

FREE

# CityPULSE

a newspaper for the rest of us [www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com) December 30, 2015-January 5, 2016

## Something NEW

Themed outfits  
and contemporary  
style change the  
look of weddings

pg. 14

### Top 10 tax dodgers

Treasurer identifies  
the worst of the worst, p. 5

Arts and culture  
year in review, p. 8

*City Pulse's 2015 Bridal Guide, p. 13*

**NEW YEARS EVE**  
Let's Celebrate  
The End,  
Friend!

Filet, lobster, champagne, beignets, fine wines, foie gras, bourbon, music, truffles, scotch, cask ales, et cetera...

If you are going to do it...Do It Right!

## The Creole New Years Eve 2015

please call (517) 371-1361 or email [info@thecreolelansing.com](mailto:info@thecreolelansing.com) for reservations



Dear Readers,

# CityPULSE needs your help!

Once again, it's time for our biennial **Readership Survey** to collect information for our advertisers — whose support makes City Pulse possible.

The survey is online at

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

Look for a link in the large banner at the top.

If you're unable to access the internet but still want to participate, contact **Suzi at (517) 999-6704** and we can get you a physical copy which you can fill out and mail to our office.

To encourage your participation, we are giving away **50 tickets to NCG and two tickets to opening night for "Motown: The Musical."**

Please take the time - **maybe five minutes** — to help out Lansing's weekly alternative newspaper. It will be up until at least 400 people respond.

Thanks and have a very happy holiday season!

*B. Schwartz*



**At Wharton Center!**

# FIELDHOUSE



**Table and Booth Reservations Available**

Champagne Toast · DJ · Party Favors

Pizza Buffet After Midnight

**CALL FOR DETAILS 332-8300**

Downtown East Lansing [www.field.house](http://www.field.house)

# Troppo



**RESERVATIONS 371-4000**

## THE GAME & DINNER



**TAVERN & TAP**

EST. 2006

# SPARTY PARTY!

**Party Favors**

**MSU vs Alabama**

**DJ**

**Champagne Toast at Midnight**

**Midnight Buffet**

Free Admission with Dinner @ Troppo

[www.tavernandtap.com](http://www.tavernandtap.com) 374-5555

# Feedback

## Hirten wrong on all counts

I respectively would like to offer some alternative thoughts to your article, "A Tarnished Legacy" (Hirten, Dec. 16).

First of all, our legal system, which is based solely on Judeo-Christian values, does not extend to foreign nations. As a Foreign Nation, their citizens or leaders choose/create laws specific to them.

Secondly, our National Security should be the First Priority of our President. Therefore, at a local level, Michigan's Security should be the First Priority of our Governor, Attorney General, then local elected officials and law enforcement.

Thirdly, our Constitution guarantees Freedom of the Press. Along with that guarantee is your opportunity to make a living as an organization and to you individually as a writer. No other business is offered this kind of legal protection or support. Even General Motors, LLC, eventually has to carry their weight independent of direct Government ownership.

Fourthly, the local news coverage, including your own, is just too predictable, bland, and sophomoric to be believed. If any local news outlet would inconvenience themselves enough, their combined presence at the December 14th Public Comment portion of the Lansing City Council Meeting would have exposed them to two impassioned pleas to take ISIL seriously. A Military wife sobbed as she spoke of the threats from ISIL to Military Families to "be-

head them (adults and children) in their own homes". The Council, for once, sat in stunned silence. With similar pleas, a Council Member would run to the back of the auditorium to console the "victim", but I guess this was the "wrong kind of victim" and would spoil the "Welcoming City" ceremony.

Even the current iteration of a President has the legal authority to refuse entry to any person/group that he deems a threat to our National Security. It is in our law.

What is more unsettling, is that President Obama enflamed the intertribal Sunni/Shia conflict within Syria by demanding "Hussain must go". This gave militants in Syria the idea that the President of the United States and Secretary Hilary Clinton openly supported the overthrow of a foreign government. Is that legal? Moral?

Finally, trying to equate Muslim refugees to Jews during the Holocaust is morally repugnant. Further, as long as you already politicalized our National Security by referring to Governor Snyder, may I remind you that it was President Franklin D Roosevelt, a DEMOCRAT, who imprisoned Japanese Citizens and refused entry to the "German Jewish refugees"! Lyndon Johnson did was lie about the Gulf of Tonkin incident.

In closing, I wish you, your family and everyone in the Lansing area, a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and a Secure, Prosperous and Safe Happy New Year.

—Thomas Hamlin  
Lansing

## Don't mind those trucks next door

I was disappointed by your article on Budget Movers. Todd Heywood used up almost 2 full pages of your paper trying to take down a small time business owner who owns 2 moving trucks and a car. He went after him for licensing, did back ground checks, messed with his past client, (the city) and snoopied around his house. On top of this, he went to the city demanding they shut him down, wasting their time with a long list of questions and allegations of some perceived sin. I found this whole article, and the self righteous attitude associated with it deplorable.

Imagine trying to eek out a living with a tiny moving company and along comes the City Pulse determined to use what little power it has to destroy you. If I needed a mover, I'd hire U-Save Moving and Storage LLC in a second, if they somehow survive this assault by the City Pulse that is.

—Mike McCurdy  
Meridian Township

# CityPULSE

VOL. 15  
ISSUE 20

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



Hirten: State Supreme Court rules correctly in MSU v. ESPN

PAGE 7

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES: (517) 999-6705  
CLASSIFIED AD INQUIRIES: (517) 999-6704  
or email [citypulse@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:citypulse@lansingcitypulse.com)

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER • Berl Schwartz  
publisher@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5061

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER • Mickey Hirten  
mickey@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5064

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR • Ty Forquer  
ty@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5068

CREATIVE DIRECTOR • Jonathan Griffith  
jonathan@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5069

PRODUCTION MANAGER • Allison Hammerly  
adcopy@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5066

STAFF WRITERS • Lawrence Cosentino  
lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com

Todd Heywood  
todd@lansingcitypulse.com

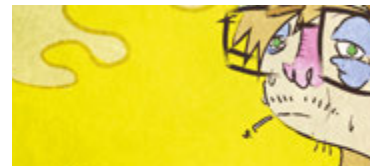
ADVERTISING • Shelly Olson, Suzi Smith, Prince Spann  
shelly@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6705  
suzi@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6704  
prince@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6710

GRAPHIC DESIGNER • Nikki Nicolaou

Contributors: Andy Balaskovitz, Justin Bilicki, Daniel E. Bollman, Capital News Service, Bill Castanier, Mary C. Cusack, Tom Helma, Gabrielle Johnson, Terry Link, Andy McGlashen, Kyle Melinn, Mark Nixon, Shawn Parker, Stefanie Pohl, Dennis Preston, Allan I. Ross, Belinda Thurston, Rich Tupica, Ute Von Der Heyden, Paul Wozniak

Delivery drivers: Dave Fisher, Ian Graham, Richard Simpson, Thomas Scott Jr.

Intern: McKenzie Hagerstrom



PAGE 12

Turn it down's top albums of 2015



PAGE 25

New Year's Eve event guide



COVER ART

By JONATHAN GRIFFITH

Have something to say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages?

Now you have two ways to sound off:

### 1.) Write a letter to the editor.

- E-mail: [letters@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:letters@lansingcitypulse.com)
- Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
- Fax: (517) 371-5800

### 2.) Write a guest column:

Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: [publisher@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:publisher@lansingcitypulse.com) or (517) 999-5061

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

Serving Greater Lansing's LGBT Community

**Lansing Association for Human Rights**

L A H R LGBT News • Coming Out Group • Frisn Awards Breakfast Club • Downtown Lunch • Cafe Night

An advocate by and for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their allies in the greater Lansing community since 1979.

[www.LAHRonline.org](http://www.LAHRonline.org)

CITY PULSE on the AIR

NOW AT 10:30 A.M. SATURDAYS on

WDBM IMPACT 88.9FM

**THIS MODERN WORLD** by TOM TOMORROW

2015 IN REVIEW IN WHICH WE BARELY SCRATCH THE SURFACE OF THE YEAR IN CRAZY PART THE SECOND

JULY 9: TRUMP SAYS HE STILL DOES NOT KNOW IF OBAMA WAS BORN IN U.S. BECAUSE I AM A RATIONAL PERSON WHO THINKS VERY RATIONAL THINGS!

AUG. 25: TRUMP SUP-PORTER FAMOUSLY DECLARES: "HIS GOAL IS TO MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN! IT'S ON HIS MAT!"

SEPT. 3: KENTUCKY MARRIAGE LICENSE CLERK HEADS TO JAIL FOR FIVE DAYS RATHER THAN ISSUE LICENSES TO GAY COUPLES.

SEPT. 17: JEB BUSH DECLARES THAT HIS BROTHER KEPT US SAFE. IF BY "SAFE" YOU MEAN--

SEPT. 18: CARLY FLORINA DENOUNCES IMAGINARY PLANNED PARENTHOOD VIDEO. --AND THEN THEY TAKE BABY BRAINS AND FEED THEM TO ZOMBIES!

OCT. 9: BEN CARSON SAYS JEWS COULD HAVE PREVENTED HOLOCAUST WITH GUNS. BECAUSE I AM ALSO A VERY RATIONAL PERSON!

OCT. 13: HILLARY CLINTON SAYS EDWARD SNOWDEN SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN U.S. AS WHISTLE-BLOWER. THEN WE COULD HAVE IGNORED HIS REVELATIONS AND PROSECUTED HIM!

OCT. 28: MIKE HUCKABEE OFFERS HIS VERSION OF HEALTH CARE REFORM. "LET'S CURE... DIABETES, HEART DISEASE, CANCER AND ALZHEIMERS!"

NOV. 9: WEIGHING IN ON IMPORTANT DEBATE, JEB BUSH DECLARES: "HELL YEAH I'D KILL BABY HITLER!"

NOV. 13: TERRORISTS ATTACK PARIS, CAUSING MANY AMERICANS TO IMMEDIATELY FORGET THE LAST 13 YEARS. BOMB THEM! INVADE THEM!

NOV. 27: CONSERVATIVES SHRUG OFF ANOTHER WHITE GUY GUN RAMPAGE. NOTHING CAN BE DONE!

DEC. 7: TRUMP EMBRACES HIS INNER FASCIST. BAN ALL MUSLIMS! SHUT DOWN THE MOSQUES!

DEC. 14: TRUMP'S DOCTOR RELEASES EXTREMELY CONVINCING LETTER OF MEDICAL FITNESS. "MR. TRUMP... WILL BE THE HEALTHIEST INDIVIDUAL EVER ELECTED TO THE PRESIDENCY!"

DEC. 15: TED CRUZ EXPLAINS HIS PLAN TO DEFEAT ISIS. "WE NEED TO FOCUS ON KILLING THE BAD GUYS!"

NEXT YEAR: MORE GUN MASSACRES! MORE WAR! AND MORE DONALD TRUMP!

GRATEFUL NATION WONDERS WHY NO ONE THOUGHT OF THIS BEFORE.

GRATEFUL NATION WONDERS WHY NO ONE THOUGHT OF THIS BEFORE.

SO--LIKE THIS YEAR--

THE SYSTEM WORKS!

ONLY MORE!

TOM TOMORROW © 2015 • APOLOGIES TO MATT GROENING

## Ingham County's top 10 Properties face foreclosure unless taxes are paid

It's a diverse set of properties. One building houses a gym; another a laboratory. There is a manufacturer of plastic products. More than a few are dwellings. All of them share one thing, however: They face tax foreclosure if the owners fail to pay off back taxes, interests and fees by March 1.

Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing has identified the top 10 tax delinquents, who collectively owe more than \$1 million. Seven of those in arrears are limited liability companies, the other three are individuals.

Using publicly available databases and documents provided by Schertzing, here's the top 10 delinquents:

**No. 1: DFCU Financial of Dearborn.** That's a credit union, which owns 134 E. Edgewood Blvd. The building on that property was built in 2005 and the whole parcel has an assessed value of \$816,600, according to city of Lansing assessor records available online. Schertzing's records show the company failed to pay taxes in 2013 and 2014, racking up a tax bill — with fees and interest — of \$128,878.

**No. 2 -- Cedar IV LLC.** The building houses Labcorp's operations and was built in 1949. It's valued at \$815,300, according to the city's public records. The company owes \$128,503.55 in back taxes, interests and fees from 2013 and 2014. The company did not return phone calls seeking comment.

**No. 3: NBB Properties LLC.** Jackpots is a bingo hall at 5443 S. Cedar, formerly a Ryan's Steak House. Records show the building was completed in 1988 and the property is valued at \$673,500. The outstanding balance is \$114,217.

**No. 4: S & S Acquisitions.** S & S does not have a registration with the state, but property records refer to Dua and Associates as a contact. The law firm did not return messages left for comment. According to records provided by Schertzing, 39 of the company's 51 properties in Ingham County are facing foreclosure, with the company owing \$110,422 in back taxes, interest and fees.

**No. 5: David and Marian Taylor.** The Taylors own nine properties in Lansing, according to the records from Schertzing. Seven of those are facing foreclosure for a combined total of \$107,131.82 in back taxes, interest and fees.

**No. 6: UN Michigan LLC.** The company owes \$107,061.43 in back taxes on a property in south Lansing. However, the resident agent listed for the company — Kelvin Koh — could not be located. A visit to the Okemos address provided to state authorities for Koh found none of the businesses there knew who he was. The property has a value of \$809,000.

**No. 7: Molded Plastics Industries.** The company owes \$89,264 on two properties in Holt. Records show the properties have an total assessed value of \$604,000. When reached by phone, a person who wished not to be named said the company had been struggling for business in the past couple of years, but that it had struck a deal with Schertzing to pay off the tax debt.

Schertzing said he found no documents to support that, noting that the foreclosure process continues with delinquent taxes until the debt is paid off — even after there is an agreement in place. "And is 22 percent interest really a good business decision," he asked, referring to the rate charged on back taxes.

### How tax foreclosure works

The list of properties facing foreclosure, as published in City Pulse in this issue, is based on taxes owed from 2013. A taxing authority — for example, the City of Lansing — issues property tax bills on July 1 and Dec. 1 of each year.

A property owner has until March 1 of the following year — 2014 in this instance — to pay the bill. Failing that, the bill is referred to the county for collection. The county treasurer spends the next year working to collect overdue taxes. However, once a property is referred to the county treasurer, it is considered delinquent.

In December of the referral year, more than a year after delinquency collections from the county began, the treasurer publishes a list of properties facing tax foreclosure. In February, property owners facing foreclosure have the opportunity to plead their case in circuit court.

By March, if the owner is unsuccessful, the court issues foreclosures on properties and the county takes possession. In June, if the property is occupied, the county proceeds with evictions, and sometime between July and October, the county auctions those properties off in a public auction.

**No. 8: John Linn.** Linn, of Williamston, owes \$87,619 on 18 different properties in the county, mostly in Williamston.

**No. 9. Mohamed Abduljaber.** Abduljaber, who was convicted in federal court of Medicaid fraud, has 26 properties in his name, according to records from Schertzing. Only one of those properties is not delinquent, leaving him racking up a back tax bill of \$81,858. Some of the properties were identified in court documents for forfeiture to the federal government. It is unclear why those properties were not forfeited.

**No. 10: Robert and Donna J Holberg.** The Holbergs owe \$73,169.11 on 12 different properties.

— Todd Heywood



Mike Stevens of Grand Ledge was the first person to correctly provide the identity of the Dec. 9 Eye for Design (see below). Stevens described the detail as the "piers at the massive stone entrance to the home" on East Grand River Avenue in Williamston. The stacked natural stone entry is impressive, featuring a grand metal gateway, made more beautiful with seasonal decorations.

With further colors of the season, we offer the mosaic featured above. The first person to correctly identify its location, which is in Lansing, will receive a City Pulse Eye for Design mug. Send your answer to [debolman@comcast.net](mailto:debolman@comcast.net) by Jan. 3.

— Daniel E. Bollman, AIA



## At a glance

Ingham County's top ten 2015 tax delinquents

1. DFCU Financial	\$128,878.07	6. UN Michigan LLC	\$107,061.43
2. Cedar IV LLC	\$128,503.55	7. Molded Plastic Industries	\$89,263.73
3. NBB Properties	\$114,216.91	8. Linn, John	\$87,619.10
4. S&S Acquisition Group	\$110,422.35	9. Abduljaber, Mohamed	\$81,858.13
5. Taylor, David and Marian	\$107,131.82	10. Holberg, Robert and Donna J.	\$73,169.11

Data from the Ingham County Treasurer's Office

## The bottom line

### Local credit unions lacking in socially conscious practices

In my last column, I discussed credit unions hoping to find one locally that might more transparently demonstrate sustainability values. I did hear back from one of my own credit unions, but not with any information that would make my judgment of their triple-bottom-line — social, environmental

SUSTAINABILITY



TERRY LINK

an financial — performance any easier. Fortunately I know enough from my readings in emerging business practices, including finance, that there are conscientious actors out there addressing triple-bottom-line outcomes in the financial sector. I have also identified one local credit union, among the many, that

is also a Community Development Financial Institution, i.e. dedicated to funding disadvantaged communities. They scored high on the banklocal.info website I mentioned in the earlier column. I will report on what I've learned from them in the next column.

Globally, the UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative developed the "Principles for Responsible Investment" in 2005 (see [www.unep.pri.org](http://www.unep.pri.org) for more details). The six core principles are:

1: We will incorporate ESG [Environment-

tal, Social and Governance] issues into investment analysis and decision-making processes.

2: We will be active owners and incorporate ESG issues into our ownership policies and practices.

3: We will seek appropriate disclosure on ESG issues by the entities in which we invest.

4: We will promote acceptance and implementation of the Principles within the investment industry.

5: We will work together to enhance our effectiveness in implementing the Principles.

6: We will each report on our activities and progress towards implementing the Principles.

The principles, aimed at institutional investors (i.e., foundations, pension funds, investment banks, university endowments, etc.), now have more than 1,400 signatories committed to those principles. Assets under management by these signatories now exceed \$59 trillion. When the old guard tells you sustainable investing is a loser, tell that to these players.

But what about best practices for banking generally? Using my connections nationally with triple-bottom-line leaders, I was directed to Vancity. A credit union in Vancouver, B.C., with more than 500,000 members, Vancity isn't shy in sharing its vision for what community banking should be. You can read it on their website. (excerpts here)

*At Vancity, our vision is to redefine wealth in a way that furthers the financial, social and environmental well-being of our*

*members and their communities.*

*"As of December 31, 2007, Vancity is officially a carbon-neutral organization. ... Our data was audited by Interpraxis (our social auditor).*

*"Currently, the minimum wage in BC is \$10.25/hour; but the living wage in metro Vancouver is \$20.68/hour[\$15.14US]. This means that families who work for low wages often have to face impossible choices: buy food or heat the house, feed the children or pay the rent. Paying a living wage allows individuals and families to meet their basic needs and contribute to their communities. A Living wage means strong local economies, sustainable cities and healthy communities."*

I could write many columns on Vancity based on a review of their very transparent and informative website and conversations with their leaders. But Vancity isn't alone. When I asked them for examples of other shining examples of triple-bottom-line credit unions, they immediately pointed to the Global Alliance for Banking on Values.

