

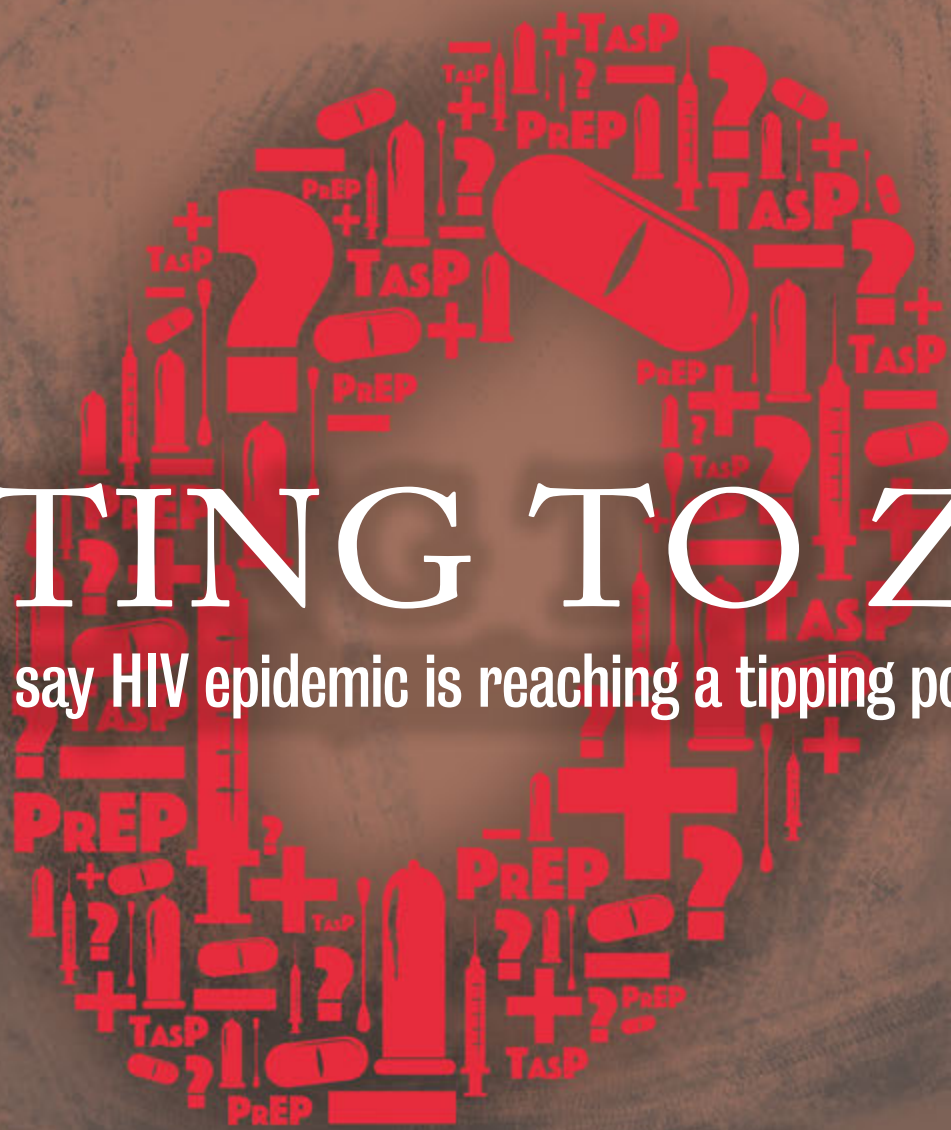
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# CityPULSE

a newspaper for the rest of us

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December 2-8, 2015



## GETTING TO ZERO

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### Keepin' time

Legendary drummer Jimmy Cobb comes to MSU, p. 11

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HOSTED BY **BERL SCHWARTZ**

**WITH GUEST Mark Meadows**  
East Lansing Mayor

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### Correction:

Because of a typographical error, a story in last week's City Pulse incorrectly reported on Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope's plans for checking licenses of contractors. The story should have said that he will check licenses.

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

Now you have two ways to sound off:

1.) Write a letter to the editor:

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

2.) Write a guest column:

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

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

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**JONATHAN GRIFFITH**

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### STATE OF MICHIGAN OFFICE OF THE INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER

In the Matter of: Smith Consolidated Drain

#### NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DETERMINATION

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** to you as a property owner or municipality who may be liable for an assessment for benefits, that the Board of Determination, composed of Ron Flinn, Paulette Hatchett, and John Leonard, or alternate Jennie Nerkowski, will meet on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Meridian Township Hall, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864 to hear all interested persons and evidence and to determine whether it is necessary and conducive to public health, convenience or welfare to consolidate the following Drainage Districts, all of which are located and established within Alaiedon Township, the City of Lansing, or Meridian Charter Township, Ingham County, Michigan:

- Smith Drain Drainage District (located in Sections 27-29 and 32-34 of Meridian Charter Township, Sections 3-5 and 8-10 of Alaiedon Township, Sections 3-4 of the City of Lansing);
- Sunwind Branch of the Smith Drain Drainage District (located in Sections 28-29 and 32-33 of Meridian Charter Township);
- Jolly - Okemos Drain Drainage District (located in Section 33 of Meridian Charter Township);
- Smith, Jolly Oak Branch Drain Drainage District (located in Section 33 of Meridian Charter Township);
- Smith, Hiawatha Lakes Branch 7 Drain Drainage District (located in Section 33 of Meridian Charter Township);
- Turtle Crossing Drain Drainage District (located in Sections 32 -33 of Meridian Charter Township)

Said drainage districts once consolidated to be known collectively as the Smith Consolidated Drain Drainage District, and the Drain to be known as the Smith Consolidated Drain, as prayed for in the Petitions filed with the Ingham County Drain Commissioner, in accordance with Section 441 of 1956 PA 40, as amended.

And further, the Board of Determination is to determine whether it is necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare to maintain and improve the drain to be known and designated as the Smith Consolidated Drain, as prayed for in the Petitions filed with the Ingham County Drain Commissioner, in accordance with Sections 72 and 191 of 1956 PA 40, as amended, and to determine whether the Smith Consolidated Drain is necessary for the protection of the public health of Alaiedon Township, the City of Lansing, and Meridian Charter Township. And finally, the Board of Determination is to determine whether it is necessary to add lands to and/or delete lands from the Smith Consolidated Drain Drainage District pursuant to Section 197 of 1956 PA 40, as amended.

Proceedings conducted at this public hearing will be subject to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act and you are further notified that information regarding this meeting may be obtained from the Ingham County Drain Commissioner. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Ingham County Drain Commissioner at the number noted below (voice) or through the Michigan Relay Center at 711 (TTY) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. Minutes of the meeting will be on file in the following office: Patrick E. Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, P.O. Box 220, Mason, Michigan 48854.

**YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED** that persons aggrieved by the decisions of the Board of Determination may seek judicial review in the Ingham County Circuit Court within ten (10) days of the determination. If the consolidation and maintenance and improvement of the Drain is found necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare, a special assessment may be levied against properties and municipalities that benefit. An owner or party having an interest in property to be assessed, or his or her agent, may appear in person to comment on the necessity of the project.

Dated: November 24, 2015

Patrick E. Lindemann  
Ingham County Drain Commissioner  
Phone: (517) 676-8395

CP#15\_288

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HOW CAN BELIEVERS WITHSTAND THESE CONSTANT ASSAULTS? IF--IF CHRISTMAS IS JUST A GENERIC SEASONAL HOLIDAY-- --THEN WE MIGHT AS WELL ADMIT WE ARE ADRIFT IN A GODLESS UNIVERSE DEVOID OF PURPOSE OR MEANING! DO WHAT THOU WILT SHALL BE THE WHOLE OF THE LAW!

THIS YEAR'S OPENING SALVO: THE VIDEO THAT WENT VIRAL A FEW WEEKS AGO, DENOUNCING STARBUCKS' PLAIN RED COFFEE CUPS! "THEY REMOVED CHRISTMAS FROM THEIR CUPS--BECAUSE THEY HATE JESUS!" (YES, AN ACTUAL QUOTE)

THAT REMINDS ME, CAN YOU GRAB ONE OF THOSE BAGS OF STARBUCKS "CHRISTMAS BLEND" COFFEE BEANS?

OVER HERE, NEXT TO THE STARBUCKS ADVENT CALENDARS? SURE, NO PROBLEM.

FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT THE ENEMIES OF CHRISTMAS ARE WINNING:

1. OTHER BELIEF SYSTEMS ARE OCCASIONALLY ACKNOWLEDGED. THERE ARE MUSLIMS--JEWS--EVEN ATHEISTS!

2. CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS NOT AVAILABLE IN MOST STORES UNTIL SHORTLY BEFORE HALLOWEEN. IT'S AS IF CHRISTMAS DOESN'T EXIST IN THIS COUNTRY ANYMORE!

3. LACK OF CHRIST-THEMED FOOD AND DRINK PACKAGING IN GENERAL. WHY DOESN'T THIS BIG MAC CONTAINER HAVE A PICTURE OF BABY JESUS IN THE MANGER-- --EATING A BIG MAC?

4. CLERKS WHO WON'T SAY "MERRY CHRISTMAS." HAVE A NICE DAY! HAIL SATAN! THANK YOU, I--WHAT?

BUT THERE'S ONE BRIGHT SPOT IN THE DARKNESS: DONALD TRUMP SAYS THAT WHEN HE'S PRESIDENT, PEOPLE WILL SAY "MERRY CHRISTMAS." SAY IT, YOU LOSERS! SAY IT!! OR ELSE I'LL HAVE YOU DEPORTED!

HO. HO. HO.

TOM TOMORROW © 2015

## Regulating dispensaries

### Ex-cop champions making pot shops legal

It's like Nixon going to China.

Rick Jones is a conservative ex-cop who is leading the charge to legalize medical marijuana dispensaries in Michigan. His actions may soon allow the operators of the state's hundreds of dispensaries — Lansing has about 40 — to breathe easier instead of wondering if they'll get raided.

Jones is a to-the-right Republican former Eaton County sheriff. But as the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, he is going to lead the floor fight to put dispensaries back on the right side of the law after the courts ruled four years ago they were not. The initial Appeals Court decision, subsequently upheld by the Supreme Court, called them a "public nuisance" and said the 2008 ballot initiative that legalized medpot didn't legalize dispensaries. Hundreds shut down, but some braved it and more have sprung up, including in Lansing, where police look the other way, taking their cue from a pro-pot mayor, Virg Bernero.

Jones expects a package of bills to do just that to move forward as early as Tuesday, potentially setting up a full Senate vote soon after.

Jones is unsure how quickly Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof, R-West Olive, will move the bills. Meekhof's office did not respond to a request for comment.

Small differences in the Senate version will require House approval before the package can go to the governor. One medical marijuana advocate expects minor changes will be made in the Senate involving transporting products and capping dispensary licenses to resolve police concerns.

What Gov. Rick Snyder will do is a larger uncertainty. Jones said a "big factor" will be in getting the Michigan State Police to stay neutral on the bills rather than outright oppose them: "I know the State Police will weigh heavily on his decision," Jones said of Snyder.

Snyder spokesman Dave Murray would only say the bills will be subject to a "thorough review" before Snyder decides.

But Jones thinks the time has come to legalize dispensaries, and he has the credentials to make that happen. His committee held a hearing in November and plans a second on Tuesday. Moreover, his status as a former sheriff is a big factor in turning around law enforcement organizations,

whose opposition sunk similar legislation last year.

Large parts of the state have no dispensaries, and those that are open do so at risk. Drug enforcement task forces in West Michigan raided dispensaries as recently as last month.

"It's all quite dangerous for folks involved in this," Jones said. "I think coming up with a system that allows growers, transporters and dispensaries is much better."

What's in the bills?

The Republican-sponsored three-bill dispensary package — HB 4209, 4210 and 4827 — creates a "seed-to-sale" tracking system and clarify uses of marijuana-infused products, like edibles or tinctures.

The proposed rules set up a system by which commercial growers are licensed to grow marijuana for dispensaries. A third-party "secure transporter" must store and transfer medical marijuana, acting as a middle man between growers and dispensaries or processing centers, which could produce marijuana infused products to be sold at dispensaries.

A key provision allows municipalities to authorize licenses for these various businesses, or what's known as the "local option."

The rules create three tiers of commercial grow facilities, allowing for up to 500, 1,000 or 1,500 plants.

A five-member state Medical Marijuana Licensing Board, appointed by the governor, would administer the law and set licensing fees. HB 4209 also would set a 3 percent excise tax on the gross retail income of each dispensary. That revenue would be sent to local units of government, law enforcement and the state General Fund. Products sold at dispensaries would require testing at licensed "safety compliance centers."

HB 4827 is tie-barred to the commercial growing and dispensaries bill

to create a detailed tracking system from seed to sale. It would cover "all sales and refunds; plant, batch, and product destruction; inventory discrepancies; loss, theft, or diversion of products containing marijuana; and adverse patient responses," according to a House Fiscal Agency report. The system — which could be accessed by the police — would also track patient purchase limits and flag purchases in excess of authorized limits. A patient can possess up to two-and-a-half of marijuana before overstepping legal limits.

Finally, a third bill to clarify the legal use of edible pot (think laced brownies or extracts) would require 75 per-

See **Dispensaries**, Page 6



Former Eaton County Sheriff Rick Jones, now a Republican state senator from Grand Ledge, pictured in olden days, is an unlikely champion of legalizing pot dispensaries.



**Eye Sore of the Week – Revisited**  
Property: 2901 Wabash Road  
Lansing

Featured as an Eyesore in June 2014, the grounds at the Marvin E. Beekman Center have since enjoyed significant improvements. At that time, "the faded peach playground equipment (was) partially draped in bright orange safety netting" and was "sprinkled with rust spots." It was reported that plans for a replacement were underway.

The weedy gravel bed surrounding the play structure has been exchanged for new wood chips. The brightly painted blue and red structure is encircled by a lap track. Nearby, the swing set includes equipment to accommodate a wheelchair, entirely fitting for a facility that serves students with physical and cognitive needs.

— Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

"Eyesore of the Week" is our look at some of the seedier properties in Lansing. It rotates each week with Eye Candy of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail [eye@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:eye@lansingcitypulse.com) or call Berl Schwartz at 999-5061.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### City of Lansing Notice of Public Hearing

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on December 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, Lansing, MI, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of Brownfield Plan #46c – Snethkamp Redevelopment Plan – Former Governor's Inn pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, Public Act 381 of 1996, as amended, for property commonly referred to as 1000 Ramada Drive and 6131 South Pennsylvania Avenue located in the City of Lansing, but more particularly described as:

Lot 1, of Abood-Ramada Subdivision, City of Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 30, Page(s) 10, 11, and 12, Ingham County Records, 33-01-05-10-126-011 and; Lots 2, 3, 4 & 5, of Abood-Ramada Subdivision, City of Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 30, Page(s) 10, Ingham County Records, 33-01-05-10-126-002.

