

Grand Ledge High School's

# The Comets' Tale



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## Return to Comets Football



**Grant Dorland**  
SPORTS EDITOR

What a game for the Comets! Grand Ledges' 42-0 win over the Okemos Chieftains marked the fifth win of the season. Although last year looked different due to COVID-19, this year the student body has brought some intense energy to the games.

The first game at Coldwater was an absolutely electric way to start the year. The crazy atmosphere helped the Comets eclipse the out-of-conference foe and start the year off on a very strong note. The wins continued to build up for the Comets, cruising their way to a 4-0 start heading into their first tough road game against Dewitt. The Comets fell short, falling 54-12 to the Panthers.

"The fans being back has brought a different energy to the games. Even the away games are so much more fun," Junior Mason Stocker said.

After the electric Dewitt atmosphere, the team had to travel for a non-conference game against Mattawan.

"The fans were crazy. We had little kids yelling in our faces heading into the locker room for halftime," Stocker said.

Throughout the game, there was a lot of heated and intense play with players even throwing kicks after plays. Even with the tough play, the Comets successfully put away Mattawan on the final drive by a

game-winning interception by Junior Shawn Foster.

Following the win against Mattawan, the fans were welcomed back with open arms at the Grand Ledge Football stadium for the Homecoming game.

The night started with the parade, followed by the game and boy, were people excited. The Comet football team gave the crowd a lot to cheer for. Junior, Andrew Konieczny started the first defensive possession with a pick which was capped off with an easy three play touchdown drive. The next defensive drive, Konieczny followed it up with a pick-six and put the Comets up 14-0 within the first five minutes of game time.

Unfortunately, the game was cut short at halftime due to weather conditions. The Comets won handily by a score of 43-0. Even though the game wasn't played all the way through, the students and fans alike were very excited to be back in the packed house under the lights.

"It was a great game and we loved the energy that the fans brought with them tonight," Stocker said.

To cap off the regular season the Comets' traveled to their cross-town rival, the Holt Rams. The Rams were dominant from start to finish. Big plays were a staple of the Rams' offense and the Comets had no answer.

Although the Comets have struggled as of late, their success early in the season did just enough to get them into the playoffs. On Friday, October 29th the Comets travel to Rockford to face the top division one team in the state of Michigan. The team is looking to pull off a major upset and secure the first non-COVID playoff win in three years.

**Right: Junior Shawn Foster (8) celebrates with teammate Caden Walsh (5) following Foster's touchdown. The Comets went on to win this game, and will play Rockford in their first state playoff game Friday, October 29th.**

*Photo by Grant Dorland/The Comets' Tale*



# Letter from the Editors



**Cole Bennett**

CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF



**Megan Reynaert**

CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF

Dear students and staff of GLHS,

The Comets' Tale is excited to present our first print publication for the 2021-2022 school year. Thanks for reading our newspaper! It has been amazing to be back in the classroom full-time over the last two months, after almost a full year of remote learning.

The Comets' Tale has a team of new and returning writers and editors this year, and we're so excited to bring the community news to the students of Grand Ledge High School once again. This year, we have plans to continue posting on our website, [glcometstale.com](http://glcometstale.com), as well as moving forward with even more print publications. The Comet Cast podcast is also back up and running. Our first episode is available on the website, so tune in!

All the best,  
Cole Bennett and Megan Reynaert

# The Comets' Tale

## Mission Statement

*The Comets' Tale*, a newspaper produced for and by students of Grand Ledge High School, will provide the student body with information pertinent to events, activities and issues that affect GLHS students.

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Letters to the Editor are encouraged by The Comets' Tale staff. Letters may pertain to an article written or simply act as a form of student expression. All letters must be deemed publishable by the Editorial Board including the adviser. They should be 200 words or less but may be edited for content of length. All letters to the Editor must be signed. To send a letter to the Editor students may drop them in the publications room (room 225).

# COVID-19 Continues To Impact Community



**Carmen Cline**  
STAFF WRITER

Updates for COVID-19 in recent months have been coming in fast. With all these updates it can be hard to keep track.

On the Grand Ledge Public Schools website there is a chart for COVID-19 cases confirmed and probable. A question being asked is how the school system comes up with these statistics and the numbers for the cases. The answer is that the Barry-Eaton County health department takes care of all of that.

"The Barry-Eaton County health department will organize and record all the cases" Dr. Wright said when asked about the COVID-19 statistics.

