

FREE

# CityPULSE

a newspaper for the region [www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com) December 28, 2016-January 3, 2017



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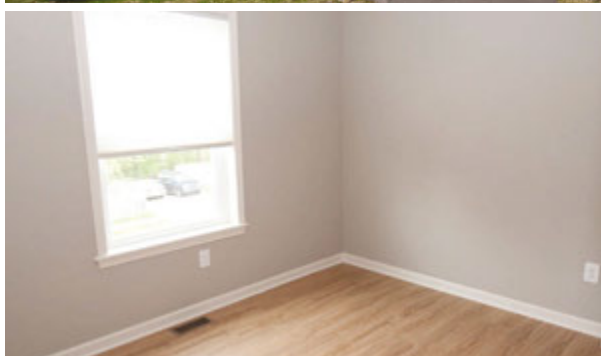
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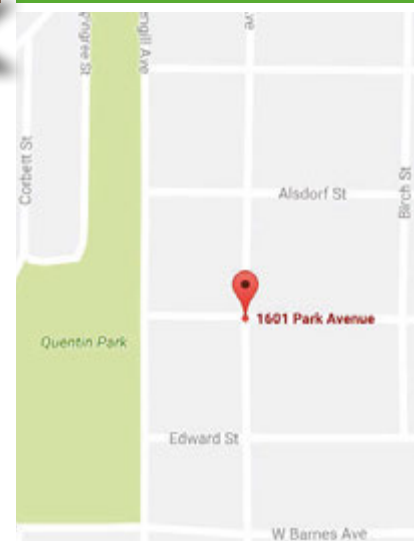
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## Feedback

### Oversimplification of alt-right

In a memo to reporters writing about the "alt-right," John Daniszewski, vice president for Standards at the Associated Press, cautioned journalists to be specific and deliberate when writing about a label that many say is just a euphemism for white nationalism. "Avoid using the term generically and without definition, however, because it is not well known and the term may exist primarily as a public-relations device to make its supporters' actual beliefs less clear and more acceptable to a broader audience," Daniszewski wrote. "In the past we have called such beliefs racist, neo-Nazi or white supremacist."

'White nationalism' is, as self-defined by one facet of the 'alt-right', Richard Spencer, president of the National Policy Institute,

European nationalism. However, Europe is not 'white': there are 87 distinct peoples of Europe, of which 33 form the majority population in at least one sovereign state, while the remaining 54 constitute ethnic minorities. Mr. Spencer employs agitprop rhetoric, and whether he is 'trolling'- deliberate use of inflammatory rhetoric to challenge 'PC' standards- or

sincere, I for one think his message is highly counterproductive in a social climate where accusations of racism are a de rigeur mode of marginalization...as evidenced by the AP directive mentioned above.

Milo Yiannopoulos, another facet, takes a more broad view. From a BBC interview: "No, I'm talking about culture not race, and it's typical of somewhere like the BBC to try to conflate the two, because what they want to do is suggest that if you're proud of your country and the ideals on which your country is founded that somehow makes you a racist — it doesn't."

There are many other facets to the "alt-right": right-wing populism, traditionalism, nativism, men's rights groups, and neo-reactionism.

To paint such a loose confederation with such a broad brush is egregiously oversimplistic. The only commonality would seem to be far-right views, rejection of conventional conservatism, and especially rejection of the neo-conservatism of the Bush and Clinton cabals.

The "alt-right" has no Svengalis such as the Koch brothers (Tea Party) or George Soros (Media Matters). It is, thereby, the first nascent grassroots political movement of the new Century.

It would behoove the political Establishment (and it's 'Ministry of Truth', the MSM) to be less interested in demonizing this movement, and more in trying to understand the vox populii it represents...especially in light of it's role in helping a political outsider attain the White House.

—Gregoiry A. Graham  
Lansing

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COUNTY OF INGHAM  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate of Friedrich A. Buehler, deceased. Date of birth: November 20, 1935. Friedrich A. Buehler Trust, dated November 17, 2011.  
TO ALL CREDITORS:  
\* NOTICE OF CREDITORS: The decedent, Friedrich A. Buehler, who lived at 1448 W. Grand River, Okemos, MI 48864, died on October 26, 2016. The decedent established the Friedrich A. Buehler Trust November 11, 2011. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Trust and the Estate will be forever barred unless presented to Kimalynn Wilson, Trustee of the above referenced Trust and Personal Representative of the Estate, within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.  
Date of Publication: December 28, 2016.  
Trustee/Personal Representative: Kimalynn Wilson PO Box 2893 Belfair, WA 98528  
CP#16-286

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of East Lansing in the Counties of Clinton and Ingham

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ADOPTION OF BROWNFIELD PLAN #23 FOR THE CITY OF EAST LANSING PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACT 381, 1996, AS AMENDED, OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN.

Please take notice that a Public Hearing shall be held before the East Lansing Brownfield Redevelopment Authority on Thursday, January 5, 2017, at 12:30 p.m. in Conference Room A, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 on the adoption of Brownfield Plan #23 for the City of East Lansing, within which the Authority shall exercise its powers, all pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, being Act 381 of the Public Acts of the State of Michigan of 1996, as amended.

The description of the proposed Brownfield is:

100-140 W. Grand River Avenue, 303 Abbot Road, 314, 328, 334, 340 and 341 Evergreen Avenue, East Lansing, Michigan, consisting of twelve (12) parcels.

The project includes a complete demolition and redevelopment of underutilized and contaminated sites and functionally obsolete building structures and adjacent thoroughfares. The proposed mixed-use development includes a hotel, commercial and residential uses, and a parking garage.

The description of the property, along with maps and a copy of Brownfield Plan #23, are available for public inspection in the Department of Planning, Building and Development, City of East Lansing, 517-319-6930 and at [www.cityofeastlansing.com/539/projects](http://www.cityofeastlansing.com/539/projects).

Please note that all aspects of the Brownfield Plan are open for discussion at the public hearing, at which all interested persons will be provided an opportunity to be heard, and written communication will be received and considered. The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable accommodations, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at this meeting, upon notice to the City of East Lansing prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations or services should write or call the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, 517-319-6920, TDD 1-800-649-3777.

Marie Wicks  
City Clerk

CP#16-284

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The year in jazz and classical music, local and imported



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Local theater provided commentary, catharsis in 2016



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Looking back on a year of adventurous eating



COVER  
ART

"Adieu," by JONATHAN GRIFFITH

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by TOM TOMORROW  
2016 IN REVIEW: A COMPREHENSIVE LOOK BACK

2016 WM MAGA

## PULSE

## NEWS &amp; OPINION


**CANDY**  
OF THE WEEK


**Property:** Darius Moon House Fully Restored Porch, 216 Huron St., Lansing

People who like to cruise around looking at Christmas lights might want to start, while it's still daylight, at 216 Huron St. on Lansing's near west side. One of the most beautiful front porches in the state has been fully restored, painted and decorated for the holidays by owners Carol Skilling and Tom Stanton.

The 124-year-old "stick Victorian" style house belonged to Lansing's foremost architect, Darius Moon, who lived there from 1891 until his death in 1939.

Moon built nearly 300 buildings over a 60-year career, only about 30 of which survive. His own house was one of his best. The porch, a curvy confection of gingerbread with many sculptured details and its own fancy tin roof, was specially baked to entice clients.

Over the decades, normal wear and extra damage from previous tenants

seriously eroded the porch's charms. Working from century-old photos, a small team of restorers, led by Amanda Harrell Seyburn of Sedgwick & Ferwada Architects, set to work in July 2015, designing new pieces to match missing originals where necessary. Restorers Clayton Shafer and Jared Browers stripped away 15 layers of paint, revealing intricate details that have gone unseen for decades. There's nothing straightforward about this porch, built mostly out of highest-quality Douglas fir. The simplest joints turned out to involve over 20 carefully fitted pieces. Major work was done in fall 2015, capped by a painting party in summer 2016. This is the first Christmas the porch has been seen in full glory since Moon himself welcomed visitors 100 years ago.

Work wasn't limited to replacing a few knobs and curlicues. In 1975, the house barely escaped demolition when a grass-roots nonprofit support group raised enough money to move it to Huron Street from its original location

at 116 Logan St. (now Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard). Unfortunately, the move weakened the porch's support structure and the house's foundation. The story goes that sympathetic city officials moved the demo order to the bottom of the inbox to give them time to raise the money.

The house made it safely to a vacant lot donated by the city, but the foundation was hastily and carelessly built. Structural repairs, along with the fine restoration work, pushed the bill for the porch (together with a second porch toward the rear of the house) over \$90,000.

Stanton and Skilling have no kids, however, and (thankfully) love to sit on the porch. Most important, they take their stewardship of one of Lansing's most significant historic houses very seriously.

"People are definitely driving by and looking," Stanton said.

— Lawrence Cosentino

## 'Exit, chased by a bear' — 'The Winter's Tale'

By **TODD HEYWOOD**

Say what you want about the election of Donald Trump, it defied convention. In that spirit, we recount for you 2016's Top Ten local news stories not in boring old prose but in the style of Shakespeare's sonnets. Just to be unconventional.

### 1. The Brothers Dunnings' Woes

The Brothers Dunnings, of privilege and wealth,  
Near the Ides of March did suffer a fall.  
Their pandering and procuring long stealth;  
Revealed in charges: followed by squall.  
Women exploited, sexuality unsavoury  
The women said: "They smelled of cat pee."  
AG Schuette with self-righteous fury  
Sought charges, charges and charges  
times ten for all to see  
In shame Stuart did to Tennessee escape  
For his sexual addiction's treatment.  
Resignation in July, voters agape  
Did shake their heads and question the



punishment.  
Stuart was ordered: spend one year in jail  
In Clinton County he sits; end the tale

### 2. Exit: The City Attorney

\$160K for Janene: Why, O', Why?  
Vacation and sick pay plus health ben-



efits;  
Foul! Foul! Foul!  
Councilmembers did cry  
Quoth the mayor,  
I don't give two shits.  
Tis private and secret, you don't need to know.

Sure, it cost the city thousands in defense,  
It's in city interest, honest Joe Blow,  
To pay this cash without offense.  
But what about the Charter, it was asked.  
Doesn't apply, doesn't apply, damn it,  
doesn't apply!  
It's solid: The contracts are unsurpassed!  
But said the clerk, we've no way to verify.  
Council cried for outside legal direction.  
Bernero said: settle it by election.

### 3. Visions of Development Did Dance in Our Heads

Lindemann's pollution-prevention  
Streams, ponds and marsh water wonders invite!  
Mired in lawsuit, Joel avoids rejection —  
Sort of, from county hampered by foresight.  
Red Cedar Renaissance a vision, a



dream  
'cross the street towering cranes of Sky-Vue loom  
The backbone develops, says the regime;  
The region development does boom!  
With a nod, national news highlights  
"Play ball!" says housing o'er the Out-field,  
Local labor signs aloft screams of slights;  
Incentives galore for Georgia revealed.  
School for the Blind waits new life as housing  
But PILOTs and politricks did slow the move.

See Sonnets, Page 6

# Sonnets

from page 5



## 4. Sunken Garden Drama

Simple, quiet sunken garden in the shadows

Of neglected house. Bereft of promotion;

Surrendered to power when made ap-  
pose.

Development for harmonic motion.  
BWL declared: Sweet spot for power!

Nowhere else can work because: be-  
cause.

Forty-foot walls and fifty-foot tower!  
There's a charter with an enabling  
clause.

Cried residents and preservationists;  
"History! Promises! Landmark trea-  
sure!"

Pay no attention to isolationists,  
Countered BWL mouthpiece with dis-  
pleasure.

BWL with graphics and figures to wow  
for all

did convince seven on Council not to  
stall.

## 5. Deputy Brown's Big Bad Video Mistake

The traffic stop tragic ab initio.

Irritated County Deputy Greg Brown  
Withdrew Todd Brenizer; caught on  
video;

Caused the officer a near meltdown.  
Sheriff Reich declared: Not acceptable



here.

Brown suspended, disciplinary hearing  
set.

With bravado and stealth, he did disap-  
pear

Lenawee Sheriff Welsh saw an asset.  
Brenizer achieved recompense contract;

But Brown fumbled and tumbled and  
assaulted again.

Now he's facing court for another act,  
Where neighbors in Lenawee did com-  
plain.

Eaton insurer signed the pay-off  
Reich reelected and never cut off.

## 6. Bad Politics Rising

In January it was presumption:



Bernero: Lansing Mayor For Life.

Then came Janene's pay-out assump-  
tion;

Now facing a mayoral race of strife.

The opponents, they are appearing.

There's affable Andy Schor, the lawmak-  
er ascending,

And Judi Brown Clarke busy engineer-  
ing.

The polls show Bernero shall be defend-  
ing

Slithering from the gutters: dark money.

Bernero's weapon returned two fold.

The campaign attacks will cause agony;

Statements undersold and uncontrolled.

2017 promises erosions

And political social corrosions.



## 7. Marijuana's apothecaries

Neighbors with petitions, raised up their  
voices

Dispensaries were proliferating!