Approval of this Brownfield Plan will enable the Lansing Brownfield Redevelopment Authority to capture incremental tax increases which result from the redevelopment of the property to pay for costs associated therewith. Further information regarding this issue, including maps, plats, and a description of the brownfield plan will be available for public inspection and may be obtained from Karl Dorshimer – Director of Economic Development, Lansing Economic Area Partnership, 1000 South Washington, Suite 201, Lansing, MI 48910, (517) 702-3387.

If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, December 14, 2015 at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email [city.clerk@lansingmi.gov](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov).

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk  
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CP#15\_287

### CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, December 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI for the purpose of considering:

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan to amend Chapter 404 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances by adding truck parking.

For more information please call 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, December 14, 2015, at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email [city.clerk@lansingmi.gov](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov).

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk  
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CP#15\_290

### City of Lansing Notice of Public Hearing

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on December 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, Lansing, MI, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of Brownfield Redevelopment Plan #63 - East Town Flats pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, Public Act 381 of 1996, as amended, for property commonly referred to as 2000 East Michigan Avenue located in the City of Lansing, but more particularly described as:

33-01-01-14-302-001, LOT 117 LESLIE PARK SUB;  
33-01-01-14-302-461, W 9.7 FT LOT 118 LESLIE PARK SUB;  
33-01-01-14-302-451, E 23.3 FT LOT 118 LESLIE PARK SUB;  
33-01-01-14-302-441, LOT 119 LESLIE PARK SUB;  
33-01-01-14-302-431, LOT 120 LESLIE PARK SUB;  
33-01-01-14-302-421, LOT 121 LESLIE PARK SUB;  
33-01-01-14-302-411, LOT 122 LESLIE PARK SUB;  
33-01-01-14-302-392, LOTS 123 & 124; LESLIE PARK SUB;  
33-01-01-14-302-352, LOTS 125 THRU 128 INCL LESLIE PARK SUB;  
33-01-01-14-302-012, LOTS 113 THRU 116 INCL LESLIE PARK SUB.

Approval of this Brownfield Plan will enable the Lansing Brownfield Redevelopment Authority to capture incremental tax increases which result from the redevelopment of the property to pay for costs associated therewith. Further information regarding this issue, including maps, plats, and a description of the brownfield plan will be available for public inspection and may be obtained from Karl Dorshimer – Director of Economic Development, Lansing Economic Area Partnership, 1000 South Washington, Suite 201, Lansing, MI 48910, (517) 702-3387.

If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, December 14, 2015 at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email [city.clerk@lansingmi.gov](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov).

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk  
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CP#15\_286

# Dispensaries

from page 5

cent approval by the Legislature because it amends the voter-initiated Michigan Medical Marihuana Act. The bill clarifies ambiguities around quantities and forms of marijuana in which people are protected from arrest.

### Police, advocate concerns

The proposal to tax and regulate medical marijuana dispensaries has for years been a steady project of Rep. Mike Callton, R-Nashville. It came close to passing during last year's lame-duck session, only to be blocked due to law enforcement concerns.

As proposed, the bills would take effect 90 days after enactment, and interested parties could apply for licenses 180 days after that. The House passed the measures easily. Possible Senate changes may include limiting the number of growers' and dispensary licenses that are issued, based on concerns from police organizations and other advocates.

Jones and Robin Schneider, legislative liaison for the National Patients Rights Association in Michigan, expect "minor changes" in the Senate to resolve those concerns.

Schneider said advocates are still concerned that Senate amendments will set

high barriers of entry into the various businesses for those who couldn't afford it.

Schneider also said a point of difference between advocates and police is that the bills appear to say nothing about what caregivers should do with "overages," or marijuana grown in excess of their patients' limit.

Jones said if growers are concerned about their overages, they should consider getting a commercial growers license as allowed under the plan.

Schneider, whose group supports the plan, said the rules ultimately create an either/or situation for caregivers: They can either continue growing for their five patients and destroy excess marijuana or turn to commercial growing, where they'd have to forego their right to grow directly for patients. Right now, many caregivers sell their overages to dispensaries, which is "technically not legal," she said.

Police organizations even suggested eliminating the caregiver-patient model since patients would be able to get products at dispensaries.

But Jones said that would be unlikely to get the necessary three-fourths vote of the Legislature and "there is absolutely nothing in the legislation that would do that."

— Andy Balaskovitz



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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE #1199

Lansing City Council adopted An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing by amending Chapter 404, Adoption of the Uniform Traffic Code, by adding Sections 404.08 to 404.10 to the Lansing Codified Ordinances by Adding Manner of Parking, Parking in Front Yards and Parking in Driveways Creating Regulations on Parking.

Effective date: Upon publication

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan. A copy of the full text of this Ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan at a fee determined by City Council.

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

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CP#15\_289

## Ad campaign backfires Chamber should rethink its negative tactics

For East Lansing's City Council, the payback opportunity came quickly.

Angered by Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce negative advertising in the run-up to the 2015 election, the city is withdrawing from the business advocacy group.

For Mark Meadows, who was promptly named mayor after voters returned him to the Council in November following nine years away, bailing on the Chamber is no big deal. "We asked the city manager what we got for our membership. He couldn't tell us." The annual dues were \$850.

Meadows questioned whether the Chamber was relevant to the city, noting that it belonged the Lansing Area Economic Partnership and the Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau.

"We get real benefit from them," he said.

It may seem odd that this was such a priority for the new City Council, when there are issues like the derelict blocks of property that line the entrance to the city's business district.

But clearly the Chamber's decision to promote its "pro-business" agenda in an uncharacteristically aggressive manner rankled even those candidates it endorsed for Council.

"We reacted to the negative campaigning. It's a new thing for them," Meadows said. He knows. Like other candidates he sat for an interview with the Chamber in this election cycle and for years, either as a Council candidate or when running for the state House of Representatives, received its endorsement.

This time around, the Chamber lobbied voters to elect its self-proclaimed pro-business slate: Meadows, Shanna Draheim and Nathan Triplett. Meadows and Draheim won. Triplett, the former mayor — the Council appoints a mayor from one of its own — lost to Eric Altmann, who was tarred as anti-growth in at least two Chamber-funded direct mail advertisements.

You really have to wonder what the Chamber was thinking.

Not only were the ads out of character for the usually staid organization. They were heavy-handed; amateurish, really. Big letters with the foreboding message: "ERIK ALTMANN, WRONG FOR EAST LANSING"; a photo of the derelict Taco Bell on Grand River Avenue cited as "Erik Altmann's vision for East Lansing"; even a cartoon bubble quote popping out of an unflattering Altmann photo.

There seems to be a pattern emerging. The negative ad campaign waged in East Lansing was similar to the ads by Capitol Region Progress, the shadowy group that attacked Lansing Council candidates Jody

Washington and her son, Adam Hussain.

These too were amateurish with overblown rhetoric and ominous photos. And also ineffective, at least judging by results.

One of the complaints lodged by East Lansing against the Chamber was the use of dues money to fund its attack ads. The Chamber denied this charge and, according to Meadows, said the direct mail campaign was funded with money provided by unnamed members.

It's hardly a stretch to peg these same "unnamed members" as underwriters for the sleazy Capitol Region Progress campaign? Chamber members ought to demand answers about this backdoor action and secret alliances.

For the East Lansing race there was no Capitol Region Progress to launder the money. The Chamber had to take the initiative. For the city races, there was a "non-profit" already in place to do the job.

Attempts to discuss the Chamber's tactics

with President and CEO Tim Daman were unsuccessful. But if the Chamber isn't reassessing its approach to local politics, it should.

First of all, it lost in most of the races where it endorsed. Meadows and Draheim won, but they immediately turned on the Chamber. Not much of a victory there.

In Lansing, the Chamber's endorsements went to A'Lynn Boles Robinson, Patricia Spitzley and Shelly Davis Mielock, candidates its PAC said had the "vision and the willingness to make tough decisions to help move Lansing forward."

Voters disagreed. They lost.

While the Chamber targeted Washington and Hussain, who dethroned Boles Robinson, it was neutral on Council incumbent Carol Wood.

To put it charitably, the Chamber didn't make many political friends during the 2015 election cycle, and there will be some awkward conversations as it seeks political support for its pro-business agenda.

At the very least it needs to sharpen its political instincts — no winners in the Lansing and stabbed in the back by the candidates it supported in East Lansing.

With their broad membership, organizations like chambers of commerce, trade associations or unions ask for trouble when they step into the political ring. While there are common interests among their members, large organizations like chambers also must deal with the fact that members' interests may diverge.

The Michigan Retailers Association, for example, supports property tax policies that help large members like Meijer who compete with small mom and pop store members selling many of the same products but without the tax advantages. The Michigan Chamber of Commerce, essentially an arm of the state's Republican Party, also represents business aligned with Democratic politics.

The Lansing Chamber should take a lesson from both.



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# GETTING TO ZERO

## The HIV epidemic is changing

Stories by Todd Heywood

Alex Saenz is a gregarious 27-year-old gay man, but his bubbly exterior hides a rough and tumble life.

The 2009 Eastern High graduate struggled with addiction, specifically meth, a popular sex drug in gay communities across the country, including here in Lansing. Saenz said he was injecting the drug, a habit that came to a crashing halt two years ago when a free HIV test registered inconclusive. In his case, the rapid test for the antibodies, which the body develops to fight invaders, was positive. But a confirmatory test taken by oral swab came back negative.

“Something didn’t feel right,” Saenz said. So he asked his primary care doctor to do a more sensitive blood test. That one came back positive.

He was an elusive target for public health — the newly infected person. When someone is first infected, the virus multiplies rapidly, winning the first battle with the immune system. Eventually, the immune system gets the virus under control. Those in the very early stage, where the immune system is losing the battle, don’t test positive for the virus but are highly infectious. Scientists and doctors have found that starting someone on powerful anti-HIV medications shortly after infection can quickly control the virus and set a path to better health.

Saenz takes a three-drug combination pill every day, paid for by a publicly funded insurance program. The cost is about \$14,000 a year.

“It has had no impact on my everyday routine and activity,” he said.

As the world and nation recognized World AIDS Day Tuesday, the epidemic continues at a stable rate in the U.S. The Centers for Disease Control estimates 50,000 Americans are newly diagnosed every year. Here in Ingham County the number of new infections annually has remained in the mid-20s for nearly a decade. But the good news is HIV experts believe the country could be at a tipping point to dramatically reduce and perhaps even eliminate new HIV infections without a cure or a vaccine.

The drugs that Saenz takes, and others like it, have changed what was a fatal diagnosis into a chronic but manageable disease. Experts say those drugs plus new testing technology make them cautiously optimistic

that the HIV epidemic can be halted in the coming years.

The medications — called antiretroviral medications or ARVs — have reshaped the HIV epidemic in the U.S. and other developed countries. Before they were approved in 1996, a person diagnosed with HIV faced a significantly shortened lifespan. Today, a person diagnosed with HIV who takes the drugs is expected to live a completely normal lifespan, though with a chronic manageable disease.

Scientists and public health officials have also discovered another benefit of the drugs. When a person takes the drug daily, it controls the virus — something experts call an undetectable viral load. With that undetectable viral load, a person is highly unlikely to

transmit the infection. The drug is over 92 percent effective. Using this drug as a preventative is called PrEP or Pre-exposure Prophylaxis. Truvada is the only anti-HIV drug approved for prevention, but it is also used for treating the infection.

Even the tests used to identify those with HIV have improved. The new HIV test being used can identify HIV infections as early as 12 days after infection, instead of the minimum 20 days from the last generation of tests.

Despite all these improvements, new HIV infections in the US remain stubbornly at about 50,000 new cases. In Michigan, Ingham County is second in HIV infections to the city of Detroit. Ingham stands at 175 per 100,000 people, while Detroit is at 800 per 100,000 people.

than the Obama Administration’s national HIV AIDS Strategy goal of 80 percent, Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail said.

“In general we are meeting or exceeding CDC targets,” Vail said. She said that the county was uniquely placed “to be on the front edge” of the goals of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy — which includes access to treatment and care for those infected, and a reduction in the number of new cases. She credits the Ingham County Community Health Centers, a collaboration among state agencies, Michigan State University and Sparrow Health Systems.

“I think, absolutely, that when someone tests positive here, there is a benefit in being able to walk them across the hall to a primary care physician and HIV care,” she said.

Getting someone into care is key to addressing the disease. But that has been a struggle nationally and locally. State data show that 608 people are living with the virus in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties as of 2013, 431 of whom are considered in care. That’s because they have had at least one set of HIV monitoring tests done in the last year. Of those, 362 people are in continuous care, meaning they have had at least two HIV monitoring tests done in the last year. And 308 of those people are virally suppressed. This is what is known as the treatment cascade and complicates controlling the disease in the community. Those not in continuous care and virally suppressed are more likely to transmit the infection. Those who do not know they are infected are even more likely to transmit the virus. In comparison to other metropolitan areas, Ingham is doing a passable job in overcoming this obstacle.

To get more people into care, the county Health Department will be contracting with the Lansing Area AIDS Network to bring in an early intervention specialist. That specialist will focus on identifying those people who know they have HIV, but are not in care.

That sounds simple enough, but state health officials acknowledged in interviews that the state’s strict confidentiality laws about those infected with HIV could be hampering those efforts. State health officials said they are prohibited from sharing that information with community partners, such as LAAN, by state law, but they are working on a legal work-around to address that.



Alex Saenz, 27, has been living with HIV for the last two years. He was diagnosed early in his infection and is taking a once-a-day pill that includes three different anti-HIV drugs in order to stay healthy.



Photos by Todd Heywood and Ty Forquer/City Pulse

transmit the infection.

The science behind this discovery has spawned a public health movement called Treatment as Prevention (TasP). That movement is now being driven by federal dollars to get people living with HIV into medical treatment and on the drugs. The benefits are two-fold: better health outcomes for the person with HIV and dramatic reductions in onward transmission of the infection.

Also, health officials are recommending the drugs to prevent people who are not infected with the virus from becoming infected. In 2012, the feds approved a drug called Truvada as a daily regimen to prevent HIV infection. Studies have shown that if taken daily

Last year, county health officials said, 25 people were newly diagnosed with the infection. About 500 people are living with HIV in Ingham County.

Data from the state Department of Health and Human Services show that in the last three years, the use of anti-HIV medications to control or suppress the virus to “undetectable” has grown. In 2012, of people living with HIV in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties, 61 percent had undetectable viral loads. In 2013, the number was 65 percent and last year it was 70 percent.

With federal funding, 82 percent of Ingham County’s 362 HIV-positive clients showed undetectable levels. That’s better



# UNDERSTANDING HIV IN 2015

In the 34 years since scientists first identified HIV, much has changed. What was once an almost certain death sentence is now considered a chronic but manageable health condition and, in fact, preventable. This glossary of terms illustrates the changes in prevention and care.

**HIV positive:** This means tests detected the antibodies for HIV. Antibodies are specific proteins produced by the body to combat foreign items in the body such as viruses and bacteria. An adult person only HIV antibodies if the virus has infected that person.