This is an emergent international group of banks committed to higher standards of sustainability and community wealth building, which we might hope local banks and credit unions would support. But there are currently only eight U.S. financial institutions which have joined this group representing banks and credit unions from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latina America and Australia. What is it they share, and could we coax our local credit unions and banks to adopt the principles and practices they support? The GABV Principles of Sustainable Banking are intended to describe fundamental pillars of values-based banking:

1. Triple bottom line approach at the heart of the business model

2. Grounded in communities, serving the real economy and enabling new business models to meet the needs of both

3. Long-term relationships with clients and a direct understanding of their economic activities and the risks involved

4. Long-term, self-sustaining and resilient to outside disruptions

5. Transparent and inclusive governance

6. All of these principles embedded in the culture of the bank.

Can our local banking leaders re-evaluate what good banking looks like based on the successful example of credit unions line Vancity? If we members of credit unions never ask or involve themselves in the direction of their credit union, the narrow economic growth paradigm will continue to erode away the cooperative and community wealth notion behind them. Credit unions should be natural homes for the type of sustainable enterprise that Vancity emulates.

In fact, it was why they were created in the U.S. in the mid-1920s. Maybe we need to elect a slate of directors at our credit unions that sees the virtues of a TBL focus? I am sure willing to help that cause. Do credit union members even know how to run for a position on your board? From the few local credit union websites I have examined, it is not at all transparent, a key principle of both the Principles for Responsible Investment and the Principles of Responsible Banking. We have a long way to go.

*(Consultant Terry Link was the founding director of the Office of Sustainability at MSU.)*

### DO YOU HAVE?

WEBSITE

SOCIAL MEDIA

EMAIL NEWSLETTER

VIDEO

IT LOOKS LIKE  
YOU MAY NEED  
VIDEO

#bettercallpaul  
517.292.0095



UnoDeuce. MultiMedia  
[www.unodeuce.com](http://www.unodeuce.com)

### PUBLIC NOTICES

**B/16/067 Frances Park Pump Station Improvements Project** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the CITY OF LANSING, c/o LBWL, PURCHASING OFFICE, 1232 HACO DR., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until 3:00 PM local time in effect on **Feb. 2, 2016** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197, or slr@lbwl.com or go to [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info) for content and purpose of this bid contact Alec Malvetis at (517) 483-4459.** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#15-308



### Lansing City Council 2016 Meeting Schedule

Monday, January 4, 2016;  
Monday, January 11, 2016  
Monday, January 25, 2016  
Monday, February 8, 2016  
Monday, February 22, 2016  
Monday, February 29, 2016  
Monday, March 14, 2016  
Monday, March 28, 2016  
Monday, April 11, 2016  
Monday, April 25, 2016  
Monday, May 9, 2016  
Monday, May 23, 2016  
Monday, June 13, 2016

Monday, June 27, 2016  
Monday, July 11, 2016  
Monday, July 25, 2016  
Monday, August 8, 2016  
Monday, August 22, 2016  
Monday, August 29, 2016  
Monday, September 12, 2016  
Monday, September 26, 2016  
Monday, October 10, 2016  
Monday, October 24, 2016  
Monday, November 14, 2016  
Monday, November 28, 2016  
Monday, December 12, 2016

Except as otherwise noted, all meetings will be on Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, City Hall.

Written public comments for Lansing City Council Meetings are accepted at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or by email [cityclerk@lansingmi.gov](mailto:cityclerk@lansingmi.gov).

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk  
[www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk](http://www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk)

[www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope](https://www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope)

CP#15-304

## Opinion for openness Supreme Court rejects MSU's assertion of secrecy

The Michigan Supreme Court, usually so protective of business, hostile to unions and deferential to powerful interests, actually ruled in favor of openness and transparency last week by ordering Michigan State



**MICKEY HIRTEN**

University to release the names of football and basketball athletes identified in crime-related incident reports.

The university had denied a Freedom of Information Act request by the sports network ESPN for information about athletes accused of crimes. It sought the

information as part of a broad investigation of favorable treatment given athletes.

MSU responded to ESPN's request by providing incident reports but redacted names, citing the privacy exemptions it claimed were allowed under FOIA. The university is tenacious in protecting its hundred-million-dollar athletic program and its athletes, who like other students at times run afoul of the law.

In this case, the courts have consistently and firmly challenged MSU's embrace of secrecy.

Ingham County Circuit Judge Clinton Canady's initial ruling has proven correct. He ordered the university to release the names of student athlete suspects but allowed the names of victims to remain private.

Dissatisfied with this compromise, MSU took the matter to the Michigan Court of Appeals, which agreed with Canady, stating that the release of suspect names and redaction of victim IDs balanced the public's interest in knowing how the university's police handle investigations versus protecting student privacy rights.

Still not satisfied, MSU appealed to the Supreme Court, which declined to intervene and lifted the stay on Canady's initial ruling. It was a 6-1 decision, the lone no vote offered by Justice Stephen Markman, who ignored the well documented special treatment afforded college athletes by their schools and law enforcement agencies.

To investigate athlete arrests, prosecutions and convictions, ESPN requested records from Auburn, Florida, Florida State, Michigan State, Missouri, Notre Dame, Oklahoma State, Oregon State, Texas A&M and Wisconsin.

Here is what it found:

"The examination of more than 2,000 documents shows that athletes from the 10 schools mainly benefited from the confluence of factors that can be reality at major sports programs: the near-immediate access to high-profile attorneys, the intimidation that is felt by witnesses who accuse athletes and the higher bar some criminal justice officials feel needs to be met in

high-profile cases."

The project identified athletes at University of Florida and Florida State University as unusually entangled by legal difficulties.

"Florida, had the most athletes named as suspects — 80 in more than 100 crimes at Florida. Yet the athletes never faced charges, had charges against them dropped or were not prosecuted 56 percent of the time. When Outside the Lines examined a comparison set of cases involving college-age males in Gainesville, 28 percent of the crimes ended either without a record of charges being filed or by charges eventually being dropped."

Markman in his whinny dissent discounts the different status of athletes and the general student population, which was, in fact, the premise of the ESPN investigation.

ESPN's separate report on MSU was constrained by the school's refusal to release information about its athletes. Based on incomplete dates, ESPN found that:

"... analysis comparing cases involving

Michigan State athletes and a sample of cases involving college-age males in East Lansing showed no substantial overall difference in how, or whether, the cases were prosecuted." But it added, "Several incidents from Michigan State campus police were not able to be analyzed, though, due to an ongoing dispute involving ESPN's public records requests pending in Michigan courts."

Based on incomplete reporting for 2009 to 2014, ESPN found that there were criminal incidents related to the football and basketball teams, involving 44 athletes, 10 of them more than once. This represented 15 percent of the team rosters. Of all cases, 62 percent were dropped or not prosecuted.

Said the ESPN report: "A sample of cases involving college-age males in East Lansing showed no substantial overall difference in how, or whether, the cases were prosecuted."

MSU actually did a disservice to its athletes by attempting to hide its incident reports. Its football and basketball pro-


grams are run by no-nonsense coaches Mark Dantonio for football and Tom Izzo for basketball. Presumably there is nothing to hide with either program.

The Supreme Court decision also nudges MSU, along with Wayne State University and the University of Michigan, closer to the accountability standards applied to other government agencies.




As Markman wrote in his dissent, "The Michigan Constitution confers a unique constitutional status on our public universities ... . Accordingly, a public university such as [the] defendant exercises a fair amount of independence and control over [its] day-to-day operations, which is presumably designed to secure its overall educational mission."

Universities have used this constitutional provision to avoid FOIA and Open Meeting accountability. That the majority of the court ignored this dodge is encouraging. Our universities are too important to hide their workings from the public.

now in progress



The finest in men's fashions since 1865

# year end sale

Take advantage of savings throughout our store:  
Suits, Sportcoats, Dress Trousers, and Neckwear

Johnston & Murphy men's & women's shoes

Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM Saturday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

113 North Washington
Downtown Lansing
517 . 482 . 1171
kositcheks.com

# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC • THEATER

City Pulse's 2015 Arts and Culture

# YEAR IN REVIEW

## Awakened by sleepers

Jazz and classical highlights of 2015

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

This town is heated year round (summer festivals included) with native, student and visiting musical talent, thanks largely to the white-hot boiler room that is the MSU College of Music. With so much to take in, you have to cock an ear for the sleepers — the gigs that pop up so fast and hit so hard you can hardly believe what you've just heard.

My favorite concert of 2015 snuck into town on the spur of the moment way back on Jan. 14, with attendance largely driven by word of mouth. New York violinist John-

ny Gandelsman answered the Bach-signal from his father, MSU viola Professor Yuri Gandelsman, exploited a gap in his schedule and ran the jewels of the violin repertoire — a complete cycle of Johann Sebastian Bach's sonatas and partitas for solo violin — at MSU's newly remodeled Cook Recital Hall. He was fresh from climbing the same mountain at New York's Barge-music the Saturday before. I remember seeing the blurb in *The New Yorker* and wishing I could go. A few days later, I got my wish. Getting New York quality music in

East Lansing has become routine. The recital was free.

Intense but informal in casual street clothes, tapping into both his folk roots and unbelievable classical chops, Gandelsman danced through more than three hours of intricate, emotional and demanding music without losing anyone to the fidgets. On the contrary, he asked the attendees halfway through whether they wanted a break or if they wanted him to keep going.

"Keep going!" everyone yelled, as if they were afraid this miraculous bubble would burst.

The other big highlight of 2015, for me, was sitting on the grass outside the Broad Art Museum on a sunny June 20, a few feet away from the twinkly racket of jazz vibraphonist Jason Adasiewicz and a stellar quartet of fellow Chicago avant-garde jazz musicians.

Adasiewicz's body language was almost as absorbing as his unique brand of percussive, ugly-beautiful jazz. His entire torso rebounded from the vibraphone as he banged away.

The Adasiewicz gig was not a big-tent thing at East Lansing's Summer Solstice Jazz Festival, but it finally brought brilliant, young, cutting edge jazz, chewy as Chicago deep dish, to an already rich festival. Other highlights included young trumpeter/vocalist Bria Skonberg, Rodney Whitaker's Soul-R-Energy and a guitar summit with Peter Bernstein, MSU's Randy Napoleon and Randy Stryker.

Not only do we have two jazz festivals, we have two excellent ones. On a tight budget, Lansing JazzFest, Aug. 7 and 8, offered

up a great slate of artists, highlighted by Detroit saxophonist Marcus Elliot, an expansive post-Coltrane spirit to reckon with, and the unlikely trio of hammy Italian organist Tony Monaco, serene guitar virtuoso Fareed Haque and MSU drum legend Randy Ge-lispie. Haque's own electronic group, Math Games, and soulful singer Betty Joplin stretched the variety to a pleasing chiropractic soul crack.

MSU's music programs also draw internationally known musicians and composers for extended residencies. The work they do with students can be a life-changer, and, from the listener's standpoint, the new blood keeps the local scene from getting stale.

From Oct. 26 to Oct. 30, Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Kevin Puts came to MSU and worked with several groups, from Musique 21 to the MSU Symphony Orchestra with flutist Richard Sherman. They performed several of Puts' works, including "Einstein on Mercer Street," "Millennium Canons" and Puts' Flute Concerto. It was a mini-festival, with a focus and excitement you rarely find in a big city. And there will be more.

The Jazz Studies program did the same, only more so, with several residencies from icons of jazz, culminating in concerts with the top student orchestras.

One of my highlights was the glittering arrangements led by one of the nation's top guitarists, Peter Bernstein, on a March 7 concert, topped off by a four-guitar blow-out. Jazz royalty came to town in the form of



Courtesy Photo

Violinist Johnny Gandelsman's performance of the complete sonatas and partitas of J.S. Bach was one of Lawrence Cosentino's musical highlights of 2015.

See Music, Page 9



# Push and pull

Local theater ranged from light romance to heavy history in 2015

By **MARY C. CUSACK**

The theater companies of the Greater Lansing area produce a tremendous number of quality theatrical productions each year. And while City Pulse's Pulsar awards are a sincere way to honor the best of the best in local theater, it is also rewarding when a show gets recognition beyond our borders. Lansing Community College's production of "Never Swim Alone" is headed to the Kennedy Center's Region Three American College Theater Festival next month, competing for a chance to perform at the Kennedy Center's national arts festival in Washington.

Directed by Deb Keller, the play is a fast and furious dissection of the destructive nature of competitiveness. Heath Sartorius and Connor Kelly play polished, buttoned-down businessmen whose flashy smiles mask a dark secret from their adolescence that sparks a lifelong game of chicken. Monica Tanner plays the referee who calls out the battles and announces the winner at each stage.

The play relies heavily on Keller's creative choreography to increase the intensity of the battles, culminating in perhaps the most skillful fight scene to grace a Lansing stage. The slow-motion fisticuffs require more athleticism than one might think and must be seen to be fully appreciated. Fortunately, those who missed the play during its run have one last chance to see it. The cast and crew will present a free, open to the public final dress rehearsal to prepare for the festival 4 p.m. Sunday in LCC's Dart

Auditorium. It is a rare treat to have a second chance to catch such a first-rate production.

Williamston Theatre closed out its 2014-2015 season in May and June with the touching and funny "Outside Mullingar." John Lepard and Suzi Regan starred as Anthony and Rosemary, lifelong neighbors approaching middle-age who are fated to be together — eventually. Rosemary has known since she was a child that she would marry Anthony, and at a young age she executes a complicated real estate scheme that ensures that Anthony will have to rely upon her someday.

In the meantime, Anthony's father, Tony (Arthur J. Beer), discourages a relationship because Anthony has inherited some personality quirks from his mother's side of the family. The outcome is never in question — this is, after all, a romantic comedy — but it is charming all the same. The rural Irish setting adds to this charm, and the cast never faltered in their accents and small-town mannerisms. The only unrealistic plot point was that Anthony could avoid and resist the fiery and beautiful Rosemary for so long.

But not all plays can be fanciful distractions from the real world. We also need serious plays that comment on our history, in hopes that future generations of audience members can learn from the past in a more visceral way than through textbooks or documentaries. "The Diary of Anne Frank," produced this season by Riverwalk Theatre, is

See Theatre, Page 10

# Fresh faces

Highlights of 2015's local theater season came from theater rookies, aspiring actors

By **PAUL WOZNAK**

Local theater seasons always seem to include some well executed warhorses, unexpected gems and, unfortunately, a few duds. But 2015 included some especially memorable theatrical experiences from actors, and even some from first-time thespians.

Arguably the most powerful production this season was "Telling: Lansing," produced by Peppermint Creek Theatre Co. Featuring a cast of mostly non-actors telling personal stories related to their own or their family member's military service, "Telling: Lansing" stood out for its honesty, depth and scope. The set and staging were

sparse. A projection screen and occasional lighting and sound elements added some ambiance and atmosphere. But the stories were so personal and candid that the words themselves took the audience on a journey. "Telling: Lansing" not only served as a welcome contrast to glitzy Broadway productions, but also as a reminder that everyone has a story in them if we're willing to ask and listen.

Moving from theatrical neophytes to aspiring actors, some of the strongest performances of 2015 came from Michigan State University. While MSU Department of Theatre's productions of "Hair" and "Les Liaisons Dangereuses"

cleaned up in City Pulse's 2015 Pulsar awards, another play, "Bug," was one of my favorites of 2015. In the play, outgoing master's program students Jacqueline Wheeler and Zev Steinberg played two paranoid junkies who can't escape their own creepy delusions. The realism in the production elements, from stained costumes to a flea-bag motel interior designed by Melissa Hunter, helped create a grungy yet familiar world for the actors to explore. With a dynamic arc expertly directed by Rob Roznowski, the action in "Bug" starts at uncomfortable simmer before exploding into zealous paranoia. While student productions, even at the collegiate level, can sometimes feel like, well, student productions, "Bug" felt like a masterful demonstration of completed training.



Courtesy Photo

In MSU Department of Theatre's production of "Bug," Jacqueline Wheeler (left) and Zev Steinberg played paranoid junkies who become overwhelmed by their delusions.



Courtesy Photo

Vibraphonist Jason Adasiewicz brought an avant-garde edge to this year's Summer Solstice Jazz Festival.

## Music

from page 8

drummer Jimmy Cobb, the only surviving member of Miles Davis' "Kind of Blue" ensemble, Nov. 30 through Dec. 6.

On Dec. 1, trumpeter Hugh Masekela and pianist Larry Willis, longtime friends with a combined century of musical history in jazz and other forms, brought their chemistry to Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre.

Over at the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, pianist Ralph Votapek, 76, commanded the orchestra on Sept. 18, playing four Gershwin works and holding the stage all night. It was a solo workout on a scale we'll probably never see again. On Nov. 7, an American Festival featured a wriggly, schmaltzy, bracingly weird concerto for

four saxophones by decorated Ann Arbor composer William Bolcom.

But the symphony's biggest stretch came on March 8 with "Mysterious Mountain," a 45-minute-long, brand new work by MSU-based composer Marjan Helms, featuring flutist Sherman as soloist. The piece took the symphony way out of its usual bounds — not so much because the music was avant-garde, but because it unfolded so quietly and deliberately, requiring real suspension of electronic-era impatience to stick with it.

The grand old classics were, of course, well represented. One of the high points was a real warhorse, a Jan. 10 performance of Beethoven's "Pastoral" symphony, with a big, juicy thunderstorm. Another was Stravinsky's "Firebird," a beast even big-city orchestras approach with caution, unleashed by the home team in all its plumage May 15.

One of the best LSO moments of the year happened in the dark, at the Lansing

Center, when the Capital City Film Festival ran a mashup of silent film clips with live and lavish accompaniment provided by an impressive team of LSO regulars and summer subs.

That same weekend, another sleeper gig — also inspired by film — snuck into my top three of the year. As part of MSU's Cello Plus series, Minnesota-based guest pianist Stephen Prutsman led a crack quintet through his own playful, brilliant score to comedian Buster Keaton's silent film, "Sherlock Jr."

The Keaton score, the Adasiewicz vibes concert and the Gandelsman Bach recital were all off the beaten track of major events, yet they are the three performances I shudder to think of having missed. I guess the lesson is that in this town, you just have to go to everything in order not to miss anything.

Good luck with that.

