

CityPULSE

FREE

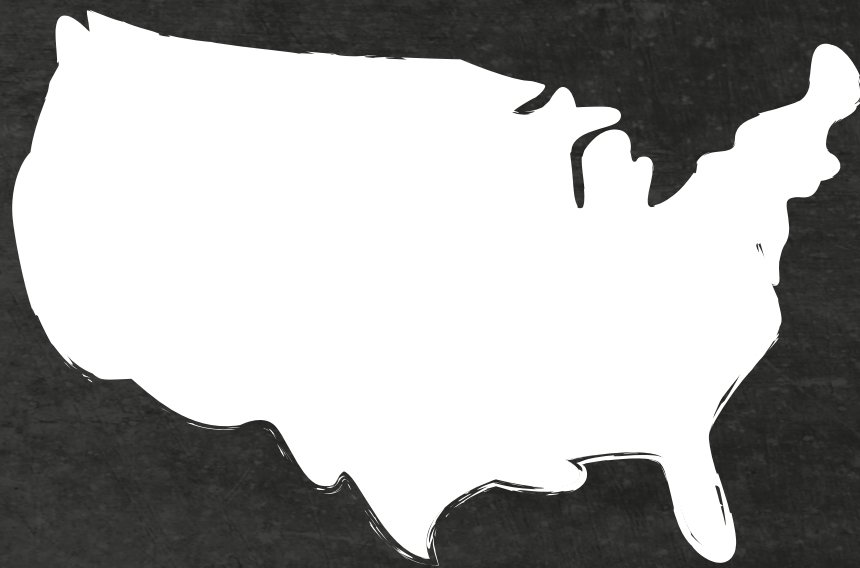
A newspaper for the rest of us

www.lansingcitypulse.com

December 31, 2014 - January 6, 2015

#RaceMatters

TALKING ABOUT BIAS, INEQUALITY AND JUSTICE PAGE 4



10 life stories we remember from 2014 • p. 7

The best of Lansing's Arts & Culture in 2014 • p. 27

Annual Bridal Guide

Special Pullout Section • Page 11

PUBLIC NOTICES**STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER**

In the Matter of: Stimson Drain

NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DETERMINATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to you as a person liable for an assessment that the Board of Determination, composed of Jim Hershiser, John Leonard, Quenda Story and Jennie Nerkowski (Alternate), will meet on **Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Delhi Charter Township Hall, 2074 Aurelius Road, Holt, Michigan, 48842** to hear all interested persons and evidence and to determine whether the actions prayed for in a Petition dated July 22, 2014, for cleaning out, relocating, widening, deepening, straightening, tiling, extending, improving, providing structures, adding branches and a relief drain and/or relocating along a highway to the drain known and designated as the Stimson Drain, is necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare of Delhi Charter Township, in accordance with Sections 72 and 191 of Act No. 40, PA 1956, as amended, and for the protection of the public health of said Delhi Charter Township, and further, to determine whether it is necessary to add lands to the Stimson Drain Drainage District pursuant to Section 197 of Act No. 40, PA 1956, 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 1-800-649-3777 (TDD) 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: Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that persons aggrieved by the decisions of the Board of Determination may seek judicial review in the Circuit Court for the County of Ingham within ten (10) days of the determination. If the actions prayed for in the Petition are determined to be necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare, a special assessment may be levied against properties that benefit from the project. A landowner of or party of interest to property to be assessed, or their agent, may appear in person to comment on the necessity of the project.

Dated: December 23, 2014

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

CP#14_322

ORDINANCE # 2581

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN, PROVIDING FOR THE REZONING OF A PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN AND FOR THE REVISION OF THE DISTRICT MAPS ADOPTED BY SECTION 1246.02 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES.

The City of Lansing ordains:

Section 1. That the district maps adopted by and incorporated as Section 1246.02 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing, Michigan be amended to provide as follows:

To change the zoning classification of the property described as follows:

Case Number: Z-4-2013
Address: Part of 601 Leshler Place
Parcel Number: PPN: 33-01-01-15-101-016
Legal Descriptions: A parcel of land in the Northwest 1/4 of Section 15, T4N, R2W, Lansing Township, Ingham County, Michigan, the surveyed boundary of said parcel described as: Commencing at the Northwest corner of said Section 15; thence S00°24'38"W along the West line of said Section 15 a distance of 796.25 feet; thence S89°39'06"E parallel with the North line of Genesee Street a distance of 41.25 feet to the East right of way line of the Conrail Railroad and the point of beginning of this description; thence S89°39'06"E parallel with said North right of way line 258.36 feet; thence N00°50'31"E 117.97 feet; thence S88°33'33"E 162.34 feet; thence S00°37'20"W 119.79 feet; thence S04°08'03"W 96.44 feet to said North right of way line; thence N89°39'06"W along said North right of way line 414.86 feet to said East right of way line; thence N00°24'38"E along said East right of way line 101.15 feet to the point of beginning; said parcel containing 1.40 acres more or less; said parcel subject to all easements and restrictions if any, from "A" Residential district to "H" Light Industrial district.

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions hereof are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance was duly adopted by the Lansing City Council on December 22, 2014, and a copy is available in the office of the Lansing City Clerk, 9th Floor, City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect upon the expiration of seven (7) days from the date this notice of adoption is published in a newspaper of general circulation.

CHRIS SWOPE, LANSING CITY CLERK

CP#14_321

**CITY OF LANSING
SUMMARY OF
ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1194**

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Lansing Codified Ordinances by amending Chapter 294, Sections 294.02(a), 294.02(i), 294.02(k) and 294.02(r) to conform to the firefighter's pension benefit changes contained in the collective bargaining agreement between the City and IAFF Local 421, ratified May 19, 2014, by adding the definitions of annual base salary, base wage and firefighter's base wage; providing a minimum retirement age of 50 for new hired firefighters; limiting firefighters' pensions to 110% of a firefighter's base wage; amending the firefighter employee pension contribution; and reducing the pension benefit multiplier for new hired firefighters; and by amending Section 294.02 (k) to conform the retirement option numbering to the Police Officers' Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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

CP#14_320

CityPULSE
NEWSMAKERS

Hosted by **Berl Schwartz**

my18 MY18-TV! 10 A.M. Every Saturday
AND NOW ON AT A NEW TIME:
7:30 P.M. FRIDAYS
COMCAST CHANNEL 16 LANSING
THIS WEEK: Year in Review (Rerun)

Mickey Hirten
Associate publisher, City Pulse

Belinda Thurston
Editor, City Pulse

Kyle Melinn
Editor, MIRS

PRESENTED BY: THE LOOMIS LAW FIRM CONCERT SPONSOR: LAKE TRUST CREDIT UNION GUEST ARTIST SPONSOR: LANSING TOWN HALL SERIES

TCHAIKOVSKY & BEETHOVEN

FEATURING **Bion Tsang**, CELLO

HAYDN Symphony No. 43 in E-flat Major, "Mercury"
TCHAIKOVSKY Variations on a Rococo Theme for Cello & Orchestra
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 6 in F Major, "Pastoral"

SATURDAY JANUARY 10 8 PM
WHARTON CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS
517-487-5001 LANSINGSYMPHONY.ORG

85th ANNUAL SEASON
LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
TIMOTHY HUFFITT

Feedback

Law enforcement not in favor of making marijuana legitimate

The article by Berl Schwartz in your most recent issue, relating to medical marijuana, quotes Robin Schneider as saying that "[l]aw enforcement makes a lot of money off marijuana busts. It's how they fund their departments. They took in \$20 million a year in asset forfeiture."

This observation reminds me of the TV program "Cops" because quite often the host officer on a given segment will tell the accompanying TV crew that a particular structure on his beat is a "known drug house." In at least one episode the patrolman admitted a certain "drug house" had been operating for "two years." Why would the police allow a "known drug house" to remain in existence for such a long period of time? Because they stake out the place, watch for cars leaving the premises, and then get to confiscate the vehicle or at least in some fashion financially benefit from the traffic stop. In short, because of the confiscatory law it apparently makes economic sense for cops to allow some illegal drug vendors to continue operating. Until self-interest in the status quo changes, I don't see law enforcement being in favor of anything that makes marijuana — medical or recreational — more legitimate.

— **Le Roy G. Barnett**
Grand Ledge

City Market is a ghost town because of clueless city officials

Thank you for your story about the City Market. Sadly, it has almost become a ghost town; shoppers are sparse, even on Saturdays. I am baffled by the lack of concern, even cluelessness, of city officials. Has Randy Hannan ever been to the market? It is not, emphatically, a small business incubator. If he spent some time talking to the vendors who have left and those who remain, he would understand that. These are folks who wanted to make a business at the City Market, not go there and move elsewhere. His statement defies reality and is an insult to the city residents who pay for the subsidy that keeps the market going. Parking has always been a problem but after construction began and the parking lot east of the building disappeared, the drop-off in visitors was almost immediately noticeable. One vendor who had just dramatically enlarged her space left shortly after construction began. There went my regular bread baker. Now my supplier of grains, nuts, and fresh fruit is leaving. I cannot believe any of the vendors who abandoned the market believed they were going to an incubator when they moved in. With the willful ignorance of city leaders, it is only a matter of time before the whole endeavor sinks completely out of sight.

— **Randy Dykhuis**
Lansing

Jostling for position Local politicians seek to replace Hertel as register of deeds

Nearly half the Lansing City Council members are vying for a new job as Ingham County register of deeds.

Lansing Councilwoman Carol Wood and Council President ALynne Boles join Councilman Derrick Quinney in seeking the appointment. Three Ingham County commissioners are also in the running.

They seek to fill the seat being vacated by Curtis Hertel, who is heading to the state Senate to replace term-limited Gretchen Whitmer.

Hertel's resignation is official Thursday at 11:59 a.m.

"I think this will give me an opportunity to continue to help people not only in Lansing but in Ingham County," Wood said.

The register of deeds is tasked with recording and tracking property sales in the county, including title transfers. Hertel took a more proactive role than previous registers by pushing back on predatory lending and working hand in hand to prevent foreclosures and keep people in their homes.

The salary for the register of deeds is \$84,882 a year.

Wood confirmed she has met with the three elected officials who are serving on a panel to recommend Hertel's replacement: Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum, Ingham County Chief Probate Judge Richard Garcia and Ingham County Prosecutor Stuart Dunning III.

Byrum said she has met with eight potential candidates. Aside from Quinney, Wood and Boles, she said she has met with three Ingham County commissioners: Kara Hope, D-Delhi Twp., Carol Koenig, D-East Lansing, and Randy Schaffer, R-Williamston. Lansing School Board member Nicole Armbruster and Allan Fox, a long-time East Lansing politico, have also expressed interest.

Byrum says she wants a "transparent and public process" to find Hertel's replacement. She, Garcia and Dunning will meet at 1 p.m. Tuesday at the Grady Porter Building in downtown Lansing to begin the selection process. Byrum said, there is no set timeframe to recommend a replacement. The Board of Commissioners will appoint the replacement who will fill out Hertel's term, which ends Dec. 31, 2016.

~ **Todd Heywood**

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.)

CityPULSE

**VOL. 14
ISSUE 20**

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



PAGE 10

Remembering the Rev. Michael C. Murphy



PAGE 28

Unforgettable jazz and classical moments of 2014



PAGE 35

He Ate/She Ate: The best in local dining in 2014



COVER ART

"RACE MATTERS" by ANGUS McNAIR

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES: (517) 999-5061
CLASSIFIED AD INQUIRIES: (517) 999-5066
or email citypulse@lansingcitypulse.com

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

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

EDITOR • Belinda Thurston
belinda@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5065

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR • Allan I. Ross
allan@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5068

PRODUCTION MANAGER • Angus McNair
adcoppy@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5066

CALENDAR EDITOR • Jonathan Griffith
jonathan@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5069

STAFF WRITER • Lawrence Cosentino
lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5063

ADVERTISING • Shelly Olson & Shane Loepke
shelly@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6705
shane@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6710

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

Delivery drivers: Richard Bridenbaker, Dave Fisher, Ryan Kingley, Thomas Scott, Robert Wiche

CITY PULSE THIS WEEK 7 p.m. Wednesdays

"City Pulse on the Air" will return Jan. 7.
Happy New Year!

IMPACT 89FM

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

2014 IN REVIEW: A HIGHLY SUBJECTIVE AND ASSUREDLY INCOMPLETE LOOK BACK AT THE YEAR THAT WAS PART THE SECOND

JULY 19: ANTI-IMMIGRANT ACTIVISTS START CAMPAIGN TO MAIL DIRTY UNDERWEAR TO REFUGEE CHILDREN IN U.S. DETAINMENT. "BECAUSE WE ARE TERRIBLE HUMAN BEINGS! SIMPLY AWFUL!"

JULY 29: URBAN INSTITUTE REPORTS ONE IN THREE AMERICANS ARE BEING CHASED BY DEBT COLLECTORS. "THIS IS A TOTALLY SUSTAINABLE SYSTEM!"

JULY 17: R.I.P. ERIC GARNER, CHOKED TO DEATH BY NYC POLICE. "AUG. 5: R.I.P. JOHN CRANFORD, SHOT BY OHIO POLICE WHILE CARRYING TOY GUN IN WALMART. AUG. 9: R.I.P. MICHAEL BROWN, SHOT DEAD BY OFFICER DARREN WILSON. R.I.P. TAMIR RICE AND SO MANY OTHERS."

AUG. 10: FERGUSON POLICE TREAT PROTESTERS WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT. "MAKE MY DAY, PUNKS. IN SOME ALTERNATE UNIVERSE MAYBE."

AUG. 21: DARK LORD CHENEY WARNS-- "WHEN YOU SEE (ISIS) BEHEAD AN AMERICAN REPORTER...MAGNIFY THAT A MILLION TIMES OVER!" "FOX VIEWERS TREMBLE IN FEAR."

SEPT. 15: LINDSAY "PEARL-CLUTCHING" GRAHAM IS VERY WORRIED ABOUT ISIS. "THIS PRESIDENT NEEDS TO RISE TO THE OCCASION--" "--BEFORE WE ALL GET KILLED BACK HERE AT HOME!"

SEPT. 30: FIRST U.S. EBOLA CASE SETS OFF EPIDEMIC OF MEDIA PANIC. "THIS JUST IN--EVERYONE'S GOING TO DIE!" "JUST NOT NECESSARILY NOW, OR FROM EBOLA."

MONTH OF OCTOBER: "GAMERGATERS" EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN FOR ETHICS IN GAMING JOURNALISM BY SENDING RAPE AND DEATH THREATS TO WOMEN. "IT'S THE CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE OF OUR ERA!"

OCT. 22: HOMELAND SECURITY IS ON THE CASE-- CONFISCATING BOOTLEG K.C. ROYALS PANTIES FROM SMALL SHOPKEEPER. "COPYRIGHT VIOLATION, MA'AM. VERY IMPORTANT NATIONAL SECURITY BUSINESS."

NOV. 4: LOWEST VOTER TURNOUT IN 75 YEARS. "ISN'T VOTER APATHY DREADFUL TO BEHOLD?" "TRULY A DISGRACE!"

NOV. 21: REPORT FROM GOP-CONTROLLED COMMITTEE FINDS "NO WRONGDOING" IN BENGHAZI; GOP LEADERSHIP DOUBLES DOWN ON FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS. "MAYBE WE'LL GET THE ANSWER WE WANT THE EIGHTH TIME WE TRY!"

DEC. 9: DARK LORD CHENEY BLASTS TORTURE REPORT. "WE SUBJECTED DETAINEES TO UNSPEAKABLE BRUTALITY AND SEXUAL ABUSE--" "--IN ORDER TO PRESERVE OUR CORE AMERICAN VALUES!"

DEC. 17: CUBA OPENS NORMALIZATION TALKS WITH COUNTRY NOTORIOUS FOR TORTURE AND SURVEILLANCE. "WE HOPE WE CAN BE A POSITIVE INFLUENCE."

DEC. 20: MENTALLY ILL MAN KILLS TWO COPS; RUDY GIULIANI BLAMES OBAMA. "GUNS DON'T KILL PEOPLE--" "--PRESIDENTS WHO ACKNOWLEDGE THE LEGACY OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION KILL PEOPLE."

REST OF '14: WAY TOO MUCH MORE OF THE SAME. HAPPY WAR ON CHRISTMAS, EVERYONE! "ALSO NEW YEAR'S! NEXT YEAR: EVEN MORE!"

© 2014 TOM TOMORROW

Michael Gerstein/City Pulse

Below: Demonstrations, such as this one in Ferguson, Mo., rose up around the country in response to the killing of unarmed black men by police at the end of 2014.



POSITIVE & PRODUCTIVE

A CONVERSATION ON RACE THAT IS BY ALL MEANS NECESSARY

By **BELINDA THURSTON**

The lines to the microphone at Union Missionary Baptist Church on Dec. 9 filled quickly.

"What you feel, what you think, what your experiences have been are extremely important," said Pastor Melvin Jones to those attending the town hall forum in the wake of the unrest after grand juries failed to indict police in the killings of unarmed black men in Missouri and New York.

A father shared the shame of having his young children see him pulled over by a white police officer repeatedly for no reason. A woman told how she and her husband share the same car but only he gets stopped regularly. He's black and she's white.

The gathering personalized the national conversation on racial inequality and disparity.

But the conversation, while positive, wasn't "productive," said one vocal attendant.

It was one-sided, absent some equally frustrated voices with other points of view, seen easily on social media:

"There really isn't that much racism. Not on the level some people believe."

"My ass does not get any special treatment for being white. And I personally ... didn't do anything to create racism."

"Apparently being Caucasian makes you inherently racist, whether you think so or not."

If there's anything 2014 taught us, it is that race matters. It matters if you are a person of color. It matters if you're white. It matters if you don't understand why it matters.

City Pulse chose race relations as the topic of the year for 2014, not as a period at the end of the sentence but as a jumping off point for a year-long conversation in 2015.

What did we learn about race in 2014? What did we not know about ourselves or even how our friends and family feel? What did we learn about history and unhealed wounds?

And more important what do we need to do, change, understand, talk about in 2015?

The close of 2014 is marked by the unrest across the country responding to the Ferguson, Mo., and New York cases. Our distrust, fear and sensitivity was only amplified by the assassination-style killings Dec. 20 of two New York police officers. But that's the fiery end of a year that was brewing to a boil month after month.

Racial tensions are more than racial. They can be ethnic. We continue to debate, with little resolution, the status of immigrants in our nation, arguments framed by fairness, economics and even language — code words in some circles for Hispanic.

The severity of how unsettled we are is evident in the president's choice to speak out more personally about his own experiences being stopped by police for the only apparent reason of being black.

"Not only do I hear the pain and frustration of being subjected to that kind of constant suspicion, but part of the reason I got into politics was to figure out how can I bridge some of those gaps in understanding so that the larger country understands this is not just a black problem or a brown problem," President Barack Obama said in a recent interview with BET. "This is an American problem."

Obama emphasizes that while tension is still just skin deep, we have made progress as a nation and we shouldn't lose sight of that. But he asks us also to have patience as we tackle possibly the most sensitive part of resolving racial bias and discrimination.

"You have to have vigilance, but you have to realize that it's going to take some time," he said. "We're not going to make it perfect, but we can make it better. Better is good because, over time, if you have enough 'better,' 10 years, 20 years from now, our kids are safer, the community's more confident about its place, the police officers are going to be in a position to do a better job."

City Pulse is committed to opening the doors to productive, intentional and engaged conversation about how we relate to one another across color lines. We will explore why race does matter and what race matters are important in our community. Through investigative journalism, community conversations, social media engagement and other forms, we hope to shed light on ways to improve our understanding of one another and explore any changes we may need to make in our systems of justice, education and others.

It may not be pretty. We will get angry or sad along the way. Hopefully we can learn and grow as we step into this uncomfortable conversation together.

To that end, we asked Lansing-area residents to share their views on race relations. Here are some of those voices.

Racism hides and stews in its own juices in America

Having followed issues closely, it's clear to me that racism rarely lives on the surface of American society. It just hides and stews in its own juices. People with latent fears of black people sided with police officers who had killed unarmed individuals, but swore race had nothing to do with it. Ordinarily pleasant people were brought into police controversies, spewing venom. Police officers who sometimes have good cause to respond to an individual's actions seem to respond more forcefully where blacks are involved. Some of them know what they are doing. Many don't.