**HIV negative:** This means tests have not detected the HIV antibodies. It could mean that a person does not have an infection or that the infection is in the early stage and that the body has not fully responded and developed the telltale antibodies (which takes about three weeks).

**Viral Load:** This test measure level of virus in the blood. The test can detect

as few as 28 viral particles per milliliter of blood. The higher the viral load, the more infectious a person is as well as the more likely the virus will cause significant damage to the immune system.

**Undetectable:** This means the person is living with HIV but has successfully suppressed the virus through medication. It refers to a measure of viral load that cannot detect the virus in the blood. It does not mean the person is not still infected with the virus. Rather, it means the virus is well controlled in the body. Recent studies have found a person who has an undetectable viral load is unlikely to transmit their infection to sexual and needle sharing partners.

**TasP:** This is an abbreviation for Treatment as Prevention. Scientists have discovered that when a person is on medications and has an undetectable viral load, they are highly unlikely to transmit the infection. As a result, the CDC and state and local health officials have moved towards encouraging people living with HIV to get on treatment for

two reasons. First is better long-term health outcomes for the person with HIV, and the second is the reduction in the risk of transmission to sexual and needle sharing partners.

**PrEP:** This is an abbreviation for Pre-exposure Prophylaxis. It is the newest weapon in prevention of HIV and involves taking a specific two-drug combination anti-HIV pill daily. Studies have found that when taken daily, the drug is at least 92 percent effective in preventing a person from becoming infected with HIV. A model of the drug's efficacy has estimated it may be as effective as 99 percent in stopping a person from contracting HIV. The CDC in 2014 released a broad new clinical guidance to encourage broad application of the drug in high risk groups.

**HIV Incidence:** This is the number of new cases of HIV in a given year. In 2014, Ingham County had an incidence of 25.

**HIV prevalence:** This is the number of people living with HIV — including those who have not been identified — per 100,000 people. Ingham County's HIV prevalence was 175. Clinton County's was 48, while Eaton County's was 53. Ingham County has

the highest prevalence rate outside of Detroit, according to data from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The City of Detroit has a prevalence of 800 cases per 100,000 people.

**Treatment Cascade:** This refers to the continuum of care for people living with HIV. It starts with an estimate of the number of people infected, how many know they are living with the virus, the number who have accessed medical care, are engaged in continued care and the number of people who have achieved a suppressed viral load. It helps public health and medical providers create programs to reduce the transmission and prevalence of HIV in communities.

**HIV Disease:** HIV, medically, is no longer broken into HIV infection and AIDS. All clinical diagnoses are now rated on a three-stage process. What was traditionally referred to as AIDS is now HIV Disease Stage 3. Despite significant improvements in medical care that often results in restoration of immune system functions, once a person is diagnosed as HIV Disease Stage 3, they will remain in that category until death.

## HIV

from page 8

On the prevention side, the advent of PrEP, the two-drug in-one pill drug called Truvada— a daily day pill to prevent HIV — has been hailed nationally as a “game changer.” But the reality on the ground has been different. Only one in three primary care physicians and nurses is aware of the intervention, Vail said.

“We need to get our infectious disease doctors out in the community doing grand rounds,” Vail said. “They are key to informing

other doctors about PrEP. And I think they will be doing that.”

Vail reports that Ingham County Community Health Centers' doctors have prescribed PrEP to about 50 people.

### INSURANCE STATUS

The combination of Treatment as Prevention (TasP) and PrEP is working in San Francisco. That city saw only 302 new HIV infections last year. That's the lowest it's been since the test was for the virus was first made available.

By scaling up access to treatment, in 2014 half of the diagnosed people living with HIV in the city had undetectable viral loads.

Combine that with the scale up of PrEP for the stunning reductions.

A study of 657 men who have sex with men using the preventative intervention of PrEP found zero new infections among those men. That model has won praise by national HIV experts.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Disease, told The New York Times earlier this year that he “loved” the model.

“If it keeps doing what it is doing, I have a strong feeling that they will be successful at ending the epidemic as we know it. Not every last case — we'll never get there — but the overall epidemic. And then there's no excuse for everyone not doing it,” he said.

That model is not without critics, however. The study of PrEP use saw half of the participants diagnosed with another sexually transmitted infection — an indication those men were not using

condoms. But Vail said that is likely a consequence of the PrEP protocol, which requires quarterly STI testing.

The San Francisco model may not be fully achievable in Michigan. Treating HIV is expensive — the cost of drugs alone runs tens of thousands of dollars a month. PrEP costs

\$12,000 a year, or \$1,000 a month.

“ACA implementation has expanded insurance options for thousands of People Living With HIV,” said Dawn Lukowski, acting manager of HIV care and prevention for the state of Michigan. “However, premiums,

See HIV, Page 10

Viral suppression rates and proportions among persons living with HIV, 2012-14 in Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties  
Data as of October, 2015

	Virally suppressed	Virally unsuppressed	Proportion virally suppressed
<b>2012</b>			
Clinton County	18	9	46%
Eaton County	52	15	63%
Ingham County	224	47	62%
Total	294	71	61%
<b>2013</b>			
Clinton County	18	<5	45%
Eaton County	62	11	72%
Ingham County	250	51	66%
Total	330	66	65%
<b>2014</b>			
Clinton County	27	<5	64%
Eaton County	71	6	79%
Ingham County	273	39	68%
Total	371	48	70%
<b>2012-14 Totals</b>			
Clinton County	63	16	52%
Eaton County	185	32	72%
Ingham County	747	137	66%
Total	995	185	66%

Data from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, HIV/STD/TB/VH Epidemiology Section

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# HIV

from page 9

deductibles, co-insurances, and co-pays can still be prohibitive and present a barrier for low-income PLWH who cannot afford even the reduced costs. Therefore, services like ADAP, health insurance premium and cost-sharing assistance, targeted testing, emergency financial assistance, etc. are all still essential to filling financial gaps left by ACA.”

State officials also announced in October they have received a three-year grant to develop a pilot project to promote PrEP in Detroit. The first payment for the grant was nearly half a million dollars. If success-

ful, state health officials believe the lessons learned and the educational outreach programs developed in Detroit can and will be rolled out statewide.

For Vail, the county’s health officer, the county can do more. While she has only been at the helm for about a year and half, she said she wants to develop a countywide HIV strategy to bring the various “pockets” of knowledge together.

“I think we can do more as a department,” she said. “One strategy has the potential to have a greater impact.”

For more on the HIV epidemic, see [www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com).



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# GROWING INTO TIME

## Jazz legend Jimmy Cobb kicks off a week with MSU, high school students

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Early Monday evening, waves of jazz broke free from a cavernous conference room and swirled up the grand spiral staircase that greets visitors to the fancy corporate digs of the MSU Federal Credit Union.

### Jimmy Cobb with MSU Jazz Orchestras

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A wandering depositor, peeking into the room, might not have noticed the stocky, unassuming figure sitting at the drum kit, tucked behind the horns. In a gray shirt and NASA baseball cap, drummer Jimmy Cobb looked like a moonlighting tradesman drafted into duty at

the last minute by the nattily dressed MSU Professors of Jazz.

But jazz studies senior Ryan McMahon and a few hundred other listeners noticed. McMahon couldn't peel his eyes off the sticks going ta-tik, ta-tik, ta-tik on the rim of the snare drum and the face of the man that changed his life.

"He's one of the reasons I started playing jazz," McMahon said.

As a freshman at Indianapolis North Central high school, McMahon joined the vast ranks of mortals who have discovered Miles Davis' "Kind of Blue," the best selling and the most universally cherished jazz recording of all time.

Cobb, 86, is the lone survivor of the "Kind of Blue" band: Davis, John Coltrane, Julian "Cannonball" Adderley, Wynton Kelly, Bill Evans, Paul Chambers and Cobb.

This week, Cobb serves as legend in residence and keeper of the mysteries of time at MSU's Jazz Studies program.

"Time is a funny thing," he told about 100 students at a Q&A session after the credit union gig. "You have to grow into time. Listen to how the tune goes, where the time stays, and pay attention to the people around you."

But his advice wasn't all philosophical. "When something goes wrong, they blame the drummer," he warned.

Through Saturday, Cobb will hang with students, hold master classes and barnstorm the state with MSU's student big band, meeting with high school students in Kalamazoo, Ann Arbor, Traverse City and Detroit. Friday, he'll join MSU's Jazz Orchestra

and the Professors of Jazz for a wrap-up concert at Fairchild Theatre.

Cobb's visit kicked off with a concert for members of the credit union, which funded the jazz residency series with a \$1 million gift two years ago. Midway through Monday's gig, Cobb and the Professors played "So What," the track that hooked McMahon in high school.

"I went home and I played it once. I played it again. And again," he recalled. "The feeling and the groove in Jimmy Cobb's ride cymbal — I felt a mixture of excitement and curiosity I just had to follow. Even now, I still get that same feeling."

Another drummer and Jazz Studies senior, Ethan Lucas, stood next to McMahon, listening intently.

"Watching a living legend play tunes he's played for 60 years, since he was in his late teens and 20s — he's the definitive version," Lucas said. "It's just incredible."

Cobb hasn't been standing still since "Kind of Blue" was recorded in 1961. He's played with dozens of greats over the years and now leads two groups of his own, including Cobb's Mob.

Monday night, he looked ready to record a fresh set of tunes with MSU's jazz all-stars.

"He was playing some things I've never heard him play before on recordings," McMahon said. "I could hear decades of music in his playing. It's like he's exploding with all these different ideas."

"He took a lot of liberties," Lucas agreed.

After the credit union gig, Cobb met with students until 11 p.m., even though a 6 a.m. call awaited the next morning. He told the students that he joined Miles Davis' band because the previous drummer, "Philly" Joe Jones, was unreliable.

"I would sit around waiting for Joe not to show up," Cobb said.

Finally, Miles called Cobb in New York at 9 p.m. and told him the job was his if he could make it to Boston for that night's gig.

"Boston?" Cobb objected. He changed his voice to imitate Davis' rasp.

"You want the gig, don't you?" It was a dramatic debut. When Cobb arrived at Storyville, the band was already playing the moody intro to "Round About



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Legendary drummer Jimmy Cobb manned the drum kit behind MSU's Professors of Jazz at a Monday night performance for MSU Federal Credit Union members.

Midnight," without a drummer. Cobb climbed onto the stage and set up his kit just in time for his first lick — the famous boom-boom-boom-ta-boom volley that kicks the tune into tempo.

Cobb told the students about the pleasures and pitfalls of playing with singers like Sarah Vaughan, Shirley Horn and Ruth Brown.

"I didn't know what (Brown) liked, so I laid a few things on her," he said. "She told me, 'Stop beboppin' my music.'"

Vaughan, he said, was a "sweet woman," but "if you were doing something wrong, she'd let you know about it." Horn signaled her displeasure with a dreaded shift of her shoulders.

Cobb told the students that ballads are toughest of all to play.

"You have to play soft," he said. "Just let 'em know where 'one' is."

Cobb served up some jazz lore that's not in textbooks. Guitarist Wes Montgomery, he said, picked up police radio chatter on his amplifier during a gig. Alto sax great Adderley loved to eat.

"He was Cannibal first, then Cannonball," Cobb said. "Him and Miles would get a rack of ribs at 4 o'clock in the morning."

After a meal, he added, Adderley would

fall asleep with a newspaper.

"His stomach would be gyrating from digesting all that food and the newspaper would flutter," Cobb laughed.

Cobb talked about the determination of John Coltrane, who got tired of being "beat up" by tenor sax rival Sonny Rollins night after night and forged his own sound.

Cobb reserved his highest admiration for his favorite pianist, Wynton Kelly, heard on one track of "Kind of Blue." For years, Cobb, Kelly and bassist Paul Chambers formed one of the most sought-after rhythm sections in jazz.

"Wynton could play drunk, sober, sick, whatever," Cobb said. "That's what I learned from those guys. Whatever you got, give it up. That's what's gonna do it for you."

As Cobb's visit wound down, McMahon looked forward to a week of master classes with a jazz legend, touring high schools around the state with him and bumping into him in the hallway. Time might be mankind's mortal enemy, but Cobb almost makes it a comfort.

"Music is a vessel to live," McMahon said. "I look at the last eight years as the happiest of my life, the most fruitful and inspiring, and pretty much all of it has to do with this."

# Finding her voice

## Singer Morgan James defies definitions

By TY FORQUER

Morgan James calls herself a soul singer, but her career doesn't fit neatly into that box.

James, 34, studied opera at the Julliard School, but her big break was on Broadway. Her debut in a 2010 production of "The Addams Family," starring Nathan Lane, was followed by appearances in "Godspell" and "Motown: The Musical."

But even while she was enjoying Broadway success, James was moonlighting as a soul singer in New York club scenes. In 2012, she recorded "Morgan James Live: A Celebration of Nina Simone." In 2013, James left Broadway to pursue a solo singing career.

### Morgan James

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In 2014, James recorded "Hunter," her first album of original songs. Her solo career was bolstered by a stint with Postmodern Jukebox. The brainchild of Scott Bradlee, Postmodern Jukebox is known for its Youtube videos

of popular songs redone in the musical styles of the early-to-mid 20th century. The group's 1970s soul version of Maroon 5's "Maps," featuring James on lead vocals, has racked up almost 6.7 million views.

The singer brings her tour to the Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre Sunday. City Pulse talked to James about her musical journey and what's next for her.

### What can people expect from your show Sunday?

I call myself a soul singer. If you like soul from the '60s and '70s and if you like storytelling, my show would be for you. I talk about why songs mean something, and I tell jokes, and my band is absolutely incredible. If you're looking for a bunch of backup dancers and lights and fire, that's not my show. I sing long and hard. Putting on a live show is so important to me, I think that's truly my calling.

There won't be any Broadway stuff. I'm going to be mostly singing from my album, "Hunter," and I'll be premiering some brand new music. We'll do four or five of our favorite covers as well.

### Your debut album was a collection of Nina Simone covers. How has her music influenced your approach now that you are writing your own music?

Nina Simone is such a passion of mine, and I'm so influenced by these mentors who came before me and did it so well. Nina, Aretha (Franklin), Donny Hathaway, D'Angelo, Prince, those are such big influences. They really taught me how to be an interpreter of songs.

So when it came time to write music and create an album of my own, I wanted to really make an album of personal songs, of story songs with rich textures, lots of different instrumentation — a lot of variety, because those are the kind of albums that I love. And writing music is such a challenge and it's such a daunting task. It was such an incredible experience to write my first album of original music and put together my first studio album. You hear all the influences of the people that really shaped me, but I really feel like my own voice comes out.

### What was it like working with Postmodern Jukebox?

The first video we did was "Maps," and



Courtesy photo

Singer Morgan James brings her solo project to the Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre Sunday evening.

(Bradlee) really let me take a creative role in that. He always lets his band and his collaborators have a hand in the arrangements. With all the songs I did, I had something in my mind that I wanted to do and then he shaped it and made the arrangement for the band. It was very collaborative. But it's very thrown together. The videos are nerve-wracking because you get together, you arrange a song, and an hour later the process is done. It's very fast. I think I've done eight videos with Scott, and I did three tours with him. It was a blast.

