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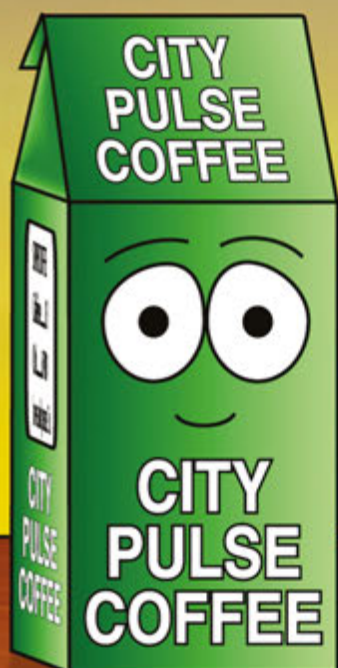
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December 6 - 12, 2017

## THE FIRST-EVER CITY PULSE COFFEE ISSUE!

### WHO'S ROASTING? LANSING'S MR. COFFEE

See Page 8



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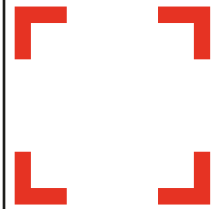
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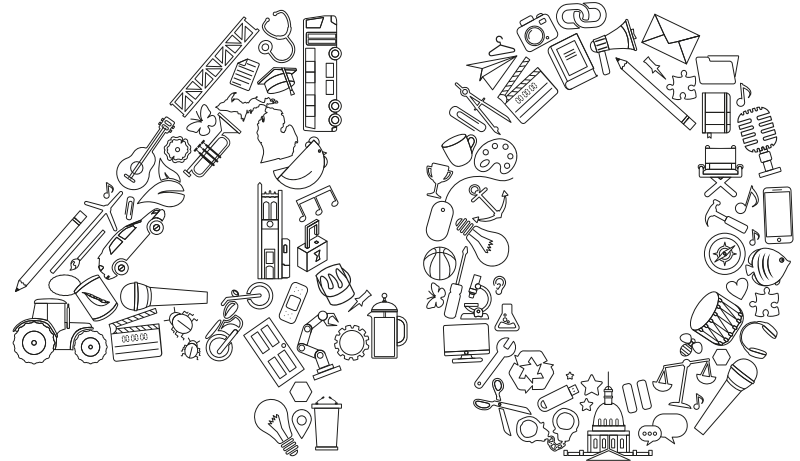


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# CityPULSE

**VOL. 17  
ISSUE 17**

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John Davidson brings his hook to the Wharton Center

**PAGE 11**

Old rockers return for a reunion of The Underground

**PAGE 1**

Cover art by Todd Zapoli

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**RFQP/18/037 MEDICAL MAR. APPLICATION CONSULTANT** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the City of Lansing, C/O LBWL, Purchasing Office, 1232 Haco Dr, Lansing, Michigan 48912 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on DEC. 18, 2017 at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available from Catherine Davila, Catherine.davila@lbwl.com,(517) 702-6288 or go to www.mitn.info** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.  
**CP#17\_316**

**B/18/038 APPRAISAL FOR COMM PROPERTY** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the City of Lansing, C/O LBWL, Purchasing Office, 1232 Haco Dr, Lansing, Michigan 48912 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on DEC. 18, 2017 at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available from Catherine Davila, Catherine.davila@lbwl.com,(517) 702-6288 or go to www.mitn.info** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.  
**CP#17-317**

### GROESBECK PARK DRAIN DRAINAGE DISTRICT NOTICE OF INTENT TO RELEASE EXCESS EASEMENT

**Notice is Hereby Given**, that I, Patrick E. Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, intend to release to the fee owner an excess easement previously used for a retention/detention basin located on a parcel of land in Lansing Township, Ingham County, Michigan, assigned Parcel No. 33-21-01-03-427-039. The easement that is the subject of this Notice was granted to the Groesbeck Drain Drainage District on October 20, 1994, and recorded with the Ingham County Register of Deeds at Liber 2429, Pages 771-773. A copy of this easement is available for inspection at the office and address listed below. No other easements granted to the Groesbeck Drain Drainage District or the Groesbeck Park Drain Drainage District are intended to be released.

Any taxpayer who wishes to protest release of the above described easement may appear at the Office of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854, on **January 10, 2018, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.**, for that purpose. After said date and time the excess easement may be released back to the landowner.

This Notice and action is made pursuant to Act No. 40, Public Acts of Michigan 1956, as amended. See MCL 280.6.

Dated this 29th day of November, 2017.

Patrick E. Lindemann  
Ingham County Drain Commissioner

**CP#17-318**

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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

### 1. LIFE IN THE STUPIDVERSE

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I AM VERY SMART.

### 3. PEDOPHILIA? WHAT PEDOPHILIA?

SO WHAT IF ROY MOORE DOES HAPPEN TO BE A CHILD MOLESTER? IS THAT A CRIME?

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TOM TOMORROW © 2017

## Crackdown looming

# City to strike against dispensaries not seeking licenses

Lansing's Wild West era of medical marijuana dispensaries is rapidly coming to an end.

An estimated 60 dispensaries have until Dec. 15 to apply for 20 licenses under the city's new ordinance.

City Attorney Jim Smiertka said Monday that proceedings to shut down those that do not apply will begin within two weeks after the deadline. His options include cease and desist letters, enforcement of new zoning restrictions and civil infractions.

Dispensaries have been illegal under state court rulings, but pro-marijuana Mayor Virg Bernero has held back enforcement. Mayor-elect Andy Schor, who takes office Jan. 1, is less pot friendly.

The city's nonrefundable application fee is \$5,000, the maximum a jurisdiction can charge under state law. That alone is expected to take a toll on how many dispensary owners will take a chance on filing one.

"You don't want to pay a \$5,000 fee and then not get it back from the city, you know," said Jacob Rufenacht, owner of KIND Dispensary, 2201 E. Michigan Ave. "That's why these people aren't applying."

Indeed, as of Tuesday, no dispensaries have applied for a city license, City Clerk Chris Swope said.

But dispensaries may have been waiting for state licensing regulations, which were issued on Monday.



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Swope

Dispensaries in communities that will allow them, such as Lansing, will need both a local and state license to operate legally.

Like Lansing, the state will consider dispensaries illegal if they do not apply for a license by its deadline, Feb. 15.

The ordinance gives Swope the authority to decide who gets dispensary licenses. He also has the latitude to extend the application period or create a new one, but as of now Swope said he has no plans to do so.

He made it clear that the city will move

quickly to shut down any businesses who have not applied for a conditional city license by Dec. 15.

"I'm not directly involved in enforcement, so they won't be my steps. I'll be communicating with other city departments," Swope said. "I know there will be enforcement beginning on those that do not apply by the deadline."

Under the recently adopted city ordinance, 25 provisioning center licenses will be issued over the next year. Twenty licenses are up for grabs in this first phase, as required under the ordinance. The second phase, which must begin within one year of phase one, would allow a maximum of five licenses to be issued. There are no city caps on the other marijuana facilities like growing operations, processing facilities, secure transporters and testing centers.

Smiertka said that if no one applies by Dec. 15, Swope could begin a new application period for licenses.

Swope said he has no plans to do so, but didn't rule it out. "That's not a bridge I'm going to cross until I get to it."

Rufenacht said that this lack of clarity on how many licenses can be issued under the ordinance between the two phases is troubling.

"That's not good for the patients, that's not good for Lansing, it's not good for the economy, it's not good for anything," the

provisioning center owner said.

With uncertainties in state and local enforcement and licensing processes, businesses have been hard pressed to justify paying the city's \$5,000 application fee, said Rufenacht.

State licensing officials at the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs had promised emergency rules last month, but they weren't released until Monday.

What worries some in the medical marijuana trade is that they follow city rules, but inadvertently violate state regulations.

Businesses will have until Feb. 15, 2018 to submit state applications and a \$6,000 fee, which could be raised during the approval process, or face closure. Any business not operating under a local municipality's law Dec. 15, could face action by state or federal authorities, according to the rules issued by LARA Monday.

Swope, who is responsible for scoring applications to determine which businesses will be granted a license, said he was surprised at the lack of applicants, but was expecting a last-minute rush as the application period drew to a close.

"We did expect to start getting applications as soon as we opened, but I can understand the logic of waiting and making sure

See Pot, Page 6

## Call for collaboration

# Wood and Washington likely to lead Lansing City Council

Looking to avoid the tribal struggle that delayed the leadership decision last year by nearly a month, the 2018 City Council is poised to approve Councilwomen Carol Wood and Jody Washington to leadership posts. Wood has the votes to be named Council president. Washington would be vice president.

Wood and Washington, often at odds with outgoing Mayor Virg Bernero, believe they can establish a more collaborative relationship with new Lansing Mayor Andy Schor.

"I can work with any of them as leadership," said Schor of the leadership debate. "I have good working relationships with all



Wood



Washington

eight members of the council."

City leaders see Schor's landslide win and the election of Council members promoting teamwork as a sign that voters wanted to

end the contentious relationship between the mayor and the council.

"I believe we heard from the residents clearly that the contention on Council has to end," said Washington. "People want us to work together for a shared vision. But they also want us to agree to disagree without being disagreeable."

After 17 years on the council, serving in a near full time capacity, Wood knows where each and every lever and button is to make the city bureaucracy move. As Council president, Wood would set the agendas for Council meetings, assign committee chairs and ultimately decide what issues come to

the floor for consideration, and which languish.

Initially, Wood could assume an outsized role in directing the city as Schor learns the complexity of Lansing government and his role as mayor.

In an interview with City Pulse, Bernero

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## Pot

from page 5

what the state is gonna do,” Swope said.

Despite some clarification in the processes, concerns remain. Newly appointed Medical Marijuana Commissioner John Addis raised concerns about the financial expectations for those applying for various

licenses in the state.

The city ordinance requires applicants to have a minimum net worth of \$100,000, while state rules require applicants to have assets of anywhere from \$150,000 to \$500,000.

Addis pointed to these financial requirements, as well as legal fees necessary to navigate the application and appeals processes, as potentially skewing the distribution of licenses to big businesses.

“Some of those financial requirements are going to be a lot easier for the big, flush bank accounts of the big players, and it does seem to make it harder for startup small businesses to compete,” Addis said.

Addis, who represents the 4th Ward, is one of four commissioners, nominated by Bernero and approved by the Council on Nov. 27. The three others: Brockton Feltman from the 1st Ward, Anita Turner from the 3rd Ward, and Tracy Winston, an

at-large member. A 2nd Ward representative for the body has not been announced. Schor said it was unclear if Bernero would appoint someone to that position or leave it for Schor.

