

FREE

# CityPULSE

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Dec. 26, 2012-Jan. 1, 2013

The poet ●  
the rapper ●  
the businessman ●  
the farmer ●  
the scientist ●  
the maid ●  
the waitress ●  
the actress ●  
two teachers ● ●  
World War II ●  
and five million cups of coffee ●

Ten who died in 2012 ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

See page 8

# LOVE THY NEIGHBOR



THY

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NEIGHBOR

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## CityPULSE NEWSMAKERS



Hosted by  
Berl Schwartz

PART II



**Ari Adler** Spokesman for Republican Speaker of the House Jase Bolger

**Lynn Martinez** Former Democratic state representative

**Walt Sorg** City Pulse contributor

**Susan Demas** Senate reporter, MIRS

Comcast Ch. 16 Lansing: 11 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 29

Comcast Ch. 30 Meridian Township: 11:30 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 29; 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 29, through Saturday, Jan. 5; and 11:30 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5.

Watch past episodes at [vimeo.com/channels/citypulse](http://vimeo.com/channels/citypulse)

# TIM BARRON

EVERY WEEKDAY MORNING  
6AM-9AM

**WLMI 92.9**



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A  
R** | **30**

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**2013**

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## EVENTS

**RIDDLE ME THAT JAZZ BAND** 7pm-9:30pm  
**DANCE INTO THE NEW YEAR** with DJ Skitzo 10pm- 4am  
**CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT MIDNIGHT**  
**NO COVER ALL NIGHT LONG!!**  
**FREE PANCAKE BUFFET** from 2am-4am

**THREE SPECIAL ENTREES** to ring in the New Year  
*Greg Norman's Wagyu Beef, Marble Grade 7*  
*Country Style Lamb Ribs*  
*All Natural Black Pearl Salmon*



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**Sunday, December 23, 2012**  
 Nu Era - Outstanding Smooth Jazz  
 7:00pm-10:00pm

**Sunday, December 30, 2012**  
 Those Delta Rhythm Kings - Blues  
 7:00pm-10:00pm

**Sunday, January 6, 2013**  
 Jessie and the Downbeat  
 Groove - Funk/Blues  
 7:00pm-10:00pm

# Feedback

## E.L. resident for consolidation

Although everyone Jeffrey Hank knows in East Lansing is against consolidation ("Feedback," 12/5/12), Mr. Hank does not know everyone in East Lansing. Perhaps I am the lone East Lansing resident who believes that consolidation is at least worth examining—considering it may be an excellent solution to the many fiscal problems Michigan local governments and school districts are facing and will face for years to come—but I doubt that I am. In recent years, I have become disappointed in the parochialism of East Lansing governing bodies and residents, from the segregation of our library from what I have found to be the well-administered and operated Capital Area District Library (I am willing to pay CADL's \$50 annual fee to have access to its far more extensive collections) to our refusal to agree to the District Court reorganization that would have saved taxpayer dollars. For the most part, we East Lansing residents have very blessed lives in our well-off community. But "pulling up the ladder" is not a viable plan for continuing such a lifestyle, be it on a local, state, or national basis. I am sure the vast majority of East Lansing residents agree with Mr. Hank regarding consolidation. I suspect they mainly fear that they would have to "carry" less financially sound local entities if there was consolidation. But examining what is possible does not make it probable. Consolidation is a long-term, complex process. It cannot happen overnight and cannot be done by decisions of local leaders, whether individuals or governing bodies.

I have had, and have, serious disagreements with decisions by the East Lansing City Council and School Board. However,

I think it inappropriate for Mr. Hank to use such nasty adjectives—"abusive", "predatory", and "corrupt"—and to speak of "senseless job and wealth-killing poor public policy decisions" without at least a few specifics. (Perhaps he did, and City Pulse editing decisions deleted them.) Plus, if Mr. Hank and others can be organized enough and have the financial means to pursue detachment of some parts of East Lansing, they certainly should be able to offer unabrasive and unpredatory uncorrupt candidates for office who make sensible job and wealth-enhancing good public policy decisions.

— George Hare  
East Lansing

## Corrections

Due to an editing error, last week's column about the history of the GOP takeover in Michigan should have said the U.S. Supreme Court decided one-man one-vote, not the state Supreme Court.

Due to a reporting error, the Dec. 5 cover story on Mark Grebner should have said Hal Fildey is a former executive editor of the Lansing State Journal, not a former publisher.

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

Now you have two ways to sound off:

- 1.) Write a letter to the editor:
  - E-mail: [letters@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:letters@lansingcitypulse.com)
  - Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
  - Fax: (517) 371-5800
- 2.) Write a guest column:
 

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

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

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### RFQP/13/046 REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR HAULING SINGLE STREAM RECYCLABLES as per the instructions for responses provided by the City of Lansing.

The City of Lansing will accept responses at the FINANCE DEPARTMENT, PURCHASING OFFICE, 8TH FLOOR CITY HALL, 124 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933 until 3:00 PM local time in effect on **JAN. 17, 2013**.

Complete RFQP/13/046 document is available by calling Stephanie Robinson, CPPB at (517) 483-4128, email: [stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov](mailto:stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov) or Scott House, (517) 483-4165

City of Lansing encourages responses from all vendors including MBE/WBE/DBE/VET vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

### B/13/053 NEW 2013 CHEVROLET IMPALA LS, 4 DOOR SEDAN as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing.

The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the FINANCE DEPARTMENT, PURCHASING OFFICE, 8TH FLOOR CITY HALL, 124 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933 until **3:00 PM** local time in effect on **JANUARY 10, 2013** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.

Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Darleen Burnham, CPPB at (517) 483-4129, email: [Darleen.Burnham@lansingmi.gov](mailto:Darleen.Burnham@lansingmi.gov), or for content and purpose of this bid contact Greg Klco, Fleet Supervisor at (517) 483-4470, email: [Greg.Klco@lansingmi.gov](mailto:Greg.Klco@lansingmi.gov), or go to [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info).

The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

# CityPULSE

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**PAGE 6**

F\*ck the NRA: Syndicated columnist and avid hunter Ari LeVaux takes aim



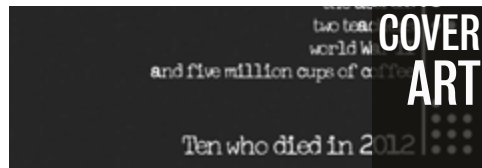
**PAGE 13**

Looking back on the 2012 arts and entertainment scene in Greater Lansing



**PAGE 15**

Extreme Figgy Pudding Comedy Show at Creole Gallery lightens up the holidays



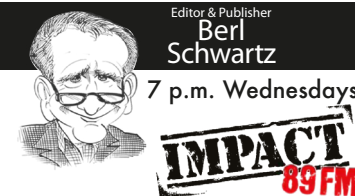
**COVER ART**

TEN PEOPLE by RACHEL HARPER

## CITY PULSE ON THE AIR

**THIS WEEK**

City Pulse on the Air will return Jan. 9



**IMPACT 89FM**

## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

**FILL-IN-THE-BLANK GENERIC GUN MASSACRE CARTOON\***

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE GOING TO TRY TO POLITICIZE THE INCIDENT IN (insert location of most recent gun massacre, here)



\*FOR WEEKS WITH MULTIPLE GUN MASSACRES, PLEASE FILL IN A DUPLICATE CARTOON FOR EACH.

YOU MEAN THE "INCIDENT" WHERE (insert incomprehensibly horrific details of latest massacre, here)



ANYWAY (insert fantasies about armed civilian heroes saving the day, and the various excuses for why this has never actually happened in reality, here)



AND BESIDES (insert indignant invocation of truncated Second Amendment, without revealing slightest trace of empathy for victims of this or any other gun massacre, here)

YOU KNOW PERFECTLY WELL THAT THE (choose one) KILLER/KILLERS COULD JUST AS EASILY HAVE USED (insert list of random, potentially lethal objects, including but not limited to knives, rocks, automobiles, kitchen appliances, household bleach, bad seafood, and/or anything else you can think of, here)

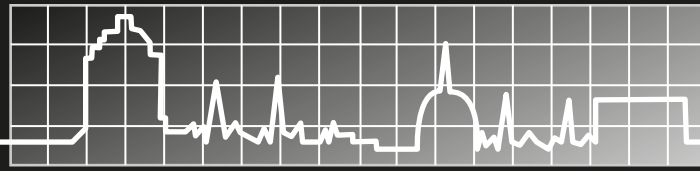


(Insert overwhelming disgust with sociopathic NRA talking points, here)



SAVE AND REUSE: OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER

# PULSE



## news & opinion

### And we're off

**Who's in to challenge Lansing City Council incumbents in 2013? And who will preside over the Council next year?**

The three Lansing City Council members seen as reliable support for Mayor Virg Bernero all have at least preliminary opposition to their re-election bids in 2013. Defeats could further endanger Bernero's agenda.

"It could if any of us lost," said At-Large Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar, who is seeking a third term. "I'm not anticipating that."

Dunbar, 44, along with 4th Ward Councilwoman Jessica Yorke, 33, and 2nd Ward Councilwoman Tina Houghton, 44, are seen as the most loyal members to the administration, though each disputes the label.

"I believe what he's done is move the city forward. When we do have issues, we talk it through," said Houghton, adding that she's known Bernero for 17 to 18 years. "I'm not a rubber stamp for him." Houghton works as a program adviser at Michigan State University's Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement.

Dunbar, executive director of the South Lansing Community Development Association, said it "irks" her that she's expected to vote for administration-backed proposals. But Dunbar said she, Houghton and Yorke agree "with 95 percent of what the administration does."

Yorke, the environmental justice coordinator for Ingham County, pointed to her no-vote on bringing a casino downtown — primarily for employee health concerns — and last year's budget process as times when she's disagreed with the administration.

Council members Derrick Quinney and A'Lynne Robinson, while not necessarily seen as oppositional as Carol Wood, Brian Jeffries and Jody Washington, are closer to wild cards for the administration. A few years ago, the administration could count on Quinney's and Robinson's support.

Meanwhile, the fourth expiring Council term is Jeffries', who said he's still weighing his options about running, though it looks like he will. Jeffries has served on the Council for 10 years. He was elected in 2002 to fill out the last two years of former

Councilman Lou Adado's term, who left after a sexual harassment scandal.

"I don't know at this point, but there doesn't seem to be any reason I would not," he said. "I don't see myself dropping out or not running."

Another option is challenging Bernero in the mayoral contest, which Jeffries, 57, gets asked about "a lot," he said. However, that'd involve much more "time and resources" and commitments at his job as an attorney at ASMSU Legal Services at MSU, which he'd have to leave.

#### Challengers

At least four people are lined up to take on these incumbents, though none of them have formally filed as candidates with the City Clerk's Office. The filing deadline is 4 p.m. May 14.

#### Incumbents



Dunbar Houghton Jeffries Yorke

#### Tentative challengers



Canfora Clarke Ferro O'Dell

The first is Judi Brown Clarke, diversity director for the Bio-Computational Evolution in Action Consortium Center at MSU. Clarke, 51, is an East Lansing High School graduate and wife of District Judge Hugh Clarke Jr.

Clarke is undecided whether she will challenge Yorke or go for an at-large seat, citing outside advice and time and financial commitments. Clarke, an Olympic hurdler and distance runner in the 1980s, said she's been "politically active" serving on several committees for the U.S. Olympic Committee and for the Children's Defense Fund. She sees herself as a neutral party and a new voice to the Council's notorious disagreements.

Ted O'Dell plans to run for an at-large seat. O'Dell, 46, led a petition drive encouraging the Council to pursue a tribally owned casino separate from — but closely timed to — Bernero's deal brokered with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. O'Dell, a for-

mer supervisor in London Township in Monroe County, worked for the Michigan Education Association and lobbies for the Michigan Library Association. He identifies as a Bernero ally, but he's not targeting Jeffries — who has publicly battled with the administration — in particular: "I'm just going to run a positive campaign based on my strengths. I have a world of respect for Brian Jeffries," he said.

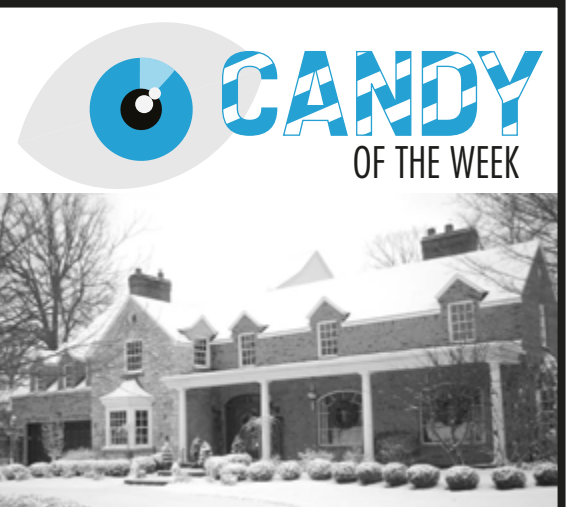
In the 2nd Ward, which generally covers the city south of the Red Cedar River and east of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Frank Ferro is seriously considering a run at Houghton's seat. Ferro, 54, a state employee for 19 years and most recently with the Michigan Economic Development Corp., also serves on the city's Board of Fire Commissioners. Ferro doesn't have anything negative to say about Houghton. "I really want to get in and work with both sides," he said.

Sources say that Chong-Anna Canfora is challenging Yorke in the 4th Ward. Canfora is the Michigan summit director at Progress Michigan, a liberal political organization. Canfora has also worked on Democratic U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow's staff and for the state Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth. She could not be reached for comment.

#### Who leads in 2013?

Some of the criticism directed at Dunbar is over her attendance record at Council and committee meetings. Indeed, it may be what costs her the presidency in 2013, despite an agreement from a year ago that would have given her the job in exchange for supporting Jeffries as president this year.

The Council's first order of business at the start of a new year is voting for a president and vice president. The president runs meetings, assigns members to committees and is first in line for the mayor's job if the mayor leaves office. To say last year's nominating process was contentious is an understatement: It spanned two committee meetings and 13 separate 4-4 stalemate votes as members nominated Dunbar, Jeffries and Robinson. It was late into a Monday night when a deal was reached making Jeffries president this year and Dunbar president in 2013. Jeffries told City Pulse afterward that he would honor the deal; Quinney — who supported Jeffries —



**Property:** 627 N. Harrison Road, East Lansing  
**Owner:** David and Nancy McKeague  
**Assessed value:** \$275,000

Even in the daytime it's hard to miss this gem facing Harrison Road in East Lansing's Glencairn neighborhood. But in the spirit of the holidays, we set out to find some of the best exterior lighting we could find. This one delivers.