~ **Richard Monroe, Lansing resident and treasurer of the Socialist Party of Michigan**

We need to train ourselves to think in a new way

I think the most important lesson to take from this year is understanding, and accepting that white privilege is real. It seems that many people feel that this means they are automatically guilty of racism just for being white but that is not the case. Racism is a multi-



generational problem and it will require a multi-generational solution. While people of today had nothing to do with the origins of racism and are largely not as racist as they were in the past, white people today are still conferred many privileges; often from automatic, subconscious reactions. If we want to be more than just "not racist" and become allies in the movement for true institutional equality we need to acknowledge our institutional privilege and automatic reactions and actively, consciously train ourselves to think in a new way and call out those around us when they fall into these cultural habits. We, as a country, must admit that this exists and take conscious action to change. Inequality weakens our society as a whole. Meaning in the grand scheme it hurts all of us. Our generation may not have started this problem, but the torch has been handed to us to solve it.

~ **Ian Seager, 24, is a DeWitt native who lives in Lansing. He is studying environmental studies in sustainability at MSU and is co-production manager for Learning Leaves Community Farmscape.**

Racism exists, it just looks different than 50 years ago

What I have learned this past year is that there is an obvious issue here in this country with the relationship between police and minorities, specifically young black males. There seems to be an unfortunate

amount of racial bias in some of our police departments, and it can lead to events in which we lose too many young men. But this issue is even larger than just these cases. Racism still exists in our nation, but it just looks different than it did 50 years ago. Until we all decide there is a problem, we will not be able to move forward productively. I hope 2015 brings some serious discussion dealing with gun control, police training, racial bias and our prison system.

- Paul Troutman, 26, environmental landscaper. East Lansing native, graduate of Lansing Community College.



We must remove the stigma associated with people in need

Race relations is a nuanced issue that must take into account historical injustices, inequities of opportunity, access to basic needs, and ingrained societal perceptions.

2014 was my first year as the executive director of Cristo Rey Community Center, a community services organization that provides access to food, medical services and mental health care to all people in need. My experiences here have challenged my preconceptions and understanding of race and poverty at the community level:

Everything is connected. Access to basic needs allows important conversations about empowerment and representation to take place. Without these staples, underrepresented people cannot meaningfully evoke or impact change.

Moving forward we must remove the stigma associated with people in need. Poverty for example is a symptom of inequity, not its cause. To give when requested and to receive when needed is a shared quality of our human condition. In this spirit it is possible to continue moving forward even in the face of difficult conversations such as race relations.

- Joe Garcia, executive director of the Cristo Rey Community Center. Holds an MBA and dual bachelor of science degrees in communications and Spanish.



Transcending bias will dictate our survival as a species

One of my early memories was eating at The Famous restaurant on Michigan Avenue as a kid. A black man entered the establishment, wearing a suit, holding his fedora in his hands. He approached the head waiter. A few moments later he left, then returned with his family in tow. They were all dressed for church. My dad leaned over and said, "He just asked the waiter if they serve colored." It was my first awareness of race. Later I delivered the newspapers that had the headline of Martin Luther King's assassination to homes on Kingsley Court. Forty years later we were knocking on doors to get out the vote for Obama. Things are better, but we have a long way to go.

Race is an important issue to the extent that it reveals how much work we have yet to do. I can't speak with any type of authority on the experience of being a minority of any kind. I've lived with blessings of white privilege, and because of that I'm blind to what so many others have to experience on a daily basis. I believe that how (or if) we transcend bias and deal with "the other" (including race, class, sex, sexual orientation or any number of other differences) will dictate whether we make it as a species. It's central that we have the discussion.

- Mike Stratton, a psychotherapist who has lived and worked in Lansing / East Lansing for most of his 60 years. He hosts "Vinyl Side of Midnight" on LCC Radio.

Ugliness and racism fester just beneath our veneer of civility

As the riots in Ferguson and the shootings in New York demonstrate, we still have a long way to go in the area of race relations in this country. Frustrations are simmering just below the surface. Certainly, it has become politically incorrect to express racist views publicly these days, as the Donald Sterling case illustrated, but for every Donald Sterling, there are still millions of Americans who hold racist views privately, or even worse, convince themselves that their voting patterns and their public opinions stem purely from political or economic motives. We have made progress, as the election of our first African-American president has clearly indicated. But the treatment of President Obama (who is the only president I can remember who has been routinely denied his honorific) and the venomous protests over immigration show the ugliness and racism festering in American life just beneath our thin veneer of civility.

For me, the greatest sign of hope in this country is the current generation of educated young people, who appear to have no qualms whatsoever about interracial friendships or relationships. The more mixture there is between the races, the less likely it will be in the future that battle-lines can be drawn on the basis of color.

-Mark Galik, adjunct professor of writing and literature at Lansing Community College. Galik is Czechoslovakian and Japanese, but prefers to be identified as an artist and intellectual.

We must create higher levels of accountability and trust

Trying to define racism in the 21st Century is very difficult. It is not that we don't have policies, systems and people who harbor racist ideologies and stereotypes explicit or implicit; it is rather that identifying the motive as racism when people clash at the color line is more a default position than an absolute fact.

The recent shootings of unarmed black males by white police officers have brought a nationwide resurgence of the race question and the question of equal justice for people of color. Systems of justice must be challenged to reflect greater accountability and transparency. The current system of internal police investigations, close association with local prosecutors and private grand jury hearings leaves too much room for malfeasance and the miscarriage of justice.

Better training, racial balance among officers, body cameras and community policing programs should help reduce poor judgment and the need to use deadly force. The use of an independent prosecutor and the establishment of a community review board with subpoena power will enhance accountability and create a higher level of trust.

Racism is a social construction intended to marginalize and subjugate people as "the other" under systems of power and attitudes of oppression. It dehumanizes in order to support a sense of privilege, a supremacist view of life and the desensitization of a person's worth and value. However, when you peel back the skin, that's all it is — skin. It covers the body but it doesn't define character. What a wondrous point of human diversity that skin comes in a variety of beautiful colors.

- The Rev. Dr. Melvin T. Jones, pastor of Union Missionary Baptist Church, President of the Greater Lansing Clergy Forum and co-president of Action of Greater Lansing.



A race war is pending in our country

What I have learned? Is that when a black individual kills a white person it's just a murder! But when a white person kills a black individual it's a racial murder! I think this racial shit was just an excuse to rob and loot. Every time there is a so-called racial killing the black crowd loots and burns down their town. And it all stems from slavery! But just to show one's ignorance of one's race whites only accounted for six percent of slavery. Blacks were the largest owners\traders of blacks and Muslims were second. This race issue is just a bunch of uneducated unemployed bunch of blacks looking for a reason to steal! And I personally think a race war will happen I hope it doesn't but if you can only poke a dog so much before you get bitten.

- Joey Goodman, via Facebook

Denying our racial hang-ups perpetuates the problem

2014, a year saturated with struggles for equality and acknowledgement of being human for people of color. Media brought us descriptions of countless people being hurt, defamed and even murdered because of the belief that people of color are thugs, criminals, uneducated and violent demonic monsters. Meanwhile, the urge to deny negative racial bias hung on the lips of those who would breathe in "I'm not racist but" and breathe out some of the most hateful words. We are all flawed and have racial hang ups. Denying it perpetuates the problem. It's what we do that determines what happens next.

2015 has the ability to be an amazing year.

How? Humble ourselves. Realize we are all human, we all make mistakes, apologize and correct your actions. Show love and compassion to repair relations. Say hello and share a smile. Open a dialog with one another, genuinely talk from your heart and most importantly, truly listen. Disagreements and issues will arise, but fundamentally we want the same things. Happiness, good health and security for us, as well as our loved ones, and to be treated with respect.

- Darryl Quinton Evans, Lansing, owner and CEO of Pure Enchantment Photography. Married father of three.

Tragic outcomes can be avoided if suspects don't resist

Unfortunately my department doesn't allow us to comment publicly where we use the department affiliation. Not being able to use my department name and background and 25 years of experience kind of takes a lot of wind out of the sail that I would fly. I have honestly been trying to avoid Facebook and all the crap that's been flying around the Internet. It blows me away how facts are just spun or disregarded. I wish i could point you in the right direction here. But a lot of people I know around here aren't going touch this right now. It's too volatile. I would love for you to interview Sheriff David Clarke (from Milwaukee County Sheriffs Department in Wisconsin) because that guy is calling it like I would. The difference is his words are weighted so much heavier than mine ever would be because he is the Sheriff ... and he's black. I can say the same things he does 'till I'm blue in the face and people go "Oh, well he's a white cop. What do you expect him to say? He's never walked in my shoes." Or some may say, "Well you're the exception!"

Honestly, I don't know any cops that go out and say, "Hey, tonight I wanna shoot somebody," or "Whoa, there is a carload of black guys. Let's go F with them." It's ridiculous to me that people actually think we think like that. It's actually sad. Really sad. People of all races, creeds and colors need to realize that we react to situations that are thrown in our faces. People, 99 percent of the time dictate how something is going to turn out for them. We react. Sometimes, unfortunately it's with deadly force. Everyone loses. Everyone. If suspects in crimes didn't fight, resist, assault officers and/or escalate situations a lot of these tragic outcomes would've been avoided.

- Anonymous mid-Michigan police officer

Biases are socialized into us

Recently, I took a test through Project Implicit. (<https://implicit.harvard.edu>) I was anxious while taking this test. I consider myself a person who is loving and well intentioned, but none-the-less, I have implicit biases. I knew at the end of this test, a small fraction of my bias would be spelled out. The results showed I have a "moderate automatic identification with Asian people compared to Black people." This was surprising to me at first, given how many more Black folks than Asian folks I interact with and am close, personal friends with. However, after consideration and assessing the emotional response in my body, I had to admit that I understood this result. Asian people are much closer to me in skin color. As much as I am saddened by it, I acknowledge I hold negative biases about black folks. These biases have been socialized into me. I have to be aware of these biases EVERY SINGLE DAY! I'm not at fault that our society is created based on such notions, but it is the TRUTH and if I want it rooted out in others I must first work to root it out in myself while realizing it will be a never-ending task.

- Jen Smith, via Facebook



We all share responsibility for the effects of racism

I challenge college students to think systemically about ethically laden issues such as hunger. As part of this learning process, I attempt to stoke meaningful exchanges about uncomfortable topics that often relate to race and poverty. I need to create safe places for exchange and foster uncommon communication skills, in addition to providing objective facts and a more complete historical account.

I believe that we all share responsibility for developing a more accurate understanding of the historical narrative and current effects of racism in the U.S. It is time to evolve our understanding of racism to include the institutional and involuntary reverberations of our past. I think that we need to cultivate the language and resources that allow for meaningful exchanges about racial disparities, and be patient with each other when our words are imperfect but intentions are sincere. It is my hope that Lansing can be a leader in creating venues that allow for meaningful community exchange.

- Julie Cotton, of Lansing. Cotton advises and instructs at MSU in sustainable agriculture and food systems. She grew up and attended undergraduate school in Texas.



Race relations are better than the news media would have you believe

I have learned nothing I did not already know — media tries to shape our opinions through its own distorted and victim-based lens as if we were children and if we are lazy.

I chose a different method of measurement than parroting what was in the news.

I believe we need only look closer at our own daily lives and experiences. The state of race relations in America is what we choose it make i t each day with every handshake — respectful look in the eye and common courtesy.

One interaction at a time.

I have given and received plenty of each in 2014 with humans of all races.

I expect the same in the New Year.

So my declaration is that race relations are better than news folk will have us believe but that we will not know this unless we keep it local — one interaction at a time.

- Radio personality Tim Barron is chairman of the Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority.



Majority of white people deny racism is a problem

Racism is alive and breeding just the same as it was 40+ years ago. Minorities live it every day while the majority of white people deny the problem. Those who acknowledge it are full of "white guilt" and the media is blamed for stirring the pot. The first step to change is STOP denying the problem. Minorities having equal treatment in every way does not impede upon the power group in any form. Some people seem to think if black people are treated equal, they lose something. Oh and if you ask the Facebook Scholars, Obama caused racism, yet he is the only President who has ever been treated the way he has been and blatantly called a monkey.

I stand on race as an ally who acknowledges the white privilege I have; who attempts to break down racial biases.

In 2015, we as a country need to step out of denial that there is a problem. You cannot attempt to change something until the issue is acknowledged and every human experience is respected where people are not using the "N" word and "thug" interchangeably while stereotyping a whole group of people as one reality "thugs and jobless bums."

- Ashley R. Orel, 28, of Holt. Orel is a member of the Lansing Jaycees, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., NASW and MCEDSV.



A cup from the river of life

..... 10 who died in 2014

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

At the end of every year, I drop a dented dipper into the river of life and look at the lives of 10 people from the Lansing area who died in the past year. They are not all famous or accomplished, but they are worth remembering.

FLOYD D. "BUBBY" EATON SR.

1930-2014

In the late 1950s, Floyd D. Eaton started work at Atlas Drop Forge, a pillar of mid-20th-century Lansing industry and a quick walk from Eaton's downtown Lansing house. Two years later, both of his hands were crushed in a stamping press.

Eaton switched gears and went to work for Lansing's Sanitation Department, rising through the ranks from sanitation worker to supervisor. To liven up monotonous runs, workers stacked as many galvanized steel garbage cans as they could balance on their hips and carried them to the truck. He was so good at it he developed a passion for weightlifting that lasted the rest of his life. At age 39, in 1968-69, he was named Mr. Michigan.

Eaton died Nov. 22 at 84.

"His laugh was infectious. People gravitated to him," Eaton's son, Mujahid Abdul Hameed, said. "He didn't know any strangers."

Born in Lansing, Eaton was an athlete from his swimming and diving days at West Junior High. He was a three-time wrestling champion at Sexton High and the only African-American on the wrestling team.

Hameed recalled that Sexton's head wrestling coach, Iggy Conrad, would tell him to lose a match, "depending on where they were playing," because the opponents wouldn't tolerate losing to an African-American wrestler. Eaton politely declined to take any dives.

"That upset the coach, but Dad kept on winning for Sexton, so he continued to wrestle," Hameed said.

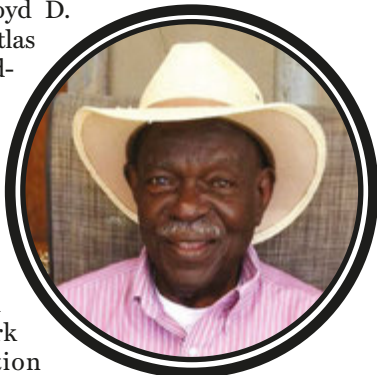
Eaton saw another face of racism when he started to date Lola Verona, a white woman he married in 1958.

"Lansing police would chase him home," Hameed said. "My grandmother wouldn't let him leave the house because they'd beat (him) up if (he) did."

Verona's father never came into the house. He parked in the driveway to visit his daughter.

In the mid-1960s, when Eaton and his wife built a house on Starlight Lane, Lola Eaton had to do business with the builders and banks because they wouldn't deal with a black man. She only brought her husband to the closing, when it was too late for them to back out of the deal.

Eaton worked three jobs to feed his family. He worked for the city in the morning and at the YMCA in the afternoon,



as a weight instructor. After a quick dinner, he took a bus to Michigan State University and worked a night shift as a janitor at Case Hall. He was home after 11 p.m.. By 5 a.m., he was back on the streets.

Eaton sang in his church choir and in the Earle Nelson Singers. Father and son would sing an aria, "The Seven Last Words," together during Easter services at Trinity A.M.E. Church, where Eaton was active as a trustee and Sunday school instructor.

Eaton also took part in the Esquires, an African-American men's club. At a mock wedding fundraiser, he gladly packed his biceps and triceps into a lacy wedding dress.

"Once he was drafted, he embraced the role," Hameed said. "He had fun with life."

ELIZABETH "BETTY" VOTRUBA

1914-2014

One Election Day morning in the mid-1950s, Betty Votruba and her husband, Jim, found themselves pressed for time. They mutually agreed not to vote, thinking their votes would cancel each other out anyway. She was a liberal Democratic social worker and he was a staunchly Republican accountant.

Late that afternoon, Betty slipped away to the polls.

"Why, hello, Mrs. Votruba," the workers greeted her. "Your husband was just here."

Votruba, a church counselor, women's rights advocate and irrepressible spirit, died July 5 at 99.

Decades after the voting incident, Votruba's son, Jim Jr., became president of North Kentucky University. When President George W. Bush came to visit the university, a photo of the two presidents together appeared in *The New York Times*.

Her son sent a copy of the photo to Votruba, who had just moved into an assisted living facility. "Maybe it will be a conversation starter — your son and the President of the United States," he suggested. On his next visit, he found the photograph face down, stashed in a desk drawer.

While studying social work at MSU in the early 1930s, Betty frequented a coffee shop on Grand River. A handsome waiter, an accounting major from East Jordan named Jim, asked her out.

Votruba and her MSU friends loved to hang out in a field near Demonstration Hall to watch Jim and his fellow soldiers parade on horseback. It was 1934, the last year MSU's ROTC program fielded a cavalry unit.

The social worker and the accountant gave in to a lifelong attraction.

Jim was an obedient Catholic, but Betty was a convert who



Property: 1310 W. Shiawassee St., Lansing
Owners: John Granger and Ted O'Dell

This remarkable building has been in the possession of only three owners since its construction in 1920. The home exhibits all the features typical of the Colonial Revival style, from the strong symmetry of the front elevation, the groups of multi-paned windows and a distinct emphasis on the entrance, often accentuated with columns and pilasters.

The strong vertical emphasis exhibited in the muntined windows is particularly noteworthy, as is the fact that nearly all the original windows remain. Conversely, the brick-faced stoop is a relatively recent addition. Although histrionic preservationists may frown upon this change, it does not detract from the initial character-defining features. Indeed, the curved porch echoes its beautifully rounded roof and offers a pleasant addition to the home. In fact, the arched roof might itself be an echo of the elliptical fanlights found in the Adam Style, from which the Colonial Revival evolved.

The current owners have taken an active hand in its preservation since purchasing it from Dorothy Payne in 2007. Payne, who was married to Nathaniel Payne, was a local community activist, remembered for her work in initiating Lansing's Meals on Wheels. It is told that she prepared the program's first meals in the kitchen that was constructed in this home's basement.

— Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

"Eye candy of the Week" is our weekly look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates each with Eyesore of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call Belinda Thurston at 999-5065.

10 Who Died

from page 7

"never stopped challenging the Church," according to Jim Jr.

She worked at St. John's Student Center on MAC Avenue, counseling MSU students and faculty. She worked to reform the church from the inside, questioning the church's stance on birth control, celibacy and other issues.

Her passions were strong and many. She painted landscapes and other subjects and had a fascination for 18th- and 19th-century lamps, from candle holders of brass and iron to whale oil lamps to gas lights. Her collection of historic lamps will go to the MSU Museum.

Her optimism and energy got her through some serious challenges. Her only daughter, Mary Lou, was killed in an auto accident in 1978, at 24. Her husband died of cancer in 1983.

"It's hard to be optimistic these days, but she was always, by disposition, a hopeful, optimistic person," her son said.

She never stopped making friends.

Maxine Ferris, 84, hit it off with Votruba 15 years ago, while the two were walking in a shopping mall.

"I always wanted a big sister and she always wanted a younger sister," Ferris said.

Ferris helped Votruba put together an autobiography as a gift to her family.

"Most people would say I'm in the winter of my life," Votruba wrote in the memoir. She was 90, blind and nearly deaf by then.

"To me, surrounded by family and friends, it still feels like the springtime," she wrote. "I still look forward to each new day."



ROLAND DeMARTIN

1918-2014

Roland DeMartin fixed tens of thousands of teeth in his life. He also broke a few.

"He called it knuckle dancing," DeMartin's son, Dan, said. "You wouldn't want to mess with him back in his day."

DeMartin, a longtime Mason dentist, school board president and avid bow hunter, died Feb. 22 at 95.

In the 1930s, "Rollie" DeMartin and his hometown Flint buddies romped all over Michigan, took the ferry to the Upper Peninsula and bounced for hours on remote two-rut roads and logging trails in search of the best hunting spots.

