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LANSING IN REVIEW AND 10 WHO DIED THIS YEAR PAGE 10





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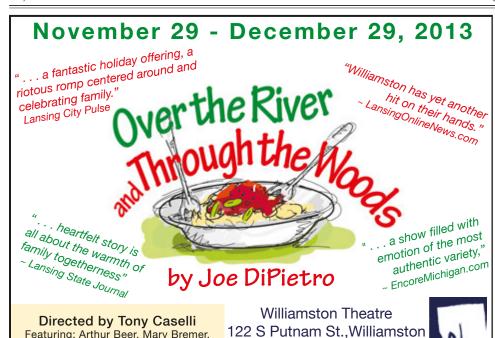




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NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE AREA RESTRICTIONS + REGULAR FARES APPLY

Greater Lansing's 2013 makeovers

Some stalled projects finally starting: housing is hot; retail is not

It's not hard these days to sense the changes taking place in greater Lansing.

There are big projects like the Knapps building in downtown Lansing. Smaller projects like the Gillespie Midtown housing project at the former Silver Dollar Saloon site on Michigan Avenue.

And, of course, there are the plans and developments that languish.

Here is a quick look at what happening and what isn't.

General Motors: The biggest opportunity and perhaps the most difficult to predict is the fate of the automaker's wasteland



sites on the west side Lansing/Lansing Township border.

GM offloaded - some might say laundered — this property to the Racer Trust as part of its restructuring and officials with the trust don't expect anything to hap-

pen there until 2016 or 2017. There is also abandoned GM property for sale on Canal Road in Delta Township.

Better GM news is the start of construction on a new \$44.5 million, 400,000-square-foot logistics center at the Grand River Assembly plant. This pairs nicely with GM's continuing investment in its Grand River and Delta assembly plants.

Knapps Centre: Renovation of this 190,000-square-foot Art Deco icon should be done in March. The Eyde Co. will move its corporate offices there and is seeking other tenants to fill the seven floors of office and retail space. There is housing on the upper levels of the building. There may even be a new restaurant.

Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum: It's been just over a year since the grand opening and the museum certainly makes East Lansing a cultural destination in the contemporary art world. Whether it has engaged the community is an open question.

The region's artistic epicenter hasn't yet spawned many, if any, spin-off business, though Roy Saper has a big new banner sign on his nearby gallery.

Lansing Kewadin Casino: It's still long odds on this happening, but the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians is working through the process. Attempts by the state to halt the tribe's bid to acquire land between the Lansing Center and the ball park were dashed last week by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. It wasn't really a game changer. Essentially, the court told Michigan it couldn't sue to stop the project

until the tribe actually files with the federal government to have the proposed casino property taken in trust.

Market Place: After a series of delays and a threat from the Lansing Economic Area Partnership to sue unless construction started, the Gillespie Group has begun building its \$8.5 million, 80-unit residential project adjacent to the Grand River. Construction of what the company calls "one or two bedroom urban style apartments" should end in the fall of 2014 with the units helping address the housing shortage in downtown Lansing. Gillespie Group CEO Pat Gillespie said last week that the city needs at least 1,000 new housing units if it hopes to attract new retailers to complement mixed-use developments.

Red Cedar Renaissance: This is the name for what local developer Joel Ferguson and his new partner, Fred Kass of the Ohio-based Continental Real Estate Cos., hope to build on Lansing's abandoned Red Cedar Golf Course. Ferguson originally partnered with the automobile-dealing Jerome family — apparently a very bad match. Ferguson said last week they had not talked in a year.

Now that he's aligned with a nationally recognized developer, Ferguson is pushing to fast track the \$120 million to \$140 million project and wants to begin construction in the spring. Not likely. The project is encumbered by drainage and flood plain environmental issues, community input sessions (charrettes), design challenges and since it's in Lansing — politics.

The City Council must approve Ferguson and Kass as developers, and then there's the selling price for the land. This will be a big issue as the development team tries to downplay the value of the land, much of it in a floodplain, while stressing the long-term rewards to the city from its investment.

City Center II: The tortured City Center II project in East Lansing has finally advanced with the city choosing Lansing Township-based DTN Management Co. to develop the 2.8 acres nestled between Grand River Avenue and Abbot Road.

DTN is proposing a 10-story hotel, a parking garage, retail space, housing and even an outdoor farmers market. The cost of the project is estimated at \$105 million.

Douglas J headquarters/spa: This \$10 million project planned for what is referred to as "downtown Okemos" calls for a spa at the site of the former Travelers Club restaurant at the corner of Okemos Road and Hamilton Avenue, a new Douglas J headquarters where the current spa is and assorted housing units. At one point, the company hoped to finish the spa by

The problem is the power lines along Okemos Road. Some need to be buried; others need to be raised. And this is very costly. Demolition of the Travelers Club and the former White Bros. Music store won't begin until the power lines and other issues are resolved.

- Mickey Hirten

CityPULSE

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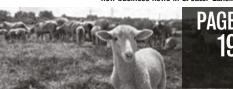


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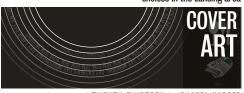
Sorg: Virg wins big, Whitmer bows out and more political highlights of 2013



New in Town: A recap of the biggest new business news in Greater Lansing



Organic: A look back at healthy eating choices in the Lansing area



TWENTY THIRTEEN by RACHEL HARPER

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CITY PULSE ON THE AIR

City Pulse on the Air will return Wednesday, January 8th.















PULSE JAMES & OPINION



The year in review

LGBT rights, the war on drugs and more highlights from 2013's news cycle

In 2013, the nation watched President Obama's signature health-care law's tumultuous beginnings, Republicans continued their attack against women and the poor and a National Security Agency contractor leaked the beans on Big Brother. (What's up with amnesty for Edward Snowden, Mr. President?)

Similarly, greater Lansing saw its share of ups and downs and all-arounds in 2013. Here's the City Pulse news desk's year in review:

One Capital Region's rights fight

As we cope with bearded hunting salesmen and King Bigotry himself, Dave Agema, Greater Lansing can take comfort in the fact that local elected officials are fighting for equal protection of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens.

With lobbying efforts led by an organization called One Capital Region, Delta, Delhi and Meridian Townships joined Lansing and East Lansing with ordinances barring discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations based on sexual preference. The group tallies 30 Michigan municipalities with such policies.

The Okemos 7 and the Greens

Another year, another batch of victims in the war on drugs. Over the summer, seven local men were handed prison sentences of varying lengths (the longest was four years) for their role in a collective medical marijuana grow operation in Okemos. The "Okemos 7" were busted by Drug Enforcement Administration agents even though the group went to great lengths for transparency, even telling local police what they were doing and filing a federal tax ID.

Then there was the story of an overzealous state Department of Human Services that attempted to remove a then-6-monthold girl from her Lansing home because her parents, Steve and Maria Green, were medical marijuana patients and caregivers. While their daughter, Bree, was removed from the home temporarily to live with Maria Green's mother in Port Huron, the Greens scored a victory in the end with Ingham County Probate Judge Richard Garcia's decision to return Bree to her parents. The case raised the dubious issue: Does growing marijuana in a home inherently endanger a child?

Council chambers go quiet

John Pollard and Darnell Oldham Sr. — the late Lansing City Council regulars with a knack for dramatic speeches — passed away this year after battles with cancer. The Council chambers grew noticeably quiet during the public-comment portion of meetings.

Those interviewed in City Pulse stories described the men as passionate about their city and that their attacking style at the podium was not indicative of their friendly demeanor outside of City Hall.

Michigan Flyer defeats airport alarmists

After a contentious and highly political debate over Michigan Flyer's expanding the number of its daily trips between East Lansing and Ann Arbor, the company was given approval by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission for a federal grant to do so.

By a 10-9 vote, the commission OK'd Michigan Flyer's acceptance of the federal grant. But the debate expanded beyond the commission, as the business community tried to make the case that helping the Flyer means hurting the airport — and Lansing's general economic viability. City Councilwoman Carol Wood and Mayor Virg Bernero made rare bedfellows by siding with the airport.

It remains to be seen whether the airport will feel any effect at all, but the immediate impact was giving travelers more transportation options.

Cristo Rey merger planned, held up, then canceled

In fall 2012, members of Lansing's Hispanic community drew attention to the Diocese of Lansing's plans to merge Cristo Rey Community Center with St. Vincent's Catholic Charities — a move they feared would strip the organization of its Hispanic identity.

To be sure, Cristo Rey has had its funding issues in recent years, largely due to the economic downturn, officials have said. After pressure from a citizens group, the Diocese called off merger plans in May. By September, Executive Director Joseph Garcia was brought on to help steer the ship after the merger was called off.

More attention to cold cases

Following a March 13 City Pulse cover story about disorganization within the city's Police Department related to unsolved homicides, Mayor Virg Bernero created a new police position in his fiscal year 2014 budget for a cold-case detective.

"We need to do more to get to the bottom of these cases and give the families hope," Bernero said after the story was published.

To market to market

A pair of grocery-store announcements in East Lansing and Meridian Township has called into question the viability of at least three locally owned grocers.

In August, Whole Foods announced plans to open a new store in Meridian Township in 2015 near the East Lansing Food Co-op and Foods for Living. The township board approved plans for the development to move forward, and experts predict ELFCO and Foods for Living will experience at least a slight decrease in sales.

Meanwhile, in East Lansing, time appears

In July 2012, Niowave Inc. broke ground on a new \$10 million expansion in the middle of Lansing's Walnut Neighborhood to much fanfare — though not much of it came from the neighborhood itself. That expansion — which resulted in the infamous blue and white pole barn — led to a 14-month-long battle between the company and neighbors over its appearance.

An agreement was reached in September to redesign the façade, which the neighbors sought all along. Another result of the Niowave saga was a new citywide policy to prevent such unsightly mishaps in the future.

Bernero, looking at Lansing Township, pushes for consolidation



to be running out for Goodrich's Shop-Rite, which has had roots in the Lansing community for 76 years. Developer Kevin McGraw wants to redesign Trowbridge Plaza with mixed-use residential and retail spaces, though it appears Goodrich's doesn't have the resources to stay in a spot that requires higher rent. A "cutting edge, organic market" is waiting in the wings, he said.

BWL stakes claim in REO Town

Five years after initial plans for a new Lansing Board of Water and Light power plant surfaced, 2013 marked the opening of a new co-generation natural-gas plant in the heart of REO Town. With the plant, the publicly owned utility cut its carbon dioxide emissions from the Eckert Plant in half.

As REO Town's anchor tenant, in a sense, anticipation builds for the neighborhood's renaissance since its early-20th century boom.

Niowave makes peace with neighbors

Perhaps more so than at any other point in his eight-year tenure, Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero was an outspoken supporter for a metro Lansing region, particularly consolidating Lansing Township with the city.

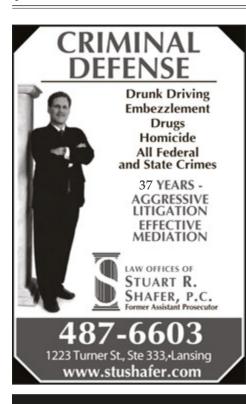
"How about dissolving all of Lansing Township? That's my idea. Police, fire, you name it. Whatever it is, let's absorb it," Bernero said as recently as October.

Township officials, however, aren't as enthused. Supervisor Shirley Rodgers stopped returning City Pulse's phone calls seeking comment.

Outside of the township, support is growing for Bernero's idea. However, most will say the plan would need to be executed diplomatically, an apparent criticism of the mayor.

— Andy Balaskovitz

"Eye Candy of the Week," our look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing, returns next week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call Andy Balaskovitz at 999-5064.



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The year in politics

He shoots, he scores!

Nobody with a serious chance of winning was willing to challenge Virg Bernero's quest for a third term, leaving the mayor free to work towards a less contentious City



WALT SORG

Council. He used that fact to great advantage.

Three of the four incumbents seeking reelection were generally in the pro-Bernero faction. Losing any of them would have given Carol Wood a potentially veto-proof supermajority on the eight-

member council. Instead of losing ground, Bernero ended up strengthening his hand by defeating Wood ally Brian Jeffries, a three-term Council veteran. The one-vote switch should mute some of the weekly drama at City Hall in 2014.