Like the home's façade and well-manicured lawn, this year's holiday lighting offers class, simplicity and a balance of modern and traditional decoration. The eye is drawn to that side of the road for the well-lit fencing on the north side of the house, as well as the lighted three-dimensional snowflakes hanging from a tree in the front yard. A neighbor living a few blocks east noted that she admires this home's three lighted wreaths in the front window.

David McKeague spends "most of the weekend" on the decorative style, his wife, Nancy, said. The front also includes lighted presents on a bench, faux candles in the second floor windows and big, red ornaments hanging from the porch ceiling. It's cheerful yet not over the top; classical with a modern touch.

Christmas lighting dates back to rich folk from 18th century Germany who could afford to put candles in the Christmas tree. By the mid 1900s, it was ubiquitous in neighborhoods throughout the U.S. Today it makes neighborhoods like Glencairn, with tightly packed beautiful homes, all the more inviting.

— Andy Balaskovitz

"Eye candy of the Week" is our look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates each week with Eyesore of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail [eye@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:eye@lansingcitypulse.com) or call Andy Balaskovitz at 999-5064.

# Council

from page 5

said then he'd be "sticking to his word."

But did we really think the deal would hold up? It's not looking good for Dunbar, who needs five votes to become president. She's been vice president for the past three years.

Jeffries and Quinney say they want to discuss the situation with Dunbar over the holiday break, signaling they're not ready to back her at this point; Wood offered a flat "no" when asked if she'd support Dunbar; Washington said she "refused" to take part in last year's agreement (she supported Jeffries); Robinson also said she didn't take part in last year's agreement. As for her thoughts on Dunbar: "From the last three years as vice president, the attendance, timeliness — or the lack thereof — is pretty evident."

Numbers provided by the Council staff show that Dunbar missed 10 Committee of the Whole meetings and six regular Council meetings this year. That was the most for Committee of the Whole, while Yorke had seven Council meeting absences.

Dunbar says she dealt with personal issues throughout the year. When she missed budget hearings in the spring, she said she watched them online while her father was in the hospital.

Dunbar wants the presidency and has the support of Houghton and Yorke for the nomination. But that's two votes shy of what's needed. The rest of the Council isn't saying whom they plan to nominate. Dunbar may depend on the support of Quinney and Jeffries, which they agreed to last year.

Jeffries said he wants to meet with Dunbar over the break to address some "concerns" he has, which he wouldn't detail. Same goes for Quinney, who pointed to "punctuality and the commitment to working with everybody on Council" as reasons he's hesitant. He called the Jeffries/Dunbar deal "somewhat of a commitment, I don't think it was set in stone."

Houghton, Dunbar's supporter, referred to her father's advice: "If you don't live by your word, you have nothing."

— Andy Balaskovitz



## Grading the graders

A study of 96 classrooms in the Lansing School District

Lansing School District teachers are creating positive relationships and classroom environments for their students, but their teaching techniques could use improvement, according to results of a recent study.

The study, conducted for the adminis-

tration and modeled after research from the University of Virginia, was done in 96 fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade classrooms in the district. The data focused on interactions between teachers and students and how teachers use their instruction time and materials. Four areas were looked at: emotional support, classroom organization, instructional support and student engagement.

"This is a really powerful instrument," said Mara Lud, director of elementary and middle years education for the district. "The teachers and administration are able to look through the lens of the child's experience."

The study was unique because it provided feedback to teachers about how they teach and interact with students, rather than just providing numbers on how students performed on standardized tests, which is how teachers normally grade their teaching styles.

Rita Stanton, a fourth-grade teacher at Mt. Hope Elementary who's been with the district for 15 years, said this is the first time in her tenure with the district that "such a broad spectrum" of teaching variables was looked at. Normally, she said, teachers are only provided with Michigan Educational Assessment Program — MEAP — data at the end of the year. By the time they get the results, the only improvements they can make are for the next year. Having this data mid-year would be valuable, she said.

Six trained and vetted data collectors observed the classrooms for one day and ranked the teachers on a seven-point scale, one being the lowest and seven the highest.

On average, Lansing teachers scored 4.49 in emotional support, which looked at areas like creating a positive classroom environment, teacher sensitivity and regard for student perspective. In classroom organization, Lansing teachers scored a 4.18, which covers behavior management, productivity and negative climates. Teachers received the highest marks for student engagement at 5.30. The lowest scoring area was instructional support at 2.96, which covered several aspects of instruction processes and engaging in higher-level thinking skills.

When looking at comparative data from studies at three other schools outside the district, Lansing scored higher in emotional support dimensions but was ranked lower in instructional support. This particular study, called the Classroom Assessment Scoring System, has been tested in eight other schools — four in Michigan and four in North Carolina, Lud said.

Responding to the low instructional support grade, Lud said the study was conducted in the fall at a time when areas like classroom organization and behavior management are just starting to take hold.

"You have to have the first two pieces (emotional and classroom support) in place to get to the third (instructional support), then you can deliver curriculum," she said. "There needs to be a lot of student engagement and interactions socially and then you can teach."

Lud said overall it was an area of weakness, but the timing of the study may have had something to do with the lower score. However, she said the district is not ignor-

ing or discounting the lower grades. Lud said action plans are being developed in the schools to improve that particular area.

"I was pleasantly surprised that so many areas were as high as they were," said Stanton, the fourth-grade teacher at Mt. Hope Elementary. "I have an idea of where to start to improve my practice. The other area, of course, is including more higher-level thinking, or working at getting my students to a point where they can get to some higher level thinking."

Analysis and inquiry, one of the dimensions looked at under instructional support, covers higher level thinking skills and was the lowest grade on average for the district at 2.09. Higher-level thinking skills mean being able to assert an opinion and having the ability to back it up with facts. For example: predicting what would happen if a variable were changed in a science experiment.

Stanton said getting students to push themselves in the higher-level thinking skills is not a quick fix, but a longer process of learning. She said it's one of the more difficult areas of teaching.

"In terms of higher-level thinking, we have to get them to that point, we have to keep supporting their efforts and their learning," she said. "Some kids get so frustrated when things are hard. We can't just jump to that point. We have to support them along the way. That's not always easy."

With the study in hand, Stanton said the positive results were reassuring that teachers are doing certain aspects of their jobs beyond par, while also giving them an idea of where they need to improve. She said the depth of the study should reassure parents that the schools are taking professional development seriously.

"If I could show (parents) our averages by school, I would certainly point out the things we're very strong in," Stanton said. "I think we get a negative wrap a lot of times in the Lansing School District. I think there are a lot of things we do very well. I think parents would be happy to know that we've dug this deep into our practice to help their student improve."

— Sam Ingot



## F\*ck the NRA



GUEST COLUMN

ARI LEVAUX

The National Rifle Association claims to be the largest pro-hunting organization in the world. But as a hunter, the NRA couldn't represent me less. And as a human being, I object to being associated with

those bullies. The NRA is not for hunters, any more than AAA is for bicyclists. Sure, some hunters are NRA members, but first

and foremost the NRA serves gun fetishists and the firearms industry. In 2011, nearly 14 million Americans hunted, while NRA members number about 4 million — fewer than half of whom actually hunt.

Unlike a lot of gun fetishists, hunters actually use their guns as the killing tools that they are. I don't shoot for the joy of killing, or for the thrill of a loud explosion an inch from my head. The gun is not a toy that we have a constitutional right to play with, but a tool to which we're guaranteed access.

While most hunters don't have the firearms experience or training of law enforcement or military personnel, a hunter's experience nonetheless imparts a significant level of competence with a gun. Hunters feel the jitters while trying to shoot, and we shoot in all kinds of uncomfortable and less than ideal circumstances. We've seen what bullets can do to a body. We can contemplate, in a somewhat informed way, questions like how or if an armed civilian might stop a mass murder. And if for some reason a non-government militia had to be organized, it would doubtless be composed largely of hunters, along with military veterans and, of course, the gun freaks.

The NRA wants desperately to welcome more hunters into its ranks, but fewer than one in five hunters are members, and most hunters who haven't joined by now probably won't. Like me, many hunters consider the NRA a bunch of paranoid loonies, with an increasing volume of innocent blood on their hands.

When I say "Fuck the NRA," as I do quite often lately, it's for a host of reasons both personal and political, but has nothing to do with my feelings for guns or the 2nd Amendment.

The very fact that it's kind of scary to say "Fuck the NRA" is one of the biggest reasons to say it. It's a bullying organization, quick to use language like "traitor." NRA members have a lot of guns, and the organization appears to keep track of who does and says what. Ask any politician or gun-control activist. The Big Brother-style intimidation tactics extend to individual hunters like myself.

When I take my gun to the store to get it worked on, the information slip I fill out includes a line for my NRA number — despite the fact that only about 4 percent of gun owners are NRA members. Will the gunsmith treat my gun with less love if I leave that line blank? Does the NRA keep track of who services which gun, even as it decries federal attempts to keep track of guns? I face the same blank field requesting my NRA number when I buy a membership at my local shooting range — some ranges won't sell membership to non-NRA ranges.

Among Americans with experience using guns as weapons, rather than as toys, compare 14 million hunters with 3 million active and reserve military, a million police officers, and 7 million military veterans with combat experience. Of course, there is some crossover among these groups. And again, hunters have the least amount of formal firearms training. But in terms of

votes, any way you slice it, there is no larger population of Americans with experience shooting at things than hunters. The NRA doesn't speak for us; we need to speak for ourselves.

Fewer than one in five hunters is an NRA member. So how is it that the NRA has so much power, and the seeming ability to control politicians like marionettes? Money, of course. More than can be raised from membership dues and bake sales alone. Between 2005 and 2010, the NRA took in about \$40 million from the nation's gun manufacturers, according to the Violence Policy Center.

Fear mongering is one of the best ways to create demand for guns, and nearly every piece of NRA propaganda does that. We need guns to protect us from the government, the UN, home intruders, strangers on the street. We all need to be armed! On the Monday following the Sandy Hook shootings, a Utah sixth-grader took a pistol to elementary school, for "protection."

Obama's re-election has been an absolute bonanza for the industry, as was his initial election. But he can't get re-elected again, despite what the conspiracy theorists might tell you. That reality, combined with the unprecedented national trauma and soul-searching that Sandy Hook has inspired, could spell tough times ahead for the gun industry. Stock in publically traded gun manufacturers like Ruger, which makes my hunting rifle, have been punished since Sandy Hook.

On the Tuesday after the shooting, Cerberus Capitol Management announced it was selling its 95 percent stake in The Freedom Group, a privately held conglomerate whose companies include some of the world's largest weapons manufacturers, including Remington, Barnes bullets and Bushmaster, which makes the AR-15 assault rifle used by Adam Lanza.

Could a hunter — or some other armed citizen — have prevented the Sandy Hook shootings? Such a thing has not happened in at least 30 years, according to a recent study by Mother Jones, which looked at 62 mass shootings in the last 30 years, "In not a single case was the killing stopped by a civilian using a gun ... in recent rampages in which armed civilians attempted to intervene, they not only failed to stop the shooter but also were gravely wounded or killed."

Meanwhile, a growing body of evidence supports the observation that gun owners and their families are more likely to be shot by their own guns than to successfully repel attackers with them. In pretending otherwise, the NRA is selling the myth of security while it sells public safety down the river.

The NRA needs hunters a lot more than hunters need the NRA. And the nation needs the opinions of hunters more than it needs the opinion of the NRA. Hunters are intermediaries between government armed forces and private citizens. We are armed citizens, who know what guns can do, and if sensible gun-control policy is ever to be pursued, hunters need to be part of the conversation.

And we can start by saying: "Fuck the NRA."

*(Ari LeVaux is the author of the syndicated weekly food column, Flash in the Pan, which has appeared in over 50 newspapers in 21 states.)*



## What have we learned?

So what have we learned?

The question is always appropriate at year's end, especially at the end of a year of contention, dissension and even some significant steps forward.



WALT SORG

We learned that voters are often smarter than some politicians think they are. Nowhere was this more obvious than in the \$35 million mistake of billionaire Matty Maroun's one-rich-guy effort to buy a self-serving consti-

tutional amendment that would enshrine his international bridge monopoly in the state's Constitution.

Maroun's ads flooded television screens for months, his mailers bombarded voters for weeks prior to the election, all urging an amendment to "let the voters decide." They decided all right. Nearly 60 percent decided against Maroun's amendment.

We learned that when Rick Snyder says something "is not on my agenda," that means "not now." His after-the-election embrace of anti-union right-to-work laws is seen by many as something Snyder always was willing to do. He just wanted to do it in a way that minimized the political damage.

There's little doubt about the political damage, at least in the short term. Recent polling shows voters opposing the new law 51 percent to 41 percent, and Snyder's disapproval rating makes him one of America's most unpopular governors. Snyder's hope: With two years until the next election, the anger will recede.

We learned that anger and frustration will not sustain a political movement. The Tea Party was birthed on those two characteristics.

Locally that was most visible in Delhi Township in the battle over a pro-environment change in sewage treatment. The plan to dry sludge and sell it as fuel for power plants (rather than pay farmers to use it as fertilizer) created a political storm in Holt and environs. A referendum overturned the proposed plant 58 percent to 42 percent; the Tea Party then ousted

Republican Supervisor Stuart Goodrich in the primary because of his pro-sludge-dryer vote.

By November, the anger had faded. The Delhi Tea Party slate lost. The sole Republican survivor on the Delhi board was moderate John Hayhoe, with Democrats sweeping the rest of the ticket.

We learned this year that talking about regionalism is easier said than done. Both Rick Snyder and Mayor Virg Bernero spoke favorably of the concept in the 2010 campaign, and some baby steps have been taken. Some sharing agreements are in place, but as the year ends, East Lansing officials are talking about ending the sharing of a fire chief with Lansing. The turf wars continue, and we continue to have more layers of government than we need.

We learned that party affiliation is sometimes more important than honesty and/or ethics. In Wayne County, voters overwhelmingly chose Harper Woods Democrat Brian Banks as state Representative despite eight felony convictions for bad checks and credit card fraud.

And Republican House Speaker Jase Bolger won reelection despite trying to rig a House election. Bolger conspired with party-switching Rep. Roy Schmidt to field a fake Democratic opponent for Schmidt to insure his reelection. (To their credit, the voters dumped Schmidt.) The case is the subject of a one-judge Ingham County grand jury investigation although few expect Bolger to face criminal charges.