DeMartin shunned booze and didn't look for a fight, but he didn't shy from them. Once, while relieving himself in the bathroom of a northern Michigan bar, he blocked a sucker punch from a drunken bar patron and allowed — nay, encouraged — the attacker's head to hurtle on into the urinal.

He loved being out in the woods with a compass, tracking deer and taking them down with a bow. Mid-Michigan bow hunters were a tight community, especially in the 1960s and

1970s. DeMartin struck up a friendship with Fred Bear, the fedora-clad icon of bow hunting immortalized in the song by rocker Ted Nugent. Bear designed and built a shorter, maneuverable recurve bow just for Rollie.

DeMartin sought out the best company in any sport. He bowled many times with Joe Joseph, a multiple All-American and Lansing's greatest bowler in the 1950s.

Dan DeMartin was astounded to find over 50 bowling balls in the basement after his father died.

"He had to get a different bowling ball every time he didn't have a good game," he said.

DeMartin came to Mason in 1946, dental degree from University of Michigan in hand, fresh from a stint of active duty at Great Lakes Naval Base. He stayed in the Naval Reserve until 1978, when he retired as a Commander in the Navy Dental Corps. He married a sorority girl, Louise, and the union lasted 63 years. Family lore has it that on Louise's first visit to DeMartin's house, she spotted a 16-inch-by-8-inch picture of an old girlfriend he had forgotten to conceal.

The Mason house's previous owner was a veterinarian. DeMartin knocked out an animal shed to one side of the house and built an attached office. He worked there until he retired in 1985 and lived there the rest of his life.

He charged \$7 for a cleaning in the 1950s and \$17 in the 1970s. He took pride in quality work and fair prices.

Dan DeMartin called him Rollie Codger. When his kids ate too much candy, their father threatened to work on them without anesthetic, but he never followed through on the threat.

He was meticulous when it came to business details.

"His college buddies called him The Man of 17 Processes," Dan DeMartin said.

His passions pivoted to golf as he got older and endured a series of health setbacks, but he stayed remarkably robust.

"He appreciated food and raved about having a great meal," his daughter-in-law, Judi, said.

DeMartin got a hole in one in his late 80s, when he was blind in one eye and had poor vision in the other. He golfed well into his 90s and was mentally sound until he suffered a stroke about 10 days before he died. After a brief hospital stay, he came back home under hospice care. His last meal was a huge bowl of spaghetti. He died in a house smelling of tomatoes and garlic.

"I can't name any one thing I miss about him," Dan DeMartin said. "I just miss his presence."

PATRICIA LAVRA

1930-2014

When Patricia Lavra took a walk in the woods, her eyes seldom left the forest floor. The patterns made by the lichens and mosses mesmerized her.

Lavra, a Lansing teacher and artist, died Feb. 3 at age 83.

Born and raised in Detroit, Lavra took to art almost from infancy and trained at the Cranbrook Kingswood High School for Girls. Her father insisted that she get a double degree in education as well as art, so she wouldn't starve, but she found a way to make a career in art all the same. After a brief stint in Vermont as an art counselor, she taught at the Detroit School for the Deaf.

Patricia came back to Lansing in the early 1960s and left a resume with the Lansing schools. The principal of Eastern High School popped by the house one morning, unannounced, and gave her a job interview on the front porch. She was wearing flip-flops and shorts. (There was no phone in the house yet.)

Lavra got the job, but she really blossomed shortly afterward, when she headed the art department at the Marvin E. Beekman Center, a school for developmentally disabled students.

"She joked with them, put them at ease and pushed their

limits," Lavra's daughter, Wendy Lavra, recalled. She taught them how to handle a variety of media, from oil paint to ceramics, and helped them learn the business of art, setting up boutiques where they sold their work to the public on market days

Lavra loved the job at Beekman, but it didn't always love her back. In the 1980s, while breaking up a fight between two burly students, she was thrown against a locker, breaking her spine. A decade earlier, she had already fought a frightening round with cervical cancer, but she had a knack for bouncing back.

In her own art, Lavra mastered many media and styles, from symbolic to realistic. She embraced every new artistic venture with obsessive thoroughness. Well into her retirement, she made a pilgrimage to North Carolina and became close friends with master basket maker Trelve Wood. With Wood, she studied every stage of traditional Appalachian basket making, from selecting and taking down the tree, dyeing the reeds to the design and weaving of the basket.

Going through old photos of her mom this year, Wendy Lavra found one that captures her mother's intrepid spirit. Lavra is 2 years old, standing on a sailboat named the Morning Glory. She's wearing a one-piece swimsuit and boots, legs apart, intrepidly holding onto the mainmast.

"That picture reeks with attitude," Wendy Lavra said. "That was the attitude she had throughout life and it served her very well."

STANLEY FEDEWA

1939-2014

Politics at Michigan's state Capitol weren't always as grim as they are now.

In 1973, Stanley Fedewa, chief of staff to Michigan House Speaker William Ryan, brought the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, famed guru to the Beatles, to the Capitol and introduced him to his boss. Ryan was as Irish Catholic as they come, but he was intrigued by the benefits of transcendental meditation and suggested the maharishi address a joint session of the Legislature.

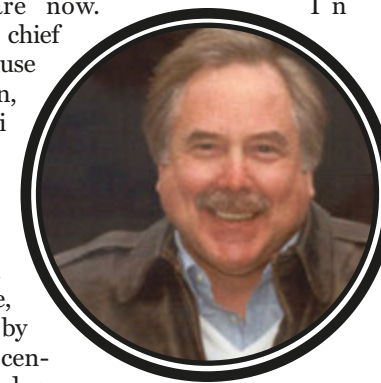
Richard T. Cole, former chief of staff for Michigan Governor James Blanchard, was there.

"It was quite dramatic and funny," Cole said. "Some of the good old boys didn't know what to make of this guy with his white robes and long hair."

Fedewa, a political strategist and financial expert who pushed banks to comply with fair housing laws and buy into community re-investment programs, died Aug. 3.

Meditation brought Fedewa together with his wife the love of his life, Marilyn. In 1975, Fedewa went on a retreat in Europe and entrusted Cole with his beloved white Triumph TR-6, "a real chick magnet," in Cole's words.

He met Marilyn in Biarritz, a lovely French seaside town



10 Who Died

from page 8

on the Bay of Biscay.

"I felt like I knew him before," Marilyn Fedewa recalled.

The intense retreat left little time for a fling, but they slipped away, walked the beach and shared a pastry. Half way between the men's and the women's hostels, waves crashed at the foot of a fog-lit lighthouse. They sent notes to one another via courier: "I look at the lighthouse and think of you," they both wrote. After the storybook beginning, they decided to test their attraction in the most mundane setting they could think of: a Howard Johnson's in Binghamton, N.Y. It stuck. Soon after, Marilyn moved to Lansing from New York and Fedewa forgot all about his Triumph. They married in 1977.

"He had empathy for people," Marilyn Fedewa said.

Fedewa felt a special tenderness toward his younger sister, Madonna, who was born blind. Growing up on his father's farm on the west side of Lansing, Fedewa loved to hold lambs while Madonna petted them. Decades later, he made spring trips to MSU barns to visit the lambs.

Fedewa and Cole spent many hours negotiating campaign reform legislation with House and Senate Republicans in the wake of the Watergate scandal. Fedewa was chief of staff to Speaker Ryan and his successor, Bobby Crim; Cole worked at the Senate.

"He was a strategist," Cole said. "He used his charisma to help politicians achieve the social and political reforms he supported. People like Stan don't come around that often."

When Fedewa and his wife wrote a book together, the subject was a Republican: Emil Lockwood, who sponsored the state's Fair Housing Act as Senate majority leader. Lockwood's widow asked the couple to write the book.

"It was fun to do it together," Marilyn Fedewa said. They worked out a joint style, each of them wrote several chapters and they edited each others' work. It sounds like a potential marriage killer, but it only brought them closer together.

"He was my best editor," Marilyn Fedewa said.

ISABELLA "BELLA" SWANSON

2006-2014

Isabella Swanson loved music, from the Beatles to bluegrass to the big band music favored by her grandpa. Her favorite song was "Happy Birthday." Each morning, her mother sang it to her (with varying lyrics like "Good Morning to You"). Bella, as her family called her, always squealed with delight.

If you count by musical "Happy Birthdays," Bella had quite a few.

By the cold calendar, they numbered only 8. She died Nov. 27.

Bella had spastic quad cerebral palsy and was not able to walk or talk, but none of that seemed to dim her uncanny corona of star power.

"She was magnetic and lit up every room she went into without saying a word," her mother, Patricia Akley, said.

"She had crystal clear blue eyes and Shirley Temple hair."

She loved her dog, whom she named Lovey Dovey by verbalizing the syllables "LaDa."

"She was a teacher to me," Akley said. "I had to learn a lot



about the brain and the nervous system. She had full comprehension but wasn't able to control her musculature."

Bella loved to ride horses. She benefited from hippotherapy, a form of occupational therapy.

"The gait of the horse, somehow, makes new neural pathways for the body to learn how to do things," Akley said. After Bella's second ride on a horse, something woke up in her.

"Her brain was now curious and she wanted to reach out, before the world happened to her," Akley said. "She taught me so many amazing things like that."

Bella played T-ball for the Miracle League on the no-boundaries ball field at the DeWitt Area Recreation Authority in north Lansing.

"I realized through Bella how accessibility is really hard in this world, still, and just the fact that we had that ball field was such a blessing," Akley said.

Bella loved it when her grandfather piled her into his minivan with multicolored lights and played big band music. The day before she died, she enjoyed a dance party in her living room with her mom, her mom's boyfriend, Kirk Green, and her aide, Heather Pollock. It wasn't planned. They just felt the spirit, cranked up the music and danced.

"She would make those kinds of things happen daily," Akley said. "She taught me how to be present and how to have fun, right now, all the time."

For those who experienced Bella's blue eyes and squeal of delight, that lesson might be difficult to absorb for a while.

"It's real quiet around here now," Akley said with a wavering voice. "It's different."



WARREN BALLARD

1916-2014

BEULAH BALLARD

1918-2014

On Aug. 5, 98-year-old Warren Ballard stayed up to watch the Detroit Tigers edge the New York Yankees, 4-3, in 12 innings. A staunch Tigers fan, Ballard was glad he stuck out the marathon game to the last pitch. He went to bed contented, woke up in the middle of the night, collapsed and died. His wife of 70 years, Beulah, died two days later, at 99.

They had sharply different personalities. Beulah was hot-tempered and cursed freely, most often at the washing machine. Warren never swore.

Warren dated Beulah's sister, Erma, at first, but they quarreled at a party one night and she refused to go home with him. He took Beulah home instead. "The rest is history," their daughter Mary Clark said. "She liked his calmness and patience. Maybe opposites do attract."

Warren was a flight engineer on several B-29 missions in the Pacific during World War II, tracking the fuel supply.

He never said much about it, except that he almost ran the plane out of fuel once. "It was touch and go," he told his kids.

Following a familiar pattern echoed in dozens of Lansing obituaries in recent years, Warren started at 18 and retired at 65 from Motor Wheel, the world's biggest maker of wheels in its heyday. When the roar of the wheel making shop permanently damaged his hearing, he moved to an office job in catalog sales.

As the decades passed, their lives unfolded quietly at a modest South Side bungalow. Warren would sit on the couch, grab Beulah, plop her down next to him and say, "Sit down, Beulah, and tell all me your problems." On Wednesday nights, after bowling league, Beulah read off the bowling scores and Warren calculated the averages. They called the scores in to the Lansing State Journal.

They weren't well off, but they always made room for a two-week vacation each year, with lots of camping and hunting.

For most of her life, Beulah turned out perfect pie crusts and a stream of colorful quilts. She loved shuffleboard so much that she turned pro during winters in Florida.

Both were beset by health problems in later years. Warren was restricted to pureed food in his last year.

"Just another chapter of my life," he said with equanimity. Beulah was less sanguine and grew moodier. Her eyesight failed and the quilts and shuffleboard had to go.

By August 2014, Beulah had been ill for a very long time, but Warren seemed fine. Their kids have a theory about the surprising sequence in which they died.

"Warren always took care of Beulah," Clark said. The kids like to think that Warren took off early — after making sure the Tigers won — to see that the light was right for Beulah and her chair was in the right spot when she got to the other side.



ALFRED DAYTON WHITE

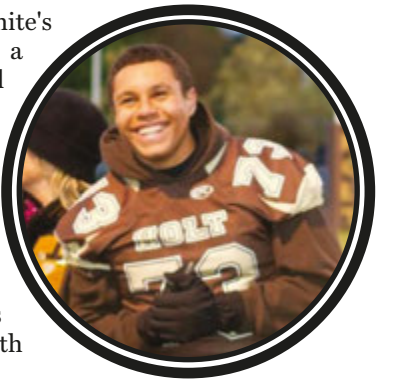
1996-2014

Alfred Dayton White's smile could light up a night game at a football field, let alone a room. At his memorial service, one of his many adoring cousins and second cousins blew up a photo of Dayton White to life size, so family and friends could take selfies with him.

Dayton White, a Holt High school grad and aspiring homicide detective, was killed in an auto accident Aug. 1 at 18. He was enjoying his first summer out of high school and looking forward to attending Ferris State, where he planned to major in criminal justice. About 10 days before the accident, he finished a career law enforcement training camp at the Michigan State Police post.

"He loved that camp," his mother, Nancy Dayton, said. "He talked about going into the state police."

Dayton White's extended family, a riotous mix of races



10 Who Died

from page 9

and political views, runs into the hundreds, including second cousins twice removed. They assembled in force at boisterous holiday parties where Dayton White was always a star.

"We're a mixed family of Republicans and Democrats and we all love each other," Nancy Dayton said. On "small Thanksgivings," about 70 people crowd into Somerset Congregational Church for the main dinner. The partying stretches into a Friday game night.

At the reunions, Dayton White debated with his cousins, played cards and fell down laughing while chanting and clapping out youth ministry games like "Who sir, me sir" and inexplicable family traditions like Aunt Polly and the Dwarf. (Don't ask. Pennies are eaten.)

One of Dayton White's favorites was Mafia, the rules of which were never clear to his mother.

"Alfred was always the first guy killed in Mafia," Dayton said. "He would always say, 'Oh, sure, kill the black guy first.'"

Alfred loved to watch crime shows on TV and second guessed the detectives. He pointed out that on TV and in movies, it always seemed like "the black guy gets killed first."

"We're a morbid family," Nancy Dayton said. "He always liked funerals."

After Dayton White's funeral, the family found comfort in the same morbid humor. "I imagined him saying, 'Oh, sure, kill the black guy first,'" Nancy Dayton said.

Dayton White loved the outdoors. Two days before his fatal accident, he and his mother were taking the dog for a walk on the 120-acre farm in Holt where she grew up. "He said, 'Oh, what a beautiful sunset,'" Dayton said. "He got mad when he saw people littering."

Tucker, a 12-year-old Australian shepherd the family adopted as a 6-month-old puppy, was Dayton White's devoted friend. Four months after Dayton White's accident, Tucker goes to the bottom of the stairs every night, sits on

the bottom step and looks up into Dayton White's bedroom.

MARJORIE MOORE

1925-2014

In 1947, Marjorie Moore gave birth to a daughter, Pam, who was diagnosed with Down syndrome. Doctors told Moore that Pam Moore would never learn, live independently, marry or have a normal life. She didn't accept that prognosis for a minute. She loathed the idea of throwing her daughter into a state institution.

Through decades of persistent advocacy, Moore and her husband, longtime Lansing City Councilman Harold Moore, helped write a new chapter in a bleak story and broaden the range of living choices for developmentally disabled people. Marjorie Moore died Jan. 15.

She grew up in Lansing, on Center Street, where her dad ran a small grocery store in front of the house. A daughter, Suzanne Moore, said her mother was the first female paper deliverer for the Lansing State Journal.

"She was a go-getter," Suzanne Moore said.



'My heart bleeds'

Jesse Jackson, Lansing area mourners remember Rev. Michael Murphy

Shocked at the death Sunday of longtime Lansing political and pastoral leader the Rev. Michael Murphy, friends are finding solace in the memory of a principled public figure and empathic friend.

"It's an overwhelming sadness. My heart bleeds," the Rev. Jesse Jackson said in a phone interview Monday. "I knew him as a very conscientious freedom fighter who sought racial justice and reconciliation."

Murphy, 62, was preparing to deliver his Sunday sermon at People's Congregational Church in Washington, D.C., where he has been pastor since 2009, when he collapsed. He was taken to the hospital, but could not be revived.

A memorial service in Lansing is being planned, but no date has been set.

The outpouring of grief over Murphy's death stretched from Chicago, where Murphy and Jackson grew up and first met each other, to Lansing, where Murphy served as city councilman, state representative and self-described "pastor preacher," to the shores of Ghana in west Africa, where he often traveled as part of Lansing's Sister Cities program.

Jackson said he had known Murphy for over 30 years. Murphy was treasurer of Jackson's 1984 and 1988 Democratic presidential primary campaigns in Michigan. Jackson's bid for the nomination failed in 1984, but he swept the state in 1988. It was one of the most stunning political upsets in Michigan history.

Jackson praised Murphy for his "very strong positions on matters of domestic legislation as regards poor and working poor people, but also as regards peace."

"Whether it was the misadventure into Iraq, standing for [Nelson] Mandela's release, the fight for Dr. King's holiday — he's in that tradition of ministers who fought for a sense of justice within and beyond the walls of the church," Jackson said.

MSU Board of Trustees President Joel Ferguson, a close friend of Murphy's, managed the Jackson campaigns in 1984 and 1988.

A rare combination of qualities, Ferguson said, made Murphy an effective leader.

"He cared about people, plus he was smart," Ferguson said. "Some people have ambition without talent. He had both plus commitment — plus vision."

Murphy was elected to Michigan's Legislature in 2000, serving three terms until he was term limited in 2006. Before that, he served on the Lansing City Council.

He founded St. Stephen's Community



Courtesy Photo

The Rev. Michael Murphy in Ghana.

Church in Lansing in 1987, where he was pastor until he became senior minister at the People's UCC Church in Washington, D.C. in 2009.

Murphy's community-building skills mixed inspiration with perspiration. Political consultant and former Ingham County Commissioner Mark Grebner recalled Murphy's painstaking legwork in the 1980s as he assembled a congregation for St. Stephen's.

"He's the only minister I've ever known who thought of religion as a matter of direct mail and demographics, rather than doctrine and salvation," Grebner said, but backtracked slightly: "I'm sure the latter figured in also."

Barbara Roberts Mason, president of

In 1971, Moore and her husband got a \$500,000 loan from the state housing authority to develop low-income housing for people with developmental disabilities. They founded Moore Living Connections, a network of housing and services for the disabled. Jim Rooker is the CEO.

"She was like a second mother to me, a real mentor," Rooker said. In the early 1970s, clinicians and families were bitterly at odds about what kind of life was possible for the disabled. "She really helped me see a different side of things from what I was used to, working on the Community Mental Health side," Rooker said. "You can't take a person away from their family."

The Moores joined with Marvin Beekman to start Woodhaven, a school for the developmentally disabled, in the early 1950s, now the Marvin E. Beekman Center. Marge Moore gave talks to doctors on treating the developmentally disabled. She started the Blossomtime Ball, a formal dance where up to 500 people of all ability levels mixed and danced.

Pam Moore lived happily with her parents at a humble cinderblock house on Randolph Street until she died two years ago. Suzanne Moore lived next door, taking advantage of the frequent pot roasts and ducking out when things turned too treacly.

"When Mom and Pam started watching Lawrence Welk, it was my cue to go home," Suzanne Moore said.

Moore loved frequent trips to a family retreat in Farwell, Mich.

"She loved to climb onto a snowmobile, open the throttle and fly down the street," Suzanne said.

In late January 2014, Suzanne Moore opened a few Christmas presents her mother had sent to her in December. Marge told Suzanne Moore not to peek at the packages until she got back from an unexpected stay at Burcham Hills rehab facility, but it was not to be. One of the gifts was a Duck Dynasty sweatshirt.

"I wear it a lot," Suzanne Moore said.

This year, Suzanne Moore cooked Thanksgiving dinner herself for the first time in 60 years.

Lansing's Regional Sister City Commission, traveled to Ghana with Murphy several times as part of a sister city delegation to the Akuapim South Municipal District.