“I think those of us on this commission are well aware that there will be very, very little for us to do,” Addis said, “for a while, at least.”

— MAXWELL EVANS

## Council

from page 5

noted that he struggled in his first weeks to grasp the complexity of the bureaucracy and gain control over it.

Schor laughed when asked about this. “Look, I know where the coffee pot is,” he

said. “I believe I will be working with whoever is in leadership to set the agenda.”

In interviews, Wood, the longest serving member of the body, and Washington, with six years representing the 1st Ward, both confirmed that they’d been quietly meeting with other Council members to lobby for the leadership roles.

“It looks like it right now,” said outgoing President Patricia Spitzley, an at-large member of the council, of a likely Wood-Washington leadership duo. “But, you know, I learned you never say never.”

After initially stating she would not be the 2017 Council president, Spitzley ended

up in the post as part of a grand bargain struck between differing factions. Wood was elected vice president.

Spitzley, as well as 3rd Ward Councilman Adam Hussain both confirmed they were prepared to cast ballots for Wood and Washington. Incoming At-Large Councilman Peter Spadafore confirmed he too will vote for the duo. Combined with their own votes, the two women would have the votes to take the positions.

Brian Jackson, 4th Ward Councilman-elect, declined to comment.

Returning At-Large Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar did not return a phone call or text messages seeking comment. Second Ward Councilman-elect Jeremy Garza did not return a phone call either.

Mayor-elect Schor is expected to roll into office with a very different leadership style. He has a history of consensus building in both the state Legislature, where he served in the Democratic minority, and while on the Ingham county Board of Commissioners.

That’s a dramatic shift in styles at the top. Bernero was an aggressive leader who grabbed the reigns of power in a strong mayor form of government and used it to drive his agenda and vision. That leadership style led to the development of an us versus them mentality in city hall. Bernero and his team regularly cut people out who would not vote or push his agenda the way and at the time he demanded. He would ridicule those who appeared to drag their feet or stand in the way. That bred animosity, observers and participants said.

Wood has been seen as an adversary of outgoing Mayor Virg Bernero, leading a



Dunbar



Garza



Jackson



Spadafore



Hussein



Spitzley

Carol Wood and Jody Washington have six firm votes to be elected president and vice president of the City Council next year, one more than needed. In their column are incumbents Patricia Spitzley and Adam Hussain and members-elect Jeremy Garza and Peter Spadafore. Councilman-elect Brian Jackson declined to comment and incumbent Kathie

factation that threw roadblocks in his efforts to move developments and policy quickly through the council. Washington has been a reliable vote in that block, although both women deny they were opposing Bernero’s actions merely to oppose him.


“It was a process of having things given to us at the last minute, without all the information, and being expected to vote on it,” said Wood. “But I have an obligation to check this stuff out. To verify how it will impact the city and the residents.”

Spadafore said despite the factionalism of the past, he has obtained assurances the council won’t devolve into that again.

“I’ve been assured that won’t happen,” he said. “And I take them at their word. We’ll see in a year.”

— TODD HEYWOOD

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### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICES LOCATED AT 3209 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Hayes, Clerk Aten, Treasurer Rodgers  
Trustees: Broughton, Harris, DeLay

MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee McKenzie  
ALSO PRESENT: Michael Gresens, Attorney

#### ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.  
Minutes of the meeting held on October 30, 2017 approved.  
Agenda approved as amended.  
Resolution 17-29: To Authorize Installment Purchase Agreement Financing of Ambulance adopted.  
Approved 2018 rental fund budget.  
Approved 2018 West Side Water budget.  
Authorized West Side Water manager to pay CP fund loan in 2017.  
Referred discussion to Ordinance Committee regarding medical marijuana facilities licensing.  
Claims approved.  
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor  
Susan L. Aten, Clerk

CP#17\_314

**RFQP/18/026 Engineering Services for the Paulson Street Landfill Characterization** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed proposals at the City of Lansing Purchasing Office, c/o LBWL, 1232 Haco Dr. Lansing Mi. 48912 until 2:00 PM local time in effect on JAN. 9, 2017. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit proposals are available by calling Catherine Davila at (517) 702-6288, or for content and purpose of this proposal contact: Alec Malvetis at (517) 483-4459 or go to [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info).** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#17\_315



# ROASTED: THE JOURNEY OF THE BEAN

DeWitt coffee-roasting wiz details the process behind your cup of joe



Unroasted beans. This is what the beans look like when they arrive at the roasters.

Coffee beans entering the roasting process. Coffee beans being roasted.

By MEGAN WESTERS

Walking into the small production space at Craft & Mason Coffee Roasting Co. in DeWitt, the first thing you notice is a sweet coffee aroma lingering from past roasts. The second thing is the roasting machine, a big metal spinning drum where either Jeremy Mason or his business partner, Eric Craft, can be found during downtime from their day jobs, roasting large batches of coffee.

Since it started in 2013 with the goal of distributing bags of specialty coffee to the Lansing area (it's not a public coffee shop), Craft & Mason has exploded in popularity, selling its globally-sourced beans across the U.S., from New York to California.

## How it's done

The bean's journey from the plant to the cup involves a lot of steps, beginning even before the beans get to the roaster. The first thing to understand, Mason said, is that coffee beans, like other produce, come in many varieties.

"With apples, for example, you might have a Granny Smith or a Red Delicious and they all taste and look different," Mason said. "Each one works differently for different things, and each variety has different growing characteristics. The same is true for coffee."

Each coffee variety puts its own unique stamp on the flavor and accompanying smells of the end result. Other variables—like where the coffee was

grown and what the climate and soil composition was like there — also contribute to the end bean. Because of this, the first and most important factor in coffee creation is the farm.

## Farming

Coffee cherries grow on bush-like plants in warmer climates like Latin America, Africa, Brazil, and Ethiopia, where coffee is believed to originate.

"The decisions farmers make in the field affect the rest of the entire process," Mason said. "Everything from fertilizing the soil, taking care of the plants and making the call on when it's ripe and ready to be picked."

Harvesting the coffee cherries at the correct time for each specific bean, according to Mason, is key to the coffee's depth of flavor later on.

"Many of the coffee farms that we get our beans from pick each cherry by hand, which is pretty crazy, because to get one pound of coffee, you need 2,000 of those cherries," Mason said.

Similar to wine grapes, when coffee cherries are allowed to grow until they reach peak ripeness, the coffee is typically better for it because the sugars from the cherries have time to influence the bean and the bean itself mature to its best, most flavorful state.

"This is why farmers are really important in terms of agriculture and farming," Mason said. "They are trying to put nutrients into the soil, but making the call for when the cherry is ripe is

the big one."

## Processing

Processing coffee is a complex affair. "It includes a lot of choices," Mason said, "like whether to leave the fruit on the bean when you're drying it or remove it, choosing what moisture level to dry the bean to and choosing where to dry the beans. There's a lot that goes into processing and it can be done many ways." The crucial decision, Mason explained, is whether to leave all the fruit on the bean when you're drying it, remove the fruit partially or remove it completely.

## Roasting

After processing, the beans are sent to roasters to make the final product. The choice of distributor makes a big difference.

"There are a few key importers that we work with that we trust," Mason said. "They're usually working with farmers directly to make sure the quality is top notch."

Mason said that sometimes the distributors can relay requests to the farmers, such as asking them to process the beans a certain way, but other times their sole job is to get the beans to the roasters.

"They try to pay based on quality," Mason said. "So if the farmer puts in all this work picking when it's ripe, drying it properly, the farmer will get paid more — hopefully a lot more — to do that."

A reason some businesses are turning to smaller batch coffee roasters like Craft



Megan Westers/City Pulse

One of Craft & Mason's coffee blends. Each bag explains where that coffee came from, the varietal, the region it was grown in and how the beans were processed.

& Mason is fair treatment of the farmer and quality of the bean is ensured. Larger coffee companies often get coffee from blended lots from multiple coffee farmers. One distributor blends them together — diluting the quality of a unique batch from one source.



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# Coffee

from page 8

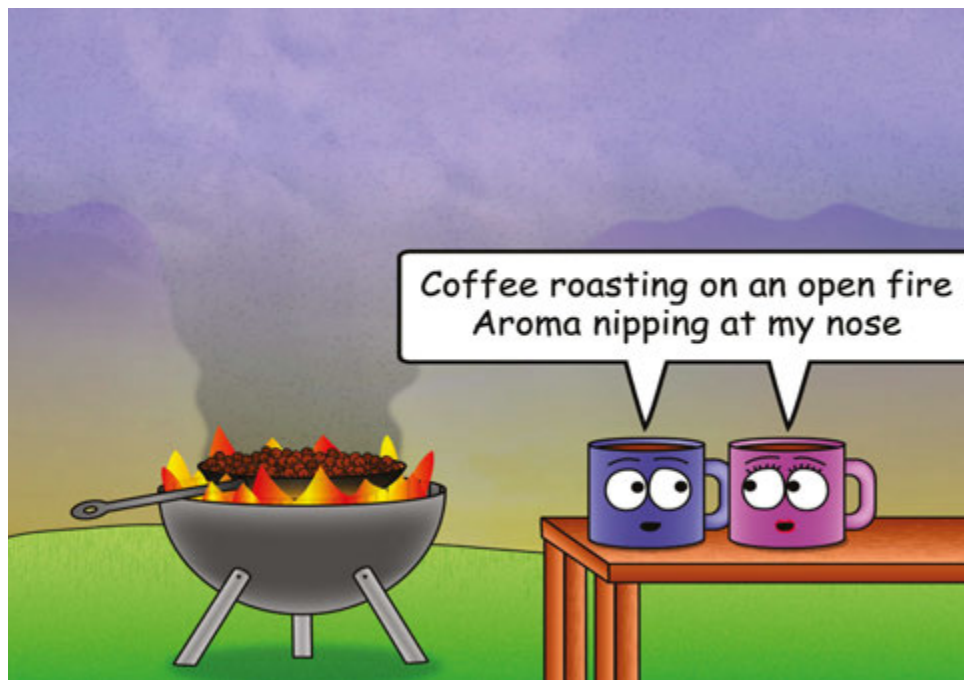
Roasting, according to Mason, takes years of trial and error. Beans are put into a big spinning drum to roast, but variables like temperature, length of roast and moisture all play a role. Craft & Mason, like other roasters, uses a mini-roaster to test samples of coffee and choose which beans they want to purchase.