Council sought an answer that all would  
rejoice;

Moratorium came, somewhat placating.

By then at least seventy apothecary

Throughout the city peddled medical  
pot.

Ordinance by acts evolutionary;

Stalled, stopped by Planning Board

which thought

Provisions were too restrictive for the  
city.

At Council, the ordinance fell from on  
high

The blame placed on Council committee

Now, proliferation suspended

Residents and business offended.



## 8. BRT

Transformational avenue: Grow!

Quoth CATA, loud and proud. Michigan

Avenue will boom; time savings show

Ten minutes: downtown to Okemos

begin.

Alas, quoth the opponents: all is folly,  
Island isolation traverse dangerous

Left turns abolished: biz owners not  
jolly.

Cyclists and disabled: It endangers us.  
The dream was built on presumptions

unwise;

Opponents say in the political world  
State, local lawmakers cash cows trau-  
matize

When they hack the budgets, the dreams  
unfurled.

Bus Rapid Transit struggles on life sup-  
port

While rich folks treat it like venereal  
wart.



## 9. Housing Woes

One hundred folks, vulnerable did lose  
Home, hearth and heat when evictions  
issue

For the Homeless Hotel did accuse

Landlord absent of lacking tissue

To care and support for the community's

Most vulnerable and hidden denizens

Did cry for many immunities;

As City did move to protect citizens.

At 3200, corpses in the hall

Were linked to non-residents; snuck

In by security systems free for all.

Leaders did accuse the media of muck.

Housing with paint of lead, regulate

The city failed to abrogate.



## 10. Digital Daze

A man with the color of tangerine

Did with help from enemies old, Rus-  
sians,

Screw elections with byzantine

Games of hacking — with no repercus-  
sions.

Utility BWL got smacked with a ransom  
large

From an email click it failed to guard  
against.

The result: Restoration for charge;

No formal discussion of dispensed

Cash other than: claim paid by insur-  
ance.

At the county holes in the system were  
found

Kiddie porn not from worker assurance

Drain Commish and FBI did propound.

Lock your emails, avoid the pain today

Or suffer the cash you will defray.

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### Lansing City Council 2017 Meeting Schedule



Monday, January 09, 2017  
Monday, January 30, 2017  
Monday, February 13, 2017  
Monday, February 27, 2017  
Monday, March 13, 2017  
Monday, March 27, 2017  
Monday, April 10, 2017  
Monday, April 24, 2017  
Monday, May 08, 2017  
Monday, May 15, 2017  
Monday, May 22, 2017  
Monday, June 12, 2017  
Monday, June 26, 2017

Monday, July 10, 2017  
Monday, July 24, 2017  
Monday, July 31, 2017  
Monday, August 14, 2017  
Monday, August 28, 2017  
Monday, September 11, 2017  
Monday, September 25, 2017  
Monday, October 09, 2017  
Monday, October 23, 2017  
Monday, October 30, 2017  
Monday, November 13, 2017  
Monday, November 27, 2017  
Monday, December 11, 2017

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 [city.clerk@lansingmi.gov](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov).

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk  
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CP#16-285

# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC • THEATER

## OVERFLOWING CUP

National names, from Lansing and elsewhere, poured forth classical and jazz bliss in 2016

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

In 2016, lovers of classical and jazz music in Greater Lansing were again dazzled by dozens of superb local musicians who are also national names — or could be, if they cared to live in a city where you can't park anywhere — as well as many visiting, nationally known artists unlucky enough not to hail from Mid-Michigan.

An ambitious mash-up of both categories hit Michigan State University's Fairchild Theatre early in the year, Jan. 17, with the world premiere of a new suite of music, "Do You Know My Name?," commissioned from composer Billy Childs for MSU's annual Martin Luther King Jr. tribute concert. Vocalist Alicia Olatuja and MSU's Jazz Orchestra I fused emotional expressiveness with superb musicianship to premiere a moody, poly-stylistic score that gave voice to the plight of victims of human trafficking.

The Wharton Center can't offer a concert series as generous with genius as, say, Ann Arbor's University Music Society, but the jazz and classical artists they do invite are often the among the greatest in the world, snagged in fresh phases of their evolving careers, before they harden to museum-piece "icon" status. Tap dancer supreme Savion Glover and a still-searching jazz icon, drummer Jack DeJohnette, continued their series of cosmic conversations at Wharton Center Feb. 18. The unique concert — almost a ritual cleansing — went

well into overtime, so engrossed were both musicians. At the other end of 2016, newly minted jazz supergroup, Aziza, led by bassist Dave Holland, crackled with the fertile fusions of adventurous guitarist Lionel Loueke Oct. 20. Both concerts embodied the mix of tradition and adventure so crucial to jazz: DeJohnette and Holland are both legends who played with Miles Davis, but, in the spirit of Davis, neither of them are interested in settling down.

The Lansing Symphony and music director Timothy Muffitt gave us several memorable nights this year, including guest appearances by violinist Rachel Barton Pine Nov. 23 and one of the brainiest and most engaging classical pianists in the world, Jeremy Denk, Sept. 9. Pine gave a great folk-fiddle spin to Max Bruch's violin concerto and Denk crushed the Beethoven "Emperor" concerto. But a sublime, no-guest-star March 5 Mozart concert featured the local team, especially the woodwinds, to best advantage. The concert was scaled down, in part, to keep stars like Pine and Denk from busting Lansing Symphony's minuscule budget, but the result was a rare and lovely performance of the "Gran Partita," twining like vines and flowers around everyone's ears, instead of the usual symphonic bombast (not that there's anything wrong with that).

The ongoing Jazz Tuesdays series at Moriarty's rolled on all year, giving lo-



Courtesy Photo

Jazz supergroup Aziza (left to right: drummer Eric Harland, bassist Dave Holland, saxophonist Chris Potter and guitarist Lionel Loueke) brought a potent mix to the Wharton Center this year.

cal artists, including classroom-cramped professors and students from MSU, a vital link to the streets and clubs synonymous with the life of jazz. It's a fool's errand to single out one night, but a loose, adventurous trio led by trombonist Michael Dease on May 10 was extra special. Most of the time, Dease is hemmed in, not only by his fellow Professors of Jazz but also by his own arrangements. At Mort's he unfurled limitless chops while drummer Jeff Shoup, also the organizer of the series, channeled straddlers of the avant-garde and mainstream such as Billy Higgins and Elvin Jones. Nimble bassist Aneesa Strings sailed with the trio on a free floating odyssey that gradually coalesced into a groove, relaxed into a mood and bubbled back into a boil, leaving the Mort's crowd to close their eyes and enjoy the perfect illusion that they were in Manhattan and hadn't parked only a few yards away.

East Lansing's Summer Solstice Jazz Festival, burgeoning under the artistic direction of MSU Jazz Studies director Rodney Whitaker, served up a three-stage Kozmic Picnic of avant-garde musicians June 18, curated by Ann Arbor's Kerrytown Concert Hall. The afternoon concert saw cellist Tomeka Reid and free jazz legend Joe McPhee launching the summer crowd off the lawn into interstellar regions. The festival proper was overstuffed with fantastic jazz, most notably from MSU alumnus and bassist Ben Williams, who brought a passionate, steely set of post-Coltrane stretchers to

the main stage June 17.

The end of 2016 was packed with strange and wonderful music, including the funny, charming and sneakily masterful Breaking Winds Bassoon Quartet Nov. 7, who played everything from Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture (yes, on four bassoons) to adaptations of Common and Adele. New York sent over a double dose of artistry in the first week of December, beginning with the fierce and engaging Brooklyn Rider quartet's dark and mesmerizing concert at MSU Dec. 1. A new composition by one of the quartet's members mixed jaw-dropping change-ups and odd effects with old-fashioned, gripping musicianship. A week later, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center went on a blissful rampage through all of Bach's Brandenburg concertos in one night, bringing a New York tradition to Lansing for the first time.

MSU's Professors of Jazz worked miracles all year, most notably with a night of Billy Strayhorn tunes Sept. 9 and an inspired and rich holiday concert Dec. 19. Separately, the professors' varied doings are always worth following, but there's something special about these regular gatherings of the Round Table of Jazz, with director Rodney Whitaker in the glorious summer of his Arthurian reign.

Put simply, the flagon of music runneth over in Greater Lansing. We were only able to blot up a few of the juiciest drops with this napkin of newsprint, in hopes of inspiring you to get out more in 2017 and drink straight from the overflowing cup.

Courtesy Photo

Intellectual pianist Jeremy Denk joined the Lansing Symphony Orchestra this year to take on Beethoven's "Emperor" concerto.



# CURTAIN CALL

## Catharsis and coping

Local theater helps community make sense of turbulent year

By PAUL WOZNAK

Oh, 2016. Who knew that the joy and pain of theater would be the necessary catharsis to help us process this year?

In their own way, local productions became an emotional roadmap for the tumultuous year. In January, two productions explored grief and loss in profoundly different ways. First, Riverwalk Theatre's production of "All My Sons," Arthur Miller's riveting commentary on the power of denial and the fringes of ethics and personal responsibility. Jeff Magnuson and Michael Hays played off each other as son and father, but the singular force in this production was Eve Davidson as the matriarch of the family. As a woman wrapped in the naïve notion that her missing son will return, Davidson's performance was especially heartbreaking as her character was forced to confront the awful truth. The detailed façade of a large country home, designed by Leroy Cupp, prompted one audience member to walk up and closely examine the set during the intermission.

In "The Women of Lockerbie," also staged by Riverwalk Theatre, Jeff Magnuson and Janet Colson played a husband and wife dealing with the horrific loss of their son in the Lockerbie airplane bombing, desperately searching the wreckage for any piece of their son to bury. Gini Larson played the leader of a group of women who washed the clothes of the dead to return to

the families. While the deaths described in "The Women of Lockerbie" are extremely traumatic, the women's tender and empathetic response to the trauma made this play hopeful instead of depressing.

But 2016 wasn't all dark and serious. Remember when the Cubs won the World Series? And then there was Owosso Community Player's nearly sensational production of "Rock of Ages". From a detailed dive bar set that looked ripped from the Broadway production to a stunning cast of Michigan natives who could sing and dance with the energy and range of seasoned professionals, so much of "Rock of Ages" was carefree and blissful. Even chronic sound and electrical issues couldn't stop the cast and crew from rocking through the night.

Over the Ledge also provided some lighter fare, offering great performances in "Matt and Ben" and "Goodnight Desdemona (Good morning, Juliet)." "Goodnight Desdemona" featured perhaps my favorite performance of the year, Anna Szabo as an Amazonian princess version of Desdemona. Like the standout performer in a lackluster "Saturday Night Live" sketch, Szabo committed to her character with zeal, cutting through the show's goofiness with dead-on seriousness. It was a master class in character integrity while still being deceptively hilarious.

But maybe the most 2016 show of all was Michigan State University Department of Theatre's production of "Punk Rock," where the ending seemed unthinkable to the characters but inevitable to the audience. This intense, bleak portrait of a disturbed teenager planning to murder several of his schoolmates was point-blank drama fired directly at the audience. Peter Verhaeghe's stunning set design foreshadowed the dark ending to come, with its vandalized and au-

thetically aged private school study room, and director Rob Roznowski's masterful control over his cast meant that scenes moved seamlessly at a breathtaking pace. Unlike "All My Sons" or "The Women of Lockerbie," the violent deaths are on stage in "Punk Rock," and the audience shares in the trauma of the characters.

These shows — and so many others I didn't have space to mention here — helped audiences understand and cope with the world around them. The real world, especially this year, can feel like a dark and unforgiving place. But on the local level, there is hope in knowing that the actors and technicians behind every production share the same goal: re-examining and questioning the world around them through the power of theater.

## Gender swaps and gut punches

### Unexpected themes emerged in this year's theater season

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

Looking back on the local theater I saw in 2016, I sometimes found myself missing men and enjoying pain. Hmm ... I suppose I should explain.

Two themes appeared over and over in the past year. One was gender swapping, and the other was a feeling of intense discomfort. The switching of male to female roles often left me confused. As for the plays that seemed to be intentionally disturbing — I felt more comfortable with them.

In early August, I reviewed the Over the Ledge Theatre Co.'s production of "Matt & Ben," which was written by Brenda Withers and "The Mindy Project" star Mindy Kaling. Erin Hoffman portrayed Matt Damon and Shannon Bowen, Ben Affleck. The pair shared a rare flair for making me care about the duo's daring affairs. "Matt & Ben" also had enough surprises and absurd lines to keep me amused, but the casting of two women who look nothing like the male icons had me asking, "Why?"

At the end of the same month, Peppermint Creek Theatre Co. offered an all-female version of William Golding's "Lord of the Flies." Directors Devin Faught and Sally Hecksel presented an all-female take on the intense and metaphorical story about stranded boys who became savages. But some of the ladies seemed too old for the parts, and the Piggy character wasn't, well, piggy enough.

And the entire — admittedly talented — cast kept the male names. I left their fake wilderness feeling authentically bewildered.