What's difficult about that is that not all cases are thoroughly looked into. Some people may contract COVID-19 but not get tested and just stay at home for a little bit. So the statistics aren't completely perfect.

On another note, the mask mandate is still in question. Many people support the idea of removing the mask mandate in the high-school and in all of Eaton County.

Masks themselves are a very hot topic in the entirety of Eaton County. Getting the mandate removed would let students and staff attend school without

Updated at 8:43 a.m., October 25, 2021	ACTIVE		CLOSED		
GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	confirmed	probable	confirmed	probable	total
Beagle Middle School	2	1	7	9	19
Delta Center Elementary	0	0	2	5	7
Delta Mills Early Childhood Center	0	0	2	3	5
Grand Ledge High School	5	5	15	14	39
Hayes Intermediate School	2	2	9	13	26
Holbrook Elementary	2	1	2	16	21
Neff Early Childhood Center	0	1	0	3	4
Sawdon Administration Building	0	0	0	0	0
Wacousta Elementary	0	1	4	8	13
Willow Ridge Elementary	0	0	3	5	8
other district locations	0	0	1	4	5
Total for Grand Ledge Public Schools	11	11	45	80	147

**Current COVID-19 statistics are highlighted on the COVID-19 dashboard on the Grand Ledge Public Schools website. This data is organized and recorded by the Barry-Eaton Health Department.**

*Graphic by Madeline Gooley/The Comets' Tale*

masks. This appears to be what some people in the county want to see happen.

Some have argued about the negative effects masks have on school life. Some say it's hard to hear people talking through the masks, so people are often mishearing or asking teachers to repeat themselves. Some also believe masks make it more difficult to breathe, and many have complaints about these

breathing problems.

The positives are that the masks protect people from getting sick or getting COVID-19. Wearing a mask also prevents many students from having to quarantine due to a close contact.

COVID-19 is an everchanging virus, but school officials have done their best to keep everyone safe.

# China Bans Crypto for the Ninth Time



**Ben LaScola**  
STAFF WRITER

China has had a long history of a negative relationship with cryptocurrency, or crypto for short, and bitcoin. Bitcoin is a type of digital currency. It can be used for online

purchases, investing, and it is one of the national currencies in El Salvador. China has banned crypto almost nine times, but the most recent ban is the harshest yet.

China implemented a new law stating that anyone who holds crypto will be put to hard labor as capital punishment. This includes sending, receiving, and holding defi currencies (Decentralized finance or crypto). The country's central bank states it was to "protect people's assets." Is banning crypto the way to "protect assets" or is it for control?

GLHS' AP Econ teacher, Mr. Delaney, was questioned about if this law is more about protection or manipulation. "Possibly, depending on how the owners manipulated the market of it" said Delaney.

The effect of this ban has caused a major dip following the even bigger mass market dip due to the overdebted Chinese real estate company Evergrande.

The Chinese company went nearly bankrupt and caused all markets to shake. However, bitcoin and other altcoins saw a lot of resistance unlike with the previous mining ban in early Summer 2021, where China banned all crypto mining. Prices now are growing regardless of a



**Bitcoin's relationship with China has been shaky over the past few years. The prices have continued to increase over the years.**

*Graphic by The Comets' Tale*

long run dip since May 2021. The market for crypto will only keep growing as millions of Americans own crypto.

The Chinese crypto traders, who predicted would liquidate billions of dollars, actually are seen on the blockchain to be still trading illegally. Chinese efforts to control defi currencies have failed as it's impossible to ban something that belongs to everyone. Prices are projected with the bitcoin cycle to increase regardless of interruptions. Despite this, Delaney does not believe bitcoin will hit \$100,000 a coin (current price is \$54,000 as of recent).

With this said, will bitcoin ever hit \$100,000? Or will the United States crack down on crypto and try to control the currency?

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# COVID-19 Causes Staffing Issues

Local businessman gives his opinion on the recent staffing catastrophe.



**Isabella Dionise**  
STAFF WRITER

Help wanted! Now Hiring! In Grand Ledge and many places around the country, these types of signs plaster small businesses and chains alike. Establishments are struggling to find enough employees to keep the doors open, or run their usual hours.

Robert Baldino owns Gunnisonville Meadows, an assisted living facility located in Dewitt. He has been experiencing staffing issues since the beginning of the pandemic, both with finding work and keeping employees.