Whitmer, Levin bow out

Retiring politicians often attribute their departure to a desire to spend more with their family. That usually means they've passed their peak in office. It is rare when a politician leaves at the "top of their game." But that's exactly what state Senate Democratic Leader Gretchen Whitmer is doing.

Whitmer is one of the state's most popular Democrats. Despite facing a 26-12 GOP majority in the Senate, she has proven to be a force in many key policy debates and become the leading voice of "the loyal opposition."

Meanwhile, for nearly half the people of Michigan, Carl Levin has been a U.S. senator their entire lives. That ends in a year. Levin, 79, decided to retire after 36 years in office. His seniority makes him one of the most powerful people in Washington as chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Back to the mattresses

Despite happy talk about a state Legislature that could be a little more bipartisan, Republicans blew up any chances for that in the final months of the year.

First, they quickly jammed through a new law moving lawsuits against the state from Ingham County Circuit Court to the Court of Appeals in a matter of days. It allows the state Supreme Court (ranked by legal studies as the most partisan in America) to assign cases to hand-picked judges who may have no previous experience in running a trial.

GOP lawmakers followed that with a

near party-line vote to prohibit insurance companies from including abortion coverage as a standard part of private health plans. Although the concept goes against GOP mantras of keeping government out of healthcare decisions and reducing regulation of private businesses, it plays well with the party's base.

Political friction among Democrats

Ingham County has become a Democratic stronghold. As a result, some of the more interesting political battles are amongst the Dems.

Bernero's relationship with the Ingham County Board of Commissioners has hit a couple of rough spots. Three months after receiving a letter from board Chairwoman Deb Nolan indicating a desire for continued county management of the Hope Soccer complex, Bernero negotiated a deal with a private company to take over the Aurelius Road facilities. After taking heat for the deal (in which he also managed to bypass City Council), Bernero argued that he'd been told by the county parks director that the county wanted to shed responsibility for running the city-owned facility.

Now the Commission is threatening to sue the city over the transfer of retirement funds for 911 emergency response operators. Thirty-two city employees were transferred to the county payroll with the understanding that accrued retirement funds would also be transferred. Three years after the agreement, the funds still haven't been transferred as the two sides argue over the amount of money involved.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN LEGAL NOTICE Rezoning #13050

Date introduced: December 10, 2013
Nature of the ordinance: A request to rezone

A request to rezone 1404, 1408, 1416, 1422, 1434, 1438, 1443 and 1449 Haslett Road from PO (Professional and Office) and C-2 (Commercial) to RB (Single Family-High

Density)

Full text available at: Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road
Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Ct.

Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Ct. Haslett Branch Library, 5670 School Street Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road Snell Towar Recreation Center, 6146 Porter Avenue The Township Website www.meridian.mi.us

ELIZABETH LEGOFF SUPERVISOR BRETT DREYFUS TOWNSHIP CLERK CP#001

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In accordance with Michigan State Law Storage Facility Act No. 443 and to satisfy an operator's lien, the contents of the following units will be sold at public auction on www.StorageBattles.com to the highest bidder ending on **December 27**, **2013** at **12:30pm** for units located at **4200 Hunsaker Dr. East Lansing, MI 48823**

 Unit#
 Tenant Name

 1208, 1041, 809, 303
 George Rowan

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 Yuchen Huang

 902
 Yixiao Ren

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 Yuxuan Duan

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ARTS & CULTURE

ART•BOOKS•FILM•MUSIG•THEATER

2013: A&C ya later Ranking the top five(ish) in arts and culture

By ALLAN I. ROSS

t was a good year to be part of the arts and culture scene in the Lansing area. Visual arts, performance arts, culinary arts — they were all there for the consuming, and there was plenty to feast on.

In 2013, we got to see what sort of lovely and confounding things the contemporary art scene was up to thanks to Michigan State University's Broad Art Museum. Whether it was the room full of bouncing red balls in Lisa Walcott's "Less Still" installation, the use of microphoned cockroaches in Zach Layton's Insect Chorus Concert or the conceptual designs of "Lebbeus Woods - Architect" that twisted buildings into impossible configurations — or even sent them floating on air — a trip to the Broad was a good way to reset your notions of what art could be.

We received a bevy of new bistros and gastropubs, including several catering to the locavore you never knew you wanted to be. Tannin in Okemos redefined what it meant to be an Italian restaurant. Capital Prime Steaks and Seafood made a solid play for the area's next fine dining staple. HopCat in East Lansing bet the farm that the craft beer movement was a sea change, not a trend. (A sign it was right: Two more brewpubs are planned for the area in 2014.) Even Lansing City Market got in on the fun, with Wandering Waffles, a novelty breakfast/lunch spot devoted to utilizing strictly local ingredients. Bonus points were assessed for the debut of the first Capital Area Restaurant Week, which strove to demystify the dining experience and get people out there trying new things - tofu perogi, anyone?

Studio C!, the upscale movie theater behind Meridian Mall, devoted six months of one of its screens to top-rated independent, foreign and documentary films, effectively giving filmgoers an under-the-table film festival. From Oscar winners to word-of-mouth awards circuit buzzbuilders, Studio C! gave us engaging cinema that just so happened to go well with popcorn.

And the local community theater scene continued to crank out week after week of solid performances. Musicals, plays, staged readings and the all-of-the-above confluence of the Renegade Theatre Festival in Old Town — the local boards were put to good use.

Here, City Pulse takes a look back at the last 12 months of theater, dining, classical music, film and books (that's right, people still read). We weren't able to settle on top five for every category, per se. Some categories simply petered out of strong contenders after four; others were so stuffed with good pickings they were awarded extra helpings.

So dig in — there's no guarantee of leftovers come 2014.



By ALLAN I. ROSS

ansing saw a bump in art house films, thanks in large part to two film festivals (tip o' the hat to ye, Capital City Film Festival and East Lansing Film Festival) and the opening of Studio C! in Okemos. Here are the five that rose to the top in 2013.

"AMOUR" (WRITTEN/DIRECTED BY MICHAEL HANEKE)

If life came with an instruction manual, "Amour" could serve as the final chapter — call it "What to Expect when You're Expiring." Unflinchingly frank in its discussion of mortality, dignity and love, this year's Best Foreign Language Oscar winner should be required viewing for the human race. Austrian writer/ director Michael Haneke crafted a bleak, brutal look at what happens to the human body and mind at the end of life, and infused it with so much painful honesty you'll walk out of the theater feeling raw — as if you've skinned your soul.

"BURN" (PRODUCED/DIRECTED BY TOM PUTNAM AND BRENNA SANCHEZ)

If it weren't a true story, it would seem like a cliché: The dead city handling its own cremation. But according to "Burn," a documentary about Detroit's enduring firefighters, not everyone has given up on the decaying metropolis just yet. It's an inflammatory look at what happens when a vital population segment moves to the suburbs, leaving block after empty block to the thieves, murderers and arsons. Built to enrage, "Burn" is the very best kind of documentary filmmaking and a must-see for anyone who gives a damn about Detroit.



"GRAVITY" (WRITTEN/DIRECTED BY ALFONSO CUARON)

Cuarón's sci fi spectacle is a poetic masterpiece to human achievement and, quite possibly, the immortal human soul. "Gravity" is cleverly constructed and achingly gorgeous, brilliantly blurring the line between theology and cosmology – and giving even the most hardened atheist pause for thought on What Comes After. "Gravity" explores some powerful subjects; chiefly, the pain that comes from being a sentient being hardwired with empathy and the capacity for love.

"THE KINGS OF SUMMER" (DIRECTED BY JORDAN VOGT-ROBERTS)

In this magically surreal romp, 15-year-old Joe Toy and a couple of his buddies build a functional two-story house out of found materials in the woods and run away from home to live in it. It's the ultimate wish fulfillment fantasy of every frustrated teenager, a definitive stroke of defiance marking the dawn of a new era of independence. This Sundance hit is equal parts social satire and coarse teen comedy, tempered with

a dramatic core and sprinkled with bits of slapstick.

"KON-TIKI" (DIRECTED BY JOACHIM RONNING AND ESPEN SANDBERG)

This cerebral thrill ride comes equipped with a swashbuckling spirit and a hell of a charming lead. And how much awesomer is it that it's based on a true story? "Kon-Tiki" is the dramatization the voyage of real-life adventurer Thor Heyerdahl who set sail from South America to Polynesia on a rudimentary balsa-wood raft to prove his theory about island colonization in the South Pacific. "Fast and Furious"? Bah. "Kon-Tiki" proves you can be just as gripping by being slow and steady.

BONUS MATERIAL:

The white water wine barrel escape sequence in "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug" was the best action scene since Indiana Jones commandeered that truck full of Nazis in "Raiders of the Lost Ark." If you can catch the high-frame rate version of "Smaug" (unavailable in Lansing), even better.

take what they do seriously. It shows. The location is a little way down Michigan Avenue, away from the hustle and bustle of the Capitol, providing for a slightly easier parking situation.

Dinner prices are at a premium, but lunch is surprisingly affordable. A filet at the Knight Cap is always my meal of choice, but I liked the San Francisco Cobb salad for lunch: A plate of greens piled with chicken breast, bacon, avocado, tomato, hard-boiled egg and crumbled bleu cheese. And at \$9.50 it's comparable to what you'd spend at a deli.

The Knight Cap, 320 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. Dining room hours: 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday, 5 p.m.-11 p.m. Saturday. Closed Sunday. Bar is open until midnight all six days. (517) 484-7676 theknightcap.com.

ASIA'S FINEST

I received several tips in recent months that Asia's Finest would make a trip to Lansing's south side worth my while. The decision was made when I learned that the pan-Asian restaurant offered a dish

BEST DINING

By GABRIELLE JOHNSON

stuffed myself silly in 2013. I ate my way from Grand Ledge to Williamston, and from St. Johns to Jackson. Here are my top five local dining experiences for the year that was.

THE KNIGHT CAP

The servers are trained professionals in the European tradition — people who

See Best Dining, Page 8

2013 JAZZ/CLASSICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The Lansing jazz and classical music scene created a lot of memorable moments in 2013. I chose these six favorites strictly from the gut. Science and reason fail when music this powerful takes over.

Swing, sentiment and a bucket of greasy organ grooves warmed up a loose and lovely tribute to veteran drummer and MSU Jazz Professor Randy Gelispie Feb. 10 at the Avenue Café. Gelispie is the revered elder of the MSU Jazz Studies program and a living link to the heyday of jazz. Students, colleagues and collaborators from earlier days jammed in a daisy chain of jazz through a memorable afternoon and evening. The highlight was seeing Detroit organist Bill Heid and guitarist Perry Hughes reunite with an ever-energized Gelispie to bubble the pot like it was 1958.

The performers outnumbered the audience when an April 15 calypso spectacular flooded MSU's newly refurbished Community Music School with a coral reef of swaying steel pan drummers and other colorful creatures. MSU's Trinidad-born trumpeter Etienne Charles led the extravaganza, melding MSU's Jazz Orchestra I with California steel pan virtuoso Andy Narell, the Oakland University Steel Band and the Moot Steelheads Steel Orchestra. Narell's hypnotic steel pan solo and a huge, rippling tribute to calypso legend Lord Kitchener were unforgettable.

Lansing is a hotbed of straight-up jazz, with two major festivals (the East Lansing Summer Solstice Jazz festival and Lansing JazzFest) and so many small combo gigs it's impossible to get to all of them. If I had to pick the one that hit the nail hardest, I'd pick Friday, Aug. 2, when guest trumpeter Terrell Stafford joined the Rodney Whitaker Quar-

tet for a blazing set at Lansing JazzFest.

There were some big surprises in classical music this year, among them the benign Baltic onslaught of the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra, with former Detroit Symphony maestro Neeme Järvi at the podium at Wharton Center Nov. 8. Young Armenian guest cellist Narek Hakhnazaryan poured a lot of soul into the Dvorak Cello Concerto and finished with a long, jaw-dropping encore that blended folk music lamentation with post-classical, post-rock freakouts of astonishing force.

