donation/entry fee to attend the "official" Lansing Pride street fair.

We can trace Pride back to radical roots, when Craig Rodwell, founder of the Oscar Wilde Bookstore in New York, helped organize the first pride march in New York in 1970 to mark the first anniversary of Stonewall. Activists held celebrations in Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco, as well.



Dan Vigliarolo and Greg Williams (with sign) assemble for the Christopher Street Detroit '72 march, June 24, 1972. Photo from the private collection of Greg Kamm.

In the middle of the COVID lockdown in 2020, the GLBT Historical Society in San Francisco hosted an online exhibit showcasing the city's first 10 years of pride.

See Retzloff, Page 23



The crowd at the Capitol from the Michigan Pride rally in 2009.



Vivian Thompson and Lansing People's Pride protest in Old Town, June 15, 2019.

## Retzloff

from page 22

The exhibit revealed that infighting, burnout, pressure to toe a party line had been part of San Francisco pride from the start. It showed, as well, that there was always more diversity than people might realize, and less diversity than there should have been.

Pride is taking on new permutations and it is becoming unmoored from the calendar, no longer so tied to June. Lansing Pride is slated for August in Old Town. Ann Arbor Pride will be in September.

Before Michigan State switched from a trimester to a semester academic calendar, its annual pride events took place in June, coinciding with celebrations elsewhere. This year MSU Pride Week took place in April.

Detroit's Hotter Than July, one of the country's premiere African American pride celebrations, has been held in July since 1996.

With all the changes, there have been important constants. Pride celebrations offer a place of belonging. They convey a collective vocal and visible assertion of self. At their best, they meet a craving to come together as us, with the definition of "us" in flux as it has been from the

beginnings of pride, in Michigan and elsewhere.

Pride is as necessary in 2022 as in 1972.

LGBTQ+ people face a multiplicity of dangers, from religious zealots who would like to erase us from the planet or at least render us silent and invisible again, to the epidemic of trans women of color being murdered, to mental health issues and suicide, especially among LGBTQ+ youth.

According to one source, Greg Williams, who carried the "Come Out Flaming" sign back in 1972, took his own life in 1978 when he worked for a Wall Street brokerage firm. Since New York State death certificates are not public until after 50 years, this cannot be verified.

Whatever the cause of his early death at age 30, Williams was part of a pioneering event in 1972 that has endured. Some sort of LGBTQ+ Pride celebration has been held in Michigan every year since.

In reflecting on Pride in

See Retzloff, Page 24

### The Michigan Daily

Edited and managed by students at the University of Michigan

Editorials printed in The Michigan Daily express the individual opinions of the author. This must be noted in all reprints.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 1972 News Phone: 764-0552

### Proclaiming gay pride

WITH CITY Council's passage Monday night of a resolution proclaiming June 19-25 "Gay Pride Week," homosexuals have finally been officially recognized as the oppressed minority they are.

Proposed by the Human Rights Party (HRP), the resolution cites homosexuals' lack of equal treatment under the law, as well as the discrimination they have long faced in areas such as employment. Council should be commended for passing the resolution which brings these facts out in the open.

Yet it is not enough to simply give lip-service to fair treatment of homosexuals. There must be a profound change in our personal attitudes toward homosexuality, for it is not "sickness" or "perversion." It is a viable alternative to heterosexual lifestyles, even though present attitudes in our country often force homosexuals to live in shame and constraint.

As council member Jerry DeGriek said, "Gayness is for all people." He said that a new look at homosexuality might allow us all to discover the "non-exploitive relationships" that can exist between those of the same sex. With the pitifully sexist, exploitive relationships that exist among heterosexuals now, another look might be very valuable.

This 1972 editorial from the student newspaper at the University of Michigan comments on the resolution by the Ann Arbor City Council proclaiming Gay Pride Week, "the first known official proclamation by a governmental body in the United States," Tim Retzloff writes. "With a new Republican majority, the Council refused to issue a proclamation in 1973."

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Bumper sticker for Stonewall 20 Michigan March, June 25, 1989, produced by the Michigan Organization for Human Rights.

# Retzloff

from page 23

Michigan 50 years on, let us resist both nostalgia and cynicism and appreciate how the shifting character and aims of

pride reflect our astounding adaptability, our capacity not only to adapt to change but to foster change.

Traditions come and go, be they the bygone Metro Detroit Pride Banquet or the Lansing Association for Human Rights annual Prism Awards.

Ours is a scrappy and feisty community, ours is a determined community. We can dress up and we can surely dress our enemies down.

This year's Michigan Pride consists of a rally at the State Capitol on June 26. With a multiplicity of localized prides,

each with their own distinctive character, after two years of COVID lockdown and delay, with virtual prides held on-line, protest is back.

*(Historian Tim Retzloff teaches LGBTQ Studies at Michigan State University.)*



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# Come Out! In Detroit

## A CELEBRATION



**Tuesday, June 21, 2022  
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MSU Library Green Room, 4 West  
Register for the virtual event here:  
[bit.ly/ComeOutDetroit](https://bit.ly/ComeOutDetroit)**

A conversation with illustrator Isabel Clare Paul and historian Tim Retzloff who teamed up to create the comic “Come Out! In Detroit,” in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Christopher Street Detroit ’72, the first LGBTQ+ pride celebration in Michigan.

Grab a free copy of the comic and don’t forget to stop by our exhibit showcasing the materials used for research to create the comic.

[bookings.lib.msu.edu](https://bookings.lib.msu.edu) | @MSULibraries

For parking information, please visit <http://maps.msu.edu/interactive>. Persons with disabilities may request accommodations by calling 517.884.6454 one week before an event.

# PRIDE EVENTS in MICHIGAN

### LanSINGout Chorus

June 10–11: The Greater Lansing Gay Men’s Chorus, LanSING Out, presents Music From the Marquee at 7:30 p.m. The performances will be at the Unitarian Universalist Church located at 5509 S. Pennsylvania. Organizers ask attendees to wear a mask. Tickets are \$15. LanSINGout is a non-profit community chorus organized to “provide the opportunity for LGBTQ+ persons and their allies to sing and display their talents together.” [lansingout.com](http://lansingout.com).

### Pride Month Open House

June 11, The Salus Center, which serves Lansing’s LGBTQIA+ communities as a gathering space and information hub, hosts a Pride Month open house from 11 a.m.–4 p.m. at 408 S. Washington Sq., Lansing. [saluscenter.org](http://saluscenter.org).

### ‘But I’m a Cheerleader’ film screening

June 12: Salus Center and the Capital Area District Library hosts a showing

of the cult hit “But I’m a Cheerleader” at the downtown library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. Doors open at 2 p.m., film kicks off at 2:30 p.m. [tinyurl.com/butimacheerleaderscreening](http://tinyurl.com/butimacheerleaderscreening).

### Cooley Law School: LGBTQ+ Law: Outrageous Laws & Everyday Rebellions

June 14: From noon–1p.m., in honor of Pride month, Cooley Law School invites you to join Christine A. Yared — an attorney, educator and activist. Yared is also the author of “Private Love, Public School: Gay Teacher Under Fire,” which was named as a 2022 Notable Book by the Library of Michigan. The event is a WMU-Cooley’s Community Conversations event called LGBTQ+ Law: Outrageous Laws & Everyday Rebellions. Sign up at: [info.cooley.edu/community-conversations](http://info.cooley.edu/community-conversations).

### St. Johns Pride Fest

June 18: Pride hits downtown St. Johns from noon–4 p.m. The free event will See EVENTS, Page 29

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# Events

from page 28

be blocking off part of Higham Street between Brush and Clinton Ave. It features live entertainment, food trucks and community partners with tables set up and sidewalk chalk art. [tinyurl.com/stjohnspridefest](http://tinyurl.com/stjohnspridefest).

## Come Out! In Detroit

June 21: A conversation with Tim Retzloff, historian, and Isabel Clare Paul about the inception and creation of the new comic: Come Out! In Detroit. This historic comic explores Michigan's first gay pride festival, then known as the Christopher St. Freedom Day. The event will be both live, from the MSU Library Green Room 4 West, and broadcast online at 4 p.m. Registration for the online event is here: [bit.ly/ComeOutDetroit](http://bit.ly/ComeOutDetroit).

## The Equity Taskforce drag show and picnic

June 25 and 26: Mason Equity Force hosts a pride weekend. On June 25, the celebration kicks off from 6 to 9 p.m. with a drag show fundraiser at BAD Brewing. June 26, a picnic kicks off in Hayes Park in Mason featuring food trucks and informational tables on LGBTQ community

issues, needs and organizations. [facebook.com/theequitytaskforce](https://facebook.com/theequitytaskforce) and [badbrewing.com/pride](https://badbrewing.com/pride).