In series of annual visits in the late 1990s and early 2000s, Murphy and the Lansing delegation built a church and started a pineapple and mango farm to help a village school become self-sufficient.

"I called people in Ghana [Sunday] and we cried," Mason said Monday. "Yesterday was a tearful day."

Murphy's eloquence and empathy impressed Mason in his sermons.

In the 1980s, not long after Murphy went into the ministry, Mason's neighbor, a member of Murphy's church, had an infant son who died of AIDS. Murphy gave the eulogy.

"I don't remember the exact words, but I remember the feeling," Mason said. "You'd get a feeling he understands what people are going through, for the mother and father to have this child taken away. That's what made him a good minister. He could get into people's minds, understand their very being and help them get the strength to face tomorrow."

Murphy is survived by two adult children.

— Lawrence Cosentino



CityPULSE

Annual Bridal Guide

Happy anniversary

Becker's Bridal turns 80
.....

Foundations benefit

How to make the most of your dress with bridal undergarments



Special Pullout Section
December 31, 2014

Bridal  World

at the Lansing Center
Sunday, Jan. 11
11 am-4 pm

Wedding anniversary

Becker's Bridal dress shop in Fowler turns 80

By **ALLAN I. ROSS**

Maybe the key to getting your business to last forever is dedicating it to an institution that's supposed to be eternal. This year, Becker's Bridal in Fowler, about half an hour north of Lansing, celebrated 80 years of selling wedding dresses to local brides.

In 2011, the late journalist/author Jeffrey Zaslow wrote the book "The Magic Room: A Story About the Love We Wish for Our Daughters" about the store, which is on its fourth generation

of family ownership. "The Magic Room" takes its name from one of the try-on rooms that has soft light, a pedestal and is completely surrounded by mirrors. The book, which is told through the eyes of brides-to-be who have bought their wedding dresses from the store, has turned the little burg of Fowler into an international destination spot.

Owner Shelley Becker Mueller, whose own story as a bride, daughter and mother is told in the book, took some time to reflect on a life dedicated to



Photos by Kelly Lynne Photography

Becker's Bridal celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2014. The Fowler business is on its fourth generation of family ownership.

matrimony and what "The Magic Room" did for business — and how it forged a connection with a Brazilian couple.

What is Becker's relationship to the local community?

We draw tens of thousands of people, which boosts some of our other local businesses, like our eateries and gas stations. Fowler is a population of 1,100 people with one traffic light, so our distant customers love the feel of the small town service and the quaint village setting.

How is Becker's different from other bridal supply stores?

Becker's offers a large variety of gowns, (which) saves the bride from traveling from store to store and trying to remember her selections.

We have grown through square footage mainly. We have grown from having one location and only a few try-on rooms to 17 bridal rooms, a full lobby of bridal gowns and (a second location for) bridesmaids and mother-of-the (bride and groom) across the street. (This) gives everyone their own room and space to enjoy their parties.

We have also expanded into a full line of bridal accessories — jewelry, belts and headpieces — to complete the one-stop shopping experience.

Why do you think Becker's has lasted so long?

I feel Becker's has been successful for 80 years because of our sales staff. We

take great pride in the customer service. We do our best to make sure each bride feels like she belongs to a family unit and isn't just another sale.

Do you see any trends emerging in the wedding industry?

Trends I would say are shifting in the manner of how brides are shopping. Brides are bringing more people along with them to shop, kind of like what TV shows are portraying. This is a double-edged sword, because the bride feels she wants all of her family and friends included, but she receives many opinions and easily becomes confused and frustrated.

The decision should always be hers and what she feels best in, but (I see some who) settle so as to not step on (any) toes. Sometimes it's best to shop with (just one or two) and bring others back to the salon after you made your choice, perhaps when you pick the gown up or shops for accessories.

Are there any changes coming soon for the store?

Becker's is making improvements to our floor in the bridal salon, which services the destination brides. These are the gowns that are for beach weddings, cruise weddings or as simple as a backyard wedding. These are lighter gowns that travel easily but still have the elegance of any other bridal gown.

I see us growing in the coming years by continuing what we do best, keeping our

practical suggestions, tools & time-tested advice for first-time mothers

The perfect bridal shower gift!

available on amazon.com

Doves in Flight Decorating Chair Covers of Lansing



A full-scale decorating company, we offer chair covers, specialty linens, centerpieces, runners, overlays, up-lighting, backdrops, white dove releases and so much more to make your event special.

See what makes us different...

Call (517) 622-5808 • www.DovesInFlight.com

The Plant Professionals Inc

Your personal, local wedding florist

Beautiful floral designs, classic service, exceptional value

Dave Mansfield, Lead Designer

(517) 327-1059 • theplantprofessionals.com • floral@theplantprofessionals.com • 16886 Turner St., Lansing



..... Wedding
..... Imagery for
..... those who
..... dare to be
..... different.

moxxyimagery.com • (517) 410-1983

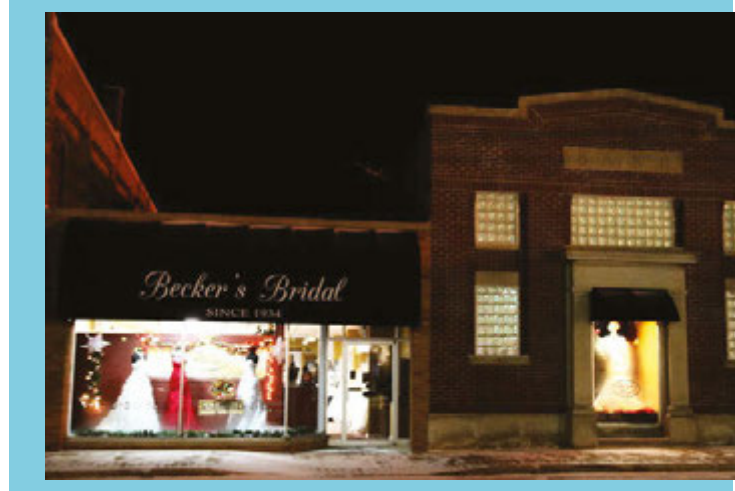
Beckers

from page 12

edge in the bridal market by pampering our brides. When we stay consistent and deliver the quality that our customers have come to appreciate, we have grown. Our largest expansion just came this past spring when we remodeled an old restaurant and expanded our fitting rooms for our brides.

What did Zaslow's book do for business?

"The Magic Room" has put Becker's name out there in a whole different realm. We have gained national and international recognition and have heard hundreds of stories from around the world of praise



and appreciation for sharing stories that others are experiencing themselves.

It has even drawn in more fathers of the bride, who (previously) might

not have felt comfortable with being included in this part of the process. It's such a magical part of the wedding process when fathers and mothers come together as a family unit with their daughter. It's a prelude and extension to the wedding day itself.

Jeff has a journalist's mentality to get to the heart of the matter. Having him in the store and interacting with the staff and customers

was frosting on the cake. His honesty and sincerity radiated through every contact and conversation. He always had a trait to get anyone to open up to him because you just trusted him. In a short period of time he became a part of our family.

His photo and some of his writings are displayed just outside the Magic Room. I don't think any other author could have nailed those personal stories like Jeff did.

(Zaslow was killed in a car accident in 2012.)

Any interesting stories come from all the exposure?

We had a man from Brazil call and ask for permission to bring his girlfriend in to propose to her in the Magic Room. His girlfriend (loved) the book and he (wanted) to surprise her.

He flew her (to) Chicago and they drove to Fowler. As soon as she read the village limit signs, she kind of guessed where they were going. He proposed, she said yes, and they are being married in March in Brazil. We got invited.

In Brazil the book is title "One Magic Moment" he wanted her to have her own magic moment and pulled it off.

Lansing Bridal Association Bridal Shows

Winter Bridal Show

January 3 & 4, 2015

at the University Club 12-5 p.m.

Fall Bridal Show

September 20, 2015

at the Lansing Center 12-6 p.m.



\$2 off

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

COUPON CODE: CP2015

Expires 9/20/15

Lansing
BRIDAL ASSOCIATION



Buy tickets and register online at:

www.lansingbridalshow.com



Mahabir Skin Care Collection
Results with first use

Bridal Package \$100 (\$250 value) includes
Dermaplaning
Gental Lactic Peel

Gita Mahabir LE, LPC
Licensed Esthetician Coach

Mahabir Spa PC
3475 Belle Chase Way
Lansing, Mi 48911
517.898.8541

www.mahabirspa.com
www.facebook.com/MahabirMedicalSpa

Bachelor party planning pointers

You might be surprised to find out that the concept of the bachelor party is an international tradition. Although they go by many different names, these get-togethers held for a man shortly before he gets married are enjoyed in Great Britain, Ireland, Australia and South Africa.

The responsibility of planning a bachelor party traditionally falls on the shoulders of the groom-to-be's best man, who can choose to plan the party on his own or enlist the help of his fellow groomsmen. Immortalized in films such as "Bachelor Party" and "The Hangover" trilogy, bachelor parties range from tame to outrageous. It can be intimidating planning a bachelor party, but by keeping some simple tips in mind, you can create a memorable event.

Don't go it alone. Just because you are the best man does not mean you need to plan the entire bachelor party on your own. While you might want to add a few special and personal touches to the festivities, that does not mean you can't enlist the help of your fellow groomsmen or the groom's friends who are not included in the bridal party.

Enlisting the help of others can be especially helpful when planning a party for a large group, which can be difficult to organize. If the group is large and spread out, ask someone to represent each particular group of

friends, such as childhood friends, college buddies and any professional associates who will be joining in the celebration. If the groom is your family member, you can take on the responsibility of coordinating with family members. Breaking things down can make it easier to organize and help the groom's other close friends and family members feel like they are more involved in the festivities.

Ask the groom for a list of invitees. While it's tradition to prevent the guest of honor from participating in the planning, it is a good idea to ask the groom for a list of people he wants to invite. This can help a best man who is not familiar with all of a groom's friends or associates to organize the party, and it also ensures that friends who were not invited to the wedding are not mistakenly invited to the bachelor party. In addition, the groom may want certain people excluded from the festivities for personal reasons, so asking him for a list of invitees can help avoid any confusion or conflicts down the road.

Choose a different locale for the bachelor and bachelorette parties. While many couples have abandoned traditional bachelor and bachelorette parties in favor of one big party for everyone a couple of nights before the wedding, those who are sticking to tradition likely want to keep the festivities separate. Many couples have their bachelor and bachelorette parties on the same weekend, and such parties are meant to be a chance for

the groom to spend time with his male friends while the bride spends time with her female friends. A best man can work with his female counterpart, the maid of honor, to ensure the parties don't cross paths. So when planning the bachelor party, the best man should ensure he does not choose the same locale as the maid of honor chooses for the bachelorette party.

Plan at least one special event for the weekend. While many men would be content to enjoy one last weekend hanging out with their male friends before tying the knot, one way to make the weekend even more memorable for the groom-to-be is to plan at least one special event, which can act as the centerpiece of the weekend. This special event may include a group trip to attend a sporting event or an evening seeing the groom's favorite band perform live. The event should cater to one of the his interests, and if possible, keep things a surprise to make it even more memorable.

Limit the groom's financial responsibility. Chances are the groom has enough on his plate with regard to paying for his wedding, so it's best to limit the groom's financial responsibility as much as possible. Don't let him buy any drinks or food all weekend, and if you can afford to do so, foot the bill for his transportation and lodging as well. While such gestures are certainly not obligatory, they are thoughtful and will mean a lot.

Planning a bachelor party might come with some pressure, but men tasked with such a responsibility should remember to have fun and enlist others' help when necessary.

Bridal World

Sunday
January 11, 2015
Lansing Center

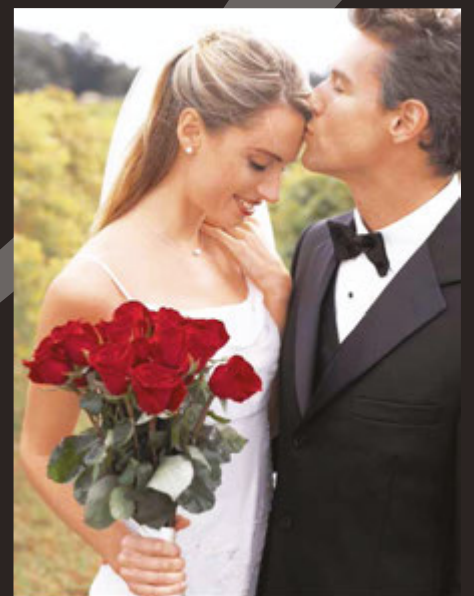
The Premier Bridal Event of the Year!

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

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

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

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



Presented By:

BECKER'S BRIDAL

DAVID'S
BRIDAL

Sound
Productions
ENTERTAINMENT

MEN'S WEARHOUSE®

989-534-1135 • www.worldbridalshows.com

Modern trends in *wedding videography*

A couple's wedding day is often a whirlwind of activities. Happy couples hope to remember every little detail, but that can be difficult when so much is going on. That's why many brides and grooms hire videographers to preserve the memories of their weddings.

Couples who fail to capture their ceremony and reception on film may feel like they missed out once their big day has come and gone. As a result, a professional videographer can be a wise investment.

Today's wedding videos have come a

long way from their poorly produced predecessors. Gone are the cheesy sound bites and elevator music playing over the day's special moments. Many of today's videos are artfully edited and highly cinematic productions that could have couples wishing they were viewing videos in theaters. The following are some wedding video trends popular among today's couples.

Brief clips and highlights: Few people want to sit through their entire wedding day frame-by-frame. Montages of key elements of the day are much more

popular than a chronological unfolding of the ceremony and reception. Some videographers like to show snippets of what's to come at the start of the wedding video, then go into more extensive segments later on.

Special filters or film: Filters and lighting effects can give a wedding video an entirely different feel. For example, filming in 8 mm can lend a grainy touch to the video and make it seem ethereal or even part of a home movie collection. However, few people want the stark reality of a high-definition camera that

highlights every flaw.

Film chapters: Dividing segments of the video into different chapters allows viewers to fast forward to the parts they want to see and pass those they can skip. This saves the tedium of having to watch the video in its entirety.

Cinematic styling: Instead of a stationary camera on a tripod, this method of



filming incorporates different angles and close-up shots to give the video a modern feel. It's shot more like a movie than a documentary, allowing viewers to feel as though they're really experiencing the event.

Artistic, indie-movie feel: Film buffs may want a wedding video that breaks the mold. Ask videographers to create something that would fit in at the Sundance or Tribeca film festivals.

Same-day editing: Want to revisit the ceremony at your wedding reception? Some videographers will edit portions of the ceremony and preparations for the big day in the time between the ceremony and reception. This gives all guests, including those who may not have been able to make the ceremony, the chance to view the nuptials.

Unobtrusive technology: This trend relates to the equipment used to capture wedding memories rather than the actual finished product. No one wants a view of the ceremony or reception to be marred by a big, bulky camera. Smaller video cameras enable videographers to seamlessly blend in and perhaps capture shots that larger cameras could not. And in the rise of drone technology, expect to see more airborne cameras coming soon.

THE ENGLISH INN
RESTAURANT & PUB

**EVER AFTER
BEGINS HERE**

517.663.2500 ENGLISHINN.COM
677 SOUTH MICHIGAN ROAD. EIGHT MILES SOUTH OF LANSING

Marcie Kay

PHOTOGRAPHY



www.marciekayphotography.com
[facebook.com/marciekayphotography.com](https://www.facebook.com/marciekayphotography.com)
137 West Grand River Ave., Suite A
Williamston, Mi 48895
517-230-2311



BECKER'S BRIDAL

OVER **2,000** GOWNS IN STOCK

800 BRIDESMAIDS SAMPLES

1,000 MOTHER OF THE
WEDDING DRESSES

AMONG THE NATION'S
OLDEST BRIDAL SALONS

Visit us and see our fashion show at the Bridal World Show
Sunday 1/11/15 2pm at the Lansing Center

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

155 South Main Street • Fowler, MI 48835 • 989.593.2595

Monday & Thursday : 10 - 7 • Tuesday & Wednesday 10 - 5
Friday & Saturday : 9 - 5

MENTION THIS AD AND RECEIVE \$100 OFF

ENTERTAIN YOU PRODUCTIONS

East Lansing's Premier Live Music, DJ and
Day-of Wedding Coordination

We bring your vision to life by creating the perfect
soundtrack to your day

YOUR WEDDING. YOUR MUSIC. YOUR WAY.

517-420-5774 • www.eypweddings.com

wedding cake aprons

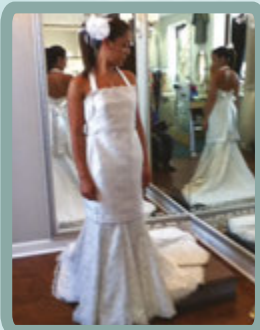
..... bring greater meaning to the cake-cutting ceremony

Our unique wedding cake aprons have more to do with building a strong marriage than protection of clothing. Sold only as matched pairs, they are:

A symbol of the couple's
commitment to building a
new home together with
the groom's apron in the
style of a builder's apron.



A symbol of the bride & groom's
acceptance of the new family
as their own when worn to serve
wedding cake to their new in-laws.



A symbol of the families' approval
of this new union when customized
with trim from the wedding
garments of the mothers-in-law.

A keepsake for anniversaries year
after year, reaffirming the couple's
commitment to serve each other
and their combined family.



Contact Pat at (517)706-1905 • pbarnesmc@gmail.com • weddingcakeaprons.com

Foundations benefit

How to make the most of your
dress with bridal undergarments

By **LAUREN LONG**

If you want to build an architectural masterpiece, you have start with a solid foundation. The principle holds true for bridal gowns, too.

On your wedding day, you want to look the best you've looked in your entire life. But if you really feel the need to look 10 pounds lighter and give your breasts a boost, there are great solutions without doing anything drastic. Foundations, or undergarments — bras, slips, shapewear and anything else that gives your body shape — can help you hide or flaunt your curves and make the most out of your wedding dress.

Function and form

Brides usually want their foundations to be a combination of pretty and functional, but if you're really going for the gusto and want major "suck-in" mojo, odds are you're not going to look hot under that gown. Unless you count the sweaty kind. If you're purely into functional, some popular options are waist cinchers (not the lace up variety — think front closure with a clasp), bust cups or high-waisted underwear with compression.

Bust cups are popular because you can have a seamstress sew them right into your gown. It saves you a layer and the hassle of dealing with a strapless bra if you're not used to one. Bridal gowns usually have a lot of construction to them, and you may be surprised how well this system keeps the girls up.

Still hesitant? No worries. Buy a strapless bra and have your seamstress sew bra keeper loops into the back of your dress. Just slide the bra band through and it'll keep it from moving all day long. This is also a great method if your gown has a bit of a dip in the back.

'But I just want pretty'

If you're into something that you're purely wearing for the big reveal at the end of the night/start of the honeymoon, keep an open mind. Some bustiers or longline bras are beautiful and iconically bridal. Pair with a pretty matching lace panty (and maybe some stockings if you won't roast to death) and you have quite the beautiful picture. Consider really investing in these items. Maybe have your panty embroidered with your new initials, or find something that says "Bride" or "Mrs." on it.

If your gown has lots of layers to it, consider going unconventional and surprising your new spouse with a colored ensemble that you may be able to wear again.

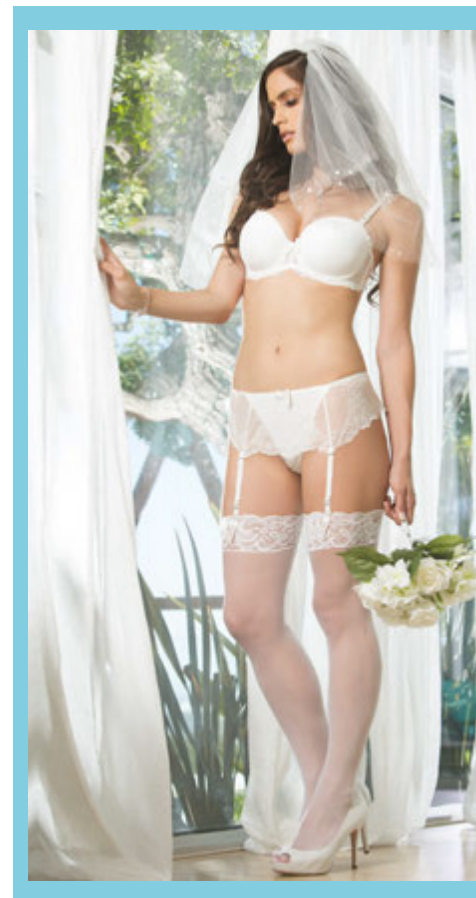


Photo by Va Bien Lingerie

Undergarments, or foundations — such as this longline bra outfit — should be considered an essential element to any bridal dress.