The season of the cellist reached its zenith at Wharton Nov. 18 as classical music's most famous superstar, Yo-Yo Ma, gave a definitive demonstration why he's all that. Ma's duo recital with pianist Kathryn Stott was a probing, serious exploration of musical possibilities, reaching a near-silent epiphany with Olivier Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time.

A new element was inscribed on the periodic table of music in greater Lansing Dec. 5, when student percussionist Zac Brunell of the MSU College of Music led a fearsome percussion ensemble in a mindexpanding, chest-bursting performance of music by Greek avant-garde composer Iannis Xenakis at the Broad Art Museum. The music blasted through Zaha Hadid's fancy new museum, sounding as raw as mating bull elephants, yet precise and refined as a physics equation. For openers, Ann Arbor's Donald Sinta Saxophone Quartet sent burning vines of sound straight up the museum's glassy, diagonal walls. The percussion ensemble churned like mad in the second floor atrium, with the visionary drawings of conceptual architect Lebbeus Woods around them. The Broad Museum is still finding its way as a venue for music, but after "X is for Xenakis," it will be very hard for any venue this side of Alpha Centauri to find a better way to wire eyes and ears together.



By BILL CASTANIER

"BLUFFTON: MY SUMMERS WITH BUSTER KEATON" BY MATT PHELAN

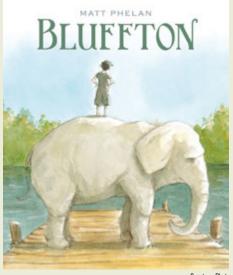
This graphic novel, suitable for both adults and young adults, tells the charming but little known story of silent film star Buster Keaton and his family's vaudeville troupe that summered near Muskegon in the early 1900s. Keaton and a local boy become friends, each wanting to be in the other's shoes. The graphics are stunning and the story of two young boys trying to get a feel for who they will be in life is endearing.

"IN THE HOUSE UPON THE DIRT BETWEEN THE LAKE AND THE WOODS" BY MATT BELL

In the tradition of Gabriel García Márquez's "One Hundred Years of Solitude," Bell uses the power of myth and magic realism to explore family and fatherhood. It's a dark tale with strange creatures, a labyrinth and a family like no other. Bell, a professor of writing at Northern Michigan University, is a young writer to be watched and read. It will startle you. You'll put it down, but you'll pick it up again.

(TIE) "TEARDOWN: MEMOIR OF A VANISHING CITY" BY GORDON YOUNG AND "DETROIT: AN AMERICAN AUTOPSY" BY CHARLIE LEDUFF

These are sad tales that explore the plight of two Rust Belt cities, Flint and Detroit. Journalism professor Young, who lives in California, takes a look at his native Flint by temporarily moving home. He's ostensibly looking for a great real estate deal, but really he's there to relive the life of a city that no longer exists. Meanwhile, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist LeDuff, a Detroit native, weaves his own



Courtesy Photo

"Bluffton: My Summers with Buster Keaton" by Matt Phelan.

tough family history into a complex story about a great American city on the ropes. Although both writers pull no punches when relating the grim reality of their home cities, you come away from these books with an inherent sense of hope.

"Brown dog" by Jim Harrison

Harrison's latest, a collection of his novellas featuring his character, Brown Dog, could be this generation's "Don Quixote"; readers 400 years from now may use it to get a taste of what it was like to live happily as an outsider in this century, away from the suits and stock portfolios. Those who know are flocking to this compilation and those who haven't been exposed to this ribald, primal and witty character will be surprised by his intense loyalty to his friends and his Pope Francis-like love of underdogs. That it is set in the wilderness of Michigan's Upper Peninsula is a plus.

Best dining

from page 7

I'd long been seeking: A Vietnamese soup called pho.

Pho (rhymes with "duh," not "doe") is a traditional Vietnamese peasant food made of beef broth, cooked over the course of several hours and includes the parboiling of bones and the rendering of marrow. The stock has a richness of flavor that I'd never before experienced.

Long, translucent rice noodles — the kind that lend themselves so well to slurping — are heaped into an oversized bowl. The traditional preparation includes adding thinly sliced raw beef, which is cooked when the boiling broth is poured into the bowl.

Asia's Finest, 6443 S Cedar St., Lansing. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday; noon-9 p.m. Saturday; 4-9 p.m. Sunday. (517) 393-1688, facebook.com/asiasfinestmi.



Gabrielle Johnson/City Pulse

The pho at Asia's Finest in south Lansing

THE STATE ROOM

In the last 10 years, the Kellogg Center's State Room has transformed from a stuffy place with good food into to a lush, glamorous place with extremely good food. I've always found the service to be professional, courteous, and well trained.

The Kobe beef burger is juicy, flavorful, and melted in my mouth. The Sunday brunch menu is tantalizing and I'm trying to fit in a trip around all my holiday eating.

The State Room, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing (inside the Kellogg Center). 6:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday; 6:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday. (517) 432-5049, stateroomrestaurant.com.

TAVERN 109

This restaurant is one of my new favorites. I sing the praises every chance I get of the shrimp and grits and the pear pizza, which is a marvel. The thin crust is loaded with a gorgonzola blend, big chunks of bacon and walnuts and hunks of roasted lightly roasted pear, and finished with olive oil and cracked pepper. It's a sweet dish with a lot of strong flavors thrown together, but the chewy, crispy crust and lack of any red sauce let it retain its lightness. The pears are slightly roasted and provide a welcome textural complement to the walnuts.

The Sunday brunch is the best in the area and I cannot stop myself from ordering both the apple oatmeal pancakes and

the breakfast pizza.

Tavern 109, 115 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Wednesday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday. (517) 655-2100, tavern109.com.

ROOKIES RESTAURANT AND BAR

For months I'd heard that Rookies made a great pizza, but it wasn't until my boyfriend made me go on a 42-mile bike ride one day and I was weak with hunger that I agreed to give it a chance. Eaters, Rookies is my favorite pizza in town.

The pepperoni and green peppers were fresh and spicy. The cheese was melty and bubbly. The dough was thin enough as to not overwhelm the toppings, but still offered some heft and kept my hands relatively clean. Rookie's has become our go-to pizza place.

Rookies Restaurant and Bar, 16460 S US 27, Lansing. 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-1 a.m. (517) 487-8686, rookieslansing.com. City Pulse • December 26, 2013 www.lansingcitypulse.com



We don't want to tip our hand just yet to what shows might be recognized at next year's Pulsar Awards, but three of our resident theater critics — Mary Cusack, Ute Von Der Heyden and Paul Wozniak — took a look back at 2013 to dole out some praise.

BEST PLAYS By MARY CUSACK

"THE GRADUATE," LANSING COMMUNITY COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

The set was imaginative, the props were the envy of local hipsters and the cast was solid. But, really, all that anyone who saw the play could talk about was Deb Keller's performance as Mrs. Robinson. Keller's abundant energy couldn't be contained in a character of such refined restraint; she crackled and popped with every step.

"AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY," RIVERWALK THEATRE

Yes, the film version starring Meryl Streep and Julia Roberts opened this week, and it will probably be very successful. But it won't match the intensity and intimacy of Riverwalk's version, which featured Connie Curran-Oesterle as the matriarch of a dysfunctional family who transforms from drug-addled to domineering with frightening speed and purpose.

"OTHER DESERT CITIES," PEPPERMINT CREEK THEATRE CO.

The family members in this play are adept at masking their dysfunction, until daughter Brooke (Shannon Rafferty Bowen) decides to publish the memoir of her brother's suicide. Resentments start to seep out until the dam breaks, releasing a flood of secrets that compel actresses Lela Ivey and Janine Novenske Smith to raise the tempo — and the volume until they were literally screaming at each other. Wow.

"A DOLL'S LIFE," RENEGADE THEATRE FESTIVAL

Not for those with delicate ears and sensibilities, this was one of the most daring New Original Works ever featured at the Renegade Theatre Festival. Scott Sorrell's salty script is a frank depiction of a "perfect" romance going dreadfully wrong. Turns out sex dolls have feelings, too.

"THE WOMAN IN BLACK," WILLIAMSTON THEATRE

In this British period piece, a solicitor (John Seibert) hires a theater director (Aral Gribble) to help him stage an autobiographical story of the paranormal. The script is average "Outer Limits" fare, but the play-within-a-play structure gave Gribble and Seibert a fantastic opportunity to show off their acting chops as they deftly juggle characters, accents and tone.

BEST MUSICALS By UTE VON DER HEYDEN "WHITE CHRISTMAS," RIVERWALK THEATRE

They'll be talking about this one for a long time, both at the theater (the sold-out houses for all 12 performances, the cast and crew of more than 40, the ninepiece orchestra) and out in the community. That was "White Christmas," directed by Jane Fallion, the No. 1 musical of 2013.

Outstanding performances by both lead and supporting actors and singers, breathtaking dancing, glorious costumes, effective production values and an undeniable overlay of hard work by everyone are the tangible elements that made this show a success. But in the end what really sold it was a feeling — a feeling of cohesion, camaraderie and love — yes love — among the cast that could not help but radiate out to audiences and pull them into an unforgettable experience.

"FUNNY GIRL," MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

"Funny Girl" was an ambitious, largecast extravaganza featuring a talented group of young artists enthusiastically led by Zachera Wollenberg, Will Slanger-Grant, Zev Steinberg and Jacqueline Wheeler. They brought us into the show biz world of the legendary Fanny Brice and made this production of "Funny Girl" one more example of how excellent and competitive the MSU Department of Theatre has become.

"MAMMA MIA!" WHARTON CENTER

One of the problems with Broadway touring companies is that they are often second rate — and the effort they put into performing in venues like Wharton Center is second best also. Not so with the totally committed, disarming company of "Mamma Mia!" This was first class stuff: Heavenly voices, athletically stunning dancing, plus heartfelt performances. And the whole thing was done with über-energy, heart and soul.

"XANADU," MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

It took courage, or maybe just bravado, to put on this wild roller disco musical. "Xanadu" featured a crazy mix of really good roller-skating (thanks to the Lansing Derby Vixens), singing, dancing, humor and audience participation antics. The result was unadulterated fun.

But it also was one more effort by Director Rob Roznowski to introduce his students to new experiences and collaborations. It also provided a first look at the new Studio 60 Theatre, part of the MSU Auditorium's multi-million dollar renovation.

BEST PERFORMANCES By PAUL WOZNIAK

Some of the most memorable stage performances in 2013 came not from the



The cast of
Peppermint
Creek's "Other
Desert Cities"
(clockwise
from top
left): Michael
Shalley, Janine
Novenske
Smith,
Lela Ivey,
Shannon
Rafferty Bowen
and Michael
Banghart.

leading actors and actresses but from the smaller supporting and featured roles. All performances, notably, came from Peppermint Creek Theatre Co. shows, a testament to the troupe's dedication to complex characterizations.

AnnaMaria Horn and Diego Ramirez-Love both won Pulsar Awards in August for their featured roles in the musical, "In the Heights." Both parts were more spice than substance to the interweaving plot, but Horn and Ramirez-Love's dynamic performances made the roles unforgettable.

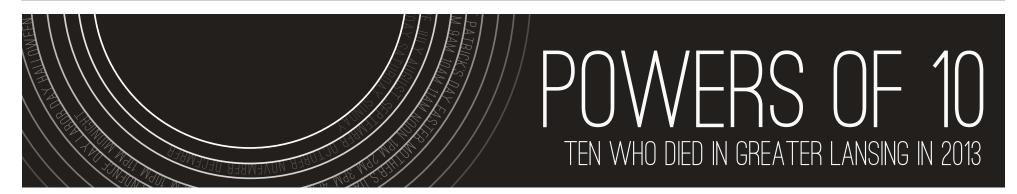
In "Bonnie & Clyde - A New Mu-

sical," **Scott Laban** set up the crucial third corner of the love triangle as Officer Ted Hinton. Hinton is the nice guy Bonnie should be with instead of Clyde and Laban's sincere warmth and intelligence make that argument crystal clear for the audience.

Finally, as kooky aunt Silda in "Other Desert Cities," **Lela Ivey** once again demonstrated how to make entrances, exits and entire scenes sparkle. Arguably her character had the monopoly on laugh lines, but Ivey made the audience cling to every word.