It seems to come from all sides for business owners. When asked which was a bigger problem, people quitting or not having candidates to hire, Robert Baldino said "We had both, people quitting and people not showing up to interviews."



**Now Hiring signs are posted all around Grand Ledge. Businesses have struggled to hire and retain employees.**

*Photo by Isabella Dionise/The Comets' Tale*

Baldino also voiced his frustration with interview scheduling.

"It was very normal to have people that would not show up [to their interviews]."

The pandemic was extremely difficult on staffing, and Baldino commented on the rough patches of the virus's effect.

"The worst part was a couple of months into the pandemic," he stated. They were short on staff and struggling to find enough people to cover shifts.

Being an assisted living home, Gunnisonville's main concern was making sure there were people employed and working to take care of the residents. When asked whether the residents noticed the short staffing or holes in the staff Baldino said, "We tried to fill spots... we would make do with people working overtime," and reaffirmed that the residents never noticed a difference. However, he did have their family members comment on the short staffing.

The pandemic has wreaked havoc on the economy and has touched every corner of the world and everyone's lives, from the supply chain to not being able to eat inside of your favorite restaurant. Staffing shortages are just the tip of the iceberg.

## Supporting Bus Drivers



**Marisol Macias**  
STAFF WRITER

The pandemic has caused an enormous shift in everyday life, especially for those active in the workforce.

Even with looser COVID-19 regulations, employees everywhere have had to adjust to a shift in work environments.



**Buses at Delta Center Elementary wait for pickup. The driver shortage resulted in more kids on each bus.**

*Photo by Marisol Macias/The Comets' Tale*

Staffing issues are one of the main effects of the pandemic and they have the greatest impact when it comes to today's working conditions. Fewer people actively providing their services within a workplace creates greater demands for those who are. Workers may also have to give up some of their personal freedoms in order to take on more tasks. This can be seen in the GLHS Transportation Department.

Ann Manning, bus driver and trainer for Grand Ledge High School, highlighted some of the changes drivers have experienced during the pandemic.

"We have been short drivers this year, so our supervisor, dispatcher, and mechanics have been driving.

Sometimes a student may get missed and we usually try to help each other if we are in the area," Manning said. In this case, outside staff had to step in to carry out services.

On top of this, the bus drivers undergo long working hours.

"I arrive at the garage at 5:50 am until 9:10 am...we are back for our afternoon runs a little before 2:00 and [I'm] done with my route a little after 5 PM," Manning adds. Time spent on the bus has extended not only for the drivers but also for the students who ride regularly, which can be stressful.

Overall, those employed during a pandemic have experienced hassles when it comes to new

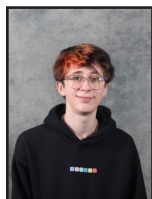
workloads, masks, following guidelines, and adjusting to a different environment which may not function as smoothly during a pandemic.

"Wearing a mask is hard and it is very hard to enforce as the kids slide down in their seats and we can't see them. And [we are] disinfecting more," Manning noted on behalf of the drivers.

Bus drivers especially have an important role when it comes to school staff. Many parents, students, and staff rely on them, and their job isn't always pleasant. They provide so much support, and the people of Grand Ledge can help support them in return, along with other businesses in the area that may be struggling, both big and small.



# Band Exhibition Returns



**Andrew Powers**  
STAFF WRITER

Grand Ledge's unranked band exhibition returned this year, after its absence last year, due to COVID-19. Band students and fans alike were thrilled. The crowd was ecstatic,

cheering throughout the four-hour-long show. The marchers were buzzing during rehearsal. Countless rehearsals lead up to this.

"[There was] A lot of work and practices and painstaking days in band classes," trombonist Zofia Russell said. "A lot of 6-8 night practices."

This year's exhibition looked quite a bit different from previous years due to COVID-19 precautions. All 21 bands had to warm up outside instead of inside, creating more of a crowded atmosphere on the field.

Exciting as its return is, a lot has to go into planning the exhibition before it can happen.

"The biggest part is creating the schedule and the order in which the bands perform," Grand Ledge High School's Director of bands, John Szczerowski said.

"Logistically it's a lot of planning, but once it's up and running it's pretty smooth."

After schedules were created for all 21 bands, timing was figured out, and rehearsals were completed, the exhibition finally happened, opening with the Grand Ledge Marching Band performing the national anthem. As the other bands were performing, the Grand Ledge marching band was supporting them from the stands until it was time for them to warm up. Feelings were mixed between students before going on the field.