One size doesn't fit all

Some bodies just aren't made for some gowns, and your seamstress and lingerie specialist aren't miracle workers. If you're full or heavy busted, consider buying a gown you can wear a bra with or add straps to, including super-low, V-front gowns.

Yes, gowns are designed with structure in mind (usually), but they're also designed for an average build. If your breasts are heavy, it's going to put more stress on that gown to stay in place. Give yourself a boost with a bra and you'll thank yourself later.

If you're worried you'll have a bit of

See *Foundations*, Page 19

Foundations

from page 18

a tummy, don't go with a gown with a super low back. Low backs are very on trend right now, but no tummy-hiding device exists that will suck in your front without being able to wrap around the back. The front needs something from the back to pull it in. You can still have a killer back, just don't make it so low.

When shopping for The Dress

Bring a strapless bra in flesh tone color. Not going strapless? Stick to something neutral so granny isn't distracted by your pink cheetah-print bra straps.

Wear nude bikini or boyshort underwear. Many times your entourage can be in your dressing room with you, and again, granny really doesn't want to see your thong.

If you're a fan of shapewear, bring a control panty or waist cincher to give yourself the feel you're after.

Avoid full bodysuit style shapewear. Bathroom shenanigans are difficult enough in a bridal gown, without including full body armor beneath it.

Change your shoes. Bring a set of heels to try gowns with, unless you'll be wearing flats. No it's not lingerie, but you'll always feel better with a lift.

Additional tips and tricks

Bring your dress with you when shopping for foundations if at all possible. It takes the guesswork out of

the process.

Wear a good bra when you're measured for your gown. This has a huge impact on your bust size. The higher you are, the greater you'll measure. You don't want to be measured droopy, because when you lift your breasts up where they're supposed to be in the gown, it may not zip. It happens a lot.

Do NOT purchase foundations after your gown has already been altered to fit you, unless it's something simple like lacey underwear. Adding a different bra will add bulk beneath your dress.

Test-drive your shapewear just like your shoes. Your wedding day should not be the first time you wear anything but the dress for an extended period of time. What if that longline bra gives you welts after an hour?

If you're wearing a regular bra, have strap keepers sewn into the gown on the underside of your straps. These are the same idea as the ones on the back, but prevent your straps from moving side to side and being exposed for pictures.

Hypoallergenic fashion tape can be your friend if you're afraid of a slip or an oops.

Consider reusable nipple concealers if you're small chested and have a low front and open backed gown. Bonus: You can use them again on that smashing honeymoon!

All of these ideas are suggestions of course, and as a bride you will have to experiment with what works best for you, and establish the feel you're really going for. On your big day though, you now know with these ideas in your back pocket you'll have the best look and feel you possibly can.



Since 1946

HONORED TO BE CHOSEN AS
**DELTA TOWNSHIP
BUSINESS OF THE YEAR**



8741 Saginaw Hwy. Suite J || Lansing || (517) 627-9900 || hhjewelrydesign.com
 Mon-Tue: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. || Wed-Thu: 10-7 p.m. || Fri: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. || Sat: 10-4 p.m.



Photo courtesy of Dziekonski Photography

A LANSING TRADITION FOR 46 YEARS

Roma

BAKERY, DELI & FINE FOODS

Featuring European and American Wedding Cakes in 15 flavors!

Come in for a sample or for a copy of our new cookbook, *Cooking with Mena!*

Visit us at the Lansing Bridal Show at the Lansing Center 1/11
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

WE ARE OPEN!
Monday-Friday 9-6
Saturday 9-5

428 N. Cedar St., Lansing • (517) 485-9466 • www.romabakery.com

CELEBRATE THE HAPPIEST DAYS OF YOUR LIFE





GOURMET POPCORN & SODA POP MARKET

GOURMET POPCORN BARS • WEDDING FAVORS • CUSTOM GIFTS
 888-210-0720 • 1875 W GRAND RIVER, OKEMOS 48864
 CRAVINGSPOPCORN.COM • 1220 TURNER STREET, LANSING 48906

call to request free samples

Hot trends in *wedding cuisine*

In the past, standard fare like prime rib and roasted chicken dominated wedding menus. But today's weddings cater to people of various culinary tastes, and couples and their guests can expect more upscale and creative cuisine to be rolled out for wedding receptions. The following are a handful of the more popular trends in wedding cuisine.

Miniature bites

Many people say good things come in small packages, and when it comes to miniature versions of favorite foods, they may be right. Instead of large meals that fill guests up fast, they can munch on smaller bites of their favorite dishes.

How about a piece of meatloaf topped with whipped mashed potatoes? A cherry tomato with a small piece of mozzarella cheese makes a mini caprese salad. Turning favorite foods into bite-sized adventures can add a touch of whimsy to the reception.

Breakfast for dinner

Some couples are circumventing high price tags for their weddings by choosing to hold the festivities at less expensive times of day. Brunch-themed weddings are a big hit with those who would much rather dine on a stack of pancakes than a dish of pasta. Omelet stations, croissants and a bevy of other breakfast table fare

can be enjoyed any time of the day.

Dim sum

Dim sum allows guests to sample different foods without filling up. Carts of dumplings and other small plates of appetizers can be wheeled around so everyone can choose what they want and what they want to avoid.

Gourmet comfort food

People love familiar comfort foods, but now gourmet comfort foods are shaking up wedding receptions. Mac and cheese with gouda and brie or chicken pot pie with a puff-pastry crust are a few offerings that can add glamour to down-home cooking.

family-style dining allows guests to share conversation and pass the peas at the same time. Larger, rectangular tables allow more guests to sit with one another and serve themselves food from community plates located in the center of the tables.

Food and beverage pairings

Food-forward wedding couples are offering guests unconventional appetizers matched with a cocktail. So instead of trolling the app tray for cocktail weenies before sallying up to the bar for a glass of generic brew, you can match a slider and a craft beer or a dumpling and a shot of saki for a change.

Nontraditional 'cakes'

Instead of a multi-tiered cake or the cupcake fad that is starting to



SMALL TO PLUS FINE LINGERIE FOR SPECIAL DAYS AND EVERYDAY



GIFT REGISTRY



PRIVATE PARTIES



FOUNDATIONS

Curvaceous Lingerie, Old Town Lansing • 513 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing MI 48906 • 517-881-8466 • curvaceouslingerie.com





HOW SWEET IT IS

FUDGE & CANDY CO.

CUSTOM MADE WEDDING FAVORS

..... Wedding favors for low as \$1

WE'LL DESIGN AROUND YOUR THEME AND COLORS

Great Value

1778 Holloway Drive Suite B, Holt • (517)889-5546 • sweetfudge.com

Food with a show

Instead of passed foods or buffet stations, couples can opt to make food an experience for guests. An oyster bar with a chef serving fresh seafood or a dessert master whipping up flambé is a feast for the eyes and mouth.

Interesting buffet stations

Keep guests on their toes with various meal stations. A smorgasbord of artisanal cheeses, fruits and breads will be a cheese lover's dream. These stations also can be appetizing focal points around the room and ensure all guests get a bite of what they like best.

Family style

Rustic and informal weddings have grown in popularity. Rather than food being brought to the guests or participants lining up in buffet lines,

fizzle, couples have started opting for something new. Desserts that mimic the look of cake but aren't quite that combination of sponge and frosting are trending. Crepes, pies, cookies and doughnuts can add a creative spark to the cake-cutting ceremony.

Vegan and gluten-free options

Chances are one or more people attending the reception will be on a restricted diet. Rather than relegate these guests to dining on side dishes and patchwork meals, certain couples are building entire offerings around vegan and gluten-free foods.

Couples are getting creative with their food and beverage offerings at their weddings.

So while traditional chicken-steak-or-fish will probably never go away, keep an eye on these emerging trends to make your reception the party of the year.

Putting your old *wedding gown* to new use

Designer wedding gowns can cost upward of \$5,000, with an average cost running about \$2,000. That's a lot of money for what is essentially an article of clothing that will only be worn once. But there are a variety of ways brides can reuse or recycle their wedding gowns.

Heirloom

One of the easiest ways to get more from your gown is to pass it down to another bride after your wedding day. Brides frequently save and preserve their gowns with the intent of passing it down as an heirloom to a daughter or another family member. Maintain the beauty of the gown by hiring a professional dry cleaner or wedding gown preservation service to treat and package the gown before storing it for some lucky lady's future use.

Religious outfit

If you feel the style of the gown won't keep up with the times, the fabric of the gown can be repurposed into a baptismal outfit or a communion dress or suit. Christian children are welcomed to the faith in white clothing, which is a symbol of purity and cleansing of sin. Seamstresses can fashion beautiful dresses or suits from original wedding gowns.

Play clothes

Many little girls and boys like to play dress-up. And rather than have a gown sitting in the closet, use it to make play clothes for little ones. The gown can be turned into a dress for a fairy princess or an ice queen.

Ornaments or favors

Lace from gowns can be turned into doilies, accents on other clothing, undergarments or decorative pieces for the home. A lace-covered lampshade can be a creative way to commemorate your wedding day for years to come.

Art

Use the gown as a background for artwork. Simply stretch it across a wooden frame and staple on the back. You then have a handy canvas at the ready.

Nursery décor

Decorate a baby's nursery with a portion of the wedding dress, which can be turned into a crib skirt or

pillow. The dress can also be used to create frilly curtains. A white dress will blend with just about any pattern.

Anniversary tablecloth

Measure out the length of a dining table and cut and sew the gown into a special occasion tablecloth. Take it out each year on your anniversary.

Stuffed animals

Present children with cozy friends that they can love for years. Cut out a

pattern for a bunny or a T-rex and use it to craft a stuffed toy from the gown. Visit a local craft shop for stuffing fill and buttons for eyes.

Donation

Some people cannot afford a gown. Work with a church or shelter and find out where you can donate the gown to be used by someone who normally would not wear something so lavish.

Theater prop

Many plays and musicals feature

wedding scenes. An upstart theater company may benefit from having a wedding gown in their costume department.

Handkerchief

Cut out a piece of the gown and sew the hem. Offer it as the "something old" or "something borrowed" for a loved one's wedding.

Wedding gowns do not need to be relegated to a closet once a bride has said "I do." Turn that dress into something useful for years to come.



*Lansing's favorite
Italian restaurant*

**Tony
M's**

*Let us host your
Wedding Reception or Rehearsal Dinner!
2 locations to serve you!*

The *Serafina Banquet Room* inside the Lansing Tony M's is spacious and seats up to 160 people.
No Rental fee

The *Banquet Room* inside the Owosso Tony M's is a more intimate setting that seats up to 80 people.
No Rental fee

Don't wait, call now or use our online form and book the Serafina Room today!!!

3420 S Creyts Rd, Lansing, Michigan • (517) 322-2069
tonymyslansing.com

2280 West M-21, Owosso, Michigan • (989) 427-4913
tonymsowosso.com

Hidden expenses can sink your wedding budget

Tradition dictates that the responsibility of paying for a wedding falls to the bride's parents, but that tradition has largely fallen by the wayside as more and more couples have used their own savings to finance their weddings. Few couples enter the process of planning their weddings unaware of just how expensive weddings can get, but costs can easily begin to escalate if they are not careful.

Certain wedding expenses, such as the cost of booking a reception hall, will eat up a large portion of the wedding budget, but there are some hidden expenses that couples must keep in mind to avoid finding themselves in debt as they begin their new life together.

Taxes: Michigan's 6 percent sales tax might not seem so significant when you're buying everyday items, but it adds up fast when you're paying for a wedding. Before signing contracts with any vendors, you should get the price including sales tax written into their contracts. Failing to do so may result

in a several-thousand-dollar surprise when the time to pay up arrives.

Gratuities: Gratuities are another potentially hefty expense that often takes novice wedding planners by surprise. Some reception halls build gratuities for staff into their estimates. These tips for the staff can be as high as 25 percent at some venues. But even if gratuities for reception hall staff are already accounted for, don't forget to include tips for additional vendors the day of the wedding. Couples may be expected to tip the florist, photographer, band or DJ, and even the reception hall maitre d' if it isn't included in the staff tip. Brides-to-be typically tip their hairstylist and makeup artist on the day of the wedding as well.

Postage: Couples who plan to invite guests via email or online invitations can skirt the cost of postage. But many couples still prefer traditional paper invitations, which include return envelopes that tradition suggests should also be stamped. Save-the-date cards have grown in popularity as well,



and these cards must also be stamped and mailed. Depending on the size of your guest list, postage can cost several hundred dollars. And don't forget to save money for postage to mail thank-you cards once the big day has come

and gone.

Overtime: Overtime fees for reception hall staff and additional outside vendors are typically written into contracts, but few couples imagine needing more than the predetermined allotment of time noted in their contracts. It's better to be safe than sorry though, as unanticipated events, such as a misplaced wedding license or heavy traffic on the way to the venue, can force the party to start late and thus extend past its deadline. Set aside some money for overtime so you don't find yourselves scrounging for dollars or charging the extra few hundred dollars on your credit card.

Weddings are expensive, and even more so when hidden fees start to make their presence felt. Couples who build such fees into their budgets will find it easier to avoid breaking the bank than those who don't.



Smith
FLORAL &
GREENHOUSES
SINCE 1903

We've been helping brides smile for over 100 years!

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

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

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

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



Radisson

Lansing's premier

WEDDING VENUE

Connect with our experienced
Wedding Coordinator, Samantha
Bite, at 517-267-3440

RADISSON HOTEL LANSING AT THE CAPITOL
111 N GRAND AVE • LANSING MI 48933

Dorothea Fields, Ph.D.
Classical Harpist



517.664.1238
www.dorotheafields.com
dorotheaclassicalharpist@yahoo.com

How to successfully negotiate with wedding vendors

The average wedding tends to be one of the most costly ventures in a couple's life together. Many couples seek ways to cut costs, and negotiating with prospective vendors is one way to do just that.

Too often couples overlook haggling for better prices because they may be intimidated by the process or simply want to plan the most memorable day regardless of cost. Many vendors build some wiggle room into their prices, and the key for cost-conscious couples is to find the right strategy to unlock that lower price.

Explore your options. Weddings are big business for vendors, and the competition is stiff. Visit a variety of vendors and compare their services and prices prior to making any decisions. This will give you an accurate range of costs and information for future negotiations. Vendors may be willing to match competitors' prices, so knowing what the photographer down the street charges can provide you with some negotiating leverage.

Dress modestly for meetings. It's tempting to want to dress to impress, but wedding vendors often judge potential clients by their appearances. If you walk in with a designer handbag and driving the latest model luxury vehicle, a vendor may get the impression you have extra money to spend. While you do not have to play the pauper, dress modestly so your appearance doesn't hurt you at the negotiating table.

Never take the first offer. A good businessperson will tell you there always is room for negotiation. Avoid the loaded question of "What can you spend on this?" by the vendor. Instead, let them bring up a price first, and realize that this first quote can almost always be negotiated down. Inform the vendor that you would really like to work with them but he or she needs to lower the price.



See if they can offer a different package or provide a discount.

Negotiate the big-ticket items first. Discounts on big-ticket items, such as the reception venue, will save you the most money. For example, you will save more by getting 20 percent off at the catering hall than if you save 20 percent on your wedding gown. Once you free up extra money, you may find you don't have to negotiate as hard with smaller vendors.

Walk away if need be. Always have a Plan B in place. This way if you tell a vendor that their price is too expensive and you have to pass, you really have a fallback option. Some vendors will sweeten the deal, but others will actually let you walk out the door. And remember, you're more likely to get a better price by being amenable and well-mannered than making threats or arguing.

Some deals aren't actual discounts. A vendor may be able to work with you by offering additional services in lieu of actually taking money off of the price tag. Extra photo prints, a dessert bar and an extra hour of time in the limousine may seem like great deals, but that's only the case if you truly need these bonuses. Even if it's a great deal, you're still spending more than you had hoped.

Wedding prices can be overwhelming. However, negotiating for lower prices is always an option for cost-conscious couples.



Good wine. Good beer.

Wine and beer orders for events, large or small

Custom gift baskets

• Fine Wine • Craft Beer • Specialty Foods

The most interesting selection of wine and beer in town!

2311 Jolly Rd., Okemos | www.vineandbrew.com | 517.708.2030 | M-W 10-7, Th-Sat 10-8, Sun Noon-7

Lansing Parks and Recreation
is your source for an elegant unique wedding!



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



Virg Bernero, Mayor

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

Cake cutting

Cutting the cake is an unspoken signal that represents that the formal wedding is nearing a close, and guests who would like to leave can do so without worry of being rude. It used to be that the cake cutting was usually saved until the end of the reception, and would signal to the guests that it was the end of the festivities.

However, many couples will cut the cake right after dinner as a courtesy to older guests who may want to get started on their trips home. This affords them the chance to make an earlier exit, rather than staying through the dancing that could extend into the wee hours of the night or missing the cake entirely.

Cutting the cake mid-reception also serves another practical purpose for couples who are paying a photographer by the hour. Photographers typically go home after the cake-cutting, so a mid-reception cutting can save couples a substantial amount of money.

And then some couples have begun to cut the cake as soon as they arrive at the reception. This enables them to get that part out of the way, then sending it back to the kitchen crew to cut into serving-sized portions during dinner.

So before, after or during — even the timing of the cake cutting has become another big day question that must be answered.





Williamston
IS YOUR WEDDING DESTINATION

.....

Come shop downtown Williamston for all of your wedding needs!

 <p>Gracie's Place 517.655.1100 graciesplacewilliamston.com</p>	 <p>The Wedding Gallery 517.655.2929 theweddinggallery.com</p>	 <p>Studio 53 517-256-7838 studio53photography.org</p>
 <p>Wedding Invitations 517.655.4455 limnerpress.com</p>	 <p>Facials & More 517-655-4884 facialsnmore.com</p>	 <p>4Front Photography 517.898.6238 4frontphotography.com</p>
 <p>Vivee's Floral Garden 517.655.2191 viveesfloralgardenandcafe.com</p>	 <p>Brookshire Inn & Golf Club 517.655.4694 ext. 12 brookshiregolfclub.com</p>	 <p>His & Her Beauty Bar 517-996-6077 facebook.com/HisAndHersBB</p>

williamstonweddings.com **Like us on Facebook!**





Whipped Bakery specializes in custom designed wedding cakes as well as groom cakes, cupcakes and dessert buffets

Whipped offers free consultations and tastings...
Please call to set up an appointment

1216 Turner Street, Old Town
(517) 483-2653
Whippedbakerylansing.com



The story behind *Jordan almonds*

Jordan almonds are a popular wedding favor, particularly at events hosted by families of Italian, Greek and Middle Eastern descent. In their most classic form, these sugar-crusted confections are candied almonds, though peanuts, pistachios, chocolate and even coffee beans have replaced the almonds in some modern reincarnations of the treat.

Also known as “dragees” or “Italian confetti,” Jordan almonds date back to 1350, when they’re mentioned in Giovanni Boccaccio’s “Decameron,” a collection of novellas. Ancient Romans used to celebrate momentous occasions, such as births and marriages, with this confetti. Until the start of the Renaissance, when sugarcane was introduced into European kitchens, Jordan almonds were made with honey. In lieu of almonds, sometimes dried fruits, aromatic seeds or cinnamon sticks were covered with a hard coating of sugar, and these delicacies were

served at many important banquets. The name may have originated from the French word “jardin,” which means garden. Others say Jordan almonds resemble a variety of almond that grows along the Jordan River in Israel. The term is used nowadays to describe any and all candy-coated almonds.

In Greece, where Jordan almonds are known as “koufeta,” tradition suggests that when a female guest places the packet of almonds under her pillow she will dream about the man she will marry.

In Middle Eastern countries, Jordan almonds are considered an aphrodisiac.