"Each coffee is different and is best enjoyed when roasted for the proper amount of time and at the correct heat," Mason said. "There are a lot of variables that go into it, but with practice, you



Jeremy Mason (left) and Eric Craft stand next to their roasting machine.

find what works and what doesn't. Each step is really so important and makes a big impact on the end result."



### Beginner's guide to Lansing coffee shops

While Craft & Mason roasts and distributes beans only, there are other greater Lansing-area craft-coffee shops specializing in premium blends and pour-over goodness. Here's a shortlist:

- Bloom Coffee 1236 Turner St., Lansing
- Blue Owl Coffee 1149 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
- The Coffee Barrel 2237 N. Aurelius Road, Holt
- The Crafted Bean Coffee Co. 116 N. Bridge St., Dewitt
- Espresso Royale 1500 West Lake Lansing Road., East Lansing
- Espresso Royale 527 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
- Foster Coffee 115 S. Washington St., Owosso
- Rust Belt Roastery 801 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing
- Strange Matter Coffee 337 S Washington Square., Lansing
- Strange Matter Coffee 2001 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

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# Friendly and velvet-ized

Co-founder Bob Fish reveals the secrets behind Biggby's bigness

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

It's not hard to understand how Biggby exploded from one East Lansing café in 1995 to 230 franchises this year, with another 12 slated to open in early 2018. Just check out a famous scene from "The Sopranos," the small screen's most influential tv show in the coffee chain's early years.

Paulie and a mobster pal walk into a Starbucks. A server is shouting for a "decaf cappuccino primo nonfat double espresso magnifico regolare."

Paulie shifts his feet uncomfortably, as if wondering whom to strangle.

"Ya got any just coffee?"

"Our café du jour is New Zealand Peaberry," the server explains.

"Whatever," Paulie snaps. The rest of the scene is not fit to print, even in City Pulse.

Biggby co-founder and CEO Robert Fish is not out to win the mobster trade, but in the mid-90s he sensed a culture gap between the new phenomenon of coffee shops and the 70 percent of Americans who drink coffee.

Fish imagined a shop where his own dad and other coffee drinkers who "weren't hip to the language of specialty coffees" could walk in "not feeling like a dope."

Fish and co-founders Mary Rozsel, now retired, and Michael McFall started in 1995 with one East Lansing café, an old Arby's restaurant with the covered wagon roof.

"I was one of many independent operators," Fish said.

Espresso Emporium, Cuppa Java, the Cappuccino Café and the Dancing Goat were part of greater Lansing's first wave of specialty coffee shops.

Fish credits Biggby's "approachable" culture with outlasting them all.

In 1995, it was a big plus to have drinks named White Lighting, Teddy Bear and Caramel Marvel rather than frappuccino or macchiato.

"We were less Euro-chic, less Italianized," Fish said.

Fish found that except for a small percentage of cognoscenti, people "didn't care whether we were selling Guatemalan hue hue tanango or Java Estate.

But they were very interested in knowing whether their coffee tasted good."

That's the other half of Biggby's formula. Behind the unpretentious orange "B" is some serious quality control.

Before he opened a single shop, Fish

spent four months in 1994 in Seattle, hanging out with micro-roasters and coffee shop owners. He studied hand extraction (brewing) methods and other techniques that are standard at Biggby.

One of them is the wet foam method used to "velvetize" the milk in a latte.

"The milk and the air all pour out as a homogenized product, like a milk shake," he explained. Not scalding the milk is also crucial. "Heat it naturally and the milk turns sweet, but if you hit a tipping point in temperature, it begins to deteriorate," he said.

Using whipped cream with a higher fat content doesn't hurt, either.

Fish also credits Biggby's phenomenal growth to its upbeat, friendly staff. After hundreds of visits, I can't recall seeing a sullen face at Biggby, but I had to ask Fish how they enforce slogans like "we exist to love people."

"I wouldn't use the word 'enforce,'" he said. "That's a little like" — he put on a



Courtesy photo

In the mid-90s, Bob Fish sensed a culture gap between the new phenomenon of coffee shops and the 70 percent of Americans who drink coffee. Thus Biggby was born.

the chain, "we're talking about love and happiness and friendship," Fish said. "If that kind of language, freaks you out, we

transplants.

Fish thought the limit was reached several times already, but "the finish line keeps moving," he said.

At \$110 million in annual sales, Biggby is averaging at about 15 percent growth a year, which means the company doubles in size every five years.

Fish and his team keep a sharp eye on the broader cultural and economic trends that drive business growth. Until now, Biggbys have popped up primarily along busy work routes or near retail centers, but retail is imploding fast and more people are working at home. In the near future, expect more Biggbys to be embedded in neighborhoods, where people can use them as places to work as well as socialize.

"It's the place around the corner, rather than the place on the way to work or to Wal-Mart," Fish said.

Finally, Fish admitted that almost 20 years after Starbucks' snobbery had Paulie steaming, it's time for Biggby to nudge into artisanal territory and offer products that are "a bit more mysterious to the average consumer."

"It's an elusive term, but the idea of 'craft' is getting more and more important to people," Fish said. "We moved away from that, and now I find we're coming back. People want to know a little more of the story behind what they're drinking."

About 15 Biggbys have already uncorked nitrogen cold brewed coffee. "You'd think you've died and gone to heaven," Fish said.

Take is easy, Paulie. They still got just coffee.



Courtesy photo

The original Biggby — then called Beaners — remains open on Grand River Avenue in East Lansing. Bob Fish poured coffee and swept floors. The coffee then? Maxwell House.

German accent — "You vill haff a good time."

As it happens, the culture is self-selecting. If you can't stomach Biggby's steamed-up culture of love — check out its "beliefs" web page — don't get in the kitchen. At Discovery Day events where potential franchisees learn about

want you to sort yourself out. If you dig it, you're in."

About 90 percent of Biggby shops are in Michigan, but the chain is making headway in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois outside of Chicago. A few outliers in Florida, Texas, Kentucky and South Carolina are mostly owned by Michigan

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# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC • THEATER

## Pastors and punks

Underground reunion stirs up Lansing music history

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

It was Aug. 27, 2000. People were throwing things out of the second-floor window of Christ Lutheran Church — big things. A pool table crashed to the parking lot. A neighbor called the police.

When they arrived, the pastor told them everything was all right. The cops walked off, scratching their heads. Drop Night was born.

There is nothing in Lansing music history quite like The Underground, a Christian punk concert series that ran from 1996 to 2003 at Christ Lutheran Church at 122 S. Pennsylvania in Lansing.

The origin of Drop Night was just one of many dark tales of The Underground shared at a happy reunion of church members and musicians Nov. 25.

Beards, babies in strollers, studded leather jackets and warm hugs heated up the Blue Owl coffee shop in REO Town. Later that night, four of the most stalwart bands from the series reunited and played one last concert in the church basement.

Alex Delavan, a church member, gathered almost all of the raw, low-tech concert flyers from the series into a book, "Scene and Unseen: Flier Art of the Lansing Underground," unveiled at the reunion.

"Dude, how did you put this together without bawling your head off?" a man said to Delavan.

Scrawled in ink and run off on copy machines, the fliers are a wild soup of flaming skulls, letters dripping with blood and crude-

ly massacred snippets of clip art, including a punk, spike-headed Charlie Brown.

Delavan recalled seeing the fliers lovingly plastered all over the office of Richard Mittwende, youth pastor at Christ Lutheran and founder of The Underground, back in the day.

Mittwende flew in from Austin, Texas, to be at the reunion. He answered every greeting with a nervous quip, but was obviously moved by the sight of so many old friends. He had an advance copy of Delavan's book, but he said he couldn't bring himself to look at it until he was back in Lansing.

"I'd have started crying," he said.

Delavan counted off the Underground's final statistics: 388 performances, 197 bands, 113 flyers.

"I didn't realize that many bands played,"

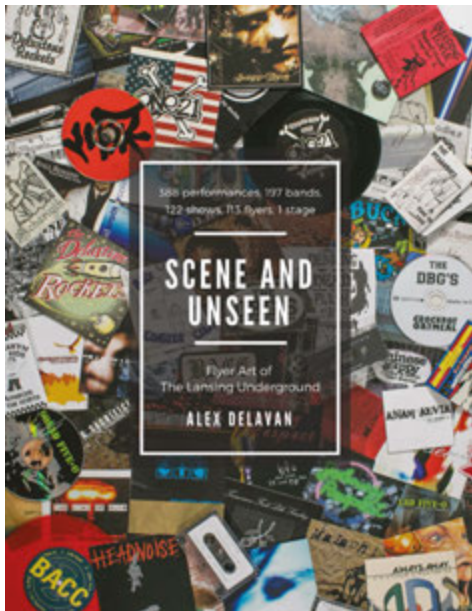
Mittwende cracked. "There should have been less. Some of them shouldn't have played."

Delavan said The Underground, with its 175-seat capacity and Styrofoam blocks in the windows, will never go down in the history books alongside legendary clubs like the Roxy, CBGB's, Gilman Street, Stone Pony or the Fillmore.

"But this was ours," Delavan said.

David Thiele, a pastor at Christ Lutheran from 1988 to 2007,

said The Underground was a place where kids who loved punk, death metal and grindcore "could come and listen to a different story coming out of those songs." "That message was going to be Christian, in the beginning, but it morphed into some-



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Randy Ladiski and Nate Lutz catch up at a Nov. 25 reunion in Lansing 15 years after their bands played the Underground, a Christian punk concert series that ran from 1996 to 2003 at Christ Lutheran Church. Former pastor David Thiele, at left, looks on.

thing broader," Thiele said.

The names of the bands in the early concerts reflect the religious origins of the series: Bones of Adam, Fearless Souls, Jesus Flying Rocketship. Later, the concerts took in a broader swath of local and national bands.

Many were evangelistic shredders who earned credibility in the Christian death metal scene. Some of them barked and growled uplifting messages in deathcore style; others painted vivid soundscapes of sinners being fried and Satan being slaughtered.

"Mortification was a huge deal," Mittwende said, referring to an Australian death metal band that sold hundreds of thousands of CDs. "I still can't believe we got them, but they were on tour. I emailed them and had a date to fill."

Mittwende said he modeled the concerts after punk shows in Grand Rapids, Detroit and Flint.

"There was no place for young people in the hard music scene, no under-21 shows," Mittwende said. "But we were a church group. We wanted them to know about Jesus, that the church cared about them and there was a place for them."

He admitted that the idea of punk rock in

the church freaked a few people out.

"There was some friction at first," Mittwende said. "I don't think people understood. When people came and met me and met some of the kids, they at least said 'OK' and some were very supportive."