October's "The Female Version of the Odd Couple," presented by Starlight Dinner Theatre, was less confusing. The play was reimagined by Neil Simon, with women replacing his original Felix and Oscar. I can't



Photo by Jessica Steinort

Christina Traister (center) plays Prospera, a female recasting of Prospero, in MSU's partially gender-swapped version of "The Tempest." Also pictured: Jen English as Miranda (left) and Sean Mckeon as Ferdinand.

help but wonder if the play about women would have had more charm and authenticity if a woman had written the revision.

It is already difficult to identify the characters and family connections in Shakespeare's plays, and Michigan State University Department of Theatre's take on "The Tempest" made the task more complicated. Women played several male roles for no obvious reason. There was no Prospero, Antonio, Alonso or Stephano. Instead, the MSU stage had Prospera, Antonia, Alonsa and Stephona. Fortunately, the November production also had impressive special effects, monumental sounds, amazing lighting and a massive, multi-level "ice" stage. Even if the entire cast went by the name "Bob," I still would have enjoyed the audiovisual delight.

Three other plays I experienced in the past year were similar in a different way. Those were the shows that made me grumble, grimace, gasp, groan and gag — but in a way that was ultimately good.

Riverwalk Theatre's black box production of "Burn This" had me squirming in my seat. The early October run featured a script by Lanford Wilson that had all the ingredients of a disturbing show. Annoying characters, deep sorrow, anguish and vomiting might not sound appealing. But the passionate cast — passionately directed by Michael Hays — made all of it more fascinating than troublesome.

The same week, the MSU Department of Theatre staged Simon Stephens' "Punk Rock." A cast of talented crazies attacked issues like abuse, depression, suicide and mass murder in a manner I found gripping. I left feeling like I had witnessed a horrible event, yet with the sensation of a grateful survivor.

The first week of November provided another hurts-so-good production. Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.'s "Disgraced," by Ayad Akhtar, had a racially driven storyline. The intense play included infidelity, backstabbing friends, excessive drinking, violence and betrayal. And yes, I relished it all.



Courtesy Photo

Owosso Community Players' production of '80s musical romp "Rock of Ages" ranks among City Pulse theater critic Paul Wozniak's top shows of 2016.



## City Pulse's 2016 New Year's Eve events guide

From family movies to classy parties to murder mysteries, Great Lansing offers a wide variety of ways to ring in the new year.

### BOOGIE STOMP! AT THE ROBIN THEATRE

Lansing piano greats Bob Baldori and Arthur Migliazza offer a dance-filled evening that traverses the history of American music from the Civil War to today, including blues, jazz, swing, rock 'n' roll and more. The duo offers a look back at the stories and songs that have shaped our modern soundscape in four shows at the Robin Theatre. VIP admission includes bonuses like CDs, DVDs and an afterglow party with the artists. 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday; 7 and 9 p.m. Saturday. \$35-\$85. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. boogiestomp.com.

### BALL DROPPER NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH AT LANSING BREWING CO.

Raise a pint to 2017 at Lansing Brewing Co.'s Ball Dropper New Year's Eve Bash. The evening features music by Deacon Earl & the Congregation and DJ Duke, and the brewery will be pouring glasses of its Ball Dropper Double IPA. Admission includes buffet dinner. 7 p.m.-1 a.m. \$20. Lansing Brewing Co, 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. (517) 371-2600, lansingbrewingcompany.com.

### NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE RAMADA

Lansing's Ramada hotel and conference center offers an evening of New Year's Eve fun for the whole family. The hotel's overnight package includes a New Year's Eve pool party, kids movies and a breakfast buffet on New Year's Day. Packages start at \$119. Ramada Lansing Hotel and Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 627-3211, ramada.com.

### CAPITAL PRIME AND HYATT PLACE LANSING

Capital Prime steakhouse and Hyatt Place Lansing are teaming up this year to offer a combination dinner and overnight stay package for New Year's Eve. Guests can enjoy a special menu prepared by chef Lisa Ackerson, ring in the new year, then walk next door to the hotel. \$139. Capital Prime Steaks & Seafood, 2324 Showtime Drive, Lansing. (517) 377-7463, capitalprimelansing.com.

### BLACK AND WHITE NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL AT SPIRAL

Dance your way into 2017 at Spiral's Black & White New Year's Eve Bash. The festivities include DJs, go-go dancers, drag performers, a champagne toast and a midnight ball drop with a mysterious "special twist." VIP tables and bottle service available. 8 p.m.-3 a.m. \$10 for 21+/\$15 for 18-20. Spiral Dance Bar,

1247 Center St., Lansing. (517) 371-3221, spiraldancebar.com.

### NEW YEAR'S EVE YOUR WAY AT KELLOGG CENTER

Mix and match your own New Year's Eve experience at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center. Enjoy a special dinner at the State Room for \$75 per person, and/or join the hotel's New Year's Eve party, including appetizers, desserts and a midnight champagne toast, for \$25. Hotel packages, starting at \$325, offer dinner, party admission and an overnight stay. Dinner available at 5, 7 and 9 p.m.; party 11 p.m.-1 a.m. Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Road, Lansing. (517) 432-5090, kelloggcenter.com.

### LANSING NYE AT THE LOFT

Lansing music venue the Loft targets a mature audience with its sophisticated evening of dance and good food. Partiers aged 30 and above are invited to dress in their

most stylish attire to dance to the sounds of Dee Jay Butcher and DJ Hollywood. Admission includes food and a champagne toast; VIP booths and tables are available. 9 p.m.-3 a.m. \$20. The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 913-0103, theloftlansing.com.

### KNIGHT CAP NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Before you take your New Year's Eve nightcap, the Knight Cap invites you to a four-course meal. With reservations available for 4, 6, 8 and 10 p.m., the two-hour meal offers two to five selections for each course and a full list of beer, wine and cocktails. Call to reserve a table. \$75. Knight Cap, 320 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7676, knightcap.com/new-years-eve.

### MAC'S ROCKIN' NEON NYE AT MAC'S BAR

Mac's Bar hosts a vibrant and vivid party with DJ sets spinning until 4 a.m. The evening's DJs — Craig Doepker, Chase, Dylan Roth, the Don, Bigg Sherm, Lindsay Seal,

Hoddy and Sugashawn — keep the dance party going well into 2017. 9 p.m.-4 a.m. \$7 for ages 18-20/\$5 for ages 21+. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795, macsbar.com.

### NEW YEAR'S EVE CONTRA AND SQUARE DANCE

Do-si-do your way into the new year at Ten Pound Fiddle's annual New Year's Eve Contra and Square Dance. The evening of dancing features live music, and no partner is required. The event is preceded by a community potluck. 6:30 potluck; 7:30 beginner's workshop; 8 p.m. dance. \$12/\$10 members/\$6 students and first-timers. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 337-7744, tenpoundfiddle.org.

### BRENT LOWRY AT TEQUILA COWBOY

Old school-style country rocker Brent

See New Year's, Page 10

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# New Year's

from page 9

Lowry and his band wrangle in the new year at Tequila Cowboy in the Lansing Mall. VIP tickets include food and a midnight champagne toast. 6 p.m.-2 a.m. \$20/\$10 adv./\$25 VIP. Tequila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 323-7320, tequilacowboy.com/lansing.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER AT BORDEAUX

Bordeaux offers a special New Year's Eve dinner of upscale options, including season-

al dishes like a roasted roots platter, truffled lobster risotto, pavlova with an orange-cardamom pastry cream and more. Hotel packages available. 5-10 p.m. dinner; bar open until 1 a.m. Call for prices. Bordeaux, Crowne Plaza Lansing West, 925 S. Creyts Road, Lansing. (517) 323-4190, bordeauxlansing.com.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE MASQUERADE BALL AT THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL DANCE

The Center for Social Dance, which offers lessons in dance styles ranging from Latin to swing to hustle, hosts a ballroom dance to celebrate 2017. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., and ballroom dance lessons kick off at 8 p.m. At 9 p.m., open dance hours commence, and the studio offers a late-night buffet. 7:30

p.m.-1 a.m. \$125 per couple. Center for Social Dance, 2807 Jolly Road, Okemos. (517) 242-8494, centerforsocialdance.com.

## MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP 175TH ANNIVERSARY FIREWORKS

Meridian Township kicks off a year of celebrations on New Year's Eve. In honor of its 175th year, the community hosts a 6:45 p.m. fireworks show at Central Park. Screenings of community documentary "The History of Meridian" take place at Studio C, with special cocktails available at the cinema's bistro. Throughout 2017, the township will host several festivals and events to celebrate its anniversary. 4-8 p.m. \$7.50 movie admission; fireworks FREE. Central Park Drive, Okemos. meridiancelebrates175.com.

## TAVERN AND TAP THROWBACK PARTY

Feeling nostalgic this year? With a 1980s, '90s and '00s-themed party planned for New Year's Eve, Tavern and Tap invites you to dig deep in your closet and pull out some classic threads. Admission include champagne and food, as well as a \$5 credit to the next day's Breakfast Club Brunch. The partier with the best "throwback threads" wins a \$100 prize. 9 p.m. \$10 in advance/\$15 day of. Tavern and Tap, 101 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 374-5555, tavernandtap.com.

## THE SPEAKEASY AT RADISSON HOTEL

The Radisson Hotel revives the glamor of yesteryear with its 1920s-themed speak-

easy party. Guests who check into the hotel receive a password to join the nightlong soiree, which features dancing, a strolling dinner, live entertainment from Root Doctor and more. The package includes an overnight stay at the hotel for two. 7 p.m. \$295 per couple. Radisson Hotel Lansing, 111 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-0188, radisson.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.

## COUNTDOWN TO MURDER MASQUERADE BALL AT THE CREOLE

The Creole brings intrigue to New Year's Eve with a murder mystery show and masquerade ball. In addition to the show, admission includes a five-course meal and a champagne toast. "Elevated attire" is encouraged. Vegetarian and pescatarian options are available. The bar opens at 7 p.m.; dinner is served at 8 p.m. and the show begins at 8:30 p.m. Email events@thepotentpotablesproject.com to reserve your seat. 7 p.m.-1 a.m. \$117. The Creole, 1218 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-1361, thecreolelansing.com.



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# City Pulse's 2017

# Bridal Guide



City Pulse's 2017

# Bridal Guide

## Capturing the moment

Local wedding photographers share tips for getting great off-site photos

By TY FORQUER

From Gothic architecture to sleek steel buildings to riverside parks, Greater Lansing offers plenty of choices for creative off-site wedding photos.

"When I get hired to shoot a wedding in Lansing, I get excited," said photographer Khalid Ibrahim, owner of EatPomegranate Photography, "not just because I know the area well, but because there are so many options."

Those options range from picturesque outdoor locations like the Lansing River Trail and Woldumar Nature Center to the sleek urban buildings of downtown Lansing.

"You can get that New York City wedding feel," Ibrahim said.

Ibrahim takes couples who want a sharp, ultra-modern look to the Broad Art Museum. For an entirely different vibe, he can bring them across the street to take advantage of the Gothic style of MSU's older buildings.

"You can get that Hogwarts feel," Ibrahim said.

While some couples have a very clear vision for their photos, Ibrahim estimates that 35 percent of couples who come to him don't have any plans and are looking to him for guidance. Local photographer Heather Kanillopoulos, however, thinks most of her clients have a basic idea concept but need help with the details.

"Everybody who comes to me knows what they want, as far as style," Kanillopoulos said. "But as far as location and timeline, they have no clue. They're looking for help."

Both Ibrahim and Kanillopoulos try to avoid uber-popular wedding photography locations like Lansing's Old Town. Kanillopoulos goes to spots like MSU's Lewis Landscape Arboretum, which won't be overrun by photo sessions on a Saturday afternoon.

"I like to look for lesser known spots," she said. "The Michigan Hall of Justice is another nice spot, especially for winter weddings."

Choosing a spot for off-site wedding photos is also dictated by the schedule. Most couples prefer to do photos between the ceremony and reception, which means only an hour or two for travel and photos. Choosing a location like downtown Lansing provides a variety of backgrounds in a small

cluster, including the grand Capitol dome, gritty urban alleys, a handful of nice parks and the vintage brick walls of early-20th century churches. If the couple insists on a far away site, however, they can always buck tradition to buy some more time.

"If the couple wants to see each other before the ceremony, we have more flexibility," said Kanillopoulos.

For local photographer Josh Michels, owner of Josh Michels Creative, the planning is just as important as the photography itself.

"Most people haven't thought about all of it — the timeline, locations, transportation — until we meet," he said. "I'm almost doing wedding planning with them, talking about the logistics of the day."

Michels likes to choose one or two nearby locations for off-site photos to keep things on track.

"Nothing kills the vibe of a wedding like a bad schedule," Michels said.

When scouting locations, all three photographers stressed the importance of clean backgrounds and good lighting.

"Your location matters, but the location shouldn't do too much of the work," Ibrahim said. "I'm looking for simple backdrops, then I highlight the people."

"Everything is about the lighting," added Kanillopoulos, "which is why it's a good idea to let your photographer choose the space."