"I felt really anxious," flutist Hannah Poirier said.

"I didn't know what was gonna happen and I was excited to find out," Russell said.

The stands were packed by the time Grand Ledge was ready to play, with people having to line up on the sides of the football field just to see the show. They began with the opening number to their America themed show, "America the Beautiful." They continued with a mashup of "America" by Neil Diamond and "America" from West Side Story led by drum major Jade Friedils. Next, the percussion section shined during the performance of "My Shot" from Broadway Musical, "Hamilton." Last, they closed out with a

more energetic rendition of their opening number.

After the crowd filed out of the stands, the Grand Ledge Marching Band had the time to reflect on the night.

"I'm really proud of the performance and the people," Zofia Russell said, smiling.



**The Grand Ledge Marching Band performing during the Band Exhibition. Their show featured songs highlighting America.**

*Photo by Andrew Powers/The Comets' Tale*

# Giving a Helping Hand



**Mayra Cruz Santiago**  
STAFF WRITER

The National Honor Society is finally back and ready to go. Members now get more opportunities to help out their community in more ways than last year.

For those who don't know, the National Honor Society or NHS, is a program that helps students build leadership roles. The members get to help the general public by doing voluntary work. They also run fundraisers throughout the school year.

"NHS helps students run and foster qualities they will need beyond high school, allowing them to practice these qualities in multiple spheres." Lauren Read, a co-advisor for the program, said.

The members have to complete 10 volunteer hours each trimester as well as an extra 15 hours during the summer to keep their membership. If members decide they want to do more than the required hours after their quota is met, they will be rewarded.

"Three students who document the greatest amount of service hours over the course of their time in NHS, earn scholarships for \$500, \$250, and \$100." Courtney Lutz, another co-advisor for the club, said.

On September 13th members were notified that Junior nominations are here. The Junior nominations are held each year to pick new members for the executive board. All members get to pick their nominees for a spot. The spots available are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian. Those roles get switched out yearly. Only Juniors can be nominated. It was revealed on Oct. 12, 2021 who the new members of the executive board are. For President Mia Anderson was chosen, Pedro Chavez got the Vice-President role. Linda Dang got Secretary, Joshua Hall got Treasure, and for the Historian role, Josie Parish.

Each role on the executive board is different. The Secretary is the person who records the voluntary hours of members and their attendance, the Treasurer is responsible for the club's funds, and the Historian is the one responsible with managing the social media and notifying club members of meeting and volunteer opportunities;

If any Sophomores or Juniors are interested in joining the program they can fill out an application at the end of the school year. However, there are some requirements that applicants must meet to be able to join.

"Sophomores and Juniors are invited to apply at the beginning of trimester three if they have a 3.5 weight-

ed cumulative GPA or better," Lutz said.

"Then to be inducted as members they need to demonstrate through their application leadership potential, excellent character, and a desire to serve our community," Lutz added.

Joining will not only help students develop leadership skills, they will also get the chance to help their community.



**Members of The National Honor Society get their new shirts for this year. They also appointed a new executive board at this meeting.**

*Photo by Mayra Cruz Santiago/The Comets' Tale*



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# A Spiderman Homecoming

Grand Ledge introduces Marvel into their Homecoming week festivities



**Megan Reynaert**  
CO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

*Spider-Man: Homecoming* may be four years old now but it still made a great Homecoming theme. Student Council pulled away from a few of student's favorite homecoming spirit week themes this year, such as pajama day. Instead, themes such as Bruce Wayne and Wanda Vision took its place.

This year's spirit week focused on superheroes. On Monday, students and staff were seen decked out in their beach gear, despite the rainy day, going all out for Beach Day (Aquaman) complete with floaties and goggles. On Tuesday, many students flashed back in time and showed off their 80's and 90's gear for Decades Day, (WandaVision). Students dressed up for each decade, much like the characters from the show. Many staff members went back to their very own high school or college days. On Wednesday, Grand Ledge could have been ready for the runway, because students were dressed to impress, going all out in suits and ties, or even dresses. (Bruce Wayne). On Thursday, the classes were divided, each grade level showing up in their assigned class colors, Freshmen being yellow, Sophomores orange, Juniors green, and finally, Seniors being blue, (Infinity Stones). On Friday, GL showed their spirit, decked out in blue and gold for the pep rally, ready for their very own Spiderman Homecoming.