## A year of reading dangerously

Highlights from 2015's crop of books

By **BILL CASTANIER**

In 2015, there were books I read for pleasure, books I had to read for work and other commitments, books I overlooked (and will hopefully read next year) and books I will never read. This is an abbreviated look at that journey.

This past year, my reading leaned heavily toward non-fiction. The first standout book was "The Wright Brothers." Written by David McCullough, this is possibly the best biography of the remarkable brothers and their sister, Katharine. McCullough takes readers to Dayton, Ohio, and Kitty Hawk, N.C., as the

siblings race to be the first to fly.

"Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania," by master storyteller Erik Larson, is an amazing cat and mouse retelling of the sinking of the Lusitania during World War I, told through the eyes of a submarine captain and the passengers and captain of the Lusitania. Although you know the outcome, Larson has a finely honed skill for ramping up the tension until the inevitable happens.

Daniel James Brown's "Boys on the Boat," about an unlikely rowing team from the West Coast who shine in the 1936 Olympics, has been on The New

York Times' best-sellers list for some time now. This year, however, I felt compelled to read it since my grandson is on a crew team in Ann Arbor. Brown nails the intensity, complexity and camaraderie of this underrated sport.

"Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life," by William Finnegan, rides on the waves of exhilaration and freedom in competitive surfing in the 1960s. In this memoir, Finnegan, a staff writer for The New Yorker and an avid surfer, searches for the perfect wave while ruminating on life.

"M-Train," by Patti Smith, is a combination travelogue, memoir and elegy. The punk rock pioneer seems to open up her mind and dump it on the page without losing its poetic genius. A follow-up to

her National Book Award-winning "Just Kids," "M-Train" takes readers around the world and digs deeply into Smith's Michigan days on a delightful and often whimsical journey.

"Galileo's Middle Finger," by East Lansing's Alice Dreger, explores the dangers of unethical scientific research, with a focus on transgenerational issues. The book explores the science surrounding this complex medical and sociological issue while also bringing an unprecedented humanity to its telling. Dreger even becomes part of the story as her brave look at entrenched researchers and research institutions ultimately leads to attacks from those she sought to defend.

See Books, Page 11

## Theatre

from page 9

one of those pieces. The play recreates the claustrophobia and anxiety endured by the Franks and their friends as they hid from the Nazis in Amsterdam from 1942 to 1944.

The script is based on Anne Frank's diary and puts the experiences that she

wrote about into context. Director Janet Colson chose an excellent cast and choreographed their movements throughout the tiny attic in such a way as to build tension as their discovery nears. Tom Ferris' excellent set design was complemented by Ray Kurtis and Melody Teodoro-Kurtis's meticulous prop work, right down to the accuracy of Frank's red checkerboard diary. The professionalism of the production made this painful story all the more poignant.



Courtesy Photo

Riverwalk Theatre's "The Diary of Anne Frank," featuring Michael Boxleitner (left) as Peter Van Daan and Sally Hecksel as Anne Frank, brought an emotional weight to this year's theater slate.

Happy New Year...  
 ...to You and Yours  
 A time to spend with  
 those we hold dear.  
 And celebrate joyfully  
 and gratefully.

**Post Christmas hours:**  
 Dec. 31—10-2  
 Closed Jan. 1, 2, 3, 4

**January Hours:**  
 Tuesday-Friday—11-6, Saturday—10-5  
 Sunday—noon-4, Closed Mondays

**MACKEREL SKY** 211 M.A.C. Avenue, East Lansing | 517.351.2211 | mackerelsky.com

RING IN THE NEW YEAR AT...



**MSU FOOTBALL**  
 ON ALL OUR BIG SCREEN TVS!



Like us on Facebook

**(517) 882-2013**  
 6201 Bishop Rd., Lansing

**NEW YEAR'S EVE SPECIAL**  
 DINNER FOR 2, AN APPETIZER  
 AND A BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE  
**FOR JUST \$30**

**PARTY FAVORS AT MIDNIGHT**

**SNACK BAR AFTER THE GAME**

# Books

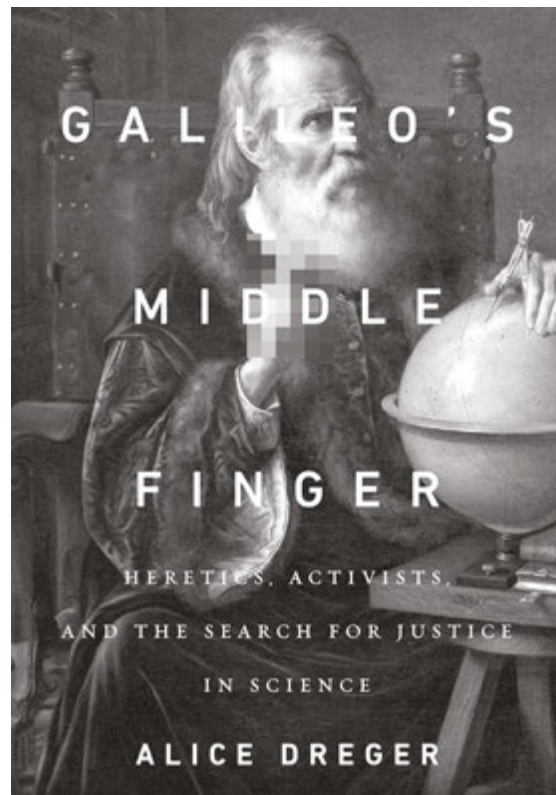
from page 10

Journalist and author David Maraniss provides a well-crafted look at the decline of Detroit in "Once in a Great City." The book focuses on an 18-month period in 1963-'64, when most of the world thought the city was at its pinnacle. In retrospect, it was on a course to failure.

East Lansing resident A. Brad Schwartz shows readers and writers that there is always a new twist on an old story in his book, "Broadcast Hysteria." Who would've thought that even one more original sentence could be written about the legendary filmmaker Orson Welles? But Schwartz did, aided by his discovery of a little known archival collection of Welles' papers at the University of Michigan. He puts a new light on some long held myths surrounding Welles' masterful radio production, "War of the Worlds."

And speaking about archives, public archives, private collectors and members of the Hemingway family have teamed up to publish the letters of Ernest Hemingway in what is expected to be a 14-volume collection. The latest release, "The Letters of Ernest Hemingway: Volume Three," covers 1926 to 1929. Local history enthusiasts will delight in Hemingway's letters to his "pal," John Herrmann of Lansing, congratulating and criticizing him for his book, "What Happens." Coincidentally, "What Happens" was published in the U.S. for the first time earlier this year. The coming-of-age novel was banned for obscenity in 1926.

Without boundary-pushing books like "What Happens," books like "The Orbit Magazine Anthology," by podcaster and columnist Rob St. Mary, might not have been possible. Another breakthrough book from the Wayne State University Press, the anthology reproduces Detroit-based alternative publications stretching from the 1970s through the 1990s. Open any page, and it's likely you will be in-



Courtesy Photo

"Galileo's Middle Finger," by East Lansing's Alice Dreger, earned international acclaim this year for its riveting look at the ethics of scientific research.

sulted and shocked — while still laughing your butt off.

Two outstanding road trip books explore the historical roots and evolution of Michigan's M-22 and US-12. "Vintage Views Along Scenic M-22," by Chris By-

ron and Tom Wilson, takes you on an almost magical trip along Michigan's glorious lakeshore. "Michigan's US-12 Heritage Trail" takes you through the middle of Michigan's heartland. Both provide vivid details about a time before expressways and four-lane highways.

In terms of fiction, three books I reviewed for City Pulse in 2015 shined through. Matt Bell, in his book, "Scrapper," avoided the sophomore jinx with this gritty urban novel. The book is a tale of love and vengeance, told through the eyes of a scrapper who salvages metal and copper from abandoned buildings in Detroit. Yes, it is dark.

Another Detroit-centric book takes you inside a family in transition. "The Turner House," by ex-Detroiter Angela Flournoy, was recently named one of the top 100 books of the year by The New York Times. In a fabulist way, Flournoy explores the power of a home in people's lives.

"Mothers Tell Your Daughters," by Bonnie Jo Campbell, will make you squirm in your seat. Campbell's short stories are reminiscent of Raymond Carver and Flannery O'Connor as she explores issues of abuse and sexuality.

There are two books it seems I should have read last year. Helen McDonald's "H is for Hawk" has been described as the "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance" for the bird world. "All the Light

We Cannot See," by Anthony Doerr, takes readers to Nazi Germany and shows how humanity thrives when darkness envelops the world.

One book of some note which I couldn't finish was "City on Fire," by Garth Risk Hallberg. Published with much anticipation and a \$2 million advance, Hallberg's debut novel begins to lose its zest around page 600. As I tried to trudge through the last 300 pages, I no longer cared who did it or why. Set in 1970s New York, the book sometimes soars, and the characters of that era are dead on, but the book needed fewer pages and more focus.

And finally, "The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up" by Marie Kondo is a book I won't read. With New Year's Day and its resolutions just around the corner, I'm sure this will appeal to some readers. But it doesn't sound like much fun to me.

## SCHULER BOOKS & MUSIC

Ann Arbor author R.J. FOX presents his memoir *Love and Vodka*

Wed., January 13 @ 7pm  
Meridian Mall location



Meet award-winning Ann Arbor author and screenwriter R.J. Fox as he presents *Love & Vodka*. The memoir follows Bobby as he leaves suburban Detroit for Dnipropetrovsk,

Ukraine, the former center of Cold War Soviet missile production, bringing an engagement ring for his love Katya, experiencing life in a city that, until the mid-1980s, was closed to foreign visitors.

The ON TARGET TEAM presents *Target to Table*

Thursday, January 14 @ 7pm  
Eastwood Towne Center location



Chris Johnson, founder of On Target Living, has been teaching us about fitness and healthy eating for years, and now we are happy to welcome his children for a cooking demo and

book signing of their new cookbook *Target to Table*. Kristen and Matt Johnson have drawn on a lifetime of learning to create *Target to Table*.

for more information visit  
[www.SchulerBooks.com](http://www.SchulerBooks.com)

**IMAX**  
— IS BELIEVING™ —  
**Celebration! Cinema**  
LANSING - OFF SOUTH CEDAR AT 1-96  
VISIT CELEBRATIONCINEMA.COM OR CALL 393-SHOW

**NCGM CINEMAS**  
WWW.NCGMOVIES.COM  
**US 127 & Lake Lansing Rd**  
**www.NCGmovies.com**  
**(517) 316-9100**  
Student Discount with ID  
ID required for "R" rated films

**Curious Book Shop**  
307 E. Grand River \* E. Lansing  
332-0112 \* We validate parking  
Mon - Sat 10 - 7 p.m., Sun 12 - 5  
[www.curiousbooks.com](http://www.curiousbooks.com)

**1/2 off**  
ALMOST EVERYTHING  
**20% off**  
EVERYTHING ELSE  
**Dec. 30 - Jan. 5**  
(Closing at 3:00 p.m. New Year's Eve)

**Archives Book Shop**  
519 W. Grand River \* E. Lansing  
332-8444 \* Free parking  
Mon - Fri 10 - 7, Sat 11 - 6, Sun 12 - 5  
[archivbk@concentric.net](mailto:archivbk@concentric.net)

**Clearance SALE**

*Easy Living*  
*Cleaning Service*

**Commercial & Residential**

**Fully Insured**

Call Joan at:  
**(517) 881-2204**

# Turn it Down

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE



**“Hordes” EP** Since it formed in 2007, Hordes has put out a stack of lo-fi D.I.Y. releases, all stocked with improvised, droning soundscapes. The Lansing-based trio’s spontaneous and foreboding sound, reminiscent of pioneering bands like Godflesh, Unsane and Killing Joke, had always been a makeshift affair, both in the studio and on stage. That changed back in March, when the band released its first fully fleshed-out disc. From the opening track, “Cold War Echo,” the new approach to songwriting on this five-song, self-titled EP is impressive. Instead of meandering in a dark abyss, the band delivers structured, heavier-than-hell hooks. Hordes even stepped it up sonically and booked session time at Lansing’s Troubadour Recording Studio. The results are astounding. Buy this record. Turn it up. Terrify your neighbors.

Hordes plays Jan. 8 at the Avenue Café. See [avenuecafelansing.com](http://avenuecafelansing.com) for details. The band’s self-titled EP is available for streaming or download at [hordeslansing.bandcamp.com](http://hordeslansing.bandcamp.com).

## TOP 3 LOCAL ALBUMS OF 2015, BY RICH TUPICA



**“Book of Beasts” EP** Lansing’s best kept secret, Hailey Wojcik, has spent time living in New York, touring the country and recording some indie-pop majesty. Her latest release, the “Book of Beasts” EP, showcases her ethereal vocals accompanied by biting guitars and tight arrangements. Released in March via Blood Bunny/Wiener Records, the solo album received praise from the likes of Noisy (VICE’s online music channel) and Entertainment Weekly. On top of songwriting duties, Wojcik also engineered the bulk of the record in the south of France and wrapped it up in Brooklyn and Michigan with the help of Brian Vigione of the Violent Femmes and the Dresden Dolls. Last week, Wojcik unveiled an impressive self-produced stop-motion music video for “Dog V. Man” from “Book of Beasts.”

Hailey Wojcik plays Jan. 7 at Mac’s Bar; see [macsbar.com](http://macsbar.com) for details. “Book of Beasts” is available for streaming or download at [wojcik.bandcamp.com](http://wojcik.bandcamp.com). The video for “Dog V. Man” is available at [youtube.com/haileywojcik](http://youtube.com/haileywojcik).

**“An Onion Tied to My Belt”** The Plurals might be the hardest working

**The Plurals** band in Lansing. Between arduous coast-to-coast touring, band members Tommy McCord (guitar), Nich Richard (bass) and Hattie Danby (drums), all play in side projects, book shows and release albums under their own GTG Records imprint. Over the summer, the band dropped its third full-length album — and finest album to date — “An Onion Tied to My Belt.” Released on both CD and vinyl, the LP is stacked with melodious, guitar-driven choruses. It’s obvious this power-trio was raised on classic Hüsker Dü and Mudhoney, with a sound that gravitates toward catchy, distorted guitars and powerful vocals. This album boasts the band’s signature shared songwriting credits and lead-vocal duties, showing that even after nine years, a well-adjusted band can remain a complete democracy.

“An Onion Tied to My Belt” is available for streaming or download at [theplurals.bandcamp.com](http://theplurals.bandcamp.com).



**UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT RICH TUPICA AT [RICH@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM](mailto:RICH@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM) >>> TO BE LISTED IN LIVE & LOCAL E-MAIL [ALLISON@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM](mailto:ALLISON@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM)**

## LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 3 p.m.	Past Tense, 9 p.m.		Karaoke, 10 p.m.
Black Cat Bistro, 115 Albert Ave.				
Blue Gill Grill, 1591 Lake Lansing Rd.				
Brookshire, 205 W. Church St.				
Capital Prime, 2324 Showtime Dr.		Bob Schultz, 8:30 p.m.		
Claddagh, 2900 Towne Center Blvd.		Mike Vail, 5 p.m.		
Coach’s Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.	NYE Party, 8 p.m.		
Copper, 2874 E. Lake Lansing Rd.				
Crunchy’s, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Steely James, 10 p.m.	MSU Football, 8 p.m.		Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Darb’s, 117 S. Cedar St.				Mark Sala, 9 p.m.
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Year End Karaoke with DJ Jamie, 9 p.m.	New Year’s Eve Party, 9 p.m.		DJ Brandon, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Live Blues w/ The Good Cookies, 7 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9:30 p.m.		Avon Bomb, 9:30 p.m.
Gallery Brewery, 143 Kent St.		Open Mic Night, 9 p.m.	Rob Klajda, 8 p.m.	Open Mic Night, 7 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	“Johnny D” Jam, 9 p.m.	NYE Bash w/ The Hot Mess, 9 p.m.		
Harrison Roadhouse, 720 Michigan Ave.				
Leroys, 1526 S. Cedar St.		Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.		Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
Log Jam, 110 W. Jefferson St.				
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Lil’ Darlins, 8 p.m.		
Mac’s Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.			Apollo, 8 p.m.	Winter Wonder Lan Jam, 8 p.m.
Moriarty’s Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic w/ Jen Sygit, 9 p.m.	NYE Jazz, 6 p.m./Electrocats, 10 p.m.	Calling Dr. Howard, 9 p.m.	Zydecrunch, 9 p.m.
Reno’s East, 1310 Abbot Road				
Reno’s North, 16460 Old US 27	Kathy Ford Band Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.			
Reno’s West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.				
Tavern and Tap, 101 S. Washington Sq.	Tavern House Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m.			
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog and the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.	Frog and the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.	
Watershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd.	Trevor Compton, 7 p.m.			Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.
Waterfront Bar and Grill, 325 City Market Dr.				



**Bridal  World**

at the  
Lansing Center  
**Sunday, Jan. 10**  
11 am-4 p.m

# A unique affair

## Clever themes and contemporary style add personality to weddings

By TY FORQUER

A swing through Pinterest, the Internet's premier site for wedding envisioning, shows that plenty of couples are still planning traditional black-and-white garb for their weddings. But dig a little deeper, and you find couples who are looking for something a little off the beaten path. From 1920s suits and vintage green dresses to tweed vests and floral gowns, there are plenty of ideas out there for couples looking to buck tradition.

Dawn-Marie Joseph, owner of Gracie's Place, the Wedding Gallery, Vivee's Floral Garden and Blue Button Bakery, has noticed that more and more couples are opting out of the standard tuxedo/wedding dress combo.

"A lot of grooms are wearing suits," she said. "I think people like it because it's a little more casual."

Several trends have emerged that embrace this more casual approach to wedding attire. Barn weddings have become popular in Michigan, and many obsolete barns have been turned into rustic chic wedding venues. Some grooms take this theme a step further, pairing tuxedo shirts and jackets with cowboy hats and boots and denim pants. For destination weddings on beach locales, many grooms opt for light linen shirts with shorts or khakis. On the bride side, many are opting for an ivory gown over the traditional pure white.

To cater to this individualistic approach to wedding attire, the Wedding Gallery has developed a system for making custom dresses by mixing and matching elements from several gowns.

"It's an affordable way to get a high-end custom look," she said. "We can pull it all together with parts they like from different



Andrea Kerbuski (left) and Travis Boak model a steampunk wedding package designed by Bath-based wedding planning business W.E.D Inc.

Photo by Heather Kamilopoulos Photography

dresses."

To Joseph, it seems like the expectation for traditional weddings aren't as strong as they used to be.

"I think they want to incorporate their own style," she said. "And more and more, they have the courage to do that. People are starting to loosen up the rules."

### Something Old

And while many are going more casual, Rachel Burns and her husband, Thomas, drew inspiration from a time when culture was a little more buttoned up. The couple drew heavily from the Victorian era to create a steampunk-inspired ceremony.