But there's also room for creativity. Ibrahim worked with one couple that had been dating for 30 years — he was around 70 and she in her 60s — and they wanted to do something big. They booked an hour at MSU's three biggest sports facilities, Spartan Stadium, the Breslin Center and Munn Ice Arena, to do MSU-themed photos. Josh Michels worked with a couple that wanted to include their dog in their photos.

"That was something they were really excited about," Michels said. "That was a real challenge, working with a live animal that doesn't listen to you."

Kanillopoulos remembers one couple who loved doing karaoke together.

"We went to the bar on their wedding day, and I took pictures of them singing karaoke," she said. "It was cool to incorporate this specific thing that means something to them."



Photo by Heather Kanillopoulos

Photographer Heather Kanillopoulos took advantage of the sleek, minimalist lines of the Broad Art Museum as a backdrop for Kaitlin Maier Soave (left) and Ryan Soave's wedding photos.

City Pulse's 2017

# Bridal Guide

## How to build your wedding budget

Couples engaged to be married have a lot on their plates as they begin planning their weddings. Whereas tradition once demanded parents of the bride pay for a couple's wedding, nowadays more and more engaged couples are completely or partially financing their own nuptials. That means prospective brides and grooms must develop wedding budgets that won't ensure their first act as Mr. and Mrs. is paying down debt. In its 2015 Real Weddings Study, online bridal resource The Knot found that many couples still receive substantial financial support from their parents to pay for their weddings. The survey found that, on average, the bride's parent's contributed 44 percent of the overall wedding budget in 2015, while couples financed 43 percent (the remaining 13 percent was financed by the groom's parents and additional sources).

Couples who hope to follow that formula or pay for their weddings on their own can heed the following tips to build wedding budgets that won't break the bank but will still ensure a day to remember forever.

- Examine your collective finances. Few couples know the details of each other's finances before getting engaged. While some may still hesitate to share their personal financial information upon getting engaged, an open and honest discussion and examination of each person's finances is the only way to develop a realistic wedding budget that both partners can live with. Once couples know what they can contribute, they can then consult their parents to determine if their mothers and fathers are intending to contribute.

- Develop a preliminary guest list. A preliminary guest list can give couples an idea of how large and expensive their weddings will be. According to the Real Weddings Study, the average cost per wedding guest in 2015 was \$237. While that cost can vary greatly depending on geography and other factors, couples should keep that figure in mind when drafting their guest lists. If need be, keep costs down by trimming the guest list so it includes only close family members and friends.

- Don't count on gifts. Many couples justify runaway wedding budgets by telling themselves that they will ultimately get the money back via wedding gifts. While many guests will give financial

gifts, counting on such windfalls is a recipe for accruing debt. Do not build potential wedding gifts into your wedding budget. If you do so and your expectations fall short, you could be facing considerable debt upon returning home from your honeymoon.

- Gather quotes before choosing where to tie the knot. Where couples get married will have a great impact on how much money they will spend on their weddings. For example, the Real Weddings Study found that, in 2015,

the average wedding in Manhattan cost couples slightly more than \$82,000, while the average Alaskan wedding cost just over \$17,000. Venues within the same city can vary greatly with regard to pricing and offerings as well, so couples should give themselves ample time to gather quotes and find an affordable venue they like.

- Build extra costs into your budget. When determining a budget you can live with, remember to include a little extra for unforeseen costs. Weddings are large undertakings, and it's reasonable to expect some unforeseen costs to arise. Building such costs into your initial budget will make these unforeseen circumstances that much easier to handle. Budgets can help couples stay on track and avoid debt as they plan their weddings.



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## How to organize wedding planning

Weddings require a lot of planning. Couples hosting large weddings or even intimate gatherings can easily be overwhelmed by the amount of planning they must do to make their weddings into

events they will remember and cherish forever. Staying organized when planning a wedding is a tall task. It's wise to expect the unexpected when organizing a wedding, and the more organized couples can stay, the more fun they can have during the planning process and the better they can handle the unforeseen circumstances that are bound to arise in the months leading up to the wedding.

Here are a few tips to get you started:

- Create separate filing systems for each aspect of the wedding. Rather than maintaining one massive file with information about various elements of the wedding, maintain separate files for each aspect of the wedding. For example, when receiving quotes from prospective florists, keep all florist quotes in a single folder that remains separate from information about other parts of the wedding. Separate filing systems make it easier to find quotes and contracts when you need to, saving you the trouble of digging through pages upon pages of quotes, notes and other information you store.

- Maintain a spending spreadsheet. Many couples plan weddings on care-



fully constructed budgets. But couples can easily exceed those budgets if they are not routinely monitoring and recording their spending or the spending they are committing to upon signing contracts with vendors. Create a spending spreadsheet that allows you to track how much you have already spent, how much you are committed to spending and when wedding bills are due. Update the spreadsheet whenever you write a check or sign a new contract, and periodically examine the sheet so you can make sure you are still on track to remain at or under budget.

- Hire a planner. If wedding planning is proving especially overwhelming or if you simply don't have time to do all the legwork necessary to plan on your own, hire a wedding planner. Wedding planners are invaluable resources that can help couples quickly connect with vendors who can meet their needs while staying within their budgets. Planners

also can advise couples on ways to save money and which areas of the wedding should not be bargain basement. Couples planning destination weddings should inquire about resort-affiliated wedding planners before choosing a venue to host their ceremonies and/or guests.

- Start early. According to The Knot 2015 Real Weddings Study, the average length of engagement for couples who wed in 2015 was 14.5 months. That means today's average couples have more than a year to plan their nuptials. By starting their wedding planning early, couples can avoid having to plan everything at the last minute, which can be hectic, nerve-racking and unorganized. In addition, starting early affords couples more time to find great deals and stay within their budgets. Staying organized when planning a wedding can make for more enjoyable planning and a happier wedding day.

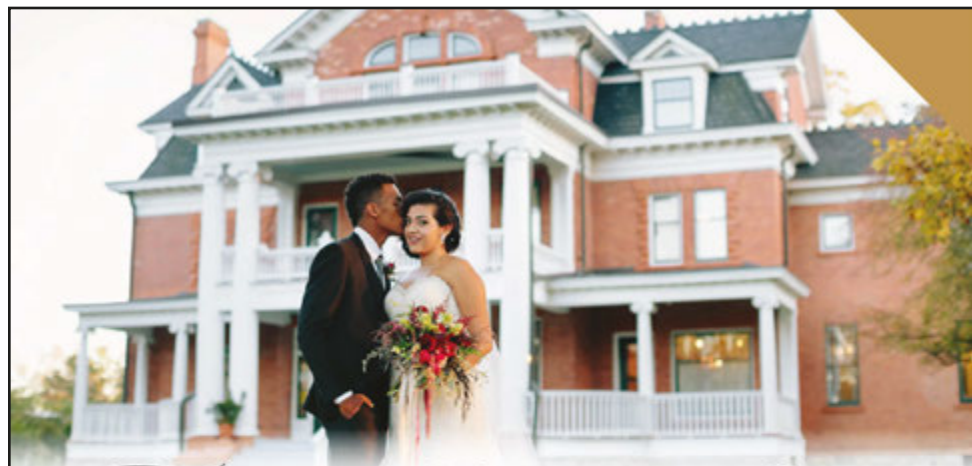
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# City Pulse's 2017 Bridal Guide

## Creating a wedding reception playlist

Many elements combine to make traditional wedding receptions special. But many veteran wedding guests would agree that the right playlist once guests hit the reception hall dance floor can turn an ordinary wedding reception into something far more memorable. The majority of couples choose between a live band and a disc jockey to provide the music for their wedding receptions. Entertainment is often one of the more memorable aspects of a wedding reception, as the right band or disc jockey can help to establish a jovial mood that makes it easy for everyone to have a good time. Couples can leave their wedding reception playlists to the professionals, but they should also know that they have a say in which songs are played. In addition, couples can have a "no play" playlist that prohibits certain songs they dislike from being played. When mulling the musical choices for your wedding reception, consider the following advice.

- Begin by making a list of your favor-

ite songs. Make this list during different days and at different times and moods so you get a good cross-section of your favorite tunes. But remember not every song is a good fit for a wedding reception. Melancholy songs or those that include suggestive lyrics are best left off the playlist.

- Aim to get as many guests on the dance floor as possible. Well-known songs and upbeat dance music will inspire more guests to cut a rug than lesser known tunes you may be fond of. Music that spans the decades and various genres will appeal to guests from all age groups, encouraging dancers young and old to cut a rug.

- Avoid songs that are difficult to dance to. Some songs just are not meant to be danced to. If your favorite songs fit that bill but you still want to hear them on your wedding, ask the DJ or band to play them during the cocktail hour or while everyone is eating dinner.



- Give the music vendor some leeway. Disc jockeys and bands have no doubt performed at many a wedding before yours, and they may have a better feel for crowds than you do. Let them know they have some leeway to play songs that did not make it onto the playlist if guests seem to be avoiding the dance floor. That professional expertise is why you hired them, and it can make for a more memorable night for everyone.

- Don't stress out about the music.

The playlist can set the tone for a positive reception, but don't stress out if you're struggling to come up with songs you want to hear. Your vendor is no doubt capable of creating a playlist that will ensure everyone has fun.

- Another option is hiring a band or disc jockey to perform at your wedding reception – it's a great way to make sure everyone enjoys a fun night. Adding your own favorite songs to the playlist can make the reception even more special.

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# City Pulse's 2017 Bridal Guide

## Throw a casual wedding to remember

Elegant, lavish weddings provide moments couples will remember for years to come. But while such storybook ceremonies and receptions remain popular, casual affairs are gaining popularity.

According to the bridal resource The Knot, more and more couples are opting for less pageantry and more laid back panchache when planning their weddings. For those who prefer something more intimate and more personalized, casual weddings may be right on target.

There are many advantages to having a "luxe with less" wedding, including the ability to break molds and impart more of the couple's personality into the event.

Another advantage is the price tag. The average U.S. wedding, according to The Knot 2014 Real Weddings Study, costs \$31,213. In some urban areas, particularly New York City, average costs are three times that amount. Golden Girl Finance, a leader in financial digital media, has found that Canadian weddings average \$31,000 with honeymoon included. Although wedding costs have gone up, the average number of wedding guests has gone down. As such, certain couples might look to rein in other aspects of their wedding. Trans-

forming the festivities into a casual affair can help keep the overall budget low while still allowing for an exciting and enjoyable event. To put casual plans into motion, consider these ideas to help the wedding vision come to fruition.

### Venue

Catering halls and other reception sites do a wonderful job of meeting the needs of their clientele. However, food and beverage costs are often the most expensive wedding expense. To reduce the per-guest cost and also incorporate some variety into their wedding days, couples can consider a venue change. Look for public locations that allow couples to hire their own caterer, which may be a favorite restaurant or specialty food shop. The cost per person may decrease dramatically from the venue costs. Changing the venue also enables couples to pick unique spots that may hold special meaning to them. For example, couples can choose the site of their first date or the location where their proposal took place.

### Contrast

Enjoy a casual, free-spirited wedding that incorporates some aspects of for-

mality in an off-beat way. Think about serving fast food, such as fried chicken or pizza, on fine china. Those wearing tuxedos and gowns can opt for casual footwear, such as athletic shoes. Place wildflowers in crystal vases. These are just some methods to give a rich feel without removing the fun element.

### Personal touches

Menus or wedding programs printed at home in a fun font can set the casual tone couples are looking for. Look for eclectic fabrics to use as gift tags or napkin holders. Hand-painted signs or a hodge-podge of picture frames can display pertinent information, such as itineraries or seating

arrangements. Encourage friends or family to contribute a favorite menu item to the food offerings. A home-baked dessert can be delicious and budget-friendly.

### Wardrobe

Clothing often indicates the formality of an occasion. Everyone from the wedding party to the guests can dress down. Sundresses can replace taffeta bridesmaids' gowns. Guys can opt for tailored sports coats with jeans. Guests may feel comfortable in less formal attire that facilitates dancing and mingling. Casual weddings are becoming more popular as many couples are playing down the party for various reasons.



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# City Pulse's 2017 Bridal Guide

## Weddings and nontraditional families

Families come in all shapes and sizes. During special events, particularly those steeped in tradition, such as weddings, blended families may have to employ certain tactics to ensure the events go off without a hitch. When planning their weddings, couples must give consideration to the needs of their families. Even though a wedding is about the union of two people, oftentimes couples engaged to be married must contend with the politics of divorce or other familial issues. This includes if and how to incorporate stepparents and stepsiblings into the ceremony and celebration. There are no traditional rules regarding how to handle blended families, so brides- and grooms-to-be can customize their decisions based on their own unique situations. Even when families have been happy through the years, the unique circumstances and traditions surrounding the nuptials can dredge up former insecurities, and certain aspects may require extra patience and tact.

Here's how to navigate the process.