## Tease A Gogo & House of Manifestation Presents: EVOLVE! An All-Inclusive, All Ages Block Party

June 25: Drag show followed by Tease A Gogo event and a block party. Event runs from 2-6 p.m. for the block party. Drag show is at 6 p.m. The Burlesque show starts at 8:30 p.m. Event happens at 117 S. Street. Bar offered by Sleepwalker Spirits and Ale. Tickets are \$30, \$25 in advance. Performers include: V. Soul, Miguel the Shaman, Rebecca Brunner, Ballet de Maria Luz, various guest speakers and more. [facebook.com/teaseagogo](https://facebook.com/teaseagogo).

## Michigan Pride Rally at the Capitol

June 26: This outdoor rally happens noon to 2 p.m. at the Michigan State Capitol Building (100 N. Capital Ave., Lansing) on the anniversary of the Marriage Equality Act. This event, featuring speakers on the Capitol lawn, celebrates the LGBTQIA+ community, including self-acceptance, achievements, legal rights and Pride. According to its organizers, "the rally seeks to create community and honor

See EVENTS, Page 30

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## Events

from page 29

the history of the movement.” They ask attendees to please use COVID-safe practices. Mask wearing is not required but welcomed. [facebook.com/MichiganPride](https://facebook.com/MichiganPride).

### PRIDE ACROSS THE STATE

#### Motor City Pride & Festival

Saturday, June 11 (1 p.m.- 9 p.m.) & Sunday, June 12 (Noon- 7 p.m.)  
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[motorcitypride.org](http://motorcitypride.org).

#### Pride Fest 2022

Saturday, June 11, 1 p.m.- 11 p.m.  
Ellwood Mattson Lower Harbor Park  
200 N. Lakeshore Blvd.,  
Marquette  
FREE  
[uprainbowpride.org](http://uprainbowpride.org).

#### Grand Rapids Pride Festival

Saturday, June 18, Noon- 10 p.m.  
Calder Plaza  
300 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids  
FREE  
[grpride.org/festival](http://grpride.org/festival).

#### Flint Pride Festival

Saturday, June 25, 2 p.m- 8 p.m

See EVENTS, Page 36

## Brian Daniels



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# Michigan Pride through the lens of Roxanne Frith

Longtime photographer shares a decade of images of the march, rally and party

BY BERL SCHWARTZ

As Roxanne Frith recalls it, she “just sort of ebbed and flowed into it.”

The “it” is Michigan Pride, for which she served as official photographer for 10 years or so, starting as a volunteer in 2007 or 2008 because “they needed a photographer.”



Courtesy photo

Roxanne Frith

As the official photog, Frith captured the end of the golden era of Michigan Pride, once a jam-packed weekend of activities. It started on Friday nights with a comedy show, then later a white party; Saturday was the march to the Capitol, the rally on the steps, and then the festival; and for a few years, folks headed to Potter Park for a picnic on Sundays.

Michiganders came from around the state, but attendance diminished as oth-

er cities and towns introduced their own pride events. And any given year, there could also be Chicago Pride to compete with.



“Allies, parents, educators, supporters march in 2019 representing their respective counties. A longtime friend and co-educator Teri Hammoud is front and center from Eaton County.” Photo and caption by Roxanne Frith.

er cities and towns introduced their own pride events. And any given year, there could also be Chicago Pride to compete with. But a mainstay was always Frith, always on the move, always aiming her lens at the action.

And in this issue of City Pulse, we celebrate a decade of Michigan Pride through her images on pages throughout the rest of this section, broken into the three main events: the march, the ral-

ly and the festival. Frith has written the captions for all of her photos.

But first a little more about the photographer.

“I’ve had a camera since I was 7,” Frith, 64, recalled. As a teenager in her hometown of Nashville, about 40 miles southwest of Lansing, she took pictures for the local newspaper — “not really paid, more for the thrill of seeing my name in the paper.” At 16, she started attending Lansing Community College, “to learn a

trade, basically,” adding that “journalism was really the only thing I knew about photography at that point.”

She learned more as an international student at 18 in Chile, where the dictator Augusto Pinochet was president.

“I was photographing a parade and there was military stuff in it, and the next thing I knew there were guns pointed at me and the film stripped out of the camera. No one had told me I couldn’t pho-

See Frith, Page 35

## Happy Pride Month!

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



Carol A. Siemon, Prosecuting Attorney  
Michael Cheltenham, Chief Assistant Prosecutor

## HAPPY PRIDE MONTH



Alan Fox  
Ingham County Treasurer



MICHIGAN PRIDE MARCH



# Frith

from page 34

topograph military stuff.”

She got off easy because she was a student. “They just took the film and told me to never do it again.”

But she also learned that journalists had died covering the brutal Pinochet, including Americans. “That politicized my camera,” she said.

Returning to the United States, Frith earned an associate’s degree in photography at LCC, where a teacher, Joe Lippincott, encouraged her to pursue a bachelor’s. She enrolled at the University of

Arizona, home of the Center for Creative Photography, which famed photographer Ansel Adams had founded and built one of the world’s largest photo collections. Among them were the works of Frith’s “photo hero,” W. Eugene Smith — known for his work for Life, a weekly magazine that combined photos and storytelling into one of the nation’s most popular publications in the mid-20th century.

Armed with her B.A. in the history of photography, she returned from Tucson to teaching at LCC while also earning a master’s degree in fine arts at the Univer-

sity of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where she also taught.

Frith also was part of the circle of creatives in the 1970s and early ’80s who helped turn the north end of Lansing into today’s Old Town, among them Barb Morris and the late Robert Busby, remembered as Old Town’s unofficial mayor. She and others were active in getting Old Town’s first gallery opened.

At times, health issues have limited Frith’s artistic activities. She overcame a serious heart issue and had brain surgery for an aneurysm, and community

members rallied to her support when she needed a kidney transplant — but she professes to feeling fine today. Semi-retired, she teaches at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit and does commercial work for the Wharton Center.

With her old employer only hosting a rally at the Capitol this year, Frith said she understands the “devolution” of Michigan Pride because of the movement’s civil rights successes, but she fears it may be shortsighted.

“The language around Roe v. Wade puts every social gain at risk,” she cautioned.



To borrow a phrase, we’ve come a long way... from 2008 when everyone came to Lansing for MI PRIDE hoisting their cities and regions on pink placards to having an out Lesbian Attorney General as Grand Marshal accompanied by churches in the line-up.

Photos and captions by Roxanne Frith

**J2 TANNING**  
Home of the \$10 tanning membership!

**WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY PRIDE MONTH**

**VOTE FOR ME**

**Jordan Davis**  
Ingham County  
Commissioner District 15

**Voteforjordan.org**  
Paid for the Committee To Elect Jordan Davis



# Events

from page 30

**Downtown Riverbank Park**  
328 Saginaw St., Flint  
FREE  
facebook.com/flintgaypride.

**Holland Pride Festival**  
Saturday, June 25, Noon - 5 p.m.  
Centennial Park  
250 Central Ave., Holland  
FREE  
holland.org/holland-pride-festival.

**Great Lakes Bay Pride Festival**  
Saturday, June 25, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Wenonah Park  
111 Center Ave., Bay City  
FREE  
greatlakesbaypride.org.

**Macomb County Pride Picnic**  
Sunday, June 26, Noon - 4 p.m.  
Dodge Park, Picnic Pavillion #2  
40620 Utica Rd., Sterling Heights  
FREE, bring own food  
macombcountypride.com.

**Berkley Pride Block Party**  
Saturday, June 26, noon - 4 p.m.

Robina North at 12 Mile  
FREE  
downtownberkley.com/berkleypride.

**Battle Creek Pride**  
Thursday-Sunday, July 14- 17  
Various locations and times, check  
website.  
FREE  
battlecreekpride.org/pride-weekend.

**ROAD TRIP  
Chicago Pride Fest**  
June 18-19 & June 26  
Feeling like a quick road trip? This is  
worth the gas money. The weekend

before the 2022 Chicago Pride Parade  
(June 26), the Chicago Pride Fest  
returns for two days (June 18-19). The  
colossal festival features live music  
by headline artists and local favorites,  
three stages, food and drink, over 150  
arts and crafts vendors, DJs, dancing,  
drag shows, a pet parade, games,  
giveaways and more. This annual event  
is a legendary street festival, with  
upwards of 60,000 expected to attend.  
chicagoprideride.com.

*Events compiled by Caleb Woloszyn-Duffy  
and Todd Heywood.*



**East Lansing Public Library**

**Every story deserves a chance  
at a happy ending.**

**Representation Matters.**  
Celebrate Pride Month with  
LGBTQ+ titles at [elpl.org](http://elpl.org).



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local coffee shop and bakery!**

Eastside: 2010 E. Michigan Ave  
Old Town + Downtown: Coming Soon  
[strangemattercoffee.com](http://strangemattercoffee.com) / @strangematterco



**MICHIGAN PRIDE MARCH**



"Sing Choir Sing." Photos and caption by Roxanne Frith.