And while on the subject of Bolger, we learned that complying with the state's Constitution is optional when you are speaker of the House. Bolger repeat-

edly ignored shouts of protest from Democrats to allow controversial laws to take "immediate effect" even though "immediate effect" requires a two-thirds vote of the members, Bolger didn't have the votes, but he did have the gavel. That was enough to speed implementation of the unpopular Emergency Financial Manager law.

Less we forget any positive lessons from 2012, we learned that President Obama's economic recovery program (or, as Republicans like to say, "the failed stimulus") actually worked. Michigan's unemployment rate, which peaked at 14.2 percent, has been cut by one-third since August 2009 (yes, the recovery began 16 months before Jennifer Granholm left office!). However, despite the rush of "pro-business, pro-job" laws passed by the Legislature, the Michigan recovery has stalled: We started 2012 with 9 percent unemployed and we're ending it with 9.1 percent looking for work.

We also learned that bipartisan cooperation (as rare as it is) can be a good thing. Michigan's congressional delegation, led by U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow and U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers, fought to save full funding for the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, a \$600-million project that will enhance MSU's world leadership in nuclear physics and be a huge boost to the area's economy.

On a personal note, I learned in 2012 that there are worse things than losing an election. Running for office is a privilege. To the 1,678 people who voted for me and to those folks from outside the district who helped in so many ways, thank you for your trust and support.

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Wednesday, January 15, 2013** at 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, to consider the following:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1284, a City initiated ordinance to amend Section 50-61 – of Division 2 – Article II – Administration and Enforcement – of Chapter 50 – Zoning – of the Code of the City of East Lansing to increase the number of Zoning Board of Appeals members from 6 to 7 persons.
2. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1285, a City initiated ordinance to amend Section 50-7 – Article I – In General, Section 50-94 of Division 3 – Article II – Administrative Enforcement, Section 50-222 of Division 2 – Article IV – Single-Family and Two-Family Residential District, and Section 50-382 of Division 2 – Article V – Multiple-Family Residential Districts – of Chapter 50 – Zoning – of the Code of the City of East Lansing to add regulations for household pet daycares.
3. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1256, a City initiated ordinance to establish guidelines for Alternative Energy Generation Systems in the City of East Lansing.
4. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from City Center Two Project, LLC and Cada Investment Group, LLC for Site Plan and Special Use Permit approval for the properties at 100 and 124-140 West Grand River Avenue to construct two, four story mixed-use buildings. The property is zoned B-3, City Center Commercial District.
5. Ordinance No. 1288; an ordinance that amends exemptions for a rental license in the housing code.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable accommodations, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at this meeting, upon notice to the City of East Lansing, prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations or services should write or call the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 319-6920, TDD 1-800-649-3777.

Marie E. McKenna  
City Clerk

# ⋮⋮⋮ Ten Who Died in 2012

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

*"Everyone is growing old around me/they talk about it constantly...they read obituaries before sports/they recognize some names and mention them...they have a way of staying sober."*

—From "A Gift," by Lansing poet Robert Rentschler, who died Sept. 1.

It wasn't hard to gather 10 Lansing-area people who died in 2012 into this year-end bouquet. Only three rules were needed. First, I only picked interesting people, which was no problem, because everyone is. Second, I wanted a variety of lives, not just the prominent or powerful. Death generously obliged. I hope the reader will forgive a third rule, which might seem arbitrary. After plowing through thousands of obituaries, I resolved not to permit a single mention of golf, whether on Earth or in heaven. It was the hardest rule to follow, but I stuck to it.

**Robert Rentschler**  
(April 3, 1927-Sept. 1, 2012)



Courtesy Photo

Poet Robert Rentschler did one of his last readings in a hospital gown that was uncomfortably loose — for the audience.

Dignity was not a priority for Robert Rentschler. In February, the MSU professor and longtime Lansing poet dealt with looming health problems in typical form. He appeared at a Creole Gallery poetry recital in a hospital gown, holding what appeared to be a urine sample. (Nobody cared to verify.) Depending on where you sat that night, the loosely clothed poet revealed more than his soul.

"He wasn't afraid to show his bare ass," fellow poet Sam Mills said. Another Lansing poet, Ruelaine Stokes, said Rentschler "was just thumbing his nose at death and sickness and age." In early summer, a persistent sore throat was diagnosed as fast-spreading cancer, and by September he was dead at 85.

Stokes organized countless readings with Rentschler and other area poets, going back to the 1970s. The scene changed over the years, but Rentschler was always there, at the old coffee house poetry series at Hearthstone Bakery on the east side, at open mic nights at Hobie's in East Lansing, and at many readings at the Creole. "He could be incredibly moving when he read," Stokes said. "He would dress as Walt Whitman or other poets and become them." Rentschler's own poetry was often political, but with a lemon

twist of wit: "I give all my loose change to the braless revolution." Haikus were a favorite form: "The ducks are back/they're sizing up the pond/for sex." In a poem called "Fun With Dick and Jane," a sixth grade teacher shows his class how to make a pipe bomb. A helpful list of "new words" follows the poem: "Beard, ponytail, wild look."

"As a poet, he was pretty fearless," Mills said. "His humor could be dark or startling, but always with a lot of heart."

At Edgewood United Church in East Lansing, Rentschler dragged everyone named Robert into a performing group called The Bobs. They danced "Swan Lake" as "Bob Lake," with Rentschler as lead ballerina. He was also member of a clown troupe, under the name Bibity Bob. ("A clown is a poet who is also an orangutan," he wrote.) The humor helped him cope with personal tragedy: a daughter, Carol, died of AIDS, and his wife, Marilyn, died of Alzheimer's. Later in life, Rentschler re-connected with a high school sweetheart and they did a lot of traveling together. "I dig girls in granny glasses/their hair combed sometime yesterday," he wrote in a late poem. "He was having a great time," Mills recalled. The program for Rentschler's "black-clothing-optional" memorial service at Edgewood bore his favorite motto: "Do something intentionally foolish every day."

**Helen P. Shepherd**  
(June 2, 1927-Sept. 18, 2012)



Courtesy Photo

Helen Shepherd was a waitress for 45 years, outlasting several Old Town restaurants, but her customers had only three names: "honey," "babe" and "sweetheart."

Helen Shepherd poured at least 5 million cups of coffee in her 45-year run as a waitress, mostly in North Lansing, and that is a conservative estimate. Shepherd grew up in north Lansing and lived there most of her life. She started waitressing in her teens. Her son, Paul Allen, said she never wanted to do anything else. She worked at long-vanished joints like The Eat Shop and Bill's Lunch, both in the heart of what is now Old Town, and The Clock (now Gregory's Bar). "She outlasted all of them," Allen said. Instead of using names, she called everyone "honey," "babe" or "sweetheart." "When you ordered something, she didn't just walk from the table to the kitchen," Allen said. "It was almost like a trot." Shepherd went through three husbands, two of them named Bob, and a long-term boyfriend. "It was a

rough life," Allen said, "but my mom definitely loved life. If she was broke, she'd borrow a dollar to give it to a perfect stranger." Money was tight when the kids were young, but she always gave them a choice at Christmas: one big thing or a lot of little things. One year, all three of her kids got Chicago skates. "Those weren't cheap," Allen said. "They were 40 bucks a pair 40 years ago."

Shepherd didn't smoke, but she was a fanatical collector of "Marlboro Miles," a popular proof-of-purchase promotion that ran for decades. She would stop the car and pick up a Marlboro package in the middle of the road to get the five miles on the side of the box. "She had to cut them up so perfect and paper clip them together, 100 miles in a stack," Allen said. When she had enough miles to cash in for merchandise, she took orders from friends and proudly handed out the gifts.

Shepherd's last waitress gig was at Don's Windmill Truck Stop near Dimondale. Her son tried in vain to get her to slow down. "Ma, the floor is damp in spots," he told her. "They want their coffee, but they don't expect you to run."

In the late 1980s, she finally retired to a recliner, "The Young and the Restless" and WWE Wrestling. She died suddenly, probably from a blood clot in her lung, Sept. 18 at 85.

Shepherd was the kind of waitress who customers followed from restaurant to restaurant — and beyond. At her funeral, Allen watched a "little old man" totter to the casket, tears in his eyes, and touch his mother's hand. Nobody in the family recognized him. Gazing at the casket, the man apologized that his wife was in the hospital and couldn't come. "He was a customer at Don's," Allen said.

**Genevieve "Gen" Parker**  
(Jan. 2, 1919-June 6, 2012)



Courtesy Photo

Genevieve "Gen" Parker had a flair for interior decoration that impressed Eleanor Roosevelt on a visit to an MSU dorm in the early 1940s.

About two years ago, Paula Stone and her 93-year-old mother, Genevieve "Gen" Parker, were taking a joyride around the Michigan State University campus. As they drove by Campbell Hall, where Parker was a student in



# Ten Who Died

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the early 1940s, Parker tossed off a tidbit of information that was new to her daughter.

“Did I ever tell you about the time Eleanor Roosevelt visited my room?” she asked.

“I almost drove off the road,” Stone said.

Parker, a teacher, died June 6 at 93.

On a 1941 visit to the MSU campus, the First Lady decided to see what the women’s dorms were like. The house mother at Campbell Hall chose Parker’s room.

“She knew how to act,” Stone said of her mother. “And her room was always immaculate and beautifully decorated.”

Parker told Stone she was impressed by Mrs. Roosevelt’s hands. “If you look at her official portrait in the White House, it features her hands, which were very expressive when she spoke,” Stone said. Stone had occasion to see that White House portrait as Michigan’s first lady. She was married to former Michigan Gov. James Blanchard from 1966 to 1987 — not that her mother was impressed.

“The governor’s residence was too modern and she didn’t like the way it was decorated,” Stone said. In Blanchard’s time, it was full of Chinese screens and urns, the last thing she would have chosen for herself. Nor was Parker much impressed that her son-in-law was governor. “She didn’t think much of politicians,” Stone said.

When Gen Parker was 6 years old, her father died from tuberculosis he had contracted fighting in France during World War I. Mother and daughter suddenly had to fend for themselves. “She grew up to be very sensible, practical and self-sufficient,” Stone said. Parker was married to her high school sweetheart, William, for 64 years. She interrupted her teaching career for a while when her kids were young, but wasn’t thrilled about it. “She didn’t like staying home,” Stone said. “She made it clear to me that she liked working.” She impressed the rule of self-reliance on her daughter.

Parker taught for many years at Clarkston Junior High School, teaching geography, science and home economics in 7th and 8th grade. “Your mother’s hard,” the kids told Paula, who was also a student there, but avoided her mother’s classes. Bill and Gen Parker moved to Lansing in 1992 to be closer to family. Though retired, they both volunteered at Ingham Regional Medical Center and maintained a lively social whirl. “She was a very strong feminist, although she never called herself that,” Stone said. “She was a such a remarkable person, but she didn’t think of herself that way at all.”

## Rawle Irvine Hollingsworth (June 17, 1956-Feb. 29, 2012)

Rawle Hollingsworth wasn’t a household name, but he was a world changer. He found new ways to synthesize complex chemicals needed to manufacture life-saving drugs, had a killer smile, and, yes, even developed a new generation of rocket fuel. He held over 50 U.S. and international patents. Everyone who knew him — including his wife, Saleela — speaks of him with awe. “Every now and again, you have a life that shows up, and is a force to be reckoned with,” Saleela said. “He was super-brilliant and so kind.” After giving a course lecture at MSU Feb. 29, Hollingsworth collapsed in the hallway near his office, was rushed to Sparrow Hospital and died the same day, at age 55, from pulmonary emboli in both lungs.

“He had no idea it was coming,” Saleela said.

MSU microbiology prof Frank Dazzo recruited Hollingsworth to MSU and became a close friend.

“He did the impossible in pharmaceutical chemistry,” Dazzo said. “He revolutionized the field.” Hollingsworth met Saleela while they both were studying in grad school in Jamaica. He came from Barbados; she was from India. They

came to MSU in 1983 to work in Dazzo’s lab, and were married soon after. “I’m amazed that one person could know so much,” Saleela said. He even studied women’s fashions and designed Saleela’s clothes in Jamaica, where material was cheap. Later, he loved to share erudite in-jokes with their precocious kids, Nisha and Akhil, and wait good-naturedly for the humor to dawn on Mom. He listened avidly to music, from Motown to Tom Waits to Sufjan Stevens to Debussy, and painted landscapes from photos he took. A large canvas he painted of a sunset over the Red Cedar River hangs in their house.

It’s impossible to stuff Hollingsworth’s vast scientific legacy in nutshell. Dazzo said he found new and better ways to synthesize key compounds that are used “by the trainload” in the pharmaceutical industry, at doubled efficiency. “Cholesterol, diabetes, Alzheimer’s — you name it, he was involved in researching it,” Dazzo said. He was also an entrepreneur, starting up two research companies at the Michigan Biotechnology Institute in Lansing. Alone, Dazzo said, Hollingsworth did things that larger teams of better-equipped researchers couldn’t do. He got many offers to work elsewhere, including MIT and Harvard, but liked MSU and his friends here.

Hollingsworth took time to enjoy pop culture gems like “SpongeBob” and “Breaking Bad” (about a chemistry teacher who cooks illegal drugs) but he pushed himself hard. After dinner parties with colleagues, he would go back to the lab, alone, to resume work. Saleela cherishes the memory of a family trip to Malta in 2000. “It was so peaceful,” she said. “He had time to just sit with us and talk.” When Nisha went to college to study chemistry at Columbia University, they talked every night on the phone, about science, music and fashion. “He was interested in everything,” Nisha said. “I couldn’t ask for a more remarkable father.” Saleela speculated, with bittersweet irony, whether Rawle somehow managed to pick Feb. 29 to die. For one thing, she said, February is Black History Month, and she is proud to commend her husband to history. “But he’s also one of those people who didn’t want to be in the limelight,” she said. “Even his death — it’s every four years, really.”



Photo by G.L. Kohuth, Michigan State University

MSU’s Rawle Hollingsworth was one of the world’s most brilliant chemists, earned over 50 patents, developed a new rocket fuel, designed women’s clothes and liked “SpongeBob.”

## Charles “Chuck” Baryames (Feb. 14, 1921-Aug. 1, 2012)



Photo by G.L. Kohuth, Michigan State University

Chuck Baryames started work at a shoeshine stand, took part in D-Day and built a dry cleaning empire based in Lansing.