- Consider stepparents and stepsiblings VIPs. Brides and grooms who are not particularly close to their stepfamilies still have to recognize the role they play in the family dynamics. These people are still family, so respect and courtesy should be offered. If there is any lingering animosity, extend the olive branch on this day and try not to let anyone be made to feel as if they are unimportant. A simple announcement of whose stepparents are at the wedding reception or inclusion of their names on wedding itineraries can help smooth over any potential bumps.

- Put others' needs before your own. While the wedding may be about you and your future spouse, you must consider the feelings of others. Biological parents and stepparents may act defensively if they feel uncomfortable or hurt, and that can create an air of negativity to the day. Try to avoid this by considering potential areas of conflict. For example, mothers might be hurt if their ex-husbands' new girlfriends are asked to be in a group family photo. Instead, select separate times to have everyone included. Remember to give parents and stepparents priority seating as well, and they each should be seated next to someone they love and someone with whom they can converse comfortably. You may think everyone can play nice, but it's best not to push the issue just to make a point at the wedding.

- Recognize that some families break the mold. Recently, a father made waves on the Internet when a video of him pulling the bride's stepfather up to assist in walking her down the aisle went viral. This was a wonderful image of families mak-

ing it work despite their differences or the awkwardness that can result when brides or grooms have parents and stepparents in attendance. Although this scenario might not play out for all, find ways to impart a special touch, especially if you're close to both your biological parents and your stepparents. For example, your biological father may walk you down the aisle, while your stepfather may enjoy the first dance.

- Order flowers and gifts for all. Purchase flowers and wedding party gifts for all of the special people in your lives, including your stepfamily. Weddings can be complicated affairs when factoring in blended families. With patience and compassion, such families can enjoy a beautiful and happy day.





### BRIDAL BEAUTY CHECK LIST

BEFORE YOU SAY I DO LET US BE YOUR SOMETHING NEW!  
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**6 - 12 MONTHS BEFORE**

**Personal Beauty Plan**  
 Identify the areas on your face, skin, and body that you want to improve before your wedding day. Schedule a consultation with a Bella Rose Beauty Expert who will unlock your bridal glow.

**Complexion Perfection**  
 Schedule an appointment for a complimentary Skin Scope Analysis to reveal your skin condition, texture and pore size, measure your wrinkles, hydration, and acne. Begin using a customized Medical Grade Skin Care program at least six months before your wedding.

**Tattoo Removal**  
 All Natural non-laser tattoo removal for Brides-To-Be that don't want to worry about having to hide their ink.

**Get Honeymoon Ready**  
 Leave your razor at home! Get lingerie ready with head-to-toe laser hair removal. Special offers on packages of live or more treatments.

**6 - 9 MONTHS BEFORE**

**Feel Good About your Body**  
 Float down the aisle feeling confident in your dress. CoolSculpting is a non invasive service that eliminates stubborn bra fat, love handles, muffin tops, and much more with its FDA approved fat freezing technology. Special offers when you purchase a package of three or more treatments. Personalized Weight Loss Regimen: Get started on HCG and a medically-supervised program. Starting now will help ease stress about your appearance and reach your goals.

**Gorgeous, Full Lashes & Brows**  
 Latisse is a remarkable lash growth serum that will create longer, thicker lashes and brows. For best results, use for 12 weeks.

**3 - 6 MONTHS BEFORE**

**Smooth and Glowing Skin**  
 Schedule a series of chemical peels with microdermabrasion/dermaplaning to exfoliate and remove the outer layers of dead skin

**cells to reveal the healthier layers underneath resulting in brighter and smoother skin. A minimum of 3-6 treatments are recommended.**

**Can't Say "I DO" Without You**  
 Get your bridesmaids in on the action. Purchase a day at the spa package and pamper with a massage, facial, body wraps, & many more options and receive a complimentary treatment for the bride. All Mother's of Brides get 15% discount on select services purchased on the same day.

**2 MONTHS BEFORE**

**Happily Ever After**  
 Say goodbye to fine lines and wrinkles and hello to marital bliss. Our beauty expert will concoct the perfect cocktail of Botox and dermal fillers for your concerns.

**Camera Ready Smile**  
 Laser Teeth Whitening to make sure your smile is photo ready with this easy treatment for whiter teeth.

**You May Kiss The Bride**  
 Fillers give lips a full, natural looking enhancement. It's advised to have lip enhancement at least 1-2 months before you say "I do".

**1 WEEK BEFORE**

**Radiant Wedding Skin**  
 Have our signature Bridal Bombshell Glow facial a week before your big day.

**Airbrush Spray Tanning**  
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# City Pulse's 2017 Bridal Guide

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## Your DIY wedding guide



As the cost of the average wedding continues to rise, it's understandable that some couples ready to tie the knot may be seeking any and all ways to save money.

While some aspects of a wedding are better left to the professionals, others are primed for a little do-it-yourself cost cutting. By handling some of the work themselves, couples can save a considerable amount of money. A do-it-yourself approach also may foster feelings of pride in a job well done.

Couples should just be sure they have the skills and resources available to handle portions of their weddings on their own. Otherwise, the cost savings may be negated by trial and error.

The following are some areas that may be a good fit for couples looking to try their own DIY techniques.

### Floral centerpieces:

While floral bouquets and boutonnieres are probably best left to professional florists, couples may want to try making their own reception table centerpieces. Such centerpieces can be simple displays of fresh flowers in vases or more intricate designs. Test out any ideas prior to the wedding. Remember to keep arrangement height in mind. You do not want to obscure the views of seated guests.

### Cake:

Ask a pastry chef or bakery to make you a small cake that can be used for cake-cutting traditions and photo opportunities, but have your own cake available to serve. Sheet cakes are much less expensive than more intricate tiered cakes, but they can be just as delicious. Guests may not even know the difference if the cake is sliced and served out of the reception site's kitchen. Purchase the cake or make it on your own.

### Invitations:

Professionally designed invitations

can look beautiful, but not everyone has the budget for embossing or engraving and expensive paper stock. Thanks to graphic design and page layout software, computer-savvy couples can design and print their invites right from home. That makes it easy to create a new invitation if you miscounted or if you have a last-minute addition to the guest list.

### Favors:

Create favors that work with the theme of your wedding and make them yourself. These can be candles, fruit preserves, soaps, baked goods, or anything else that appeals to you. The cost of making them in bulk may turn out to be less than purchasing manufactured items. Plus, guests get to take home something that came directly from you.

### Video:

Enlist a friend or family member to capture the wedding and after-party on video for you. You can use video-editing software available through popular apps to piece together your own wedding video memento.



# The year in books

From sneakers to spies, 2016 produced good reads

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Like a lot of readers, I'm seduced by pretty pictures in books. So it should be no surprise that three of my favorite books this year were absolutely crammed with photographs of architectural wonders and musicians.

"Michigan Modern: Design that Shaped America" is a striking look at the post-World War II trend of Modernism, which had us leaning toward a futuristic look in everything from architecture to consumer products. As you page through the book, you'll find spectacular photos of sleek automobiles, geometric housing and commercial structures and space-age looking chairs. But this 352-page book is more than just a collection of photographs. It showcases, through in-depth essays, Michigan's critical role in shaping the worldwide Modernism trend. Another book released this year, "Mid-Michigan Modern: From Frank Lloyd Wright to Google," examines the architectural diversity in homes and commercial structures in Mid-Michigan. The book shares the stories behind Modernist buildings you might drive by every day. (Or in my case, the Modernist home I can see from my kitchen window.)

Another of my absolute favorite books from 2016 is "Motown: The Sound of Young America." You will "ooh" and "aah" over the hundreds of photographs of Motown acts, including the local act Rare Earth, which had the huge hit "Get Ready" for Motown Records. And while the photos alone are worth the price tag, this book is no slacker when it comes to content. (For more on this book, grab a copy of next week's paper.)

I am also a sucker for guidebooks, and Maureen Dunphy's "Great Lakes Island



Courtesy Photo

"Out of the Box," by Elizabeth Semmelhack, made City Pulse book critic Bill Castanier's list of top books of 2016. The fascinating book explores the rise of sneaker collecting.

"Escapes" can help you make plans for vacations or day trips to Michigan's hundreds of islands. This book was written from years of personal, on-site experience, not from a quick Google search or Wikipedia entry, like so many modern travel guides. Another guidebook worth checking out is "Darius B. Moon: The History of a Michigan Architect 1880-1910," by Capital Area District Librarian James MacLean. Moon, who designed

and/or built more than a 100 structures in the Lansing area, is one of the most prominent Mid-Michigan architects. The Rogers-Carrier House on the campus of Lansing Community College is a great example of his work.

Another book that jumped out at me this year was "Out of the Box: The Rise of Sneaker Culture" by Elizabeth Semmelhack. The book, which is filled with photographs of classic shoes, will make sneaker heads jump out of their Jordans.

One of the best "best of" collections this year is the New Yorker's "The 60s: The Story of a Decade." The anthology features fascinating articles on everything from pop culture reviews to politics.

And be sure to check out Jim Harrison's last book, the slim but powerful book of poetry, "Dead Man's Float." Published in January, the book foreshadowed the author's death in March.

Two must-read mysteries from relative newcomers are "IQ," by Joe Ide, and Viet Than Nguyen's "The Sympathizer." "IQ" features a street smart kid who helps solve urban mysteries. With "The Sympathizer," Nguyen did something no other author has ever accomplished, winning both the Pulitzer Prize for fiction and the Edgar Award for best mystery in 2016. The book provides an insider's look at the Vietnam War through the eyes of a spy for the other side. Graham Greene's "The Quiet American" comes to mind.

In the final installment of his three-part graphic novel series, Rep. John Lew-

is (D-Georgia) — with the help of trusty aide Andrew Aydin and Nate Powell, an artist with local ties — has not disappointed. The autobiographical "March: Book Three" continues the story of one of the most important leaders of the Civil Rights Movement. The book was honored this year as a National Book Award winner in young adult literature, the first graphic novel so honored.

For writers — or those who like to read about writers — Richard Cohen's "How to Write Like Tolstoy: A Journey into the Minds of Our Greatest Writers" is a gem that explores what makes good writing. Cohen explores why Lolita was chosen as the name for a coquettish young girl in the novel of the same name and why Kerouac agreed to revise "On the Road." Cohen, a longtime publisher and editor, provides a demanding structure for evaluating great writing.

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# 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 28

### EVENTS

**Drop-in New Year's Eve Craft.** Make a New Year's Eve hat (while supplies last). 10 a.m.-9 p.m. FREE. CADL Holt-Delhi, 2078 Aurelius Road, Holt.

**Wonder Wednesday — Drop-in LEGO Club.** Ages 4 and up play. 4-5 p.m. FREE. CADL Leslie, 201 Pennsylvania St., Leslie. (517) 589-9400.

**Allen Market Place — Indoor Season.** Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Farmers Market, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911, [ow.ly/Bol1303O4VE](http://ow.ly/Bol1303O4VE).

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

**ICACS Whisker Wednesday.** Pet adoptions. All animals spayed/neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. Noon-6 p.m. Ingham County Animal Control, 600 Curtis St., Mason. (517) 676-8370.

**Festival of Trees.** Showcase of holiday trees. 1-7 p.m. \$5/kids FREE. Turner-Dodge House, 100 N. East St., Lansing.

**Winter Break Popcorn & Movie.** Enjoy a G or PG-rated movie. 2-4 p.m. FREE. CADL Dansville, 1379 E. Mason St., Dansville. (517) 623-6511.

**Wonder Wednesday: Drop-in LEGO Club.** Ages 4 and up play. 4-5 p.m. FREE. CADL Leslie, 201 Pennsylvania St., Leslie. (517) 589-9400.

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Gentle Yoga.** Relaxing pace class suitable for beginners. 11 a.m.-noon. First class FREE/\$5/\$3 members. Williamston High School, 3939 Vanneter Road, Williamston.

**Mindfulness.** Meditation for beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 420-5820, [ow.ly/CIHU305nMqx](http://ow.ly/CIHU305nMqx).

## Thursday, December 29

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Lunch at the Senior Center.** Call day before to order meal. Noon-1 p.m. \$5.75/\$3 suggested

See Out on the Town, Page 22

## Boogie in the new year



Courtesy Photo

Bob Baldori (left) and Arthur Migliazza jam during a performance of Boogie Stomp!, their musical and theatrical journey through the history of American music, which comes to the Robin Theatre this week.

Dec. 29-31

It started with a movie. Local piano legend Bob Baldori, former keyboardist for the Woolies and go-to harmonica and piano player for Chuck Berry since the late '60s, made a documentary on the origins of American piano music. He also began performing duo shows with boogie-woogie pianist Bob Seeley, a Detroit-based musician and protégé of pianist composer Meade Lux Lewis. After winning several awards for the film, Baldori decided to turn the film into a live show for two pianists.

"I evolved the stage show out of the movie," Baldori said. "We designed it to be a theater piece, about not just the origins of American piano music but also the roots of blues, jazz and more."

The show comes to REO Town's Robin Theatre for a three-night stand starting Thursday, including two shows on New Year's Eve. Baldori is joined by his latest duo partner, pianist Arthur Migliazza.