See James, Page 17

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*This Holiday Season*

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**LOCAL FIRST**





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## *Buying Local This Holiday Season...*

- **Supports our local economy** - Dollars spent with local businesses circulate in our local economy longer, helping create economic vigor
- **Creates local jobs** - Local small businesses create more and better jobs in our community all year long
- **Helps you find more unique gifts** - Choosing gifts from local artists, craft workers, and food artisans will help you share the uniqueness of the capital region
- **Provides you with the best customer service** - Local business people know the value of longterm relationships and go the extra mile with their customer service

**... promotes a stronger community all around!**

*Happy Holidays from your friends at Capital Area Local First*



Capital Area Local First is committed to growing a sustainable local economy. We work to educate community members about the multiple benefits of locally owned independent businesses and to encourage local spending.

We see the power local residents have when they shift even just a small amount of their spending to locally owned businesses.

These locally owned businesses, organizations and individuals have joined Capital Area Local First. We hope you will join them.

- \* All-of-Us Express Children's Theatre
- \* ASK
- \* Bake n' Cakes
- \* Benedict Auto Body
- \* Brian McGrain
- \* Capitol Macintosh
- \* Charter Township of Meridian
- \* City Pulse
- \* Cravings Gourmet Popcorn
- \* Delta Flowers
- \* Dreamscape Multimedia
- \* Earthy Delights
- \* East Lansing Food Co-op
- \* Gillespie Group
- \* Gladstone Printing
- \* Granger Co.
- \* Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau
- \* Go Green Tikes LLC
- \* Good Fruit Video
- \* Great Lakes Window Cleaning
- \* H.C. Berger Company
- \* Herbruck Poultry Ranch
- \* Ionic Foot Detox Bath
- \* Ingham County Land Bank
- \* Jersey Giant Subs
- \* Just B Yoga
- \* Kristine Ranger, Consultant
- \* Lansing Art Gallery
- \* Mackerel Sky
- \* Mason Area Chamber of Commerce
- \* Meridian Firearms
- \* Michigan Energy Options
- \* Mid Michigan Interactive
- \* Office Furniture Outlet & Supplies Inc.
- \* Old Town General Store
- \* Paper Image Printer Centers
- \* Paramount Coffee
- \* Physicians Health Plan
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- \* Starting Now, Inc.
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- \* Unodeuce Multimedia Production
- \* Web Ascender
- \* Westside Commercial Association
- \* Zoobie's Old Town Tavern

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM CAPITAL AREA LOCAL FIRST**

**LOOK FOR THE CAPITAL AREA LOCAL FIRST LOGO AT YOUR FAVORITE LOCAL BUSINESSES**



# James

from page 12

**You graduated from the Julliard School in 2003, but your Broadway debut was in 2008. What were you doing during those five years?**

That was a very dark period. That was unemployment, trying to find my way, trying to find my voice, not getting any work, waiting tables. I couldn't find my path. I was doing some regional theater, but I couldn't seem to get on Broadway.

The theater audition world is just so brutal. And being poor in New York is also very brutal. I think that those years are really what shape you to be the person you're

going to be, and that's what decides whether you want to stick with it, whether you want to stay in New York — whether you even want to continue to make music. Because if you can survive those dark times, you know that you can survive anything. That's what those years were.

**Do you think you'll ever go back to Broadway?**

Life is long. Right now I can't do them both — logistically I can't do them both at the same time. Right now I'm just focused on what I want to do now, which is continuing to write the next album, continuing to tour and just honing all the music in with my band, and I'm having such a great time doing that. But I would love the opportunity, if one presented itself, to go back to Broadway. That's my roots.

# CURTAIN CALL

## Perspective shift

**Creative take on Dickens' classic shines at Williamston Theatre**

By MARY CUSACK

Williamston Theatre has a rich history of presenting holiday plays that run the gamut from funny to poignant. This year's selection, "Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol," spans that spectrum in one show, and throws in a bit of the macabre for good measure.

### "Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol"

Williamston Theatre  
Through December 20  
8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 3 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday  
\$23 Thursday/\$28 Friday and Saturday evening/\$25 Saturday and Sunday matinee/\$10 students/seniors and military \$2 discount  
122 S. Putnam St., Williamston  
(517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.com

The play expands on Dickens' classic, presenting the story of Ebenezer Scrooge's redemption from the point of view of his former business partner, Jacob Marley. This alternate perspective allows playwright Tom Mula to create a compelling backstory for Marley. Mula also expands on Dickens' themes to show how redemption is akin to a 12-step program — and the first step is recognizing that one needs to be redeemed.

### Review

The story begins with the death of Marley (Mark Colson). At his orientation to the after-life, the Record Keeper (Patrick Loos) wraps him in the storied chains of his own making and sends him off on a Dante-like tour of his surroundings. Appropriately horrified by the tortures of the damned, Marley makes a deal with the Record Keeper. He gives Marley 24 hours to lead Scrooge to redemption. Thus begins the Christmas ghost show.

At times the story skirts triteness, as with the cutesy character of Bogle (Rosie

Sullivan). Bogle, who comes of as some combination of Clarence from "It's a Wonderful Life" and Tinker Bell, is charged with assisting Marley. Through the course of the play she manipulates him toward achieving his own personal growth. The outcome is predictable, so the payoff is in the intriguing way in which the journey unfolds. Several key scenes give the play gravitas, particularly when Marley revisits his troubled childhood and his death.

Colson is absolutely mesmerizing as he transforms himself into a small child, terrified and trembling as he approaches his abusive father. He quickly ages into an old man, the horror of his wasted life hitting him full force as Scrooge (Ruth Crawford) betrays him and Marley realizes his pursuit of money was for naught.

Not to be outdone in misery and wickedness, Crawford goes toe-to-toe with Colson as Scrooge and Marley spar for dominance. Any initial reluctance to accept a female Scrooge dissipates quickly. Crawford has the energy and physical presence to embody the bitter, vicious Scrooge quite handily.

The play's storyteller format requires the cast to slip between narrating and acting, with the transition often executed within a breath. Director Julia Glander not only assembled a crackling good cast, but also designed high-energy blocking to maximize their talents. John Leopard's creative sound design includes Foley effects executed by the cast live on stage. Along with Shannon Schweitzer's beautiful lighting, these production elements help immerse the audience in an expansive story within the small theater.

"Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol" is at once joyous and haunting. We know the story ends well, but as he fills in the backstory of how Scrooge and Marley came to be such flawed people, Mula gives audiences a chance to reflect on their own mortality and realize that it is never too late to be good. That is a fine Christmas gift indeed.



**FIRST SUNDAY**  
*Gallery Walk*  
**December 6, 1-5 P.M.**





Featuring artists **Juanita Baldwin, Mark Chatterley, Mark MeHaffey and Sharon Tarr.**

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## Words for friends

### Books by local authors offer something for everyone

By **BILL CASTANIER**

If you're looking for a holiday present for your favorite bookworm, this year's slate of literary releases offers a wide variety of gift options. This list of recent releases, most by local or Michigan authors, ranges from inspirational fare and regional history to gritty novels and punk rock memoirs.

Mitch Albom's new book, "The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto," continues his quest to bring hopeful, uplifting reading to the masses. Previous Albom best-sellers took us to a deathbed and to heaven. His latest book takes us to the funeral of the fictional Frankie Presto, a legendary guitarist and Forrest Gump-esque character. Mourn-

ers tell tales of the guitarist and his impact on their lives. The hook in this fabulist tale is that everyone has a role to play in life — a place in a band, metaphorically speaking. Albom himself will make at an appearance at Schuler Books & Music's Okemos location at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Local author Lori Nelson Spielman can give Albom a run for his money — in both sales and style. Her evolving talents are on full display in her second book, "Sweet Forgiveness," in which the protagonist deals with a decades-old falling out with her mother. German readers seem to seem to have found something in her books that hasn't quite caught on here. The German translation of Spielman's debut novel, "The Life List," recently passed the 1 million mark in sales.

Maybe not as uplifting — but more explosive — is MSU English Professor Ann Larabee's "The Wrong Hands: Popular Weapons Manuals and Their Historic Challenges to Democratic Society." The author, who has become an expert on radicalism in the U.S., presents a concise and cogent look at bomb-making manuals and the role they play in contemporary society. Many people are aware of "The Anarchist Cookbook," a popular underground manual, but locals may also remember Loompanics, Lansing's own anarchist publishing company.

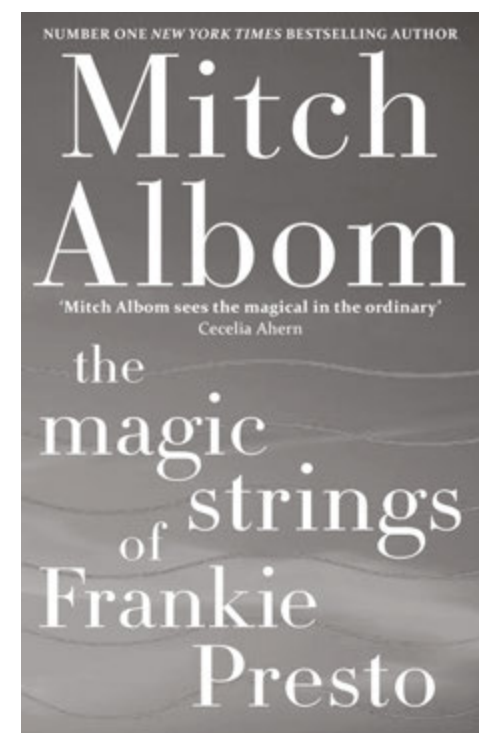
A. Brad Schwartz, an East Lansing resident and recent graduate of the University of Michigan, used the university's little known Orson Welles archive as the basis for his book on Welles' classic radio production, "The War of the Worlds." In "Broadcast Hysteria: Orson Welles's War of the Worlds and the Art of Fake News," Schwartz uses

forgotten letters and other documents to debunk many of the myths surrounding the 1938 radio production.

Bonnie Jo Campbell, a Portage resident and Western Michigan University instructor, is right in her wheelhouse in a new collection of short stories, "Mothers, Tell Your Daughters." The book explores issues of women's sexuality and abuse in Campbell's signature rural noir style. At a recent event at Lansing's Everybody Reads, Campbell handed out wristbands with the word "tell" on them — a call to action for mothers to talk to their daughters about abuse.

The punk rock pioneer Patti Smith continues to cogitate on her unusual life in her newest memoir, "M Train." The book includes several stories about her husband, Fred "Sonic" Smith, the high-energy guitarist of Detroit punk rock stalwarts MC5. As she writes about their atypical and bucolic life in St. Clair Shores, you can almost imagine a sitcom emerging.

Not many authors get a second chance at literary stardom, but the late John Herrmann may finally get his due. And it only took 89 years. The Lansing-based author's book, "What Happens," was banned in 1926 for its sexual content. It was finally released earlier this year thanks to Troy University Professor Sara Kosiba, who found the lost book and worked diligently to get it into print for the first time. The haunting coming of age story rivals "The Catcher in the Rye" in its angst and honesty. Herrmann, a contemporary and pal of Ernest Hemingway, was on his way to becoming a literary star when his career was derailed by the censorship controversy.



Courtesy Photo

Mitch Albom's latest book, "The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto," is one of several gift ideas from Michigan authors.

Another late writer, Theodore Weesner, is also worth another look. Weesner, a Flint native and MSU graduate, showed tremendous promise with his coming of age book, "The Car Thief," but faded into relative obscurity. Weesner died earlier this year at 79.

MSU graduate and former Spartan football player Jim Proebstle's book, "Unintended Impact," is a personal and poignant exploration of the life and death of his brother, Dick Proebstle, who was an MSU back-up quarterback in the 1960s. Dick Proebstle suffered from what is now known as CTE, a form of dementia linked to brain trauma. Jim Proebstle takes a complicated and timely issue and puts it on a level we can all understand.

On a lighter note, Scott M. Peters' "Making Waves" looks at the sea crafts navigating the water wonderland of Michigan. Peters records the fascinating history of Michigan's boat building industry, ranging from early hunting and fishing boats to the classic Chris-Craft.

## Schuler Books & Music

### Book Signing with #1 NYT-Bestselling Author MITCH ALBOM

Tues., December 8 @7:30pm  
Meridian Mall location



We are very pleased to present a book signing with Michigan author Mitch Albom, author of six consecutive #1 New York Time bestsellers. Albom, long-time author of a popular Detroit

Free Press column, has sold more than thirty-four million copies of his books in forty-two languages worldwide.

He will be at the store to sign copies of his newest novel, *The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto*. This is a ticketed event. Please visit our website for details.

### Storytime with Santa & Mrs. Claus!

Sat., December 5 & 19  
from 10am to noon  
Eastwood Towne Center location

Warm up by the fire with free milk and cookies - provided by the Eastwood Towne Center -- and enjoy listening to Santa and Mrs. Claus read holiday stories. Cameras are welcome.

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

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# OUT ON THE TOWN

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

## Wednesday, December 2

### EVENTS

**Winter Wine and Stein.** Casual drinks at the zoo. 5-8 p.m. \$35/\$30 members. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4222, [potterparkzoo.org](http://potterparkzoo.org).

**Suits and the City December Holiday Event.** LGBT professional networking event with white elephant fundraiser. 5:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Lansing Art Gallery, 113 S. Washington Square, Lansing. [gaylansing.org](http://gaylansing.org).

**Teens After School.** Programming for teens in 6th-12th grades. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, [elpl.org](http://elpl.org).

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

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

**Practice Your English.** Practice listening to and speaking English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, [elpl.org](http://elpl.org).

**Veteran Services.** Advice on VA benefits and claims. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. American Legion HQ, 212 N. Verlinden Ave., Lansing.

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**H.E.R.O. Class: Cabinets Class #1 - Layout, Measuring, & Ordering.** 6-8 p.m. FREE.

Greater Lansing Housing Coalition, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980, [glhc.org](http://glhc.org).

**Starting a Business.** Course for business planning. 9 a.m.-11 a.m. FREE. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Square, Suite 110, Lansing. (517) 483-1921, [sbdcmichigan.org](http://sbdcmichigan.org).

**Aux Petits Soins-Explorers 2.** French immersion class for toddlers, ages 2-4. 5:15 p.m. \$15/\$12 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Suite F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, [facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc](http://facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc).

**Aux Petits Soins-Travel Bugs 2.** French immersion class for kids, ages 6-9. 6:15 p.m. \$20/\$16 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave.,

## Christmas all over



Courtesy Photo

Attendees check out a live reindeer at last year's Winter Glow. The popular winter festival returns to East Lansing Saturday.

## December 4-5

While Lansing's Silver Bells in the City is behind us, communities across the tri-county area are still spreading holiday cheer. With events ranging from parades to local shopping days, many entertainment options are available to residents seeking festive fun this weekend.