The life of Chuck Baryames followed the classic GI arc: shine shoes, defeat the Axis, marry one gal for life and build the world we live in. Lansing’s dry-cleaning king was born in Chicago, where his father, Art Sr., owned a pool hall, and moved to Lansing as a toddler. (When Art Sr. got pneumonia, the doctors told him to get out of the pool hall.) In the 1920s and 1930s, Chuck grew up working at his dad’s next business, the National Hat Shop and Newsstand at the corner of Washtenaw Street and Washington Square in downtown Lansing. There was a shoeshine stand, a soda fountain and a newsstand. Hats were blocked and suits were pressed. Chuck gladly worked on Christmas for the big tips.

Baryames went to MSU as an ROTC student in 1939. His graduation class trip was a ticket to the biggest marine invasion in history. As Army artillery field commander, he trundled onto Omaha Beach in Normandy, France, the day after D-Day. A sniper shot him in the arm during a tank battle at St. Lo, France, four days later, but he quickly rejoined the 29th Division and rolled into Germany.

Back in Lansing, he opened a bar with his brother, but didn’t like the business, so they opened the first dry cleaning outlet in Lansing, downtown. He married Rosalie in 1950; they were married until his death. The family and dry cleaning business grew to five kids and 19 stores. Early on, a competitor opened a dry cleaner next door to the main office on South Cedar Street. “My dad drove him out of business in a year,” daughter Katina said proudly. “He wasn’t ruthless, but he was competitive.”

As Chuck slowed down, Art took over the cleaning business and Katina took over the tux shops. Katina said her dad had a “special respect” for women in the business world and encouraged all four of his daughters to pursue careers. As Chuck delegated more work, he found time for sailing, skiing, tennis, plays and symphonies, and a lot of travel. He wasn’t interested in Ugly American package tours. He intensely studied places like Russia and the Nile Valley and made out his own itinerary. When the U.S. boycotted the 1980 Moscow Olympics, Baryames went anyway. He took the family to Tunisia to visit ancient Coptic Christian churches. “He was very respectful of the cultures, religions and peoples of the world,” Katina recalled.

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# Ten Who Died

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Later, Baryames savored that golden phase of GI life where the castle was finished and he could unwind after 5 with a newspaper and Scotch. In 1995, Art took his dad to the 50th anniversary of D-Day at the state Capitol. Needless to say, the uniform was clean. "It still fit," Art said.

**Hazel A. Trebilcock**  
(July 31, 1911-June 11, 2012)



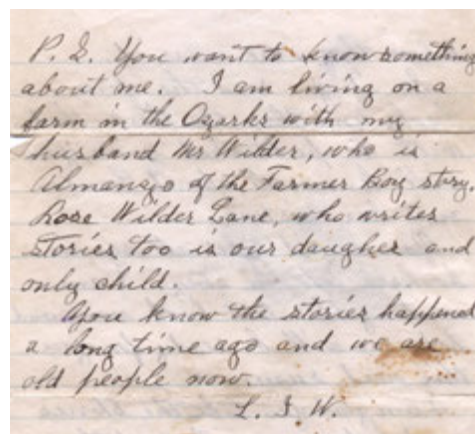
Courtesy Photo

As principal of Bingham Elementary School in Lansing, Hazel Trebilcock cooled unruly students off by ordering them on the floor for a forced nap.

Hazel Trebilcock owed her first teaching job in Lansing to a rule most people would now consider outrageous: She subbed for a woman who was fired for getting married. Hazel was herself married at the time, but the appointment was considered temporary. Soon after, the district's policy of hiring only unmarried women was lifted and Hazel became the first permanent married teacher in Lansing — or so she told her niece. Trebilcock died June 11 at 100 years

old, with her niece, Delorus Burton, by her side. "I'm not going to be an old lady anymore," she told Burton the day before.

Trebilcock grew up on a farm near the tiny town of Ralph, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. As toddlers, she and her sister



Courtesy Photo

In the 1950s, Hazel Trebilcock's 6th grade class at Lansing's Everett School wrote letters to famous writers. "Little House on the Prairie" author Laura Ingalls Wilder answered with this poignant note.

would walk under the mules and buckle the harnesses from below. Each afternoon, she walked back to the family farm from the town's one-room schoolhouse and tutored her Slovenian immigrant parents in English — her first teaching gig. Before she was 18, she had a teaching certificate from Michigan Normal School, now Northern Michigan University in Marquette. She moved to Lansing in the late 1920s when her new husband, Fred, got a job at the REO automobile factory.

When a student had a birthday, she loved to put on vivid red lipstick and give students an indelible kiss on the cheek.

In the mid-1950s, she gave her 6th grade Everett High School students the assignment of writing to their favorite authors. All of them, including "Little House on the Prairie" author Laura Ingalls Wilder, wrote back. ("You know the stories happened a long time ago and we are all old people now," Wilder wrote.) Burton found the letters in Aunt Hazel's basement and donated them to the Capital Area District

Library. (You can view the scans at [www.cadl.org/answers/local-history](http://www.cadl.org/answers/local-history)). Later in her career, she became principal of Bingham Elementary, where she would summon unruly kids to the nurse's office and order them to lay on the floor for 15 minutes. They usually fell asleep for an hour and returned to class refreshed. Aside from visits to the U.P., Fred didn't like to go far from their little bungalow on Teel Avenue on Lansing's south side. Hazel played along with that until her husband died in 1977. At 76, Hazel went on a binge of exploration. She went to China, Greece, Egypt, the Falkland Islands, Antarctica. She cruised up the Amazon and hopped a mail boat through the fjords of Norway. After that, there was bridge, needlepoint and 30 years of volunteer work at the Sparrow Hospital Gift Shop. She had a seizure at 93, moved to an assisted living facility, and moved to a nursing home three years ago as the odometer neared 100. "I think it was a goal," Burton said. "When she reached that goal, she won."

**J.D. Washburn**  
(April 24, 1923-Oct. 5, 2012)



Courtesy Photo

J.D. Washburn flew 52 missions over the South Pacific, ran several farms near St. Johns, never had a TV, visited elderly shut-ins in his spare time and loved pecan pie.

J.D. Washburn spent a lot of his time reading the sky, scanning cloud formations and checking the barometer. A farmer's fortune is written in the sky in an invisible and elusive hand. Washburn, who died Oct. 5 at 89, never had a TV. He spent Sundays

writing letters to friends and evenings visiting neighbors and elderly shut-ins near his five farms in St. Johns, building up enough good will to draw a thousand people to his funeral. "He was slow to speak and slow to judge," his daughter, Rita, recalled. In the 1930s, Washburn went to 10 schools in 11 years, following his truck-driver dad as he scabbled for work in northern Michigan. He quit school and found work in Detroit to help the family, but couldn't stay on the sidelines of World War II and enlisted in the Air Force in 1942. (During basic training in Atlantic City, his outfit was told to break cadence and walk out of step to protect the Boardwalk.) He survived 52 missions in the South Pacific as navigator, a hellish crucible that strengthened his religious faith. For the rest of his life, he read little but the Bible and World War II histories. After the war, he headed to Lansing to be near his sister and ended up marrying her best friend, Nellie. At the wedding, bubbles poured out of the organ at Duplain Church of Christ near St. John's. They were married 66 years. Washburn started with 80 acres and expanded over the years, but hedged his bets with Mother Nature by keeping a job at the John Bean Co., a hulking pump factory that still dominates Lansing's near south side. The cash crops were navy beans, light and dark kidney beans, corn, wheat and soy. Two sons, Kam and Dan, and two daughters, Rita and Dee, helped on the farm. Rita raked hay, but the privilege of plowing was left to her sister. Washburn was proud of his now-antique John Deere A tractor (the first model with rubber tires) and John Deere B, with hand crank and hand clutch. "He'd open up the field and let her plow," Rita, the hay raker, said without evident rancor. Before mechanization, the whole family was drafted to pull weeds from the bean fields. "A lot of people would think that's a drag, but it wasn't," Rita said. They would race to finish their rows and feast like oxen afterwards. Washburn didn't show much emotion, but he loved it when Rita made him pecan pie. "Always take advantage of free food from the kids," he would say. "He was comfortable to be around," Rita said. "Some people keep you guessing, but you knew where he stood with him."

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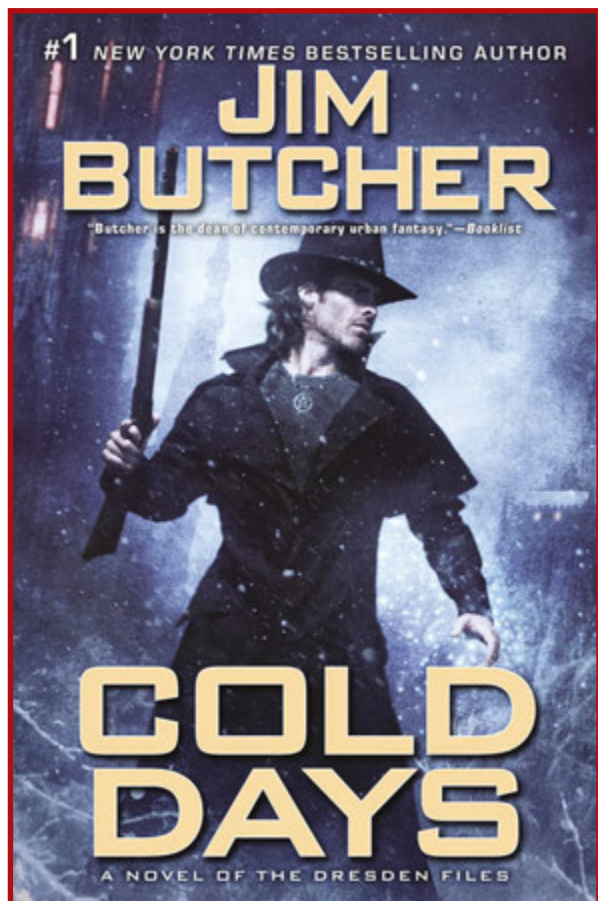
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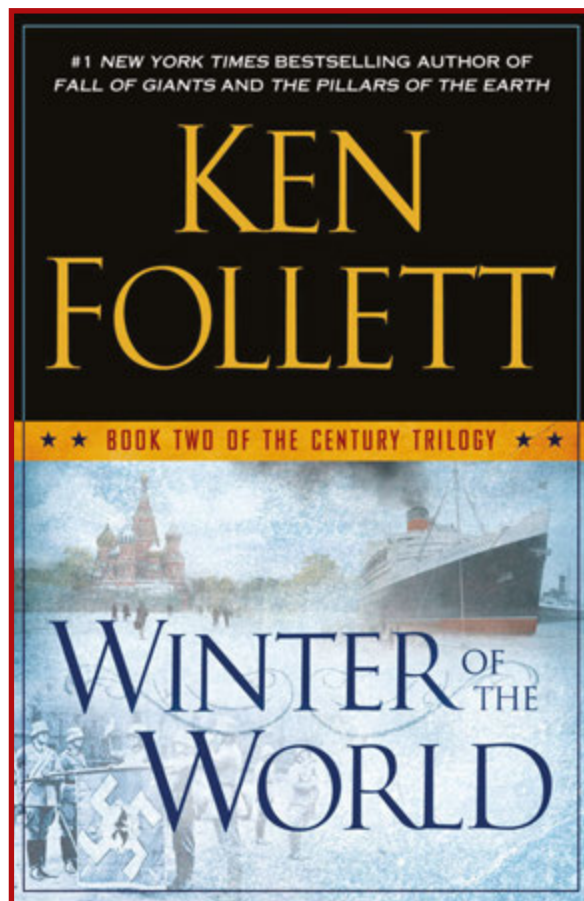
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# Ten Who Died

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**Julia Laycock**  
(July 30, 1915-Jan. 10, 2012)



Courtesy Photo

A strong-willed daughter of Mexican migrant workers, Julia Laycock was a maid at Lansing's premium Roosevelt Hotel, saved up to buy her own home, walked everywhere and was still raking her own leaves at 95.

More than once, during Julia Laycock's last autumn, her son, Michael, caught her raking leaves in the front yard. She waved off his offers of help until her health finally failed and she died Jan. 10 at 96. "She was neither an optimist nor a pessimist, but a realist," Michael said. "She wasn't a famous person, just a person who got through life." Julia, daughter of ramrod-tough Mexican migrant workers, lived alone for decades in a small house in the Hosmer neighborhood. She owned her house and proudly supported herself with cheap food gleaned on daily walks to the Family Dollar on East Michigan Avenue. She got her work ethic from her father, Gregorio Medina of Catorce, Mexico. Five months after Julia was born in July 1915, Medina took his young family across the border to Texas. There, Gregorio literally broke his back in the mines, ending up in traction for 44 days. In 1942, Gregorio took his family to St. Johns to work the sugar beet fields around Lansing with other migrant workers. In the 1940s and 1950s, Laycock worked as a maid at Lansing's premier Hotel Roosevelt. She had a husband back then, Waldo Laycock, who drank too much and beat her. "There were some really tough times there," Michael said. When Waldo threw

Julia down a flight of stairs, she divorced him and was cured of marriage for life. Later, Julia made up beds at Sparrow Hospital, walking to work in all weather. She walked downtown to shop and never got a driver's license. By the mid-1970s, she had enough to pay off the mortgage on her own house. After she died, her kids found trunks full of cash in her house. "She was very independent," Michael said. "I visited her at least once a week, but it was pretty much, 'Don't bug me, I'm fine, I don't need your help.'" When she was mugged in front of her house, she shrugged it off and kept on walking the neighborhood, carrying a tiny coin purse. Once Michael took her on an ill-fated trip to Meijer. She scrutinized every product and price in the cereal aisle for a half hour. "She didn't buy a thing," Michael said. "The deals weren't good enough."

Spanish-language TV was Julia's biggest indulgence. Her only fear was that some day she would be deported to Mexico. In her 90s, she insisted that a visiting nurse sign a paper promising she could stay in the United States.

Lacking a car, she didn't travel much. Years ago, one of Julia's boyfriends drove Julia and Michael to the north end of the Mackinac Bridge, where a huge rock juts out of the Straits. "She got up on that rock and looked over at the bridge and the lake," Michael said. "It was one of the few times I've seen her really, really happy."

**Marilyn Steegstra**  
(1939-June 21, 2012)



Courtesy Photo

Marilyn Steegstra, a mainstay of Lansing theater for 50 years, struts in "Company" at the Okemos Barn Theatre in 1981.