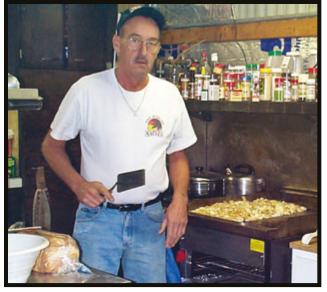
Even when she was screaming.





By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Again this year we celebrate the lives of departed friends and neighbors. What follows are their stories and the memories that framed their lives.



Courtesy Photo

East Lansing fireman and emergency medical tech Robert "Bob" Condon kept a cool head in extreme situations.

ROBERT "BUDWEISER BOB" CONDON

One New Year's Eve in the mid-1970s, a drunk driver ran off the road near Frandor Shopping Center in Lansing into a cyclone fence. The top bar of the fence, about 25 feet long, pierced the windshield, the driver's chest, the bucket seat behind him, the floorboard of the car and the turf underneath the wreck. The impaled driver was alive and talking when EMS personnel arrived.

While a shocked responder stayed with the injured man, turning aside constantly to vomit, East Lansing firefighter and EMS technician Bob Condon calmly went into action. Condon led the crew that cut the pipe and pulled the bucket seat out, with the man in the seat and the pipe running through both. The ambulance cot stayed in storage. They carried him into Sparrow Hospital in the bucket seat. Sparrow's emergency room team had never seen anything like it.

"He never panicked," Condon's friend and colleague, Joe Clevenger, recalled. "He used common sense and maintained command and composure. He didn't get easily flustered."

If a fire looked hairy, Condon would give his men perspective. "We didn't start this fire," he would tell them.

Condon was a top athlete at Haslett High, excelling in track, football and baseball. He joined the East Lansing Fire Department fresh out of the Navy.

He liked ambulance duty so much he kept at it for 20 years, far more than required. Later, when he was promoted to captain, he chafed at giving it up, but he had to take care of his company.

"Bob was one of the most fun people you could ever work with," Clevenger said. "He looked forward to coming to work." Many firefighters laundered their own uniforms, but Condon had his dry-cleaned. He loved the camaraderie in the firehouse.

"You're with these guys 24 hours a day," Clevenger said. "You go into burning buildings with them. You trust them with your life, and they trust you. It's a unique brotherhood."

Responding to a fire at the MSU chemistry building in the 1980s, Condon's crew had to haul a hose up three flights of stairs, wearing 60-pound oxygen tanks into a miasma of chemicals. Condon's bell went off, signaling that his 30 minutes of oxygen was about to run out, but he stayed on the scene until his men were out of danger.

After Condon retired, he and his friends went to a fishing lodge in Ontario for most of the summer, with 20 retired firemen from Lansing and elsewhere. They would fish during the day, play poker and drink beer at night.

Condon wanted his ashes scattered in the fountain at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, his favorite spot on the planet. He left airplane tickets for six people to make a trip of it.

They carried out the assignment on Dec. 2, Condon's birthday. Although "Budweiser Bob" retired 17 years ago, three active East Lansing firefighters who worked under him as rookies joined the group.

"We all got a bottle of Budweiser and raised a toast to him before we spread his ashes," Clevenger said. "We did it his way."

Condon died in April at age 71.



Courtesy Phot

Dorothy Ann Eagle Scott was an entrepreneur, ham radio operator and advocate for the blind.

DOROTHY ANN EAGLE SCOTT

Medical care was less than optimal in the Panama Canal Zone in 1919, where Dorothy Ann Eagle Scott's father worked as a railroad engineer. Her eyes weren't washed properly at birth, and they became infected. She kept some eyesight until 4, when a follow-up operation blinded her completely.

She was enrolled in the School for the Blind in Lansing, a boarding school, staying with her parents in Flint when school wasn't in session.

As soon as Dorothy graduated in 1938, she started her own business, Blind Made Products. She walked from door to door, selling brooms and other household products she made herself, recording the orders in Braille and racking up big sales. When meat was rationed in wartime, she got a kick out of getting extra meat coupons for her two German shepherd leader dogs.

In 1939, she got a ham radio license and did civilian wartime duty, transmitting messages from overseas servicemen to their families. Operator W8UDA was the first blind woman in America to be licensed for a ham radio.

In the early 1940s, Dorothy co-founded the Michigan chapter of the National Federation for the Blind, a growing civil rights group fighting discrimination in workplace and public accommodations.

Dorothy's first husband, Paul, died of kidney failure 13 months after the wedding. "He was the love of her life, for sure, from what I've heard," her son by a second marriage, Terry Eagle, said.

In 1953, at a National Federation for the Blind convention, she met Donald Eagle, a congenitally blind man who worked for Pontiac Motors. Eagle was completely blind by 1960. He worked hard and was a good provider.

Scott moved to Pontiac and raised five kids (and, for many years, cared for her ailing mother) while staying active as an advocate for the blind. She was a lector for decades at church services, using Braille to read Scripture each week. She was a leader in the local PTA and deeply involved in her kids' sports and scouting.

The rest of the time she read voraciously. The beleaguered mail carrier hauled packages heaped with Braille books — about six times bulkier than books for sighted people — to the house, along with outsized versions of magazines like Ladies Home Journal.

She taught her kids to write in Braille so they could leave notes like this: "Mom, there are clothes in the washer. Can you put them in the dryer?"

"It was really cool that we could communicate with her," Terry Eagle said.

All but one of her children ended up with jobs in Lansing, so Scott sold the home in Pontiac and moved to the capital in 1983. Her later years were filled with reading, church activities and a weekly Uno club with old friends from the School for the Blind, two of whom are still alive. She died June 10 at 93.

CLINTON CANADY JR.

When Clinton Canady Jr., finished dental school in 1945, he planned to move to Detroit and set up a practice. So did several of his classmates from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn., who also hailed from the Motor City.

That plan changed when he got a call from Lansing, where there were no African-American dentists in the late 1940s. Canady's son, attorney Alan Canady, said the void was created when the first black dentist in Lansing moved out of town shortly after setting up his practice. However, Canady's recruiters were hardly civil rights conscious.

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Courtesy Photo

In the early 1970s, Lansing dentist Clinton Canady Jr. became the first black member of the Lansing Country Club, partly to make a point, partly to enjoy the golf.

"The white medical establishment didn't like to treat black patients," Alan Canady said. (Another son is Ingham county Circuit Judge Clinton Canady III.) That's the world Clinton Canady entered, but not the world he left behind.

A quiet leader in Lansing's African-American community and the city at large, Canady racked up a lot of firsts.

His family came to Detroit from Alabama in the 1920s as part of the Great Migration of African-Americans from the rural South to the industrial North, when his father found work at the new Ford Rouge River complex. He went to dental school in Tennessee, but struggled to pay his way, even with his father's help, until he joined the Army. He was a member of the famous Tuskegee Airmen, but was never stationed overseas.

Canady was grateful to the Army for the tuition grants and living stipend, but black officers weren't always respected in the Deep South. Canady walked into the officer's club at one base with a friend, only to be told to leave. The friend was ready to throw a punch, but Canady calmed him down and told him that wasn't the way to solve anything.

"He wasn't a screamer," Alan Canady said. "He was a quiet presence. That's how he felt you could change things."

As soon as Canady returned to Detroit, his mother dispatched him, still in uniform, to the local barber shop, where his dad's factory buddies liked to chide Clinton Canady Sr. for throwing money away on his son's college adventure. The sight of a young black man in an officer's uniform silenced them.

In his 50 years as a dentist and quiet mainstay of the community, Canady recruited many other African-American leaders to the area. As the first African-American on the firefighters' board, he helped launch affirmative action policies and recruited some of Lansing's first black teachers and police officers. In the early 1970s, he became the first black member of the Lansing Country Club, partly to make a point, partly to enjoy the golf.

Canady was also friends with MSU football coach Duffy Daugherty and helped recruit the stars of the 1965 championship teams like Bubba Smith and Gene Washington, both from Texas, when many southern colleges like LSU and Alabama wouldn't field black players. To make the recruits feel welcome, Canady had them at his house when

they were in town.

Canady's closest friend was Rex Weaver, a Flint dentist and old college mate. Their wives were also best friends. Both families went to Europe together when Alan Canady was 8 years old, in 1964. He remembers them laughing and staying out late, enjoying the Paris night life.

Canady amassed a vast collection of big band music. Ella Fitzgerald and Count Basie were favorites.

"He listened to that music until the day he died," Alan Canady said. He died July 4.



Courtesy Photo

Merrian "Josephine" Vail survived the Bath school bombing at age 13 and lived to 100 years old.

MERRIAN "JOSEPHINE" VAIL

As a young girl, Josephine Vail set off firecrackers outside her dad's bedroom window while he was sleeping and ran off into the woods. Vail's daughter-in-law, Barbara Vail, said she was "probably a bit of a stinker."

But she behaved well when it counted. On May 18, 1927, she was given a day off from Bath Consolidated School in rural Bath Township for good deportment. That day, Vail walked her younger brother, Ralph, to school, and strolled off with friends to a meadow. She was picking flowers at about 8:45 when she heard an explosion at the north end of the school.

A former school board treasurer, angered over an election defeat and facing mortgage foreclosure, went on a killing spree that included blowing up the north wing of the school with dynamite. By the end of his rampage, he had killed 38 children and seven adults, including his wife and himself. The Bath school disaster is still the deadliest attack ever to occur in an American school.

"They piled all the bodies along the north end of the schoolyard out front," Vail's daughter Joyce Svendsen said. Ralph was among the dead.

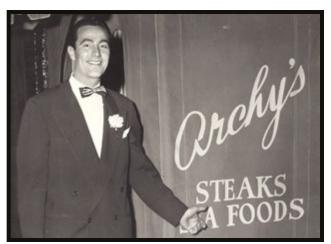
"Her mother sent her to see if Ralph was there," Svendsen said. "She said her mother couldn't bear to do it. You can imagine how that would affect a young girl."

Her brother Ralph was 7. She was 13 and lived to be 100. Vail died July 18.

She stayed in Bath, married a man who worked at the REO factory in Lansing, and raised seven kids on a farm. She never mustered the money to go to nursing school, but didn't seem to mind. She loved working the farm and left the housework to her daughters when she could. She hung on to her independence well into her late 90s.

Josephine didn't talk much about the bombing until later in life, after the Columbine shooting rekindled public interest and stirred memories.

"She never got over it," Svendsen said. "She had to keep going, but I think it affected her always."



Courtesy Photo

In the late 1950s, Archie (sometimes Archy) Tarpoff ran three iconic restaurants in Lansing.

ARCHIE V. TARPOFF

In 1914, a massacre of male children took place in a wartorn Macedonian village. Two of Archie Tarpoff's brothers were killed. Neighbors dressed infant Archie as a girl and hid him in a monastery. He survived, came to Lansing in 1924 and became one of the city's most visible restaurateurs and memorable personalities. Tarpoff died June 1 at 98.

Just out of Eastern High School, Tarpoff became a major regional attraction in fast-pitch softball. He pitched 66 consecutive scoreless innings for the Oldsmobile team and over 50 no-hitters. For big games, 6,000 or more fans jammed Ranney Park to watch him. The Pittsburgh Pirates tried to recruit him, but only offered \$100 a month, so he turned them down.

In 1938, Tarpoff and his wife, Peg, launched Archy's Snack Shop in downtown Lansing. By the late 1940s, he ran three restaurants in Lansing at once: Archy's Lounge at 111 W. Michigan Ave., Archie Tarpoffs at 124 E. Kalamazoo St., and Archy's New Hut at 2321 E. Michigan Ave. (Archie Tarpoff spelled his first name both ways, as the mood struck.)

The most storied of these was Archy's Lounge, near to the Hotel Olds (now the Romney Building, where the Governor's Office is). The long, curving bar seemed to snake into infinity. The atmosphere was "casual but expectant, leisurely and exciting" with "full-measure drinks that have the ring of authority," according to an account in Inside Lansing magazine. Legislators and TV stars like Dan Blocker from "Bonanza" and Dale Robertson of "Wells Fargo" were frequenters. (Robertson frequently came to Lansing to get REO trucks and equipment for his Texas ranch.)