The steampunk movement, at its core, embraces 19th century fashion mixed with mechanical, retro-futuristic touches inspired by the industrial revolution and late 19th century science fiction. For the wedding, Burns shied away from the technological side and focused on this historical side.

"My husband and I are drawn to the aesthetics of the Victorian Era," she explained.

Burns, who lives near Holland, belongs to the Capital Steam Facebook group, which organizes steampunk events in the mid-Michigan area. For her, creating a themed wedding was a natural extension of her personality. She created the costumes for herself, her husband and her wedding party by hand.

"I am highly addicted to costuming," Burns said. "I've been sewing since I was 7 and designing since I was 14. It took me eight months to do all the pieces. It was a labor of love."

For her own gown, Burns had something special in mind.

"I'm a bit of a silk addict. I had to have a red silk dress," she explained. "I did not want to wear a white dress."

Burns also had historical reasons for choosing a non-white wedding dress. The tradition of white wedding dresses, she explained, is a relatively recent develop-

ment. White dresses became popular in the late 19th century, and before that, brides would wear the nicest dress they owned, regardless of color. Brightly colored dresses, in fact, were a sign of wealth because it indicated the family could afford expensive dyed clothing.

"The color schemes were really bright," she said. "If you had money, you had color."

Burns also sells custom dresses and costumes. Her projects have included a floral wedding dress for a backyard wedding and ribbons for handfasting, an ancient ritual in which the couple is bound together at the wrist with rope or ribbons. ("It's a literal tying of the knot," she said.)

Burns has noticed

more and more couples are interested in non-traditional wedding garments.

"Within the last five to 10 years, it's been a pulling away from what has become tradition," she said. "These things have become less and less something people are set on."

### Something New

When the U.S. Supreme Court struck down all state gay marriage bans in June, same-sex couples in Michigan finally gained the right to marry in their home state. Greater Lansing residents Jordan Lett and Heather Bailey got engaged in May, a few months before the Supreme Court decision. They planned to travel to Chicago to get married, and then have some sort of reception in Michigan later. The Supreme Court decision changed their plans.

"It was so nice to realize we didn't need to go somewhere and that the people we

# Attire

from page 14

love will be able to be involved in our wedding," Lett said.

As the couple began to plan their wedding, they needed to make a decision about what they would wear. Many same-sex couples opt for matching garments, with both in tuxedos or both in wedding dresses. That wasn't going to work for Lett, who describes her style as "tomboy-ish."

"I've never been someone who wears dresses," she said. "Heather went back and forth, but for me the decision was pretty quick."

Bailey is opting for a white wedding dress, while Lett is putting together an outfit that includes charcoal dress pants and a dress shirt that matches their wedding colors, but she is also trying to find accent pieces to "feminize" the look. Lett said her family initially tried to change her mind, but eventually came to accept her



Courtesy photo

Heather Bailey (left) and Jordan Lett are mixing traditional and contemporary styles for their upcoming wedding.

decision.

"They all knew I wasn't going to wear a dress, but they were still giving me opinions," she said.

In the end, Lett isn't sure that being a same-sex couple affected the style of the wedding much.

"We aren't traditional people," she said. "I don't think our wedding would look much different if we were a heterosexual couple."

## something borrowed

For Lansing couple Ray Kurtis and Melody Teodoro-Kurtis, a themed wedding was more than just an expression of their personalities — it was a way to side-step some potential problems. Kurtis, who was raised Catholic but describes himself as "not Christian," knew there would be people expecting a traditional

church wedding.

"There were family expectations of what

a wedding would be, especially in terms of religion," he said. "By doing a themed wedding, we were able to sidestep those expectations."

The couple also wanted a wedding that would allow for cultural inclusion. Teodoro-Kurtis is Filipino, and they wanted to incorporate her culture into the ceremony.

"We thought it would be cool to have a themed wedding," Teodoro-Kur-

tis explained. "We tried to do something where we could incorporate a variety of traditions."

The couple settled on a Medieval-themed wedding, but with Filipino culture sprinkled in. Teodoro-Kurtis' dress, for example, was made from piña cloth, a fiber made from pineapple tree leaves traditionally used to make Filipino wedding dresses. In a nod to Kurtis' Italian heritage (he's half Italian), Kurtis wore an outfit based on early Renaissance Italian clothing, and Teodoro-Kurtis rode into the ceremony at Grand Ledge Opera House on an Italian gondola. The ceremony also drew on folkloric traditions, including a handfasting ritual.

The couple, which are heavily involved in local theater, are working on props and set design with Riverwalk Theatre and Lansing Community College. As they planned the ceremony, they included theatrical elements, including a choreographed swordfight in which Kurtis had to defend his right to wed.

"People are still talking about the wed-

See Attire, Page 16



Courtesy photo

Thomas (left) and Rachel Burns designed a steampunk-inspired wedding featuring Victorian era clothing and a red silk wedding dress.



Photo by Two Ring Photography

Bridesmaids in witch hats raise their brooms in a Halloween-themed wedding designed by W.E.D Inc.

# BARYAMES TUXEDO

local in-stock warehouse...since 1922

Tuxedos and Suits rentals ..... starting at only **\$64.95**

Slim Fit, Big and Tall, Children's sizes

National Fitting Locations for out-of-town Groomsmen

As you plan your dream wedding, you can be confident that your party will all look stunning, because the fit will be perfect

**baryames.com • Lansing/Okemos**



## Attire

from page 15

ding," Teodoro-Kurtis said.

"We wanted it to be fun," Kurtis added.

Despite going all-out for the ceremony, the couple estimates they only spent \$7,000 on the entire wedding. They took two years to plan the wedding, using the time to make their own décor, grow their own flowers, make mead and wine for the reception and even build the gazebo they would be married under.

The couple also asked guests to dress in either Medieval attire or the attire of their cultural background. Of the 220 people in attendance, Kurtis estimates that only 10 were dressed in contemporary dress cloths. In addition to Medieval dress, attendees came in traditional clothing of Mexico and Africa, and one guest even wore a Utilikilt, a modern take on the traditional Celtic garment.

"Even my grandparents were in Renaissance garb," Kurtis said. "Our guests became mobile decorations."

"It added to the festiveness of the atmosphere," Teodoro-Kurtis said.

### Something you

Lynn Lucas, president of Bath-based wedding planning business W.E.D Inc.,



Courtesy photo

Ray Kurtis (left) and Melody Teodoro-Kurtis fend off an attacker in a choreographed fight as part of their Medieval-themed wedding ceremony.

has noticed that more couples are finding ways to inject their own personalities into their ceremonies. One trend in particular has really caught her attention.

"The trend is definitely toward 'geek chic,'" she said.

Geek chic covers a wide range of interests, from fantasy novels and comic books to sci fi films and actual science. As geekiness has become more culturally acceptable, elements of it have seeped into wedding design.



Courtesy photo

Ray Kurtis (left) and Melody Teodoro-Kurtis designed a Medieval-themed wedding with Filipino touches, including a wedding dress made with traditional piña cloth.

wore a boutonniere that included a celery stalk, a nod to BBC television series "Doctor Who." Another groom wore a Hand of the King brooch featured in "Game of Thrones."

"It's become such an individualized society," Lucas said. "Being geeky has become cool, and expressing that on the most important day of your life is natural."

# FOODS FOR LIVING

NATURAL • FRESH • ORGANIC

Come celebrate

*with us*

and start the

new year off

*on the right foot!*

Born & Raised in East Lansing

HOURS: Mon- Sat: 8am - 9pm | Sun: 9am - 8 pm

(517) 324-9010 • foodsforsliving.com • 2655 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing • Corner of Park Lake Rd. & Grand River Ave.

# BECKER'S BRIDAL

OVER 2,000  
GOWNS IN STOCK

1,000 MOTHER  
OF THE WEDDING  
DRESSES

AMONG THE NATION'S  
OLDEST BRIDAL SALONS

HOME OF THE MAGIC ROOM

Visit us and see our fashion show at the Bridal World Show  
Sunday 1/10/15 2pm at the Lansing Center

Advance tickets to Bridal World show available  
at Becker's for \$4

155 South Main Street • Fowler, MI 48835 • 989.593.2595  
Monday & Thursday : 10 - 7 • Tuesday & Wednesday 10 - 5 Friday & Saturday : 9 - 5



# Make a second wedding stand out

Couples planning to get married do so with the intention of spending the rest of their lives together. Few couples exchange rings thinking divorce or the loss of a spouse is in their future, but some marriages do end. Happily, that reality does not prevent many people from seeking happily ever after once again.

A recent study from the Pew Research Center found that many people who were married before are deciding to take the plunge a second time. Four in 10 new marriages in the United States now include one partner who was married before. Roughly 42 million American adults have gotten married a second time — up from 22 million in 1980.

The Pew study also discovered that more men than women are likely to get remarried. Around 65 percent of previously married men have a desire to remarry, compared to 43 percent of previously married women.

Men and women about to get married



for a second time can consider the following tips to help make the day one to remember forever.

- Recognize that a second wedding is in no way less important than the first. Couples should remember that this is still the first wedding for the two of them as a couple and it should be seen as just as special as any other wedding celebration. It's easy for men and women marrying for a second time to be hard on themselves,

especially when thinking ahead to the gifts that were given and the money spent by guests for their first marriage. But a new relationship and love is worthy of a good party. Friends and family who are supportive of you shouldn't have reservations about helping you celebrate.

- Don't feel boxed in by old-school etiquette. Rules have relaxed with regard to weddings. Many couples put their per-

sonal imprints on their weddings and do not feel the need to conform to outdated expectations. You don't have to skip all of the frills of a first wedding the second time around or head to the local courthouse and pass on another big wedding. Do what feels comfortable to you, whether that means throwing a big party or hosting a smaller affair.

- Let past experience serve as your guide. You've been married before and can use that to your advantage. It's likely you know what worked for the wedding the first time around and which things you probably could have changed or done without. Maybe you were stressed about having everything go perfectly or feeling like you had to put on a show for guests. As a more mature person

this time around, you no doubt realize that sharing this special time with the ones you love is the most important wedding component of all.

- Be open-minded with your wardrobe. Let the formality of the event and the time of day when you're getting married influence what you will be wearing instead of perceived etiquette or family notions. It's acceptable to wear white again if you so desire. Plus, more mature couples have a sense of what makes them look good, rather than opting for trendy outfits.

- Above all, have fun. Couples know what to expect the second time around, so stress usually doesn't stem from the unknown. You may feel more relaxed at a second wedding, so let that ensure you have a great night.

## Grooms: Look your wedding day best

Weddings are a chance for couples tying the knot to be the center of attention. All eyes will be glued to the bride and groom on this special day, which makes it even more important for couples to look their collective best.



### Hair

Schedule a haircut with a professional stylist roughly a week before the wedding to get your hair shaped and trimmed. Although trendy hairstyles may show off creativity, keep in mind

Brides might garner most of the attention on a couple's wedding day, but dashing grooms also will get their share of attention. As a result, grooms must be just as diligent as their blushing brides with regard to grooming and appearance on their wedding days. To look picture-perfect, grooms may want to include these grooming tips in their wedding day preparation.

that photos last forever, and it's often better to stick with a classic cut. A barber or stylist may suggest styles that best suit your face shape and hair texture. Above all, the haircut should be neat. Resist the urge to wash your hair every day before the wedding. Allow some natural oils to build up and make your hair shine in a healthy way.

See Grooms, Page 19

**LANSING PARKS & RECREATION**  
Your source for an elegant, unique wedding!







Outdoor wedding sites are available at Frances Park, Cooley Gardens or the Scott Sunken Garden. Outdoor and indoor sites are available at the Turner Dodge House.



For reservations or information  
call (517) 483-4277  
[www.lansingmi.gov/parks](http://www.lansingmi.gov/parks)



**COCO'S**  
OFF THE RACK

SPECIALIZING IN:

- MOTHER-OF-THE-BRIDE
- HOMECOMING
- PROM

• 30% - 50% OFF BRIDAL  
...and much more!

ALTERATIONS OF ALL KIND!

3320 East Lake Lansing  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
P.517.708.8434

WWW.COCOSOFFTHERACK.COM

MONTAGE  
by MON CHERI



**CENTER OF THE PLATE CATERING**

*Ranked #1 Caterer in Lansing via Thumbtack.com reviews*

**Your Perfect Menu Realized!**

- WEDDINGS
- HOME DINNERS
- FESTIVALS
- SPECIAL EVENTS

**Highlights:**

**It's personal** ~ We will work with you to create a menu that fits your taste, budget and style.  
**Signature Style** ~ Exquisite food. Expert coordination. Gracious Service.  
**Our Commitment** ~ Providing a well-organized catered event that appeals to the eye as well as the palate.

**Center of the Plate Catering**  
*Redefining food and event production!*

rachelle@copcatering.com || (517) 295-3570 || copcatering.com



**the**  
**bridal**  
**party**

Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center  
at Michigan State University

**January 31, 2016 at the Kellogg Center**

*Weddings By Nicole, Inc.*

"Mid-Michigan's First Choice to Transform Your Next Event!"



Serving Michigan and beyond for **more than 18 years!**

Your trusted professional for Specialty linens, chair covers, 6 colors in Chiavarri chairs, Fresh & silk floral design, backdrops, up lighting & more!

**\*\*New Design Warehouse across from the Lansing Mall!**  
610 Elmwood Drive  
Lansing, MI. 48917

**(517) 886-0601**  
www.weddingsbynicole.com

**22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bridal Party Wedding Show**

11a.m. to 4p.m.  
Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center  
219 S. Harrison Rd. East Lansing, MI 48823  
Email: info@BridalPartyLansing.com  
Phone: (517) 886-0601

**Register to Win an Exquisite Wedding Package VALUED AT \$40,000!**

-Wonderful Wedding Giveaway Live Presentation at 3:30pm  
web: wonderfulweddinggiveaway.com



# Grooms

from page 17

## Shaving

Shaving is another thing grooms must consider. If you have a beard, make sure it is clean, combed and trimmed. Men who shave the day of their weddings may find their skin is sensitive and irritated, which can lead to redness. Unless your facial hair grows especially fast, shave the evening before. This is a good time to splurge on a professional shave with a straight razor at a barber shop. A hot shave from a professional will produce a close shave with the least amount of irritation when done correctly.

## Hands

Grooms also may want to book a manicure. Keep in mind that salons will do men's nonpolish manicures and pedicures, and they can be well worth the investment. Photos of entwined hands or close-ups of the ring exchange will have guests zeroing in on your fingers. Have hands look their best with clean, shaped fingernails and trimmed cuticles.

## Skin

Get plenty of sleep the night prior to the wedding. Being well rested will help reduce puffy eyes, dark circles and sallow skin. It will also put you in a more positive mood, which can help you enjoy the day even more.

The day of the wedding, shower using water and a mild soap. Avoid any skin irritation by patting your face and body dry, rather than rubbing it with the towel. Moisturize your skin to avoid dry patches. Stores sell many moisturizers geared toward men's needs, often in unscented or more masculine fragrances.

Reducing shine is key for wedding day photos. Rely on face and hair products that will not add unnecessary sheen to your skin or hair to avoid making you look greasy. Matte hair waxes and sprays will tame tresses. Also, ask your fiancé to pick you up a package of blotting tissues if you are prone to oily skin. These absorbent, typically rice-paper sheets will remove oil from your face and keep sheen to a minimum.

## Smile

Make sure your teeth have been thoroughly brushed and that you have used a minty mouthwash so you're primed for that first kiss. Many grooms also opt for whitening treatments prior to the wedding so they have a dazzling smile.

On their wedding days, grooms will likely be photographed more than any other time in their lives. That means putting extra effort into personal grooming to look their best.

# Tame wedding day nerves

When couples tie the knot, many changes are in store, many compromises will be made and many lasting memories will be created. But in the weeks and months before their big days, couples can easily get caught up in the whirlwind of wedding planning, never taking inventory of their feelings until their wedding days have arrived.

Come their wedding days, couples should not be surprised if some nerves set in. A survey from the anxiety self-help resource The Fear Source indicated 71 percent of brides-to-be suffered from some type of nerves during the lead-up to their weddings. 92 percent of brides experienced nerves on the day of the wedding or the evening before, while 66 percent reported that it affected their daily lives prior to their weddings or hampered their performance and enjoyment during the day itself.

According to Psych Central, a modern online voice for mental health information, emotional support and advocacy, pre-wedding jitters are common and can be the subconscious telling a person that something needs to be remedied. Wedding nerves do not mean a wedding is doomed; it just means certain issues may need to be worked through. The following are some ways to tame wedding day nerves.

- Keep an open dialogue. Speak with your future spouse about the things that may be causing your anxiety. Maybe you have doubts on financial choices or where you will be living after the wedding. Communicating openly and honestly is one of the foundations of a strong relationship.
- Slow down and breathe. Wedding planning involves making many decisions, and sometimes couples move at breakneck speeds. Make slowing down a priority. Try to enjoy a quiet dinner with just the two of you. When enjoying peaceful moments, take deep breaths, which can be calming and revitalizing. If need be, consider signing up for a yoga or tai chi class to force you to slow down.
- Address performance anxiety. It's easy to build up the big day in your mind and hope that everything goes according to plan. But

it's impossible to plan for each and every outcome on your wedding day. Focus on everything that can go right, rather than worrying about what might go wrong. Also, realize that your guests are your friends and family members who will be forgiving of any hiccups along the way. You're bound to recover gracefully from any mishaps.

- Work on confidence. Wedding fears may stem from inadequate self-confidence. Give yourself a pep talk and surround yourself with positive people. Keep the worry-warts at arms' length for the time being.
- Recruit more help. Weddings are huge undertakings, so it's no surprise that couples sometimes feel overwhelmed. Ask reliable relatives or friends to double-check all of the last-minute details. This way you don't feel it is all on your shoulders.



Wedding days nerves are to be expected and often have little to do with the decision to get married. Planning such a big event can be nerve-racking, but there are ways to combat any anxiety that builds up as the big day draws near.



Come shop downtown Williamston for all of your wedding needs!

 <p><b>Gracie's Place</b> 517.655.1100 <a href="http://graciesplacewilliamston.com">graciesplacewilliamston.com</a></p>	 <p><b>The Wedding Gallery</b> 517.655.2929 <a href="http://theweddinggallery101.com">theweddinggallery101.com</a></p>	 <p><b>Two Ring Photography</b> 517-202-9883 <a href="http://tworingphotography.com">tworingphotography.com</a></p>
 <p><b>Wedding Invitations</b> 517.655.4455 <a href="http://limnerpress.com">limnerpress.com</a></p>	 <p><b>Millie Heinz - The Bra Lady</b> 517-449-4771 <a href="http://mibralady.com">mibralady.com</a></p>	 <p><b>4Front Photography</b> 517.898.6238 <a href="http://4frontphotography.com">4frontphotography.com</a></p>
 <p><b>Vivee's Floral Garden</b> 517.655.2191 <a href="http://viveesfloralgardenandcafe.com">viveesfloralgardenandcafe.com</a></p>	 <p><b>Brookshire Inn &amp; Golf Club</b> 517.655.4694 ext. 12 <a href="http://brookshiregolfclub.com">brookshiregolfclub.com</a></p>	 <p><b>The Sweet Cake Co.</b> 517-402-9401 <a href="http://sweetcakecompany.com">sweetcakecompany.com</a></p>

[williamstonweddings.com](http://williamstonweddings.com) Like us on Facebook!