Almonds are traditionally given in odd numbers, which are indivisible, symbolizing how the newlyweds will share everything equally and remain undivided, and Jordan almonds are often given five at a time. Each almond

represents a quality guests wish for the couple getting married: Health, fertility, wealth, longevity and happiness. The combination of bitter almonds and sweet sugar are representations of a couple’s life together, with the hopes that the newlyweds’ experiences will be more sweet than bitter.

Jordan almonds are usually packaged in a small bag or piece of fabric, though some couples tuck them inside a small, decorative box.

Couples thinking about using almonds may include the following poem:

*Five sugared almonds for each guest to eat/
To remind us that life is both bitter and sweet/
Five wishes for the new husband and wife/
Health, wealth, happiness, children, and a long life*



Pure Enchantment Photography
517-862-9289
www.PureEnchantmentPhoto.com

Michigan Wedding Photographers
See us at the Bridal World Show in January!



COCO'S
OFF THE RACK

SPECIALIZING IN:

- MOTHER-OF-THE-BRIDE
- HOMECOMING
- PROM
- 30% - 50% OFF BRIDAL
- ...and much more!

ALTERATIONS OF ALL KIND!

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

WWW.COCOSOFFTHERACK.COM



Admission \$4

The 2015
Bridal Show

Sunday, February 15th, 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Tuxedos		Music
Caterers		Bridal Gifts
Floral		Cakes
Decorators		Beauty
Photographers		& More!

121 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge, MI

For more information, please call 517-627-1443 or visit www.gloperahouse.com

WIN A \$50,000 WEDDING!

Wonderful Wedding GIVEAWAY

H&H JEWELRY
BLISS SALON SPA
BARYAMES TUXEDO
GRAND LIMOUSINE
WALNUT HILLS

COPPER

SYNERGY PHOTO BOOTH
BECKER'S BRIDAL
ACB PRODUCTIONS
METROBRIDE
APPLE VACATIONS/RIU
TWO RING PHOTOGRAPHY
WEDDINGS BY NICOLE
FRAMERS EDGE
WHIPPED BAKERY
LIFE SUPPORT BAND

*scan with your
smartphone*

PHOTO BY TWO RING PHOTOGRAPHY



FOR DETAILS, TO ENTER AND FOR OFFICIAL RULES VISIT:

WWW.WONDERFULWEDDINGGIVEAWAY.COM

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC • THEATER

A&C HOW IT WAS

A look at the year in Lansing's cultural scene

By **ALLAN I. ROSS**

Trying to figure out the cultural highlight of 2014 in mid-Michigan boils down to a clash of clashes: Was it the Caped Crusader taking on the Man of Steel at the filming of "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" at the Broad Art Museum in October, or was it the musical genre showdown that was presented to local music aficionados at Classical Meets Jazz at the Wharton Center last month? Seeing as how the film shoot was a closed set and local extras weren't allowed to make a peep, it seems Ellington and Mozart slightly edge out Supes and Bats. Sorry, guys, but it all comes down to transparency.

In 2014, mid-Michigan got a slew of new festivals. Cooley Law School Stadium was the site of both a spring and late summer version of Beerfest at the Ballpark, which catered to

local craft beer fans, and the first-ever Cider Fest appealed to fermented fruit juice fans. And besides the annual Common Ground festival, Lou Adado Riverfront Park in downtown Lansing hosted three new fests: The Microbrew and Music Festival in April and Lansing on Tap in November, while the inaugural Grand American Fish Rodeo in June dared to venture where no other festival has gone before — into the water.

Also making a splash were two events focused on local innovators: Lansing Maker Week let local techies flex their creativity and How-To Halloween highlighted homemade Halloween decorations and costumes.

Here, City Pulse takes a look back at the last 12 months of theater, dining, local music and film.

Stage struck

Local theaters were filled

By **MARY CUSACK**

The year came in like a lion, literally, as Williamston Theatre opened 2014 with an outstanding production of "The Lion in Winter." In this era of reality television where families trade their dignity for 15 minutes of fame, "Lion" is timelier now than when it was written in 1966. The play is a fictionalized version of historical events during Christmas 1183 in the home of Henry II of England and his wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine, their sons, lovers, and other assembled guests. The psychological eviscerations are bloodier than a "Saw" movie, and the phenomenal cast, in particular Sandra Birch as the matriarch, stormed the stage with relentless narcissism and fury.

Before the schadenfreude of CBS's misbegotten live musical version, MSU took flight with joyful energy with an incredibly creative interpretation of "Peter Pan." Director Rob Roznowski changed the setting of the play to colonial India, allowing him to incorporate Bhangra dancing and period costumes, customs and décor. The production values, particularly the flight technology and choreography, rivaled that of the touring Broadway shows that play in the neighboring Cobb Great Hall.

Not all plays require great production values to be great. Ixion's "Topdog/Underdog," directed by Paige Dunkel, was presented at the former Art Alley space in REO Town. The rustic space provided the perfect backdrop for this

Best performances of 2014

By **PAUL WOZNAK**

Michael Hays in "Twelve Angry Men," Riverwalk Theatre

As Juror #3, Hays was a world-class villain. He prowled the stage like a sentinel hound ready to pounce on any dissenting opinion, and used his intimidating stature to full effect. He stared daggers across the room and — at one point — wielded one with palpable menace.

Jack Dowd in "Clybourne Park," Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

Dowd's characters are always grounded and authen-

intimate tale of inner city desperation. Rico Bruce Wade and Sineh Wurie played brothers who alternately protect and provide for each other, then tear each other apart at the first signs of individual achievement. Wade and Wurie were well-matched, slowly building intensity in their ever-more claustrophobic confines. The explosive ending left the audience stunned, the room airless.

The most jaw-dropping individual performance of the year was Todd Heywood's creepy transformation into Uday Hussein, son of Saddam, in Peppermint Creek's "Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo." Lest this accolade be interpreted as nepotism, as Heywood is also a City Pulse contributor, let me assure readers that Heywood and I have never been formally introduced. And following that performance, I'm not sure I want to meet the man who has the reserves to play such a character. Heywood's Hussein was unsettlingly charismatic and convincing as he sells his particular brand of evil.

Williamston Theatre provided seasonally appropriate fare with its fall production of "The Gravedigger." Another original work by Williamston favorite Joseph

Zettelmaier, the play fills in a gap of time in Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein," an imagining that for a brief time the monster (Alex Leydenfrost) gets a break from being pursued. He finds a mentor (Mark Colson) who teaches him about being human and a gypsy (Alysia Kolascz) who teaches him about love. The work was heartwarming but edgy, a perfect Halloween treat.

The year wrapped up with the perfect Christmas gift: Beefcake. Although "Les Liaisons Dangereuses," based on a 1784 novel, its plot of vicious deception and psychological social gamesmanship as a diversion from insecurity and boredom is still engrossing material for contemporary audiences. As the Marquise de Merteuil (Carolyn Conover) and the Vicomte de Valmont (Kirill

Sheynerman) use each other to get back at all of their enemies, they become locked into a game of chicken, with inevitable results of mayhem and death. Luckily, before he dies, Valmont takes his shirt off. Frequently. Proving that there is, indeed, a Santa Claus, and he got my letter.



tic with a touch of intimidating menace. Here, he played a grieving father with a steely demeanor. Dowd was especially vibrant, balancing unpredictable volatility with heartbreaking tenderness.

Jacqueline Wheeler in "Carrie: The Musical," Michigan State University Department of Theatre

One of the catalysts for the titular telekinetic teen's transition from mousy to murderous is her domineering mother Margaret, played here by Wheeler with seething restraint. She is aided by the best songs of the show and juicy dialogue, but Wheeler deftly avoids the pitfalls of

overplaying. Wheeler's approach of a slightly saner, premeditated monster is almost more frightening than the film depiction. She's an overly protective mama bear with a husky growl to match.

Wendy Hedstom in "Miracle on South Division Street," Williamston Theatre

As Beverly, the lynchpin of a Polish-Catholic family, Hedstom is a kinetic force that brings all the actors performances together. As the model mouthpiece for mother, Hedstom deftly hides her character's insecurities behind her bravado, which has a powerful punch.

Categorical imperatives

..... Some of 2014's best films flew way under the radar

By **ALLAN I. ROSS**

It's easy to sing the praises of films like "Birdman," "Boyhood" and "Whiplash" — fine films, all — but some of the year's best films will likely languish unseen in your online streaming queue unless they get a little bump. Consider this that bump.

By category, the best films I saw in 2014:

Documentary: "The Act of Killing"

Imagine if the Nazis continued to run Germany and were only too happy to brag about their crimes against humanity and you'll have an idea of the sickening truths captured in "The Act of Killing." In the 1960s, Indonesia suffered a similar murderous regime hell-bent on the extermination of Communists, and the surviving leaders actually re-enact their monstrous deeds for the camera ... in a lighthearted variety of genres, from western to (gulp) slapstick comedy. You can't make this up.

Drama: "Short Term 12"

This lovingly shot, achingly resonant film depicts the highs and the lows of a group of college-age workers helping emotionally damaged teens. The film also works as an ode to the resiliency of the human spirit and the transformative power of art — but, you know, in a cool way.

Foreign language: "The Great Beauty"
Writer/director Paolo Sorrentino's "The Great Beauty" walks the line between an ode to Federico Fellini — most notably, his 1960 masterpiece "La Dolce Vita" — and an outright replica of the inimitable Italian filmmaker's fantastical, existential oeuvre. But to limit the film as a knockoff, even to saddle it with the appellation "Felliniesque," as many critics have done, does a disservice to this majestic film.

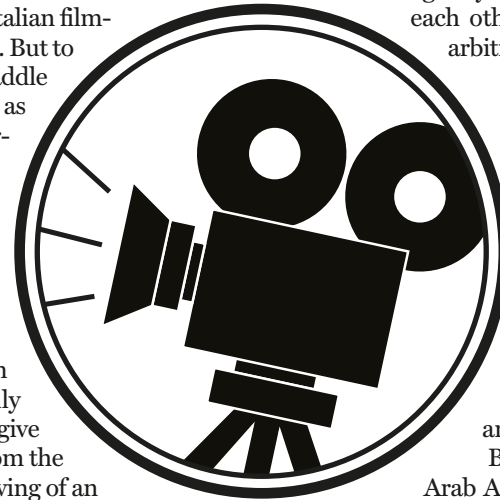
Animated: "The Wind Rises"

Acclaimed anime writer/director Hayao Miyazaki boldly goes retro in the epic biopic/romantic drama, "The Wind Rises," the story of a man and his flying machines. The lushly vivid backdrops of "The Wind Rises" give you the feeling that you've strolled from the manga aisle into the Impressionism wing of an art museum.

Science fiction: "Edge of Tomorrow"

This sci fi masterpiece continues the metaphysical

thought experiment of "Groundhog Day" — what could the human brain do with an infinite amount of time to solve a problem? But this film goes deeper, shocking you into considering why world superpowers use soldiers to kill each other to figure out who wins. It's all so arbitrary, but that's life.



Romantic comedy: "Detroit Unleaded"

"Detroit Unleaded," written and directed by Lansing native Rola Nashef, is many things. It's a sweet romantic comedy; it's a thoughtful examination of Old World culture farce that stays just this side of bawdy. Through it all shines a love for Detroit — for America, really — where anything is possible.

By keeping the focus on a distinctly Arab American experience, Nashef's message becomes universal: Most of us live within some type of antiquated system of societal norms that we obey but have no idea why, even when it means denying ourselves happiness or feeling guilty about that happiness.

Year of the Long Pinch

..... Unforgettable jazz and classical moments of 2014

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

If you love jazz and classical music and you live in the Lansing area, you only needed six words in your vocabulary to describe this year's schedule: "Pinch me. I must be dreaming."

A relentless run of top-drawer musical experiences, most of them related in some way to the stellar MSU College of Music, made 2014 the Year of the Long Pinch.

What American city gets to have two jazz festivals? Call on us, Professor Rodney Whitaker. For jazz lovers, summer 2014 began with the biggest and best Summer Solstice Jazz Festival yet, with Whitaker as artistic director. (He's also the jazz studies director at MSU and a world-renowned bassist, for those of you who are living under a rock.) From ultra-nerdy-cool guest vocalist Cecile McLorin Salvant to canny trombonist Michael Dease's big band to a wild Sun Ra tribute from the Planet D Nonet, the variety and quality of the music jumped in as many directions as a bagful of cats.

Not to be outdone, Lansing's own JazzFest in August dropped the other shoe-be-do with a blissful Saturday night love-fest in the middle of Turner Street, beginning with organist Jim Alfredson's soulful tribute to Big John Patton and ending with an ecstatic set by Detroit soul-jazz trio RYZ. Even the avant-garde, the least often heard species of jazz in these parts, had its day. At JazzFest Friday

night, recording engineer Glenn Brown assembled a wild supergroup, Intergalactic Spiral, that dared to throw Whitaker and Alfredson together with electronics and two guitarists and make up a whole evening of music on the spot. You can catch it sometime on WKAR's "Backstage Pass" show — if they dare to air it.

It's hopeless to chronicle all the jazz that went down this year in Greater Lansing this year. MSU student big bands blossomed in expansive concerts with top-drawer guest artists, including bassist Christian McBride in October and trombonist Robin Eubanks in December. On Sept. 22, the MSU Professors of Jazz, with new members Randy Napoleon on guitar and Xavier Davis on piano, kicked off the school year with a blazing set of fresh arrangements and tunes. Favorite memory: saxman Diego Rivera shamelessly grinning from the stage at his wife and new baby daughter in the back row, then pivoting to blow another ferocious solo.

For chamber music lovers, the MSU schedule was filled with faculty recitals and special events that never quit. Among the revelations of the year was an extraordinary March 19 recital of delicate, haunting music by Armenian composer Vache Sharafyan at the newly renovated Fairchild Theatre. With the composer himself in the house, a slew of top faculty musicians poured themselves heart and soul into Sharafyan's achingly beautiful and mel-

ancholy music, with two world premieres on the program. And that was just a fraction of cellist Suren Bagratuni's overflowing Cello Plus chamber festival.

The Lansing Symphony, under maestro Timothy Muffitt, hit a lot of high notes this year, including cellist David Requiro's gritty, devastating take on Dmitri Shostakovich's First Cello Concerto on Jan. 11. Tchaikovsky lovers were treated to two of the Russian master's biggest and greatest symphonies: the Fifth, performed by the Lansing Symphony in September, followed two months later by the clamorous Fourth, performed by no less an authority than the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra with its legendary hard-as-nails maestro, Pavel Kogan, at the Wharton Center. The splendors of that night required an extra hard pinch, especially after violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg used all of her mad musical skills and passionate body language to make Bruch's Violin Concerto sound as if it were illegal to perform.

Muffitt and the LSO delivered magisterial readings of Brahms' Fourth in April and Mendelssohn's "Italian" Symphony in October and brought in a series of revelatory young guest artists, including pianist Colton Peltier in October. But for my money, it took a home-grown soloist, longtime LSO principal trombonist Ava Ordman, to administer the ultimate "pinch me" moment of the year, at April's "Copland & Bernstein" concert. In one of the most out-there works the LSO may ever program, Ordman and the orchestra shuddered, squirmed and sang through an elemental 1976 concerto by Donald Erb, complete with multiphonics, didgeridoo sounds, barking and a climactic scream.

Oh, I hear you, Ava. It hurt so good.



1st Sunday gallery walk & other exhibitions

New Exhibits

EagleMonk Pub and Brewery

Pen and ink drawings by Nick Cummins. **Reception: 3-5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4.** Hours: 3-10 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; noon-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday; noon-8 p.m. Sunday. 4906 W. Mt. Hope Highway, Lansing. (517) 708-7350.

East Lansing Public Art Gallery

"Photography, paintings and sculptures" by Scott Van Allsburg. **Reception: 1-2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4.** Hours: 6 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday; noon-8 p.m. Sunday. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 894-2166.

Great Lakes Artworks

Works by local Michigan artists. **Reception: Noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4.** Hours: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday; 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; noon-4 p.m. Sunday. 306 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-4293.

Grove Gallery and Studios

"Thread Songs," textile art by Sharan Egan and Candace Farmer. **Opens Sunday, Jan. 14.** Hours: Noon-6 p.m. Thursday-Friday; noon-4 p.m. Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday. 325 Grove St., East Lansing. (517) 333-7180.

Lansing Art Gallery

"Macro/Micro" by Jay and Patricia Constantine. **Reception: 7-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16.** Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 1-4 p.m. Saturday and First Sunday. 119 N. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 374-6400.

Ledge Craft Lane

Fine art painting by Katie Morris. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday. 120 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-9843.

MICA Gallery

"Holiday Art Market" exhibits and on-site demos by various artists. **Reception: Noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4.** Hours: Noon-5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; noon-3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. 1210 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600.

Mackerel Sky

"A Celebration of Ceramic Tiles," by various artists. Hours: 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday; noon-4 p.m. Sunday. 211 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2211.

Peculiar Perspectives

Fantasy/wildlife/landscape art and photography by Tony Steele and Matt Mulford. Hours: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-6 p.m. First Sunday. 107 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 485-6277.

(SCENE) MetroSpace

"Beyond Fiber," works conceptually responding to the history of fiber as craft

and art. **Reception: 6-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16.**

Hours: 2-5 p.m. Thursday; 2-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday; noon-4 p.m. Sunday. 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6832.

Shiawassee Arts Center

Works by artists Mark Carlson, James Atkinson, Ruth Egnater, Marti-Liddle-Lameti and Konstantin Prokos. **Reception: 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18.** Hours: 1-5 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. 206 Curwood Castle Drive, Owosso. (989) 723-8354, shiawasseearts.org.

Ongoing

Belen Gallery (inside the Michigan Women's Historical Center & Hall of Fame) "Fragmented Realities," collage and mixed-media pieces by Jessica Kovan. Hours: Noon-4 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday; 2-4 p.m. Sunday. 213 W. Malcolm X St., Lansing. (517) 484-1880.

Craig Mitchell Smith Glass

Indoor and outdoor glass art creations. Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; Noon-6 p.m. Sunday; or by appointment. 1220 N. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 349-1345.

Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum

"Day After Debt: A Call for Student Loan

Relief," by various artists. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday & Saturday-Sunday; noon-9 p.m. Friday; closed Monday. 556 E. Circle Drive, MSU campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-3900.

Neighborhood Empowerment Center

"Artists for Empowerment," by members of the Mid-Michigan Art Guild. Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. 600 W. Maple, Lansing. (517) 372-5980.

Riverwalk Theatre

Photography by Carol Ann Spry. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday and during performances. 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-9812.

Saper Galleries and Custom Framing

"Realism and Still Life," oil paintings by Juan Carlos Ortiz. Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday; 1-4 p.m. First Sundays. 433 Albert Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-0815.

Strange Matter Coffee Co.

"The Reading Room," various artists envision the contemporary intersection between artist books and zines. **Reception: Noon-4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11.** Hours: 7 a.m.-6 p.m.



Courtesy Photo

Of the Mushroom, one of the Holiday Art Market exhibits at MICA.

Monday-Thursday; 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. 2001 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

TIC Gallery

"Gift," multi-media exhibition by various artists. Hours: 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday. Technology Innovation Center, 325 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 319-6861.

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

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Many thanks for your patronage and kind words.
POST SOLSTICE HOLIDAY HOURS
DEC. 31 • 10-2
CLOSED JAN. 1, 2, 3
SUNDAY, JAN. 4 • 12-4
CLOSED ON MONDAYS
211 M.A.C. Avenue, East Lansing | 517.351.2211 | mackerelsky.com

MIDTOWN
BREWING CO.
Ring in
2015!
KITCHEN OPEN LATE
FULL MENU
Open 7 days a week!
Downtown Lansing's
only Brewery
Lifting Spirits Downtown at
Kalamazoo and S. Washington
402 S. Washington Ave. (517) 977-1349
Kitchen Open Late!
Sun-Wed 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Thurs-Sat 11 a.m.-midnight

OUT ON THE TOWN

Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com. Deadline is 5 p.m. Thursdays for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Jonathan at (517) 999-5069.

Wednesday, December 31

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Winter Break Camp. "Snow Sleuths." Learn about snowflakes, ice formations and more. Grades K-8. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$40. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 322-0030, woldumar.org.