Tarpoff made the rounds, greeting customers, sporting a well tailored suit and a white carnation.

A posh 1960s successor to the lounge was Tarpoff's, at the corner of Kalamazoo and Grand Avenue, with its famous waterfall, flowers, water lilies and wall of native Michigan rocks. At Christmastime, a special drink, the Tom and Jerry, was served warm, with a scoop of sweet batter, rum, brandy and nutmeg.

His daughter, Lori Tarpoff, kept the recipe secret and plans to keep the Christmas tradition alive.

MARK RITZENHEIN

Mark Ritzenhein was a vexillologist on the side. That is to say, he studied the design of flags. It was one among many things he took very seriously.

In 2012, Ritzenhein delivered some typical straight talk when he and his partner of 30 years, Stephen Wilensky, donated a collection of 2,000 gay-themed books and other materials to MSU. "For the past 30 years, in my personal life, I've tried to be as out as possible and not to hide, to remind people that not everybody is a cookie cutter human being," Ritzenhein said.

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Courtesv Photo

Mark Ritzenhein (left) relaxed at home with his life partner, Stephen Wilensky, last year. "Not many of us get the chance to actually say goodbye," Ritzenhein wrote last December to his fellow members of the Lansing Area Human Rights network, notifying them he was terminally ill.

He needn't have worried. By trade, Ritzenhein was a restorer of fortepianos, but was also a fervent advocate of native plant gardening, a poet, a textile artist and more.

Ritzenhein and Wilensky traveled together to every continent, every state, every Canadian province. In Antarctica, they slid down a snowy hill in the bright sunshine of Paradise Bay, drawing looks from curious penguins.

The travel helped make life in provincial Lansing go down easier. Back in the 1980s, Ritzenhein took offense when a Lansing Councilwoman suggested that every "queer" in Lansing belonged in San Francisco.

"I thought, 'You go to San Francisco," he said. "I decided that this is my home and my community, and I have every right to be part of it and to stay here."

In December 2011, Ritzenhein, stricken with brain cancer, emailed fellow members of the Lansing Area Human Rights network: "I bid you farewell now, as I am still able to do so. I have had a gloriously happy life, and I am content and at ease with my own accomplishment of it, together with Steve, for the past 30 years. Not many of us get the chance to actually say goodbye."

Last year, he designed a sculpture Wilensky commissioned from East Lansing sculptor Jim Cunningham: an 8-foot-high tuning fork hitting a piano tuning pin made of stainless steel. Wilensky donated it to the MSU Library, where it stands on the second floor.

One of his last projects gave him the right to finally call himself a vexillologist. Fighting his illness, he finished a study of the five largest towns in the Canadian province of Nunavut for a 2013 book, "Canadian City Flags." The book's editor, Ted Kaye, wrote that Ritzenhein had the most difficult job of the book's 10 contributors, yet he submitted his chapters before any of them.

"He produced in-depth and insightful articles on neverbefore-studied flags, now beautifully documented with their history, design and meaning by Mark," Kaye wrote.

Typically, Ritzenhein wrote his own bone-dry third-person biographical note: "His five articles here are his first—and likely last—scholarly contribution to vexillology."

He died June 6 at 54.

WINIFRED B. OLDS

In the property department at Starlight Dinner Theatre, many gifts from the home of Winifred B. Olds, from furniture to earrings to clothes to paintings, are marked with a "W."

"That's the way to keep her with us," Starlight's artistic director, Linda Granger, said. "Everybody loved her, the back-stage crew, the actors, everybody."

Olds racked up an incredible 70 years in Lansing community theater. When her first husband, Robert Blackwood, was killed in an auto accident, Olds and her new baby moved in with her parents in Lansing. She immediately took roles in local plays, billed as Winifred Blackwood.

"What got her through that whole thing is doing theater," her daughter, Julia MacLachlan, said.

She took private lessons from MSU drama instructor William "Bill" Fawcett, a TV and movie character actor in the 1970s.

In her early 30s, she embarked on a long series of TV shows, including "Today in Michigan," "This is Your Community" and "The City Speaks." To MacLachlan's delight, her mother would bring TV guests like character actor Edward Everett Horton or comedienne ZaSu Pitts home for dinner after the show.

Olds' second husband, architect J. Wesley Olds, took bit parts in his wife's plays. They were married for 61 years. In 1958, the couple, along with Bee and Carl Vary, co-founded an offshoot of Lansing Civic Players called Community Circle Players, later Okemos Barn Theatre and now Riverwalk Theatre.

Artistic standards varied in Olds' many shows, but fun was always top priority. Veteran director and actress Jane Zussman enjoyed two stints in a witches' coven with Olds, in "Witches' Brew" and "Witches' Gumbo," children's plays written by Bill Helder for Riverwalk.

"There was only one scene the witches weren't in," Zussman said. "We all went to the front lobby, in costume, to go to the bathroom."

Olds had a late-career bloom at Starlight Dinner Theatre, where Granger, who had known Olds since 1972, was eager to get her back on the stage and planned a show every year for her, beginning in 2006.

"Some people fade out, but I keep expecting to see her in the lobby," Zussman said.

When Olds played Miss Marple for an Agatha Christie mystery, she had to wait for applause to die down before uttering a line. Her last role was Ouiser in 2012's "Steel Magnolias" (played by Shirley MacLaine in the Herbert Ross film).

"I'm surprised she never played it before, because it's written for her — sarcastic, opinionated and cantankerous but loving and caring deep inside," Granger said.

Two days before Olds died June 20 at 88, Granger talked to her about a world premiere for October, "Crazy Little Thing Called Love." For the scene in which Olds would have appeared, all five actresses wore an article of her clothing.

"It's really hard not having her in a show," Granger said, fighting back tears.



Courtesy Pho

Winifred B. Olds racked up an incredible 70-year career in Lansing community theater and played leading roles well into the last year of her life.



Courtesy Photo

John Lopez was a baker, a sharp dresser, a barrierbreaking state employee and co-founder of Cristo Rey Parish and Community Center.

JUAN MANUEL (JOHN) LOPEZ

For much of his life, John Lopez carried a dictionary around and read it as if it were a novel. "You don't understand how important words are in life," he told his daughters.

Lopez, the owner of Lopez Bakery on Lansing's north side, died Oct. 9 at age 60.

"He didn't want that migrant stereotype," his stepdaughter, Lili Marchlewicz, recalled. "He wanted more than that."

Lopez founded a bakery dynasty and became a mainstay of Lansing's Latino community, centered on Cristo Rey Parish and Community Center, and broke new ground as one of the first two Latinos to work for the Ingham County Road Commission and its first Latino supervisor.

In 1960, when Lopez was 7, his family migrated from Carrizo Springs, Texas, to the heart of Lansing's barrio, on the north side of town. His father, Pedro Lopez, ran a series of bakeries in Lansing, most notably Monterrey Panaderia on North Grand River. At Pedro's side, John grew up learning the art of Mexican pan (bread) and pastels (pastries).

Nobody could resist the Lopez version of molleta, a soft yeast bread with a baked-on sugar coating.

"Right out of the oven, that was the one all of us kids wanted," Marchlewicz said. "It would melt in your mouth."

"Nobody around here makes them the way they did," Lopez's wife, Rose Mary Lopez, recalled.

They met in 1973 at a Cinco de Mayo dance at Lansing's Resurrection Church.

"He walked in and he had this off-white suit on, and I just thought he looked really gorgeous," she said. "I fell in love with him at first sight, and he did with me. From then on it was the two of us."

Anyone who dealt with Lopez, from friends to restaurant waiters to his wife, had to brace for constant legpulling. "I don't believe you're really the chief of police," he once told a chief of police. "He was forever pushing someone's buttons," Mrs. Lopez said.

But was serious when it mattered. Lopez first became involved with migrant workers in the 1970s, visiting farms, bringing workers to clinics and distributing clothing. Later, he went to Washington with several people from Cristo Rey church to support immigration reform.

At home, he took on two jobs with boundless energy, running a bakery seven days a week while working full time for the Ingham County Road Commission.

Between work and family, he and his wife became founding members of Cristo Rey Church and Community Center, the anchors of Lansing's Latino community. Lopez was indispensible to many Cristo Rey events, especially the Fiesta, where he set up and broke down tents, chairs and tables and manned the fajita booth.

Struck with pancreatic cancer, Lopez joked to his wife, "I'm too young to die. I haven't collected Social Security."

For his memorial service, his wife chose a picture she took of him from a memorable Arizona trip.

"He's up in the rocks and it looks like a mountain in the clouds," she said. "When I took that picture, he said, 'I'm on top of the world."

Powers of 10

from page 12



Courtesy Photo

B. Waneta Ouelette (top) riveted engine housings in B-24 bombers during World War II and got a kick out of meeting Rose Will Monroe, who worked at the Willow Run GM plant and was billed in a promotional film as the "real" Rosie the Riveter.

B. WANETA OUELETTE

Bertha Waneta Ouelette hated her first name, so she always signed it "B. Waneta Ouelette" and went by "Waneta." Born in Lansing in 1925, she had a rough childhood, according to her only son, Kenneth. Her dad was an alcoholic. She grew up in a rough sector of Lansing's east side, near Shepard and Kalamazoo streets. They didn't have much money, but Ouelette's mom had a garden, knew how to cook and never refused a hungry visitor during the Depression. Hobos riding the rails devised a special symbol that led to her house, where they were fed and sent away with home-baked goods.

Ouelette went to Pattengill Junior High, but dropped out after seventh grade. At 18, she married her first husband, Harry. An Air Force tail gunner, he was lost in the South Pacific less than a year after their wedding.

During the war, Ouelette worked at Lansing's Fisher Body plant, riveting engine housings in B-24 bombers. Years later, she met Rose Will Monroe, who worked at the Willow Run bomber plant and was touted in a promotional film as the "real" Rosie the Riveter.

Ouelette met her husband of 63 years, Robert, at "Pop"

Gardner's roller rink at River and Kalamazoo streets, where she worked the soda fountain. She considered him a pest and watered down his chocolate malts to discourage his advances, but he persisted. They married in 1947 and ended up together for 63 years until he died in 2010.

Later, Ouelette worked at the Adams Potato Chip Co. ("Buy Adams, Buy the Best") at 827 E. Michigan Ave. Wanting to stay home to raise Kenneth, she ran a licensed day care center from her home in East Lansing for 27 years.

"Fortunately, she treated the kids better than their own parents did, in a lot of cases," her son said. She mentored new parents on how to care for their kids, especially when they were sick.

"They'd call and ask her for advice," he said. "She had a great knack to know when to step in and when to stay out of their business."

In the early '70s, Ouelette and her husband traveled around the country in a motorhome, visiting friends and catching up with far-flung day care kids. Her husband, a horseshoe fanatic, won a few tournaments, including a state championship.

At home, Ouelette cooked killer casseroles, darned socks and lived frugally. Kenneth would find carefully folded squares of foil, ready for reuse, in his mom's cupboard. They went far on very little. "When I grew up in East Lansing, if your parents weren't a doctor, a lawyer, associated with the government or MSU, you weren't anybody," he said. "Considering the cards she was dealt, the things they were able to do, it's pretty remarkable."

Ouelette died Sept. 17 at age 88.



Courtesy Photo

Margery Gilcrest-Hesse was a teacher and author of two books, one of which drew a fan letter from Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

MARGERY GILCREST-HESSE

Margery Gilcrest-Hesse, a compact, fiery teacher and activist who lived in East Lansing most of her life, wrote a couple of unusual books. One of them was about the first man in history to give birth. The book's hero is a doctor who successfully implants a fetus in the body of a right wing televangelist.

"It was ahead of its time," said her daughter Ellen Beal, the former Lansing Councilwoman. "It's pretty amusing."

"A Short, Apprehensive History of the World," published by Gilcrest-Hesse in 1993, is a sarcastic A to Z lexicon of world history. Under "E," we find: "Eve's stomach growled ... and man was launched into the labor movement."

Last week, her son Anthony Beal thumbed through his copy of the book and found a fan letter handwritten on U.S. Supreme Court letterhead. "A delight, amusing, imaginative," Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote. "I enjoyed it from A to Z." A distant relative of his mother had somehow passed it on to the justice.