### SATURDAY, DEC. 5 >> WINTER GLOW IN EAST LANSING

Ice carving, horse and carriage rides, marshmallow roasting and much more come to Ann Street Plaza for East Lansing's Winter Glow festival. This year's installment also includes a holiday farmers market and the Jingle Jam Music Tent, featuring performances by Deacon Earl, Ladies First and the Swift Brothers. Attendees can also check out special offers from local businesses that are participating in that weekend's Green Friday (and Saturday too!) event, East Lansing's local alternative to Black Friday. 2-5 p.m. FREE. Ann Street Plaza, Albert and M.A.C. avenues, East Lansing. (517) 319-6888, [cityofeastlansing.com/winterglow](http://cityofeastlansing.com/winterglow).

### SATURDAY, DEC. 5 >> HOLIDAY HULLABALOO IN OLD TOWN

The Old Town Commercial Association invites residents to enjoy a day of holiday-themed family fun. Many of Old Town's locally owned businesses are participating in the Hullabaloo,

offering visitors live music, sales and holiday-themed refreshments. Santa makes a special appearance at Mother & Earth Baby Boutique from noon to 4 p.m. to hear children's yuletide wishes free of charge, and several businesses offer various kid's activities like Christmas crafts and scavenger hunts. For the 21-and-over crowd, adult beverages are available at a few participating locations, including Sweet Custom Jewelry, Curvaceous Lingerie and Leopold Bloom and Co. Noon. FREE. Old Town, Lansing. (517) 485-4283, [iloveoldtown.org](http://iloveoldtown.org).

### FRIDAY, DEC. 4 >> NIGHT-LIGHTS CHRISTMAS PARADE IN GRAND LEDGE

The 44th annual Night-Lights Christmas Parade in Grand Ledge kicks off Friday night. This holiday-themed parade will feature lights, music and a variety of festive floats. After the parade, the Sun Theatre hosts a free showing of "Shrek The Halls" and a Santa meet-and-greet. 7 p.m. Downtown Grand Ledge. (517) 627-2383, [grandledgechamber.com](http://grandledgechamber.com).

### SATURDAY, DEC. 5 >> DOWNTOWN DEWITT CHRISTMAS MARKET

Did you miss small business Saturday? Don't worry, there's still plenty of time to support local shops this holiday season. The DeWitt Downtown Development Authority has

teamed up with over 10 downtown DeWitt businesses to present the 10th annual Downtown DeWitt Christmas Market. In addition to holiday shopping, the event offers horse-drawn carriage rides, a bonfire and live music. A Christmas parade swings through downtown at 5:30 p.m., and the event concludes with a 6:20 p.m. tree lighting. 2-6:30 p.m. FREE. Downtown DeWitt. (517) 669-2441, [dewittdda.org](http://dewittdda.org).

### SATURDAY, DEC. 5 >> HOLIDAY LIGHT PARADE IN WILLIAMSTON

For Williamston residents looking for some holiday fun, the 19th annual Holiday Light Parade makes its way through downtown Williamston Saturday. The parade includes illuminated floats and vehicles, a marching band performance, live animals and more. Santa and Mrs. Claus will help light the tree in front of City Hall following the parade. Children are invited to bring their wish lists to Santa in Keller's Plaza after the tree lighting. Many downtown businesses are offering extended shopping hours for the occasion, with some even handing out refreshments like popcorn and hot cocoa. 6 p.m. FREE. Downtown Williamston. (517) 655-1549, [williamston.org](http://williamston.org).

— MCKENZIE HAGERSTROM

# Turn it Down

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

### JASON ALARM REUNION AT MAC'S BAR

**Saturday, Dec. 5 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$12, \$10 adv., 8 p.m.**




Grand Ledge-based "power-new wave" band Jason Alarm reunites Saturday at Mac's Bar; openers are the Plurals, Mr. Fox and the Hounds and Dead Hour Noise. Jason Alarm was born in 2007 after vocalist/guitarist Matt Waterman and his soon-to-be bandmates witnessed a live show featuring now-defunct local bands like the Van Ermans and Shoe-lace. Jason Alarm, which also includes drummer Kirk Mason, guitarist Alex Rosendall, keyboardist David Birdsall and bassist Pat Hogan, developed a solid local following. The band disbanded in 2011 after the members "graduated from high school and some of us moved to different cities for college," Waterman said. The band is getting back together for this show, but they have not ruled out a full-fledged return. "We've decided to at least play one more show, but I think we're going to become an active band again," Waterman said. Proceeds from the reunion show go to the Fledge, a Grand Ledge recording studio and small business incubator.

**SAT. DEC 5TH**

Jason Alarm

### UNKALLED 4 CHRISTMAS SHOW AT MAC'S BAR

**Friday, Dec. 4 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$10, 5 p.m**



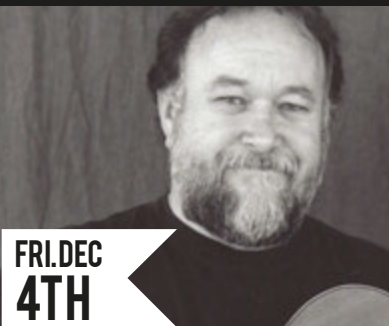
Local rapper Jimi Kanklez, a Roach Records artist, hosts his seventh annual UnKalled 4 Christmas Show Friday at Mac's Bar. Kanklez said the all-ages event has "a dash of Christmas and a dash of Halloween" and features performances from A.I., Jayson Starks, PBG, Knowledge, RC and Kanklez. But the music doesn't stop there; an 18-and-over after-party, also hosted by Mac's Bar, showcases JackSin & Body Rot, Ed Money 2.0, MBK, CAP 1 and Jaqadeliq. Spinning throughout the evening is DJ E Nyce. Fans of Twiztid or Esham might want to check out this stacked hip-hop lineup. As for Kanklez? "I'm working on my upcoming full length, 'Alien Muzik,' and some side projects," he said. "I'm also getting my side label E.T. Ent. up and running and working on some new music videos."

**FRI. DEC 4TH**

Jimi Kanklez

### JOEL MABUS AT THE TEN POUND FIDDLE

**Friday Dec. 4 @ MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. All ages, \$18, \$15 members, \$5 students. 7:30 p.m.**



Michigan folk fixture Joel Mabus, a staple at the Ten Pound Fiddle concert series, returns Friday for a show at the MSU Community Music School. The award-winning singer/songwriter and instrumentalist debuted on a small Michigan-based label in 1977. By 1986, he'd formed his own indie folk label, Fossil Records. In the years since, Mabus has flown under the mainstream radar while still playing notable folk clubs and festivals across the country. Mabus' 24th album, 2015's "A Bird in this World," is a bluesy roots-based collection of original tunes. For a prime example of his talent, head over to Youtube and look for Mabus performing "Cluck Old Hen" at the Midwest Banjo Camp.

**FRI. DEC 4TH**

Joel Mabus

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

## LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 3 p.m.		Red Teeth, 8 p.m.	Goth Night: Leather & Lace, 9 p.m.
Black Cat Bistro, 115 Albert Ave.		DJ Don Black, 9:30 p.m.		
Blue Gill Grill, 1591 Lake Lansing Rd.			The Tenants, 8 p.m.	MSU Football, 8 p.m.
Brookshire, 205 W. Church St.			Chris Lasko, 6 p.m.	
Capital Prime, 2324 Showtime Dr.			Rush Clement, 8:30 p.m.	
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.		Young Guns, 9 p.m.	
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Fusion Shows Presents, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Champion's, 2240 Cedar St.		Ladies' Night, 7 p.m.		
Dublin Square, 327 Abbot Rd.			Cheap Date, 10 p.m.	
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.		Karaoke w/ Jamie, 9 p.m.	Karaoke with Jamie, 9 p.m.	MSU Football, 8 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Live Blues w/ The Good Cookies, 7 p.m.	Skoryoke Live Band Karaoke, 8:30 p.m.	Showdown, 9:30 p.m.	Showdown, 9:30 p.m.
Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza			Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.	
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	"Johnny D" Jam, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze, 9 p.m.	Soulstice, 9:30 p.m.	Tell Yo Mama, 9:30 p.m.
Harrison Roadhouse, 720 Michigan Ave.			Darrin Lerner Jr., 5:30 p.m.	
Leroys, 1526 S. Cedar St.		Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.		Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
Log Jam, 110 W. Jefferson St.				
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Prozak, 8 p.m.	Desmond Jones, 9 p.m.	Irush x Ollie Joseph, 7:30 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		D Frazee, 8 p.m.	UnKalled 4 Christmas Show, 5 p.m.	Jason Alarm, 8 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic w/ Jen Sygit, 9 p.m.	Lincoln County Process, 9 p.m.	Second Nature, 9 p.m.	Hooties, 9 p.m.
R Club, 6409 Centurion Dr.			Smooth Daddy, 8:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 8:30 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road			Well Enough Alone, 7 p.m.	MSU Football, 8 p.m.
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27	Kathy Ford Band Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.		New Rule, 7 p.m.	MSU Football, 8 p.m.
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.			El Kabong, 7 p.m.	MSU Football, 8 p.m.
Tavern and Tap, 101 S. Washington Sq.	Tavern House Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m.	DJ Don Black, 9:30 p.m.		
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.	Frog Open Blues Jam, 8:30 p.m.		Jimmy G and the Capitals, 8:30 p.m.	Jimmy G and the Capitals, 8:30 p.m.
Watershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd.	Irevor Compton, 7 p.m.	Dan Maclachlan, 8 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.
Waterfront Bar and Grill, 325 City Market Dr.			Joe Wright, 7 p.m.	MSU Football, 8 p.m.

**LIVE & LOCAL LISTS UPCOMING GIGS!** To get listed email [allison@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:allison@lansingcitypulse.com). Only submit for the upcoming week's shows.

# Out on the town

from page 19

Suite F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetissoinsllc.

**Story Art Time.** Art and story time for preschoolers. 10-10:45 a.m. FREE. Donations appreciated. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

**Walk-In Wednesdays.** Art activities for ages 5 and up. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Donations appreciated. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

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

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

**Line Dancing.** All levels welcome. 3:15-4:15

p.m. \$10/\$7 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

**Family Storytime.** Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. cadl.org.

## ARTS

**BroadPOP Studio.** Getting crafty with concrete. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

## MUSIC

**MSU College of Music: Tuba Euphonium Ensemble.** 7:30 p.m. FREE. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu.

**Lansing Matinee Musicale December Meeting.** "Rejuvenating Rachmaninoff" and "Christmas in More than Three Minutes." 10:30 a.m. FREE/\$15 with lunch. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-9495.

## THEATER

**A Fisherman's Wife.** Reading of new play by Purple Rose Theatre. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, purplerosetheatre.org.

## Thursday, December 3

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Family Storytime.** Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

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

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

**Take Off Pounds Sensibly.** 5:15 p.m. \$5. New Hope Church, 1340 Haslett Road, Haslett. (517) 349-

See Out on the Town, Page 22

The City of East Lansing and Downtown Management Board present

# GREEN FRIDAY

*& Saturday, too!*

SHOP DOWNTOWN EAST LANSING

Friday, December 4 and Saturday, December 5, 2015

Come to downtown East Lansing for shopping and dining specials! Winter Glow, East Lansing's winter festival, also takes place on Saturday from 2-5 p.m. Go to [www.cityofeastlansing.com/greenfriday](http://www.cityofeastlansing.com/greenfriday) for details!

**FREE HOLIDAY PARKING COUPON**

Present this coupon to receive **FREE parking in downtown East Lansing on Friday, Dec. 4.**

Coupon valid between 11 a.m.-10 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 4 in attended surface parking lots and ramps. Excludes meters and automatic machines. Originals ONLY, copies of this coupon will not be accepted. Coupon limited to one-time use. Dine, shop and be merry in downtown East Lansing this holiday season!

Presented by the East Lansing Parking Department - Code 600

# Ten Pound Fiddle

Concert Series EST. 1975

**December 4 8 p.m.**



**JOEL MAEBUS**  
MSU COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL

**December 5 7 p.m.**

**CONTRA AND SQUARE DANCE**  
CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**December 11 8 p.m.**



**12th ANNUAL HOLIDAY SING HOSTED BY SALLY POTTER, wsg DOUG BERCH**  
MSU COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL

**December 12 10 a.m.**

**FIDDLE SCOUTS - HOLIDAY SING-A-LONG WITH SALLY POTTER**  
MSU COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL

**December 31 8 p.m.**



**NEW YEAR'S EVE CONTRA AND SQUARE DANCE**  
CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**VISIT US ONLINE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TICKET SALES**  
ph: 517-337-7744  
[www.tenpoundfiddle.org](http://www.tenpoundfiddle.org)

# Out on the town

from page 21

9183, newhopehaslett.com.

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

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

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

**Prostate Cancer Support Group of Mid-Michigan.** Monthly meetings with physicians and other professionals. 7-9 p.m. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

**Preschool Science Explorations: Busy Beavers.** Science lesson, craft and nature walk for preschoolers. 1-2:30 p.m. \$4. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866, meridian.mi.us.

**Team SBA Financing Roundtable.** Business financing advice from experts. 9 a.m.-noon. FREE. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Square, Suite 110, Lansing. (517) 483-1921, ow.ly/V5fDD.

**Shamanic Healing and Education Clinic.** Talk and demos of shamanic healing. 6:30-8:30. Donations welcome. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 402-6727, willowstickceremonies.com.

## MUSIC

**Open Mic @ The Colonial Bar & Grill.** Weekly, bring-your-own open mic. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. The Colonial Bar & Grille, 3425 S. Martin Luther King Jr.

Blvd., Lansing. (517) 882-6132.

## THEATER

**Lansing RIF Theater Event.** Theater fundraiser. 7-9 p.m. \$5. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 755-4966.

**Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol.** Classic story from a new point of view. 8 p.m. \$23. Williamston Theater, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.com.

**Monkey King.** MSU Theatre's Freshman Showcase. 7:30 p.m. \$13/\$11 seniors and faculty. Arena Theatre, MSU Auditorium, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

## EVENTS

**Gentle Yoga.** Yoga basics. 9-10 a.m. \$10/\$7 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

**Capital Area Audubon Society.** "The Plight of the Pollinator." 7 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224, capitalareaaudubon.org.

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

**One on One Life Coaching.** Brief guidance session. 1-3 p.m. \$24. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

**Spanish Conversation Group.** English and Spanish spoken. 7-8 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. elpl.org

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

**8-Ball Tournament.** Bring your pool game to the Avenue. Call to confirm. 7 p.m. \$10. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 492-7403.

**Euchre.** No partner needed. 6-9 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

## Friday, December 4

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Aux Petits Soins-Explorers 1-3.** French immersion for babies/toddlers. 9:30 a.m. (ages 2-4), 10:30 a.m. (0-2) & 5:15pm (ages 4-6). \$15/\$12 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Suite F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.

### MUSIC

**Christmas Cabaret Benefit.** Elden Kelly Trio, Sistrum, Basses Loaded and more perform. 5:45 p.m. \$35. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-9477.