Kaedyn Hirschman stated, "My favorite part of the pep assembly is the atmosphere. The students in the crowd cheering are just the best"

The pep rally is one of the biggest events that happens during the week of Homecoming. This year, Student Council was more excited than ever for the pep rally.



**Students cheer in support as the Varsity Cheer team performs their routine. Everyone had a great time at the pep rally.**

Photo by Megan Reynaert/The Comets' Tale

Student Council member, Ben Cook, commented, with the last pep rally being way back before COVID-19 shut down school, in early 2020, "We've tried to just jump back in right where we left off".

As always, this year's pep rally took place just hours before the annual parade and Homecoming football game. Students and staff gathered in the main gym to celebrate the week. The assembly was full of games, cheering, and a LOT of dancing. Even Dr. Wright joined in on the fun, showing off his dance moves alongside the Varsity and JV Pom teams!

This year's pep rally had one of the biggest turnouts seen in the past few years. The stands were packed full of cheering students. Everyone had an incredible experience hyping up the football team and the student section for the game.

Student Council did an absolutely amazing job with this year's Homecoming spirit week and pep rally. It was incredible to be able to have somewhat of a normal Homecoming Week. Seniors received their Senior Crowns while the Freshmen and Sophomores experienced their first-ever Grand Ledge Homecoming. With many more to come for the underclassmen, they got started off on a pretty good foot. Hoco '21 was officially a success.

"My favorite part is being able to feel accomplished knowing I was a part of it from the start," Student Council Member Coralie Allison commented.

Homecoming is one of the most exciting events during the entire school year! Students look forward to the many fun activities that go along with the dance and game. High schools across the United States and Canada take part in this tradition, and it becomes one of the most enjoyable events in a student's high school career.

The week was packed full with events such as the pep rally, parade, and football game all taking place Friday. Powderpuff kicked off the week on the preceding Sunday night, but the main event was the homecoming dance to cap off the week on Saturday.

This year, homecoming was especially exciting because students finally got to let loose after many months of social distancing and quarantining. Though masks were still required, and it felt like a million degrees at the dance, students were still able to enjoy themselves.

When it comes to these events, planning takes up a lot of time, months in advance even. All of the events are organized by student council, as they break up into committees and split up the planning of each event so they can break down every detail and make each event perfect.

"A lot of it's decorations, calling people, and working together as a committee," Camryn Nauta, president of the homecoming dance committee said.

**Katie Schupbach**  
STAFF WRITER



Student council had to pick a theme, and then decorate the entire cafeteria to that theme for the dance. Not only does that take a lot of time, it takes quite a bit of money too. Therefore, the tickets were twenty dollars per person to get into the dance.

The theme for this year's homecoming was superhero comic books. All the floats of the parade resembled a specific superhero, such as Hulk for Volleyball and the Flash for Cross Country.

"The theme is chosen all together as student council and all the specific events have to match the theme," Braylond Price, president of the parade committee, said.

The committees can do whatever they want with decorations as long as it goes along with the Superhero theme.

Overall, the parade and dance were both huge hits. Students elaborated on their thoughts on Homecoming week answering some questions in a poll sent out at the end of homecoming week.

"It's one of the high school moments that will stick with me forever, honestly one of the best nights of my life," one student said.

Students described the dance as fun, chaotic, sweaty, and amazing. One student even described the dance as "lit", so you just know it was good.

Overall, based on the poll results, the dance was voted the best and most enjoyed out of all of the homecoming events.

Everybody enjoyed themselves this year at homecoming thanks to Student Council and the hours of work they put in. Now, we'll have to wait and see what they can come up with next year...



**Dr. Wright pulls off a huge surprise, jumping off the balcony in a muscle suit. He joined the pom teams front and center.**

Photo by Megan Reynaert/The Comets' Tale



# Senior Kick-Off



**Madison Bartlett**  
STAFF WRITER

Grand Ledge High School sports kicked off their senior nights this October. It is a big night for all the seniors in the Marching band, cheer, dive, swim, volleyball, pom , and football, For it is the last time they are playing on the home turf of Grand Ledge High School.

Every year, Grand Ledge honors all seniors on a special night just for them. This year will be the first normal year for the past two years where we get to honor all of the seniors. To celebrate the seniors, before the each game, the senior is announced with their parents onto the field/court and gets honored for all of the hard work they did to get where they are at right now.