Vickers Funeral Homes  
Leslie and Springport

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PO Box 503, Leslie, MI 49251

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Springport, MI 49284

[www.vickersfuneralhomes.com](http://www.vickersfuneralhomes.com)



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requires a  
good eye and  
an open mind.**



# Celebrate Pride!



[williamstontheatre.org](http://williamstontheatre.org) ~ (517) 655-SHOW (7469)



MICHIGAN PRIDE MARCH



“Sidecar companion in Dykes on Bikes, 2008. Spiral’s Float in all their glory, 2010. Grand Marshal Dana Nessel walks with the people in Parade. 2018.” Photos and captions by Roxanne Frith.



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

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

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

## HUMAN RIGHTS ORDINANCE

The City of Lansing supports diversity, equity, and inclusion in regards to human characteristics, employment, housing, public accommodations and services.



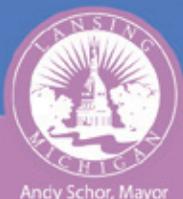
LEARN MORE AT [LANSINGMI.GOV/EQUALITY](http://LANSINGMI.GOV/EQUALITY)

## JOIN LANSING’S OFFICIAL DEI BOARD!



Lansing needs a strong, diverse group to work on the future of equity for our community!

LEARN MORE AT [LANSINGMI.GOV/DEI](http://LANSINGMI.GOV/DEI)



Andy Schor, Mayor

# HAPPY PRIDE MONTH!

FROM MAYOR ANDY SCHOR AND THE CITY OF LANSING  
HUMAN RELATIONS & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
**COOLEY**  
LAW SCHOOL

**50**  
YEARS

1972-2022



WMU-COOLEY  
**COMMUNITY**  
CONVERSATIONS

# PRIDE MONTH

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2022 FROM NOON-1:00 P.M. (ET)

In honor of PRIDE Month, please join Christine A. Yared; Attorney - Educator - Activist - Author of *Private Love, Public School: Gay Teacher Under Fire* (named as a 2022 Notable Book by the Library of Michigan), for WMU-Cooley's Community Conversations event called *LGBTQ+ Law: Outrageous Laws & Everyday Rebellions*.

**SIGN UP@** <https://info.cooley.edu/community-conversations>

- *What are some of the anti-LGBTQ+ laws?*
- *What are the root causes of these laws?*
- *What can you do as a law student, lawyer, and community member to create change?*



“Large crowd assembles at the Capitol for a rally and speech from Grand Marshal Shelly Wright, the first Country and Western singer to publicly come out. 2010.” Photo and caption by Roxanne Frith.

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& PUB**

is Happy to  
Celebrate with You!

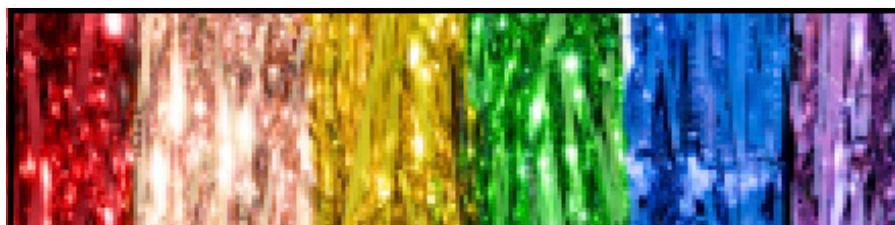
**LGBTQ**  
Pride Month



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**LIVE  
YOUR  
TRUTH.**

**Who we are is beautiful.**

**Vote Emily Dievendorf  
for State Representative  
77th District August 21.**

EmilyDievendorf.com

Paid for by Friends of Emily Dievendorf, 418 Monroe, Lansing, MI 48906.



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Happy Pride!  
With love

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Lansing 48933  
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Lansingcentralumc.net

Join us live Sundays @10am  
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event or to get involved



**MICHIGAN PRIDE  
RALLY**

"LGBTQ...youth gather on the state Capitol steps during MI PRIDE rally in support of presenter Shane Shananaquet – Trans Teen and other youth concerns. 2019." Photo and caption by Roxanne Frith.

 An advertisement featuring three women standing in front of a building. A large rainbow graphic arches over them. The text "Julie Brixie STATE REPRESENTATIVE" is overlaid on the rainbow.
 

**Julie  
Brixie**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

"What I want more than anything is for my kids to live in a world where they don't have to 'come out.' They can simply be who they are, they can love who they want, and live in a world where they are accepted." -Love, Mom

Paid for by Julie Brixie For State Representative | 2294 Hamilton Rd Okemos MI 48864

 An advertisement for Potter Park Zoo. It features a close-up of a lion's head roaring. The text "Hear the ROAR POTTER PARK Zoo" is displayed in a stylized font.
 

Hear the **ROAR**  
POTTER PARK  
Zoo

[www.potterparkzoo.org](http://www.potterparkzoo.org)  
Located in Lansing, Michigan



# Honoring our Family and Friends

*Judy and  
Bud Shulman*

"Rain or shine, we gather, we sing, we fight for the continued advancement of Human Rights."  
Photos and caption by Roxanne Frith.

We are always looking for nice used vinyl  
From the '70s • '80s • '90s & newer

Bring this ad and receive 15% OFF on a \$20 or more vinyl purchase. Does not apply to purchase of local artists or studio gear.

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Lansing  
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**LOVE, THE RESISTANCE**

**WHAT THE  
WORLD  
NEEDS NOW  
IS  
LOVE**



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The Resistance Bookstore 515 W. Ionia St. Unit 2 Lansing, MI 48933

# LGBTQ PRIDE 2022



MICHIGAN PRIDE RALLY



“Moments. Heartfelt and victorious moments. 2010-2017.” Photos and caption by Roxanne Frith.



**THE PEOPLES CHURCH**  
**Sunday Worship | 10:30 a.m.**  
 online and in-person



**f PeoplesChurchEL**  
**ThePeoplesChurch.com**

# Celebrate PRIDE!



**Ingham County Commissioner Todd Tennis is proud to support the LGBTQ+ community and stands with all those fighting to be treated equally and justly.**



REO Town 2016



REO Town 2016  
Photos by Roxanne Frith

MICHIGAN PRIDE  
FESTIVAL



Old Town 2017

*There's a place for you here.*

*Worship with us  
on Sundays at 10:00am*

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Lutheran Campus Ministry at Michigan State University

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East Lansing, MI  
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**The  
Ingham County  
Health Department**

*celebrates* **PRIDE MONTH!**

**OUR VISION**

**Excellence in health and  
well-being for all, honoring  
our diverse community.**

For health information, community resources, and to learn more about health equity and social justice in Ingham County, visit [hd.ingham.org](http://hd.ingham.org).



**Vote for  
Manuel Delgado Jr  
for Ingham County  
Commissioner,  
District 5**

*Happy Pride*



PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT  
MANUEL DELGADO JR. 2011 ROSSITER  
PLACE, LANSING, MI 48911



Riverfront 2008

Photos by Roxanne Frith

**MICHIGAN PRIDE  
FESTIVAL**



Old Town 2010

# Happy Pride Month!

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LGBTQ+  
inclusion  
1990-2022**

You are  
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Riverfront 2009

MICHIGAN PRIDE FESTIVAL

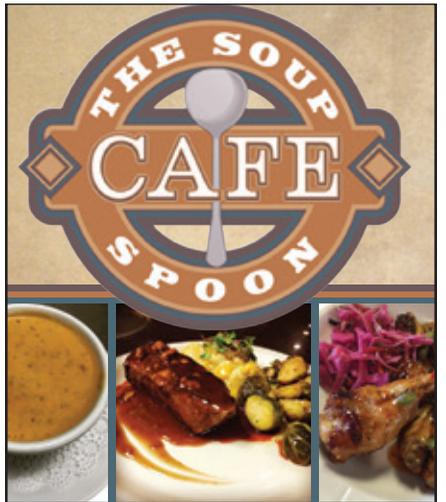


Old Town 2017

Photos by Roxanne Frith



Riverfront 2008



Friends don't let friends eat at chain restaurants!

HAPPY PRIDE MONTH!

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HAPPY *Pride*

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Free and Confidential  
HIV Testing  
Results in 20 minutes

- House of Commons  
First Tuesday Monthly  
3pm-5pm
- Salus Center  
First Friday Monthly  
1pm - 3pm
- MSU Gender and Sexuality  
Campus Center  
Last Friday Monthly  
1pm-3pm
- In LAAN Office  
Monday | Wednesday | Thursday  
By Appointment

www.laanonline.org | @laan\_online



✦ HAPPY ✦  
 ✦  
 Pride  
 ✦  
 ✦ MONTH ✦

UPCOMING EVENTS:  
 07/06 | EagleMonk  
 08/03 | Michigrain  
 09/09 | Midtown Brewing

**SOCIAL NETWORKING EVENTS IN GREATER LANSING**  
**JOIN US THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH 6-8PM**

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**Facebook**

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 AND THE  
 CITY**

[suitsandthecity.org](https://suitsandthecity.org)

# LGBTQ PRIDE 2022



Goddess and She, Riverfront, 2008

MICHIGAN PRIDE FESTIVAL



Riverfront 2009



REO Town 2016

Photos by Roxanne Frith



**PRIDE MONTH**  
*be yourself*

Capital Area District Libraries  
*Everything...right here.*

Visit our 13 branches and [cadl.org](http://cadl.org).