**Four Pianos Holiday Concert.** Piano and percussion. 7:30-9 p.m. \$23/\$18 kids/\$25 VIP. Charlotte Performing Arts Center, 378 State St., Charlotte. (231) 343-4096, fourpianos.com.

**MSU Jazz Orchestras with Jazz Drummer Jimmy Cobb.** 8-10 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/students FREE. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu.

### THEATER

**Carol's Christmas.** Funny take on "A Christmas Carol." 7 p.m. \$7/\$5 kids and seniors. Happendance, 3448 Hagadorn Road, Okemos. (517) 339-2145.

**Monkey King.** MSU Theatre's Freshman Showcase. 8 p.m. \$13/\$11 seniors and faculty. Arena Theatre, MSU Auditorium, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

**Cymbeline.** Shakespeare play. 8-10 p.m. \$5/\$10 donation. Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517)483-1546, lcc.edu/showinfo.

**A Christmas Carol.** Humorous, musical version of classic tale. 7 p.m. \$7/\$5 kids. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

**Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol.** Classic story from a new point of view. 8 p.m. \$28. Williamston Theater, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.com.

### EVENTS

**Grand Ledge Holiday Parade.** Lighted float

## THURSDAY, DEC. 3-6 >> 'THE MONKEY KING' AT MSU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

MSU's Department of Theatre jumps into the China Experience, the university's year-long multi-disciplinary series of programs that explore the art and culture of China, with this year's Freshman Showcase production of "The Monkey King." The play, adapted from the Ming Dynasty novel "Journey to the West," tells the story of a pilgrim monk who embarks on fantastic adventures featuring legendary figures from Chinese folklore. The Monkey King, one of the monk's companions, is a magical, shape-shifting monkey with strength and speed beyond compare. A discussion follows Thursday's performance. 7:30 p.m. Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. \$13/\$11 seniors and faculty. Arena Theatre, MSU Auditorium, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.



**LANSING'S FAVORITE CREATIVE NIGHT OUT!**

Looks like ART, Feels like a PARTY! A little bit of paint, a little bit of wine, and a whole lot of FUN!

**WE'D LOVE TO HOST YOUR:**

- Birthday Parties
- Bachelorette Parties
- Team Building Events
- Family Get Together
- Girls' Night Out

No experience required, only enthusiasm!

**Located in Frandor. Sign up online!**

www.paintingwithatwist.com/lansing (517) 483-2450

**PUBLIC CLASSES 7 DAYS A WEEK!**

## Passports - Delta Township Clerk's Office



**Monday-Friday 8am-5pm plus:**

- Thursday, January 7th from 5pm-7pm
- Wednesday, January 20th from 5pm-7pm
- Monday, April 4th from 5pm-7pm
- Saturday, July 30th from 8am-2pm
- Thursday, September 22nd from 5pm-7pm

**Pictures available on site**

Personal checks or money orders only. No credit or debit cards are accepted for payment of passport application fees. Payment is mailed with Application to U.S. Department of State.

For more information [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) or call the Clerk's Office at 323-8500.  
Mary R. Clark, Township Clerk, Delta Charter Township

## FRIDAY DEC. 4-6 >> 'CYMBELINE' AT LCC THEATRE

An ancient British king, secret lovers, plots of poison and seduction — all the usual trappings of Shakespeare are present in one of his lesser known plays, "Cymbeline," presented this week at LCC. The story follows Imogen, the daughter of King Cymbeline, who must defend herself against a conspiring stepmother, an unwanted suitor, accusations of adultery and more. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. \$5-10 recommended donation. Black Box Theatre, Room 168, Gannon Building, 422 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488, lcc.edu/showinfo.

## FRIDAY, DEC. 4-6 >> 'CAROL'S CHRISTMAS' AT MID MICHIGAN FAMILY THEATRE

Mid Michigan Family Theatre offers a modern spin on Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" with its production of "Carol's Christmas." Carol, a young girl with a selfish streak, neglects a class pet, ultimately causing the poor guinea pig's death. After the incident, she is visited by the spirit of Marley, who takes her to see the ghosts of her first grade teacher, her school principal and a classmate named Charles. By showing visions of Carol's past, present and future, the ghosts challenge the young woman to better herself and have compassion for friends in need. Audiences should enter using the east entrance of the Happendance Complex. 7 p.m. Friday; 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Saturday; 3 p.m. Sunday. \$7/\$5 seniors and children. Happendance Complex, 3448 Hagadorn Road, Okemos. (517) 339-2145, facebook.com/midmichiganfamilytheatre.

# Out on the town

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parade. 7 p.m. FREE. 121 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-2383, grandledgechamber.com.  
**Community Thank You Open House.** Hot breakfast and live broadcast. 6:30-10 a.m. FREE. St. Vincent Catholic Charities, 2800 W. Willow St., Lansing. (517) 323-4734, stvcc.org.  
**Green Friday.** Shopping deals to support local businesses. FREE. Downtown East Lansing, Grand River Ave., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.  
**Holiday Party at Grace Boutique.** Holiday party with great company and refreshments. 6-9 p.m.

FREE. Grace Boutique, 115 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 927-8628, oldtowngrace.com.  
**Ingham County Animal Control's Vaccination and Licensing Clinic.** Free rabies vaccinations available. Noon-4 p.m. Ingham County Animal Control Outreach Center, 826 W. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 676-8370, ac.ingham.org.  
**Kids Skate.** 6-8 p.m. ages 13 and under; 8-11 p.m., ages 14 and up. \$8. Skate City Roller Rink, 905 Southland Ave., Lansing. (517) 894-8429.  
**MSU Community Club Holiday Reception.** Spartan Discords perform. 12:30-2:30 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-0417, msu.edu/user/msucclub.  
**StoryTime.** For ages 2-5. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East

Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.  
**TGIF Party.** Dance party. 8 p.m.-midnight. \$13. Hawk Hollow Banquet Center, 15101 S. Chandler Road, Bath.

## Saturday, December 5 EVENTS

**Downtown DeWitt Christmas Market.** Winter activities, games, music and light parade. 2-6:30 p.m. Downtown DeWitt. dewittdda.org.  
**Help-Portrait.** Family portrait by professionals. 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. FREE. Volunteers of America, 5411 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 282-0077, helpportrait.com.  
**Holiday Giveaway - Free Flea Market.** Giveaway of clothing, bed linens, furniture, books, toys and more. 9 a.m. FREE. Trinity AME Church, 3500 W. Holmes Road, Lansing.  
**Sugar Plum Fairy American Girl Party.** Tea party and ballet performance. 1-3 p.m. \$20. Jackson School of the Arts, 634 N. Mechanic St., Jackson. (517) 784-2389, jacksonarts.org.  
**Winter Glow.** East Lansing's holiday celebration. 2-5 p.m. FREE. 300 Block Albert St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6888, ow.ly/VhhSv.  
**Winter Glow at ELPL 2.0.** Snowball crafts and fun. 2-5 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

## CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Domestic Violence Support Group.** Noon-1:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163, womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org.  
**Aux Petits Soins-Explorers 1.** French immersion class for babies, ages 0-2. 9:30 a.m. \$15/\$12 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Suite F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.  
**Tai Chi at Allen Market Place.** Instruction in Qigong, meditation and Yang style tai chi forms. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

## MUSIC

**Matt LoRusso Trio at Troppo.** FREE. Troppo, 101 S. Washington Sq. Lansing. (517) 371-4000.  
**MSU Faculty Recital: Panayis Lyras, piano.** 8-9:30 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/students FREE. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu.

## ARTS

**Matt LoRusso Trio at Troppo.** FREE. Troppo, 101 S. Washington Sq. Lansing. (517) 371-4000.  
**Deacon Earl @ Lansing City Market.** Live blues, reggae, Americana and more. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517)

483-7460.  
**Holiday Open House at MICA Gallery.** Mulled cider, sweet treats and holiday shopping for art. Noon-6 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600, micagallery.org.  
**Studio Sale at Jon Whitney Pottery.** Functional stoneware sale. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. 3642 West Kipp Road, Mason. ow.ly/VhlJe.

## THEATER

**Cymbeline.** Shakespeare play. 8-10 p.m. \$5/\$10 donation. Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517)483-1546, lcc.edu/showinfo.  
**Carol's Christmas.** Funny take on "A Christmas Carol." 2 and 4:30 p.m. \$7/\$5 kids and seniors. Happendance, 3448 Hagadorn Road, Okemos. (517) 339-2145.  
**A Christmas Carol.** Humorous, musical version of classic tale. 2 and 4:30 p.m. \$7/\$5 kids. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.  
**Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol.** Classic story from a new point of view. 2 and 8 p.m. \$25 at 2, \$28 at 8. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.com.

See Out on the Town, Page 24

**Monkey King.** MSU Theatre's Freshman Showcase. 8 p.m. \$13/\$11 seniors and faculty. Arena Theatre, MSU Auditorium, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

## Sunday, December 6 EVENTS

**Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance.** Lessons 6-6:45 p.m., dance 6:45. \$8 dance/\$10 dance & lesson. The Lansing Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-7838.  
**'Nutcracker in a Nutshell' Ballet Performance.** Abridged version of ballet. 1-2 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. micagallery.org.  
**Cookie Walk and Bazaar.** Baked goods for sale. Noon-4 p.m. Lansing Liederkrantz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 882-6330, liederkrantzclub.org.  
**VegMichigan Potluck.** Vegan potluck. 6-8:30 p.m. \$10/FREE with dish to share. Clerical Technical Union of MSU, 2990 E. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. (517) 449-3701, ow.ly/Vhr7D.  
**World Human Rights Day Celebration.** Presentations about human rights issues around the world. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. gluna.org.

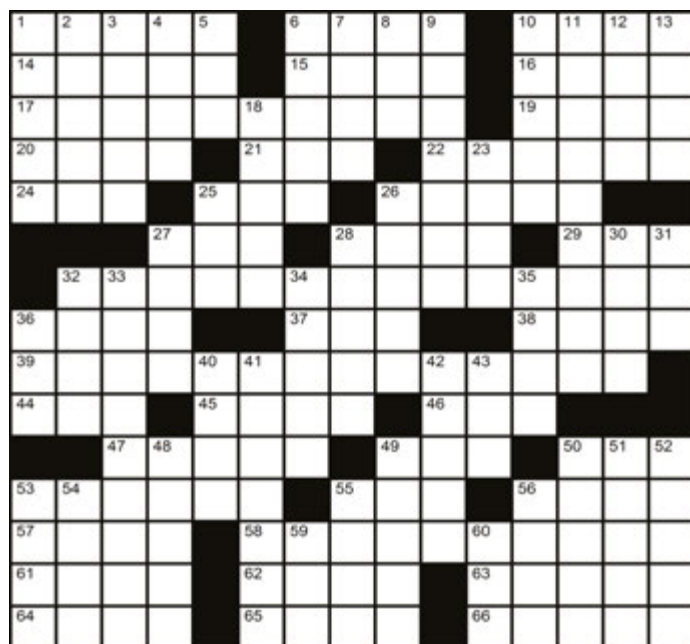
## CLASSES AND SEMINARS

## Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"V: The Invasion"—sounds weird, but it works.  
 Matt Jones

**Across**  
 1 Tyler of "Archer"  
 6 "Omnia vincit \_\_\_\_"  
 10 "Pygmalion" playwright  
 14 Athletic team  
 15 The 29th state  
 16 When repeated, a Billy Idol hit  
 17 Chinese leader born in Norway?  
 19 "This is for," on an env.  
 20 One in Wiesbaden  
 21 "Yes way, Jose!"  
 22 Elton John collaborator Bernie



24 Messy digs  
 25 Chopping tool  
 26 "Free Space" game  
 27 Prefix for pod or corn  
 28 Subtle signal  
 29 April 15 payment  
 32 Complaining when you have to stand during that stadium thing?  
 36 Gas used in signs  
 37 Like a fossil  
 38 Elevator pioneer Elisha  
 39 Part of my Ukraine itinerary, maybe?  
 44 Card issued by the DMV  
 45 Tabula \_\_\_\_  
 46 Bud on a tuber  
 47 Number of legs on a daddy longlegs  
 49 Beats by \_\_\_\_ (headphones brand)  
 50 Law school grads, for short  
 53 1950 Isaac Asimov book  
 55 PBS's "Science Kid"  
 56 "The World According to \_\_\_\_" (1982 film)  
 57 Spend fewer bucks  
 58 Economist Bodie at an animal attraction?  
 61 Company whose product names are in all caps  
 62 Collect from work  
 63 Barbershop tool  
 64 Presidential run?  
 65 "Let It Go" singer  
 66 Fashion sense  
 paste tube  
 6 Window alternative, on a flight  
 7 "Out of the way!"  
 8 Get behind?  
 9 Carrying on  
 10 Dragon faced by Bilbo Baggins  
 11 Touchy topic, so to speak  
 12 Apt to vote no  
 13 Las Vegas casino mogul Steve  
 18 2004 Britney Spears single  
 23 "My Way" songwriter Paul  
 25 Gallery wares  
 26 Irwin who won this season of "Dancing With the Stars"  
 27 Work the bar  
 28 Name yelled at the end of "The Flintstones"  
 30 Tel \_\_\_\_, Israel  
 31 Marks a ballot, maybe  
 32 "Felicity" star Russell  
 33 Narration work  
 34 Bring up  
 35 Made a tapestry, e.g.  
 36 Org. of Niners, but not Sixers  
 40 2012 Affleck film  
 41 Game played with five dice  
 42 Tiny Willy Wonka candies  
 43 Solid caustic  
 48 Steel girder  
 49 "The People's Princess"  
 50 Like most "Peanuts" soundtracks  
 51 Dog slobber  
 52 Mold particle  
 53 "\_\_\_\_ just me ..."  
 54 Zen garden tool  
 55 "Dear" group  
 56 Winged pest  
 59 "Batman Forever" star Kilmer  
 60 Apr. 15 addressee

## SUDOKU

## ADVANCED

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

## 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 25

# Out on the town

from page 23

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

**Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous.** Third floor meeting room. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5559, cadl.org.

**Spiritual Talk, Pure Meditation and Silent Prayer.** 7 p.m. FREE. Self Realization Meditation Healing Centre, 7187 Drumheller Road, Bath. (517) 641-6201, selfrealizationcentremichigan.org.

## MUSIC

**Community Performance of the Messiah.** 10:30 a.m.-noon. Grace Lutheran Church, 528 N. Martin L. King Jr. Blvd., Lansing.

## THEATER

**Carol's Christmas.** Funny take on "A Christmas Carol." 3 p.m. \$7/\$5 kids and seniors. Happendence, 3448 Hagadorn Road, Okemos. (517) 339-2145.

**A Christmas Carol.** Humorous, musical version of classic tale. 2 p.m. \$7/\$5 kids. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

**Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol.** Classic story from a new point of view. 2 p.m. \$25. Williamston Theater, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.com.

**Monkey King.** MSU Theatre's Freshman Showcase. 2 p.m. \$13/\$11 seniors and faculty. Arena Theatre, MSU Auditorium, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

## Monday, December 7 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Adult Rape Survivor Support Group.** Registration preferred. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

**Job Seekers Support Group.** Finding the right career. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163, womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org.