"It's just incredible," musician Randy Ladiski of Elsie said, surveying the crammed coffee shop. Ladiski was in two bands that played the Underground, Bestiary and Pyrrhic Victory. "A lot of these people, I haven't seen in 15 years. It's super emotional. A big part of my formative years was going to the Underground."

Delavan coaxed Mittwende into reminiscing a bit more about Drop Night. When headline band Anguish Unsaid didn't show up for the Aug. 27, 2000 gig, Mittwende got on the mic. "I don't think they're coming," he announced. "Do you guys want to throw a pool table off the second floor?"

Mittwende said he was planning to throw the pool table out anyway.

"It's time to address the elephant in the room," Delavan said to Mittwende. "What happened to your ponytail?"

"The funny thing is, I still have it," Mittwende quipped.

"I just forgot to bring it."

## Dark side of theater

Two intimate one-acts showcase student actors for one night only

By PAUL WOZNAK

In case you missed the solar eclipse, but still want to be moved by beautiful things in the dark, you have a chance tonight at Riverwalk Theatre.

For one night only, the current class of master's students from Michigan State University's Department of Theatre will perform scenes from plays by Harold Pinter, along with a talkback with the audience.

Pinter's "Ashes to Ashes" and "The Lover" are not cosmic marvels, but they are dark, complex explorations of relationships

and a chance to see master's level actors honing their craft.

Director Mark Colson, who is also assistant professor of media acting, said he chose Pinter because he wanted to challenge his students while leaving the interpretation up to them.

"Pinter's work is like an amazingly difficult puzzle or equation," Colson said. "It is the job of the actor to fill in the missing pieces of the character: core values, primal needs, desires, contradictions and inner conflict," Colson said. In addition to character work, the actors had to figure out what to do with extra space. "As a rehearsal tool, I would have the students take thirty seconds for each pause and one minute for each silence," Colson said. "Silences are very exciting because in these moments the scene could go in any number of directions."

Colson was also inspired by Pinter's signature dark tone. "I'm drawn to Pinter in the same way I'm drawn to the work of David Lynch,"

he said. "They both have a fascination with the deeply troubled, often emotionally twisted core desires within people, all covered by the shiny facade of socially acceptable respectability."

Kathryn Stahl, 30, is a third-year master's student from Auburn, Wash. She said interpreting an abstract script like "Ashes to Ashes" is a process of communication and trust with your scene partner. "The joy about working with a script that's open more to interpretation is letting the creative side of yourself and your acting partner kind of come to life in it," Stahl said. "It could have been taken so many ways. It was a lot of exploration and failure to find out a rhythm of honest communication."

Typically, these intimate, semester-end performances would be performed to MSU faculty only, but Colson said he wanted to branch out. "We don't usually present final scenes to anyone, but the graduate students' work has been really strong," he said. "I wanted to share that with a larger audience."

Colson also wanted the students to be

exposed to Riverwalk Theatre for potential acting opportunities and introduce them to the vibrant theatrical scene here in Lansing.

"When we first came to Lansing, Riverwalk gave my family an artistic home and welcomed us into the community," Colson said. "All of my children have performed on the Riverwalk stages. It was a natural choice that we would go to them first."

From the student's perspective, Stahl said she's excited to be performing outside of the confines of the university. "In grad school, there's not a lot of opportunity to get involved in the community because our time is so jam packed," Stahl said. "This is a wonderful chance to get out and get into the community. I'm so happy it's happening in the third year" at MSU, "but I wish it had happened in the first."

Have arts and entertainment news? Please send it to interim arts editor Rich Tupica at arts@lansingcitypulse.com or call him at (517) 999-5068.

# Forever young

'Finding Neverland' stars TV veteran John Davidson as Captain Hook

By RICH TUPICA

The rousing tale of "Finding Neverland" may have entered the mainstream consciousness via the Academy Award-winning film starring Johnny Depp, but its rapidly evolving legacy has lived on since its 2004 theatrical run.

In 2012, the story was adapted into an English musical from Allan Knee's 1998 play, "The Man Who Was Peter Pan."

## "Finding Neverland"

Dec. 12-17  
Wharton Center  
Cobb Great Hall  
Tickets from \$43  
(517) 432-2000  
For show times, visit:  
whartoncenter.com

Three years later it crossed the pond and landed on Broadway.

But the true roots of the story — which recount playwright J.M. Barrie's creation of Peter Pan — harkens back to the early 1900s. Billy Harrigan Tighe, who portrays Barrie in the musical's national tour, said he did some light sleuthing on the late playwright and his connection to the inspirational family of Sylvia Llewelyn Davies (who is portrayed by Lael Van Keuren), but he didn't get caught up in the niceties.

"I did a fair amount of research, so I was educated," Tighe said. "Though, I stayed focused on telling the story we're telling. I think our show is inspired by the original tale, but wouldn't say it follows it too closely."

The biographical fantasy, directed by Tony Award-winner Diane Paulus, might be centered on the beloved children's story, but Tighe said it's not solely for the little ones.

"There's a hesitation when people hear 'Peter Pan,'" Tighe said. "They see 'Finding Neverland' and think, 'That sounds like a kid's show and not what I want to do for my date night.' I get that, but that's not what we're doing here."

While Tighe, 32, said the production delivers plenty for children to engage in, "Finding Neverland" digs deeper into the spirit of the heartening tale.

"Barrie was an adult, going through a really difficult time in his life, when he wrote 'Peter Pan,'" Tighe said. "He did it to inspire himself and to inspire others. So, when I re-approached Peter Pan as an adult, I learned more about what's metaphorically going on in the story and all the themes —



Photo by Jeremy Daniel  
Billy Harrigan Tighe\_(left) and John Davidson perform in "Finding Neverland."

things I didn't notice as a child."

As for the dreamlike set, Tighe said it's a mixed bag of cinematic projections and actual stage magic.

"What they've done is create this sort of foot in both worlds," he explained. "There are moments that allow your creativity to

take storm, you envision things that aren't necessarily there — like the kids flying. Then we also have these lavish, amazing projections and set pieces that transform the world entirely."

See Neverland, Page 13

# Noble fruit

Lange Choral Ensemble gets and gives the Christmas spirit

After months of hard work and a tricky end run around a collapsed church wall, the annual Christmas concert by the venerable Lange Choral Ensemble is finally nigh. A tradition for more than 40 years, the concert will include classics by masters of polyphony such as

## Christmas Alleluias The Lange Choral Ensemble

3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10  
\$10 adults, \$8 seniors and students  
First Presbyterian Church  
510 West Ottawa St., Lansing

Palestrina and J.S. Bach, along with newer works in the same devotional, uplifting spir-

it by composers such as Norwegian Kim Andre Arnesen, British Bob Chilcott, Welsh Paul Mealor and Connecticut composer Steven Sametz.

The director, Steven Lange, formed the ensemble with his wife, Nancy Lange, the vocal music director at Grand Ledge High School for 38 years, back in January 1975. Its first concert took place in May of that year.

"We were looking for a way to challenge ourselves as singers and directors," Steven Lange said.

A mathematics graduate from Michigan State University, Lange went on to earn other degrees from MSU before spending the next 45 years working at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, where he retired three years ago.

Originally dubbed "The Lange Early

Music Ensemble," the group initially specialized in music from the Renaissance and Baroque periods but later expanded to contemporary music.

After many years at St. Paul's, this year's Christmas concert is the first in a new location: First Presbyterian Church, 510 West Ottawa St., Lansing.

"We had to change venues in the spring because of problems within the building," Lange said, referring to St. Paul's. "A wall separated from the rest of the building, so it's important people take a notice to our new change in venue."

The choir also presents a concert during the spring. Rehearsing for the two concerts takes up most of the time allotted for the choir, so they rarely sing on any other occasion.

"Singing music involves our entire being:

our body, our minds, our emotions and our souls," Lange said. "Singing in a group offers a sense of community and an opportunity to express some of the most noble activities we can engage in — offering the fruits and talents of one's own being to bless others with beauty and joy. When molding and shaping one's own voice to match that of others, we often find great satisfaction."

"Christmas Alleluias" will also showcase the talents of harpist Deidreanna Potter and Stephanie Gewirtz on piano and organ. Taking on vocal solos are Claire Bellamy, Kate McDougall, Larissa Clark, Brooke Broughton, Kate Powe and Vicki Walker.

For those looking to sing along, there will be audience participation at the end of the program, with a rendition of one stanza of "Silent Night" to close the evening.

— ALEXA MATTHEW

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# CURTAIN CALL

## 'Beau Jest' at Williamston Theater delivers funny family dynamics

By TOM HELMA

What's a "nice Jewish girl" doing with a boyfriend named Chris Kringle? Vanessa Sawson is Sarah Goldman, who lives with Chris, but when her parents find out, they are appalled at her choice, referencing to him disparagingly as "Santa Claus." Oy!

In an appropriately agitated manner, she pretends to ditch him and makes up a fantasy boyfriend who is both a doctor and Jewish. Then she looks to an escort service to provide her with a warm body, someone to represent the boyfriend at her father's birthday celebration.

Enter Bob, aka Dr. David Steinberg (Michael Lopetrone), an occasionally employed actor who doubles as an escort for older ladies. He's not Jewish, but it turns out he's a pretty good actor, improvising a Jewish persona throughout the birthday celebration, sounding more Jewish than the actual (occasionally stereotypical) American Jews.

Lopetrone has the best lines of the play, awkward situations in which he gets to be inspirationally innovative.

When the nuclear family shows up — mom, dad, and a psychotherapist brother — they are delighted with Dr. Steinberg, not realizing his extensive knowledge of Jewish culture comes almost entirely from an actor's immersion in "Fiddler on the Roof."

A second visit ensues, unveiling a raucous Seder. It invites the audience to witness and understand the historic significance of the event, but also how families handle this history with an internal sense of lightheartedness.

Lopetrone dazzle-dances his way through this scene, impressing the family and the audience.

Sandra Birch is Miriam Goldberg, the mother. Her overbearing manner borders on the exaggerative, but never takes it too far. The mother-and-daughter dynamics are laughable, and familiar to men and women — but especially to mothers and daughters. Fred Buchalter is dear old dad, Abe. He's the salt of the earth, an elder, plodding curmudgeon, with somewhat fragile health. Buchalter handles this role well, with affectations and embellishments that create a warm and loving character.

David Wolber as the real boyfriend, Chris, and Patrick Loos, as little brother/psychotherapist Joel, have minor roles in this tender comedy, but portray their characters with artful grace. Loos, in particular, in Act Two, professionally navigates the tricky triangulation of mediation, bridging the inevitable conflicts that arise when parents find out the truth.