*happy*  
**PRIDE MONTH**

**McLaren**  
GREATER LANSING

# LGBTQ PRIDE 2022

MICHIGAN PRIDE FESTIVAL



The Drag Kings, Old Town, 2010



Old Town 2017

Photos by Roxanne Frith



Star Farm, Old Town, 2017



Traditional Worship, Sundays 10AM · Sunday School 10:15 · Youth Group 11AM

Inclusive Congregation · Progressive Theological Preaching

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Building a Stronger, More Equitable Region

  
LANSING REGIONAL CHAMBER  
lansingchamber.org



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**ADULT-USE CANNABIS DISPENSARY**

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**THURSDAY, 6/9**

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**EQUALITY**

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**PROGRESS MICHIGAN**



# Six dank cannabis news nuggets from across Michigan



## By KYLE KAMINSKI

Every so often, I find myself a bit overwhelmed with the rapid pace in which the cannabis industry is expanding in Michigan.

Nowadays, far too many new products are finding their way to local shops for me to keep track of them all. Just about every week, I read about more new plans for more stores, more brands and more products hitting the market.

To help keep local stoners informed, I'm lighting up a new sub-feature of Lansterdam in Review that I've dubbed "Seeds and Stems" — an assortment of cannabis products and news from the last month that I've personally plucked from the grinder and rolled up just for your consumption

## YOOPER POT FARM SPONSORS RACES IN MASON

A northern Michigan weed brand with a large indoor cultivation facility in the Upper Peninsula announced plans last month to sponsor this year's season at Corrigan Oil Speedway in Mason. The "Pro Late Model" division is now known as "MI Rootz Pro Late Models by Gro-UP."

Gro-UP previously sponsored the I-500 race, but this latest deal is its most significant financial commitment to date — and it's because the brand wants to "invest in the community," particularly as they look to move into the retail market and continue expansion across Michigan.

## NEW CANNABIS BRAND ROLLS INTO MICHIGAN

Jeeter, which bills itself as the best-selling preroll cannabis brand in the country expanded into Michigan and offers its popular infused prerolls at more than 45 dispensaries statewide, including Jars in Lansing and Owosso. To fuel the expansion, Jeeter recently set up its headquarters in Detroit, hired more than 220 new employees and plans to hire about 300 more.



## ASCEND CANNABIS SELLS MORE THAN CHEAP WEED

East Lansing's newest pot shop, Ascend Cannabis, opened its doors late last month at the former Sawyer's Pontiac dealership, just east of the Red Cedar redevelopment. Notably, the company holds the local record for the cheapest weed with \$90 ounces of its "Simply Herb."

But if you're looking for something with more oomph, let me point you toward some other in-house options on Ascend's upper shelves branded under "Ozone" and "Ozone Gold."

I picked up 3.5g of the "MAC 1" strain for \$28 over the weekend. The hybrid cross between Alien Cookies and Miracle is known for its smooth, creamy and funky flavors and upbeat effects — and the lusciously dense, sticky and trichome-covered buds certainly didn't disappoint. The flavor pro-



file is definitely citrusy. Just one joint put me into an hours-long state of tranquility.

The kief-infused prerolls in the Ozone Gold lineup were also out-of-this-world delicious. The Mandarin Zkittlez might just be the sweetest tasting (and smoothest) pre-roll on the market.

## LUME SETS STATE RECORD FOR THC CONTENT

I don't represent Guinness World Records, but I'm comfortable labeling the latest premium flower release from Lume as the strain with the single highest THC content in Michigan. With THC levels clocking in at a jaw dropping 40.38%, the new "Super Jenny Kush" bud is a chart-topping hybrid designed to lift your spirits to the stratosphere — along with a potent body buzz to keep you grounded with aromas of fresh florals and sweet citrus. Bad news: This stuff sold out just as soon as it hit the shelves at Lume in Owosso. I'll keep checking for a restock.

## COMMON CITIZEN LAUNCHES MICRO-GRANT PROGRAM

One of the newest pot shops to arrive in the local area wants to reinvest in

See Lansterdam, Page 54



**PURE OPTIONS™**  
PRECISION CRAFTED CANNABIS

# Weekly Deals

Check out our  
**Last Call Items**  
for great deals

**All Cannalicious 50% off**  
(Limited Quantities)

**All Medical 25% off**  
(Frondor Only)

**All CYP 25% off**

**25% off ENTIRE STORE**  
(Mt. Pleasant Only)

**33% off ENTIRE STORE**  
(Muskegon Only)

**Flower**

**6/6 until 6/12**

**\$79.99**  
1 Ounce Ready to Roll (All Strains)

**\$25.00 each**  
15+ Pure Options Strains Pre-Packed Eighths

**10/\$75**  
Pure Options 1g Pre-Rolls

**\$50.00**  
Grab N' Grow Clones  
3 strains available  
(Frondor only, Limit 3 per person)

**Carts & Concentrates**

**Other**

**6/\$100**  
Northcoast Concentrates (T1)

**6/\$100**  
Northcoast Extracts 1g Carts (T1)

**4/\$18**  
Cannabee 5x10 Gummies

**\$5.00**  
Kushy Punch (Med Only)

**\$20.00**  
Magic Tinctures 200mg

**2/\$25**  
Northern Lights Chocolate Bars

"Marihuana for use only by individuals 21 years of age or older" "It is illegal to drive a motor vehicle while under the influence of marihuana." "National Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222." "For use by individuals 21 years of age or older or registered qualifying patients only. Keep out of reach of children." [In clearly legible type and surrounded by a continuous heavy line]: "WARNING: USE BY PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING WOMEN, OR BY WOMEN PLANNING TO BECOME PREGNANT, MAY RESULT IN FETAL INJURY, PRETERM BIRTH, LOW BIRTH WEIGHT, OR DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS FOR THE CHILD."

# Lansing's ORIGINAL Craft Beer Bar



Sun. - Wed. 11am - 12am  
Thurs. - Sat. 11am - 1 am

**(517) 351-2506**

254 W Grand River Rd

## Lansterdam

from page 53

the community through a series of micro-grants for arts and culture projects, particularly in cities across Michigan, like Lansing, that have been disproportionately affected by the failed war on drugs.

Through July 1, Common Citizen is accepting applications for a series of three grants designed to support arts initiatives like concerts, film screenings, gallery exhibits and fashion shows, as well as provide support for workforce development programs and entrepreneurship projects.

Visit [commoncitizen.com/principle](http://commoncitizen.com/principle) for more details. LIV Cannabis in Lansing is also hosting a workshop about the grant opportunities at 7 p.m. Wednesday (June 15). Online registration is required.

### AUXO RELEASES LUXURIOUS NEW VAPORIZER

With dabs, the hardware can make or break the experience. That's why I've ditched the blowtorch for a new electronic dab rig from AUXO called the "Cira," which uses a rechargeable battery to heat up borosilicate glass and quartz to just the right temperature for concentrates.



Beyond simply being gorgeous, this handheld device offers extremely accurate heat control (between 450 and 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit) to make every session consistent. For almost \$180 at [auxo-official.com](http://auxo-official.com), it's a pricey piece of equipment. But for me, it's a small price to pay if it means that I no longer have to constantly over-torch my banger and cough my brains out.

*(Kyle Kaminski is a journalist and cannabis enthusiast. Editor & Publisher magazine has labeled him "arguably, the state's authority on everything you need to know about cannabis." Have a suggestion for a dank new product or a feature idea? Email [lansterdam@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:lansterdam@lansingcitypulse.com).)*



## Ending period poverty

Helping Women Period took off overnight

By **CHELSEA PHILLIPS**

One late January night, Lysne Tait and Amy Stephenson stumbled across an article about the lack of menstrual products for people experiencing homelessness. The two friends began emailing each other about the story and were mutually taken aback by the issue.

"At the beginning we had a lot of new people that I'd never seen before" needing assistance," Tait said.

"There were a lot of restaurant workers and people who were suddenly out of a job and needed extra help."

In February, Michigan repealed the "Tampon Tax," a 6% tax imposed on menstrual products. Tait claimed since the repeal is new, there hasn't been enough time to gauge the cost effects for the organization. However, she said the repeal has already "brought a lot of attention to menstrual equity and period poverty."

Tait mentioned that people often think period poverty only happens in developing nations.

"One in four girls here in Michigan don't go to school because they don't have the product they need when they need it," Tait said. Providing free products in schools is the next project for the organization. The organization has also made a big push to be inclusive for

all who experience periods, including changing their logo and using more representative language, not just women and girls.

Despite being an "accidental nonprofit" as Tait jokes, she said part of the reason Helping Women Period grew overnight and has received ample support is around half of the population experiences periods.

"Everyone loves someone who's had a period," she remarked.



Courtesy photo

Helping Women Period Executive Director Lysne Tait at a donation point. The nonprofit distributed 10,000 pads to Michigan schools.