**Support Group.** For the divorced, separated & widowed. 7:30 p.m. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272, stdavidslansing.org.

**Tai Chi for Arthritis and Health.** Weekly class. 1 and 5:30 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church, 528 N. Martin L. King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. (517) 323-0717.

## EVENTS

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

**BabyTime.** 0-24 months. Meeting at church. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**Scratch Coding Club.** Learn how to use Scratch 2 and create animations. 7-8 p.m. FREE, registration

required. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

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

**Capital City Toastmasters Meeting.** Learn public speaking and leadership skills. 7 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300, cadl.org.

**Hopeful Hearts Grief Group.** Learn, grow and heal together. 10-11 a.m. FREE. The Marquette Activity Room, 5968 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. (517) 381-4866.

**Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous.** 5:45-6:45 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads, 2019 E. Michigan

See Out on the Town, Page 25

## SUNDAY, DEC. 6 >> HANDEL'S 'MESSIAH' AT THE WHARTON CENTER

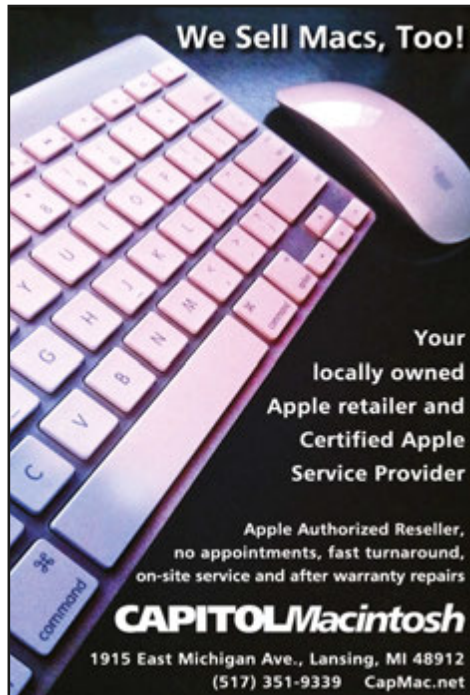
The famous, booming chords of "Hallelujah Chorus" are heard everywhere from movies to TV shows and even commercials — but the best place to hear the piece is the concert hall. Choirs from MSU, including the Choral Union, University Chorale and State Singers, take the stage with MSU Symphony Orchestra to perform George Frideric Handel's masterpiece, "Messiah." Written over 250 years ago, the work has become a staple of the holiday season and is one of the world's most popular orchestral productions. 7 p.m. \$20/\$10 students. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

## SUNDAY, DEC. 6 >> 'NUTCRACKER IN A NUTSHELL' AT MICA GALLERY

Sometimes the rush of the holiday season makes it hard to stop and smell the sugarplums. Fortunately, the Greater Lansing Ballet Co. brings an abridged version of "The Nutcracker" to MICA Gallery for busy holiday enthusiasts. "Nutcracker in a Nutshell" lasts less than an hour and covers all the highlights of the beloved holiday ballet. While viewers are at MICA, they can also check out its ongoing exhibit, "The Art of Gifting," where they can purchase gift items produced by Michigan artists. The exhibit lasts until Dec. 23. 1 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 Turner St., Lansing. micagallery.org.

## SATURDAY, DEC. 5 >> PHIL DENNY & FRIENDS CHRISTMAS COLLECTIVE

Lansing-based smooth jazz saxophonist Phil Denny promises to have you swinging around the Christmas tree at his fourth annual Christmas Collective concert. Denny is joined by a crew of acclaimed musicians from across the country, including saxophonist and vocalist Marqueal Ranae Jordan, pianist Scott Allman, guitarist Bryan Lubeck, vocalist Yolanda Rabun, singer/songwriter Trey Simon and student musicians from nearby high schools. The evening's set list includes smooth jazz takes on holiday favorites as well as original pieces. 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$25, VIP package available. Pattengill Middle School Auditorium, 626 Marshall St., Lansing. phildenny.com.



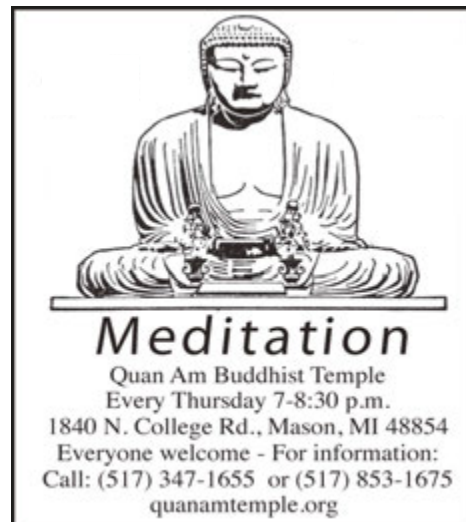
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# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsny

Dec. 2-8

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): "Charm is a way of getting the answer 'yes' without having asked any clear question," wrote French author Albert Camus. I have rarely seen you better poised than you are now to embody and capitalize on this definition of "charm," Aries. That's good news, right? Well, mostly. But there are two caveats. First, wield your mojo as responsibly as you can. Infuse your bewitching allure with integrity. Second, be precise about what it is you want to achieve -- even if you don't come right out and tell everyone what it is. Resist the temptation to throw your charm around haphazardly.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): I suspect that in the coming days you will have an uncanny power to make at least one of your resurrection fantasies come true. Here are some of the possibilities. 1. If you're brave enough to change your mind and shed some pride, you could retrieve an expired dream from limbo. 2. By stirring up a bit more chutzpah that you usually have at your disposal, you might be able to revive and even restore a forsaken promise. 3. Through an act of grace, it's possible you will reanimate an ideal that was damaged or abandoned.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): To the other eleven signs of the zodiac, the Way of the Gemini sometimes seems rife with paradox and contradiction. Many non-Geminis would feel paralyzed if they had to live in the midst of so much hubbub. But when you are at your best, you thrive in the web of riddles. In fact, your willingness to abide there is often what generates your special magic. Your breakthroughs are made possible by your high tolerance for uncertainty. How many times have I seen a Gemini who has been lost in indecision but then suddenly erupts with a burst of crackling insights? This is the kind of subtle miracle I expect to happen soon.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): In September of 1715, a band of Jacobite rebels gathered for a guerrilla attack on Edinburgh Castle in Scotland. Their plan was to scale the walls with rope ladders, aided by a double agent who was disguised as a castle sentry. But the scheme failed before it began. The rope ladders turned out to be too short to serve their intended purpose. The rebels retreated in disarray. Please make sure you're not like them in the coming weeks, Cancerian. If you want to engage in a strenuous action, an innovative experiment, or a bold stroke, be meticulous in your preparations. Don't scrimp on your props, accouterments, and resources.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): If you give children the option of choosing between food that's mushy and food that's crunchy, a majority will choose the crunchy stuff. It's more exciting to their mouths, a more lively texture for their teeth and tongues to play with. This has nothing to do with nutritional value, of course. Soggy oatmeal may foster a kid's well-being better than crispy potato chips. Let's apply this lesson to the way you feed your inner child in the coming weeks. Metaphorically speaking, I suggest you serve that precious part of you the kind of sustenance that's both crunchy and healthy. In other words, make sure that what's wholesome is also fun, and vice versa.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your mascot is a famous white oak in Athens, Georgia. It's called the Tree That Owns Itself. According to legend, it belongs to no person or institution, but only to itself. The earth in which it's planted and the land around it are also its sole possession. With this icon as your inspiration, I invite you to enhance and celebrate your sovereignty during the next seven months. What actions will enable you to own yourself more thoroughly? How can you boost your autonomy and become, more than ever before, the boss of you? It's prime time to expedite this effort.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Police in Los Angeles conducted an experiment on a ten-mile span of freeway. Drivers in three unmarked cars raced along as

fast as they could while remaining in the same lane. The driver of the fourth car not only moved at top speed, but also changed lanes and jockeyed for position. Can you guess the results? The car that weaved in and out of the traffic flow arrived just slightly ahead of the other three. Apply this lesson to your activities in the coming week, please. There will be virtually no advantage to indulging in frenetic, erratic, breakneck exertion. Be steady and smooth and straightforward.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will generate lucky anomalies and helpful flukes if you use shortcuts, flee from boredom, and work smarter rather than harder. On the other hand, you'll drum up wearisome weirdness and fruitless flukes if you meander all over the place, lose yourself in far-off fantasies, and act as if you have all the time in the world. Be brisk and concise, Scorpio. Avoid loafing and vacillating. Associate with bubbly activators who make you laugh and loosen your iron grip. It's a favorable time to polish off a lot of practical details with a light touch.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "Like all explorers, we are drawn to discover what's out there without knowing yet if we have the courage to face it." Buddhist teacher Pema Chödrön said that, and now I'm telling you. According to my divinations, a new frontier is calling to you. An unprecedented question has awakened. The urge to leave your familiar circle is increasingly tempting. I don't know if you should you surrender to this brewing fascination. I don't know if you will be able to gather the resources you would require to carry out your quest. What do you think? Will you be able to summon the necessary audacity? Maybe the better inquiry is this: Do you vow to use all your soulful ingenuity to summon the necessary audacity?

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "Once I witnessed a windstorm so severe that two 100-year-old trees were uprooted on the spot," Mary Ruefle wrote in her book *Madness, Rack, and Honey*. "The next day, walking among the wreckage, I found the friable nests of birds, completely intact and unharmed on the ground." I think that's a paradox you'd be wise to keep in mind, Capricorn. In the coming weeks, what's most delicate and vulnerable about you will have more staying power than what's massive and fixed. Trust your grace and tenderness more than your fierceness and forcefulness. They will make you as smart as you need to be.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Aztec king Montezuma II quenched his daily thirst with one specific beverage. He rarely drank anything else. It was ground cocoa beans mixed with chili peppers, water, vanilla, and annatto. Spiced chocolate? You could call it that. The frothy brew was often served to him in golden goblets, each of which he used once and then hurled from his royal balcony into the lake below. He regarded this elixir as an aphrodisiac, and liked to quaff a few flagons before heading off to his harem. I bring this up, Aquarius, because the coming weeks will be one of those exceptional times when you have a poetic license to be almost Montezuma-like. What's your personal equivalent of his primal chocolate, golden goblets, and harem?

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): "Unfortunately, I'm pretty lucky," my friend Rico said to me recently. He meant that his relentless good fortune constantly threatens to undermine his ambition. How can he be motivated to try harder and grow smarter and get stronger if life is always showering him with blessings? He almost wishes he could suffer more so that he would have more angst to push against. I hope you won't fall under the spell of that twisted logic in the coming weeks, Pisces. This is a phase of your cycle when you're likely to be the beneficiary of an extra-strong flow of help and serendipity. Please say this affirmation as often as necessary: "Fortunately, I'm pretty lucky."

# Out on the town

from page 24

Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5559, coda.org.  
**Not So Happy Endings Support Group.** For women ending relationships. 5:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 896-3311.  
**Ovreaters Anonymous.** Support for weight loss efforts. 7 p.m. FREE. Okemos Presbyterian Church, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 290-5163.  
**Speakeasies Toastmasters.** Improve listening, analysis, leadership and presentation skills. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (616) 841-5176.  
**Take Off Pounds Sensibly.** Have a support system, lose weight. 7 p.m. FREE to visit. Eaton Rapids Medical Center, 1500 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. (517) 543-0786.  
**Aux Petits Soins-Explorers 1.** French immersion class for babies, ages 0-2. 5:15 p.m. \$15/\$12 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Suite F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.  
**Comprehensive Approach to Weight Loss.** Wimbledon room, call to register. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Sparrow Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. 1-800-SPARROW.

## MUSIC

**DCS Holiday Concert, The Gift of Music.** DeWitt Community Singers Holiday Concert. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Redeemer United Methodist Church, 13980 Schavey Road, DeWitt.

## EVENTS

**Bible and Beer.** Discussion of scripture's power in daily events. 6 p.m. Kelly's Downtown, 220 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 482-0600, bibleandbeer@cccclansing.org.  
**Food Drive.** Drop off non-perishable food items through Saturday. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. SS Hair Designers, 3233 W. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 327-5300.  
**Sporcle Live! Trivia.** Team based. Win Crunchy's gift certificates. 7 p.m. FREE. Crunchy's Pizza & Burgers, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing.  
**Books on Tap.** "White Elephant" book exchange. 6:30-9 p.m. FREE. Jimmy's Pub, 16804 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.  
**Chair Massage @ MSC.** 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. \$14/\$12 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.  
**Solar Superstorms.** Planetarium show. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Abrams Planetarium, 400 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 355-4672.  
**ToddlerTime.** Ages 18 - 36 months listen to stories.

10:30-11 a.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

## Wednesday, December 9

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Aux Petits Soins-Explorers 2.** French immersion class for toddlers, ages 2-4. 5:15 p.m. \$15/\$12 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Suite F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.  
**Aux Petits Soins-Travel bugs 2.** French immersion class for kids, ages 6-9. 6:15 p.m. \$20/\$16 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Suite F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.  
**Story Art Time.** Art and story time for preschoolers. 10-10:45 a.m. FREE. Donations appreciated. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.  
**Walk-In Wednesdays.** Art activities for ages 5 and up. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Donations appreciated. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.  
**Meditation.** For beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, 3015 S. Washington St., Lansing. (517) 351-5866, lamc.info  
**Alcoholics Anonymous.** A closed step meeting. 6 p.m. Donations. Pennsylvania Ave. Church of God, 3500 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 899-3215.  
**Line Dancing.** All levels welcome. 3:15-4:15 p.m. \$10 drop-in/\$7 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.  
**H.E.R.O. Class: Installing Base and Wall Cabinets.** Home improvement course. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Greater Lansing Housing Coalition, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980, glhc.org.

## EVENTS

**Melted Crayon Art.** Create a work of art using crayons and heat. Ages 8 and up. 6:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.  
**Teens After School.** Programming for teens in 6th-12th grades. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.  
**Open Workshop.** Bike repair, bike safety and biking as healthy exercise. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Kids Repair Program, 5815 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 755-4174.  
**Allen Street Farmers Market - Indoors.** Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911.  
**Practice Your English.** Practice listening to and speaking English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing.

## SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

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## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

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## CHOUPLI WOOD-FIRED KABOB/FOR CREPE SAKE

Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

The Choupli crew (from left): Manager Emma O'Donnell, cook Mostafa Osman and manager/chef Zuhair Abed. The restaurant takes its name from a Turkish idiom meaning "a playful young girl."

### By ALLAN I. ROSS

Lansing's culinary melting pot got a dash of Eastern European cuisine in late October when **Choupli Wood-Fired Kabob** opened on the city's west side. The fast casual eatery introduces Turkish cooking to local palates, including a unique cooking method that's right there in the name.

"In Turkey, kabob grilling is all done on charcoal," says Choupli owner Faris Yousef. "This gives the meat a level of smoky flavoring that's unique, and carries on a tradition that goes back for generations."

