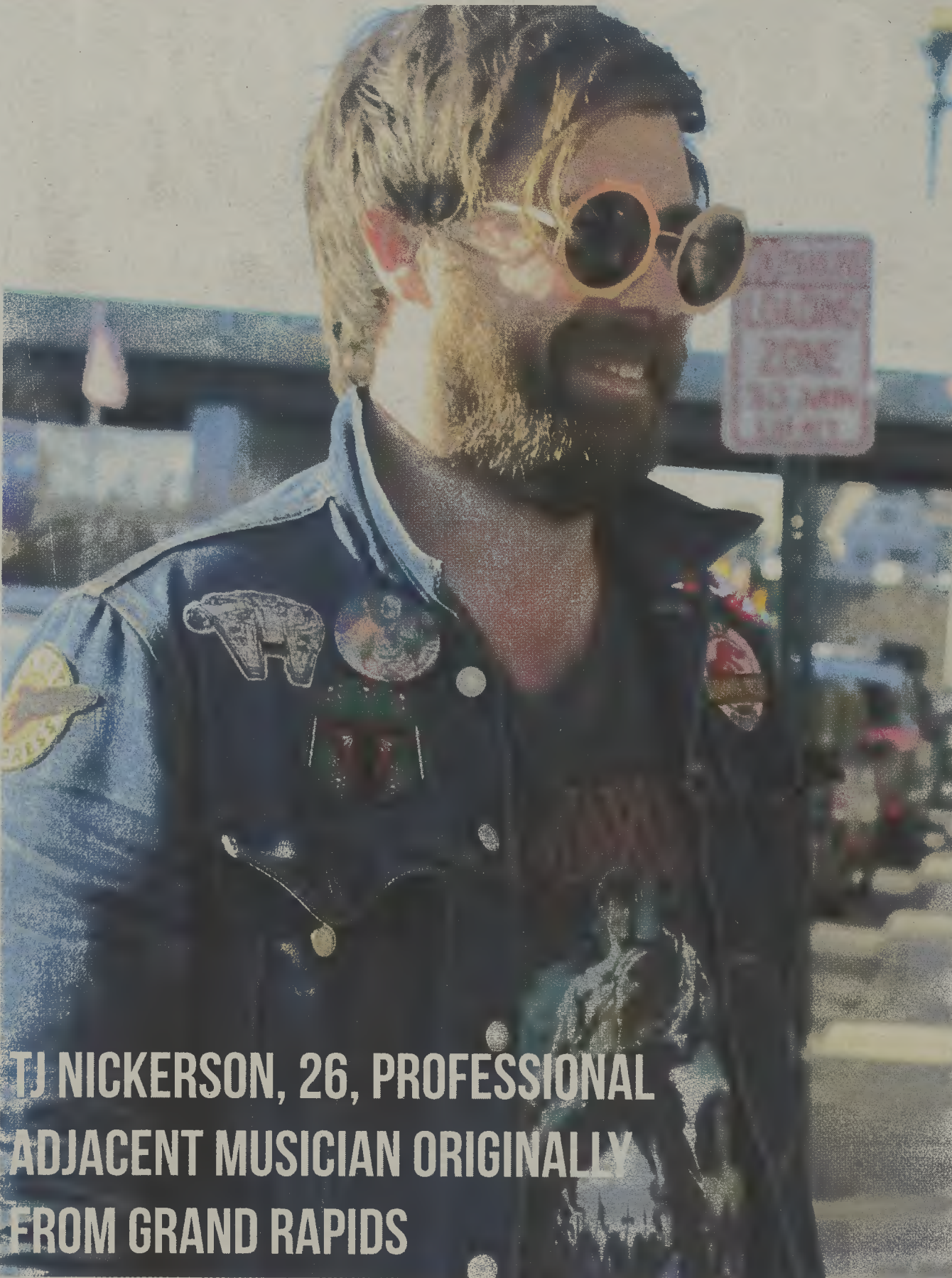


BEAT FROM THE STREET

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Many stories lurk throughout Asheville, whether they are behind the Vaudevillian jazz-folk played by buskers around Pritchard Park, the colorful business decorated with funky, hand-made crafts or the laughter echoing from a patio as locals and tourists alike enjoy delicious beer.



**TJ NICKERSON, 26, PROFESSIONAL
ADJACENT MUSICIAN ORIGINALLY
FROM GRAND RAPIDS**

PHOTO BY DUSTY ALBINGER

How would you describe your style?

“Dumb, self-deprecation is part of my style.”

In what ways would you say?

“I just make fun of myself a lot, yeah. This is my thing.”

That’s good. It’s healthy. So, if you were to describe yourself in three words, which three words would you choose and why?

“Prophetic, just kidding, also self-deprecating. I already explained and then, let’s see, what’s a good third word? Tall. I’m pretty tall, like a little bit tall, not super tall but a little bit tall.”

Yeah, that’s a good word. So, if you have a life motto that you live by on a daily basis, what would you say it would be and why?

“That’s a good one. I feel like I have a lot of them, but they always change. So, don’t be afraid to change, you know, change. Roll with the punches or something like that, cool like that.”

Cool. So, artistically, musically, literature-wise, what inspires you?

“Musically, a lot of stuff, old rock ‘n’ roll, the Replacements. Literature-wise, Hemingway, The Row, classic stuff like that. That’s about it, you know? A handful of stuff, I guess, start there.”

Yeah, that’s concise. So, what’s one thing you like about Asheville and dislike about Asheville?

“I’ve spent a certain amount of time in Asheville and I haven’t really found anything that I don’t like. It was a little tough to find parking. So, I’ll say that. But otherwise, I really like it. There’s plenty of different shops and restaurants and bars and places to hang out and everybody’s usually pretty chill and just having a good time, so stuff like that.”