In the production, Baldori and Migliazza hope to highlight some of the unknown figures who have played important roles in shaping the music.

"One of the subthemes of the show is the incredible genius of American

piano players that are basically anonymous," Baldori said. "We try to shine some light on that history and how it evolved from the end of the Civil War through the '20s and '30s."

In the show, the duo talk about and play piano pieces from the late Civil War era, progressing from ragtime to boogie-woogie into blues, swing, jazz and big band. From there, the duo explores two branches of post-World War II piano music: modern jazz and rock 'n' roll.

"We bring it right through to Macklemore, showing where contemporary music really has its roots," Baldori said.

Baldori and Migliazza have taken their show around the world. The duo just finished their fifth tour in Russia.

"We played all over," Baldori said. "All the way to Vladivostok, which is closer to Seattle than to Moscow. But we always start in Moscow."

In Russia, the two have found captivated audiences.

"They really appreciate American roots music," Baldori said. "They sometimes get it better than some of our American audiences."

Baldori and Migliazza, who met and became friends at a music festival

they were both playing, plan to travel more in the near future. The duo has booked an off-Broadway run in New York shortly after their Lansing stop, and they have offers for international shows in the works.

"Arthur and I are lucky to be doing it," said Baldori. "It's a privilege in a lot of ways."

New work is also on the horizon.

"We're still developing this whole idea of under-the-radar anonymous creators," Baldori said. "We're working on a sequel."

The pianists hope to help Lansing ring in the new year by taking a step back into the past.

"This is a really fun show," Baldori said. "We want to make people smile. We want to make them dance. If a show doesn't make you dance, the musicians aren't doing their jobs."

### Boogie Stomp!

December 29-31  
7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday; 7 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday  
\$35/\$55 VIP Thursday-Friday; \$45-55/\$75 VIP Saturday early show; \$85 Saturday late show  
The Robin Theatre  
1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing  
[boogiestomp.com](http://boogiestomp.com)

— ALLISON HAMMERLY

# Turn it Down

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICHTUPICA



FRI. DEC. 30TH

Devil's Cut

## A VERY KRAMPUS XMAS AT THE AVENUE CAFE

Friday, Dec. 30 @ The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 21+, \$10, 8 p.m.

Lansing-based roots-punk band the Devil's Cut, along with a full slate of edgy Americana-rock outfits, perform Friday at the Avenue Café. The event, dubbed A Very Krampus Xmas, benefits the relief fund to aid residents affected by the wildfires in Tennessee. In addition to the music, the show features an auction of art donated by local artists and "disturbing comedy" from Kerry McCabe. Sharing the bill are Call Me Bronco, a Louisville-based rock 'n' roll/psychobilly band. The group describes its sound as "American folk poetry" that's suitable for moshing. Saint Christopher Webster, a country-blues-punk artist from Nebraska, Lansing's own Piss Poor Players and the Grand Rapids-based solo act Dead Eye Zack round out the bill. For more information on the show, visit the Avenue Café on Facebook at facebook.com/avenuecafe2021.

## DO OR DIE AT THE LOFT

Saturday, Jan. 7 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 18+, \$20/\$15 adv., 8 p.m.

Do or Die formed on the west side of Chicago in 1995. A year later, the gangsta-rap group's multi-platinum single, "Po Pimp," reached No. 22 on the Billboard Hot 100. The group's debut LP, "Picture This," reached gold status. Following this success, the trio, comprising emcees AK, Belo Zero and N.A.R.D., signed to Houston's Rap-A-Lot Records and continued to release LPs through 2006. In 2015, the group released its first proper full-length album in nearly a decade, the "Picture This 2" LP, along with the "Withdrawal" EP, which featured Twista. Over the years, Do or Die has also recorded tracks with the likes of Kanye West, Bun B and R. Kelly. Booked by area promoters Lionheart Ent. and C.E.P., the hip-hop trio headlines an 18-and-over concert Jan. 7 at the Loft. DJ E-NYCE will also perform.



SAT. JAN. 7TH

Do or Die

## TELL YO MAMA AT MAC'S BAR

Thursday, Dec. 29 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. \$8/\$7 adv., 8 p.m.

Back in November, local vocalist Lucas Holliday made national news after a video of him singing went viral. The video, shot while he was working as a Dollar General cashier, racked up hundreds of thousands of views. Holliday, a member of local soul-funk group Tell Yo Mama, was belting out a cover of "Ascension," a Maxwell single. Soon after, he appeared on "Good Morning America" and was invited to perform the song live on stage with Maxwell at the Palace of Auburn Hills. The story was picked up by major news outlets across the country, include ABC News and People magazine. Thursday, his band performs at Mac's Bar. Opening the show are Fried Egg Nebula and Chemical Edge.



THUR. DEC. 29TH

Tell Yo Mama

UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT ALLISON@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

## LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 3 p.m.	'80s Karoke	Krampus X-Mas, 8 p.m.	GTG Show (FREE), 8 p.m.
Buddies - Holt, 2040 N Aurelius Rd			Mark Sala, 9 p.m.	
Buddies - Okemos, 1937 W Grand River Ave			Joe Persico, 9 p.m.	Joe Persico, 8:30 p.m.
Classic Bar & Grill, 16219 Old US 27			Lee Groove, 9 p.m.	
Champions, 2440 N. Cedar St.		Lee Groove, 7 p.m.		
Colonial Bar, 3425 S Martin Luther King Jr Blvd		Open Mic, 9 p.m.	Homespun, 9 p.m.	Homespun, 9 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.			Karaoke, 9 p.m.	
Eaton Rapids Craft Co., 204 N Main St.		Steve Cowles, 6 p.m.	Alistair, 6 p.m.	
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke with DJ Jamie, 9 p.m.			NYE Glow Party, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Live Blues w/ The Good Cookies, 8 p.m.	Mike Skory & Friends, 8:30 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9:30 p.m.	Avon Bomb NYE, 9:30 p.m.
Gallery Brewery, 142 Kent St.		Open Mic, 7 p.m.		
Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.			Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.	
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	"Johnny D" Blues Night, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze, 9 p.m.		
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.,			Mr. Denton on Doomsday, 8 p.m.	Lansing NYE, 9 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.			Tell Yo Mama, 8 p.m.	Neon New Year's Eve, 9 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic w/ Jen Sygit, 9 p.m.	Kathleen and the Bridge St. Band, 9 p.m.	Rotations, 9 p.m.	Twyla Birdsong Band, 9 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road			Last One Out, 8 p.m.	Last One Out, 8 p.m.
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27			The New Rule, 8 p.m.	The New Rule, 8 p.m.
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.			Hidden Agenda, 8 p.m.	Hidden Agenda, 8 p.m.
Tavern & Tap, 101 S. Washington Square	Tavern House Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m.			Throwback Party, 9 p.m.
Tequila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy.			Brent Lowry & the Drifters, 4 p.m.	Brent Lowry & the Drifters, 6 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog Open Blues Jam, 8:30 p.m.	Live Music, 9 p.m.	Live Music, 9 p.m.
Watershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd.	Trevor Compton, 7 p.m.	Mark Sala, 8 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.
Waterfront Bar and Grill, 325 City Market Dr.		Alex Mendenall, 8 p.m.		

## LIVE & LOCAL LISTS UPCOMING GIGS!

To get listed email allison@lansingcitypulse.com. Only submit for the upcoming week's shows.

# Out on the town

from page 20

donation for ages 60 and up. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.  
**(TOPS) Take Off Pounds Sensibly.** Weigh-in 5:15 p.m.; meeting 6 p.m. First meeting FREE. Room 207, Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St., Haslett. (517) 927-4307.  
**Celebrate Recovery.** For all hurts and hang-ups. 6 p.m. Donations welcome. Trinity Church (Lansing), 3355 Dunckel Road, Lansing, (517) 492-1866.  
**Lansing Reiki Share.** Meetup for all practitioners

or those curious about Reiki. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Donations welcome. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Suite 3, Lansing. (517) 402-6727, willowstickceremonies.com.

## MUSIC

**Boogie Stomp!** History of American music by Bob Baldori and Arthur Migliazza. 7:30 p.m. \$20-\$55. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. boogiestomp.com.

**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.

## EVENTS

**Festival of Trees.** Showcase of holiday trees. 1-7 p.m. \$5/kids FREE. Turner-Dodge House, 100 N. East St., Lansing.

**Mason Codependents Anonymous.** 7-8 p.m. FREE. Mason First Church of the Nazarene, 415 E. Maple St., Mason.

**12-Step Meeting.** AA/NA/CA all welcome. In room 209. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St., Lansing.

**CADL Family Storytime at Whole Foods Market.** Stories, songs and activities encouraging early literacy. 4:30-5 p.m. FREE. Whole Foods Market, 2750 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 319-2000.

**Drop-in LEGO® Club.** For ages 4 and up. 3-4:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021.

**Ladies Silver Blades Figure Skating Club.** All skill levels welcome. 9:30-11:20 a.m. \$5 and yearly dues fee. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 881-2517, ladiesilverblades.com.

**Mason Codependents Anonymous.** Support group. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Mason First Church of the Nazarene, 415 E. Maple St., Mason.

## Saturday, December 31

### MUSIC

**Boogie Stomp!** History of American music by Bob Baldori and Arthur Migliazza. 7 and 9:30 p.m. \$20-\$55. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. boogiestomp.com.

**New Year's Eve Contra and Square Dance.** Potluck, workshop and dance. 8 p.m.-midnight. \$12/\$10 members/\$6 students and first-timers. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 614-5858, tenpoundfiddle.org.

### EVENTS

**Festival of Trees.** Showcase of holiday trees. Noon-6 p.m. \$5/kids FREE. Turner-Dodge House, 100 N. East St., Lansing.

**New Years Eve Bash.** Family-friendly party with early ball drop and activities. 5-8 p.m. FREE. 242 Community Church, 2600 Bennett Road, Okemos. (810) 231-0190, 242community.com/new-years.

## Sunday, January 1

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

**Juggling.** Learn how to juggle. From 2 to 4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street PumpHouse, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. (517) 371-5119.

**Kendo Martial Art Class.** Martial arts practice group. 10-11:30 a.m. \$5. Westside Community YMCA, 3700 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (269) 425-6677, koyokai.wordpress.com/about.

### EVENTS

**Annual New Year Peace Prayer Service Pax Christi Lansing.** Interfaith services on nonviolence and community. 2 p.m. FREE. St. Therese Parish, 102 W. Randolph St., Lansing. (517) 321-1773.

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

## Monday, January 2

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Gentle Yoga.** Relaxing pace class suitable for beginners. 11 a.m.-noon. First class FREE/\$5/\$3 members. Williamston High School, 3939 Vanneter Road, Williamston.

**Support Group.** For the divorced, separated and widowed. 7:30 p.m. St. David's Episcopal Church,

See Out on the Town, Page 23

## Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Keep Dividing"  
— the pieces  
get smaller and  
smaller.  
Matt Jones

### Across

- 1 "Better Call Saul" star Odenkirk
- 4 BLT spread
- 8 Keeps from happening
- 14 "The Simpsons" character with an 18-letter last name
- 15 Common freshwater bait fish
- 16 Outcast
- 17 50% of an ice cream dessert?
- 20 "The Zoo Story" dramatist
- 21 As of this time
- 22 Look to be
- 23 Spock's dominant feature
- 26 Blow the socks off
- 28 One of many on a serialized TV show
- 32 Indiana-Illinois border river
- 37 James Bond novelist Fleming
- 38 Capitol Hill figures, slangily
- 40 Mythical monster that's part woman, part serpent
- 41 25% of property to play in?
- 45 "David Copperfield" villain Heep
- 46 Stir-fry ingredient
- 47 Number that looks like itself repeated, when expressed in binary
- 48 Insect with two pairs of wings
- 50 Maintenance sign
- 53 Jacques or Jeanne, par exemple
- 55 Scuba spot
- 56 The "Y" in YSL

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16					
17			18					19						
20						21				22				
			23		24	25		26		27				
28	29	30					31		32		33	34	35	36
37					38			39		40				
41			42	43					44					
45						46						47		
48					49			50		51	52			
				53		54		55						
56	57	58	59		60		61			62	63	64	65	
66				67				68	69					
70							71				72			
73							74					75		

- 60 Sweater, say
- 62 Deck that all episodes of Hulu's "Shut Eye" are named after
- 66 12.5% of a push-up undergarment?
- 70 Cat or goat type
- 71 Poker couple
- 72 Capital attachment?
- 73 What many gamblers claim to have
- 74 "\_\_\_ Like the Wind" (Patrick Swayze song)
- 75 "Help wanted" sign?
- 9 "Batman Forever" star Kilmer
- 10 Cultural periods
- 11 Gain altitude
- 12 Withstand
- 13 Pillow cover
- 18 "Dogs"
- 19 Drops in the grass
- 24 Mature
- 25 Angry bull's sound
- 27 Pedestrian path
- 28 Excite, as curiosity
- 29 Dern of "Jurassic Park"
- 30 Lighted sign at a radio station
- 31 Be rude in a crowd
- 33 Howl at the moon
- 34 Cremona violinmaking family name
- 35 It'll make you pull over
- 36 "I \_\_\_ thought about it"
- 39 Late "60 Minutes" reporter Morley
- 42 Bitterly cold
- 43 Watered-down
- 44 Like a litter of puppies
- 49 City where the Batmobile is driven
- 51 "The Jerk" actress Bernadette
- 52 "Bearing gifts, we traverse \_\_\_"
- 54 Use blades on blades
- 56 Affirmative votes
- 57 Crawling with creepers
- 58 Frittata needs
- 59 Chance
- 61 Destroys, as bubble wrap
- 63 MLB stat, incorrectly but commonly
- 64 "... \_\_\_ I'm told"
- 65 Bagpipers' caps
- 67 One less than quattro
- 68 "Yeah" opposite
- 69 D20 or D8, in D&D games

### Down

- 1 \_\_\_ Men ("Who Let the Dogs Out" group)
- 2 Flashy gem
- 3 Flower bed planting
- 4 Titalar TV attorney of the '90s-'00s
- 5 "Now I understand!"
- 6 Big guffaw
- 7 Just say yes
- 8 "Bridesmaids" producer Judd

## Friday, December 30

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Gentle Yoga.** Relaxing pace class suitable for beginners. 11 a.m.-noon. First class FREE/\$5/\$3 members. Williamston High School, 3939 Vanneter Road, Williamston.