Wolber's portrayal of Chris presents the odd man out in this seriocomic drama, a fish out of water who sweats impotent exasperation when things do not go his way. Wolber stalks, paces and throws up his hands to no avail, but his frustration is both understandable and authentically played.

Director Tony Casselli has added some creative elements to staging, transitioning from one scene to another by half-lighting the stage and having actors come in and leave, miming hellos and goodbyes in speed dial. This is enhanced by John Lepard's Klezmer-inspired histrionic sound design.

Friday night's "Beau Jest" performance ended with a lengthy, rousing standing ovation and was followed by a lingering crowd of chatty, pleased attendees.

## Neverland

from page 12

Co-starring in the production is veteran, singer-entertainer, John Davidson, best known for hosting "That's Incredible!," "Hollywood Squares" in the '80s, and the 1991 revival of "The \$100,000 Pyramid."

"I was overjoyed to get the part," said Davidson, who portrays both the bombastic producer Charles Frohman and the electrifying Captain James Hook. "At my age, to get a 45-week contract is phenomenal. I've never had such a great role. I'm 75 and just tearing up the stage and having so much fun."

Davidson, whose high-profile resume also includes more than 80 guest-host spots on "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson," started his career on Broadway in the mid-'60s and never lost his desire for the stage.

"The thrill of live theater is hard to turn down, especially with this part," Davidson said. "Both of my characters drive the show forward — they're not wallflowers. When I play Charles, the producer, I'm trying to get J.M. Barrie to not write 'Peter Pan.' Then, as Captain Hook, I am trying to talk him into it, telling him to find the child within, and to write his own story — not what everyone else is telling you to write. That's good

advice for all of us."

With more than 50 years of work behind him, Davidson's longevity is inspiring to his castmates, including Tighe, a Georgia native now living just over the Hudson River in New Jersey. "John Davidson is great," he said. "He's got a thousand stories for anything you could possibly ask him about, which is always fun, and I love the youthful energy he brings to the stage."

Tighe's big break came in 2013, when he landed a role in the Broadway revival of "Pippin." Two years later, he got the role of Elder Kevin Price in "The Book of Mormon." Positive reviews led him to "Finding Neverland."

It's his first job as a leading man, but he's quick to credit the show's musically-talented young performers.

"What's really wonderful about this production is the children," Tighe said. "At the core of our story is a guy who's found his life in a rut because he's allowed himself to focus too much on the goals of being an adult. Working with the children is a daily reminder as to what's most important about our show. They're full of energy, spontaneity and creativity, and that's what 'Finding Neverland' is all about."

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## Schuler Books & Music

### Book Signing: *Behind the Bench: Inside the Minds of Hockey's Greatest Coaches*

Sat., Dec. 9 from 3-5pm  
Eastwood Towne Center location

Meet author, Craig Custance — longtime NHL reporter and editor-in-chief of The Athletic Detroit — and get a perfect present for the hockey fan in your life, as he signs his new book *Behind the Bench: Inside the Minds of Hockey's Greatest Coaches!*

### Richard P. Smith Booksigning

Dec. 12 & 13 from 2-8pm  
Dec. 16 & 17, noon to 6pm  
Meridian Mall location

Richard P. Smith, author of *Great Michigan Deer Tales*, will visit Schuler Books for his annual book signing, featuring his various titles, including *Animal Tracks and Signs of North America*, and *Understanding Michigan Black Bear*. These books make a perfect gift for hard-to-buy-for-family members who love to hunt!

### Special Story-time with CARL SAMS

Sat., December 16 @ 11am  
Meridian Mall location

Join us for a special story-time with Carl Sams, award-winning photographer and author of the holiday classic picture book, *A Stranger in the Woods*, as well as a new board book, *A Winter's Gift*.

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

## Book lust

### Nancy Pearl's 'George & Lizzie' is racy and deep

By BILL CASTANIER

If anyone still thinks that librarians are boring, unimaginative and staid, Nancy Pearl's new book, "George & Lizzie," will set them straight.

Nancy Pearl, a graduate of the University of Michigan who lives in Seattle, is a librarian with national chops. In her 30-year career she started the nation's first community-read program, became a regular literary contributor on National Public Radio, has a weekly TV show called "Book Lust" and wrote a memoir of her lifetime of reading, also called "Book Lust."

She also is the first librarian, and probably the last, to have an action figure modeled after her.

"Lust" and "action" take a front seat (and sometimes a back seat) in Pearl's first try at fiction. Lizzie, the daughter of two world-famous U-M behavioral psychology professors, is on a quest to have sex with all 23 of the starting players on her high school football team. Lizzie can count, by the way — she knows a football team has 11 players each on defense and offense, but she decides to add the kicker for good measure.

What she doesn't know is that the "Great Game," as she calls it, entails a lifetime of consequences. Although Pearl doesn't dwell on the sex, she does intersperse Lizzie's assignations throughout the book. For the record, Pearl underscores that no portion of the book is autobiographical.

In many ways the "Great Game" is only

the hook to get you into the underlying subject matter — love, marriage and family. Two suburbanites, George and Lizzie, enter into a union that is more for convenience than love. Lizzie still pines for the boy who left her behind after learning about the "Great Game."

A large portion of the book is set in Ann Arbor, and Pearl has a knack for describing its upscale environs and quirks. The scene where a stoned Lizzie meets serious George at the bowling alley is hilarious.

Pearl had no intention of writing a book of fiction after she retired. She was settling in to some teaching, with speaking engagements on the side.

"George and Lizzie came to me. They just appeared to me in my head. I knew they met in a bowling alley and that Lizzie was a freshman at U-M," she said in a telephone conversation from her Seattle home.

"Then I thought about it all the time. It became part of my daily life and I discovered more and more about them."

At the time, Pearl was trying to find the right book to read and couldn't find one. That's when her own novel grew legs.

"I was looking for a book that was character driven, quirky and had an unconventional literary structure. I realized the book I was writing in my head was it."

Pearl wrote poetry in high school and

college and began writing short stories while in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Redbook published one short story and encouraged her to send more.

"I submitted everything I wrote to them, but I would get back notes that the writing was too depressing for the audience," she said. "Stillwater was not a happy time in my life."

She moved on, leaving a writing career behind for a life of finding good books for people to read.

At a time in our history when Americans are on hyper-alert about sexual overtones in their lives, Pearl said she has had only one complaint about the "Great Game."

"One reviewer couldn't believe that anyone would behave like her (Lizzie)," she said. Nevertheless, Pearl has no problem viewing the book with a librarian's eye.

"The book is not for everybody," she said. "Very few books are for everybody."

Pearl has written a page-turner that combines stand-up humor, gripping emotions and plenty of literary references.

In many ways "George & Lizzie" is a cliff-hanger. Will Lizzie and George find true love in their marriage of convenience or will youthful lust and indiscretions continue to haunt Lizzie? The reader won't find out until the final sentence on the final page.

November 16 - December 23, 2017



By James Sherman

What happens when your parents want to come over for dinner and meet your boyfriend, but you know they won't approve so you hire someone to impersonate him?

Find out in this hilariously charming family comedy with a tender heart.

Thanksgiving

Weekend

Fri. Nov. 24 @ 3PM

Fri. Nov. 24 @ 8PM

Sat. Nov. 25 @ 3PM

Sat. Nov. 25 @ 8PM

Sun. Nov. 26 @ 2PM

Directed by Tony Caselli

Featuring: Sandra Birch,  
Fred Buchalter, Patrick Loos,  
Michael Lopetrone,  
Vanessa Sawson, David Wolber

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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 Ella at (517) 999-6704.

## Wednesday, December 06

### CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Homework Help. From 5 to 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.  
Mindfulness. From 7 to 9 p.m. Chua Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Washington Lansing.  
Open Studio Life Drawing. From 7 to 9:30 p.m. Model fee \$2 students (LCC, MSU, High School), \$5 all others. Kresge Art Center, 600 Auditorium East Lansing.  
Practice Your English. From 7 to 8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.  
Schrödinger Homeschool Academy Information Session. From 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. FREE. Unitarian Universalist Church, 5509 S. Pennsylvania Ave. Lansing.  
Starting a Business. From 9 to 11 a.m. FREE. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Sq. Suite 110 Lansing.

### MUSIC

Strvinsky and Schubert, Sounds of the Season, Lansing Matinee Musicale sponsored program. From 11 a.m. to noon Free. Ascension Lutheran Church, 2780 Haslett Road East Lansing.  
Tavern House Jazz Band. From 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 a.m. Tavern and Tap, 101 S. Washington Square Lansing.

### EVENTS

Holiday Open House & Reindeer Visit (All ages). From 6:30 to 8 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Downtown Lansing Branch, 401 South Capitol Avenue Lansing. 517-367-6363.  
Holiday Open House & Reindeer Visit (All ages). From 5 to 6:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Williamston Branch, 201 School Street Williamston. 517.655.1191.  
Hour of Code Workshop. From 7 to 8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.  
Lansing Coat Bank. From 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. FREE. St. Lukes Lutheran Church, 122 S. Pennsylvania Ave. Lansing. 517-339-9119.  
MSU International Student Speaker - Senior Discovery Group. From 10 a.m. to noon FREE. Allen Market Place, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St. Lansing.  
Reindeer Visit (All ages). From 4 to 5:30 p.m. Capital Area District Libraries Okemos Branch, 4321 Okemos Road Okemos. 517.347.2021.  
Reindeer Visit (All ages). From 3:30 to 5 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Webberville Branch, 115 South Main Street Webberville. 517.521.3643.  
Wine Night. From 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. \$15. UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St. Lansing.

## Thursday, December 07

### CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

(TOPS) Take Off Pounds Sensibly. At 6 p.m. First meeting FREE.. Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St. Haslett.  
A Course in Miracles. From 7 to 9 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes Lansing. 517-371-3010.  
Capital Area Crisis Rugby Practice. From 6 to 8 p.m. FREE. St. Joseph Park, 2125 W. Hillsdale Lansing. 555-555-5555.  
Free Yoga for Kids and Youth. From 5:30 to 7:15 p.m. FREE for Youth ages 6-13. Parents pay usual rates. . Bikram Yoga Capital Area, 1355 E. Grand River Ave East Lansing. 517-862-8926.  
Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. At 5:45 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 346-9900.  
Preschool Science Explorations: Life in an Evergreen. From 1 to 2:30 p.m. \$4/child. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.  
Spanish Conversation Group. From 7 to 8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

### LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

MacDonald Middle School Book Group. From 3 to 4 p.m. FREE. MacDonald Middle School, 1601 Burcham Dr. East Lansing. (517) 333-7600.