Gilcrest-Hesse was born in 1922 in New Cumberland, W. Va., went to Kent State University and moved to Ann Arbor in the 1940s to be with her first husband, Vernon Lester Beal, a student at the University of Michigan. When Beal got a job in the Lansing area, they moved to a farm near Okemos.

One day, Gilcrest-Hesse blew a harmless garter snake to smithereens with a 12-gauge shotgun. The recoil hurled her tiny frame, not quite 5 feet tall, to the ground.

"She was direct in that way," her son recalled. "Not always the best judgment."

When Gilcrest-Hesse divorced in 1962, she set about raising six kids alone by teaching, first in Williamston and Bath, then in Lansing's Lyon Elementary.

She missed the farm terribly. "Most people try to move from Lansing to Okemos," Ellen Beal said. "We moved from Okemos to Lansing."

She married again, happily, to Russell Wolfe. Her kids recall a whirl of social activism in the 1960s and 1970s, when they moved into Lansing.

"We went to civil rights marches in front of City Hall in Lansing when I was in fourth grade," Beal recalled.

Gilcrest-Hesse was so strongly opposed to the Vietnam War that she got a master's degree at MSU in Southeast Asian history, while raising six kids and teaching full time.

Some B.S. went along with her Ph.D. She liked to tell people about a party in the 1950s where she allegedly persuaded a wavering state senator to pass the bond issue that led to the construction of the Mackinac Bridge. She also took credit for the fall of the Soviet Union after she and her spouse made a trip there in 1991.

In Gilcrest-Hesse's last years, she couldn't walk and it was hard to get her comfortably into a car, but she loved it when her kids took her to King Kone, an ice cream place in Perry shaped like a 20-foot-tall soft serve cone. It was a messy business for everyone else, but Gilcrest-Hesse always managed to lick up every drop, circling the top of the cone in an avid spiral.





OU THE TOWN

Events must be entered through the calendar at www.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.

Thursday, December 26 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Weigh in, 6 p.m. Meeting, 6:30 p.m. FREE to visit. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 882-9080. Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363. cadl.org.

Computer Training. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Faith United Methodist Church, 4301 S. Waverly Road, Lansing. (517) 393-3347.

Meditation. For beginners and experienced on Thursdays. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Quan Am Temple, 1840 N. College Ave., Mason. (517) 853-1675. quanamtemple.org.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. The group meets on Thursdays (except holidays). 5:15 p.m. \$5 monthly. New Hope Church, 1340 Haslett Road, Haslett. (517) 339-9000. newhopehaslett.com.

Tarot Study Group. With Dawne Botke, 7 p.m. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 883-3619. triplegoddessbookstore.net.

EVENTS

Spanish Conversation Group. Both English and Spanish spoken. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. Euchre. Come play Euchre and meet new people. No partner needed. 6-9 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

Karaoke. With Atomic D. 9 p.m. LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St. Lansing. (517) 482-0184. Ladies Silver Blades Figure Skating Club. Lessons, exercise and practice for adult women. All skill levels welcome. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 574-4380.

MUSIC

Rally In The Alley: Open Mic. 6:30 p.m. FREE. American Legion Post 48, 731 North Clinton St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-1232.

Live Music at P Squared. Live music every Thursday, 8 p.m. FREE. P Squared Wine Bar, 107 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 507-5074.

The Night After Christmas. Featuring the Peter Nelson Collective. 7-9 p.m. \$5. The Avenue Cafe, 2021

See Out on the Town, Page 16



A selection of Lansing-area New Year's Eve events, for Tuesday, Dec. 31:

The Avenue Café

Featuring the music of Root Doctor. Dinner package includes a five-course dinner at 7 p.m. with table service for \$55. 9 p.m. general admission. \$15, 18-up. The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 853-0550.

BAD Brewing Company

Special beer release along with 14 beers on tap. Outside food welcome. 3 p.m.-1 a.m. BAD Brewing Company, 440 S. Jefferson St., Mason. (517) 616-7664, badbrewing.com.

Beggar's Banquet

Dinner specials 4-6 p.m., drink specials and

champagne toast at midnight; kitchen open until 11 p.m., bar open until 4 a.m. FREE. Beggar's Banquet, 218 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-4540, beggarsbanquet.com.

Crowne Plaza Lansing West/ Bordeaux

Toast the New Year with a bottle of champagne while you stay in one of the Crowne Plaza's newly renovated rooms. Revelers will receive \$50 dining credit at Bordeaux, Lansing's newest upscale bistro, party favors and more. Amenities include a 24-hour pool, HDTV with HBO and a 2 p.m. check out. \$199, not including tax (based

on two person occupancy). Crowne Plaza Lansing West, 925 S. Creyts Road, Lansing. (517) 323-7100.

Dublin Square Irish Pub

Live DJs, champagne toast at midnight. \$5 from 8-9 p.m. \$10 after 9 p.m. Dublin Square Irish Pub, 327 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2222, dublinsquare.net.

Edmund's Pastime

Open until 1 a.m., happy hour all night. Party favors, live music, champagne toast. \$10. Edmund's Pastime, 101 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 371-8700, urbanspoon.com.

Gracie's Place

Rock the Red Carpet party. \$50/person includes four-course dinner and champagne toast at midnight. The Billies Irish band 10 p.m.-1 a.m. 151 S Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-1100, graciesplacewilliamston.com.

The Green Door

Party favors, champagne toast and breakfast buffet at midnight. Summer of Sol plays 9:30 p.m.-2:30 a.m. 8 p.m. doors. \$25, includes two drink vouchers. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-6376, greendoorlive.com.

Lou & Harry's Sports Bar

'80s cover band Starfarm performs. Party favors, midnight buffet and champagne toast. \$25/\$50 to reserve a table. 8 p.m. doors, open until 3 a.m. Lou & Harry's Sports Bar, 16800 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-0899, louandharryssportsbar.com.

The Riv

Reserve a table and a bottle of champagne for \$15. Get in before 10 p.m. and get a free order of fries. Free food buffet, goodies giveaway and a DJ. The Riv, 231 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-5855, theriv.net.

Rum Runners

Dinner for two with party favors and champagne toast. Five acts will perform. 7 p.m.-3 a.m. \$19 general seating, \$29 reserved. Rum Runners, 601 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-4949, rumrunners.com/lansing.

Spiral Dance & Video Bar

Hunger Games-themed Capitol City Ball. With food, champagne toast, Capitol City costume contest and DJ John Cruz. \$10 21-up/\$15 18-up. 1247 S. Center St., Lansing. spiraldancebar.com. Free shuttle from East Lansing, call (517) 894-1315.

Ten Pound Fiddle's Contra Dance party

Michael Hamilton calls while Fiddlefire performs live music. For beginners and pros. No partner needed, comfortable shoes suggested. 6:30 p.m. potluck; 7:30 p.m. contra-dance workshop; 8 p.m.-midnight dance. \$18/\$15 members/\$8 students. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave.,

Lansing, tenpoundfilddle.org.



Mac's Bar

Featuring DJ Terrance Parker, Ruckus, Xaos and the Neon DJ Crew. Chocolate fountain, hors d'oeuvres and a champagne toast at midnight. 9 p.m. \$10. 21-up. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795, macsbar.com.

P Squared Wine Bar

Three-course meal, party favors and midnight toast. Live jazz all night. \$50/\$90 for two. Dinner served 6-10 p.m. P Squared Wine Bar, 107 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 507-5074, p2winebar.com.

The Peanut Barrel

Drink specials starting at 6 p.m. The Peanut Barrel, 521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-0608.

Red Haven

Special six-course menu, \$75/person. Make your reservation between 5-6 p.m. and 8-9 p.m. Red Haven, 4480 S. Hagadorn Road, Okemos. (517) 679-6309, eatredhaven.com.

Troppo

Dinner for two includes two glasses of champagne, antipasti, salads, two entrees and a dessert to share. \$120. Troppo, 111 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 371-4000, troppo.org.

Woody's Oasis

Champagne toast at midnight. All Michigan beers \$3. Free appetizers. Woody's Oasis, 211 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-1600, woodysoasis.com.

Zoobie's Old Town Tavern

Buy a glass of champagne, receive complimentary refills every hour starting at 5 p.m. Chocolate flights will also be available. At midnight there will be a free champagne toast as well as hats, noisemakers and other goodies. Zoobie's Old Town Tavern, 611 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-2737, zoobiesoldtowntavern.com.



BY GUEST COLUMNIST DYLAN SOWLE

This week's Turn it Down was written by City Pulse contributor Dylan Sowle. In this edition Sowle highlights his favorite live shows of 2013. Turn it Down columnist Rich Tupica returns next week.

It's great to live in a town where you can go see live music just about any night of the week and to have venues that won't think twice about giving your crappy garage band a gig.

Stay cool, Lansing.

Here are some of the most fun nights of my year:



JASON ALARM REUNION SHOW AT MAC'S BAR

There we were: Seemingly all my friends from high school packed into the sweaty room, singing along to songs we hadn't heard in three years. Thanks to Jason Alarm, I learned that local music existed and that I could be a part of it. It felt just like old times when they dug into a track from their first demo, "Friday the I 3th," which happened to be the date as well. They included just about every member the band has had over the years by rotating out bassists and keyboard players and switching instruments when they felt like it. The final song proved that I wasn't the only one excited about my longtime friends getting back together to perform: "Cobras" had to be cut short after about 15 seconds when half the floor rushed the stage. Glasses were smashing, I had to dodge a mic stand to avoid getting knocked out and most of the instruments were ripped from the their sockets. After everyone was cleared, the band gave it another go and it was perfect. The crowd wouldn't put the singer back on his feet until the very last note. Cheers, guys.

MR. FOX & THE HOUNDS AT MAC'S BAR



Treading the line between rap and rock, Mr. Fox & The Hounds present a bizarre, genre-hopping act. Ever-shirtless front man and rapper Andy Fox was backed up by his full rock band, clad in suits and sunglasses, as they celebrated the debut of their self-titled album. They sold T-shirts featuring a strange human-fox creature that were just a bit too sexy for my taste. Mr. Fox left the stage with all the glory of a king, carried off on the shoulders of the crowd. I hope that the Hounds grace the stage again soon.

THE HUNKY NEWCOMERS AT GTG HOUSE



It's hard to keep track of the shows that these guys play; they all sort of blend together like a weird, drunken, ongoing house party. The Hunky Newcomers are the most beautifully simplistic punk band in Lansing, with chord progressions that make The Ramones look technical. The night that sticks out this year was a set at the GTG House when it was still warm enough to take your clothes off, which some of the audience ended up doing. The band was just inebriated enough that they could still remember (some of) the song titles, the front man was in a Ghostbusters jumpsuit, and they kicked out a cover of Robin Thicke's "Blurred Lines" (which was the best that song has ever sounded). I'm gonna miss these guys when they head out on tour next month.

THE MEAT PUPPETS AT MAC'S BAR



I was accidentally introduced to the Meat Puppets at age 8 when I pressed play on my dad's Sony Discman, thinking my NOW 4 CD was still inside. What I got instead was the Meat Puppets' "Too High To Die" blasting into my tiny ears at full volume. That incident may have scarred me as a child, but it also made me remember to take my dad to see the Puppets at Mac's Bar when they rolled into town. At I4 albums in, they had a lot of material to go through, and most of the people in the bar that night had probably been listening since the beginning. I was definitely one of the youngest people in the audience, and even though I didn't know their catalogue as well as the veterans, there was no question that the cow-punks still rock. My dad's response: They should have played more old stuff. He's a harsh critic.

LARRY & HIS FLASK AT THE LOFT



"I don't understand how so many people got beat up at this show!" This was my friend's text to me after we all came back that night with mysterious battle wounds. All the damage came from the dance floor of the most intense show in recent memory. I had never listened to Larry & His Flask before, but my friends from Kalamazoo dragged me along. Despite my hesitance towards the oversaturated folk-punk genre, I was pleasantly surprised. The energy in the room was on par with how I felt at the ska shows I went to in high school. It was a blur of crowd surfing and frantic dancing, and the crowd blended with the band so well that it was hard to tell where one began and the other ended.

