Our top 5 stories from 2014

Lansing State Journal staff 6:35 a.m. EST December 29, 2014

Reports blister BWL for lack of response, planning to storm

Restoration of power to the last of the estimated 40,000 BWL customers hit by the ice storm of December 2013 wrapped up on New Year's Day. The restoration marked not so much the end of a weather event as the launch of a year of recovery, attempts at accountability and the implementation of changes intended to ensure no future outage affects so many or lasts so long.

Same sex couples marry in Mason

Dozens of same-sex couples rushed to the Ingham County courthouse to get married early on a the morning of Saturday, March 22 following a ruling by a federal judge that overturned Michigan's ban on gay marriage. The window of opportunity was brief, however, because an appeal by Attorney General Bill Schuette resulted in a ruling later in the day that halted further same-sex marriages. The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to decide in January whether to take on the case.
MSU, community say good bye to Lacey Holsworth

In the final months of her life, until well after her death, Lacey Holsworth captured the hearts of Michigan State fans and beyond. The 8-year-old girl from St. Johns with heartbreaking maturity and never-ending charm had a love for MSU basketball and its power forward, Adreian Payne, reciprocated by Payne and the MSU community. Holsworth died on April 9, after a two-year battle with cancer, and less than two weeks after MSU's basketball season ended.

Spartans prevail in first Rose Bowl since 1987

After 26 years of dreaming and waiting, MSU's football program took its Pasadena-starved fan base back to Southern California. The Rose Bowl became a sea of green and white on New Year's Day, and MSU capped its magical season with a memorable 24-20 win over Stanford. Kyler Elsworth, Darren Harris and Shilique Calhoun stopped Stanford's Tyler Gaffney on fourth-and-1 with less than two minutes remaining in the game to seal a dramatic victory.
Workers pour concrete as 1,400 cubic yards of concrete from 140 truckloads were delivered and poured starting at 3 a.m. Wednesday at the FRIB construction site on the campus of Michigan State University. Photo taken 7/23/2014 by Greg DeRuiter

MSU breaks ground on the FRIB

Michigan State University broke ground on the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams on a cold morning in March. The $730 million nuclear science research project had come through more than five years of intensive planning and design, and nearly a year in limbo as the U.S. Department of Energy sorted out its research priorities. But with firm backing from both the nuclear science community and Michigan's congressional delegation, FRIB won out and there is now a bustling construction site on MSU's campus to prove it.