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

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. First Congregational United Church of Christ, 210 W. Saginaw Highway, Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954, fcgl.org.

EVENTS

Senior Coffee. Discussion with guest speaker. 10 a.m.-noon. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 367-2468, allenneighborhoodcenter.com.

NYE at the Nuthouse. Free photo booth, party favors and pizza at midnight. FREE. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Nuthouse Sports Grill, 420 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6887, nuthousesportsgrill.com.

Spare Time 2015. Food, bowling, laser tag and more. 5 p.m.-1 a.m. \$30, 5-8:30 p.m./\$35, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. (517) 337-2695, sparetimelansing.com.

Michigan Princess New Years Celebration. Music, dancing and more. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. \$40. 3004 W. Main St., Lansing. (517) 627-2154, facebook.com/princessriverboat.

MUSIC

Swingin' New Years Eve. Live music. 8 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

Mix Pack Dance Party. Live music, champagne toast and midnight breakfast buffet. 8 p.m.-3 a.m. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-6376, greendoorlive.com.

New Years Eve Bash. Taco bar and party favors. Live music. 9 p.m. \$15/\$12 adv. The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 913-0103, loftlansing.com

The People's Temple. Live performance with the Devil's Cut, the Plurals and Voyager. 9 p.m. \$10. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

See Out on the Town, Page 32



Photos by MY Photography
Guests dance at Sugar House Blues which meets every first and third Friday at REO Town's AA Creative Corridor.

Dance away to the blues

• • • Friday, Jan. 2 • • •

There is something decidedly retro about Lansing's REO Town. Granted, it's a revitalized corner of town built on the historic grounds where some of the world's first automobiles were mass-produced, but even the area's residents would admit that the throwback vibe is pervasive. Come on, they have a restaurant called Vintage Café, people.

It only makes sense then that for a couple Fridays out of the month, REO Town hosts an event where you can slick back your hair, grab your best girl and dance the Cake Walk. Enter Sugar House Blues.

"Blues dancing is very accessible, though it's unlike most dancing," said Kent Kovac, co-founder and dance instructor at Sugar House Blues. "It's all about grounding yourself.

Sugar House Blues is a new community dance group that meets on the first and third Friday of every month at REO Town's AA Creative Corridor. The group's focus is on educating, teaching and dancing the blues. Seasoned vets are encouraged to come out and show off their best Slow Drag just as much as those of us who don't even know what the Black Bottom is.

Blues dancing is a style of dance developed over many decades that is performed alongside blues music. Like most dance classifications, there are many styles and it can even be performed at times without a partner.

To further envelop you in the Sugar House Blues experience, Kovac said guests are encouraged to wear period-appropriate clothing, but it's not required. While blues dancing saw many periods of popularity, many blues dances were developed alongside hit songs of the 1920s. So when choosing your attire, think double-breasted jackets for the gents and cloche hats for the ladies.

"Sometimes we dance dressed casual and sometimes we dance dressed to the nines," Kovac said. "But if you got it, trot it."

While not necessarily always in the blues style, Kovac has been involved in dancing for over 10 years.

His early forays into community dance were the ballroom dance groups he participated in

when he was a student at MSU. It wasn't until a friend of his took him to an event in Grand Rapids where Kovac found a more favorable niche in the dancing world.

"It felt like I got into blues dancing almost accidentally, but I was really drawn to the improvised style," Kovac said. "It was so simple to learn complicated tricks."

But Kovac's fondness was merely a steppingstone to Sugar House Blues. Kovac made a few attempts at starting a community blues dance group in his time at MSU, but it never seemed to stick (although MSU is now home to the Michigan State Blues Club). It wasn't until the efforts of two friends and Kovac's fiancée — and a little help from Bryan Grochowski of AA Creative Corridor's other community dance group, Salsa Capital — that Sugar House found its home in REO Town. And Kovac feels the location couldn't be more appropriate.

"REO Town is an up-and-coming community," he said. "We're not working directly with REO Town or anything, but we really want to be there."

Sugar House Blues is relatively new: Friday's event, a New Year's-themed celebration, will only be its fourth meeting. As far as what's to come for 2015 and the future of Sugar House Blues, Kovac hopes to see his project grow organically.

"We just want to see more community involvement," said Kovac. "And after that, see the group take a life of its own."

Sugar House Blues

Friday, Jan. 2
Drop-in beginner lesson 8 p.m./Open Dance 9 p.m.-midnight
\$5
AA Creative Corridor, 1133 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
sugarhouseblues.com

—JONATHAN GRIFFITH

TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S
MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICHTUPICA

BEST OF
2014

TURN IT DOWN'S PICKS FOR TOP 3 LANSING-MADE ROCK 'N' ROLL RECORDS OF 2014 (in no particular order)



CHEAP GIRLS "FAMOUS GRAVES"
(XTRA MILE RECORDINGS)

Power-pop band Cheap Girls appeared on the cover of City Pulse in July, but the group is no stranger to press. Since forming in 2007, the band has been championed by SPIN and Rolling Stone magazines — not bad for some eastside Lansing residents. “Famous Graves,” the trio’s fourth LP, was labored over for three months, and it shows on this batch of polished and gigantic hooks (i.e., “Slow Nod”). Sure, Cheap Girls didn’t stray far from its signature blasé rock ‘n’ roll formula, but even though Cheap Girls makes making music look simple ... it’s not. The ability to turn three chords into a fist-pumping anthem is something best left to the naturals. And that’s Cheap Girls in a nutshell.



PEOPLES TEMPLE "MUSICAL GARDEN"
(HOZAC RECORDS)

On its third full-length album, Peoples Temple venture further from its psych-rock roots and delve into pop majesty. “I Heard You Singing” and “I Don’t Mind” are layered with warm, euphoric atmospheres. While previous records echoed the grittiness of the Rolling Stones and 13th Floor Elevators, this LP leans closer to a refined ‘70s rock aesthetic paired with astute, whimsical lyrics. “Handsome Nick” sounds mean as hell without an ounce of faux-macho aggression, a feat many bands can’t handle. Also, “Dreamer” may start with a bright, jangly guitar, but quickly spirals into a shadowy ominous dirge — a shining model of the band’s dynamic songwriting and sonic capacities.



HUNKY NEWCOMERS "SECRET OF THE BOOZE"
(GTG RECORDS)

Pressed on a limited edition of 500 copies on 12-inch slabs of wax, the Hunky Newcomers’ third record on the GTG label offers up 14 low-life punk rock tunes at a brisk 45 RPM. The Lansing four-piece’s tongue-in-cheek songbook includes meathead anthems (“I’ll Fucking Fight You”) alongside tasteless ditties like “Baby Gave Me the Clap” (niftily accented by handclaps). It’s revitalizing when a band can have fun, deliver solid riffs and not take itself seriously. And, yes, the album title appears to be a nod to the 1991 film “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II: The Secret of the Ooze” — because referencing a Jean-Luc Godard film would be flat-out pretentious.

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

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	People’s Temple, 9 p.m.	Open Mic, 9 p.m.	Peter Nelson Jazz, 8 p.m.	
Capital Prime, 2324 Showtime Dr.	Grant Hendrickon & Company, 9 p.m.			
Coach’s Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.				DJ Jimmy, 9 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Blvd.	Collateral Damage, 9 p.m.		Acme Jam, 9 p.m.	Acme Jam, 9 p.m.
Crunchy’s, 254 W. Grand River Ave.			Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Avon Bomb, 8 p.m.		Avon Bomb, 8 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 8 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.			Karaoke w/Joanie Daniels, 7 p.m.	
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Mix Pack, 9 p.m.			
Gus’s Bar, 2321 W. Michigan Ave.			Karaoke	
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	The Knock Offs, 9 p.m.			
Log Jam, 110 W. Jefferson St.			The Preacher Mike Coll, 9 p.m.	
Marc’s Watershed, 5965 Marsh Rd.	Trevor Compton, 7 p.m.	Capital City DJs, 9 p.m.	Capital City DJs, 9 p.m.	Capital City DJs, 9 p.m.
Mac’s Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	Terrence Parker, 9 p.m.			Winter Wonder LAN Jam, 8 p.m.
Moriarty’s Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Swingin’ New Year’s Eve, 9:30 p.m.		The Rotations, 9 p.m.	Big Boss Blues, 10 p.m.
R-Club, 6409 Centurion Dr.	Kathy Ford, 8:30 p.m.		Time To Play, 8:30 p.m.	Retro Joe, 8:30 p.m.
Reno’s East, 1310 Abbot Rd.	Jammin’ DJs, 8 p.m.			
Reno’s West, 501 W. Saginaw Hwy.	Jammin’ DJs, 8 p.m.			
Reno’s North, 16460 Old US 27	Jammin’ DJs, 8 p.m.			
Spiral, 1247 Center St.	DJ Sizl, 8 p.m.		Klees, 10 p.m.	DJ John Cruz, 10 p.m.
Uncorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.	Frog & the Beeftones, 9 p.m.		Frog & the Beeftones, 9 p.m.	Frog & the Beeftones, 9 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Dr.			Joe Wright, 6 p.m.	
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.			DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.

PLAY IN A BAND? BOOK SHOWS? LIVE & LOCAL LISTS UPCOMING GIGS!

To get listed just email us at liveandlocal@lansingcitypulse.com or call (517) 999-5069

WHAT TO DO: Submit information by the Friday before publication (City Pulse comes out every Wednesday.) Be sure to tell us the name of the performer and the day, date and time of the performance. Only submit information for the following week’s paper.

Out on the town

from page 30

(517) 492-7403, facebook.com/avenuecafe2021.
Terrence Parker & Friends New Year's Extravaganza. Live performance. 9 p.m. \$10/\$8 adv. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795, macsbar.com.

Thursday, January 1

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Contact Jan. 5:15 p.m. \$5. New Hope Church, 1340 Haslett Road, Haslett. (517) 349-9183, newhopehaslett.com.

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.

Meditation. For beginners and experienced. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Quan Am Temple, 1840 N. College Ave.,

Mason. (517) 853-1675, quanamtemple.org.
Lansing Area Codependent Anonymous. Room 214G. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Community Mental Health Building, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 515-5559, coda.org.

EVENTS

New Year's Yoga With Dixon. Detox yoga w/ Hilaire and Dixon's Violin, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. \$20. Hilltop Yoga Studio, 108 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 230-7497, facebook.com/events/633002556825407.

New Year Peace Prayer Service. Interfaith peace service. All are welcome. 1 p.m. FREE. St. Therese Church, 102 W. Randolph St., Lansing. (517) 482-2558, paxchristimi.org.

Friday, January 2

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Alcoholics Anonymous. A closed women's meeting. 7:30 p.m. St. Michael's Episcopal Church,

6500 Amwood Drive, Lansing. (517) 882-9733.

EVENTS

Festival of Trees. Decorated trees from local businesses and individuals. 5-9 p.m. \$5. Turner Dodge House and Heritage Center, 100 E. North St., Lansnig. (517) 483-4313.

Sugar House Blues. Blues dancing. No experience needed. 8 p.m.-midnight. \$5. AA Creative Corridor, 1133 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 862-9856, sugarhouseblues.com.

MUSIC

Peter Nelson Band. New music from NYC to Lansing. 8-10 p.m. 10\$. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 Michigan Ave, Lansing. (517) 490-3234. peternelsonmusic.com.

Open Mic Night. Live acoustic performances. 7-9 p.m. 2237 Aurelius Rd., Holt. (517) 694-9000.

Saturday, January 3

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.

Tai Chi in the Park. Free class for beginning and experienced tai chi players. Now at winter location. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

EVENTS

Festival of Trees. Decorated trees from local businesses and individuals. Noon-8 p.m. \$5. Turner Dodge House and Heritage Center, 100 E. North St., Lansnig. (517) 483-4313.

Guided Museum Tour. Current exhibits, museum history and architecture. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-4800, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Family Day at the Broad. Hands on projects, music and more. Noon-4 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-4800, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

MUSIC

Winter Wonder Land Jam. Live music by E-Nyce and more. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. \$10/\$5 adv. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795, ow.ly/GIS4K.

Karaoke. With Atomic D. 9 p.m. LeRoy's Classic

Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 482-0184.

Matt LoRusso Trio. Jazz. 9 p.m.-midnight, FREE. Troppo, 111 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 371-4000.

Sunday, January 4

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

'You Can Dance' Workshops. Meet people and exercise in a fun environment. 3 p.m. FREE. DeWitt YMCA, 13161 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 827-9660, ymcaoflansing.org/parkwood.

Ten-Day New Year Boot Camp. Includes unlimited classes. 4-5 p.m. \$85/\$70 members. Spartan Fit Center, 4980 Northwind Drive, East Lansing. (517) 333-0303, spartanfitcenter.com.

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

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.

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

EVENTS

Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance. Lessons 6-6:30 p.m., dance 7-10 p.m. \$8 dance/\$10 dance & lesson/students FREE. The Lansing Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-7838.

Festival of Trees. Decorated trees from local businesses and individuals. Noon-8 p.m. \$5. Turner Dodge House and Heritage Center, 100 E. North St., Lansnig. (517) 483-4313.

Sunday's Avenue Cure All. Make your own Bloody Marys. Breakfast all day. 3-9 p.m. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 492-7403, facebook.com/avenuecafe2021.

Comedy Night. No cover. \$1 off everything. 7 p.m. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-6376, greendoorlive.com.

Pokemon/Magic the Gathering Card Games. Tutorials for kids. Starter decks provided. Everybody Reads, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-9900, facebook.com/everybodyreads.

Monday, January 5

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Adult Rape Survivor Support Group.

See Out on the Town, Page 33

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Editor's Note"--this is how you do it. by Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Purring Persian
- 4 Opposite of "ja"
- 8 Arthur Miller's domain
- 13 Leon of "The Haj"
- 15 Too
- 16 Alex or Nikki
- 17 Gas station feature
- 18 Jury member
- 19 Hirsch of "Into the Wild"
- 20 START OF A QUIP
- 23 Bobby who sang "Mack the Knife"
- 24 Give guns to
- 25 Performed
- 28 SPEAKER OF QUIP
- 33 Relaxed sounds
- 36 "Yeah, right!"
- 37 Never before seen
- 38 Show people the way
- 40 PART TWO OF QUIP
- 43 Ms. Lovato
- 44 Randy Travis song "Faith ____"
- 46 Sounds from tiny dogs
- 48 Blog feed letters
- 49 PART THREE OF QUIP
- 53 Vietnamese new year
- 54 Period
- 55 Doesn't eat
- 59 END OF QUIP

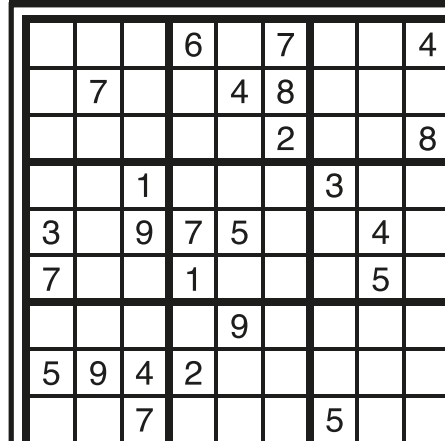


- 63 White, in Geneva
- 66 One of the bases
- 67 Taboo act
- 68 The mother of all arteries
- 69 Patron saint of sailors
- 70 Mat activity
- 71 Help a student
- 72 Seacrest of "Seacrest out"
- 73 Be the author of
- 6 "Gotcha!"
- 7 Mailer of "Harlot's Ghost"
- 8 Novelist ____ Alexie
- 9 Get under control
- 10 ____ Baba
- 11 Hair goop
- 12 One of a pair
- 14 Bowling headache
- 21 Cross letters
- 22 Tolkien creature
- 25 White Cliffs city
- 26 Agenda components
- 27 Sandwich shops
- 29 Where: Lat.
- 30 Dudes
- 31 Atticus Finch and colleagues, for short
- 32 Pea place
- 33 Top invitees
- 34 Therefore
- 35 Darer's phrase
- 39 Two, in Tegucigalpa
- 41 Bestseller
- 42 Bk. of the Bible
- 45 Lot gamble
- 47 It might get cracked
- 50 Gold, to Garcia Marquez
- 51 Preferably
- 52 Mary Poppins, e.g.
- 56 Reporter's win
- 57 Color slightly
- 58 General Motors great Alfred
- 59 Enthusiastic about
- 60 Sacred
- 61 Classic book of 1815
- 62 Peasant
- 63 Spooky flyer
- 64 ESPN analyst Holtz
- 65 Bookstore section

Down

- 1 He's got a bow and arrow
- 2 Dutch-speaking resort island
- 3 Game show feature
- 4 Back of the neck
- 5 Mt. number

SUDOKU



INTERMEDIATE

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 34

Out on the town

from page 32

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 and widowed. Room 9. 7:30 p.m. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272, stdavidslansing.org.

Learn to Meditate. Taught by Bob Teachout. Enter at rear of building. 8:15-9 p.m. Donations. C. Weaver Physical Therapy Exercise Studio, 1720 Abbey Road, East Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 492-7403, facebook.com/avenuecafe2021.

Spoonful. Live performance. 9 p.m. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-6376, greendoorlive.com.

Tuesday, January 6

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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.

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.

Hopeful Hearts Grief Group. Learn, grow and heal together. 10-11 a.m. FREE. The Marquette

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31 >> JEFF SHOUP AT MORIARTY'S PUB

Jeff Shoup, jazz drummer extraordinaire and instigator of the hottest jazz night in town — the weekly Jazz Tuesdays at Moriarty's Pub — has assembled a dream band to swing in the New Year at Moriarty's. Nationally charting jazz organ wizard Jim Alfredson, front man for Organissimo and accompanist for globe-hopping blues singer Janiva Magness, will man the B-3 console. Master musician Ralph Tope, the go-to guitarist in Detroit, and nonpareil vocalist Freddie Cunningham of Root Doctor will add 39 flavors of joy, soul and artistry to the evening. Hard-swinging drummer Shoup will pop the percussive fizz into the champagne. FREE. 8 p.m.-1 a.m. Dec. 31, Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 420-7960, jashoup@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, JAN. 3 >> FAMILY DAY AT BROAD ART MUSEUM

On the first Saturday of every month, the Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University offers families an alternative to watching an afternoon full of "Adventure Time" reruns with its Family Day event. Kids can create their own artistic masterpieces with other kids in the museum's educational wing, work on colorful projects based on the museum's current exhibits and go on an iPad-led scavenger hunt amid the slanted walls of the galleries. The day is capped off with a guided tour through the Broad specifically designed for families. Noon-4 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

EVENTS

12th Night Festival. Carols, refreshments and more. 7 p.m. FREE. Grace Lutheran Church, 528 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. (517) 372-5830, gracelutheranlansing.org.

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

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

Club Shakespeare. 6-8:45 p.m. Donations. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300, cadl.org.

Saints, Sinners & Cynics. Lively conversation, variety of topics, no judgment. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Coral Gables, 2838 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 882-9733, saintmichaellansing.org.

MUSIC

Karaoke. Hosted by DJ Lipgloss. 9 p.m. FREE. The

Activity Room, 5968 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. (517) 381-4866.

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

Speakeasies Toastmasters. Improve listening, analysis, leadership & presentation skills. 12:05-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Bldg., 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (616) 841-5176.

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. 5:45-6:45 p.m. FREE. EVERYbody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5559, coda.org.

Tai Chi Fundamentals. Gentle exercise method. 1:30-2:30 p.m. \$6/\$8 non-member drop in. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, ow.ly/GIZxt

Guided Meditation. Mental, physical and emotional health. 4-4:15 p.m. \$2/\$1 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, ow.ly/GIZxt.

Chair Yoga. Standard yoga poses using a chair.

NEW IN TOWN YEAR IN REVIEW

File photo
Midtown Brewing Co. in downtown Lansing added a beer garden in the spring. Just another thing that was new in town in 2014.



By ALLAN I. ROSS Coffee grounded

It was a good year for local java junkies.

Strange Matter Coffee Co., 2001 E. Michigan Ave., opened in Lansing's newly (re)named East Town neighborhood. And two new "micro-roasters" started cranking out bags of beans to local restaurants and specialty retail shops: **Bloom Coffee Roasters** and **Rust Belt Roastery**, both in Old Town.