THURSDAY FRIDAY **SATURDAY** The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave. Peter Nelson, 6:30 p.m. Eat My Chestnuts Comedy Show, 8 p.m. Santapocalypse, 6 p.m. Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd. DJ, 9 p.m. DJ, 9 p.m. DJ, 9 p.m. Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 E. N. East St. Mark Poolos, 8 p.m. Mark Poolos, 8 p.m. Mark Poolos, 8 p.m. The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave. Open Mic, 8 p.m. The New Rule, 9 p.m. The New Rule, 9 p.m. Harem, 414 E. Michigan Ave. DJ THOR, 9 p.m. DJ SKITZO, 9 p.m. DJ Elemnt, 9 p.m. The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave. Catalina Wine Mixer, 7 p.m. The Werks, 9 p.m. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave. The Lash, 10 p.m. The Lash, 10 p.m. Tin Can West, 644 Migaldi Ln. Scott Martin, 8 p.m. Tin Can DeWitt, 13175 Schavey Rd. Well Enough Alone, 8 p.m. Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave. Frog & the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m. The Bear Band 8:30 p.m. The Bear Band, 8:30 p.m. Steve Cowles, 6 p.m. Joe Wright, 6 p.m. Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Drive Cadillac West, 9 p.m. Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St. College Night, 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) 999-6710

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

E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-853-0550. facebook.com/ avenuecafe2021.

Kathy Ford Band. Live music. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 484-4825. sirpizza-mi.com.

THEATER

"Over the River." A heartwarming tale of the importance of family. 8 p.m. \$20. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

Friday, December 27 **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.

Oil Painting. For all levels with Patricia Singer. Preregistration required. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$60 for four weeks. Gallery 1212 Old Town, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212. gallery1212.com.

Holiday Yoga Classes for Kids. Brought to you by the KIDS YOGA PROJECT. 9-11 a.m. \$25. American Martial Arts & Fitness Academy, 402 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 930-9076. preranayoga.com.

EVENTS

Magician Rick Eugene. Fun, interactive magic show. 5-6 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtdl.org. Karaoke. At the Valencia Club. 8 p.m. FREE. Best Western Plus Lansing Hotel, 6820 South Cedar St.,

Lansing Bike Party. Bike ride with TGIF stop. 5:30 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

Eat My Chestnuts Comedy Show. Bert DiVietri presents his annual comedy show. 8 p.m. \$10. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 402-7962. facebook.com/events/1382719875309820/.

By Matt Jones

Singles TGIF New Year's Party. Weekly singles party with fun, food and dancing. 8 p.m.-midnight, \$12. Hawk Hollow Banquet Center, 15101 S. Chandler Road, Bath. (517) 281-6272. singlestgif.com.

MUSIC

Karaoke with Joanie Daniels. Karaoke with Joanie Daniels. 7 p.m. Free. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing, (517) 484-4825, sirpizza-mi.com.

THEATER

"Over the River." A heartwarming tale of the importance of family. 8 p.m. \$25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

Saturday, December 28 **CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

Tai Chi in the Park. Taught by Bob Teachout. 9 a.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

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.

Holiday Yoga Classes for Kids. Brought to you by the KIDS YOGA PROJECT. 2-4 p.m. \$25. American Martial Arts & Fitness Academy, 402 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 930-9076. preranayoga.com. Hear Michigan. Seminar on hearing loss. 10 a.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

EVENTS

Kwanzaa Celebration. Traditional food and games at the market. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460. lansingcitymarket.com.

MUSIC

Boogie Dynomite at Harper's. 10:30 p.m. Harper's, 131 Albert Ave. East Lansing. (517) 333-4040.

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

THEATER

"Over the River." A heartwarming tale about the importance of family. 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. \$22 matinee, \$25 evening. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

Sunday, December 29 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Lansing. (517) 485-9190.

Holiday Yoga Classes for Kids. Brought to you by the KIDS YOGA PROJECT. 2-4 p.m. \$25. American Martial Arts & Fitness Academy, 402 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 930-9076. preranayoga.com. Juggling. Learn how to juggle. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St., East

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.

Codependents Anonymous. Third floor meeting room. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300. cadl.org.

EVENTS

Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance. Cash bar with restrictions. 6-10 p.m. \$8. Fraternal Order of Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-7838.

THEATER

"Over the River." A heartwarming tale about the importance of family, 2 p.m. \$22. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

Monday, December 30 **CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

Zumba Gold. All skill levels. With Rochele Cotter. 11 a.m.-Noon, \$8 drop-in rate, \$35 five-visit punch card, \$65 10-visit punch card. Kick it Out! Dance Studio, 1880 Haslett Road, East Lansing. (517) 582-6784.

See Out on the Town, Page 17

INTERMEDIATE



SUDOKU

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

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.

To avoid erasing, pencil in your possible answers in the scratchpad space beneath the short line in each vacant square.

Answers on page 18

Jonesin' Crossword

"Full Houses"--a pair plus three of a kind, and no Uncle Jesse. Matt Jones

Across

1 Camera setting 6 Play around with some music 9 Bar display

14 1986 Indy 500 champ Bobby

15 Prefix with scope or sclerosis

16 Last in a Greek series 17 Hill in a 1991 hearing 18 Howard Stern's

producer/sidekick 20 Emmy-winning scientist Bill

21 Leachman of "Young Frankenstein"

23 "Go back" computer command 24 Ground-water

separator? 27 Since 28 Go to brunch 29 Day, to Don Quixote

32 Abbr. on a mountain peak sign 35 Fresh, in Frankfurt

37 "Bye Bye Bye" band, 2000

39 Pest 43 Language that gave us "kiwi'

44 Phoenix-to-Vancouver dir. 45 Photographer Ged-

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47 Curvy shape 50 Phobia 52 Appetizer trays at

a luau 57 Bravo preceder 60 Kindle buys

61 Dennis's sister on "It's company Always Sunny" 62 Rapper who dropped 9 Melodramatic sound

part of his name after 2001's "Doggy Bag" 64 Fireplace nook 66 City of central Florida 13 "The Banana Boat

67 Ginger 68 "Wall Street" theme 69 SATB section

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3 Man of steal? 4 Cereal grain 5 Yell on the set before

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7 "Asteroids" game

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12 Like some cheddar Song" opening 19 "The Thin Man" dog

22 "Jurassic Park III" star Tea 25 Noisemaker or party

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Time of 30 Get ___ the ground floor

31 Face trouble 32 Soap-making award? 33 "I don't believe you!" 34 "Dukes of Hazzard" deputy

38 Begin 40 Modern waltz violin-

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42 Make a slight adjustment to 48 Gush

49 Chain pitched by Michael Phelps 51 Punctuation in an

e-mail address 52 Nobel-winning poet Neruda

53 Good surname for a lifeguard? 54 They may be sanded

down 55 Get new tenants

56 Broken-down 57 "I get that 58 Hair scare

59 Dessert after paella 63 Paddle cousin 65 Org. for shooters

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36 Tea server

Out on the town

from page 16

Computer Training. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Faith United Methodist Church, 4301 S. Waverly Road, Lansing. (517) 393-3347.

Adult Rape Survivor Support Group. Preregistration 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. Find the right job or career. 10 am.-Noon, FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 372-9163. 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.

EVENTS

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

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. Rehearsing "Scenes of Shakespeare." 6-8:45 p.m. Donations. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave. Lansing. (517) 348-5728. cadl.org.

MUSIC

Open-Mic Blues Mondays. Sign up to play solo, duo, with your band. Spoken-word acts welcome. 6:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. Midtown Beer Co., 402 Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 977-1349.

Tuesday, December 31

Hopeful Hearts Grief Group. Learn, grow and heal together. 10-11 a.m. FREE. The Marquette Activity room, 5968 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. (517) 381 4866. Noon Year's Eve. Kids' games, music and more. See website for details. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$5/\$15. 4972 Northwind Drive., East Lansing. (517) 708-8746. playeastlansing.com/noon-years-eve.html.

Les Danseurs NYE Dance. 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. \$50 per couple. Grand Ledge Country Club, 5811 E. St. Joseph Highway, Grand Ledge. (517) 881-2703. lesdanseurs.com.

Wednesday, January 1 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Meditation. For beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, 3015 S.

Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 351-5866.

EVENTS

Prayer Service for Peace. Lansing Pax Christi New Year peace prayer service. 1-2:15 p.m. FREE. St. Therese Church, 102 W. Randolph St., Lansing. (517) 482-2558. sttherese.org.

Thursday, January 2 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363. cadl.org.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. The group meets on Thursdays (except holidays). 5:15 p.m. \$5 monthly. New Hope Church, 1340 Haslett Road, Haslett. (517) 339-9000. newhopehaslett.com.

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

Meditation. For beginners and experienced on Thursdays. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Quan Am Temple, 1840 N. College Ave., Mason. (517) 853-1675. quanamtemple.org. Tarot Study Group. With Dawne Botke. 7 p.m. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 883-3619. triplegoddessbookstore.net.

EVENTS

Spanish Conversation Group. Both English and Spanish spoken. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. Euchre. Come play Euchre and meet new people. No partner needed. 6-9 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center; 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600. Karaoke. With Atomic D. 9 p.m. LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 482-0184. Ladies Silver Blades Figure Skating Club. Lessons, exercise and practice for adult women. All skill levels welcome. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 574-4380.

MUSIC

Kathy Ford Band. Kathy Ford Band. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-4825. sirpizza-mi.com.

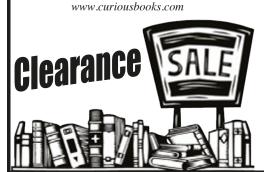
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Free Will Astrology By Rob Brezsny

Dec 26-Jan 1

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Edmund Kean (1789-1833) was one of the most famous British actors of his time. But a contemporary, the poet Samuel Coleridge, was frustrated by Kean's inconsistency, regarding him as a great artist who on occasion lapsed into histrionics. "To see him act," said Coleridge, "is like reading Shakespeare by flashes of lightning." Now and then I get that feeling about you, Aries. You have bursts of brilliance that you sometimes don't follow up on. You're like a superstar who loses your concentration. But I've got a strong feeling that in 2014 you will at least partially overcome this tendency. Your word of power will be *consistency*.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Ernest Rutherford (1871-1937) is known as the father of nuclear physics not just because he won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry. He was also a superb teacher. Eleven of his students won Nobel Prizes. That's the kind of teacher or mentor or guide I urge you to connect with in 2014, Taurus. The coming months will potentially be an optimum time for you to learn deeply, and at a rapid rate. One of the best ways to fulfill that promise will be to apprentice yourself to adepts who have mastered the skills and savvy you want to acquire.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your last best hope to get rich was back in the latter half of 2001 and the first six months of 2002. From July 2025 to June 2026, the cosmos will again conspire to give you a big fat chance to expedite your cash flow to the max. But why get bogged down dreaming of the past or fantasizing about the future when fertile opportunities to boost your prosperity are in front of you right now? Financial luck is flowing your way. Viable ideas for making money are materializing in your subconscious treasure house. The contacts that could help you build your wealth are ready to play with you. (This offer is good until July 2014.)