### MUSIC

New Horizons Community Band. From 9 to 11 a.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road East Lansing. (517) 355-7661.  
Events1  
2-Step Meeting. From 12 to 1 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome.. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St. Lansing. Capital Area Audubon Society. From 7 to 9 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave. Lansing. (517) 483-4224.  
Ladies Silver Blades Figure Skating Club. From 9:30 to 11:20 a.m. \$5 and yearly dues fee. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd. East Lansing.  
Lunch at the Meridian Senior Center. From 12 to 1 p.m. \$5.75/\$3 suggested for ages 60+. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.  
Party Bridge. From 1 to 4 p.m. \$1 Members/\$2 Public. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.  
Sharpie Tie Dye (Ages 5?18). From 4 to 5 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Holt-Delhi Branch, 2078 Aurelius Road Holt. 517.694.9351.

### ARTS

Ballroom Lessons (Pasodoble). From 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. \$42 per couple; \$21 individual. Jackson School of the Arts, 634 N. Mechanic St. Jackson. (517) 784-2389.

## Friday, December 08

### CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Elementary Economics Class. From 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.  
Literature-and-Poetry  
yStoryTime. From 10:30 to 11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

### MUSIC

Holiday Concert Men or Orpheus Male Chorus. From 7 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Donation requested.. Molly Grove Chapel of First Presbyterian Church, 510 West Ottawa St. Lansing.

### EVENTS\*

Movie Night--Star Wars: The Force Awakens (Age 13 & up). From 6 to 8:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Mason Branch, 145 W. Ash St. Mason. 517-676-9088.  
Holiday Craft Show. From 4 to 9 p.m. free. Inner Ascended Masters Ministry, 5705 S. Washington Ave. Lansing.

## Saturday, December 09

See Out on the Town Page 18

## Christmas-themed pub crawl to feature dozens of drunken Santas



Dec. 11

Courtesy Photo

A SantaCon pub crawl hosted in Columbus, Ohio. Grid Bar and Arcade co-founder Corey Montie dons the black outfit.

Imagine, if you will, a crowded city street where a horde of drunken folks in Santa Claus costumes roam in search of their next drink.

Such a vision would normally be reserved for a holiday-themed fever dream, but SantaCon, a special pub crawl requiring its participants to dress as the jolly old man, will become reality on Monday.

"It creates a whole different atmosphere," said SantaCon organizer Corey Montie. "Everyone's saying 'ho-ho-ho' and singing Christmas carols — but you know, we're out having a drink here and there."

The crawl kicks off Monday evening at the Grid Arcade & Bar (226 E. Grand River Ave, Lansing) and then makes its way to nearby Old Town establishments Creole, Zoobies, Unicorn Lounge and Meat Southern BBQ & Carnivore Cuisine. The festive journey wraps up at its final destination, Spiral Dance Bar.

While each establishment is likely to have its own special features, such as holiday cocktails, in the good spirit of Christmas all participating locations will also donate \$1 from every drink purchased toward a Lansing food bank of their choice.

SantaCon — an international event — was put together locally by Montie, who co-founded the Grid Arcade & Bar. Montie spent eight years living in San Francisco, home of the original SantaCon. This is where he first participated and fell in love with the festive pub crawl. After many Bay Area celebrations, Montie donned the red velvet in New York, Portland and even in some cities overseas, like Hong Kong.

Montie returned to Lansing in 2015 and kept busy founding the Grid Arcade & Bar, which opened this April — but he never abandoned his passion for tippy St. Nick.

"It's really different from any night

out around the town," he said. "People automatically want to get into the Christmas spirit. Everyone is always smiling, always laughing, always friendly, always having fun. You don't see the typical bar rowdiness." SantaCon's origins go back to San Francisco in 1994, where it was concocted by the San Francisco Cacophony Society with inspiration from fellow Bay Area pranksters the Suicide Club.

The late Suicide Club leader Gary Warne plotted a stunt called "Santarchy," which was based on a newspaper article about a Danish political protest where participants mobbed a department store dressed as Santa and handed out its products to shoppers for free.

This illegal publicity stunt by the Danes was designed to draw attention to the rampant consumerism of Christmas. Ironically, its legacy focuses entirely on consumption, albeit beer rather than video games or fancy clothes.

The original idea behind Santarchy was much darker in tone than the now jovial spirit of SantaCon and, despite being inspired by European anarchists, SantaCon has no true political bent. It doesn't even endorse nor decry Christianity. Barely qualifying as a true prank, its goal is instead to create a hilarious spectacle.

Participants are obligated to wear a full Santa outfit and are encouraged to refer to each other as Santa. Although SantaCon is an alcohol-fueled celebration, its official guidelines encourage people not to act belligerently. The guidelines also encourage participants not to talk to the media, as they are representing Santa Claus and therefore their own personal statements could be misconstrued as coming from Mr. Claus himself. We'll see if that holds after they've had a few.

— SKYLER ASHLEY

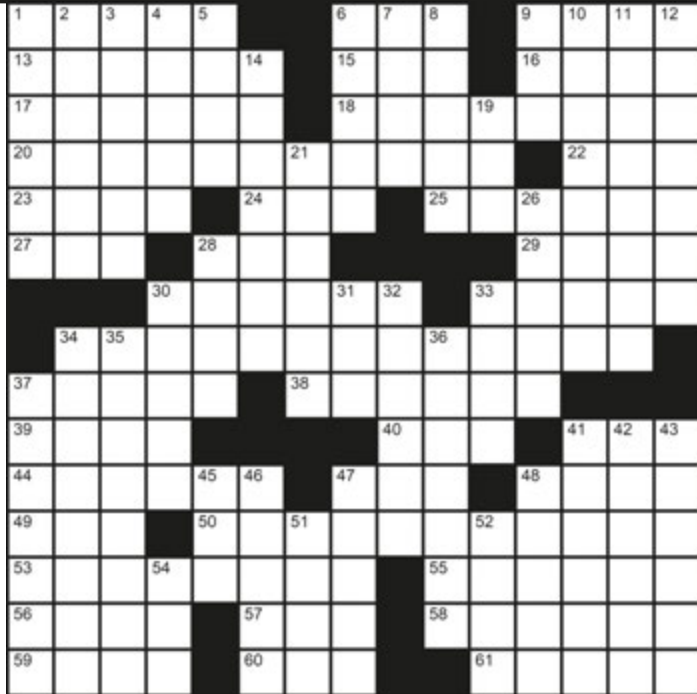
# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"You're the Toppings"-- get a pizza the action.

**Across**

- 1 Put on \_\_\_ of paint
- 6 Carmaker based in Munich
- 9 Former world power, for short
- 13 It's formed by small droplets and shows white rings (unlike its colorful rainy counterpart)
- 15 "Go team!" cheer
- 16 Part of some organs
- 17 As an example
- 18 Party table item
- 20 Peace offering
- 22 Dir. opposite of WSW
- 23 Get up (get on up!)
- 24 Lout
- 25 "Just a sec"
- 27 Homer Simpson exclamation
- 28 Scone topper
- 29 August, in Avignon
- 30 Frolicked
- 33 Mary, Queen of \_\_\_
- 34 Kitchen gadgets that really shred
- 37 Faker than fake
- 38 Gadget
- 39 Bygone Italian money
- 40 According to
- 41 Marshawn Lynch and Emmitt Smith, e.g.
- 44 Latent
- 47 Reznor's band, initially
- 48 Pickled vegetable
- 49 Fin. neighbor
- 50 Scale on a review site that determines if movies are "Certified Fresh"
- 53 Amateur



- broadcaster's equipment, once
- 55 Treat table salt, in a way
- 56 Sherlock Hemlock's catchphrase on "Sesame Street"
- 57 Shady tree
- 58 Grade that's passing, but not by much
- 59 1040 IDs
- 60 Go slaloming
- 61 Collect together
- Down**
- 1 Be able to buy
- 2 "Gangsta's Paradise" rapper
- 3 Monstrous, like Shrek
- 4 None of the \_\_\_
- 5 Subdue, with "down"
- 6 "\_\_\_ City" (Comedy Central series)
- 7 'Til Tuesday bassist/singer Aimee
- 8 Question of choice
- 9 Network merged into the CW in 2006
- 10 Sneaky way into a building
- 11 Racecar mishaps
- 12 Feels contrite
- 14 Monitor-topping recorders
- 19 "What have we here?"
- 21 Increased, with "up"
- 26 Tied, in a way
- 28 Baby kangaroo
- 30 "Same Kind of Different As Me" actress Zellweger
- 31 I strain?
- 32 "End of discussion"
- 33 Touchtone keypad button
- 34 Gossip sessions, slangily
- 35 BoJack of an animated Netflix series
- 36 Lymphatic mass near a tonsil
- 37 Some stuffed animals
- 41 Part of the eye with rods and cones
- 42 Ramona's sister, in Beverly Cleary books
- 43 Put emphasis on
- 45 Flight info, briefly
- 46 Computer network terminals
- 47 "The Book of Henry" actress Watts
- 48 Make shadowy
- 51 Cereal partner
- 52 Home of Warhol's "Campbell's Soup Cans," for short
- 54 Some city map lines, for short

©2017 Jonesin' Crosswords • For answers to this puzzle, call: 1-900-226-2800, 99 cents per minute. Must be 18+. Or to bill to your credit card, call: 1-800-655-6548. **Answers Page 19**

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsky

Dec. 6- Dec. 12

**Aries** (March 21-April 19) You may get richer quicker in 2018, Aries -- especially if you refuse to sell out. You may accumulate more clout -- especially if you treat everyone as your equal and always wield your power responsibly. I bet you will also experience deeper, richer emotions -- especially if you avoid people who have low levels of emotional intelligence. Finally, I predict you will get the best sex of your life in the next 12 months -- especially if you cultivate the kind of peace of mind in which you'll feel fine about yourself if you don't get any sex at all. P.S.: You'd be wise to start working on these projects immediately.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20) The members of the fungus family, like mushrooms and molds, lack chlorophyll, so they can't make food from sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide. To get the energy they need, they "eat" plants. That's lucky for us. The fungi keep the earth fresh. Without them to decompose fallen leaves, piles of compost would continue to accumulate forever. Some forests would be so choked with dead matter that they couldn't thrive. I invite you to take your inspiration from the heroic fungi, Taurus. Expedite the decay and dissolution of the worn-out and obsolete parts of your life.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20) I'm guessing you have been hungrier than usual. At times you may have felt voracious, even insatiable. What's going on? I don't think this intense yearning is simply about food, although it's possible your body is trying to compensate for a nutritional deficiency. At the very least, you're also experiencing a heightened desire to be understood and appreciated. You may be aching for a particular quality of love that you haven't been able to give or get. Here's my theory: Your soul is famished for experiences that your ego doesn't sufficiently value or seek out. If I'm correct, you should meditate on what your soul craves but isn't getting enough of.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22) The brightly colored birds known as bee-eaters are especially fond of eating bees and wasps. How do they avoid getting stung? They snatch their prey in mid-air and then knock them repeatedly against a tree branch until the stinger falls off and the venom is flushed out. In the coming weeks, Cancerian, you could perhaps draw inspiration from the bee-eaters' determination to get what they want. How might you be able to draw nourishment from sources that aren't entirely benign? How could you extract value from influences that you have be careful with?