### Dorothea Fields, Ph.D. Classical Harpist



517.664.1238  
[www.dorotheafields.com](http://www.dorotheafields.com)  
[dorotheaclassicalharpist@yahoo.com](mailto:dorotheaclassicalharpist@yahoo.com)



*The Bakery*

Free consultation for design & pricing  
 Free flavor changes for each tier  
 Free anniversary layer  
 Budget cake designs available  
 29 Cake flavors

By Appointment Only (517) 882-1423  
 www.thecakery.com

DJ'S FOR ALL CELEBRATIONS

**NIGHTWATCH**  
 PRODUCTIONS

SINCE 1985

Romantic  
 Fun  
 Elegant  
 Your Style  
 Affordable

517-393-0788 • 517-881-1162  
 www.nightwatchprod.com

**SPECIAL! MENTION THIS AD FOR:**

**FREE 1/2 HOUR OF MUSIC** OR **\$35.00 OFF YOUR RECEPTION!**

*We've helped brides smile for over 100 years!*



**Smith**  
 FLORAL & GREENHOUSES  
 SINCE 1903

We offer a full range of wedding and reception flowers, plants and rentals that will make your wedding uniquely yours.

We'd love to put a smile on your face! Call us today to set up a consultation.

Voted 2008, 2009, 2011 Best Pick by The Knot. Ranked in the top 100 Teleflora florists in the nation.

(517) 484-5327 | 1124 E. Mt. Hope, Lansing | www.smithfloral.com | friend us on Facebook

**Bridal World**

**Sunday January 10, 2016 Lansing Center**

**The Premier Bridal Event of the Year!**

Doors open from 11 am to 4 p.m. Fashion show at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$4 in advance at Becker's Bridal or \$6 at the door.

Fashion show at 2 p.m. featuring David's Bridal, MW Tux, Sound Productions and Becker's Bridal. Come to see the latest fashions including Bridal Gowns, Bridesmaids Dresses, Flower Girls and Mother of the Bride.

Don't miss an opportunity to meet over 90 of the most sought-after wedding professionals and learn new and creative ideas for your perfect wedding! Many exhibitors will be offering samples, demonstrations, and money-saving specials the day of the show. Talk one-on-one with the wedding experts and professionals.

Pre-register at [www.bridalworldshows.com](http://www.bridalworldshows.com) for half off admission coupon and a FREE Weekend Getaway compliments of Boyne Mountain Solace Spa or a FREE Luxury Coach Wedding Package from LansingParty.com!



Presented By: **BECKER'S BRIDAL** **DAVID'S BRIDAL** **Sound Productions ENTERTAINMENT** **MEN'S WEARHOUSE®**

**989-534-1135 • www.worldbridalshows.com**

# How to arrange the best outdoor wedding photos

Photography is a great way for couples to capture all the special moments that occur on their wedding days. Long after the final piece of wedding cake has been consumed, wedding albums remain to remind couples of all those moments that made their big day so special.

Photography preferences differ from couple to couple, but when weather permits, many brides and grooms prefer to take photos outdoors. Mother Nature can provide some awe-inspiring backdrops, and such beauty comes at no extra cost.

Couples using professional photographers should share their image preferences with their photographers, especially if outdoor photography is desired. Photographers may have to do a little more work to achieve great outdoor photographs, even visiting a site in advance of the big day to scout areas that can produce great photos. Scouting and preparation can involve seeing the landscape, examining the way the light shines on photo subjects and getting an accurate light reading on a meter to adjust flash accordingly. Photographers also will need to ensure there are no obstructions that will appear in the background of the photos.

It's also important for photographers to select locations that have shade. This way they can adjust the amount of light needed, rather than having to contend with the photo washing out from too much sunlight.

There's much a photographer can do in production to fine-tune photos, but the couple can help things along. Bring along some powder or makeup to touch up between photos. Warm weather can cause shininess or beads of sweat on the skin. A light dusting of powder can tame shine, while any remaining moisture can be blotted away with a towel.

Although brides and grooms may think clouds on their wedding days are a harbinger of bad luck, overcast conditions can actually contribute to better photos. A healthy blanket of cloud cover can produce richer colors and pleasing shadows, making photos even more appealing. If the clouds are just passing, photographers may wait until a cloud passes over the sun to provide just the right amount of light filter.

Couples may want to change into comfortable footwear as they traverse the landscape to get into perfect portrait locations. This will help keep their fancier shoes clean, and photos can be cropped to hide feet.

Bring along some refreshments when posing for photos, as it can be tiring.

Couples can take frequent breaks as the photographer adjusts his or her camera for the next shot. Staying hydrated will keep skin looking supple and ensure that everyone feels refreshed when it's time to return to the party.

Not every family member will be able to join the happy couple for outdoor photos. Elderly relatives or those who have mobility issues may find it difficult to stand in the sun or make their way across certain landscapes. Arrange for indoor photo shoots with guests who can't handle the outdoors.



Lansing Bridal Association Bridal Shows

## Winter Bridal Show

January 2 & 3, 2016 at the University Club 12-5 p.m.



\$2 off

Vendor coupons available ALL YEAR for discounts off everything you need for your wedding!

COUPON CODE: CP2016

Expires 9/18/16

SAVE THE DATE!

### Fall Bridal Show

September 18, 2016

at the Lansing Center 12-6 p.m.



Buy tickets and register online at:

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

# Wedding day transportation tips

Couples must make many decisions when planning their weddings, including choosing transportation for guests to and from wedding ceremonies. Whereas couples once left guests' transportation up to their guests, nowadays it is customary to provide rides for guests so they can easily get to and from their hotel and the ceremony and reception safe and sound.

Many factors must be considered when choosing transportation for wedding guests, and the following are a handful of tips to make the decision a little easier.

- Speak with your hotel before booking transportation. While professional shuttle services are an option, couples whose guests will be staying in a specific hotel or hotels should speak with management of their hotels to determine if the hotels offer shuttle services for guests. Many hotels provide airport shuttle service to guests, and couples might be able to use such services to get their guests to and from their weddings and receptions. Hotels

may charge a fee to use their shuttles, but they may offer discounts to couples whose guests book an agreed upon number of rooms. An added benefit to using the hotel shuttle services is that bus drivers won't get lost looking for the hotel.

- Find an option that won't bust your budget. Wedding budgets tend to be big, and couples planning their weddings soon realize that budgets can quickly be busted. When choosing transportation for your guests, do not feel pressured to book especially lavish buses. So long as the buses are safe and on time, guests won't mind if they ride in a school bus or a fancy bus worthy of a touring rock band. If you are concerned about the



appearance of a bus, ask if you can decorate the bus before the wedding to make it more inviting.

- Comparison shop. Many companies cater to couples looking for transportation for their wedding guests, and couples should explore all of their options before committing to a particular company. Receive

formal estimates from several companies before making your final decision, and speak to companies about matching offers. When comparing companies, try to consider both cost and quality. While the lowest estimate might be the most budget-friendly, you should choose the company that you feel is most trustworthy and capable of fulfilling your contract.

- Read the contract. Transportation contracts should be gone over with a fine-tooth comb before couples sign on the dotted line. Check for hidden fees, such as mileage or overage charges if the reception runs a little late, and ask how much flexibility you might have with regard to those fees. Make sure any agreements you reach with regard to fees are written into the contract before you sign it.

Transportation for guests is one of many things couples must consider when planning their weddings. Make sure the option you choose is both guest- and budget-friendly.

## Did you know?

More couples are utilizing their smartphones when planning their weddings, according to the Knot's 2014 Real Weddings Study. The study, which surveyed nearly 16,000 brides and grooms married in 2014, found that the use of smartphones to access wedding-planning websites nearly doubled from 2011 to 2014. In 2011, just 33 percent of couples surveyed acknowledged accessing wedding-planning websites via their smartphones. But that figure rose to 61 percent in 2014. Sixty-one percent of brides admitted to researching gowns on their smartphones, marking a substantial increase from 2011, when 27 percent acknowledged using their

mobile devices to research gowns. Wedding vendors also can benefit from strong mobile sites, as 57 percent (up from 22 percent in 2011) of survey respondents in 2014 admitted to researching prospective vendors on their mobile devices.

It's well known that weddings can be expensive. But just how much money defines expensive? Although couples ultimately control how much they spend on their wedding, the average cost of the main ingredients to a wedding indicate that many couples prefer to splurge for their special day.

- Wedding: \$26,951
- Dress: \$1,124
- Music: \$3,109

- Photographer: \$2,307
- Florist: \$1,971
- Invitations: \$367
- Videographer: \$1,518
- Reception: \$13,106
- Cake: \$591
- Transportation: \$658

Source: [weddingstats.org](http://weddingstats.org)

Historically, June has been the most popular month for getting married. But some numbers now indicate that July and even October have begun to edge out June as the most popular months to tie the knot. The June wedding tradition may be traced back to the ancient Romans. Romans honored Juno, the goddess of marriage and childbirth,

and the month of June was named after her, so it is fitting that weddings take place in her namesake month. As centuries passed, June remained a popular month to get married. June was a prime time for people to come out after a long winter and take communal baths in the fifteenth century. In addition, June weddings meant children conceived after betrothal would be born close to or during the following spring. This helped assure youngsters' survival during the rough and often lean months of winter. Spring births would not conflict with workers' demanding schedules during the autumn harvest, either. Even when weddings began shifting from pragmatic business transactions to romantic affairs, June remained popular.



## Plan the most CREATIVE BACHELORETTE PARTY EVER!

Everyone creates a masterpiece that will remind them of you and your wedding excitement!

Mention this ad when you reserve your party & THE BRIDE WILL PAINT FOR FREE!

It's FUN Art! No experience required, only enthusiasm!



[www.paintingwithatwist.com/lansing](http://www.paintingwithatwist.com/lansing) | (517) 483-2450 | Located in Frandor | Sign up online!

# Beat the heat during a summer wedding

May, June and July consistently rank among the most popular months to get married. These months typically provide pleasant weather, and if it does rain, it's often in the form of a brief thunderstorm.

But summer weather can be extremely hot, and while a sunny, warm day may be perfect beach days, such conditions are not always ideal for weddings, especially weddings that take place outdoors. If wedding-day weather threatens to be very hot, explore these methods to staying cool.

- Choose a later start time. A late-afternoon wedding may be the way to go in the summertime. The temperature usually drops a bit in the early evening, even though the sun won't set for a couple of hours. That lingering summertime sun allows the bride and groom to enjoy an outdoor ceremony and still take beautiful outdoor photos.
- Rely on shade and proximity to water. Shade can be your friend when the sun is blazing. If your outdoor wedding is in the early afternoon, keep temperatures under wrap by seating guests beneath umbrellas or inside a tent.
- Tie the knot near the water. Breezes off of the water also help combat the heat, so a lakeside or beach wedding can make hot temperatures more manageable.
- Wear breathable fabrics. Opt for lightweight fabrics instead of heavy gowns and full tuxedos for the bride, groom and wedding party. Cotton and linen allow air to flow through clothing, helping people to stay cool. Light colors also will help de-

flect the sun. Bridal gowns made of chiffon, silk or satin may feel luxurious and help tame the heat.

- Have beverage tables. Keep canisters of cold beverages at the ready so guests can easily quench their thirst. Fresh lemonade, iced tea and water with a few sprigs of mint can help guests ward off dehydration.
- Make fans and hand these out to guests. Homemade fans of thick cardstock and popsicle sticks can keep guests comfortable. Such cards can double as thank-you messages or ceremony programs.
- Tailor the reception menu to the weather. A large, heavy meal may not be what guests are hoping for when temperatures are especially hot. In such situations, provide some cool, light fare, such as chilled salads or cold soups, as first courses. Sorbet can be a cool palate cleanser, and grilled meats and vegetables will make for a satisfying, light main course. Ice cream cake may be a decadent option in lieu of more traditional wedding cake.
- Choose hairstyles and makeup wisely. Brides may prefer up-dos to keep hair off of their necks and allow for breezes to cool their bodies. Rely on makeup primers and powdered foundations so that makeup does not melt in the heat. Waterproof cosmetics are advisable so that perspiration won't cause makeup to run.

Summer weddings are preferable, and couples can take several steps to make sure they're both beautiful and comfortable.



**Audere**  
Interpersonal Intelligence

## Couples Cleanse

**“7 Reasons Why You Need to Detox Your Relationship Before Marriage”**

Healthy relationships need love blended in with hard work. The benefits of this powerful workshop will stay with you as long as you are ready for it!

**Wedding Planning is for one day, Marriage Planning is FOREVER.**

**Saturday, Feb 6th, 2016, 9 am – 4 pm East Lansing Marriott**  
**Register online at [bit.ly/ccw2016](http://bit.ly/ccw2016)**

Admission \$4

The 2016  
**Bridal Show**

Sunday, February 21st, 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Tuxedos	 THE <b>OPERA HOUSE</b> GRAND LEDGE 121 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge, MI	Music
Caterers		Bridal Gifts
Floral		Cakes
Decorators		Beauty
Photographers		& More!

For more information, please call 517-627-1443 or visit [www.gloperahouse.com](http://www.gloperahouse.com)

# Inspiration boards bring wedding plans to life

Making the wedding of your dreams a reality may require some creativity. It can be challenging to organize all of the creative ideas swimming around in your head, but inspiration boards may be able to help.

Inspiration boards, sometimes referred to as idea boards, are commonly used by interior designers, artists, writers, and even wedding planners. Such boards can serve a great purpose when starting a new project, especially if all of your creative ideas seem to lack cohesion. Sometimes seeing things together, rather than in bits and pieces on their own, can fuel even more creativity.

Inspiration boards can include magazine clippings, photographs, fabric swatches, quotes or literary passages, and color swatches. As the idea board grows, you may find a common denominator among your inspirational elements. This can help determine a theme for your wedding or jump-start other planning.

While poster boards may be more traditional idea boards, creative ideas also can be compiled in binders or scrapbooks, which work especially well at keeping all items organized and concise. Plus, they're portable, which means you can take a scrapbook to a meeting with a wedding vendor and show him or her your concepts for the wedding.

Later, when photographers, florists and other vendors have been booked, you can attach receipts or agreements to the inspiration board for future reference. This keeps all of your important wedding information in one place rather than requiring you to search through different folders or files for important documents. In addition, if friends or family members ask for advice on vendors and planning their own weddings in the future, you can readily access your inspiration board.

To start building your own board or book, take clippings of photos or articles that resonate with you. As you visit bridal shops and other stores, take fabric swatches and pictures of particular looks. Attend bridal shows and take home promotional materials. Remember, inspiration may not always come from bridal-related resources. Anything you come across in your daily life — such as window-shopping at a furniture store or passing an art exhibit — may inspire some creativity.

Inspiration boards are used by top design professionals and can be a handy resource for couples planning their weddings.



**EVER AFTER  
BEGINS HERE.**

**THE ENGLISH INN**  
RESTAURANT & PUB

517.663.2500 | [www.EnglishInn.com](http://www.EnglishInn.com) | 677 South Michigan Road, Eaton Rapids, MI



# OUT ON THE TOWN

Events must be entered through the calendar at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com). Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesdays for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Allison at (517) 999-5066.

## Wednesday, December 30

### MUSIC

**Fusion Shows Presents.** FREE. Crunchy's Pizza and Burgers, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2506.

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**LEGO Robotics.** Three-day class. Ages 9-14. Call or register online. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. \$50, scholarships available. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 708-4393, [bit.ly/ITECregistration](http://bit.ly/ITECregistration).

**Meditation.** For beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, 3015 S. Washington St., Lansing. (517) 351-5866, [lamc.info](http://lamc.info).

**Alcoholics Anonymous.** A closed step meeting. 6 p.m. Donations. Pennsylvania Ave. Church of God, 3500 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 899-3215.

**Open Workshop.** Bike repair, bike safety and biking as healthy exercise. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Kids Repair Program, 5815 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 755-4174.

**Winter Survival Adventure Camp.** Grades K-4 learn survival skills in three-day class. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. \$125/\$110 members. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224, [mynaturecenter.org](http://mynaturecenter.org).

### EVENTS

**Drop in LEGO Club.** Ages 6 and up play with provided LEGOs. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840, [cadl.org](http://cadl.org).

## Thursday, December 31

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous.** 7-8 p.m. FREE. Community Mental Health Building, Room 214G, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 515-5559, [coda.org](http://coda.org).

**Take Off Pounds Sensibly.** Weigh-in 6 p.m., meeting 6:30 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 882-9080, [stdavidslansing.org](http://stdavidslansing.org).

**Take Off Pounds Sensibly.** 5:15 p.m. \$5. New Hope Church, 1340 Haslett Road, Haslett. (517) 349-9183, [newhopehaslett.com](http://newhopehaslett.com).

See Out on the Town, Page 26

## New Year's Eve events guide

(All events Dec. 31)

### MIDTOWN BREWING CO.

No cover charge, and the kitchen stays open late. FREE. Midtown Brewing Co., 402 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 977-1349, [midtownbrewingco.com](http://midtownbrewingco.com).

### GOING GREEN FOR NEW YEAR'S AT GRACIE'S PLACE

Football-watching party with giveaways, including a big-screen TV. Admission includes a food buffet and midnight champagne toast. 7 p.m.-1 a.m. \$23. Gracie's Place, 151 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-1100, [graciesplacewilliamston.com](http://graciesplacewilliamston.com).

### NEW YEAR'S EVE MASQUERADE AT BORDEAUX

Masquerade party with live jazz, a photo booth, special dinner features and drink specials. Reservations and masks encouraged. VIP package available. 5 p.m. Tickets start at \$50. Bordeaux, Crowne Plaza Lansing West, 925 S. Creyts Road, Lansing. (517) 323-4190, [bordeauxlansing.com](http://bordeauxlansing.com).

### KNIGHT CAP

Two-hour dinner slots available. Price includes four course meal; drinks are available a la carte. Reservations required. 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m. or 10 p.m. \$75. 320 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7676, [knightcap.com](http://knightcap.com).

### COACH'S PUB & GRILL

Deal on two dinners, an appetizer and a bottle of champagne, with party favors at midnight. Snack bar open after the MSU football game. \$30. Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Road, Lansing. [coachspubandgrill.com](http://coachspubandgrill.com).