Lansing's hungry theater community subsisted for decades on food supplied by actress Marilyn Steegstra, but actor/director Ken Beachler declined to stand for an ovation. Beachler lumped Steegstra's baked goods with her prop making skills. "She made cookies that looked like cookies but didn't taste like cookies," he said. That kind of backstage backbiting, taken beyond the grave, can only mean love. Steegstra, who died June 21 at age 73, never married and had no children, but her extended theater family ran well into the hundreds. The actress, producer and jill-of-all-trades held a day gig as English teacher at Lansing Eastern High School for 39 years, but her life was the theater. She started out as a versatile leading actress in dramas, comedies and musicals,

eased into character roles with the passing years, and never stopped finding ways to be indispensable. As late as 2010, she spent hundreds of hours fielding reservations for Riverwalk Theatre manager Mike Syracuse. "She worked constantly and the woman never was paid anything," Syracuse marveled. Younger audiences know Steegstra from her later, broader roles, especially in children's shows, but Beachler knew Steegstra from her high school years in Grand Rapids. By the time Beachler started working at the Okemos Barn Theatre in the late 1960s, Steegstra had moved to Lansing to go to MSU and never left the area. "We were lucky," Beachler said. One of Beachler's first shows as director was Lillian Hellman's "The Little Foxes," with Steegstra in the lead role of husband-killing Regina. Later, she played poet Dylan Thomas' American girlfriend in Sidney Michaels' "Dylan." "She was not broad in those shows," Beachler said. Longtime director and Riverwalk mainstay Bill Helder was floored by Steegstra's intensity in "Foxes." "You can't get much more evil than that," he said. Steegstra also made properties (including stage food) for Beachler and other directors many times, and planned to do the props for Riverwalk's "Fortinbras" in Fall 2010 before falling ill and bowing out.

Steegstra performed in countless children's shows and directed many others, especially as she aged out of leading lady range. The multigenerational experience of theater gave her a rich family life. Her roles as The Cookie Witch and the Bake Sale Witch played to her other famous skill as nightly bringer of treats. The curious thing, Syracuse said, is that Steegstra never ate them herself — to stay trim, he guessed, and perhaps get the drop on her fellow actresses at the next casting call.

**Cameron "Big Perm" Doyle**  
(Aug. 9, 1977-June 2, 2012)

Lansing hip-hop artist Cameron "Big Perm" Doyle was intimate with loss. His best friend, Ygnacio "Notch" Bermudez, was shot and killed outside The Loft nightclub in fall 2011. Perm was a formidable battle rapper in an art that demands ready bluff, but it took him several months to process Notch's death in his lyrics. "I seen people heartbroken before, but that really broke Perm's heart," Doyle's friend, Lansing promoter SINcere, recalled. When Perm finally released his tribute, "Gone," in late April, he dedicated the song to "anybody that lost somebody" and dropped the bravado. In a spoken intro, he asked for Notch's (and the listener's) patience: "I miss you/Took me a little bit of time before I figured out how I wanted to do this/and I still ain't sure if I got it right/But I know everybody going to understand/this shit from the heart." He rapped out his grief for his friend over a haunting question-and-answer melody that closed at the end of each line like a moth's wings. "I can't believe it went down like that/Just wish that I could have had



Courtesy Photo

Cameron "Big Perm" Doyle was a formidable battle rapper but helped many aspiring performers get their first gigs.

you back," goes the chorus. SINcere was struck with Big Perm's unusual presence at a show in 1997, when it was still rare to hear live hip-hop in Lansing: "He was a big guy, but not only that. His overall talent, his music, you could feel it." Doyle came to Lansing from Louisiana as a teenager, started rhyiming with a karaoke machine and was invited to rap at house parties as his reputation spread. (A high school friend thought he looked like Big Perm, from the 1995 Ice Cube film "Friday." The name stuck, although Doyle said it wouldn't have been his first choice.) After putting out his first mix tape in 2005, Perm climbed to the top of the Lansing rap scene, opening for superstar Ludacris at the Common Ground Music Festival and starting his own company. He wasn't the kind of performer who pulled the steps away as he went upward. "I think nobody put more people on stage around here," SINcere said.

On June 2, less than two months after recording his tribute to "Notch," Big Perm had a sudden stroke and was rushed to Sparrow Hospital. Most of the Lansing hip-hop scene gathered in the hall, including SINcere. "I was there when they took him off life support," he said. "It was really, really difficult." Big Perm was 34 years old.

*"This is my life and everything ain't all good*

*Give my last dime to bring him back, I know we all would*

*It's nothing different than what's going on in y'all hood*

*And that's a damn shame, just know that I feel your pain."*

-from "Gone" by Big Perm

# Arts & Culture

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## 2012 WRAP-UP

## HERE WE ARE NOW, ENTERTAIN US

Looking back on the  
2012 ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT SCENE in Greater Lansing



Sam Inglot/City Pulse

The Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum opened on the campus of MSU last month.

### By ALLAN I. ROSS

Mid-Michigan got a ton of cool, new stuff this year. **The Eagle Monk Brewery** in Delta Township put beer lovers in good spirits, **Studio C!** in Okemos redefined upscale moviegoing and the **Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum** brought contemporary art to East Lansing in what is inarguably (and conservatively saying) the area's most distinctive-looking building.

Some innovative restaurants added to the mix, such as the creative/eclectic menu of **Red Haven** in Okemos and the carnivore's delight fare of **Meat** in Old Town. Additionally, **Eastwood Towne Center** expanded to include a new borough featuring specialty pizza parlor **Tony Sacco's** and Miami-minded nightclub **Bar 30**.

Of course, it wasn't just all about new business — plenty of engaging entertainment came our way, too. **The Wharton Center** hosted acclaimed NPR storyteller **Mike Birbiglia** and the powerhouse musical "**Million Dollar Quartet**." The **East Lansing Film Festival** brought international blockbusters "**The Intouchables**" and "**Headhunters**" to the area, while the visionary **Capital City Film Festival** fired on all cylinders with a combination of concerts, educational talks and, of course, independent, foreign and local movies.

The **Over the Ledge Theater Co.** moved into its new home in Grand Ledge, becoming Greater Lansing's latest addition to the richly diverse theater scene, and **Michigan State University** held the progressive "**Whom You Love: the biology of sexual orientation**" speaker series, which brought in experts from around North America to discuss how homosexuality is a natural part of the human experience. And then there was **Gino Federici**, a Las Vegas-honed crooner who threw his hat in the ring to be one of the area's distinguished performers in a dynamite concert at **REO Town's Art Alley** this fall.

So as we wait for the odometer to flip to

2013, some City Pulse staffers took a look back at what kept us entertained this year: the plays, the movies, the cultural events and a certain cooking school in Eaton Rapids.

### The ambition and the innovation

By MARY C. CUSACK

It's easy for Lansing-area audiences to take the phenomenal quality of live theater for granted. Even we reviewers get jaded and become negative nellys when analyzing individual shows. Writing a year-end wrap up puts it all back in perspective, reminding me that the Lansing theater scene rocks harder than New Year's Eve in Times Square, whether it's with Dick Clark (we miss ye already!) or Ryan Seacrest.

The year 2012 was one of innovation for local theater. Let's begin with **Rick Dethlefsen**, whose ambition puts him on par with **Michigan State University Department of Theatre's** workaholic **Rob Roznowski**. Dethlefsen directed back-to-back summer hits for Over the Ledge Theatre Company, beginning with "**The 39 Steps**." A talented cast with great comedic timing and a fantastic use of stage and props made the show a delight.

Dethlefsen followed that win with "**The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee**," which also featured a fantastic cast. **Doak Bloss** was hysterical as the patience-challenged vice principal, and **Shantel Hamilton** was heart-achingly beautiful as the abandoned Olive.

Meanwhile, Roznowski continued his bid for burnout dominance by directing two plays simultaneously, Chekhov's "**Three Sisters**" and a companion piece, "**Anton in Show Business**." Yes, he had help from assistant directors, but that just seems like more cats to herd. "Anton" was funny and poignant, the



Courtesy photo

Carmen Decker (left) and Timothy Busfield in LCC's production of "Vigil."

perfect pick-me-up from the Russian emotional malaise of "**Three Sisters**." This was primarily due to **Michelle Serje's** no-holds-barred performance as sex kitten Holly, an ambitious Lindsay Lohan-type Hollywood starlet.

That rat bastard Iago was also well known for his ambition, and **Mark Colson** was exceedingly eely as the classic Shakespeare villain in the **American Shakespeare Collective's** innovative presentation of "**Othello**" this summer. The stage and props were minimal, relying on color symbolism and **Genesis Garza's** skilled lighting to heighten the drama.

Speaking of skin crawling, **Timothy Busfield** starred as a cross-dressing loner in **Lansing Community College Theatre Program's** production of "**Vigil**." LCC pursued a grant to bring East Lansing-native Busfield back to mid-Michigan to play Kemp, a misanthrope who responds to an aunt's cry for help — and he met his match with the indomitable **Carmen Decker** as the dying Grace.

So make a New Year's resolution to see at least one more theatrical production than you did in 2012. Your ambition will continue to push the theater companies' innovation.

*When not writing about theater, art or drag queens, Mary C. Cusack shoots fine art and travel photography and pushes paper as dean of Fine Arts & Social Sciences at Mott Community College.*



Courtesy photo

Jiro Uno, star of the documentary "**Jiro Dreams of Sushi**," which played at the East Lansing Film Festival last month.

### Two geniuses

By MARK NIXON

It is always a revelation to watch a master performing his craft. This autumn, I was fortunate to see two masters at work — **Cole Porter** and **Jiro Uno**.

All right, so Porter has been dead for more than half a century, but his show-stopping lyrics lived on in the revival of his 1934 musi-

cal comedy "**Anything Goes**."

The cast thrilled the Wharton Center crowd with amazing dance sequences and had us guffawing at vaudeville-paced jokes sprinkled through a plot as thin and transparent as shaved ice.

The enduring star, however, is Porter with his impossibly witty, complex rhymes that froth over like shaken champagne.

The musical's title song wryly observes the post-war world of the "Lost Generation" that wallowed in bootleg whiskey, gangsters and flappers. Think "**Boardwalk Empire**" without the blood:

"... If bare limbs you like/  
If Mae West you like/  
Or me undressed you like/  
Why, nobody will oppose!/  
When every night/  
The set that's smart/  
Is intruding in nudist parties in studios/  
Anything goes."

Porter was a genius, pure and simple.

And so is Jiro Uno, someone most people have never heard of. He is the sushi master of a tiny restaurant squirreled away in a Tokyo subway stop and the subject of the documentary, "**Jiro Dreams of Sushi**."

Uno is 85 years old in this 2011 film and a culinary legend. To say he is persnickety about the selection, preparation and presentation of sushi doesn't even approach this man's obsession. And that passion has paid off — his restaurant has earned a rare Michelin three-star rating. Make reservations today and expect to be seated in six months. Oh, and bring lots of money.

The beauty of this film is that it captures Uno the artist, fully enthralled by both his art and the medium he uses to achieve excellence. If you had told me beforehand I would fall for a film about an old guy fussing over raw fish, I would have slapped that box of popcorn out of your hand.

But I fell, and happily so. Thank you, East Lansing Film Festival, for bringing "Jiro" to our community in November.

*Award-winning writer and editor Mark Nixon has written for both national and Michigan-based publications about cooking trends, the new American cuisine and Michigan-made food and drinks.*

### The best of what's around

By SHAWN PARKER

A familiar stretch of Michigan Avenue

## 2012 Wrap-up

from page 13

got an update when Gone Wired Cafe briefly closed for renovations and emerged as **The Avenue Café**. Same open space, perfect for meetings or study sessions, same delicious menu, including maybe the best veggie burger in town. But now the former coffee shop includes a full bar, featuring a selection of Michigan beers on tap, and a stage for performances and open mic nights. It's a favorite spot for a morning pick-me-up or evening wind-down.

**Celebration! Cinema** remains the go-to movie theater in town, featuring all the major, wide-release films as well as art house and indie titles. Their popular **"Cult Classics and Popular Picks"** series lets movie hounds catch a different midnight showing each weekend. That they partner with local film festivals for

screenings and participate in special events — like the live broadcast of the **RiffTrax** gang, verbally eviscerating that cinematic sinkhole **"Manos: The Hands of Fate"** — seals it.

For vinylphiles, **Record Store Day** is like Christmas in the spring. **Flat, Black and Circular** in East Lansing always secures a robust selection of the limited edition releases, and this year the highlight was the single remaining copy of "The LHI Years," a collection of psychedelic pop masterpieces by the woefully underappreciated Lee Hazlewood. But FBC's regular assortment of new and used records, CDs and DVDs is worth the visit and an hour of crate-digging any day.

Lansing was treated to an acting showcase this fall, when LCC and community actors debuted a reinvigorated **"Ragtime: the Musical."** Featuring a large ensemble cast filled with memorable performances, "Ragtime" painted a musical picture of class and racial strife, and the violence capable of someone pushed to the brink rings true to

this day.

**Shawn Parker, a 30-year Lansing resident, is a freelance writer and theater critic. A bookseller by day, his passion is film, particularly the forgotten trash cinema of the '70s and '80s. He continues to champion the works of Dario Argento to anyone who will listen.**



Photo by Christian Frarey

Henry Rollins spoke in Lansing in October.

## Oh, Henry

By RICH TUPICA

Punk legend **Henry Rollins** talked for almost three hours at his spoken word **"Capitalism Tour"** performance this fall, telling some great stories about his touring days and the present state of the country. When I heard Rollins was headed to Lansing, I knew I had to interview him. And he was great — somehow, this 51-year-old manages to stay relevant.

Rollins talked about a female fan who lost an eye during a mosh pit accident at an '80s Black Flag show. He told an amusing bit about catching crabs multiple times from the floors he'd have to sleep on while touring the punk circuit 30 years ago. But he also delves heavily into today. Rollins likes to travel to faraway places just for the hell of it, and he remembers every second of it. Of course, he also rants about politics and his disdain for injustice and intolerance. He offers up theories and ideas of how our country could be a better place, and while I wouldn't bet on any

of his concepts ever materializing, sometimes it's just nice to hear positive talk. Don't let his tattoos and angry demeanor fool you — Rollins is somewhat of a softy and he shows that side of himself at his shows.

**Rich Tupica has written City Pulse's local music column "Turn it Down" column since 2009. He's also a collector of old, dusty vinyl records.**

## Buy local

By PAUL WOZNIAK

Sometimes the love and passion spent on a homemade present outweighs the expense of the store-bought variety. Similarly, some Lansing-area theater productions this year more than made up for their bare-bones budgets with commitment and passion. One of the best examples was **Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.'s** production of **"Good People,"** itself a show about getting by with limited resources. Director **Blake Bowen** took this critically acclaimed script and made magic, blending the best of borrowed furniture, borrowed art and borrowed talent.