They knew they had to do something. "We were both astounded, we had never considered that this was an issue," said Tait, who then co-founded Helping Women Period alongside Stephenson. Prior to that, the pair were no strangers to giving. "We'd given soup and cereal to food banks, but we never thought about pads and tampons," said Tait, the nonprofit's executive director.

Feeling the need to help, Tait and Stephenson invited 30 of their closest friends to a fundraiser with a goal of raising \$400 to buy menstrual products and donate them to a local shelter.

Advertising for the event went live on a Sunday. Within two days, 100 people responded. Two days after that, they filed to form a nonprofit and people from all over the world offered to help.

Their goal of \$400 turned into raising approximately \$4,000. With that money, the newly formed organization reached out to a local janitorial supply company, allowing them to provide a year's-worth of product for \$35 per person. Working with 180 charity partners in 17 counties, they were able to provide 26,000 periods' worth of products last year.

During the pandemic the demand for aid became even greater, yet Helping Women Period lost volunteers, many of which were elderly or college students.

### Helping Women Period

4544 East Lansing  
(517) 295-0552  
[helpingwomenperiod.org](http://helpingwomenperiod.org)  
[imachinations.com](http://imachinations.com)



Courtesy photo

A table of menstrual products assembled by Helping Women Period, offered to those in need.

# Seedhub

Lansing's Cannabis Seed Bank



Feminized    Autoflower    CBD    Photoperiod Genetics    Spores

**Hassle Free**



3022 VINE ST, LANSING | 517.225.2030 | [SEEDHUB.SHOP](http://SEEDHUB.SHOP)

## Jonesin' Crossword

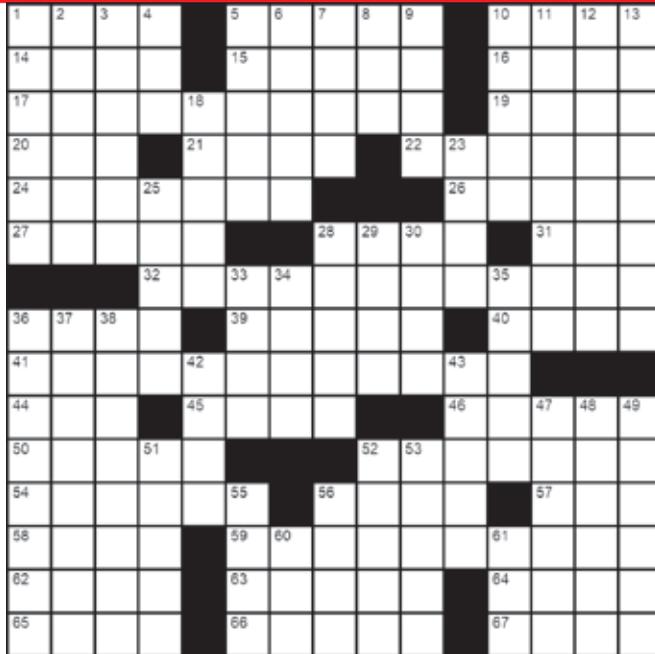
By Matt Jones

"Study Time's Over"—we're missing some conclusions.

by Matt Jones

### Across

1. Oscar follower?
5. Nutini with the upcoming album "Last Night in the Bittersweet"
10. Perform terribly
14. Dutch cheese variety
15. Actor Elgort of "The Goldfinch"
16. Peace Nobelist Wiesler
17. Offices of a N.Y. conglomerate (as opposed to their online services)?
19. Tip slightly
20. Kind of squad or rally
21. Title fish in a Pixar movie
22. He's (spoiler alert) "The Monster at the End of This Book"
24. "Chains of Love" duo
26. Dña de Martin Luther King Jr. month
27. Moves, in real estate jargon
28. Prefix meaning billion
31. Bran muffin bit
32. Bad thing to say at a driving test when asked to put it in neutral?
36. What tempeh might replace
39. What a time zone might be named after
40. Pub potables
41. Underwater version of a Britney Spears hit?
44. Shag, e.g.
45. Inking
46. Carpal tunnel locale
50. Aluminum foil



- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| alternative  | 2. Stick                                    | 33. Nothingness                                    |
| 52. It's full of -ologies  | 3. Venmo's parent company                   | 34. "Behold!" to Caesar                            |
| 54. Mathematician/philosopher Pascal   | 4. Wake-up times                            | 35. "___ bleu!"                                    |
| 56. Explanations   | 5. 1970s AMC car                            | 36. Confections first made in the 1930s            |
| 57. Soft shoe, informally  | 6. "What's in ___?"                         | 37. Part of a 2022 U.S. women's soccer negotiation |
| 58. Bldg.'s rental units   | 7. World capital on a fjord                 | 38. One way to prepare potatoes                    |
| 59. Option to take during "Choose Your Own Oration"?                                     | 8. Table part                               | 39. One way to prepare potatoes                    |
| 62. Fence around a racetrack   | 9. Couturier Cassini                        | 42. Altoids purchases                              |
| 63. Discussion group   | 10. Back with money                         | 43. "In my dreams!"                                |
| 64. "Heads up" abbr.   | 11. Popeye's paramour                       | 47. Time doer                                      |
| 65. "Auld Lang ___"  | 12. Gym class challenge, maybe              | 48. "Star Trek" engineer                           |
| 66. Night, in Napoli   | 13. Promises to wed                         | 49. Synthpop kin                                   |
| 67. R&B artist who got his nickname from a producer who made comparisons to "The Matrix" | 18. Occupied                                | 51. Passage in a plane                             |
| <b>Down</b>  | 23. Realize, as profits                     | 52. Bedding layer                                  |
| 1. Sneeze inducer  | 25. Not quite                               | 53. Washing machine stage                          |
|  | 28. Time's 2019 Person of the Year Thunberg | 55. "30 for 30" aier                               |
|  | 29. Aoki of the PGA                         | 56. Took off                                       |
|  | 30. Post-punk fan's group, maybe            | 60. Kung ___ shrimp                                |
|  |   | 61. Pizza option                                   |

## Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

June 8-14, 2022

**ARIES (March 21–April 19):** "It takes a spasm of love to write a poem," wrote Aries author Erica Jong. I will add that it takes a spasm of love to fix a problem with someone you care about. It also takes a spasm of love to act with kindness when you don't feel kind. A spasm of love is helpful when you need to act with integrity in a confusing situation and when you want to heal the past so it doesn't plague the future. All the above advice should be useful for you in the coming weeks, Aries. Are there any other variations you can think of? Fill in the blank in the next sentence: It takes a spasm of love to \_\_\_\_\_.

**TAURUS (April 20–May 20):** "The great epochs of our life come when we gain the courage to rechristen our badness as what is best in us," wrote philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche. When I read that ambitious epigram, I didn't know what he was referring to. By "badness," did he mean the ugly, pathological parts of us? That couldn't be right. So I read scholars who had studied the great philosopher. Their interpretation: Nietzsche believed the urges that some religions seek to inhibit are actually healthy for us. We should celebrate, not suppress, our inclinations to enjoy sensual delights and lusty living. In fact, we should define them as being the best in us. I encourage you Bulls to do just that in the coming weeks. It's a favorable time to intensify your devotion to joy, pleasure, and revelry.

**GEMINI (May 21–June 20):** It's an excellent time to correct and uplift your self-image. I invite you to speak the following affirmations aloud: "I am not damaged. I am not on the wrong path. I am not inept or ignorant or off-kilter. The truth is, I am learning how to live. I am learning how to be a soulful human and I am doing a reasonably good job at that task. I do a lot of things really well. I'm getting to know myself better every day. I constantly surprise myself with how skilled I am at adjusting to life's constant changes. I AM AMAZED AT HOW MUCH PROGRESS I HAVE MADE IN LEARNING HOW TO LIVE."

**CANCER (June 21–July 22):** In the Tibetan language, the term nyingdu-la means "most honored poison of my heart." Many of us know at least one person who fits that description: an enemy we love to hate or a loved one who keeps tweaking our destiny or a paradoxical ally who is both hurtful and helpful. According to my analysis, it's time for you to transform your relationship with a certain nyingdu-la in your life. The bond between you might have generated vital lessons for you. But now it's time for a re-evaluation and redefinition.

**LEO (July 23–Aug. 22):** "Don't pray for the rain to stop," advises Leo poet Wendell Berry. "Pray for good luck fishing when the river floods." That's useful advice for you, my dear. The situation you're in could turn out to be a case of either weird luck or good luck. And how you interpret the situation may have a big impact on which kind of luck it brings. I urge you to define the potential opportunities that are brewing and concentrate on feeding them.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22):** Virgo writer Julio Cortázar (1914–1984) once remarked, "How tiring it gets being the same person all the time." That's surprising. In fact, Cortázar was an innovative and influential author who wrote over 30 books in four genres and lived for extended periods in five countries. It's hard to imagine him ever being bored by his multifaceted self. Even if you're not a superstar like Cortázar, Virgo, I expect you will be highly entertained and amused by your life in the coming weeks. I bet you will be even more interesting than usual. Best of all, you will learn many fresh secrets about your mysterious soul.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22):** The blogger Frogbestfriend says, "One of the biggest problems with society nowadays is that I am so, so sleepy." Frogbestfriend is humorously suggesting that his inability to maintain good sleep habits is rooted in civilization's dysfunctions. He's right, of course!