**Leo** (July 23-August 22) The coming months will be a ripe time to revise and rework your past -- to reconfigure the consequences that emerged from what happened once upon a time. I'll trust you to make the ultimate decisions about the best ways to do that, but here are some suggestions. 1. Revisit a memory that has haunted you, and do a ritual that resolves it and brings you peace. 2. Go back and finally do a crucial duty you left unfinished. 3. Return to a dream you wandered away from prematurely, and either re-commit yourself to it, or else put it to rest for good.

**Virgo** (August 23-September 22) The astrological omens suggest that now is a favorable time to deepen your roots and bolster your foundations and revitalize traditions that have nourished you. Oddly enough, the current planetary rhythms are also conducive to you and your family and friends playing soccer in the living room with a ball made from rolled-up socks, pretending to be fortune-telling psychics and giving each other past-life readings, and gathering around the kitchen table to formulate a conspiracy to achieve world domination. And no, the two sets of advice I just gave you are not contradictory.

**Libra** (September 23-October 22) In accordance with the long-term astrological omens, I invite you to make five long-term promises to yourself. They were formulated by the teacher Shannen Davis.

Say them aloud a few times to get a feel for them. 1. "I will make myself eminently teachable through the cultivation of openness and humility." 2. "I won't wait around hoping that people will give me what I can give myself." 3. "I'll be a good sport about the consequences of my actions, whether they're good, bad, or misunderstood." 4. "As I walk out of a room where there are many people who know me, I won't worry about what anyone will say about me." 5. "I will only pray for the things I'm willing to be the answer to."

**Scorpio** (October 23-November 21) To discuss a problem is not the same as doing something practical to correct it. Many people don't seem to realize this. They devote a great deal of energy to describing and analyzing their difficulties, and may even imagine possible solutions, but then neglect to follow through. And so nothing changes. The sad or bad situation persists. Of all the signs in the zodiac, you Scorpios are among the least prone to this disability. You specialize in taking action to fulfill your proposed fixes. Just this once, however, I urge you to engage in more inquiry and conversation than usual. Just talking about the problem could cure it.

**Sagittarius** (November 22-December 21) As far back as ancient Egypt, Rome, and Greece, people staged ceremonies to mark the embarkation of a new ship. The intention was to bestow a blessing for the maiden voyage and ever thereafter. Good luck! Safe travels! Beginning in 18th-century Britain and America, such rituals often featured the smashing of a wine bottle on the ship's bow. Later, a glass container of champagne became standard. In accordance with the current astrological indicators, I suggest that you come up with your own version of this celebratory gesture. It will soon be time for your launch.

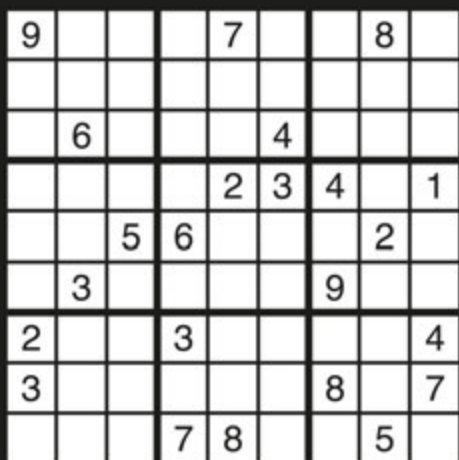
**Capricorn** (December 22-January 19) You may feel quite sure that you've gotten as tall as you're ever going to be. But that may not be true. If you were ever going to add another half-inch or more to your height, the near future would be the time for it. You are in the midst of what we in the consciousness industry call a "growth spurt." The blooming and ripening could occur in other ways, as well. Your hair and fingernails may become longer faster than usual, and even your breasts or penis might undergo spontaneous augmentation. There's no doubt that new brain cells will propagate at a higher rate, and so will the white blood cells that guard your physical health. Four weeks from now, I bet you'll be noticeably smarter, wiser, and more robust.

**Aquarius** (January 20- February 18) You come into a delicatessen where you have to take a numbered ticket in order to get waited on. Oops. You draw 37 and the counter clerk has just called out number 17. That means 20 more people will have their turns before you. Damn! You settle in for a tedious vigil, putting down your bag and crossing your arms across your chest. But then what's this? Two minutes later, the clerk calls out 37. That's you! You go up to the counter and hand in your number, and amazingly enough, the clerk writes down your order. A few minutes later, you've got your food. Maybe it was a mistake, but who cares? All that matters is that your opportunity came earlier than you thought it would. Now apply this vignette as a metaphor for your life in the coming days.

**Pisces** (February 19-March 20) It's one of those bizarre times when what feels really good is in close alignment with what's really good for you, and when taking the course of action that benefits you personally is probably what's best for everyone else, too. I realize the onslaught of this strange grace may be difficult to believe. But it's real and true, so don't waste time questioning it. Relish and indulge in the freedom it offers you. Use it to shush the meddling voice in your head that informs you about what you supposedly SHOULD be doing instead of what you're actually doing.

# SUDOKU

# ADVANCED



## 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 19



# TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE  
BY RICH TUPICA

Fri., Dec. 8

THE STEEL WHEELS



Steel Wheels at Ten Pound Fiddle

Sun., Dec. 10

SHERRY FEST



Sherry Fest at The Avenue Café

Fri. & Sat., Dec. 8-9 SUMMER SON



Summer Son at Tequila Cowboy

Friday, Dec. 8 @ MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Rd., East Lansing. All ages, \$20, \$18 members, \$5 students, 7:30 p.m.

The Steel Wheels, a Virginia-based band known for its soulful brand of contemporary mountain music, return Friday to East Lansing for a Ten Pound Fiddle concert at the MSU Community Music School. In 2015, the four-piece band issued "Leave Some Things Behind," a double 10-inch vinyl set released via Bing Ring Records, the group's own independent label. In May, Steel Wheels followed it up with the "Wild As We Came Here" LP. No Depression, a roots-music publication, hailed it "the best album of their career," adding: "The Wheels deliver 10 singularly brilliant songs that form a cohesive document of life in western Virginia." The band formed in 2004 and released its first proper LP in 2010, "Red Wing." The acclaimed disc was named best country song at the Independent Music Awards.

Sunday, Dec. 10 @ The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 21+, FREE, 6 p.m.

A diverse roster of local indie bands and artists take the stage Sunday at Sherry Fest, a farewell party for local-music supporter and writer Sherry Min Wang. Opening the evening with a 6 p.m. performance is slam-poet Hakeem. From there, live-music takes over with Ella and Brandon (6:45 p.m.), Aaron Meyer (7:30 p.m.), Outside Air (8:15 p.m.), The Scapes (9 p.m.), Zombie Division (9:45 p.m.), Luxury Flux (10:30 p.m.), and Foxhole (11:15 p.m.). Closing the show is KONG – the local DJ work of Cameron McGuffie, known for his chilled fusion of electronica, jazz and hip-hop. As for Min Wang, who graduates this month with a Master's of Arts degree in Journalism from Michigan State University, she has spent the last year covering the Lansing-music scene as a reporter for 88.9-FM the Impact.

Dec. 8-9 @ Tequila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. 21+, FREE, 8 p.m.

Summer Son, a spirited country, folk and electro-bluegrass band, performs two nights of free shows at Tequila Cowboy inside the Lansing Mall. Formed in the summer of 2015, the Chicago-suburbs-based band delivers harmonizing vocals, scorching guitar solos and lightning-fast licks on the banjo and fiddle. The group, founded by guitarist/vocalist Justin Sattazahn, has spent ample time honing its Southern-fried sound on the road, touring from Michigan to Texas – even playing as far out as Hawaii. Lead singer Samantha Masokas spent her college years in the heart of Nashville, studying criminal and pre-law justice at Lipscomb University in Nashville. After earning her degrees, the vocalist decided to follow in the footsteps of her idols Colbie Caillat and Taylor Swift and joined Summer Son in November 2016, replacing the band's previous front woman.

## UPCOMING SHOW?

CONTACT [ELLA@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM](mailto:ELLA@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM)

## LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service industry Night	Free Comedy Night	Dark Art	Hell in a Bucket
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Dale Wicks	Karaoke, 9 pm	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Road	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.	Pool Tourny, 7:30 a.m.	Alskn "walleye" AYCE	DJ, 9 p.m.
Darb's Tavern, 117 S. Cedar St.				Blue Hair Betty's
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.			
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	The Good Cookies Band	Mike Skory & Friends Open Mic	Avon Bomb	Avon Bomb
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Johnny D Blues Night 9 p.m.	Karaoke	Smooth Daddy	The Hot Mess
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	ABK, 7pm	Hundredth, 6:30pm	Todd Barry, 8pm	Heartsick, 7pm
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	Where's Walden? 8pm	Vundabr, 7pm	Bog Wraith, 7:30pm	Earth and Sea, 7pm
Reno's West, 5001 W Saginaw Hwy				The New Rule, 7pm
The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave.		Younce Guitar Duo, 7pm	Broad Underground Film Series, 7pm	REO Town Holiday Pop-Up Market, 10am
Tequila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy.			Summer Son, 8 pm	Summer Son, 8 pm
Watershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd.		Ladies Night	Capitol City DJ's	Capitol City DJ's

# Out on the town

from page 16

## HOLIDAYS

HandCrafted Holiday Sale. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. FREE. Unitarian Universalist Church, 5509 S. Pennsylvania Ave. Lansing

## MUSIC

Capital City Ringers' 34th Annual Holiday Concert: "Ring in the Season." From 7 to 9 p.m. Donation; no tickets needed. Asbury United Methodist Church, 2200 Lake Lansing Road Lansing. (517) 484-5794.

Lansing Concert Band Big Band Christmas Pops Concert. From 7 to 8 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door for only \$10 - Adults, \$5 - Seniors and Students. Children 12 and under will be admitted free!. Wilson Center Auditorium, 101 W. Cass St. St. Johns.