“I think the most memorable moment would be our game against Okemos last year. It was a really tough game, but we fought hard and beat them for the first time in 5 years,” said Jenna James, varsity volleyball senior.

The first senior night thst took place was the Varsity football team. Grand Ledge was 5-1 before their senior night on October 15th.

The football seniors this year are Caden Andriesen, Austin Blackwell, Nathan Bloomer-Samuels, Adam Blue, Reese Cordahl, Colson Currie, Nathan Droste, Nathan Edlin, Brendan Hoquard, Noah Holland, John Kelly, Jeffery Kolb, Preston Lowell, Jodi Mainor, Ethan McCartney, Reilly McCrackin, John Pastras, Jackson Raymond, Benjamin Reynolds, Christopher Reynolds, Weston Rodriguez, Audun Saetermo, Evan Starmer, Zachary VanderPloeg, and Caden Walsh.

Unfortunately, the Varsity football team fell short , 27-12 taking their record now to 6 wins 2 losses, but it

sure was a night to never forget for the seniors. On this night as well Grand Ledge also got to celebrate cheer, pom, and band senior nights. The seniors on Varsity cheer this year are Emily Evans, Jourdan Girven, Sophia Johnston, Flora Kulang, Hailey Schaffer, Olivia Schelling, Olivia Strayer, Darby Wilson, and Tennile Wirtz. The senior leading the varsity pom team this year is just Ella Townsend.

Lastly the Marching band seniors are Deseo Badillo, Margaret Baribeau, Colton Bennett, Luc Bennett, Allison Block, Joseph Brown, Olivia Buchweitz, Elisabeth Burger, Garrett Callison, Ethan Childs, Danielle Cole, Emily Crofut, Braden Dennis, Amelia Diaz, Arielle Eagle-Moore, Madison Fischer, Jade Friedlis, Amanda Gatewood, Elizabeth Golisch, Hunter Goodwin,



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With Pom performing an amazing performance at halftime, it was followed by another outstanding performance by the Grand Ledge Marching Band. And

**Braelyn Jackson-Pointer**  
STAFF WRITER



as always, the Varsity cheer team did an amazing job at getting the crowd hyped before and during the game! “My favorite part of playing football for Grand Ledge has been all the friends I’ve made over the years and the relationships I’ve built. I’m definitely going to miss the crowds and adrenaline you get when running out of the tunnel and the whole atmosphere.” Football Senior Nathan Droste said.

Volleyball seniors were honered next, they have had an amazing season so far with a record of 6-1. The seniors on the Varsity volleyball team are Alyssa Costello, Ella Didion, Jenna James, Megan Reynaert, and Sydney Weiler. The last home game for the Seniors was October 21st against Dewitt. Sadly the Grand Ledge Varsity Volleyball Team took a tough loss against Dewitt taking their record now to 6-2. Varsity has had an amazing season with all the amazing seniors that have made a big impact on the Grand Ledge volleyball team.

Moving onto the Swim team, their senior night was also October 21st with a record of 3-4 before their meet. The seniors on the Varsity swim team are Samantha Bohnet, Alexandria Diller, Jade Friedlis, Alyssa Rainsberger, Olivia Martinsson, Maria Valdeon-Lopez and Amina Vakili.

The varsity swim team went against Haslett on their senior night. Fortunately for the seniors and the varsity swim team took a huge win over Haslett, now taking their record to 4-4. The seniors last home meet will be a night to remember knowing it is the last time they are competing at Grand Ledge High school.

“I have been competitively swimming for 11 years. My favorite memory from GLHS swim has been having fun with my teammates at our conference meet. Everyone goes so fast and it’s great to cheer each other on.” Said Senior Swimmer Alyssa



**Middle:** The Grand Ledge football team getting their gameplan ready. The seniors are getting ready for their last home game.  
**Left:** Ready for vengeance, the GLHS Volleyball Seniors take on Dewitt for their last home match.  
**Above:** Victory for the girls Swim and Dive team! Senior Samantha Bohnet leads the team to victory.

Photos by Braelyn Jackson-Pointer/ The Comets' tale



# Gravy is NOT Thanksgiving Dinner

Grand Ledge High School has introduced an Emotional Support Dog into the school building.



**Olivia Schelling**  
CO-EDITOR

Grand Ledge Public Schools introduced a new program to influence positive change for the student body. Administration partnered with Canines for Change to impact the lives of students and staff for the better. Canines for Change is a program designed to use dogs as emotional support for those in need.