Many of our seemingly personal problems are at least partially rooted in the pathological ways the whole world operates. Our culture influences us to do things that aren't always healthy and wise. I bring this to your attention, Libra, because now is a favorable time to meditate on society's crazy-making effects on you. Now is also a pivotal moment to heal yourself of those crazy-making effects.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21):** Poet Maggie Smith writes, "We talk so much of light. Please let me speak on behalf of the good dark. Let us talk more of how dark the beginning of a day is." I offer her proposal as a fertile theme for your meditations. Of all the signs in the zodiac, you Scorpios are most skilled at teasing out the good stuff from shadows and secrets and twilight. And your potency in these matters is even higher than usual right now. Do us all a favor and find the hidden redemptions and potential regenerations.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21):** When actors and other creative people in film win Oscars at the Academy Awards ceremony, they come on stage and deliver short talks, acknowledging their honor. These speeches often include expressions of gratitude. An analysis revealed that over the years, Sagittarian director Steven Spielberg has been thanked by winners more often than anyone else—even more than God. Based on my reading of astrological omens, I believe you deserve that level of appreciation in the coming weeks. Please show this horoscope to everyone you know who may be willing to carry out my mandate. Be proactive in collecting tribute, credit, and favors.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19):** In the ancient Greek story of Odysseus, the hero leaves his home in Ithaca to fight in the Trojan War. When the conflict is over, he yearns to return to the beloved life he left behind. But his journey takes 10 years. His tests and travails are many. The 20th-century Greek poet C. P. Cavafy offered advice to Odysseus at the beginning of his quest: "As you set out for Ithaca, hope your road is a long one, full of adventure, full of discovery . . . Keep Ithaca always in your mind. Arriving there is what you're destined for. But don't hurry the journey. Better if it lasts for years, so you're old by the time you reach the island, wealthy with all you've gained on the way." As you begin your new phase of returning home, Capricorn, I invite you to keep Cavafy's thoughts in mind. (Read the poem: [tinyurl.com/HomeIthaka](http://tinyurl.com/HomeIthaka). Translated by Edmund Keeley.)

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18):** "I have never, ever, EVER met anyone who has regretted following their heart," writes life coach Marie Forleo. But what exactly does she mean by "following their heart"? Does that mean ignoring cautions offered by your mind? Not necessarily. Does it require you to ignore everyone's opinions about what you should do? Possibly. When you follow your heart, must you sacrifice money and status and security? In some cases, yes. But in other cases, following your heart may ultimately enhance your relationship with money and status and security. Anyway, Aquarius. I hope I've inspired you to meditate on what it means to follow your heart—and how you can do that intensely during the coming months.

**PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20):** Actor and author Jenny Slate testifies, "As the image of myself becomes sharper in my brain and more precious, I feel less afraid that someone else will erase me by denying me love." That is the single best inspirational message I can offer you right now. In the coming months, you will earn the right and the capacity to make the same declaration. Your self-definition will become progressively clearer and stronger. And this waxing superpower will enable you to conquer at least some of your fear about not getting enough love.

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

## SUDOKU

## Advanced

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

### 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 57

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Answers on page 57

# TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene **BY RICH TUPIGA**

## OKEMOS MUSIC ACADEMY UPGRADES TO NEW BUILDING



Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

Okemos Music Academy relocated to this 4,000-square-foot building just off of I-96 in Okemos.

Season 17 "American Idol" contestant Jacob Moran performs Friday (June 10) at Okemos Music Academy's Open House Party.

### Former 'American Idol' contestant Jacob Moran performs grand opening party

If you can think of an instrument, The Okemos Music Academy probably teaches it. Piano, guitar, drums and a laundry list of string, woodwind and brass instruments. The locally owned school, which teaches hundreds of aspiring musicians from ages 5 on up, also offers voice and singing lessons.



John Dewey

Thanks to some rapid growth, the academy has moved to a new, larger building at 2220 University Park Drive in Okemos. In celebration of the upgrade, the school is hosting a Friday (June 10) open house.

The celebration will feature a ribbon cutting, tours and live music, including a performance from Jacob Moran, a former academy student and a Season 17 "American Idol" contestant. Refreshments from Dunkin' Donuts will be on hand.

The school's founder and director, John Dewey, chatted with City Pulse.

#### Where did your love of music come from?

**John Dewey:** I grew up in a very musical family.

As the youngest of seven children, I had many musical influences, including a mother with the voice of an angel. One of my sisters started teaching me piano when I was 7. I picked up guitar a couple of years later and then violin in the junior high orchestra. I started gigging when I was 14 and teaching at 18. Music has always been my passion.

#### What was your original vision for the academy when you started it in July 2000?

I was teaching a lot of private weekly lessons and having a blast, but I was booked solid. I needed more space and more teachers, so I decided to open my own academy, String Connection. I later renamed it Okemos Music Academy.

We started with two lesson rooms and two teachers and continued to add on as the academy grew. Last November, we moved into a beautiful, 4,000-square-foot building in a great location just off of I-96 in Okemos. Now we have 12 spacious lesson rooms, 25 teachers and over 400 weekly students — both kids and adults are learning many different styles of music on a variety of instruments.

#### Are there any success stories you're particularly proud of?

In 2016, we were honored as the National Music School of the Year and received a special tribute from the state of Michigan. In 2020, we went from in-person to online lessons and then back to a hybrid of both. Our students adapted perfectly. We actually grew during the pandemic. I'm also very proud of the musical growth and progress that our students make. We've always taught

our students the music they want to play and offer a lesson experience that will give them the skills needed to enjoy music for a lifetime.

#### Okemos Music Academy's Open House Party

Friday, June 10

Noon-7 p.m.

Ribbon cutting: noon-2 p.m.

Open house: 4-7 p.m.

(517) 664-1110

lansingmusiclessons.com



## CityPULSE LIVE + LOCAL

### B&I Bar

5247 Old Lansing Rd., Lansing

#### Justin Burton

Thurs., June 9, 7:30-10:30 p.m.

#### Flipside

Sat., June 11, 8-11 p.m.

### Blue Owl

1149 S Washington, Lansing

#### Elden Kelly and Gregg Hill

Thurs., June 9, 6-8 p.m.

### Buddies Grill

2040 N. Aurelius Rd., Holt

#### Chris Lasos

Fri., June 10, 6 p.m.

### Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

#### Frog & the Beeftones

Fri., June 10, 8:30 p.m.

### Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids

#### Russ Holcomb

Friday, June 10, 7-10 p.m.

#### Jacob Ford

Sat., June 11, 7-10 p.m.

### Lansing Brewing Company

518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing

#### Mixpack

Fri., June 10, 8-11 p.m.

### Robin Theatre

1105 S. Washington, Lansing

#### Rachel Davis

Wed., June 8, 8 p.m.

### Urban Beat

1213 Turner Rd., Lansing

#### Anna p.s.

Thurs., June 9, 7-9 p.m.

#### Annie Sellick & Pat Bergeson

Fri., June 10, 8-9:30 p.m.

#### Sophia Matias

Sun., June 12, 7-9 p.m.

### Robin Theatre

5965 Marsh Rd., Haslett

#### Darin Larner Jr.

Thurs., June 9, 7 p.m.



# OUT on the TOWN

## Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com).  
Deadline is 9 a.m. Monday for the upcoming Wednesday edition. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Suzi at (517) 999-6704.

### Wednesday, June 8

**50 over Fitness** - Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos. [meridian50plus.com](http://meridian50plus.com).

**P-CAC June Program: Learn to Network Like a Expert** - 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Impression 5, 200 Museum Dr., Lansing. 517-414-8396.

**Allen Farmers Market** - 2:30-7 p.m. Allen Market Place, 1611 E Kalamazoo, Lansing.

**Craft - Paper Chain Wall Hanging** - 7-8 p.m. Constellation Cat Cafe, 3320 East Lake Lansing Rd, East Lansing. [catcafe.as.me](http://catcafe.as.me).

**Fundraiser Churchwide Yard Sale** - Inside. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Psalm 91 Church, 7501 Coleman Rd., East Lansing. [Psalm91Church.org](http://Psalm91Church.org).

**Join us for the 15th Annual MMAG 12x12 Art Show!** - through June. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Framer's Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos.

**Meridian Township Summer Concert Series** - 6-8:30 p.m. 1995 Central Park Dr., Okemos. 517-853-6400. [meridian.mi.us](http://meridian.mi.us).