New Horizons Community Band Concert. At 3 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road East Lansing. (517) 353-5340.

## EVENTS

Christmas Beaded Ornament (Adults). From 2:30 to 4 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Okemos Branch, 4321 Okemos Road Okemos. 517.347.2021.

DIY Holiday Gifts & Crafts (All ages). From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries South Lansing Branch, 3500 S. Cedar St. Lansing. 517-272-9840.

Second Saturday Supper. From 5 to 6:15 p.m. \$9 (children \$5). Mayflower Congregational Church, 2901 W Mount Hope Ave. Lansing. (517) 484-3139.

## ARTS

Red Hot. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$75 per participant. Fireworks Glass Studios, 119 S. Putnam St Williamston. (517) 655-4000.

## Sunday, December 10

### CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Charlotte Yoga Club. From 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. \$5 annually. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Charlotte. Juggling. From 2 to 4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St. East Lansing.

## HOLIDAYS

Lansing Symphony: Holiday Pops. From 3 to 5 p.m.

Seasons Greetings! It's the most wonderful time of the year, and the Lansing Symphony is delighted to bring you an afternoon of timeless carols and festive tunes. Hometown guests Demi Fragale and the MSU Youth Chorale join in the fun for this mid-Michigan community tradition. Fill yourself with the joyful spirit of the holidays, and share it with friends, family, and the Lansing Symphony!

Ticket: \$20 - \$55 Student Discount available. Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E Shaw Ln East Lansing. 5173531982.

Nokomis Learning Center Holiday Craft Sale. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. FREE. Nokomis Learning Center, 5153 Marsh Rd Okemos. 517.349.5777.

## MUSIC

LCC Concert Choir. From 4 to 6 p.m. free. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave. Lansing.

## EVENTS

Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance. At 6 p.m. \$8 dance, \$10 dance & lesson. The Lansing Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave. Lansing. (517) 321-0933.

## Monday, December 11

### CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

A Course in Love. From 1 to 2 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes Lansing. 517-371-3010.

Support Group. At 7:30 p.m. St. Davids Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Rd. Lansing. (517) 323-2272.

Support Group for Caretakers of Children with Trauma. From 6 to 7 p.m. FREE. GPS Guide to Personal Solutions, 913 W Holmes Road Suite 141 Lansing. 5176670061.

## LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

BabyTime. From 10:30 to 11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

## MUSIC

New Horizons Community Band. From 6 to 8 p.m. MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road East Lansing. (517) 355-7661.

## EVENTS

\*Personalized Tech Help (Adults). From 3 to 5:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Foster

See Out on the Town Page 19

Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

Terry Terry celebrates the 40th anniversary of MessageMakers, his Old Town-based communications firm, with a party tonight at the company's headquarters. MessageMakers helps clients with live events, video services, branding and customized training programs.



## MESSAGEMAKERS / BLOOM COFFEE ROASTERS

By ALLAN I. ROSS

When Terry Terry started his creative communications firm, MessageMakers, 40 years ago, he was still in college and not far removed from the years he spent as a hitchhiking thrill seeker. Several of his core business offerings — social media integration, digital video production, Internet-based training programs — were more in the realm of science fiction than actual capabilities. And Old Town was still going by its former name, North Lansing.

"We've seen a lot of changes over the years, and we've done a lot of changing, too," Terry said from his high-tech office on the eve of his Ruby Anniversary, flanked by industry awards and flat screens scrolling images of client work. "I guess that's the only thing that's stayed the same after all these years: change."

Terry will incorporate the 40th anniversary celebration into his annual holiday party tonight at his Old Town headquarters, 1217 Turner St. It's a commemoration of a gradual growth process that's taken him from a former bowling alley in the basement of the now-destroyed Michigan Theatre in downtown Lansing to his current team of 10 full-time employees housed in a Habitrail of narrow brick stairways that give way to cutting-edge creative suites.

"I'm constantly learning, and that's what makes this fun," Terry said. "Staying on deadline, on budget and maintaining high quality is a constant challenge that I don't think will ever get old."

MessageMakers is Old Town's longest-running continuous business, having moved to its current location from downtown Lansing five years after its debut in 1977. Little did Terry know that the move would set the stage for the neighborhood's revitalization from a rough-and-tumble block of mostly empty storefronts to a bustling boutique district.

"At times like this, a big anniversary, it's easy to spend a lot of time reflecting on the past," Terry said. "But it's important to always be thinking ahead. You don't want to get distracted by things you can't change."

In the past few years, Terry has continued to expand MessageMakers' offerings, including adding filmmaking to the mix. He recently debuted two documentaries: the 2014 hour-long doc "Second Shift: From Crisis to Collaboration," about the work of Lansing's leaders to keep General Motors in the capital city in the late '90s, and the recently completed "The Business of Good: Young Africa Rising," a 30-minute doc made for Notre Dame about its work with the Young African Leadership Initiative.

Terry has also added event hosting to his event planning services. Last year, he teamed up with partners John and Joni Szykiel to create the UrbanBeat Event Center, transforming what was perhaps Turner Street's most notorious historic business — the rowdy Mustang Bar, which had sat vacant since its closure in 1986 — into an event space and performance venue that can accommodate everything from business breakfasts to weddings. Meanwhile, inside MessageMakers, Terry continues to push the boundaries of turning bleeding-edge technology into client deliverables.

"Right now, we're making our first foray into 360 video and continuing to see what we can do with things like 3-D," Terry said. "That's another fun part of this, seeing what's possible and what's coming."

Looking ahead, Terry said he plans to do more work in Detroit ("It's happening down there, and what's good for Detroit is good for the state") and seek out feature-length film projects, although nothing is "in the hopper" currently. In addition to his current 10 employees, Terry also manages a team of more than 20 freelancers, and he seems confident he has the right pieces in place.

"Right now, I would say I have the best team I've ever had in my 40 years of doing this," he said. "I get to work with a lot of amazing people to create things that have the power to shape people's understanding of the world. We can also show them the possibilities of what can be done. I'm really looking forward to seeing what's next."

### DECEMBER 8>> DARK ART OF MICHIGAN HEAVY METAL HOLIDAY MELTDOWN 2017

This holiday season, the Dark Art of Michigan group hosts its first ever Heavy Metal Holiday Meltdown. Set to perform at the shadowy, but fun shindig is a variety of bands and performer, including Cavalcade, Drink Their Blood, Hordes, Asio Aviance, An Artist Named Tater Tot, Chastity Belt, Sophia Von Stardus and more. There will also be vendors selling and displaying Dark Art of Michigan gifts. Come enjoy some music and art while getting some ghoulish gifts for the holidays. facebook.com/DarkArtMichigan, 21+, 8 p.m. \$10. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

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# Out on the town

from page 18

Branch, 200 North Foster Lansing. 517.485.5185.  
 Chess, Cribbage, Hand & Foot. From 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.  
 Pom Pom Pinecone Ornaments (Ages 9&13). From 4 to 5 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Williamston Branch, 201 School Street Williamston. 517.655.1191.  
 Social Bridge. From 1 to 4 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road Lansing.  
 Arts  
 Monday Night Life Drawing. From 7 to 9 p.m. \$10 per session (\$5 for students) to cover the model and studio.. O'Day Studios, Suite 115 1650 Kendale Blvd. East Lansing.

## Tuesday, December 12

### CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Capital City Toastmasters Meeting. At 7 p.m. FREE for visitors.. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave. Lansing. (517) 367-6300.  
 Duplicate Bridge . From 1 to 4 p.m. \$2 members,

\$3 non members . Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos. Y  
 awn Patrol Toastmasters. From 7 to 8:30 a.m. FREE for visitors.. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St. Lansing.  
**LITERATURE-AND-POETRY**  
 Books on Tap Book Club. At 6:30 p.m. FREE. Jimmy's Pub, 16804 Chandler Road East Lansing. (517) 324-7100.

ToddlerTime. From 10:30 to 11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

### MUSIC

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

### EVENTS

\*Origami Santa (Adults). From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Webberville Branch, 115 South Main Street Webberville. 517.521.3643.

Bingo, Bridge, and Euchre. From 1 to 4:30 p.m. Cost Varies . Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

Game Night at UrbanBeat. From 7 to 11 p.m. FREE. UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St. Lansing.  
 LCC West Toastmasters. From 5 to 6:30 p.m. LCC West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone Drive Lansing. 5174831314.

Mid-day Movies (Adults). From 2 to 4:15 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Downtown Lansing Branch, 401 South Capitol Avenue Lansing. 517-367-6363.

Overeaters Anonymous. At 7 p.m. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road., Okemos. (517) 349-9536.

Reminisce: Christmases Past (Adults). From 2 to 3 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Aurelius Branch, 1939 South Aurelius Road Mason. 517.628.3743. S

TEM Clubs: Coding. From 4 to 5 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Visit with Santa (All ages). From 6:30 to 8 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Okemos Branch, 4321 Okemos Road Okemos. 517.347.2021.

### ARTS

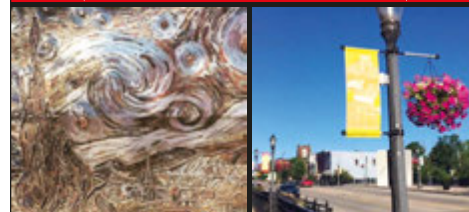
New Horizons Holiday Concert. At 1:30 p.m. FREE. Burcham Hills Retirement Community, 2700 Burcham Drive East Lansing. (517)351-8377.



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### DECEMBER 9-> HOLIDAY SINGING WITH CARRIE QUISENBERRY AT THE TEN POUND FIDDLE

We all know 'em, we all love 'em, now it's your chance to sing 'em with Carrie Quisenberry. The singer will be leading a sing-a-long of classic holiday jingles to kick off the season. There will be songsheets provided. This all-ages event a part of Fiddle Scouts, an interactive group for folk enthusiasts ages 3-13. Refreshments will be served.

10 am. \$3-\$5 Donation is requested at Fiddle Scout meetings. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org

### DECEMBER 7-> CHRISTMAS IN DECEMBER - LCC CONCERT WITH RODNEY PAGE

Rodney Page began playing the violin when he was 10 years old, and a few years ago he began to merge his playing with DJing, creating an eclectic fusion of sounds. Thursday, Page brings his exciting violin Christmas show to LCC's West Campus Auditorium. The event is \$30 per person features an intermission with cake and apple cider.

7 p.m. \$30 per person. Lansing Community College West Campus Auditorium, 5708 Cornerstone Dr., Lansing. worshipinternationalchurch.com, (517)-803-6987.

### SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 16

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### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 16

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