### GREEN AND WHITE BALL AT RADISSON HOTEL LANSING

Start the evening off with the Cotton Bowl — shown via HD projector — then party it up with DJ Chewy. Admission includes dinner, drink tickets, a champagne toast and breakfast at the Capitol City Grille the next morning. Best of all, a one-night stay is included in the ticket price, so you don't have to worry about how to get home. 7 p.m. \$295/couple. Radisson Hotel, 111 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-0188.

### TRIPPER'S SPORTS BAR AND COMEDY CLUB

New York City-based comedian Adam Hunter performs. At the bar, the MSU football game will be on TV and drink specials will be available. 9:30 p.m. \$15. Tripper's Sports Bar, 350 Frandor Ave., Lansing. (517) 336-0717, [tripperssportsbar.com](http://tripperssportsbar.com).

### NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH AT THE GREEN DOOR

Grab a drink and watch some MSU football, then rock 'n' roll your way into 2016 with local pop/rock cover band the Hot Mess. Cover will include party favors and a champagne toast at midnight. 8 p.m. \$10. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-6376, [greendoorlive.com](http://greendoorlive.com).

### THE ENGLISH INN

Start the new year off in style with dinner at the English Inn. Enjoy a gourmet four-course meal, including choice of appetizers, salads, entrees and desserts. Reservations required. \$69. 677 S. Michigan Road, Eaton Rapids. (517) 663-2500, [englishinn.com](http://englishinn.com).

### WHITE OUT NYE AT LANSING BREWING CO.

Entertainment for the evening is provided by MSU football, followed by DJ John Beltran. Tickets include a midnight buffet and three pints of beer. 7 p.m.-2 a.m. \$50/\$45 mug club members. 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. (517) 371-2600, [lansingbrewingcompany.com](http://lansingbrewingcompany.com).

### SEVEN DEADLY SINS VS SEVEN HEAVENLY VIRTUES AT SPIRAL

Heaven and hell-themed party at Spiral Dance Bar featuring gogo dancers, drag queens and music by DJ Sizl. Special themed cocktails are available, and a fruit buffet and champagne toast are included. The first 50 people in before 9 p.m. get in free. 8 p.m.-3 a.m. \$10 for 21 and over/\$15 for 18-20. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., Lansing. (517) 371-3221, [spiraldancebar.com](http://spiraldancebar.com).

### THE CREOLE

Old Town's newest eatery presents special three course, four course or

five course dinner options, complete with champagne toast. Reservations required. The Creole, 1218 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-1361, [thecreolelansing.com](http://thecreolelansing.com).

### NEW YEAR'S EVE CONTRA AND SQUARE DANCE AT THE TEN POUND FIDDLE

Live music by the Johns. All dances are taught, and no partner is required. Wear comfortable shoes and loose clothing. 8 p.m.-midnight. \$18/\$15 members/\$8 students. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 614-5858, [tenpoundfiddle.org](http://tenpoundfiddle.org).

### NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE AVENUE CAFÉ

Lansing-based thrash metal band Past Tense performs, featuring DJ Caleb Ketchum, a masquerade party and free snack bar. Tables downtown are \$50 and VIP reservations are \$100. Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 492-7403, [avenuecafelansing.com](http://avenuecafelansing.com).

### GATSBY'S NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH AT THE LOFT

Lil' Darlins perform vaudeville show at '20s-themed party. Includes hors d'oeuvres, party favors and champagne toast. 8 p.m. \$30/\$50 per couple/\$100 VIP per couple. The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

### ZOOBIE'S/COSMOS

Enjoy a special New Year's Eve menu that includes three courses and a champagne toast. The game will be on TV. No cover charge, and Zoobie's/Cosmos are not taking reservations. \$35. Zoobie's Old Town Tavern/The Cosmos, 611 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-2737 or (517) 897-3563, [zoobiesoldtowntavern.com](http://zoobiesoldtowntavern.com), [thecosmoslansing.com](http://thecosmoslansing.com).

### MI FOOD FIGHT AT RED HAVEN

East Lansing's Red Haven hosts a culinary battle between local chefs Dan Konopnicki, executive chef for the Potent Potables Project, and Anthony Maiale, executive chef for Red Haven. Admission includes a lavish food spread, two complimentary drinks and a champagne toast. Tickets are available at Red Haven. 8 p.m. \$85. Red Haven, 4480 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 679-6309, [mifoodfight.com](http://mifoodfight.com).

## Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsny

Dec. 30-Jan 5

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): John Koenig is an artist who invents new words. Here's one that's applicable to your journey in 2016: "keyframe." Koenig defines it as being a seemingly mundane phase of your life that is in fact a turning point. Major plot twists in your big story arrive half-hidden amidst a stream of innocuous events. They don't come about through "a series of jolting epiphanies," Koenig says, but rather "by tiny imperceptible differences between one ordinary day and the next." In revealing this secret, I hope I've alerted you to the importance of acting with maximum integrity and excellence in your everyday routine.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): The coming months look like one of the best times ever for your love life. Old romantic wounds are finally ready to be healed. You'll know what you have to do to shed tired traditions and bad habits that have limited your ability to get the spicy sweetness you deserve. Are you up for the fun challenge? Be horny for deep feelings. Be exuberantly aggressive in honoring your primal yearnings. Use your imagination to dream up new approaches to getting what you want. The innovations in intimacy that you initiate in the coming months will keep bringing you gifts and teachings for years to come.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): In ancient times, observers of the sky knew the difference between stars and planets. The stars remained fixed in their places. The planets wandered around, always shifting positions in relationship to the stars. But now and then, at irregular intervals, a very bright star would suddenly materialize out of nowhere, stay in the same place for a while, and then disappear. Chinese astronomers called these "guest stars." We refer to them as supernovae. They are previously dim or invisible stars that explode, releasing tremendous energy for a short time. I suspect that in 2016, you may experience the metaphorical equivalent of a guest star. Learn all you can from it. It'll provide teachings and blessings that could feed you for years.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Be alert for an abundance of interesting lessons in 2016. You will be offered teachings about a variety of practical subjects, including how to take care of yourself really well, how to live the life you want to live, and how to build the connections that serve your dreams. If you are even moderately responsive to the prompts and nudges that come your way, you will become smarter than you thought possible. So just imagine how savvy you'll be if you ardently embrace your educational opportunities. (Please note that some of these opportunities may be partially in disguise.)

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): The silkworm grows fast. Once it hatches, it eats constantly for three weeks. By the time it spins its cocoon, it's 10,000 times heavier than it was in the beginning. On the other hand, a mature, 60-foot-tall saguaro cactus may take 30 years to fully grow a new side arm. It's in no hurry. From what I can tell, Leo, 2015 was more like a silkworm year for you, whereas 2016 will more closely resemble a saguaro. Keep in mind that while the saguaro phase is different from your silkworm time, it's just as important.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "The sky calls me," wrote Virgo teacher and poet Sri Chinmoy. "The wind calls me. The moon and stars call me. The dense groves call me. The dance of the fountain calls me. Smiles call me, tears call me. A faint melody calls me. The morn, noon and eve call me. Everyone is searching for a playmate. Everyone is calling me, 'Come, come!'" In 2016, Virgo, I suspect you will have a lot of firsthand experience with feelings like these. Sometimes life's seductiveness may overwhelm you, activating confused desires to go everywhere and do everything. On other occasions, you will be enchanted by the lush invitations, and will know exactly how to respond and reciprocate.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In the 19th century,

horses were a primary mode of personal transportation. Some people rode them, and others sat in carriages and wagons that horses pulled. But as cities grew larger, a problem emerged: the mounting manure left behind on the roads. It became an ever-increasing challenge to clear away the equine "pollution." In 1894, a British newspaper predicted that the streets of London would be covered with nine feet of the stuff by 1950. But then something unexpected happened: cars. Gradually, the threat of an excremental apocalypse waned. I present this story as an example of what I expect for you in 2016: a pressing dilemma that will gradually dissolve because of the arrival of a factor you can't imagine yet.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The longest river in the world flows through eastern Africa: the Nile. It originates below the equator and empties into the Mediterranean Sea. Although its current flows north, its prevailing winds blow south. That's why sailors have found it easily navigable for thousands of years. They can either go with the flow of the water or use sails to harness the power of the breeze. I propose that we make the Nile your official metaphor in 2016, Scorpio. You need versatile resources that enable you to come and go as you please -- that are flexible in supporting your efforts to go where you want and when you want.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In many cases, steel isn't fully useful if it's too hard. Manufacturers often have to soften it a bit. This process, which is called tempering, makes the steel springier and more malleable. Car parts, for example, can't be too rigid. If they were, they'd break too easily. I invite you to use "tempering" as one of your main metaphors in 2016, Sagittarius. You're going to be strong and vigorous, and those qualities will serve you best if you keep them flexible. Do you know the word "ductile"? If not, look it up. It'll be a word of power for you.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In his essay "The Etiquette of Freedom," poet Gary Snyder says that wildness "is perennially within us, dormant as a hard-shelled seed, awaiting the fire or flood that awakes it again." The fact that it's a "hard-shelled" seed is a crucial detail. The vital stuff inside the stiff outer coating may not be able to break out and start growing without the help of a ruckus. A fire or flood? They might do the job. But I propose, Capricorn, that in 2016 you find an equally vigorous but less disruptive prod to liberate your dormant wildness. Like what? You could embark on a brave pilgrimage or quest. You could dare yourself to escape your comfort zone. Are there any undomesticated fantasies you've been suppressing? Unsuppress them!

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Frederick the Great was King of Prussia between 1740 and 1786. He was also an Aquarius who sometimes experimented with eccentric ideas. When he brewed his coffee, for example, he used champagne instead of water. Once the hot elixir was ready to drink, he mixed in a dash of powdered mustard. In light of the astrological omens, I suspect that Frederick's exotic blend might be an apt symbol for your life in 2016: a vigorous, rich, complex synthesis of champagne, coffee, and mustard. (P.S. Frederick testified that "champagne carries happiness to the brain.")

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): My Piscean acquaintance Arturo plays the piano as well as anyone I've heard. He tells me that he can produce 150 different sounds from any single key. Using the foot pedals accounts for some of the variation. How he touches a key is an even more important factor. It can be percussive, fluidic, staccato, relaxed, lively, and many other moods. I invite you to cultivate a similar approach to your unique skills in 2016. Expand and deepen your ability to draw out the best in them. Learn how to be even more expressive with the powers you already possess.

## Out on the town

from page 25

**Tarot Study Group.** FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 347-2112.

**Celebrate Recovery.** For all types of hurts and hang-ups. 6 p.m. Donations welcome. Trinity Church (Lansing), 3355 Dunckel Road, Lansing. (517) 492-1866.

**Meditation.** For beginners and experienced. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Quan Am Temple, 1840 N. College Ave., Mason. (517) 853-1675, quanamtemple.org.

### MUSIC

**Open Mic @ The Colonial Bar & Grill.** Weekly bring-your-own instrument open mic. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. The Colonial Bar & Grille, 3425 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. (517) 882-6132.

### EVENT

**Ladies Figure Skating.** Lessons and practice. All skill levels welcome. 9:30-11:20 a.m. \$5/\$2 skate rental. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 574-4380, ladiessilverblades.com.

**New Years Eve Bash 2016.** Presented by PL Productions with recording artist Carl Carlton. 8 p.m.-2 a.m. \$30/\$50 per couple. Ramada Hotel

& Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing.

**Tripper's Comedy Club.** Live comedy. 9-10:30 p.m. \$5. Subject to change or cancellation. Tripper's Sports Bar, 350 Frandor Ave., Lansing. (517) 336-0717, tripperscomedy.com.

## Friday, January 1

### EVENTS

**Kids Skate.** 6-8 p.m. for ages 13 and under; 8-11 p.m. for ages 14 and up. \$8. Skate City Roller Rink, 905 Southland Ave., Lansing. (517) 894-8429.

**New Year Peace Prayer Service.** Prayer and scripture. All are welcome. 1-2:30 p.m. FREE. St. Therese Parish, 102 West Randolph St., Lansing. (517) 487-3749, paxchristimi.org.

**Dinner on Us.** Meal for those in need. Noon-3 p.m. FREE. Reachout Christian Center Church, 5628 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 507-7734.

## Saturday, January 2

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Tai Chi at Allen Market Place.** Instruction in Qigong, meditation and Yang style tai chi forms. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo

See Out on the Town, Page 27

## SATURDAY, JAN. 2-3 >> LANSING BRIDAL SHOW AT THE UNIVERSITY CLUB

Celebrating true love takes a lot of planning these days. Thankfully, the Lansing Bridal Association is here to help with its winter bridal show, mid-Michigan's only two-day bridal event. There will be a wide variety of vendors on site, including DJs, photographers, travel agents, bakeries and more. Attendees can pre-register online to receive discounted tickets and automatic entry into the show's door prize drawing. Noon-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. \$7/\$6 advance. The University Club, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. (517) 709-2026, lansingbridalshow.com.

## SATURDAY, JAN. 2 >> FAMILY DAY AT THE BROAD ART MUSEUM

Want to avoid spending yet another Saturday plopped in front of the television? The Broad Art Museum's monthly family day, held on the first Saturday of each month, is giving you an excuse to get out of the house. Explore a few "selfies" from the museum's permanent collection, or make some art that is "all about you" as a part of the exploration of the self. There will also be a special 1 p.m. museum tour specifically designed for families. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Education Wing, Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-4800, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

## SUDOKU

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

## BEGINNER

### TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 29

# Out on the town

from page 26

St., Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

**Domestic Violence Support Group.** Noon-1:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163, womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org.

## EVENTS

**Drop in LEGO Club.** Ages 6 and up play with provided LEGOs. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840, cadl.org.

**Future Farm Sanctuary Fundraiser Concert.** Featuring live music and craft tables. 7 p.m. \$10 The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. ow.ly/WoAOR.

**Free Public Tours.** Special tour for families. 1 and 3 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

## Sunday, January 3

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Charlotte Yoga Club.** Beginner to intermediate levels. 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. \$5 annually. ALIVE, 800 W. Lawrence Road, Charlotte. (517) 285-0138, charlottetoyoga.net.

### EVENTS

**Free Public Tours.** 1 and 3 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance.** Lessons 6-6:45 p.m., dance 6:45. \$8 dance/\$10 dance and lesson. The Lansing Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-7838.

## Monday, January 4

### EVENTS

**Social Bridge.** Play bridge and meet new people. No partner needed. 1-4 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

**Mac's Monday Comedy Night.** Hosted by Mark Roebuck and Dan Currie. 9:30 p.m. FREE. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795, macsbar.com.

**Book Discussion Group.** Monthly book club. Call or stop by for titles. CADL Mason, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. (517) 676-9088, cadl.org.

**Euchre Group.** Informal card-playing group. 1-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Haslett, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. (517) 339-2324, cadl.org.

**Maker Monday.** Ages 10 and up try their hands at STEM activities. 2:30-5 p.m. FREE. CADL Haslett, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. (517) 339-2324, cadl.org.

## Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Middle C"—no need for piano lessons here.  
Matt Jones

### Across

- 1 Clearwater's st.
- 4 The beginning of greatness?
- 9 Those other guys
- 13 Account exec
- 14 Copenhagen amusement park
- 15 Fully grown
- 16 Why I have to drive close to see what's on your rear window?
- 19 Script on a tablet?
- 20 Hardly hard
- 21 "I Love Lucy" production company
- 23 "Our National Parks" author John
- 25 Cookout cut
- 28 Nissan, way back when
- 30 Fight stopper
- 32 Caps Lock neighbor
- 35 Indifferent travel slogan for a Bolivian capital?
- 37 Fix errata
- 39 Pay increase
- 40 Eternities
- 41 Guy with a self-referential Renault 5?
- 44 Discouraging word
- 45 Pertaining to the eye
- 46 Short-billed shorebird
- 48 "Ultimate" degree
- 49 Kick out of a club
- 51 And others, in Latin
- 55 "Even \*I\* knew that!"
- 56 "Darby \_\_\_ and the Little People" (1959 Disney film)
- 57 Give the recent harvest report in a



- few words?
- 64 Bad sign
- 65 Difficult trial
- 66 "Falcon Crest" actress \_\_\_ Alicia
- 67 The "sun" in "sunny side up"
- 68 Beat the heck out of
- 69 Utter

### Down

- 1 Served like some green tomatoes
- 2 Leave alone
- 3 Lhasa \_\_\_ (Tibetan dogs)
- 4 Blackjack decision
- 5 "Mogambo" actress Gardner
- 6 Comedian Riddle
- 7 551, in film credits (if films had been around then)
- 8 Affleck film that earned a 2003 Razzie
- 9 "Jurassic Park" predator, for short
- 10 Sound that deserves a scare, maybe

- 11 Clean Air Act org.
- 12 Blanc who voiced the Tasmanian Devil
- 14 Gertrude Stein's "The Autobiography of Alice B. \_\_\_"
- 17 Old Domino's Pizza spokescreature
- 18 Traitor Vader
- 22 180
- 23 "\_\_\_ Wedding" (1994 sleeper hit starring Toni Collette)
- 24 World Heritage Site org.
- 25 Talk and talk and talk
- 26 "I Love It" duo \_\_\_ Pop
- 27 Ross of flag fame
- 29 Resells at a jacked-up price
- 31 Dark deli loaf
- 32 Carpentry joint component
- 33 Become a parent, perhaps
- 34 Nascence
- 36 Salon extension
- 38 "Spare me the details"
- 42 Be a brat
- 43 Install new machinery
- 47 "Rich & Meaty" brand
- 50 "I'm amazed!"
- 52 Ling and Loeb, for two
- 53 Actress Massey of "Frankenstein Meets the Wolf Man"
- 54 Forever, in poetry
- 55 Like a medieval dungeon
- 57 \_\_\_ G. Biv
- 58 Genre for Fall Out Boy
- 59 "Pinocchio" keepsake
- 60 Buckingham Palace letters
- 61 Commotion
- 62 President pro
- 63 Puppy sound

See Out on the Town, Page 29

## SUNDAY, JAN. 3 >> 'NEVER SWIM ALONE' AT LCC THEATRE PROGRAM

In preparation for their appearance at the Kennedy Center's Region Three American College Theater Festival, the cast and crew of LCC's "Never Swim Alone" present an open dress rehearsal Sunday. The avant-garde play centers around two identically dressed businessmen who are locked in a battle of verbal one-upmanship, which is refereed by a female lifeguard. The three are linked by a dark episode in their past. 4 p.m. FREE. Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488, lcc.edu/showinfo.