CANCER (June 21-July 22): French poet Edmond Jabès had this to say about the birth of big creative ideas that dramatically transform one's life: "For the writer, discovering the work he will write is both like a miracle and a wound, like the miracle of the wound." Regardless of whether or not you're an artist, Cancerian, I expect that you will experience a wrenching and amazing awakening like this in 2014. The opening you've been hoping and working for will finally crack its way into your destiny. It may be one of the most pleasurable disruptions you've ever had.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): In the coming months, I'm betting that you will exit a confined place or shed cramped expectations or break off your commitment to a compromise that has drained you. It may happen suddenly, or it could take a while to complete. How the escape unfolds will have to do with how thoroughly you extract the lessons that your "incarceration" has made available. Here's a ritual that might also expedite the process: Give a gift to the people you're leaving behind, or offer a blessing in the spot where your difficult teachings have taken place.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "Now that you don't have to be perfect, you can be good," says a character in John Steinbeck's novel *East of Eden*. I suggest that you make this your rallying cry in 2014, Virgo. In fact, why not begin right now, wherever you are? Say "Now that I don't have to be perfect, I can be good." Free yourself of the pressure to be the polished, ultimate embodiment of everything you'd ever hoped you would be. That will allow you to relax into being more content with the intriguing creation you have already become. You may be surprised by how much mojo this affords you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In 1972, English folk musician Nick Drake recorded his album *Pink Moon*. He finished it in a mere four hours, singing all 11 songs and playing every instrumental track himself. It took years for anyone to appreciate his artistry, but eventually the

magazine *Melody Maker* selected *Pink Moon* as number 48 on its list of the "All Time Top 100 Albums." Here's one way I suspect your efforts will be similar to Drake's in 2014, Libra: You will have the ability to get a lot done in a short time. Here are two ways your fate will be different from Drake's: First, you will have a big pool of trustworthy allies to call on for help. Second, what you produce won't take nearly as long to get the appreciation it warrants.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Eierlegende Wollmilchsau is a colloquial German term for a mythical pig that lays eggs like a chicken, provides milk like a cow, supplies wool like a sheep, and ultimately becomes bacon and pork chops. Metaphorically, it may refer to a fanciful device that performs many functions. Imagine, for instance, a futuristic smart phone that could interpret your dreams, trim your unwanted hair, fix you a perfect cup of coffee, tell you you're beautiful in ways you actually believe, and cure your little health problems. In the real world, there's no such thing, right? Not yet. But there's a chance you will find the next best thing to an eierlegende Wollmilchsau in 2014.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "We don't accomplish our love in a single year as the flowers do," says Rainer Maria Rilke in the *Duino Elegies*. Do you promise to take that truth into consideration in 2014, Sagittarius? Will you pledge to diligently devote yourself to creating the right conditions for love to flourish? In the past, you may not have been fully able to carry out this slowbuilding marvel; you may not have had quite enough wise perseverance. But you do now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In 1588, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, the ruler of Japan, confiscated the swords, daggers, and spears belonging to every citizen. He announced they would be melted down and used to make a giant Buddha statue. I'd love to see you undertake a comparable transformation in 2014, Capricorn. You shouldn't completely shed all your anger and pugnacity, of course; a certain amount is valuable, especially when you need to rouse yourself to change situations that need to be changed. But it's also true that you could benefit from a reduction in your levels of combativeness. What if you could "melt down" some of your primal rage and use the energy that's made available to build your personal equivalent of a Buddha icon?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The period between last July and next June is prime time to find or create your dream job. That might mean simply upgrading your existing gig so that it serves you better. Or it could involve you rethinking your relationship with work and going off in quest of a new way to earn a living. So how are you doing on this project, Aquarius? If you are proceeding on schedule, you should be halfway there by now. The goal should be clear, and you should be more disciplined, organized, and determined than ever. If for any reason this isn't the case, start playing catch-up.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "Singing teaches two skills that are essential for any creative process," says author and vocalist Rachel Bagby, "the ability to listen and the ability to be flexible and spontaneous." I bring this to your attention, Pisces, because 2014 could potentially be a Golden Age for your creativity. It will be a time when you will benefit even more than usual from exploring and enhancing your imaginative originality. That's why I'm encouraging you to sing more than you ever have before. Make a list of your 50 favorite singable songs. Be aggressive about expanding the music you get exposed to, and learn the melodies and lyrics to a lot of new tunes. Cut loose with your vocal stylings whenever you have a chance, and take a vow to propel yourself out of funky moods with the creative energy of your singing

Go to **RealAstrology.com** to check out Rob Brezsny'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.





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NEW IN TOWN YEAR IN REVIEW

Jordyn Timpson/City Pulse Zoobie's Old Town Tavern reopened in June with a new look and a wide selection of craft beers and wines.



By ALLAN I. ROSS

A rush of new grocery stores, restaurants, bars and specialty shops

confirmed
Lansing's
economic
upswing this
year. Thirteen
may be perceived

as an unlucky number, but for these businesses, 2013 was full of promise.

January

Bradly's Home & Garden opened inside the former Old Town Comfort Station, 313 ½ E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. The store's selection includes fine art, a variety of home décor items and handmade, high quality furniture.

Depending on where you sit at **Bulgogi Korean Cuisine**, 340 Albert Ave., East Lansing, you may have the choice to order from the kitchen or cook your food at your table, via an infrared barbecue.

February

The California-based **Guitar Center,** 517 Mall Court, Lansing Twp., opened its 242nd location in the Frandor Shopping Center. The store features a separate studio space devoted to teaching music lessons.

March

Wandering Waffle, located inside the Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing, utilizes a farm-to-table ethos to create its signature waffle sandwiches. Choose from a pizza waffle, s'more or ham and cheese, which are made to order and take about three minutes.

Apri

The "gateway to East Lansing" got a little more welcoming with the opening of **Jonna's 2 Go,** 210 E. Michigan Ave., East Lansing, a hybrid convenience store/carryout café/upscale liquor store. The 2,500-square-foot building got a radical internal and external overhaul, including an attractive, futuristic brushed steel façade.

The Old Town General Store, 408 E. Grand River

Ave., Lansing, features many Michigan-based goods, including Eden Foods, Zingerman's breads and gelatos, and a variety of craft beers, wines and ciders.

May

Momentum
Adventure Sports, 617 E.
Saginaw Highway, Grand
Ledge, opened not far
from the Ledges to take
advantage of the built-in
foot (and bike and kayak)
traffic. Merchandise includes
kayaks, long boards, climbing
gear, stand-up paddleboards,
adventure apparel and disc
golf accessories.

June

You might recognize Piggee's Smokehouse and BBQ, 5021 W. Saginaw St., Lansing, by its new sign, a playful blend of the Autobot symbol and ... a pig. Products include slow smoked barbecue beef brisket, baked macaroni and cheese and broccoli, bacon and cheddar salad.

After being shuttered for four years, **Zoobie's Old Town Tavern**, 611 E. Grand River
Ave., Lansing, re-opened with new owners, a retro look and a new concept, which relies heavily on craft beers and specialty cocktails.

July

The scratch Italian restaurant **Tannin**, 5100 Marsh Road, Okemos processes its own beef, pork, lamb, chicken, duck and rabbit on-site. "I like to imagine how a classic Italian chef would run his kitchen if he were to come to Okemos," owner/operator James Sumpter said.

August

Leaf Salad Bar, 1542 W. Grand River Ave., opened across from Frandor with the concept of "healthy fast food."

HopCat-East Lansing, 300 Grove St., was part of a new wave of full-service dining options in downtown East Lansing. The restaurant/ brewpub opened on the ground floor of the mixed-use development, The Residences, and features a full menu and over 100 beers on tap.

Next door, **Peppino's Pizzeria and Sports Grille**is the anchor business for
the St. Anne Lofts, 213 Ann
St., and features Italian and
gastropub fare.

Capital Prime Steaks and Seafood, 2324 Showtime Drive, Lansing Township, opened on the north end of Eastwood Towne Center, replacing Bar 30. Specializing in upscale surf-and-turf fare, the restaurant features two private rooms, a regular dining room and a bar area called The Lounge.

Fireside Grill, 6951 Lansing Road, Dimondale, is the new restaurant/bar from the founder of Barley's Bar and Grill.

September

Leopold Bloom & Co., 523 E. Grand River Ave., is a home décor, housewares and antique store.

October

Master butcher Dominic Conigliaro makes all of the sausages and jerky in-house at Monticello's Market and Butcher Block, 6912 Marsh Road, Okemos. The building underwent a massive sevenmonth reconstruction project, and features many Michigan products and organic and local produce.

November

Sam Dixon, owner of **Chierie International Market,** 304 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing, said he hopes to fill a niche for specialty imported food and connect with the roughly 18,000 African refugees in Lansing.

The independently owned **Central Pharmacy**, 1003 E. Mt. Hope Ave., offers compounds medication and fills prescriptions for both humans and animals. It also offers free delivery.

And there's lots more to come in 2014, including a new grocery store on Lansing's east side, as well as a pair of brewpubs and a new location for Dicker and Deal. Stay tuned.

State of organic

A look back at healthy eating choices in the Lansing area

By LAURA JOHNSON

It's been an exciting year for local food and agriculture, adding to the impressive progress that's been made over the last decade.

"The last five to 10 years have been a dynamic time for food and farming in the Lansing area," said

Laura DeLind, co-founder of the Lansing Urban Farm project. "The growth of urban agriculture programs, farmers markets, licensed kitchens, incubator farms,

beginning farmer workshops and grants, community gardens and nutritional education have all contributed to a more food-savvy population and a more secure food system. This growth in food and farming infrastructure is a source for new jobs and increased food access, creativity and entrepreneurship."

A year ago, farm-to-table restaurants in mid-Michigan were still relatively new. The first two, Lansing's Fork in the Road and Okemos' Red Haven, evolved from their food truck counterparts, Trailer Park'd and Purple Carrot. Scratch Italian restaurant Tannin, utilizing several local producers, debuted over the summer in Okemos during the first-ever Capital Area Restaurant Week. And Wandering Waffles inside the Lansing City Market features fresh waffles made with local ingredients and innovative, homemade toppings.

The area has also seen a trend in community supported agriculture programs. The MSU Student Organic Farm offers bountiful shares of produce from its passive solar greenhouses and hoophouses all year long. And the Hunter Park Garden-House, a project of Allen Neighborhood Center, offers a winter CSA with weekly shares of local, organic offerings in addition to its spring and summer programs. Other CSAs will soon be accepting new members for spring and summer, like CBI's Giving Tree Farm, Thornapple CSA, Titus Farms, Wildflower Eco Farm and Capital Village Trade Cooperative.

Community gardens have been popping up all over town, with support from projects like the Greater Lansing Food Bank Garden Project and Ingham County Land Bank's Garden Program. Many of these gardens were showcased in July during the annual GLFB Garden Project's Community Garden Tour.

Lansing has also seen a growth in the number of farmers markets. Local farmers are connecting like never before with urban and suburban customers, offering local, sustainably grown food and fostering agricultural education. And while most markets wound down as the days grew colder, a few refused to quit: The Meridian market moved into Meridian Mall (open every first



aura Johnson/City Pulse

Rebecca Titus of Titus Farms, a CSA in Leslie that specializes in poultry.

and third Saturday of the month) and the Allen Market Place on Kalamazoo Street opened this November to provide a warm, vibrant space for the Allen Street Farmers Market to continue year round.

The Allen Market Place is the first non-profit food hub in mid-Michigan with a commercial incubator kitchen and food exchange. It's an exciting initiative with goals shared by other new area projects such as GLFB's Lansing Roots, a new program designed to help beginning, limited resource and/or historically underserved gardeners and farmers in an incubator farm setting.

Beyond produce, markets are increasingly offering local meat products raised and processed naturally. Producers such as Tirrell Centennial Farm in Charlotte, Spartan Country Meats in Webberville, McLaughlin Farm in Jackson, Otto's Chicken in Middleville and Lonesome Pines Beef in Nashville are increasingly available at area markets, in addition to venues such as Mert's Specialty Meats in Okemos, the Lansing City Market, the East Lansing Food Co-Op and the new Old Town General Store.

Collectively, this paints a pretty picture. It's a good time to get involved in the Lansing-area local food scene, for reasons ranging from a healthy diet to neighborhood gatherings, from the health of the soil, plants and animals to community development and social justice.

"Food is a connector and an equalizer," DeLind explained. "It belongs to real people living in real places: In urban, suburban, blue-collar and white-collar neighborhoods. Food contains culture, history, memory and meaning. And most importantly, food is a right of all people."

This is an important lesson food activists and planners must keep in mind as we continue to move forward.

"We cannot afford to forget that our job is really about empowering area residents to share in, take ownership of and actively defend this work," DeLind emphasized. "And our first responsibility is to keep resources in local hands and to keep the food system responsive to local needs and the unique character of the Lansing area.

"We are well on our way, but we still have a long way to go."



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| 1003 Shepard St | 3 Bedrooms, 1.5 Bath | 1,248 Sq. Ft. | \$94,900 |
| 1806 Vermont Ave | 2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath | 833 Sq. Ft. | \$54,900 |
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