**Pagan Community Night** - Join us online or in-person. 6-8 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center Street, Suite 7A, Lansing. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

**Wine Wednesday** - Wine & Cheese tasting at 6 p.m., Wine & Chocolate tasting 8:30pm. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

**Your Art's Desire** - A new multi-media exhibit. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing.

### Thursday, June 9

**Bath Farmers Market** - 3-6:30 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13753 Main St, Bath.

**Chipmunk Story Time** - 10-11 a.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos.

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

**Fundraiser Churchwide Yard Sale** - Inside. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Psalm 91 Church, 7501 Coleman Rd., East Lansing.

**Mixer with Blind Wine Tasting or Sangria** - 5-10 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-721-1330.

**Oliver Sacks: His Own Life** - 9:30-11 p.m. Valley Court Park, 300 Valley Ct, East Lansing, MI 48823, East Lansing. [museum.msu.edu](http://museum.msu.edu).

**The Promise Dinner Re-imagined** - 6 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 East Michigan Ave, Lansing. [lansingpromise.org](http://lansingpromise.org).

**The Revolutionists** - 7-9 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. [riverwalktheatre.com](http://riverwalktheatre.com).

**Stitch 'n Bitch** - Come hang out with some fellow stitching witches! 5-8 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center St.# 7, Lansing. [manifestlansing.com](http://manifestlansing.com).

**Wally Pleasant: An All of Us Express Children's Theater FUNdraising Concert** - 6:30-9 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Albert Rd, East Lansing.

### Silktail 'In Your Own Shade' record release

Friday, June 10  
9 p.m., FREE  
The Avenue Café  
2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
[facebook.com/silktail](https://facebook.com/silktail)



Lansing's own Silktail celebrates the release of its scorching debut LP, "In Your Own Shade," with a free record release show Friday (June 10) at The Avenue Café. Warming up the stage are Marsha and Career Funeral. Back in 2019, Silktail issued its debut EP, "Salt," and then dropped a limited 7-inch, "Vapor," in 2021. Now, with the new full-length album, the disc is released via Setterwind Records and will be available to stream on all platforms. The record was also pressed on deluxe 180-gram vinyl. Looking for a quick sample? The single first single, "Blind Joy," echoes mid-90's emo bands as well as alt-rock heroes, like Dinosaur Jr. and Hüsker Dü. It's a hard-hitting dose of modern shoegaze.

### Friday, June 10

**50 over Fitness** - The Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos. [meridian50plus.com](http://meridian50plus.com).

**Book Scavenger Hunt** - 6-7 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

**Craft with Cats - Galaxy Zen Garden** - 6:30-8 p.m. Constellation Cat Cafe, 3320 East Lake Lansing Rd, East Lansing. [catcafe.as.me](http://catcafe.as.me).

**Cruise To** - Weekly cruise-ins Fridays 5-8 p.m. Holt Farmers' Market, 2150 Cedar St, Holt. [delhitownship.com](http://delhitownship.com).

**Friday Night Concert Series** - 7 p.m. Lake Lansing Park South Band Shell, 1621 Pike St, Haslett. [pk.ingham.org](http://pk.ingham.org).

**Fundraiser Churchwide Yard Sale** - Inside. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Psalm 91 Church, 7501 Coleman Rd., East Lansing. [Psalm91Church.org](http://Psalm91Church.org).

**The Revolutionists** - 8-10 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. [riverwalktheatre.com](http://riverwalktheatre.com).

**Sewers Salute Quilts of Valor Meeting** - 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Towar Hart Baptist Church, 6157 Towar Ave., East Lansing.

### Saturday, June 11

**Advanced Workshop + Class with Ari & Kourtney** - 12-1 p.m. Elite Fitness Steel Mill, 5330 W Saginaw Hwy, Lansing.

**Fantastic Bees** - 1-3 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos. 517-349-3866.

**Fundraiser Churchwide Yard Sale** - Inside. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Psalm 91 Church, 7501 Coleman Rd., East Lansing.

**Grand Opening: How People Make Things** - exhibit will open at Impression 5 Science Center on June 11, 2022. 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116.

**Inebriated Insights** - a night of intoxicated witchcraft. 5-8 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center St., #7A, Lansing. [manifestlansing.com](http://manifestlansing.com).

**Kids Go Fish!** - Fishing Basics for ages 5-12. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Jaycee Park Pavilion, 525

River St., Grand Ledge.

**Kitten Shower** - build-your-own cat plushie craft. 10-11:30 a.m. Constellation Cat Cafe, 3320 East Lake Lansing Rd, East Lansing.

**Restoration Agriculture in Urban Gardening w/ Kelsi Briana Smith** - 10 a.m.-12 p.m. 500 Clifford St., Lansing.

**The Revolutionists** - 8-10 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. [riverwalktheatre.com](http://riverwalktheatre.com).

### Sunday, June 12

**Architecture Tour** - Learn more about our unique building! 1-1:30 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800.

**East Lansing Farmers Market** - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. with Dan Dan Solo at 10 a.m. Valley Court Park, 280 Valley Court, East Lansing. [cityofeastlansing.com](http://cityofeastlansing.com).

**Happendance Presents: "Impulse Made" Dance Concert** - 2 p.m. Tickets \$12. Holt Jr High School, 1784 Aurelius Rd, Holt.

**Music in Nature Featuring New Horizons Orchestra** - 3-5 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos.

**The Revolutionists** - 2-4 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. [riverwalktheatre.com](http://riverwalktheatre.com).

**Sunday School for Witches** - 3-4:30 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center St., 7A, Lansing. [manifestlansing.com](http://manifestlansing.com).

### Monday, June 13

**50 over Fitness** - Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. 517-853-4600.

**Chemistry Craze** - 8 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

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

**LEGO® Robotics** - 8 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Make with Wood** - 8 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Superhero Science** - 8 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

See Events, Page 58

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 55

P	A	P	A	P	A	B	
E	D	A	M	A	N	S	E
P	H	I	S	I	C	A	L
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B	L	A	I	S			
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### SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 55

9	4	3	8	2	1	5	6	7
6	2	7	5	3	4	9	1	8
1	8	5	7	6	9	2	4	3
3	1	2	9	5	7	6	8	4
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7	5	8	2	4	6	1	3	9
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## 'Life of Louise Norton Little' explores mother of Malcolm X

BY BILL CASTANIER

Most biographies of Malcolm X provide little insight into the life of his mother, Louise Little.

Her life is often dismissed with the phrase "she was in a mental institution," ignoring fascinating facts like the busy mother was also the national recording secretary for Marcus Garvey's pan-African movement, which commanded millions of followers throughout the 1920s and '30s.

But a new book, "The Life of Louise Norton Little: An extraordinary woman: Mother of Malcolm X and his 7 siblings," fills in the blanks on her remarkable life, spent mostly in Michigan. The book meticulously details a life that was more than an asterisk. It shows how formidable and self-reliant she was during a time that the voice of an African American woman was not heard.

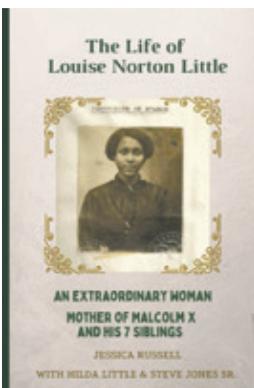
How the book came about is a story unto itself with lots of moving parts, including the work of author Jessica Russell, who resides in the United Kingdom. Russell is also a part-time blogger with an interest in mental health treatment and issues. It was in one of her blogs, penned more than 10 years ago, that she decried how little is known about X's mother.

She had no expectations anything would come of it, but then a family member of Louise Little emailed her. The result is the 2021 book, which provides the most comprehensive look at Louise Little and the Little family.

Her granddaughter Deborah Jones, a niece of Malcolm X, had a catbird's seat in the development of the book, especially since the co-authors were her late brother, Steve Jones Sr., and her late

Aunt Hilda Little, the oldest sister of Malcolm X. Deborah Jones is credited as the book's photographer, with Steve Jones and Hilda Little as contributors.

Since Steve Jones and Hilda Little died before the book was published, Deborah Jones has taken over the role of family historian. Last month, she spoke at rededication of the Malcolm X historical marker at 1003 Vincent Court in Lansing.



"The Life of Louise Norton Little" is available now.

from the people looking down on me," Jones said.

Jones said after her brother began communicating with Russell, he was able to convince his Aunt Hilda Little, Malcolm X's older sister, to talk.

"He told her the world needs to know what happened to her," Jones said, referring to Malcolm X's mother. "Aunt Hilda was a very private person even among family, and Russell was able to get Aunt Hilda's trust."

That trust was further cemented when Russell flew to Michigan to meet with the family in Lansing and at Woodland Park, the Black-owned northern Michigan resort where Hilda Little lived.

After nearly a decade of indepth conversations with Little, a clearer picture of

Malcom X's mother was finally documented. Louise Little's origin story begins on the Caribbean Island of Grenada, which she left on a steamer boat at 21. From there, she sailed to Newfoundland and then made her way inland to Montreal, where she met and married Earl Little.

The 365-page paperback also explores the Littles' involvement with Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association and Earl Little's time as a traveling preacher, which eventually landed the family in Lansing. From the beginning, the family's reception in Lansing was fraught with problems. Their first home was destroyed by arson, forcing the first of two moves.