## NEW YEAR'S RESERVATIONS BEING TAKEN!

(517) 484-7676 after 3 pm.  
Seatings at 4-6-8-and 10 pm

### 4 COURSE MEAL INCLUDING:

- Appetizer
- Salad or Soup
- Knight Cap Entree
- Special New Year's Eve Dessert



"WATCH THE SPARTANS BEAT ALABAMA"

Knight Cap

320 E. Michigan Ave. || knightcap.com

**KASUTAMU**  
**GRAND OPENING!**



**\$5 OFF any \$25 purchase**



**KASUTAMU**

Offer valid 12/30/15 through 12/30/16

**Authentic Chinese Fondue**  
**All you can eat!**

**Kasutamu**  
 235 Albert Ave., East Lansing  
 (517) 575-6325

**LIN'S EXPRESS**



**\$5 OFF any \$30 purchase**

**LIN'S EXPRESS**

Offer valid 12/30/15 through 12/30/16

**Buy one entree, get one HALF OFF!**

**LIN'S EXPRESS**

Offer valid 12/30/15 through 12/30/16

**Authentic Asian Cuisine**  
**Dine in, Delivery & Takeout**

**Lin's Express**  
 235 Albert Ave., East Lansing  
 (517) 960-2783  
 linexpresseastlansing.com

**PHO PHO**  
**VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT**



**\$2 OFF a \$10 purchase or more**

**OR**

**\$4 OFF a \$20 purchase or more**

**PHO PHO**

**VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT**

Offer valid 12/30/15 through 12/30/16

**Authentic Vietnamese Cuisine**  
**Carry out, Dine & Deliever**

**PHO Vietnamese Cuisine**  
 350 Albert Ave., East Lansing  
 517 574-4919  
 phoeastlansing.com

# Out on the town

from page 27

## Tuesday, January 5

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Capital Area Crisis Rugby Practice.** All experience levels welcome. 7-8 p.m. \$3. Gier Community Center, 2400 Hall St., Lansing. crisisrfg.com.

**Take Off Pounds Sensibly.** Have a support system, lose weight. 7 p.m. FREE to visit. Eaton Rapids Medical Center, 1500 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. (517) 543-0786.

**Yawn Patrol Toastmasters.** Learn public speaking. 7-8:30 a.m. Studio 1210 Place, 1210 Turner St., Lansing. (989) 859-2086, yawnpatrol.com.

**Transgender Support Group for Parents, Guardians, and Families.** Support and discussion. 7:15-9 p.m. FREE. Call for location. (517) 927-8260.

### MUSIC

**12th Night Festival.** Area choirs sing carols. 7 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church, 528 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. gracelutheranlansing.org.

### EVENTS

**Bible and Beer.** Discussion of scripture's power in daily events. 6 p.m. Kelly's Downtown, 220 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 482-0600, bibleandbeer@ccclansing.org.

**Lunch @ MSC.** Call ahead to reserve meal. Noon-1 p.m. \$5.75/\$3 suggested donation for ages 60+. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

**Preschool Storytime.** Songs, stories and activities for ages 3-6. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021, cadl.org.

**Crafternoon.** Adults meet to share crafting projects. Noon-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Haslett, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. (517) 339.2324, cadl.org.

**Compassionate Friends.** Support group for

parents who have lost a child. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Salvation Army (South) Community Center, 701 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 351-6480.

### LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Writer's Group.** Meeting to discuss and share written projects. 5:30-6:30. FREE. CADL Williamston, 201 School St., Williamston. (517) 655-1191, cadl.org.

**Brew Pub Book Club.** "Night Film" by Marisha Pessi. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Soup Spoon Cafe, 1419 E. Michigan Ave. cadl.org.

## Wednesday, January 6

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Free Photography Clinic.** Mini seminars with local professionals, sponsored by the Mid Michigan Photography Club. 6-9 p.m. FREE. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. (517) 482-0668.

**H.E.R.O. Special DIY Kitchen Class #1: Installing a Sink, Faucet, and Garbage Disposal.** Home improvement course. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980, glhc.org.

**Meditation.** For beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, 3015 S. Washington St., Lansing. (517) 351-5866, lamc.info.

**Alcoholics Anonymous.** A closed step meeting. 6 p.m. Donations. Pennsylvania Ave. Church of God, 3500 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 899-3215.

**Open Workshop.** Bike repair, bike safety and biking as healthy exercise. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Kids Repair Program, 5815 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 755-4174.

### EVENTS

**Allen Street Farmers Market - Indoors.** Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911.

**ESOL Reading Group.** Adults practice reading out loud. Noon-1:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021, cadl.org.

**Suits and the City January Event.** LGBTQ professional networking event. 5:30-8 p.m. FREE. Donations to Turner-Dodge House encouraged. Turner-Dodge House, 100 N. East St., Lansing. gaylansing.org.

### MUSIC

**Fusion Shows presents.** FREE. Crunchy's Pizza and Burgers, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2506.

## WEDNESDAY, JAN. 6 >> CALVIN COLLEGE LECTURE SERIES AT RIVER TERRACE CHURCH

South Bronx educator and 2015 top ten finalist for the Global Teacher Prize, Stephen Ritz kicks off Calvin College's award winning lecture series, the January Series. River Terrace Church in East Lansing is one of 45 remote locations across the country where the series will be stream live from the college's Covenant Fine Arts Center Auditorium. Live audio streaming of these lectures is also available at [livestream.com/calvin-college](http://livestream.com/calvin-college). Ritz's presentation covers topics like project-based learning and incorporating environmental and social issues into K-12 education. 12:30-1:30 p.m. FREE. River Terrace Church, 1509 River Terrace Drive, East Lansing. (517) 351-9059, [calvin.edu/january-series](http://calvin.edu/january-series).

**CRIMINAL DEFENSE**

Drunk Driving  
Embezzlement  
Drugs  
Homicide  
All Federal and State Crimes

37 YEARS -  
AGGRESSIVE LITIGATION  
EFFECTIVE MEDIATION

**STUART R. SHAFER, P.C.**  
Former Assistant Prosecutor

**487-6603**  
1223 Turner St., Ste 333, Lansing  
[www.stushafer.com](http://www.stushafer.com)

# TOP FIVE DINING GUIDE!

## TOP 5 BAKERY

### #1 ROMA BAKERY

City Pulse readers love its baked goods, especially the cannolis  
428 N. Cedar St., Lansing  
(517) 485-9466  
[romabakerydeli.com](http://romabakerydeli.com)  
9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday

### #2 BAKE N' CAKES

"Butter makes it better" at this bakery, known for its cupcakes and specialty desserts  
3003 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing  
(517) 337-2253  
[bakencakes.com](http://bakencakes.com)  
6:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday

### #3 GREAT HARVEST BREAD CO.

Known for its specialty breads, including cinnamon swirl and raspberry white chocolate swirl  
1919 W Grand River Ave, Okemos

(517) 347-0022

[greatharvestlansing.com](http://greatharvestlansing.com)  
6 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday; a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday

### #4 WHIPPED

City Pulse readers praise Whipped's cake decorating, cupcakes and cookies (currently operating out of Roma Bakery)  
428 N. Cedar St., Lansing  
(517) 483-2653  
[whippedbakerylansing.com](http://whippedbakerylansing.com)  
9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday

### #5 SUGAR SHACK

City Pulse readers love Sugar Shack's cookie bites and giant cupcakes  
215 N. Clippert St., Lansing  
(517) 316-2009  
[sugarshackshop.com](http://sugarshackshop.com)  
11 a.m.-midnight Sunday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Friday-Saturday

## WEDNESDAY, JAN. 6 >> MID MICHIGAN PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB FREE PHOTOGRAPHY CLINIC

Make a new year's resolution to improve your photography skills in 2016. The Mid Michigan Photography Club hosts its eighth annual free photography clinic Wednesday at the First Presbyterian Church of Lansing. The event comprises a series of short seminars that cover various aspects of basic photography, including camera basics, photo editing, composition and trouble-shooting. There is also an equipment table where attendees can examine and ask questions about a variety of photographic equipment. The clinic also serves as an opportunity for prospective new members to learn more about the Mid Michigan Photography Club. 6-9 p.m. FREE. First Presbyterian Church of Lansing, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. [mmphotoclub.com](http://mmphotoclub.com).

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 27

FLA	HARDG	THEM					
REP	TIVOLI	RIPE					
ITSNOT	ABIG	DECAL					
EBOOK	LAX						
DESILU	MUIR	RIB					
	DATSUN	TRUCE					
TAB	SUCREW	WHYNOT					
EDIT	RAISE	EONS					
NORMAN	LECAR	NAY					
OPTIC	PLOVER						
NTH	TOSS	ETALIA					
	DUH	OGILL					
RECAP	WHATY	OUSOW					
OMEN	ORDEAL	ANA					
YOLK	WHOMP	SAY					

## SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 26

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



# HE ATE

# SHE ATE



## The year in food

### It was a very good year

By **MARK NIXON**

The needle on my internal foodometer tilted decidedly toward delicious in 2015. Let's start with what I believe is the best restaurant of those He Ate She Ate reviewed this year: Cosmos.

Attached to Zoobie's, a former factory bar, Cosmos turns out amazing gourmet pizzas and tapas-style dishes. The triple creme brie on bruschetta with basil pesto and balsamic reduction left me giddy. The scallops and shrimp ceviche is every bit as good as dishes I've tasted on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts.

Cosmos has the ambience of a casual bar/pizzeria — urban chic with a sci-fi tilt — without appearing to try too hard. This pizza joint has hitched its chuck wagon to a star, and right now it's flying high.

It's hard to call the State Room an overlooked gem, since it's located on the fringe of a world renowned university. But because it's tucked inside a hotel, the Kellogg Center at MSU, the State Room seems mostly absent from the local dining crowd's consciousness.

That's a shame, because these folks can cook. I like how the kitchen embraces seasonal fruits and vegetables with dishes like apple and parsnip bisque. The restaurant works hard at sauces, and it pays off. The fennel-infused sauce for lobster cakes, a cognac sauce for the herb-encrusted trout and a sprightly apricot sauce for braised pork belly are just three stars in the State Room's culinary constellation. This is not for diners on a tight budget. But for a delicious splurge, the State Room is foodie nirvana.

The Knight Cap is back. Literally, of course, it never went anywhere. But in recent times it was like a tired actor reciting the same old schtick. Not any longer. New owners have made this classic Lansing restaurant classy again.

While known for its steaks, the revamped Knight Cap truly excels in seafood. The scallops appetizer and the lightly encrusted walleye entree are worth the price — \$17 and \$28, respectively. If you like mushrooms, order the mushroom sard appetizer: button mushrooms drifting in a rich pool of garlic butter, brandy, cream and a red wine sauce.

Though the Knight cap remains its small, intimate self, the interior has been redecorated as a brighter, more modern heir to its mid-20th century predecessor.

For such a small place, the Good Truckin' Diner has a big heart and creative flair to match. This REO Town diner personifies a piece of blue collar Lansing that's seeing a renaissance. If you're hankering for breakfast with a twist, get the Hangover. It's house-smoked pulled pork with fried eggs, fresh-baked biscuits and a subtly seasoned white gravy. This twist on biscuits and gravy shows Good Truckin' Diner is willing to take risks on its menu. And it works.

### International eaters anthem

By **GABRIELLE JOHNSON**

For my 2015 wrap-up, I'm going to tell you about my top five Lansing joints to get international food — and one very special honorable mention. Let's hit it.

Huapei is our neighborhood Chinese restaurant. Yes, the hours are hit or miss, and it seems that sometimes they aren't open because they just didn't feel like being open that day. Learn to deal with it, because the sizzling rice soup will cure what ails you. A huge bowl of chicken, beef, crab and mushrooms in steaming broth turns into Mount Vesuvius when a plate of, you guessed it, sizzling rice is poured in. Nothing is better on a blustery day.

Naing Myanmar Family Restaurant has had a rollercoaster year, from absentee landlords who don't pay their utility bills to a wildly successful crowdfunding campaign. Owners Mi and Moe Latt are steadfast in providing original, fresh, inexpensive dishes — always followed by a fresh fruit chaser. Try the pad Thai, which comes in its own egg envelope, or my favorite, the su kee, a tomato-based stew with chicken, shrimp, squid, egg, noodles, beans, watercress and fennel seeds.

Hong Kong is near Frandor, but it might as well be actually in Hong Kong based on the clientele. A sign of a solid Chinese restaurant is a dining room full of Chinese patrons, in my opinion. The eaters on a recent Saturday night were eating what I think is called hot pot, but I'm not familiar enough with it and didn't want to out myself as a weirdo, so I didn't ask. If anyone out there is familiar with what seems to be the secret menu at Hong Kong, please let me come with you. I'll even pay. In the meantime, try the lemon chicken. It is only lightly breaded, so the lemon shines through. The dipping sauce that comes with the spring rolls is to die for. If it were socially acceptable for me to suck it up with a straw, I would do so.

Altu's has been a favorite of the fiancé and mine since we went there on our first date. Not to sound like the fanciest person of all time, but this year we had the opportunity to compare our favorites from Altu's with an Ethiopian restaurant in Rome. I'm happy to report that Altu's holds its own. Grab a friend and get the vegetarian and meat feast for two, and be sure to include the lima beans and collard greens as two of your choices. Who knows, that primal action of tearing pieces of bread and using them to scoop delicious food into your mouth just might lead to love. Share one of the fresh smoothies to celebrate.

The most recent addition to my international favorites list is a place that I have been hitting hard over the last few months. Zaytoon is right next to the Lansing Mall, in a building that used to be Benson's Vinaigrettes. Everything is fresh and flavorful, from the stuffed grape leaves to the garlic sauce to the (chocolate!) baklava. Our favorite is the Toon for Two, a sampler platter that includes my favorite, shish kafta, and his preferred, chicken shawarma. The handsome owner and friendly service don't hurt a bit.

My honorable mention goes to El Oasis, which isn't a traditional top five contender since it is a food truck. Two quesadillas with chorizo on corn tortillas with a side of beans and rice is one of the best meals you can find in town. Yes, I eat my fair share of salad and grilled chicken breasts, but when the time comes to indulge my inner citizen of the world, I take myself to El Oasis. (I lock the bag in the truck on the ride home so I'm not tempted to pull over and tear into a taco. It's happened before, and it ain't pretty.)

May 2016 bring us all health, happiness, and big fat delicious meals.



Gabrielle Johnson/City Pulse

Cosmo's creative pizzas, like this rock shrimp pizza, were one of Mark Nixon's highlights from this year's He Ate She Ate reviews.

Want more  
City Pulse?  
Follow us on  
social media

CityPULSE

facebook.com/lansingcitypulse

@citypulse @lansingcitypulse



**YEAR IN REVIEW**

Ty Forquer/City Pulse

Left: The Creole ownership and management team (left to right: co-owner Aaron Matthews, general manager Mimi Yao, co-owner Sam Short, assistant general manager Nick Lovachis, manager/barista Meche Holguin and co-owner Al Hooper) celebrates the opening of the Creole earlier this year. Right: Owner Paul Grescowle stands in front of Emil's Restaurant. One of Lansing's oldest restaurants, Emil's closed its doors in October.

**By ALLAN I. ROSS**

When looking over the crush of new businesses that opened this year in Metro Lansing, you start to see some themes. We got four new restaurants dedicated to New Orleans-inspired cuisine, three new barbecue places, three full-service breweries and four gourmet sweets shops — We'll leave it up to the sociologists to make sense of the sudden allure of spicy food, high-octane craft beer and gourmet doughnuts. But not all the news was cheery: There was also a drying up of the downtown Lansing bar district and the loss of one of Lansing's oldest restaurants. For better or worse, 2015 will live in the record books.

Last month, **the Creole** opened in Old Town, featuring fine dining Cajun fare and craft cocktails. This month marked the arrival of its conjoined twin next door, **Creole Coffee Co.**, which focuses on New Orleans-centric brunch offerings and gourmet coffee. (Both businesses are the brainchildren of the Potent Potables Project, a new restaurant development group that also oversaw the January opening of **Cosmos** and recently broke ground on **Punk Taco**, an inventive twist on the Mexican cantina concept coming next year.)

In May, **Nola Bistro Pho & Po-Boys** opened on

the city's west side, featuring a menu that flip-flops between Vietnamese and Creole dishes. Similarly, **Capital City BBQ** combines Vietnamese cuisine with Southern barbecue. And then there's **Jumbeaux**, an authentic Louisiana restaurant featuring jumbo, jambalaya and crawfish étouffée.

The aptly named **Pho** in downtown East Lansing has a menu based around the titular Vietnamese soup, which is made from a long-simmering broth that has its ingredients added just seconds before the soup is served. And Lansing's culinary melting pot got a dash of Eastern European cuisine in late October when **Choupli Wood-Fired Kabob** opened on the city's west side. The fast casual eatery introduces Turkish cuisine to local palates, with all cooking conducted over natural wood charcoal.

It was a great year for sweet toothed locals. Williamston specialty bakery **Groovy Donuts** opened in late summer, just before downtown Lansing's specialty doughnuts shop, **Glazed and Confused**. Also opening just before the school year: **Velvet: A Candy Store**. The East Lansing confectionary sells handmade ice cream, candy and Mackinac Island-style fudge. And the first business to move into the new Trowbridge Lofts mixed-use development is **lorio's Gelatto & Caffé**, which has handmade gelato made from imported Italian ingredients.

It was a quiet year for nightlife, with few new nightclubs opening. There was the grand opening of country music bars **Duke's Saloon**, which slid into Harem Urban Lounge's old digs, and **Tequila Cowboy** in the Lansing Mall, but otherwise, all of the attention was focused on new bars that doubled as production facilities.

**American Fifth Spirits** opened in April in downtown Lansing, becoming the city's first-ever distillery. It utilizes Michigan crops to make its own vodka, gin and white whiskey, which are served in a variety of inventive

drinks. New brewery **Old Nation Brewing Co.** set up shop in Williamston earlier this year, featuring a selection of craft beers and a full menu. **Ellison Brewery and Spirits**, a new microbrewery/microdistillery, also opened in East Lansing. And after 101 years, beer started flowing under the **Lansing Brewing Co.** moniker in downtown Lansing, including the revival of the original brewery's flagship beer, Amber Cream Ale.

Just south of Lansing Brewing Co., Cooley Law School Stadium, home of the Lansing Lugnuts, added a new bar: **Good Hops**. The specialty hamburger-and-craft-beer station is situated in the new construction beyond the outfield. And it wouldn't be right to call **Beer Grotto** a bar, as there's no physical bar in sight. Instead, the 4,200-square-foot space inside downtown Lansing's Stadium District has five "tasting pods," where bartenders and wine experts — ahem, "beer geeks and cork dorks" — provide tastings of craft beer and boutique wine selections.

**Saddleback BBQ** in REO Town and **Crossroads BBQ** in Grand Ledge threw their respective hats in the ring for the title of best barbecue in town. Meanwhile, **Crafty Palate** and **Henry's on the Square**, both on Washington Square, are hoping to appeal to the captive audience of downtown workers. Also hoping to appeal to downtown denizens is **Iggy's In Convenience**, which opened inside the Lansing City Market last month. The grocery store is owned and operated by Igor Jurkovic, who also runs the new **Mediterranean Café and Catering** inside the Capital National Building.