Several musicals requiring complex coordination similarly surpassed their financial resources. **Riverwalk Theatre's** take on **"Spring Awakening"** left a strong impression despite technical difficulties; and Peppermint Creek's production of **"Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson"** killed.

Even collegiate theater bested its professional competition with the MSU Theatre Department's **"Legally Blonde: The Musical."** Director Rob Roznowski could have let his outgoing seniors rest on their laurels but instead he lit a fire within the entire cast that engulfed the auditorium.

Sure, some productions went over like fruitcake or an ugly hand-me-down sweater, but the best ones were authentic, original, non-returnable experiences to remember.

**Paul Wozniak is a freelance arts writer for City Pulse and a full-time student/devoted husband.**

**MID-MICHIGAN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COUNCIL**  
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Mid-MEAC announces the second round of grants through the Community Reinvestment Fund which engages traditionally underserved and marginalized populations in government planning. *Grant applications are due January 25, 2013.*

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Photo by Christine Zona, Zona Foto

Grand Ledge native Bert DiVietri has been doing stand-up in San Francisco for two years. He returns to Creole this Friday for a pair of back-to-back comedy shows.



“My comedy is going great here,” he says. “I’m getting booked for road gigs and have had a lot of good opportunities to make things happen. But I’m still a very young comic. I’m not forcing something I am not ready for. I am definitely having fun in the process.”

DiVietri’s sketch comedy group, Don’t Watch This Show Live, just got accepted into the San Francisco Sketchfest which he says is big.

“It’s one of the biggest comedy festivals in the world,” he says. “I’m very excited about that.”

But his mixed-bag approach to comedy might not be popular with everyone.

“There are a lot of stand-up comics that are purists (who) would probably tell me to shut up right now,” DiVietri says. “I’m still hardcore pursuing stand-up, but once you do it for long enough, it kind of gets old. I enjoy doing as much comedy in different venues and different ways as I can.”

So what can people expect to hear him riff on at the Creole show? Bodily fluids and scatological humor will certainly come into play, as well as bits about ADHD, which he was diagnosed with it as an adult. But even if he shares his experiences with Adderall, he tries to keep his humor relatable.

“I don’t get up there just to be as weird as I possibly can,” DiVietri said. “I hate it when comedians do that. There has to be something behind the joke. I always try to have a point.”

It’s wisdom learned after a few years of life on the laugh circuit. But not all of DiVietri’s lessons come from learning things the hard way — he said he listens to the tips he’s gleaned from the assortment of veterans he’s come across.

“(So I’m doing) what every pro comic tells every newb,” he says. “Keep getting up!”

## Gettin’ Figgy with it

### Comedian comes home for Christmas comedy act

By HANNAH SCOTT

You don’t get into stand-up comedy without thinking you’re funny, but re-watching your old material can be disconcerting for any comedian.

“You look back at your old videos and you think, ‘Wow, I sucked,’” says Bert DiVietri, a Grand Ledge native doing stand-up in San Francisco. “It’s usually not very personal, (but) once you get a few years in, you start to find your voice and point of view.”

Lansing comedy fans can experience DiVietri’s wit at his annual end-of-the-year comedy performance, the Extreme Figgy Pudding Comedy Show, which happens Friday at the Creole Gallery in Old Town. He will perform two shows that night — the first, at 7 p.m., will be tamer, but he says at the second one at 9 p.m. “will be a lot dirtier, for sure.”

Although he got his start by videotaping pranks and performance art, DiVietri, 29, didn’t start to get serious about comedy until 2005. He says went to Second City Training school for about a year, then started performing hip-hop comedy for a couple years under the name Death Ray Astray, which he still dabbles in. He says his style today reflects some of his primary influences — such as

Tom Green, Patton Oswalt and Nick Swardson — but he has honed his edgy, oddball technique into something distinct.

“I’m starting to find the personal things in my life that are really funny,” he says.

### Extreme Figgy Pudding Comedy Show

Dec. 28  
7 p.m. & 9 p.m.  
Creole Gallery  
1218 Turner St.  
Lansing  
\$10  
(517) 862-1553

DiVietri moved to California in 2010, where he became a regular at the world-famous (but recently closed) Purple Onion comedy club. He says he’s also kept busy getting laughs at military fundraisers, “nerd-comedy venues” and hip-hop comedy shows across the West Coast. It seems like the California sun is doing him good.



Photo by Julie Varr

Carra Barratt Stasney (left) and Leslie Beia are Copper and Coal

## Copper tones

### Country duo carries on classic honky-tonk sound

By RICH TUPICA

When you’re a happy newlywed, penning tear-in-your-beer honky-tonk tunes can be a bit fiddly. But that doesn’t stop Carra Barratt Stasney, one half of Copper and Coal, a Portland, Ore.-based classic country group. Her songwriting partner is East Lansing native Leslie Beia, and while they echo newer rustic acts like the Secret Sisters, they also conjure up the sounds of Bonnie Owens.

“I’m inspired by older music, and I try to write songs in the style that I’d like to hear,” said Stasney, 34, who is from Detroit. “I don’t write much about my own life — there aren’t many country songs about being really happy with your new husband.”

Stasney and Beia met about a year ago and have become a fixture in the Portland music circuit since then, but both women cut their teeth gigging in Lansing. Stasney used to play with The Saltines in 2004, and Beia, 34, got her start in the ‘90s when she was just 17 with The Jawas, a local Grateful Dead cover band.

But now it’s all about that classic high-lynesome sound, which Beia doesn’t want confused with modern pop country. When describing Copper and Coal to those who haven’t heard them play, she makes it abundantly clear they don’t have a glossy contemporary sound.

“I know when I say ‘country’ what image it brings up,” Beia said. “A lot of people hate new country music, but I don’t think anybody could hate Hank Williams.”

Saturday’s audience can expect to hear original torch tunes and danceable ditties, along with some golden country covers, including songs by Kitty Wells and Loretta Lynn. So what are these two up to when they’re not playing at honky tonks? Stasney said they’re both “working people.” And not playing music fulltime is fine with both of them.

“It’s cool to not have that pressure and just be able to enjoy it,” Beia said. “That way I don’t have to play in five bands to get by. I can give everything to one project.”

### Copper and Coal

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# Closing the book on 2012

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Author readings may not measure up to the spectacle of a **Wharton Center** musical or the audacity of the new **Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum**, but for many in the Greater Lansing community and me, they provide a window to an earlier time when authors were the rock stars of popular culture. This past year saw several notable Lansing appearances by some amazing writers.

First, hats off to the **One Book, One Community** program (co-sponsored by Michigan State University and the City of East Lansing), which selected **Katherine Boo's "Behind the Beautiful Forevers"** her documentary nonfiction look at every-

day life in the Mumbai slums. Boo made several appearances in East Lansing and read from her book, which was named as a National Book Award winner for nonfiction this year.

In April, a couple of hundred readers were treated to a conversation with three National Book Award honorees at the Library of Michigan's Night for Notables, which is held each year to recognize 20 important Michigan books from the previous year. **Jesmyn Ward**, who won the National Book Award in 2011 for "**Salvage the Bones**," and **Jaimy Gordon**, the 2010 award winner for "**Lord of Misrule**," joined 2009 finalist **Bonnie Jo Campbell** ("**American Salvage**") for a conversation about writing and life after becoming a National Book Award honoree.

Gordon and Campbell both live in Michigan and Ward is a graduate of the University of Michigan's writing program. Seeing three writers of this caliber together on stage is a rare occasion, and they didn't let anyone down. Each of the women talked about how she was unprepared to be honored. Both Campbell's and Gordon's books were underdogs (or as Gordon's called hers, a "longshot") while Ward was a virtual unknown in the publishing world. In an April City Pulse story, the authors related how none of them had any inkling they would be in consideration for the award. Gordon didn't prepare any comments for the award ceremony, Campbell had to borrow a dress and Ward said at the time, "I can't believe it."

All three writers candidly admit that before being honored their writing careers were on the ropes. Ward considered taking up nursing. Campbell thought about replacing writing with teaching. And Gordon, a Western Michigan University professor, was losing hope. Gordon, who wrote about a down-and-out racetrack in "**Lord of Misrule**," compared her writing career to a racehorse at the end of its career that makes one last unexpected run for glory.

The writers also discussed a common aspect of their writing: Each book has a strong, young female protagonist — all lost girls — who overcomes their flaws, looking out for themselves and others.

Also this past year, there were some other notable author events including thriller writer **James Rollins**, fantasy writer **Cory Doctorow**, mystery writer **Steve Hamilton**, paranormal romance writer **Richelle Mead** and two former baseball players from Michigan, **Jim Abbott** and **John Smoltz**, who penned memoirs about their lives in and out of the game. There was also **Jeffrey Zaslow** — author of "**The Last Lecture**" and, most recently, "**The Magic Room: A Story About the Love We Wish for Our Daughters**" — who wowed the crowd at Schuler Books in January talking about parents, daughters and wedding dresses. Zaslow died one month later on an icy road on his way home from his own last lecture, a book signing in Petoskey.

I had no idea that Rollins' "**SIGMA Force**" series, about a fictional paramilitary unit, had a cult following until they showed up en masse to pose for photographs with the author. The Michigan-born Mead also has a following of devotees for her vampire franchise that features tattooed protagonists. She's into her third series, after the phenomenally successful "**Vampire Academy**" series. Fans of Mead like to do the red hair thing popular among vampire writers and there was no shortage of all shades at the Mead signing, along with tattoos (real and otherwise) and a variety of homemade T-shirts. Her fans showed up early at **Schuler Books in the Eastwood Towne Center**, which has become the go-to place for the odd, the unusual and paranormal writers' tours. No doubt this has something to do with the interests of Whitney Spotts, the store's promotional manager (hey, I'm just saying, Whitney ...).

Smoltz and Abbott put on quite a show at their respective appearances. Waverly High



Bill Castanier/City Pulse

From left: Bonnie Jo Campbell, Jaimy Gordon and Jesmyn Ward at Night for Notables in April.

School graduate Smoltz was well received by the home crowd, and discussed how religion helped him get through some very dark moments in his career. But Abbott pitched the equivalent of a no-hitter at his book signing at Schuler Books in Okemos. Born without a right hand, Abbott became a star athlete in high school and college, working his way up to the major leagues. He even added an Olympic Gold Medal to that list of accomplishments, but the real story is about the support his family gave him growing up in Flint and what happened to him after he washed out of the big leagues and was no longer "the one-handed pitcher."

This may have been the first time that tears rolled down my cheeks at an author event. It wasn't about what Abbott had overcome, but the example he was setting for some young kids in the audience who had been born with the same birth defect. I about lost it when a 2-year-old boy sitting next to me held up his arm, which had no hand, pointed at him and said, "Jim Abbott." It made it that much easier for me to hand over my Jim Abbott rookie card to his grandparent.

What makes book signings like these especially appealing is the lack of frills — just the author, a book and readers. When I speak to classes, I'm often asked for advice on how to become a writer. I tell them to do two things: write and go to author readings.

(Bill Castanier writes a literary column for City Pulse and blogs on Michigan writers and books at [mittenlit.com](http://mittenlit.com).)

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# OUT on the TOWN

Wednesday, December 26

## CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Winter Break Camp.** Learn about survival in the snowy season. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$40, \$30 members. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 322-0030.

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

**Escape & Rejuvenate.** Meditative movement & guided meditation. 12:15 p.m. FREE. ACC Natural Healing and Wellness, 617 Ionia, Lansing. [massageandwellnesslansing.com](http://massageandwellnesslansing.com), [meetup.com/lansingbodymindspirit](http://meetup.com/lansingbodymindspirit).


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

## EVENTS

**Practice Your English.** 7-8 p.m. FREE. East


See Out on the Town, Page 19

### CRIMINAL DEFENSE



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Listings deadline is 5 p.m. the THURSDAY BEFORE publication. Paid classes will be listed in print at the cost of one enrollment (maximum \$20). Please submit them to the events calendar at [www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com). If you need help, please call Dana at (517) 999-5069. Email information to [calendar@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:calendar@lansingcitypulse.com).

## NEW YEAR'S EVE

### Ring in the new year with style ...

New Year's Eve is a night of drinking, party hopping and searching for someone to kiss at midnight. It's also a night that can get expensive quickly. This New Year's Eve, Bar 30 is doing something distinctive: hosting a party with no cover. The evening will start with bands, including the jazz band Riddle Me That followed by DJ Skitzo, who will take over at 10 p.m. Jason Collins from Paradigm Productions will be putting on a visual show as well. There will be a champagne toast at midnight, with no need for a late night run to Taco Bell or Denny's — a free pancake buffet starts at 2 a.m. and runs until 4 a.m. 7 p.m.-4 a.m. FREE. Bar 30, 2324 Showtime Drive, Lansing. (517) 485-0030. [bar30.com](http://bar30.com). For other New Year's Eve events, please see page 21.

## DEC. 26-28

### ... say goodbye to Santa ...

In 1985, Michigan native Chris Van Allsburg wrote and illustrated the children's book "The Polar Express" about a kid who's lost his belief in Santa. That novel would go on to become an Oscar-nominated film in 2004 starring Tom Hanks. Now considered a modern holiday classic, the film will be shown at the Michigan Historical Museum through Friday. Between screenings, guests will be able to check out the museum's exhibit "Put It On Paper" and make their own picture book. "Put It On Paper" has works of authors, illustrators and more, including a few household names, such as Hemingway and Laura Ingalls Wilder. Who knows — maybe you'll be inspired to write a book that becomes a future Christmas classic. 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. \$6 adults, \$4 seniors, \$2 kids, FREE under 5. Michigan Historical Museum, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 373-3559.



Courtesy Photo

## DEC. 29



Photo by: Jessica Cowles

### ... get ready for New Year's Eve ...

Salsa music just makes you want to move your feet, with saucy blaring instruments and hypnotic vocals. This Saturday, as part of a pre-New Year's Eve event, Orquesta Ritmo, will bring those sounds alive, with some help from DJ Adrian "Ace" Lopez. Orquesta Ritmo comprises of 11 members from all over the state, including Lansing, who play instruments as diverse as they are, ranging from bongos and timbales to more seen instruments, such as trumpets and trombones. The premier salsa orchestra's mission is to introduce, educate and entertain the public in Latin music. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. \$15 advance, \$20 door. Fahrenheit Ultra Lounge, 6810 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 927-9384. [orquestaritmo.com](http://orquestaritmo.com).