### EVENTS

**Festival of Trees.** Showcase of holiday trees. Noon-8 p.m. \$5/kids FREE. Turner-Dodge House, 100 N. East St., Lansing.

**New Year's Eve Eve Party.** Ball drop at noon along with fun activities and refreshments. 11 a.m.-noon. FREE. CADL Dansville, 1379 E. Mason St., Dansville. (517) 623-6511, cadl.org.

### MUSIC

**Tell Yo Mama.** With Fried Egg Nebula, Chemical Change. 8 p.m. \$7-8. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. macsbar.com.

**Boogie Stomp!** History of American music by Bob Baldori and Arthur Migliazza. 7:30 p.m. \$20-\$55. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. boogiestomp.com.

**A Very Krampus Xmas.** Rock, country, comedy and art. Proceeds to benefit wildfire victims. 8 p.m. \$10. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. avenuecafelansing.com.

## SUDOKU

## BEGINNER

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

### TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 24

## Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsny

Dec. 28-Jan. 3

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Donatello was a renowned Italian sculptor. His favorite piece was "Lo Zuccone," a marble statue of the Biblical prophet Habakkuk. As Donatello carved his work-in-progress, he addressed it. "Speak, damn you! Talk to me," he was heard to say on more than a few occasions. Did the stone respond? Judging from the beauty of the final product, I'd have to say yes. One art critic testified that "Lo Zuccone" is a "sublimely harrowing" tour de force, a triumph of "forceful expression," and "one of the most important marble sculptures of the 15th century." I suspect you will have Donatello-like powers of conversation in 2017, Aries. If anyone can communicate creatively with stones — and rivers and trees and animals and spirits and complicated humans, for that matter — it'll be you.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): According to Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami, "A certain type of perfection can only be realized through a limitless accumulation of the imperfect." Let's amend that thought so it's exactly suitable for your use in 2017. Here's the new, Taurus-specific version: "A messy, practical, beautiful type of perfection can be realized through a patient, faithful, dogged accumulation of the imperfect." To live up to the promise of this motto, make damn good use of every partial success.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Gemini gymnast Marisa Dick has created a signature move that has never been used by any other gymnast. To start her routine, she leaps up off a springboard and lands on the balance beam doing a full split. The technical term for this bold maneuver is "a change-leg leap to free-cross split sit," although its informal name is "The Dick Move." The International Federation of Gymnastics has certified it in its Code of Points, so it's official. During the coming months, I expect that you will also produce one-of-a-kind innovations in your own sphere.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): I hope you will be as well-grounded in 2017 as you have ever been — maybe even since your past life as a farmer. I trust you will go a long way toward mastering the arts of being earthy, practical, and stable. To do this right, however, you should also work on a seemingly paradoxical task: cultivating a vigorous and daring imagination — as perhaps you did in one of your other past lives as an artist. In other words, your ability to succeed in the material world will thrive as you nurture your relationship with fantasy realms — and vice versa. If you want to be the boss of reality, dream big and wild — and vice versa.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Even if you don't think of yourself as an artist, you are always working on a major art project: yourself. You may underestimate the creativity you call on as you shape the raw material of your experience into an epic story. Luckily, I'm here to impress upon you the power and the glory of this heroic effort. Is there anything more important? Not for you Leos. And I trust that in 2017 you will take your craftsmanship to the highest level ever. Keep this advice from author Nathan W. Morris in mind: "Edit your life frequently and ruthlessly. It's your masterpiece, after all."

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): French painter Henri Matisse (1869-1954) turned out to be one of the supremely influential artists of the 20th century. But he was still struggling to make a living well into his thirties. The public's apathy toward his work demoralized him. At one point, he visited his dealer to reclaim one of his unsold paintings. It was time to give up on it, he felt, to take it off the market. But when he arrived at the gallery, his dealer informed him that it had finally been bought — and not by just any art collector, either. Its new owner was Pablo Picasso, an artist whom Matisse revered. I think it's quite possible you will have comparable experiences in 2017, Virgo. Therefore: Don't give up on yourself!

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "The self in exile remains the self, as a bell unstruck for years is still a bell," writes

poet Jane Hirshfield. I suspect that these words are important for you to hear as you prepare for 2017. My sense is that in the past few months, your true self has been making its way back to the heart of life after a time of wandering on the outskirts. Any day now, a long-silent bell will start ringing to herald your full return. Welcome home!

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In accordance with your astrological omens for 2017, I've taken a poem that Shel Silverstein wrote for kids and made it into your horoscope. It'll serve as a light-hearted emblem of a challenging but fun task you should attend to in the coming months. Here it is: "I've never washed my shadow out in all the time I've had it. It was absolutely filthy I supposed, so I peeled it off the wall where it was leaning and stuck it in the washtub with the clothes. I put in soap and bleach and stuff. I let it soak for hours. I wrung it out and hung it out to dry. And whoever would have thunk that it would have gone and shrunk, for now it's so much littler than I."

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Walk your wisdom walk in 2017, Sagittarius. Excite us with your wisdom songs and gaze out at our broken reality with your wisdom eyes. Play your wisdom tricks and crack your wisdom jokes and erupt with your wisdom cures. The world needs you to be a radiant swarm of lovable, unpredictable wisdom! Your future needs you to conjure up a steady stream of wisdom dreams and wisdom exploits! And please note: You don't have to wait until the wisdom is perfect. You shouldn't worry about whether it's supremely practical. Your job is to trust your wisdom gut, to unleash your wisdom cry, to revel in your wisdom magic.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): As I was ruminating on your astrological omens for 2017, I came across a wildly relevant passage written by Rabbi Tzvi Freeman. It conveys a message I encourage you to memorize and repeat at least once a day for the next 365 days. Here it is: "Nothing can hold you back — not your childhood, not the history of a lifetime, not even the very last moment before now. In a moment you can abandon your past. And once abandoned, you can redefine it. If the past was a ring of futility, let it become a wheel of yearning that drives you forward. If the past was a brick wall, let it become a dam to unleash your power."

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Naturalist John Muir regarded nature as his church. For weeks at a time he lived outdoors, communing with the wilderness. Of course he noticed that not many others shared his passion. "Most people are on the world, not in it," he wrote, "having no conscious sympathy or relationship to anything about them — undiffused, separate, and rigidly alone like marbles of polished stone, touching but separate." Is there anything about you that even partially fits that description, Aquarius? If so, I'm pleased to inform you that 2017 will be an excellent year to address the problem. You will have immense potential to become more intimate and tender with all of the component parts of the Great Mystery. What's the opposite of loneliness?

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Seven Chilean poets were frustrated by their fellow citizens' apathy toward the art of poetry. They sarcastically dramatized their chagrin by doing a performance for baboons. Authorities at the Santiago Zoo arranged for the poets' safety, enclosing them in a protective cage within the baboons' habitat. The audience seemed to be entertained, at times listening in rapt silence and at other times shrieking raucously. I'm sure you can empathize with the poets' drastic action, Pisces. How many times have you felt you don't get the appreciation you deserve? But I bet that will change in 2017. You won't have to resort to performing for baboons.

## Out on the town

from page 22

1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272, stdavidslansing.org.

### EVENTS

**Social Bridge.** Come 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.

### Tuesday, January 3

#### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

**Take Off Pounds Sensibly.** Have a support system, lose weight. Wheelchair accessible. 6 p.m. FREE first visit. St. Therese Church, 102 W. Randolph St., Lansing. tops.org.

#### MUSIC

**Jazz Tuesdays at Moriarty's.** Featuring Bill Heid. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

#### EVENTS

**12-Step Meeting.** AA/NA/CA all welcome. In room 209. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St., Lansing.

**LCC West Toastmasters.** Public speaking group. 5-6:30 p.m. LCC West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-1314, lccwest.toastmastersclubs.org.

**Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous.** 5:45 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5559,

coda.org.

**Overeaters Anonymous.** You are not alone. Get support in your weight loss. 7 p.m. FREE. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 819-3294.

### Wednesday, January 4


#### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Gentle Yoga.** Relaxing pace class suitable for beginners. 11 a.m.-noon. First class FREE/\$5/\$3 members. Williamston High School, 3939 Vanneter Road, Williamston.

**Mindfulness.** Meditation for beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Washington Ave., Lansing.


See Out on the Town, Page 24

## CRIMINAL DEFENSE



**Drunk Driving**  
**Embezzlement**  
**Drugs**  
**Homicide**  
**All Federal and State Crimes**

40 YEARS -  
AGGRESSIVE  
LITIGATION  
EFFECTIVE  
MEDIATION



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# CityPULSE NEWSMAKERS



HOSTED BY BERL SCHWARTZ

THIS WEEK  
**JAZZ**

This week's guest  
**RODNEY WHITAKER**  
Director of Jazz Studies,  
Michigan State University



**COMCAST CHANNEL 16 LANSING**  
7:30 P.M. EVERY FRIDAY

**MY18TV!**  
10:30 a.m. EVERY SATURDAY

# Neck or Back Pain?

The MSU Center for Orthopedic Research is conducting a series of research studies to understand the mechanisms of manual medicine in treating pain.

## Who can participate?

- Those with neck pain.
- Those with low back pain.
- Those who have not had spinal surgery.
- All participants must be between the ages of 21 and 65.

Participants will be compensated and receive up to 4 treatments of manual medicine.

Interested? Call, email, or visit our website

(517) 975-3301 | msucor@msu.edu | orthopedicresearch.msu.edu

# Out on the town

from page 23

(517) 420-5820, ow.ly/CIHU305nMqx.

**Free Photography Clinic.** Professionals provide guidance through mini seminars. 6-9 p.m. FREE. First Presbyterian Church (Lansing), 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. (517) 626-2814.

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Wharton Center Circle Book Club.** "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" by Agatha Christie. 3:30-5 p.m. Schuler Books & Music, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. whartoncenter.com.

## EVENTS

**Allen Market Place — Indoor Season.** Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Farmers Market, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911, ow.ly/Bol1303O4VE.

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

**ICACS Whisker Wednesday.** Pet adoptions. All animals spayed/neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. Noon-6 p.m. Ingham County Animal Control, 600 Curtis St., Mason. (517) 676-8370.

**ESOL Reading Group.** Practice English reading and speaking skills. Noon-1:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos.

**Family Storytime.** Ages 6 and under enjoy stories, songs and activities. 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Williamston, 201 School St., Williamston.

**Read to Scout.** Ages 6-18 read to visiting therapy dog. Call to register. 3-4 p.m. FREE. CADL Leslie, 201 Pennsylvania St., Leslie. (517) 589-9400.

**Toddler Storytime.** Stories, songs and activities for toddlers and their caregivers. Call to register. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. CADL Foster, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5185.

**Wonder Wednesday: Minute to Win It.** Ages 8-18 play mini-games. 4-5 p.m. FREE. CADL Leslie, 201 Pennsylvania St., Leslie. (517) 589-9400.

## WEDNESDAY, JAN. 4 >> FREE PHOTOGRAPHY CLINIC

Looking to become the next Ansel Adams? The Mid Michigan Photography Club helps budding photographers get their start Wednesday with a free photography clinic. Held as a series of mini-seminars, the clinic teaches beginners and amateurs how to use both new and old cameras. Local pros are on hand for discussion and Q&A sessions. 6-9 p.m. FREE. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. (517) 626-2814.