**Other notable new businesses:**

**Compost Katie**, a new vermicomposting business on Lansing's east side, is capitalizing on the farm-to-table trend and helping Metro Lansing residents live a little greener to boot.

**Sweet Custom Jewelry**, a husband-and-wife operation that opened in Old Town, makes necklaces, bracelets and rings to order.

**JN Squeeze** is the satellite location for downtown Lansing's 5-year-old Juice Nation store. The menu features 12 types of juice cocktails made from all organic produce, much of which is sourced locally.

**La Cocina Cubana** is a new Cuban food truck parked in Old Town.

**Reno's North** in north Lansing undertook a massive interior/exterior overhaul — a "Reno-ovation," if you will — of the former home of Rookie's Restaurant Bar & Grill, complete with a massive patio and new sand volleyball courts.

**Skate City Rink** is built into a nearly 10,000-square-foot former office plaza in south Lansing.

**Restaurants, clubs and shops we lost in 2015:**

**Downtown Lansing**

- Black Rose
- Brannigan Brothers
- Edmund's Pastime
- House of Eden Rock
- Spotted Dog Café
- Restaurant Mediteran
- Secrets Nightclub

**East Lansing**

- Grand River Coffee Co.
- Video To Go
- Woody's Oasis Bar & Grill
- American Apparel

**REO Town**

- Kait's Vintage Café

**Lansing's west side**

- R-Club

**Lansing's east side**

- Emil's Restaurant

**LOVE THY NEIGHBOR**

**THY**

**Gay | Straight | Atheist | Jew  
Muslim | Christian | Homeless  
Rich | Democrat | Republican  
Black | White | Brown  
Male | Trans | Female**

**NEIGHBOR**

**We're willing to give it a try!**

**Pilgrim Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
Lansing, MI**



**125 S. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Sunday - 10 AM  
(517) 484-7434  
PilgrimUCC.com**





**CAPITAL AREA LOCAL FIRST**  
It's your capital.  
Keep it local.

**Look for the logo and support these businesses:**

**CALE MEMBERS**

- AB Dick Document Solutions
- Allen Neighborhood Center
- Andrew J Lathrop
- ASK
- Bake n' Cakes
- Benedict Auto Body Inc
- Brian McGrain
- Capitol Macintosh
- City Pulse
- Creative Wellness
- DeWitt Creativity Group
- Dreamscape Multimedia
- Eagle Monk Pub & Brewery
- East Lansing Food Co-op
- Go Green Trikes LLC
- Great Lakes Window Cleaning
- Greater Lansing Convention & Visitor's Bureau
- Granger
- H.C. Berger Company
- Herbruck's Poultry Ranch
- Ingham County Land Bank
- Jersey Giant
- Kristine Ranger
- M3 Group
- Mackerel Sky Gallery
- Mason Area Chamber of Commerce
- Meridian Fire Arms
- Michigan Energy Options
- Mid Michigan Interactive
- Old Town General Store
- Office Furniture Outlet & Supplies Inc.
- Paper Image Printer Centers
- Paramount Coffee Co
- Physicians Health Plan
- PTD Technology
- Rathbun Insurance Agency
- Reno's East
- Saper Galleries & Custom Framing
- The Plant Professionals
- The Soup Spoon Café
- Tonia Olson
- Trade Network International, Inc.
- U Save Moving and Storage

*(Members whose dues are current)*

For more information, visit [capitalarealocalfirst.org](http://capitalarealocalfirst.org)

THIS SPACE DONATED BY CITY PULSE



**MIDTOWN BREWING CO.**

Join us for  
**NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
NO COVER - KITCHEN OPEN LATE

402 S. Washington Ave. (517) 977-1349  
Sun-Wed 11 a.m.-midnight Thurs-Sat 11 a.m.-1 a.m.



Complete your degree.  
Promote your career.

We understand the challenges you face in completing your degree. That's why we offer flexible schedules at convenient locations with online options that will grow your knowledge now, and the return on investment you made in yourself forever.

Learn at a premier business school with people like you who've chosen Northwood University to complete a degree that will not only set you apart, but also set you up for success. Our classes are led by industry-expert faculty members who have actually done what others are only talking about while providing you with the insight you'll need to excel in any environment. Are you ready to earn a bachelor's degree that will tap your full potential? It's time to own your future!

**northwood.edu/adults**  
**800.622.9000**

Classes Begin January 11 on Campus and Online

**NORTHWOOD UNIVERSITY** **OWN YOUR FUTURE**



# Auld lang wine

## Uncorked's favorite wines of 2015

By JUSTIN KING

One of the spiffy aspects of being in the wine business is the opportunity to try many different wines — aka “re-search and development.” This year,



I sampled well over 1,000 wines. There were certainly a few duds that tasted like wet dishrag, burnt tar and garlic or an old hockey jersey, but most were good, and a few dozen were delicious.

Here are my top 10 favorite wines of the year that never made it into a City Pulse Uncorked column.

**Castello di Ama Chianti Classico, 2007:** Let's be real. There are oceans of Chianti that are straight-up overpriced. But there are great deals, too. With Chianti, it's usually best to find a wine-wise friend or wine store employee to snag your red-sauced pasta pairing. Castello di Ama may be my favorite Tuscan wine I tried this year.

Some words that come to mind: delicate, dense, brooding. It's easy to get annoyingly verbose about wines that reinvigorate after being burned too many times by the overpriced stuff. Fear not with this one. It's not cheap, but if you're willing to spend a couple bucks more for an elegant Italian meal, this is a good place to turn. (\$45)

**Costa di Bussia Barbera d'Alba, 2012:** I'm a sucker for good charcuterie. I dig pate, galantine, sausage, rillettes, all of it. Costa di Bussia's Barbera d'Alba is a great pairing for this snacky fare. It is playful and fruity without too much

tannin and just a bit of earthy tones. It lets the food be the star of the show. There's much to fall in love with, including the price. (\$15)

**Duchessa Lia Barbaresco, 2012:** The typical “tar and roses” of full-bodied Italian Nebbiolo grapes is alive and well in this wine. Nebbiolo from Barbaresco and Barolo can be notoriously expensive. Not here. If you see this insane value on the shelf, don't hesitate. It will be gone if you blink. (\$25)

**Gaierhof Moscato Giallo, 2014:** Moscato is almost always undeniably sweet. The trick is to keep enough acid in the wine to prevent it from tasting like Robitussin cut with stale Fruit Roll-Ups. Success from Trentino, Italy! This is my favorite Moscato of the year. (\$20)

**Gaston Chiquet “Special Club” Brut Champagne, 2007:** Using the phrase “Special Club” sounds pretty lame, but there's a pretty good reason behind it. Back in the early '70s, smaller producers in the French region of Champagne felt a bit cast out by the public, who favored the marketing giants of the region like Moët & Chandon or Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin. These well known houses were often purchasers of grapes from all over the region, producing Champagnes that lacked site-specific traits. The “Special Club” was formed by several estates who bottled Champagne from their own grapes, effectively working together to create an “umbrella” brand.

Gaston Chiquet's 2007 is stupefying in its complexity and depth. This chardonnay/pinot noir blend carries layers of dried apple blossoms, sourdough, porcini mushrooms and graceful tart apples for days. If you're looking for a showstopper for your New Year's Eve dinner — or for any other special occasion — check this out, pronto. (\$85)

**Gilbert Cellars “The Pilgrim” Red Blend, 2013:** This Washington state blend of malbec, grenache, and pinot noir presses all the right buttons for the fruit-bomb fans. Subtle? No. But if you dig on bigness, this is for you. (\$20)

**Grochau Cellars “Commuter Cuvée” pinot noir, 2014:** Pinot noir can be a bit one-note-y sometimes (cherries, cherries, cherries). While this wine from Oregon's Willamette Valley isn't giving anyone much reason to wax poetic, it feels refreshingly zippy and balanced. It's light enough to taste like pinot noir should, both delicate and scrumptious. (\$17)

**La Spinetta vermentino, 2014:** Look for the rhinoceros on the label of this savory, succulent white. This is the quintessential chicken/fish partner-in-crime. (\$19)

**Ridge “Three Valleys” zinfandel, 2012:** Don't be too cool for school and ditch a name brand just because you've seen their wines on grocery store shelves for a decade. Ridge's day-to-day special-

ty is zinfandel. Ridge, along with Easton Winery, set the benchmark for affordable, full-bodied California zinfandel. If freezing temperatures don't deter your grill fetish, keep this well stocked as a pairing. (\$22)

**Chateau Terrebert malbec/cabernet franc, 2012:** This is my official burger wine of the winter. It's delicious, and the chateau name rhymes with Care Bears. Sold. (\$14)

### What to look for in 2016:

See you later, point ratings. The old guard in wine journalism provides great in-depth wine coverage, but slapping a “92 points” on a wine isn't helping the buying public figure out what they like or don't like. Blogs, friends and independent wine shops are slowly gaining more influence.

Red blends dominate. Sometimes it doesn't matter what the blend is. Fun

packaging and a ripe style sell well and cater to those who dig on big, fruity wines. The regions of Bordeaux and Rhone have been doing this for hundreds of years, and the modern American trend shows no signs of slowing down.

Dry rosé on the rise. In recent years, white zinfandel has been soundly ass-whopped by moscato. Many folks, however, still crave wine both fruity and pink, even if they're not so saccharine. The drier side of rosé has seen a large bump in sales nationwide, and it's a safe bet that this trend will hit the Midwest in the spring and summer of 2016.

*Justin King is a certified sommelier and resident of Williamston. He is part-owner of Bridge Street Social, a restaurant opening this winter in DeWitt. Email him your wines of the year at justinking@gmail.com. #dryrose4lyfe.*



Courtesy Photo

La Spinetta's 2014 vermentino, featuring a rhinoceros on the label, is one of Justin King's favorite wines of 2015.

# THE PRUDDEN STREET GYM

## FOR RENT

### \$47<sup>PER HOUR</sup>

- Full Court Basketball
- Volleyball
- Pilates/Yoga
- Community Events

**Inc.** It's your gym  
for what you do!

Call and reserve your time  
in the coolest community  
space in the heart of Lansing.

**THE PRUDDEN STREET GYM**  
727 PRUDDEN ST.  
LANSING, MI  
(517) 295-3671  
pruddenstreetgym.com

## HOW'S YOUR GAME?

# Weeding out the trends

## Looking back on 2015's medical marijuana developments

As 2015 comes to an end, it seems like a good time to look back at how far the Michigan medical marijuana industry has come this year. There are also several important trends that emerged this year in medical marijuana sales and consumption.

This year, the number of medical marijuana dispensaries in the state has really blossomed. With that, we saw the emergence of

THE GREEN REPORT



STEVE GREEN

a major trend: the transformation of pre-rolls (ready-to-smoke rolled joints). When the first dispensaries opened in Michigan, most offered pre-rolls for convenience. At first, shops would use scraps from the bottoms of their jars or whatever was not moving off the shelves to pack into their pre-rolls. Many even used leaves or trimmings in them.

Now, with a growing market, more competition and a better informed customer base, stores have shifted toward premium, single-strain pre-rolls. Shops often offer dozens of strain-specific pre-rolls, made as blunts, in cones or with filters. Some are even rolled in 24-karat gold rolling papers.

Even the federal government, which provides medical marijuana to a few approved patients through the Compassionate Investigational New Drug program, supplies the weed as pre-rolled joints. Pre-rolled joints are not

always just about convenience, however. Patients with arthritis, muscle spasms or other medical conditions may be unable to roll their own joints and benefit immensely from joints that are ready to smoke.

Another big trend in 2015 was the process of creating "rosin," a specialized version of marijuana resin. Resin, which can be harvested from plants or made synthetically, is a sticky, viscous substance that can be used to make adhesives, varnishes or other products. Rosin is extracted from marijuana flowers without the use of solvents to create a concentrate that is a solid and amber colored. The rosin is obtained by applying pressure and heat to the buds.

The simplest way to create rosin is to place a marijuana bud between folded parchment paper, then put that inside a two-surface iron to apply heat. Press it together and hold it for several seconds, then unfold the parchment paper and scrape off the rosin. Early producers created rosin with consumer irons like one might use to straighten hair, but the process is becoming more sophisticated. This week at a Detroit dispensary, I saw a digitally operated pneumatic press for making rosin that was mounted behind the counter. It was pretty impressive.

Last, but certainly not the least trendy, is "live resin." This product is made using butane gas, but it is vastly from the dewaxed shatter that has been on the market for years. The main difference is the flavor. Most shatter extracts are made after the flower or trim has thoroughly dried and cured. Live resin differs because it is extracted from fresh, frozen, whole cannabis flowers. Extracting the oil from the fresh plant better captures the smell and flavor of the strain and boasts higher terpene profiles. Live resin made a big splash at the Michigan Medical Cannabis Cup (a High Times magazine-sponsored marijuana trade show) where the first, second, and third place winners in both the Indica and Sativa concentrate categories were live resins. The live resins didn't test higher in THC, but the robust flavor gave live resin the advantage. I'm excited to see how these products fare in upcoming competitions.

On a personal note, I sincerely hope that next year's trends will include the legalization of recreational marijuana in our state. Here's to a green 2016.

*Steve Green, who writes this column every two weeks, uses marijuana to prevent seizures. He has no business ties to any dispensaries or products.*

# CityPULSE NEWSMAKERS

HOSTED BY BERL SCHWARTZ



**RYAN CLAYTOR**  
MSU Professor/Comic Book Artist



**TWYLA BIRDSONG**  
Blues/Soul Singer



**NICK STACHURSKI**  
Video Producer

THIS WEEK **PEOPLE**

**MY18TV!**  
NEW TIME 10:30 a.m. EVERY SATURDAY  
COMCAST CHANNEL 16 LANSING  
7:30 P.M. EVERY FRIDAY

## Fireside Grill

6951 Lansing Rd Dimondale, MI 48821  
(Between Canal & Crowser Rds)

**Monday Only Special**

# 25% OFF Your Total Bill

Bring in this entire ad for your discount.  
Expires Jan 25, 2016

**Steaks • Seafood • Burgers • Pasta • Salads**

**517-882-7297**  
FiresideGrillLansing.com

Dine in only. Cannot be combined with other coupons, offers or discounts. Not valid for gift certificate purchases or banquet rooms.



# CityPULSE IS LOOKING FOR ARTISTS

We're looking for **graphic designers, painters, illustrators and doodlers** alike to be considered to contribute artwork for the cover of *City Pulse*.

Show us some samples of your art and you may be considered to get commissioned to have your work featured on the cover of a publication that gets read by **over 50,000 readers weekly!**

Send art samples or links to online portfolios to [jonathan@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:jonathan@lansingcitypulse.com)

# Fight Hunger by Recycling Your Old Fridge!

Now through December 30th, BWL residential electric customers who recycle a qualifying appliance can choose to donate their \$25-\$50 rebate to the Greater Lansing Food Bank. Call **800-573-3503** to schedule your FREE pickup today!



# THE PULSIFIEDS

## BACKPAGE CLASSIFIEDS

Paramedic/LPN/RN Wanted - Sign-on Bonus. Talecris Plasma Resources. Apply at [www.grifolsplasma.com](http://www.grifolsplasma.com)

## CityPULSE

### ROUTE DRIVER

City Pulse is looking for a Route Driver to deliver newspapers to businesses every Wednesdays starting around 7:30 a.m. **MUST** have small truck/van/SUV, a valid driver's license & proof of insurance. Please send resume or letter of interest to [suzi@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:suzi@lansingcitypulse.com)

**BLAINE TRASH REMOVAL**  
Why rent a dumpster? Call us for full service garage & house clean outs, tree/brush removal, yard cleanup. Home, business & commercial.  
**Call Jay 517-980-0468**

**HOT VINTAGE VINYL**  
jazz, blues, rock, pop, folk  
@LAMBSGATE Antiques  
Old town LANSING

**DOWNTOWN LANSING** - spacious upstairs 1 bdrm. apt. in owner-occupied Victorian-era house. Preservation just completed by owner, a retired master carpenter. Lots of windows, gleaming hardwood floors, plus an office/library. Pets accepted. \$550 rent. Heat separate. 517-485-4510

### RESIDENTIAL SNOW REMOVAL

30 years experience. Reasonable.  
(517) 528-7870. Ask for Dave.

**AD DEADLINE**  
MONDAYS AT NOON  
PHONE 999-6704

EMAIL [SUZI@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM](mailto:suzi@lansingcitypulse.com)

**We Sell Macs, Too!**

Your locally owned Apple retailer and Certified Apple Service Provider

Apple Authorized Reseller, no appointments, fast turnaround, on-site service and after warranty repairs

**CAPITOLMacintosh**

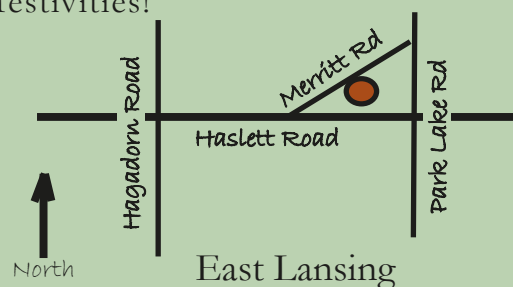
1915 East Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912  
(517) 351-9339 CapMac.net

## Red Cedar spirits™

### Cocktail Bar & Distillery

Enjoy our whiskeys, vodkas, gin and brandy at our cocktail bar.--all made right here at Red Cedar Spirits distillery.

On New Year's Eve we will be open from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. to sell only bottles of spirits. Stop by to get some local spirits for your New Year's Eve festivities!



2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing  
4 - 10 p.m. ; closed Mondays; 517-908-9950

DESIGN • PRINT • MAIL

# GLADSTONE PRINTING

Let us help get your message out in a *cost effective, high quality and timely manner.*

GladstonePrinting.com | 517 S. Waverly Road | 517.323.2111 | [f GladstonePrintingUS](https://www.facebook.com/GladstonePrintingUS)



## Waterfront Bar & Grill

The Waterfront Bar & Grill provides you with several options for dining enjoyment. A laid back place where you can sit outside on the patio and enjoy the view of the Grand River or stay indoors at the Lansing City Market where the grill is located.

With recent expansions, the hours are now eleven AM to twelve AM everyday. Live music is every Friday starting at 6PM, with an open-mic night starting up January 6th. With a variety of spirits to choose from, craft beers on tap, and a menu full of fantastic food, the Waterfront Bar & Grill is perfect to enjoy all year long.

(517) 267.3800

**IGGY'S  
IN  
CONVENIENCE**

**NOW OPEN**  
INSIDE THE CITY MARKET

**325 CITY MARKET DRIVE, DOWNTOWN LANSING**