## JAN. 1

### ... and may your 2013 be filled with peace

In 2007, the Catholic organization Pax Christi began an annual call to prayer on New Year's Day as part of its statewide peace action campaign, "Following the Nonviolent Path to Peace in the New Year." Next Tuesday, St. Therese Church will host the sixth annual event on a day declared the World Day of Prayer for Peace by the Vatican. All faiths are welcome to the service, which will include reflection on the cosmos, Native American legend and singing. There will also be prayers from a variety of religious traditions. A non-alcoholic toast of remembrance and gratitude will follow. 1-2:30 p.m. FREE St. Therese Church, 102 W. Randolph, Lansing. (517) 481-5280. [paxchristimi.org](http://paxchristimi.org).

# TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE  
BY RICH TUPICA



THU. DEC. 27TH

## KID BROTHER COLLECTIVE AT MAC'S

Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all ages, \$8 advance, 7 p.m.

Although the influential, Flint-based band Kid Brother Collective only lasted from 1993 to 2004, the band still has a dedicated following. The post-hardcore band is back with a new vinyl reissue of the band's classic "Highway Miles" album. The x2 LP on Lower Peninsula Records, a label operated by Lansing-music vet John Krohn, even includes some bonus tracks. Krohn's label never skimps on packaging and this is no exception — the vinyl comes in a fancy gatefold sleeve. Thursday, the band plays the release show at Mac's Bar along with The Fencemen, Little American Champ and Decades. Kid Brother Collective spent their formative years gigging every weekend at the Flint Local 432 and touring in a "smelly van and usually playing to small crowds for very little pay," recalls the band's front man Brandon Trammel.

### PEOPLES TEMPLE LP RELEASE PARTY



Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18+, \$7 advance, 9 p.m.

Fresh off a live recording session at Jack White's Third Man Records in Nashville for an upcoming 7-inch single, Lansing's own The Peoples Temple drops its second full-length album at Mac's Bar on Friday. In between gigging across the country and playing big-ticket festivals, the four-piece band (made up of two sets of brothers) recorded the new disc, "More for the Masses." The new album, released by the Chicago-based HoZac Records, is available on vinyl and CD and has received favorable reviews from Pitchfork and other indie sites. Fans of Spacemen 3 or The 13th Floor Elevators might want to check it out. Opening the Mac's show is Racket Ghost, a local primitive rock 'n' roll trio featuring Benjamin Assaff, formerly of Dead Stream Corners. Also performing is Mindguards, a local electro-punk band.

### JET RODRIGUEZ AT THE LOFT



The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all ages, \$5 for 21+, \$7 for 18+, 6 p.m.

Playing a mishmash of spacy '70s psychedelic rock and delicate Americana, The Jet Rodriguez seem to be on top of the "psychedelicate" genre. Friday, the Detroit-based band plays an all-ages gig at The Loft. Opening up the show are Fair Enough (Lansing-based indie rock trio) and Hit Society (Detroit-based rock 'n' roll). The Jet Rodriguez, which has been gigging since 2009, may draw some influence from retro-rockers like The Grateful Dead and Neil Young, but the band has become known for its own distinct, modern folk-rock sound, even drawing comparisons to My Morning Jacket. In 2011, the band released the "Faceless Entities" EP and is expecting to drop a full length in spring 2013. In the meantime, their EP is streamed for free at thejetrodriguezmusic.com.

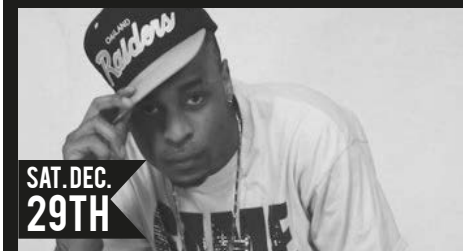
### DRINKING MERCURY AND JORY STULTZ



Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18+, \$5, 9 p.m.

Despite the band's revolving door of members and some lulls in productivity since its genesis in the summer of 2000, Drinking Mercury, which plays Saturday at Mac's Bar, has managed to keep playing dreary alternative rock. The band has also described its sound as "shoegaze-folk rock-something." Local music supporters may recognize a couple of the members: Tommy McCord also plays in The Plurals and runs GTG Records, and Michael Boyes moonlights in The Hunky Newcomers, an area punk band. Drinking Mercury finally released its debut, "Orcades," in 2011. Warming up the stage at Mac's is local indie songwriter Jory Stultz, who dropped the four-song "Out a Window" EP in October. The Pistol Brides, a Grand Rapids-based psych-rock outfit, rounds out the roster.

### READY TO ROCK 'N' RUMBLE



Camp Tisdale Community Center, 1200 Marquette St., Lansing, all ages, \$10 13+, \$5 12 & under, children 5 & under are free, 7 p.m.

I.R.O.G. and the A.D.D.A.M. Entourage host a night of body slams and musical performances Saturday at the "Capital City Chaos" event. The I.R.O.G. (International Ring of Grapplers) was founded last year and has since hosted a string of high-energy professional wrestling events often featuring rock and rap acts. Performing Saturday are Eddie J Don't Play, The Street Drifters, and Narc Out the Reds. Eddie J Don't play (a.k.a., E.J. Horn) is a 26-year old Lansing rapper on the SMG Global Network label. Fans of Kanye West, T.I. or Lupe Fiasco might want to check him out. On the wrestling side, Jun Hado will defend his championship against AJ Snow and Roderick Street in a "Triple Chaos Match." Other grapplers include Chase Matthews, FIA and "The Prodigy" Darrell Jackson.

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

## LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Bar 30, 2324 Showtime Drive	D.J. Skitzo, 10 p.m.	D.J. John Beltran, 10 p.m.	D.J. John Beltran, 10 p.m.	D.J. Skitzo, 10 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.			Haphazard, 9 p.m.	Haphazard, 9 p.m.
Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 N. East St.	Open Mic Night, 8 p.m.	Alex Ortiz, 8 p.m.	Alex Ortiz, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.	Alex Ortiz, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Cloud Magic, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.		Tryst Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.		
The Firm, 229 S. Washington Square		DnW Sound DJs, 9 p.m.	Various DJs, 9 p.m.	
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.		Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karoke with Joanie Daniels, 7 p.m.	Old Town Motown, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Steppin In It, 9:30 p.m.	Jen Sygit, 9:30 p.m.	Global Village, 9:30 p.m.	Global Village, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.			The Jet Rodriguez, 6 p.m.	Fundamentals, 8 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Kid Brother Collective, 7 p.m.	Mr. Fox & The Hounds, 6 p.m.	Up in the Sky, 6:30 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic Night, 9:30 p.m.	Kitten Machine, 10 p.m.	Big Sur, 10 p.m.	Big Sur, 10 p.m.
Rookies, 16460 S. US 27	Sammy Gold, 7-10 p.m.	Water Pong DJ, 9 p.m.	Karaoke dance party with DJ Sassy, 9 p.m.	Live Bands with DJs & DJ Sassy, 9 p.m.
Rum Runners, 601 East Michigan Ave.	Open Mic Night, 9 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 9 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 7 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 7 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 10 p.m.		
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Drive		Mike Eyia Quartet, 7 p.m.	Joe Wright, 7 p.m.	
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert	D.J., 9 p.m.	D.J., 9 p.m.	D.J., 9 p.m.	Bullwhip, 9 p.m.
<b>Sunday</b>	Karaoke, 9 p.m. Drag Queens Gone Wild, 11 p.m., Spiral Dance Bar; DJ Mike, 9:30 p.m., LeRoy's Bar & Grill; Open Mic, 5 p.m., Open Blues Jam, 7-11 p.m. Uli's Haus of Rock.			
<b>Monday</b>	Steppin' In It, 9:30 p.m., Green Door; Easy Babies funk trio, 10 p.m., The Exchange. Open-Mic Mondays, 6:30 p.m., Michigan Brewing Company-Lansing, Monday Funday, 9 p.m., The Firm.			
<b>Tuesday</b>	Tommy Foster & Guitar Bob, 9 p.m., The Exchange; Neon Tuesday, 9 p.m., Mac's Bar. Jazz Tuesday Open Jam, 9 p.m., Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave.			

# Out on the town

from page 17

Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

**Fenner Nature Center Walking Group.** 5 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. mynaturecenter.org.

**The Polar Express.** Family activities, 1-2 p.m. Screening, 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. \$6 adults, \$4 seniors, \$2 kids, FREE under 5. Michigan Historical Museum, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517)

373-3559.

## Thursday, December 27

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Winter Break Camp.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (Please see details Dec. 26.)

**Chill Out.** Learn how animals survive during winter. 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. \$25 residents, \$30 non-residents. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. mynaturecenter.org.

**Meet-and-Greet.** With Keturah Jones.

6-8 p.m. FREE. CADL Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021. inspirationalcorneronline.com.

**Codependents Anonymous.** 7-8 p.m. FREE. Community Mental Health Building, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 672-4072.

**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.

### EVENTS

**Euchre.** 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.

**Spanish Conversation Group.** Both English & Spanish will be spoken. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

**Holiday Break Family Films.** G or PG rated movie. 2 p.m. CADL Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021. cadl.org.

**Winter Break Cinema.** Viewing of "Ice Age: Continental Drift." 2 p.m. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363. cadl.org.

**"The Polar Express."** 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. Michigan Historical Museum, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (Please see details Dec. 26.)

483-4224.

**Oil Painting.** For all levels with Patricia Singer. Pre-registration required. 10 a.m.-Noon. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing.

**Alcoholics Anonymous.** With ASL interpretation. 8 p.m. FREE. Alano Club East, 220 S. Howard St., Lansing. (517) 482-8957.

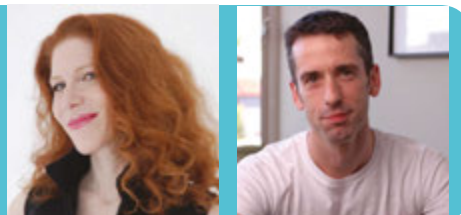
**Alcoholics Anonymous.** Closed women's meeting. 7:30 p.m. FREE. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 6500 Amwood Drive, Lansing. (517) 882-9733.

See Out on the Town, Page 20

## Advice Goddess & Savage Love

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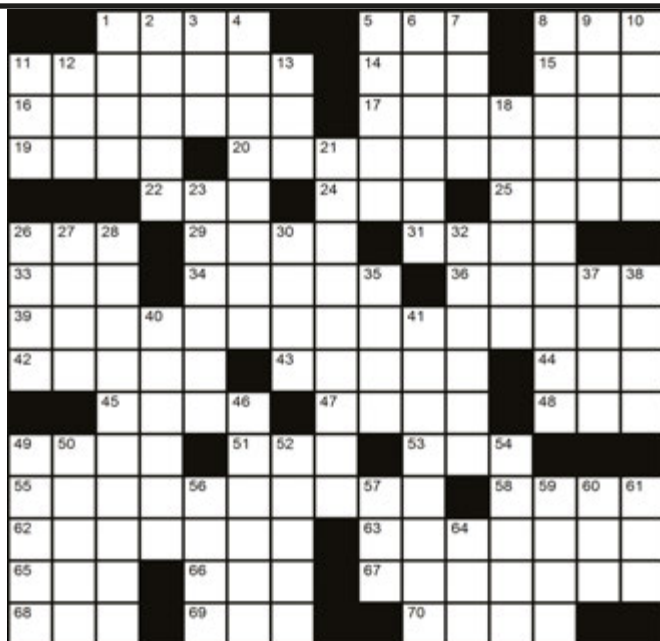
## Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Spellbound"--if it sounds good, do it!  
by Matt Jones

### Across

- 1 Big \_\_\_ (David Ortiz's nickname)
- 5 Frappe need
- 8 Main man
- 11 Italian region big on terra cotta
- 14 Bashar al-Assad's country: abbr.
- 15 \_\_\_ in "Oscar"
- 16 Written test involving a sly prison breakout?
- 17 Instances where everyone sings the same note
- 19 Carry
- 20 "C'mon, those sunglasses don't fool me!"
- 22 Abbr. on a food label
- 24 "Star Trek: TNG" captain Jean-\_\_\_ Picard
- 25 "Pericles, Prince of \_\_\_"
- 26 Palindromic Eskimo knife
- 29 The right side of the Urals
- 31 Blue material
- 33 Attila the \_\_\_
- 34 Martini & \_\_\_ (winemakers)
- 36 Like some factory seconds: abbr.
- 39 Statement from a codependent tent dweller?
- 42 Half-woman, half-bird
- 43 Like simple survey questions
- 44 "Don't do drugs" ad, for short
- 45 Societal problems
- 47 Varieties of fish eggs
- 48 Part of CBS
- 49 Earth goddess of Greek mythology



- 51 Suffix after real, in the U.K.
- 53 Spider's egg case
- 55 How quickly pachyderms get seen at the hospital?
- 58 Nobel Peace Prize city
- 62 How pasta may be prepared
- 63 Help save people, like a trained dog?
- 65 Singer Carly \_\_\_ Jepsen
- 66 "CNN Headline News" anchor Virginia
- 67 Source of Pablo Escobar's wealth
- 68 When an airplane's scheduled to take off: abbr.
- 69 Azerbaijan, once: abbr.
- 70 Beat but good
- 2 Amy of "Dollhouse"
- 3 Tabloid photographer, slangily
- 4 Like the freshest fruit
- 5 Trooper maker
- 6 They're tough to convince
- 7 Idle of Monty Python fame
- 8 Sneaky security measures
- 9 Down time, for short
- 10 Actor Davis
- 11 Broadway show purchase: abbr.
- 12 Actor Tognazzi (hidden in YUGOSLAVIA)
- 13 "Upstairs at Eric's" band
- 18 It's got rings
- 21 Completely wasted
- 23 Strawberry in the field
- 26 "That definitely isn't looking good"
- 27 Suzanne Vega song
- with the lyric "I live on the second floor"
- 28 Took off the list, maybe
- 30 Words before "old chap"
- 32 Brunch drink
- 35 \_\_\_ facto
- 37 Website for crafty sorts
- 38 Stats on report cards
- 40 Likely to sleep in
- 41 Held by a third party
- 46 Large pie pieces
- 49 Driving hazard
- 50 G-sharp, alternatively
- 52 Javelin, basically
- 54 \_\_\_ vin (chicken dish)
- 56 The last two were in St. Paul and Tampa
- 57 "Up All Night" network
- 59 Sound at the barber-shop
- 60 Lead-in to O
- 61 "Yahoo!" to a matador
- 64 Part of HS

### Down

1 "Hey, over here!"