The restaurant utilizes a 5-foot-long dual gas/charcoal grill, but the gas is just there to keep temperature consistent — all the actual cooking is done over natural wood charcoal. Choupli customers select a skewer from a chilled glass case — choices include chicken, beef, kofta (Turkish meatballs), lamb, and a couple of veggie options — and a cook places it over the flames. The kabob can then be turned into a wrap, which is built to order from a selection of toppings, or turned into a combo plate with three sides.

Turkish cuisine is a fusion of Central Asian, Sephardic Jewish, Middle Eastern, Mediterranean and Balkan cuisines, and Yousef said Choupli's style has been refined for Midwest sensibilities. Yousef's brother, Zuhair Abed, is Choupli's head chef. He spent eight years working at a Lansing-area Mediterranean restaurant where he honed his style.

"We import our spices from Istanbul, but Turkish paprika is actually sweeter, so we've (modified) the recipe to keep the meat from being too sweet for American tastes," Yousef said. "I like to say everything has a Turkish influence, but it's not 100 percent."

Traditional Turkish offerings include acili ezme, an eggplant-based stew similar to ratatouille, and soslu patlican, a spicy, salsa-like side. Haloumi, one of the vegetarian kabobs, is made with grilled Greek cheese, and the lentil soup is made from a family recipe. The baba ghanoush is made with grilled eggplants, infusing the dip with a gentle, smoky flavor that's complemented by the sweetness of the fresh pomegranate seed garnish.

"People who don't think they like baba ghanoush go crazy for ours," Abed said. "It's like nothing else they've ever had."

Standard Mediterranean staples also include falafel (Abed said he spent two years perfecting the recipe) and chicken shawarma. Last week, Choupli donated 100 shawarma sandwiches to City Rescue Mission of Lansing.

"We really want to be part of the Lansing community and (provide donations) like this. It's important to us to not just be another restaurant, but be a business that gives back," Abed said. "We opened (on the west side of Lansing) so we could build a regular customer base, which is hard to do closer to East Lansing, where there's a lot of turnover."

A grand opening is planned for early next month; the

soft opening has allowed the staff to perfect its communication and service style. And if all goes well, you can expect to see more ChouPlis on the way.

"This is fast, inexpensive, healthy food, and I think this is really going to appeal to Lansing (diners)," Yousef said. "There's else nothing like this in town."

### The Crêpe stands alone

A year and a half after opening inside the Lansing City Market, French café/brunch stand **For Crêpe Sake** will be moving into its own space in downtown Lansing.

"Our intention was always to go with a brick-and-mortar (restaurant), but we were waiting for the right opportunity," owner Mark Owen said. "We'd looked at a number of places, but either the timing wasn't right or it just wasn't the right place for us. Then it happened."

What happened was this: In June, downtown Lansing's **Spotted Dog Café** closed after a 20-year run. For the last five months, the 2,000-square-foot space sat vacant; then earlier this fall Owen finally got to see the space.

"I took a tour and thought it was perfect for our needs," he said. "The foot traffic will be quite a bit heavier downtown. In order to grow, (moving here) is the right thing to do."

Owen said the space will need a fair amount of cosmetic upgrading, but he expects it to go pretty quickly. He anticipates an opening date of Jan. 4 — just a month away.

Since opening, For Crêpe Sake has added smoothies and chopped salads to its roster of sweet and savory crêpes. Owen said the larger space will allow him to expand his offerings even more. Among the additions will be desserts made by his former Lansing City Market neighbor, **lorio's Gelato**. For Crêpe Sake will also offer a wider range of **Zingerman's** coffee and tea selections and is adding a Chemex brewing system that is similar to what **Strange Matter Coffee Co.** is doing in Lansing's eastside neighborhood.

"We've built up a downtown constituency with (our) European café concept," Owen said. "Now this move will allow us to serve the people we've built up our business around. I'm really excited to be downtown."

**Choupli Wood-Fired Kabob**  
4411 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing  
11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday  
(517) 708-0404, [choupli.com](http://choupli.com)

**For Crêpe Sake (inside Lansing City Market)**  
325 City Market Drive, Lansing  
7 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday  
(517) 374-0401, [forcrepesake.com](http://forcrepesake.com)

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## Dreaming of a white (wine) Christmas

### Gift ideas for the wine lover on your list

By JUSTIN KING

One of the more interesting rumors I've heard recently is that some people like free booze. This was confirmed by an informal poll I took at a local bar.

In other stunning recent developments, trees are being harvested by the millions, only to find a new indoor home for a month or so. As luck would have it, these trees tend to possess a nice aperture at the bottom for one to place said free booze.

You certainly have a friend or two who would appreciate some tasty liquid treats for Christmas. The beauty of the local alcohol industry is that Michiganders have more

purchasing options than ever before. What a time to be alive. Whether you're a wine newbie or an experienced wino looking for some new bottles, I've put together a list for you of some of this year's gift-able wine choices.

**For the Pure Michigan contingent:** Not every mitten-based winery offers incredible value, but there are some dependable producers that make wine that's worth every penny. L. Mawby Winery is a real standout here with its selection of sparkling wines. For about \$15, check out M. Lawrence Sex, a hit by many standards.

Cheeky marketing often works irrespective of quality, but there's plenty of red-blooded fruitiness here. A refreshingly dry wine, Sex tastes like raspberries and juicy plums. It's a style that lends itself to easy sharing, so the gift-receiver may very well pop it open as soon as possible.

**For the snow-loather:** Get your loved ones out their winter funk by conjuring up some serious vacation imagery. Wines from the Greek island of Santorini are great for this. Shaped by volcanic activity and blessed with views that will melt the most hardened souls, the island has produced compelling wines in the last 10 years, largely from the assyrtiko grape.

For \$20, Domaine Sigalas' 2013 assyrtiko is refreshing in its lemon rind/salty zing. Assyrtiko tends to create a racy styles of wine — think of it as a white wine on beast mode. Serve this with hearty pork chops, or hold on to the bottle for five or six years. It will still be mouthwatering.

**For the unshakable California drinker:** Don't fight if your mom or dad has a permanent West Coast wine lust. Look to the Santa Lucia Highlands, where Luli Wines is making a name for itself by creating fruit-driven wines that still retain balance. For about \$20, its 2014 syrah could be a new favorite for carnivores. It is smoky, dense and chewy, with a thick blackberry and soy sauce profile that

screams for barbecued baby back pork ribs.

The winery is a collaboration between the famous Pisoni family, wine trailblazers in the central coast, and master sommelier Sara Floyd. It's a new project, but it has already shown a consistency and style that's right in the wheelhouse of loyal California wine drinkers.

**For the insatiable Chardonnay lovers:** When discussing this buttery white wine favorite, Michael Skurnik isn't one of the first names that pops up. He's better known for importing European wines that are more savory than oaky or fruity. That reputation is changing with the release of the Chard Project.

You can land the 2014 vintage for \$15, and it's worth that and more. A touch of salted caramel and toffee notes mingle with some pineapple, and it just doesn't quit. It hits all the right spots for this famous grape.

People tend to get down on chardonnay, but versatile wines like these are a wonderful additions to dinners — whether your holiday table features takeout pizza or a Christmas ham.

**For the wine haters:** If you seek a pleasant beer peninsula, look about you. You won't have to look far. The Michigan craft beer scene is an embarrassment of riches. Smart retailers stock as many beers as they can fit into their coolers and let you hand-pick your own six-packs.

Is your girlfriend really into hops? Look for the Liberator double IPA from Short's

Brewing Co. — it should be released any day now. Does your man dig on dark beers? Founders Brewing Co.'s porter is widely available and wildly delicious. Porter is not a sexy beer style at the moment, but it's difficult to tell that from this beer.

The local craft spirits game is in rapid growth as well. There are roughly 30 craft distilleries in Michigan, and one of the state's top performers is southwest Michigan's Journeyman Distillery in Three Oaks. If your loved one warrants a \$50 splurge, the go-to here is the Ravenswood rye whiskey. The rye taste is prevalent and spicy, with bright orange notes and a cereal backbone. It's perfect for homemade Manhattans.

**Recent Reading Picks:** For the budding sommelier/beer geek/mixologist in the family, there are some great literary options available at local bookstores. I highly recommend Adam Rogers' "Proof: The Science of Booze" for budding spirits aficionados, "Wine Folly: The Essential Guide to Wine," a great, visually-pleasing introduction to wine, and "The Complete Beer Course: Boot Camp for Beer Geeks - From Novice to Expert in Twelve Tasting Classes," by Joshua M. Bernstein.

*Justin King is a certified sommelier and resident of Williamston. He is part-owner of Bridge Street Social, a restaurant opening this winter in DeWitt. He hopes none of y'all get fruitcake this year. Email him your non-fruitcake Christmas pics at justinking@gmail.com.*



trees are being harvested by the millions, only to find a new indoor home for a month or so. As luck would have it, these trees tend to possess a nice aperture at the bottom for one to place said free booze.

You certainly have a friend or two who would appreciate some tasty liquid treats for Christmas. The beauty of the local alcohol industry is that Michiganders have more

purchasing options than ever before. What a time to be alive. Whether you're a wine newbie or an experienced wino looking for some new bottles, I've put together a list for you of some of this year's gift-able wine choices.

**For the Pure Michigan contingent:** Not every mitten-based winery offers incredible value, but there are some dependable producers that make wine that's worth every penny. L. Mawby Winery is a real standout here with its selection of sparkling wines. For about \$15, check out M. Lawrence Sex, a hit by many standards.

Cheeky marketing often works irrespective of quality, but there's plenty of red-blooded fruitiness here. A refreshingly dry wine, Sex tastes like raspberries and juicy plums. It's a style that lends itself to easy sharing, so the gift-receiver may very well pop it open as soon as possible.

**For the snow-loather:** Get your loved ones out their winter funk by conjuring up some serious vacation imagery. Wines from the Greek island of Santorini are great for this. Shaped by volcanic activity and blessed with views that will melt the most hardened souls, the island has produced compelling wines in the last 10 years, largely from the assyrtiko grape.

For \$20, Domaine Sigalas' 2013 assyrtiko is refreshing in its lemon rind/salty zing. Assyrtiko tends to create a racy styles of wine — think of it as a white wine on beast mode. Serve this with hearty pork chops, or hold on to the bottle for five or six years. It will still be mouthwatering.

**For the unshakable California drinker:** Don't fight if your mom or dad has a permanent West Coast wine lust. Look to the Santa Lucia Highlands, where Luli Wines is making a name for itself by creating fruit-driven wines that still retain balance. For about \$20, its 2014 syrah could be a new favorite for carnivores. It is smoky, dense and chewy, with a thick blackberry and soy sauce profile that



Courtesy Photo

M. Lawrence Sex, from L. Mawby Winery in Suttons Bay, is a great Michigan-made gift idea.

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# TOP 5

## DINING GUIDE

THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN  
GREATER LANSING AS DECIDED  
BY CITY PULSE READERS

*Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2015 Top of the Town contest, we've assembled a guide to your favorite Lansing-area eateries. We'll run single categories in the paper periodically, but the complete dining guide is always available on our website or on our official mobile app, The Pulse. The app is available on iPhone and Android platforms; head over to facebook.com/lansingapp or text "pulse" to 77948 for links to download.*

*Bon appétit!*

### TOP 5 SEAFOOD

#### #1 MITCHELL'S FISH MARKET

City Pulse readers love its fresh fish, flown in daily  
2975 Preyde Blvd., Lansing.  
(517) 482-3474  
mitchellsfishmarket.com  
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday

#### #2 RED LOBSTER

Chain restaurant known for its seafood options and Cheddar Bay Biscuits  
3130 E. Saginaw St., Lansing  
(517) 351-0610  
redlobster.com  
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday

#### #3 SANSU

City Pulse readers love Sansu's value, serving quality sushi at good prices  
4750 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing  
(517) 333-1933  
sansu-sushi.com  
11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. & 4:30-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 3-10 p.m. Sunday

#### #4 MARU SUSHI & GRILL (OKEMOS)

High quality sushi, upscale atmosphere  
5100 Marsh Road, Okemos  
(517) 349-7500  
marurestaurant.com  
11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. & 4-9:30 p.m. Monday-Wednesday; 11:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

#### #5 CAPITAL PRIME STEAKS AND SEAFOOD

Upscale surf and turf restaurant with contemporary ambiance  
2324 Showtime Drive, Lansing.  
(517) 377-7463  
capitalprimelansing.com  
11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11:30 a.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday; 2-9 p.m. Sunday





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Virg Bernero, Mayor

# THE PULSIFIEDS

## BACKPAGE CLASSIFIEDS

**BUSINESS DATA ANALYSTS** Okemos, MI area. Conduct data analysis & assure integrity of data mgmt. Write SQL queries on MySQL database. Conduct requirements analysis & present recommendations for new solutions. Travel/reloc to various unanticipated locations as req'd. Send resume to RICEFW Technologies Inc., 4295 Okemos Rd., Ste. 102, Okemos, MI 48864.

**I.T. PROJECT MANAGERS** Okemos, MI area. Review proposals to facilitate operations related to project mgmt. Coordinate & direct staff production schedules. Manage project expenditures. Work with MySQL, Java & XML. Travel/reloc to various unanticipated locations as req'd. Send resume to RICEFW Technologies Inc., 4295 Okemos Rd., Ste. 102, Okemos, MI 48864

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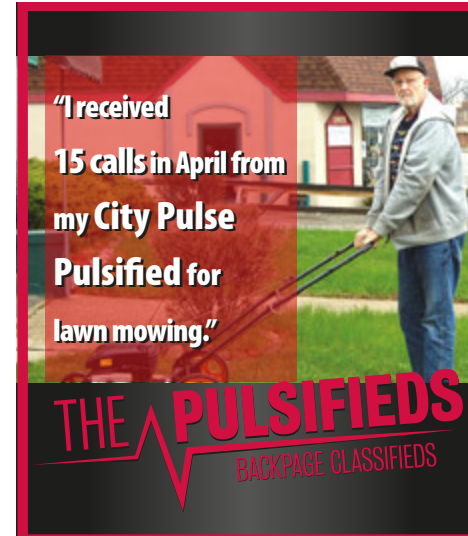
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**Downtown DeWitt  
Christmas Market**  
**SATURDAY, DEC. 5th, 2-6:30 p.m.**  
**LIGHT PARADE, 5:30 p.m.**



"I received  
15 calls in April from  
my City Pulse  
Pulsified for  
lawn mowing."

**THE PULSIFIEDS**  
BACKPAGE CLASSIFIEDS

Santa Photos | Kid's Activities | Live Music & Caroling | Horse Drawn Carriage Rides | Bonfire & S'mores Pit | Whoville Hair Station (Bridge Street Hair Co.) | Meet Your Makers Craft Show: 2-5 p.m.

**Tree Lighting at Memorial Park**  
**#dewittelfieselfie (photo contest)**  
Sponsored by DeWitt Development Authority and DeWitt Area Chamber of Commerce

INFO AT:  
**[www.dewittdda.org](http://www.dewittdda.org)**



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