That's the spirit

The micro-distillery **Sanctuary Spirits**, 902 E. Saginaw Highway, opened inside Grand Ledge's homebrew supply store, Red Salamander. (Its Spirit of the Maple liqueur is distilled from maple syrup — a mid-Michigan original and a must-try). And the tasting room for another micro-distillery, **Red Cedar Spirits**, 2000 Merritt Road in East Lansing, opened in the summer. There are two more micro-distilleries scheduled to open in Lansing in 2015. Stay tuned for more info on those.

Just for laughs

When **Connxtions Comedy Club** closed last spring, it left a hole in mid-Michigan for nationally touring standup comedians. But that hole has been filled by two new comedy clubs: In Charlotte, **the Stock Yard BBQ**, 1820 Lansing Road, got an interior overhaul to become **the Comedy Zone**, a 160-seat club. And after a brief run with comedy hosting in the mid-'00s, **Tripper's**, 350 Frandor Ave. in Lansing Township's Frandor Shopping Plaza, gets back into the funny business this weekend with its 3,000-square-foot **Tripper's Comedy Club**.

New eats

Black Cat Bistro, 115 Albert Ave., is a scratch Nuevo Latino menu that's continuing a recent movement to bring high-end sit-down dining

back to downtown East Lansing.

Tabooli, 1620 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, introduced a build-your-own concept, a la Chipotle or Subway, to Middle Eastern cuisine on Lansing's east side.

The fledgling **Capital City Food Court** at the corner of Oakland and Cedar streets launched three food truck businesses, two of which have since morphed into standalone eateries: **Michael O's Food Truck**, a mobile food cart focusing on smoked meats and sandwiches relocated to Old Town; **Good Truckin' Food** became **Good Truckin' Diner** in REO Town, which serves scratch-made breakfast and lunch featuring many locally sourced ingredients; and **Detroit Frankie's Wood-Fired Pizza** — the founder of the feast, featuring pizzas made from scratch and fired in a brick oven — became **Tignanelli's Pizza and Italian** in the Lansing City Market, 325 Market Place Drive.

Also new in Lansing City Market: **For Crêpe Sake**, which features four kinds of batters and offering distinct breakfast and lunch crêpe sandwiches). **Sweet Lorraine's Fabulous Mac n' Cheez**, 547 E. Grand River Ave. in East Lansing, is the third location for this Detroit-based chain that offers soups, salads, wraps and 14 styles of macaroni and cheese.

Meanwhile, **Tom + Chee**, 123 S. Washington Square, Lansing, kept the fast-casual comfort food supply coming. The Cincinnati-based chain features a menu of creative takes on grilled cheese sandwiches and soups. Down the street, **The Black Rose**, 206 S. Washington Ave., formerly connected to the defunct **Edmund's Pastime**, opened, just in time for Silver Bells in the City. The space is the former location for Tavern on the Square, which became **Tavern and Tap** when it moved up to the corner, 101 S. Washington Square, former home of Edmund's. Catch all

that?

Downtown Lansing lost two businesses with small but dedicated fan bases: **Decker's Coffee (aka Cup of Dessert)** and **Ted-Dee's Sandwich Shop** closed within months of each other — but those buildings didn't stay empty for long. In July, the 21st location for the Lansing-based **Jersey Giant** sub shop, 220 S. Washington Square, opened in the former Decker's location, and **Lou & Harry's**, 119 S. Washington Square took over Ted-Dee's old digs. On East Lansing's north side, **Lou & Harry's Sports Bar** closed, and the new owners moved in with the **Chandler Taphouse**, 16800 Chandler Road. They switched the concept from a high-energy sports bar to a family friendly restaurant with a full dinner menu, including steak, fish, chicken and pasta dishes.

Front 43 Neighborhood Pub, 3415 E. Saginaw St., Lansing, features 20 draft beers. The 1,200-square-foot space accommodates 40 seats, not including the patio. The menu was a central conceit — the gastropub concept relies heavily on nontraditional bar snacks, including mussels, calamari and three-cheese mac and cheese. After 20 months and a \$200,000 interior/exterior overhaul, East Lansing's Best Steak House reopened as **Steakhouse Philly Bar & Grill**, 3020 E. Kalamazoo St. Lansing, under the same ownership. The new set-up includes a full bar and a new menu.

Back for seconds

Some businesses did so well they launched second locations this year. Old Town snack shop **Cravings Popcorn** opened its second location, 1871 W. Grand River Ave. "This is the result of buying local, shopping local," owner/operator Chad Jordan said. **Mert's Meats on the Avenue**, 1629 E. Michigan Ave., opened in June as the satellite location for **Mert's Specialty Meats** in Okemos.

Out on the town

from page 33

3-3:50 p.m. \$56/\$40 members advance, \$8/\$6 members drop-in. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, ow.ly/GIZxt.

Reflexology. Stress treatment. Call for an appointment. 12:30-3:30 p.m. \$14/\$12 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045. ow.ly/GIZxt.

Enhance Fitness. Exercise program for older adults. 9-10 a.m., \$2. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, ow.ly/GIZxt.

Remembering Automobiles. Retrospective on American automobiles with CADL. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045. ow.ly/GIZxt.

Compassionate Friends of Lansing. Small Support Group for parents who lost a child. 7:30-9:30 p.m. FREE. Salvation Army (South) Community Center, 701 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 351-6480.

Transgender Support Group for families. Discussion for parents and guardians. 7:15 p.m. FREE. Call for location. (517) 927-8260.

EVENTS

"Sporcle Live!" Trivia. Win Crunchy's gift certificates. 7 p.m. FREE. Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2506, crunchyseastlansing.com.

Game Night. Booze and board games. 7 p.m. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 492-7403, facebook.com/avenuecafe2021.

Wednesday, January 7

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Oils For Life. Program on the health benefits of essential oils. 5-6 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. 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 South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 367-6363.

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

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. First Congregational United Church of Christ, 210 W. Saginaw Highway, Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954, fogl.org.

EVENTS

Practice Your English. Practice listening to and speaking English. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

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

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.

Wednesday Senior Discovery. Coffee and conversation. 10 a.m.-noon, FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 367-2468, allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

MUSIC

Fusion Shows presents. Live music. 21-up. 10 p.m. FREE. Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2506, crunchyseastlansing.com.

Open Jam. Join other local musicians and get heard. 6 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700, marshallmusic.com.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 32

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

City Pulse Classifieds

Interested in placing a classified ad in City Pulse?
(517) 999-5066 or adcop@lansingcitypulse.com

Residential Snow Removal

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

Now Accepting New donors Earn CASH TODAY. Talecris Plasma Resources. Call:517-272-9044

Mike's Lawncare & Snow Removal

Fast & Reliable
East Lansing-Okemos-
Haslett-Williamston
517 719-5379

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

Dec. 31-Jan. 6

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Most salamanders reproduce by laying eggs, but the alpine salamander doesn't. Females of that species give birth to live young after long pregnancies that may last three years. What does this have to do with you? Well, I expect you to experience a metaphorical pregnancy in the coming months. Even if you're male, you will be gestating a project or creation or inspiration. And it's important that you don't let your the incubation period drag on and on and on, as the alpine salamanders do. I suggest you give birth no later than July.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Maybe you have had a dream like this: You're wandering around a house you live in, and at the end of a long hallway you come to a door you've never seen before. How could you have missed it in the past? It must have been there the whole time. You turn the knob, open the door, and slip inside. Amazing! The room is full of interesting things that excite your imagination. What's more, on the opposite wall there's another door that leads to further rooms. In fact, you realize there's an additional section of the house you have never known about or explored. Whether or not you have had a dream like that, Taurus, I'm betting that in 2015, you will experience a symbolically similar series of events in your waking life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The Greek god Zeus had seven wives. Themis, Leto, Eurynome, and Hera were among them. Another was his older sister Demeter, and a sixth was his aunt Mnemosyne. Then there was the sea nymph Metis. Unfortunately, he ate Metis -- literally devoured her -- which effectively ended their marriage. In 2015, Gemini, I encourage you to avoid Zeus's jumbled, complicated approach to love and intimacy. Favor quality over quantity. Deepen your focus rather than expanding your options. Most importantly, make sure your romantic adventures never lead to you feeling fragmented or divided against yourself. This is the year you learn more than ever before about what it's like for all the different parts of you to be united.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Here are three of my top wishes for you in 2105: You will have a clear, precise sense of what's yours and what's not yours . . . of what's possible to accomplish and what's impossible . . . of what will be a good influence on you and what won't be. To help ensure that these wishes come true, refer regularly to the following advice from Cancerian author Elizabeth Gilbert: "You need to learn how to select your thoughts just the same way you select your clothes every day. That's a power you can cultivate. If you want to control things in your life so bad, work on the mind. That's the only thing you should be trying to control."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Author Robert Moss has published 27 books. When he talks about the art of launching and completing big projects, I listen attentively. There's one piece of advice he offers that would be particularly helpful for you to keep in mind throughout the first half of 2015. "If we wait until we are fully prepared in order to do something, we may never get it done," he says. "It's important to do things before we think we are ready." Can you handle that, Leo? Are you willing to give up your fantasies about being perfectly qualified and perfectly trained and perfectly primed before you dive in?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The fish known as the coelacanth were thought to have become extinct 66 million years ago. That was when they disappeared from the fossil record. But in 1938 a fisherman in South Africa caught a live coelacanth. Eventually, whole colonies were discovered in the Indian Ocean off the east coast of Africa and near Indonesia. I foresee a comparable phenomenon happening in your life during the coming months, Virgo. An influence you believed to have disappeared from your life will resurface. Should you welcome and embrace it? Here's what I think: Only if you're interested in its potential role in your future, not because of a nostalgic attachment.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "Nothing brings people closer than business," said composer Arnold Schoenberg. You could be living proof of that hypothesis in 2015, Libra. Your drive to engage in profitable activities will be at a peak, and so will your knack for making good decisions about profitable activities. If you cash in on these potentials, your social life will flourish. Your web of connections will expand and deepen. You will generate high levels of camaraderie by collaborating with allies on productive projects.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Deathwatch beetles have a peculiar approach to the mating game. Their seduction technique consists of smacking their heads against a hard object over and over again. This generates a tapping sound that is apparently sexy to potential partners. I discourage you from similar behaviors as you seek the kind of love you want in 2015. The first rule of romantic engagement is this: Sacrificing or diminishing yourself may seem to work in the short run, but it can't possibly lead to lasting good. If you want to stir up the best results, treat yourself with tenderness and respect.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707) was a German composer whose organ music is still played today. He was a major influence on a far more famous German composer, Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). When Bach was a young man, he decided it was crucial for him to experience Buxtehude's music first-hand. He took a leave of absence from his job and walked over 250 miles to the town where Buxtehude lived. There he received the guidance and inspiration he sought. In 2015, Sagittarius, I'd love to see you summon Bach's determination as you go in quest of the teaching you want and need.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Even in normal times, you are a fount of regeneration. Your ever-growing hair and fingernails are visible signs of your nonstop renewal. A lot of other action happens without your conscious awareness. For example, your tastebuds replace themselves every two weeks. You produce 200 billion red blood cells and 10 billion white blood cells every day. Every month the epidermis of your skin is completely replaced, and every 12 months your lungs are composed of a fresh set of cells. In 2015, you will continue to revitalize yourself in all these ways, but will also undergo a comparable regeneration of your mind and soul. Here's my prediction: This will be a year of renaissance, rejuvenation, and reinvention.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "Sometimes I can feel my bones straining under the weight of all the lives I'm not living," says a character in Jonathan Safran Foer's novel *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*. If you have ever felt that way, Aquarius, I predict that you will get some relief in 2015. Your bones won't be straining as much as they have in the past because you will be living at least one of the lives you have wanted to live but haven't been able to before. How you will handle all the new lightness that will be available?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "Erotomania" is a word for the erroneous fantasies people entertain when they imagine that a celebrity is in love with them. Laughable, right? Just because I have dreams of *Game of Thrones* actress Lena Headey texting me seductive notes doesn't mean that she genuinely yearns for my companionship. And yet most of us, including you and me, harbor almost equally outlandish beliefs and misapprehensions about all kinds of things. They may not be as far-fetched as those that arise from erotomania, but they are still out of sync with reality. The good news, Pisces, is that in 2015 you will have the best chance ever to become aware of and shed your delusions -- even the long-running, deeply-rooted kinds.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsy's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 32

CAT	NEIN	STAGE							
URIS	ALSO	HALEY							
PUMP	PEER	EMILE							
IBELI	EVEMORE								
DARIN	ARM	DID							
	TRUMAN	CAPOTE							
AHS	IBET	NOVEL							
LEAD	INTHE	DEMI							
INYOU	YIPS	RSS							
SCISSOR	STHAN								
TET	ERA	FASTS							
	IDOTHE	PENCIL							
BLANC	HOME	NONO							
AORTA	ELMO	YOGA							
TUTOR	RYAN	PEN							



HE ATE

SHE ATE



The year in dining

'More, please'

By **MARK NIXON**

If I'm to pick an area restaurant of the year, I'll choose one that still has a pulse (hats off for you, Fork in the Road). In fact, latest reports tell me that the Naing Family Restaurant on Lansing's south side is thriving. That's as good a way to start the 2015 dining scene as anything I can imagine.

This family-owned restaurant melds Malaysian, Burmese and Thai cuisines. The food is extraordinarily fresh and lovingly prepared. The entrees are bountiful and the prices are easy on the wallet. The soups, salads and spring rolls are as good as any in town. By all means, have the fried bottle gourd appetizer, beautifully fried tempura-style and served with tamarind sauce.

Don't be put off by the exterior. Naing is located in a misbegotten strip mall near the corner of Cedar Street and Holmes Road. What the place lacks in eye appeal is more than compensated by the care it takes in preparing food.

Rounding out my first-team All-Lansing Eateries are Black Cat Bistro and Riverhouse Inn. OK, neither of them are in Lansing. Black Cat resides a block off Grand River Avenue, just a hoot and a holler from the East Lansing Police Department. Their appetizers are inventive, fresh tasting and filled with surprises. The goat cheese fritters with caramelized onions and saffron honey was astounding. Ditto the Asparagus Tartar — finely chopped asparagus al dente with chopped tomatoes, garlic and balsamic reduction.

The Riverhouse Inn in Williamston was a hit-and-miss affair, but we had a couple of summertime dishes served on their riverside patio that painted big smiles on our faces. The whitefish fillet was so delicately breaded, so moist and tender, that I was doing my best Oliver Twist impersonation: "More, please!"

And the pasta with heirloom tomatoes was equally yummy, no doubt because the folks in the kitchen treated it as the seasonal dish it should be: with garden-ripened cherry tomatoes. I can't wait to see what dishes they cook up this winter.

Top five

By **GABRIELLE JOHNSON**

In 2014, my favorite local restaurants remained my favorites, including Tavern 109 in Williamston, the State Room in East Lansing, and Maru in Okemos. Of course, I added more to my list, but I also found some off-the-beaten-path new places for favorite sustenance.

— **DeWitt Dairy at the Dewitt Golf Center**

Every Sunday evening during the warm months, the boyfriend and I would head to the Dewitt Dairy to get an ice cream. Week after week he ordered a Cappuccino Crunch flurry made with chocolate/vanilla twist soft serve, a concoction of chocolate, toffee and a hint of coffee. I bounced between chocolate malts, New York cheesecake flurries with chocolate ice cream, and standard vanilla cones with sprinkles. It was some of the best soft-serve ice cream we found all year.

— **Strange Matter Coffee Co.**

Last spring while at the Allen Street Farmers Market, I had a cup of coffee from Strange Matter. It was heavenly. When the storefront opened a few months later, I hustled in and ordered a cinnamon honey latte, and I've had at least one per week since then. The scent of cinnamon will reach you before you even take a sip, and you'll want one every morning.

— **Ham Sweet Farm**

A springtime trip to a farm stand in England inspired me to be more conscious of where my food comes from, so it was with unbridled enthusiasm that I signed up for the CSA program offered at Williamston's Ham Sweet Farm. For \$82 a month I get a variety of fresh meat, including duck, oxtail, heritage turkey and the world's best pork chops. Yes, it's more expensive than grocery store meat, but the flavor and the feeling of knowing exactly where my meat was raised make it worth the money to me.

— **Brody cafeteria**

Unless you graduated from Michigan State University within the last five years, this is NOT the cafeteria you are used to. For \$10, you get access to an incredible variety of food: Sushi, salad bars, homestyle rotisserie chicken and mashed potatoes, made-to-order stir-fry, pizza and ice cream from the MSU Dairy Store. The cafeteria is open to the public and could easily feed picky kids or out-of-towners who are reliving their college days but want better eats this time around.

— **Jose's Cuban Sandwich and Deli**

If you want a Cuban sandwich that will have you saving up for a plane ticket now that travel to Cuba is allowed, don't let the location — Jose's is adjacent to a gas station — stop you. The classic Cuban sandwich and the Midnight are my favorite. Both are laden with melted cheese, tangy meat, and pickles that give just the right amount of bite. If I keep eating like this, next year's wrap-up might feature the area's best cardiologists.

Easy Living Cleaning Service

Commercial & Residential Fully Insured

Call Joan at:
(517) 881-2204

DIVORCE FAMILY LAW

Divorce
Custody • Visitation
Child Support
Alimony
Property Distribution
Domestic Partnership Agreements / Separation

37 YEARS -
AGGRESSIVE LITIGATION
EFFECTIVE MEDIATION

LAW OFFICES OF
STUART R. SHAFER, P.C.
Former Assistant Prosecutor

487-6603
1223 Turner St., Ste 333, Lansing
www.stushafer.com

"Consider how polite is a book:
It speaks to you only as rapidly as you wish to be spoken to; it will repeat anything, just for the re-reading; with perfect patience it awaits your convenience; from worldly distractions it will conduct you on a tour of thought, romance, love, vital information. Well made, it fairly caresses the hand and the eye imparting charm, culture and deep satisfaction."

--The Marchbank Press

Come in for a well made book.

Curious Book Shop
307 E. Grand River * E. Lansing
332-0112 * We validate parking
Mon - Sat 10 - 8*, Sun 12 - 5
* January thru May 'til 7
www.curiousbooks.com

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

Serving Greater Lansing's LGBT Community

Lansing Association for Human Rights

LGBT News • Coming Out Group • Prizes Awards
Breakfast Club • Downtown Lunch • Cafe Night

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

www.LAHRonline.org

JANICE M. COBBS, LMSW
PSYCHOTHERAPIST



Do you worry about everything? Do you feel sad or irritable most of the time? Therapy can help!

25 Years of Experience

Asperger's • Older Adults
Chronic Illness • Anxiety • Depression
Borderline Personality Disorder

517-643-1975

Old Town Medical Arts Building
1106 N Cedar Street, Lansing

Yes, we sell Macs

 **Authorized Reseller**

- YES, we sell Macs and all other Apple products.
- Professional service (not nerds, geeks or geniuses) in-house or on-site.
- Recognized by Apple for our award winning service.
- Authorized Apple Service, in or out of warranty.
- Authorized Apple Sales.

CAPITOL Macintosh

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

SCHULER BOOKS & MUSIC

Long Live the Indie!

Every purchase you make at your local bookstore helps ensure that it will be there for you in the future.

Stop by today for new and used books, music, films, eBooks, or to eat in the Chapbook Cafe!

WE THANK YOU for supporting your local, independent bookstore!

Visit SchulerBooks.com to shop for books and ebooks 24-7, and for a calendar of in-store events for both of our Lansing-area locations,

Located in the Eastwood Towne Center and the Meridian Mall

For more information, visit www.schulerbooks.com

Business Phone Systems



Our Customers Love the ACD.net iPBX.

Why? It's Cloud Based!

What makes it so advantages?

1. No Large Capital Outlay
2. No Maintenance/ Programming Fees
3. Web Based Management

The Simple Answer?

It Makes Business Sense.

Call us so we can show you why a high speed internet connection and a hosted phone system Makes Perfect Business Sense!

Meet Greater Lansing's Only Locally Owned
Fiber • Internet • Telephone Company



sales@acd.net • 517.999.9999



TIM BARRON
EVERY WEEKDAY MORNING
6AM-9AM
WLMI 92.9

And hear Berl Schwartz of City Pulse call Tim an ignorant slut — or worse. Every Wednesday at 8:30 a.m.