## Friday, December 28

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Winter Break Camp.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (Please see details Dec. 26.)

**Winter Animal Snow-lympics.** Learn about cold climate critters. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$25 residents, \$30 non-residents. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517)

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9	—	—	6	—	—	7	2	—
6	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	5
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—	9	8	3	—	1	2	6	—
4	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—
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—	—	—	1	—	9	—	—	—
2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
—	7	3	—	—	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. For solving tips, visit [www.SundayCrosswords.com](http://www.SundayCrosswords.com)

Answers on page 20

# Out on the town

from page 19

## EVENTS

**Extreme Figgy Pudding Comedy Show.** Stand-up comedy. 7 p.m. & 9 p.m. \$10. Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 402-7962.

**The Polar Express.** 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. Michigan Historical Museum, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (Please see details Dec. 26.)

## MUSIC

**Boogie Bob Baldori.** 4-6 p.m. The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. boogiebob.com.

**Hot Club of Lansing.** Gypsy jazz. 8 p.m. FREE. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

**Hype Syndicate.** 10:30 p.m. Harper's, 131 Albert Ave. East Lansing. (517) 333-4040.

## Saturday, December 29

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Overeaters Anonymous.** 9:30 a.m. FREE. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

## EVENTS

**Beer & Wine Tasting.** 2-4 p.m. FREE. Vine and Brew, 2311 Jolly Road, Okemos.

**Pre-New Year's Eve Party.** With Orquesta Ritmo & Adrian "Ace" Lopez. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. \$15 advance, \$20 door. Fahrenheit Ultra Lounge, 6810 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 927-9384.

## MUSIC

**Copper and Coal.** 5 p.m. Folk music from a female duo. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 853-0550.

## Sunday, December 30

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Juggling.** Learn how to juggle. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pump House, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. (517) 485-9190.

**Overeaters Anonymous.** 2-3:15 p.m. FREE. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Conference room F, 2nd floor, Lansing. (517) 332-0755.

**Alcoholics Anonymous.** With ASL interpretation. 9 a.m. FREE. Alano Club East, 220 S. Howard St., Lansing. (517) 482-8957.

**Codependents Anonymous.** Meets on the

third floor. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 672-4072. cadl.org.

## EVENTS

**Nokomis Learning Center Membership Meeting.** Board election. 11 a.m. FREE. Nokomis Learning Center, 5153 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 349-5777. nokomis.org.

**Black Tie Masquerade.** Live music & more. 8 p.m. \$9. Michigan Princess Riverboat, 3004 W. Main St., Lansing. (517) 325-3853. michiganprincess.com.

**Pre-New Year's Capital Area Singles Dance.** With door prizes. 6:30-10:30 p.m. \$8. Fraternal Order of Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 819-0405.

## MUSIC

**Those Delta Rhythm Kings.** 7 p.m. Bar 30,

See Out on the Town, Page 21

## City Pulse Classifieds

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

**American Cycle and Fitness.** Michigan's largest Trek bicycle dealer, has immediate openings for the following positions at our new location in Okemos.

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**Job Description:** We are looking for motivated, outgoing candidates to serve our customers. Ideal candidate is team driven, goal oriented, and self-motivated. We strive to educate and create positive cycling experiences for all our customers. Training provided and flexible hours are available.

Compensation: Based on experience. Hourly plus incentives/bonuses. Employee discounts available.

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## Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsny

December 26-January 1

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): In the sci-fi film trilogy *The Matrix*, the heroes are able to instantaneously acquire certain complex skills via software that's downloaded directly into their brains. In this way, the female hacker named Trinity masters the art of piloting a military M-109 helicopter in just a few minutes. If you could choose a few downloads like that, Aries, what would they be? This isn't just a rhetorical question meant for your amusement. In 2013, I expect that your educational capacity will be exceptional. While you may not be able to add new skills as easily as Trinity, you'll be pretty fast and efficient. So what do you want to learn? Choose wisely.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Are you familiar with the fable of the golden goose? The farmer who owned it became impatient because it laid only one gold egg per day. So he killed it, thinking he would thereby get the big chunk of gold that must be inside its body. Alas, his theory was mistaken. There was no chunk. From then on, of course, he no longer got his modest daily treasure. I nominate this fable to be one of your top teaching stories of 2013. As long as you're content with a slow, steady rate of enrichment, you'll be successful. Pushing extra hard to expedite the flow might lead to problems.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Here are some of the experiences I hope to help you harvest in the coming year: growing pains that are interesting and invigorating rather than stressful; future shock that feels like a fun joyride rather than a bumpy rumble; two totally new and original ways to get excited; a good reason to have faith in a dream that has previously been improbable; a fresh supply of Innocent Crazy-Wise Love Truth; and access to all the borogoves, mome raths, and slithy toves you could ever want.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): In her gallery show "Actuality, Reminiscence, and Fabrication," artist Deborah Sullivan includes a piece called "Penance 1962." It consists of a series of handwritten statements that repeats a central theme: "I must not look at boys during prayer." I'm assuming it's based on her memory of being in church or Catholic school when she was a teenager. You probably have an analogous rule lodged somewhere in the depths of your unconscious mind — an outmoded prohibition or taboo that may still be subtly corroding your life energy. The coming year will be an excellent time to banish that ancient nonsense for good. If you were Deborah Sullivan, I'd advise you to fill a whole notebook page with the corrected assertion: "It's OK to look at boys during prayer."

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): For years, the gravestone of Irish dramatist Oscar Wilde was covered with kiss-shaped lipstick marks that were left by his admirers. Unfortunately, Wilde's descendants decided to scour away all those blessings and erect a glass wall around the tomb to prevent further displays of affection. In my astrological opinion, Leo, you should favor the former style of behavior over the latter in 2013. In other words, don't focus on keeping things neat and clean and well-ordered. On the contrary: Be extravagant and uninhibited in expressing your love for the influences that inspire you — even at the risk of being a bit unruly or messy.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In 2013, I hope to conspire with you to raise your levels of righteous success. If you're a struggling songwriter, I'll be pushing for you to get your music out to more people — without sacrificing your artistic integrity. If you're a kindergarten teacher, I'll prompt you to fine-tune and deepen the benevolent influence you have on your students. If you're a business owner, I'll urge you to ensure that the product or service you offer is a well-honed gift to those who use it. As I trust you can see, Virgo, I'm implying that impeccable ethics will be crucial to your ascent in the coming year.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): After Libran poet Wallace

Stevens won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1955, Harvard University offered him a job as a full professor. But he turned it down. He couldn't bear leaving his day job as the vice-president of an insurance company in Hartford, Connecticut. I suspect that in the first half of 2013, you will come to a fork in the road that may feel something like Stevens' quandary. Should you stick with what you know or else head off in the direction of more intense and unpredictable stimulation? I'm not here to tell you which is the better choice; I simply want to make sure you clearly identify the nature of the decision.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In 2013, I will try to help you retool, reinvent, and reinvigorate yourself in every way that's important to you. I will encourage you to reawaken one of your sleeping aptitudes, recapture a lost treasure, and reanimate a dream you've neglected. If you're smart, Scorpio, you will reallocate resources that got misdirected or wasted. And I hope you will reapply for a privilege or position you were previously denied, because I bet you'll win it this time around. Here are your words of power for the year ahead: *resurrection* and *redemption*.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Based on experiments at the Large Hadron Collider, a team of physicists in France and Switzerland announced last July that they had tentatively discovered the Higgs Boson, which is colloquially known as the "God particle." What's all the fuss? In her *San Francisco Chronicle* column, Leah Garchik quoted an expert who sought to explain: "The Higgs boson is the WD40 and duct tape of the universe, all rolled into one." Is there a metaphorical equivalent of such a glorious and fundamental thing in your life, Sagittarius? If not, I predict you will find it in 2013. If there already is, I expect you will locate and start using its 2.0 version.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In 2013, I pledge to help you bring only the highest-quality influences and self-responsible people into your life. Together we will work to dispel any unconscious attraction you might have to demoralizing chaos or pathological melodrama. We will furthermore strive to ensure that as you deepen and fine-tune your self-discipline, it will not be motivated by self-denial or obsessive control-freak tendencies. Rather, it will be an act of love that you engage in so as to intensify your ability to express yourself freely and beautifully.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "Genius is the ability to renew one's emotions in daily experience," said French painter Paul Cezanne. What do you think he meant by that? Here's one interpretation: Many of us replay the same old emotions over and over again — even in response to experiences that are nothing like the past events when we felt those exact feelings. So a genius might be someone who generates a fresh emotion for each new adventure. Here's another possible interpretation of Cezanne's remark: It can be hard to get excited about continually repeating the basic tasks of our regular routines day after day. But a genius might be someone who is good at doing just that. I think that by both of these definitions, 2013 could be a genius year for you Aquarians.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Home is not just the building where you live. It's more than the community that gives you support and the patch of earth that comforts you with its familiarity. Home is any place where you're free to be your authentic self; it's any power spot where you can think your own thoughts and see with your own eyes. I hope and trust that in 2013 you will put yourself in position to experience this state of mind as often as possible. Do you have any ideas about how to do that? Brainstorm about it on a regular basis for the next six months.

**SUDOKU SOLUTION**  
From Pg. 19

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

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**  
From Pg. 19

P	A	P	I	I	C	E	B	R	O
T	U	S	C	A	N	Y	S	Y	R
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Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsny'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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## Other Available Properties

ADDRESS	PROPERTY INFORMATION	PRICE
1035 Queen St	3 Bedroom, 1 Bath	1,015 Sq. Ft. \$58,000
734 Cawood St	2 Bedroom, 1 Bath	616 Sq. Ft. \$50,000
326 Isbell St	3 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath	1,080 Sq. Ft. \$72,800
1617 Ohio Ave	2 Bedroom, 1 Bath	696 Sq. Ft. \$55,000
1225 Allen St	3 Bedroom, 1 Bath	770 Sq. Ft. \$65,000
1216 W Allegan St	3 Bedroom, 1 Bath	1,248 Sq. Ft. \$105,000
1200 W Maple St	4 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath	1,170 Sq. Ft. \$82,000
1221 W Ottawa St	3 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath	1,414 Sq. Ft. \$110,000
1122 W Allegan St	3 Bedroom, 2 Bath	1,360 Sq. Ft. \$80,000
1207 Prospect St	5 Bedroom, 2 Bath	1,672 Sq. Ft. \$98,000
1139 W Maple St	2 Bedrooms, 1.5 Bath	945 Sq. Ft. \$72,000
107 Fernhill Ct	2 Bedroom, 1 Bath	931 Sq. Ft. \$61,000
1142 Camp St	2 Bedroom, 1 Bath	883 Sq. Ft. \$58,000
608 Leslie St	2 Bedroom, 1 Bath	960 Sq. Ft. \$73,000
1715 Bailey St	2 Bedroom, 1 Bath	944 Sq. Ft. \$68,500
1616 Coleman Ave	3 Bedroom, 2 Bath	1,210 Sq. Ft. \$69,000
916 W. Genesee St	3 Bedroom, 2 Bath	1,043 Sq. Ft. \$77,000
1605 Illinois Ave	3 Bedroom, 2 Bath	1,110 Sq. Ft. \$76,900
1116 S Holmes St	3 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath	1,248 Sq. Ft. \$90,000
548 Norman St	3 Bedroom, 1 Bath	1,425 Sq. Ft. \$80,000
1319 W Lenawee St	3 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath	1,528 Sq. Ft. \$110,000
2106 Prospect St	3 Bedroom, 1 Bath	1,094 Sq. Ft. \$66,500
806 Larned St	3 Bedroom, 1 Bath	1,152 Sq. Ft. \$75,000
412 W Madison St	4 Bedroom, 2 Bath	1,980 Sq. Ft. \$100,000
925 May St	3 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath	1,418 Sq. Ft. \$105,000
708 W Genesee St	3 Bedroom, 2 Bath	1,276 Sq. Ft. \$75,000
1317 W Lenawee St	3 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath	1,414 Sq. Ft. \$113,900
2826 Timber Dr	2 Bedroom, 1 Bath	1,152 Sq. Ft. \$80,000
821 Clayton St	3 Bedroom, 2 Bath	1,351 Sq. Ft. \$110,000
623 Lathrop St	3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath	848 Sq. Ft. \$64,000
1216 W Ottawa St	4 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath	2,064 Sq. Ft. \$95,000
3325 W Holmes Rd	3 Bedroom, 2 Bath	1,397 Sq. Ft. \$95,000
837 Cawood St	3 Bedroom, 2 Bath	1,436 Sq. Ft. \$96,000
1552 Ballard St	3 Bedroom, 2 Bath	1,244 Sq. Ft. \$93,000
800 Clark St	5 Bedroom, 2 Bath	1,671 Sq. Ft. \$88,000
1422 Roselawn Ave	2 Bedroom, 1 Bath	900 Sq. Ft. \$63,000
936 W Miller Rd	3 Bedroom, 1 Bath	864 Sq. Ft. \$65,000
636 Irvington Ave	2 Bedroom, 1 Bath	768 Sq. Ft. \$60,000
842 Edison Ave	2 Bedroom, 1 Bath	756 Sq. Ft. \$50,000
2209 Westbury Rd	3 Bedroom, 1 Bath	1,008 Sq. Ft. \$72,500
1561 Ballard St	2 Bedroom, 1 Bath	900 Sq. Ft. \$70,000
1003 Shepard St	3 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath	1,248 Sq. Ft. \$96,000
628 Brook St	4 Bedroom, 2 Bath	1,367 Sq. Ft. \$87,000
209 Reo Ave	4 Bedrooms, 1.5 Bath	1,364 Sq. Ft. \$79,000
1226 W Lenawee St	3 Bedroom, 2 Bath	1,248 Sq. Ft. \$107,000
4123 Balmoral Dr	3 Bedroom, 2 Bath	1,210 Sq. Ft. \$67,000
339 W Randolph St	2 Bedroom, 1 Bath	748 Sq. Ft. \$58,000
1639 Vermont Ave	3 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath	1,388 Sq. Ft. \$90,000
815 Riverview Ave	2 Bedroom, 1 Bath	978 Sq. Ft. \$63,500
920 W Willow St	4 Bedrooms, 1 Bath	1,312 Sq. Ft. \$75,000
1016 Jenison Ave	3 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath	1,380 Sq. Ft. \$95,000
308 W Columbia St, Mason	3 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath	1,248 Sq. Ft. \$126,000
Eden Glen Condominium	2 or 3 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath	\$49,500-55,000

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