## WONDER WOMEN ESTATE SALES THE GALLERY IN OLD TOWN New year's Blast!



Thursday, December 29, 5-7 pm  
Friday, December 30, 10-4 pm  
Saturday, December 31, 10-3 pm

2 BIG estates and a few small this month. Focusing on CRAFTS AND SEWING, antique toys, fishing and sports, old tools, more cats, clocks, cool jewelry, art, Viking Husqvarna 1200, Viking husky lock 1002LCD, Black Forest Cuckoo clock, Russell Woodard Patio set, 1840's plantation desk and more cool furniture. So much more. Check the website.

www.wonderwomen.biz

517-256-0695

108 E. Grand River, Old Town, Lansing

## SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

BOB	MAYO	AVERTS							
APU	CHUB	PARIAH							
HALF	BAKED	ALASKA							
ALBEE	YET	SEEM							
	BEARS	WOW							
PLOTT	LINE	WABASH							
IAN	POLS	LAMIA							
QUART	ERBACK	YARD							
URIAH	TOFU	TEN							
EARW	IG	WET	PAINT						
	NOM	REEF							
YVES	TOP	TAROT							
EIGHT	HWONDER	BRA							
ANGORA	PAIR	ISM							
SYSTEM	SHES	SOS							

**THE FRIENDS OF  
Turner-Dodge House  
& Lansing Parks and Recreation  
PRESENT  
5TH ANNUAL  
Festival of Trees**

**Saturday, December 3rd thru Sunday, January 1st**  
**ADMISSION AT THE DOOR**  
**\$5.00 per person**  
**Children 12 & under FREE**

please call 483-4220 for admission times  
www.lansingmi.gov/938/Turner-Dodge-House







Alan I. Ross/City Pulse

In 2016, Dicker and Deal store manager Stacey Potter completed a \$1 million renovation project to move and expand his flagship store. The new location includes a jewelry counter, a gun section and a taxidermied animal display room.

**By ALLAN I. ROSS**

A rash of restaurant closings in 2016 fueled fears that the Metro Lansing dining scene was dying, contributing to the year's overall depressing vibe compounded by an ugly, surreal election cycle and a slew of celebrity deaths. (Rest in peace, George Michael and Carrie Fisher, and that only covers the last four days.) But business is booming in the capital city, with plenty of good news for fans of Asian cuisine, upscale contemporary dining and traditional American comfort food — as well as aficionados of secondhand shopping, swing dancing and day spas. Here's a look at some of the more noteworthy new businesses in town this year.

In May, the **Nook** opened in REO Town, dedicated to selling upcycled home décor and furniture, and Old Town got two new vintage shops: **Metro Retro**, which deals mostly in apparel from the '60, '70s and '80s, and the **Gallery in Old Town**, a brick-and-mortar version of the 9-year-old **Wonder Women Estate Sales** business. And in Okemos, **Kellie's Consignments** moved into a 24,000-square-foot space where it more than doubled its sales floor, which is filled with gently used women's and men's clothing, furniture, home décor, jewelry, shoes and accessories.

And if you're looking to treat yo' self, you gained two new options this year: **Laurel Salon** in Okemos and the **Artisan**

**Company Salon** in REO Town. And **Matthew Ryan Salon & Spa** moved into a new expanded space in a renovated historic Old Town building. All three businesses boast a team of professional hair stylists and an ever-expanding list of side services, ranging from mani/pedi stations to massage therapy rooms.

"We're always going to be doing the latest techniques and services," said Matthew Ryan. "If we stop growing, things get mediocre and stale and people get bored."

In the dining world, more than twice as many restaurants opened than closed in 2016, keeping in line with the area's growing foodie culture. French cuisine lovers will soon be able to choose between **For Crêpe Sake** in downtown Lansing and **EnVie**, which is slated to open any week now. **Bridge Street Social** in DeWitt has an eclectic, pan-continental menu, as well as an extensive wine list. And the wine bar **Capital Vine** in Lansing Township's Heights at Eastwood kept the focus on wine and small plates.

In February, East Lansing's **Sapporo Ramen & Noodle Bar** became Mid-Michigan's first ramen shop, introducing local diners to a style of Japanese cuisine that's exploding in other parts of the country. Williamston's **Thai Nation Bistro** brought a traditional home-cooking style of Thai cuisine to the area, while the menu at **Chun Chi** near Frandor is loaded with

authentic Chinese dishes. And enthusiasts of "Americanized" Chinese food can opt for **Panda Express**, which opened in East Lansing this fall.

East Lansing also got new locations for two local success stories. The **Tin Can East Lansing** is the fifth iteration for the Lansing-based "world-class dive bar" concept, and **Lou & Harry's Bar & Grill** marked the return to the college town for the longtime Greek-American diner/bar mini-chain.

Another local success story is restaurateur Nick Gavrilides, who celebrated the tenth anniversary of his signature Lansing restaurant, Soup Spoon Café, with a pair of new projects. In July, he bought Gracie's Place in Williamston and refashioned it as **Gracie's Contemporary Bistro**, tweaking both the menu and the service to be more in line with what made Soup Spoon a hit. He also launched a new deli meat production company out of Soup Spoon, **Wolfe Meats**, which makes artisan roast beef, corned beef, roast turkey and pastrami for both in-house sandwiches and carry-out.

This year also saw the transformation of longtime Lansing pawn shop **Dicker and Deal** into a bona fide destination location, as it moved into its new location featuring a massive showcase of taxidermied Michigan animals.

"We want to create a more positive atmosphere where a family can have a unique experience," said store general manager Stacey Potter, whose father, Gary Potter, founded the business in 1973. "We want people to be in awe."

In 2016, Old Town joined the area's flourishing craft beer and coffee cultures. In August, the father-and-son team of Dan and Kyle Malone opened **Ozone's Brewhouse**, with a concentration on low-to-moderate alcohol level "session" brews. And **Bloom Coffee Roasters** expanded into a full-service café, featuring coffee that is roasted on site and locally made pastries.

New barbecue joints and pizza places emerged for diners more interested in traditional American staples. **Blaze Pizza** in Frandor lets customers build pies that are fast-fired within three minutes, and **Boston's Restaurant & Sports Bar** arrived in Eastwood Towne Center. And joining the bustling barbecue scene were **Gump BBQ**, just east of REO Town, and **Lil' BBQ Shack**, on the city's south side.

The mobile kitchen trend kept rolling in 2016 with several new food trucks. **Pie Hole Pizza Truck**, which deals in gourmet personal pizzas and creative desserts, set up its home base near Eastwood Towne Center. Other new additions were **Daddy's Little Grill**, which has a "global street food" theme, and the **Plateful Spread**, which fuses the flavors of from the Far East and south of the border with its Japanese-style burritos. And **Big Daddy's lil Donuts** deep fries donuts fresh to order.

The area also saw the arrival of some high-profile national chains, led by **Whole Foods**, which finally opened in East Lansing last spring. Georgia-based fast food chain **Chick-fil-A** set up shop on the city's west side, not too far from **Wayback Burgers**, a hamburger chain headquartered in Delaware. British-style sandwich store **Sarnie Shoppe** became the newly minted Knapp Centre's first food vendor, just two blocks over from Nashville-style chicken chain **Hot Chicken Kitchen**, which opened in September. And Nashville-based chain **Gigi's Cupcakes** started slinging sweets in the fledgling Trowbridge Village Shopping Center.

So stop with all the negativity — 2016 wasn't that bad. And make sure to come back next week for a preview of some of the big projects that will be new in town in 2017.

**Metro Lansing businesses we lost in 2016:**

West side:  
Fire Mountain

South side:  
Fahrenheit Ultra Lounge  
Famous Dave's

North side:  
Tony Sacco's Coal Oven Pizza  
Max & Erma's

East side:  
Holden-Reid Clothiers  
Così

Downtown Lansing:  
Tom + Chee  
Clara's Lansing Station  
Henry's on the Square  
Crafty Palate  
Beer Grotto



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## A year of dining adventures

### The joy of food

By **MARK NIXON**

Restaurants, like people, have personalities. In 2016, two restaurants stood out because they exude a cheery playfulness, both in what they serve and who is doing the serving. The French call it *joie de vivre*, the joy of living.

Bridge Street Social in DeWitt is new to the local restaurant scene. Soup Spoon Cafe in Lansing is an estab-

lished culinary icon. Both are like giddy teenagers gobsmacked by their first love — but in this case, their romance is rooted in the joy of cooking.

They make the ordinary extraordinary, as in Bridge Street's panko-encrusted smoked potato or Soup Spoon's Dijon-enhanced pork schnitzel.

The prevailing happy-to-be-here attitude among waitstaff in both places seems part of the DNA. Either that, or they have all graduated with honors from acting school.

In September, I wrote that Bridge Street's decor included a picture frame, empty except for smaller, also empty frames, "as if they are awaiting an artist." Curiously, framed windows hang over the bar area of Soup Spoon — windows awaiting our gaze and inviting thoughts of what lies beyond.

Am I reading far too much into the decor? Perhaps. All I know is that the food, the service and the vibe in both places add up to something upbeat in these downbeat times. *Joie de vivre*.

### The tao of tacos

By **GABRIELLE JOHNSON LAWRENCE**

Last summer, my husband and I set out on a quest to find the best tacos in Lansing. These are the extremely unscientific results of our delicious research.

My criteria for a perfect taco are few but crucial. I need a corn tortilla. Flour tortillas are for burritos and enchiladas only, and on this point I am strict. My preferred toppings are minimal, but they must include chopped cilantro, onion and possibly crumbled queso. Shredded cheese and iceberg lettuce do not belong on a taco. I want to taste the meat — whether it be chicken, beef, pork or chorizo — and I definitely don't want to taste wimpy lettuce and waxy cheese.

Pablo's in Old Town (311 E. Grand River Ave.) has the best Mexican food in town. We knew that Pablo's was going to be a strong contender, and we started visiting the restaurant early in our mission. This was both a blessing, because we got to eat dozens of delicious tacos, and a curse, because then we didn't want to go anywhere else. The taco dinner setup at Pablo's is ideal, because you can choose different meats for your three tacos. My absolute winner at Pablo's is the chorizo taco — slightly spicy sausage in a double-layer corn tortilla topped with chopped onion and cilantro. Rice and beans on the side. Heaven is a place on earth.

My close second is the El Oasis taco truck, which parks at 2501 E. Michigan Ave., just east of Foster Street. We have



Gabrielle Johnson Lawrence/City Pulse

The taco dinner at Pablo's in Old Town tops Gabrielle Johnson Lawrence's list of Greater Lansing's best tacos.



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# Croque madame — the Creole

If “put a bird on it” is the unofficial motto of twee hipsters selling hand-knit beanies and organic handbags on Etsy, “put an egg on it” is its culinary counterpart. (I suppose



you're still putting a bird on it, in a sense.)

And I don't mind. I love a good runny fried egg, and I'm glad that it's showing up outside of breakfast menus. Pizza? Put an egg on it. Hamburger? Put an egg on it. Pork chop? Put an egg on it.

The French pride themselves on being at the cutting edge of cooking, and on this

## The Creole

Kitchen hours: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. (lunch) and 5-10 p.m. (dinner) Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-2 p.m. (brunch) and 5-10 p.m. (dinner) Saturday-Sunday; bar opens at 4 p.m. daily 1210 Turner St., Lansing (517) 371-1361, thecreolelansing.com

trend, they have us beat by a good 50 years. The croque monsieur sandwich, which first appeared on French menus in the early 1900s, is a baked or grilled sandwich made

with sliced ham and Swiss cheese. Sometime in the 1960s, someone decided to put an egg on it, and the croquet madame was born.

For a good local take on the croque madame, swing by the Creole around lunch time.



## What's your favorite dish/drink?

Do you have a go-to dish or drink at your favorite local restaurant? We want to know about it. Email your favorite dish/drink and a short explanation about why you love it to food@lansingcitypulse.com, and it may be featured in a future issue. If possible, please send a photo along with your description — a nice smartphone photo is fine. Cheers!

The Old Town eatery uses brown sugar ham, apple chutney and triple cream brie on crusty bread, and, of course, they put an egg on it.

This is a hearty knife-and-fork sandwich. The apple chutney is not overly sweet, but it offsets the saltiness of the ham in a perfect way. The creamy brie fuses it all together, and the egg provides that savory element

that puts it over the top.

Trends come and go, so take advantage of all the new egg-enhanced entrees while you can. Then again, the croque madame has survived half a century, so maybe this trend is here to stay.

— TY FORQUER

# TOP FIVE DINING GUIDE!

## TOP 5 SANDWICHES/DELI

### #1 JERSEY GIANT

Lansing-based chain specializing in giant sub sandwiches (See web site for more locations) 3700 W. Saginaw St., Lansing (517) 323-6800 jerseygiantsubs.com 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday

(See web site for more locations)

134 S. Washington Square, Lansing (517) 485-3300 jimmyjohns.com 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Wednesday; 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Thursday-Saturday

### #2 SOUP SPOON CAFE

City Pulse readers love Soup Spoon's breakfast options, soups and sandwiches 1419 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing (517) 316-2377 soupspooncafe.com 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 7 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday; 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday

### #4 SAMUEL MANCINO'S ITALIAN EATERY

Sandwich shop known for its baked grinders 401 N. Clippert St., Suite B, Lansing (517) 351-7492 mancinosoffrandor.com 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; closed Sunday

### #5 FRANDOR DELI

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