Garvey supporters were noted for their focus on self-reliance and self-determination, and the Little family was no different. That would all change when Earl Little was killed in an unusual trolley car accident on Lansing east side— which many consider murder — leaving a widowed Louise Little to raise her brood on her own. After a late pregnancy, Little got on the radar of the local welfare organizations, leading a judge to determine she was mentally incompetent and should be sent to Kalamazoo State Hospital. She remained there for 25 years till she was released to family and moved to Woodland Park with her adult daughters, Hilda and Yvonne.

Russell's impeccable research regarding Little's institutionalization includes a trail of old paperwork. Documents detailing her incarceration are in the form of doctor and attendant notes kept by Kalamazoo State Hospital. Those re-



Courtesy of Ferguson Development

Deborah Jones, the granddaughter of Louise Little, at the 2022 rededication of the Malcolm X marker in Lansing.

cords were obtained and preserved by Hilda Little in a sealed envelope.

The contents of the envelope remained unopened and unread until Russell began her mission to document the story.

"I began crying," Deborah Jones said, when she first saw the cover of the book featuring the passport photo of Louise Little.

"For more than 25 years she was able to live among the children she was taken away from. She was able to spend time with family," Jones said.

Jones said she didn't learn about her grandmother's life until she was around 10 years old. "The story was shared when we were old enough to understand," she said.

At 13, Jones said she was finally able to meet her grandmother for the first time while she was on leave from Kalamazoo State Hospital. "I remember it as if it was yesterday," she recalled.

And while she grew up in the family, hearing various firsthand accounts, Jones said she is thrilled the remarkable story of Louie Little has been properly outlined for her and everyone else to read. It's something she never thought possible.

"And to think the whole story came out because of a blog post — wow," she said. "That story outside of our family is one that few knew until now."

## Events

from page 57

### Tuesday, June 14

**17th Annual Classic Car Cruise-In** - Downtown DeWitt on Main St. 6-8 p.m.

**Board Game Meet Up** - ages 18 & up. 6:30 - 10:30 p.m. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Spare Time Bowling Alley, 3101 E Grand River, Lansing.

**Parent Happy Hour** - Storytime for kids and wine for parents. 5-7 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

**Sporcle Live! Trivia** - 7:30 & 8:30 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. crunchyseastlansing.com.

**Toastmaster Meeting** - in person or Zoom. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Downtown Lansing Branch Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. 517-367-6363.

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# In praise of the fungal phoenix

How to hunt and cook morels

By **ARI LeVAUX**

Morels have no psychoactive properties, but they are definitely magical. The caps have a brainy look that might make you feel like you're hallucinating, but these whacky, whimsical mushrooms are for real and can cause real-life magic to happen. This is especially true if you are hunting them, but preparing morels can be an adventure too.

Morels are widely considered the finest tasting mushroom on the planet. Their meaty flavor and fleshy texture allow them to mix well with fat and wine and lend a soulful fungal aroma to soups.

Morels grow, and are hunted, on every continent except Antarctica. They could spring up anywhere, as long as the soil temperatures and moisture levels are right, but they prefer creek beds, disturbed ecosystems and the backyards of morel pickers. They appear in clusters, so if you find one, don't move on until you've scanned the whole area.

For reasons barely understood, these morels proliferate in the burned mountain forests of the West. When you go after them, you quickly look and smell like a burned forest yourself.

Finding morels is half art, half science and half persistence. It's an ecological puzzle you solve by noting the elevation, slope angle, direction it faces and surrounding plant species — if any remain.



Ari LeVaux

A custom dish Flash in the Pan writer Ari LeVaux dubbed "Wild Things."

Last week when I went hunting, the burn I chose was at too high an elevation, so the soil wasn't warm enough. Big mistake. Back in town, I bought a nice basket of morels at a farmers market. Then I went to Diamond Jim's Casino, which houses a small but well-appointed liquor store that carries the correct type of sherry for morel cooking.



Morels need sherry as much as they need butter. But not so-called "cooking sherry," which tastes more like salt water. We need drinking sherry for morel cookery, but not the good stuff. High-end sherry does not offer any advantage over a \$7 bottle of Fairbanks. But alas, on that day, Diamond Jim's was out of stock.

As I stood crestfallen in Diamond Jim's, a friend called my name. Being a great hunter of elk, morels and other wild things, I knew he would understand my plight. I explained to him, and the room in general, why I needed Fairbanks.

"I prefer vermouth," offered the bartender. My head swiveled.

"For morels?" I asked. She nodded.

"Great!"

Here's a recipe for a dish I first ate by a campfire one rainy June night while camping with a bunch of pickers. There is

See Fungal Phoenix, Page 60

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## Fungal Phoenix

from page 59

a certain smell that's only available around a fire, in the middle of a burned forest, in front of a pan of morels simmering in deep butter.

### Wild Things

This hearty, earthy recipe is good served with meat, but that's hardly necessary. Ultimately, it's a showcase for morels. If you have to buy them and they're really expensive, you can make up the difference with regular button mushrooms or other wild mushrooms, like oyster or porcini.

For a sumptuous, saucy alternative, skip the wild rice and almonds and add a cup of heavy cream to the sauteed mushrooms instead.

### Serves 8

- 2 cups wild rice
- 1/2 pound fresh morels (or morels cut with other mushrooms), sliced in half from tip to stem
- 1 medium sized onion, chopped
- 8 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup cheap, dry sherry or dry vermouth (failing those, dry white wine)
- 1 cup chicken stock
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon dried sage (or a tablespoon fresh)

1 tablespoon soy sauce  
Juice and zest of a quarter lemon  
1 cup slivered or sliced almonds  
1 large bunch of parsley  
A handful of chives or ramps  
Add the rice and six cups of water to a pot with a tight-fitting lid. Cook it on medium until the water is gone and the rice is soft and splitting open, about 50 minutes. If it's still mildly hard and crunchy, add another cup of water and cook for another 15 minutes or so. Turn it off and let it sit with the lid on.

While the rice cooks, melt the butter in a pan on medium-high heat. Add the onions and layer the morels on top. After about five minutes, as the onions start to cook down, give it a stir. When the onions turn translucent and the pan starts to dry out (at about 10 minutes) add half of the sherry (or vermouth). Also add the stock, nutmeg, black pepper, salt, sage, soy sauce, lemon juice and zest. Simmer for about 20 minutes on medium. Add the other half cup of vermouth and simmer for 10 more minutes with the lid on.

While it simmers, trim and chop the parsley and chives.

When most of the liquid has evaporated from the pan, add the rice and stir. Add the almonds and give it another stir. Turn off the heat, stir in the parsley and chives and serve.

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# Grass-fed SunChef burger offers zesty experience

BY SARAH SPOHN

Sometimes you just want a burger and fries. But for those looking to make that craving a healthier, more natural dining experience SunChef Kitchen should be added to your foodie-truck bucket list.

The truck's mission is to serve high-quality, tasty food, including more vegetarian options to Lansing's dining scene. Chef Andon Grieve-McSweeney

brings a robust culinary background, having worked for some of the city's most prominent leaders and notable restaurants around town.

If you're looking for deep fried "fair food," this isn't the place for you. But if you're craving fresh ingredients and made-from-scratch entrees you'd expect in a fine dining atmosphere, this place is a must.

The menu includes both breakfast and lunch options, including breakfast burritos and omelets, stir fry, quesadillas, tacos, burritos, alfredo, pasta, burgers, grilled cheese, wraps, salads and more. Customers can pick their own

protein, including organic chicken, sirloin tips, house tofu or house tempeh.

I ordered the grass-fed SunChef Burger with a side of home fries. The burger itself was very juicy and cooked to perfection. I'm definitely not an expert diner, but moving forward, I'll be able to tell the difference in taste between grass-fed beef and its counterpart.

The entree begins with a house-made patty, bun from local bakery Stone Circle, topped with ketchup, cheddar cheese, lettuce, tomato, onion, pickle and a lemon garlic aioli. I'm a picky eater, so I removed some of those toppings, but Chef Andon convinced me to taste-test a little of the lemon garlic aioli and, surprisingly, I was a fan. It was a very light flavor, but gave an extra zest to the burger. The home fries were a large portion, flavorful and topped with a melty cheese.

Another fan-favorite item on the menu is the deviled eggs. The presentation on these is impressive and offers a twist on the classic with cucumber, ginger and a perfect dash of paprika. The side dish includes sweet pickle relish.

Want to eat while your order is still hot?

SunChef has picnic tables and umbrellas out front. The food truck experience can lack when it comes to outdoor dining, leaving you sitting on the curb. Not here. SunChef Kitchen, 5002 W. Saginaw Hwy., provides a fresh bright spot in the local food truck scene and also plans to open a brick-and-mortar restaurant spot in the future.



Photos Sarah Spohn

SunChef Kitchen is a food truck located at 5002 W. Saginaw Hwy., in the parking lot of World Buffet and Little Red Schoolhouse Craft & Antique Mall.

## SunChef Kitchen

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