Grand Ledge Public Schools placed a dog in each of their nine buildings including Grand Ledge High School. The first of the dogs were placed in school buildings during July.

Coming off a pandemic, virtual learning, and emotional rollercoasters, Canines for Change was contacted to improve the learning environment for Grand Ledge students. School may be a stressful place for students, or students may be having home issues that carry with them to school. Nevertheless, the administration strived to find a way to help those who needed it. Studies have proven that the animal-human bond benefits mental and physical health.

With the addition of the dogs, staff across the district are able to use them for classroom benefits. Teachers are able to “rent out” the dogs for a specific hour during the day. This way, more students obtain a one on one interaction with the dogs. However, the dogs do have specific roles they need to serve.

“They provide social and emotional support to students and staff as needed. There is a lot of research around how a dog can impact a person’s well being and how the presence of a well trained dog really helps people that are struggling and need a pick me up. They are trained to provide that social and emotional support.” Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services, William Barnes, proclaimed.

As stated before, school may be a challenging place for students. Focusing and managing tasks may be an aspect in this challenge.

The goal of bringing the dogs into the school was to alleviate the discomfort and encourage a safe space for students socially, emotionally, and academically. Administration pushes for the growth and learning of students.

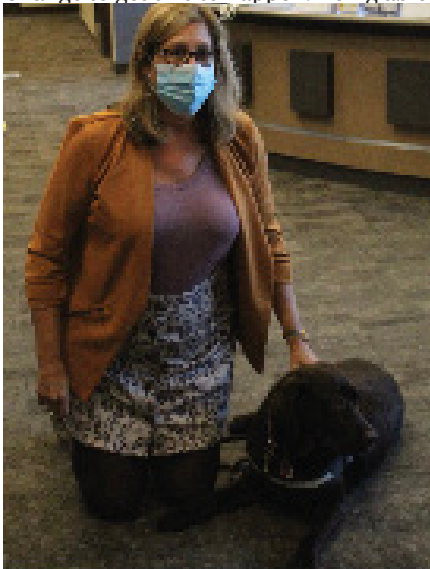
“Already anecdotally across the district we have heard stories of kids who have been able to stay in class or come into the classroom and just feel better by the dogs. The main thing is it helps kids feel comfortable and manage their emotions in different ways than any other way we’ve had.” Barnes mentioned.

Grand Ledge High School has adopted its very own dog. The Chocolate Lab running around the school is Gravy. She is the youngest of the dogs in the district, hence why she wears an “in-training” vest. Dean of Students, Maria Capra, handles Gravy on a daily basis, walking her around passing time and making sure she is in various locations throughout the day. As the handler of Gravy, Capra is able to have a first hand view of the students’ interactions.

“It has been amazing to witness both the students and staffs’ positive reactions to Gravy. She brings a smile and laughter to all of those who interact with her. With each day, more and more students are coming up to her asking to pet her and/or play with her. Throughout the day, several staff members stop by the office to give her a pet as well. Many students have told me that seeing Gravy in the halls is the best part of their day and helps decrease their anxiety.” Capra mentioned.

Since the addition of Canines for Change in the school buildings, school has been a much easier place for students to be. Let’s also state the obvious, who wouldn’t want a dog at school? Administration hopes to see a positive impact across the school year. Canines for Change has been very helpful to GLPS. They are able to provide the schools with support through the life of a dog.

“It’s great that we as a district have an opportunity to partner with an organization like Canines for Change to get this to happen. Being able to take an idea and put it in practice to make an impact requires good partnerships, so I appreciate Canines for Change” pronounced Barnes.



**Bottom Left: Gravy is the main support dog at Grand Ledge High School. She works to help students emotionally during the school day. Top Right: Mrs. Capra works to ensure all students get an opportunity to see Gravy throughout the day. They are mainly set in the main office, other than lunch and passing period. Photos by Olivia Schelling/The Comets' Tale**



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# Behind the Scenes of Lansing's Hit Movie



**Madeline Gooley**  
STAFF WRITER

"Thorn in the Center of the Heart," directed by Thang Mung, follows an ex-FBI agent deciding if he should risk it all by going on one last mission to pay off his debts. Packed with action, Mung tells the story of Khan Pi's last adventure.

The film, mostly shot in Lansing, was the first to play at the Sun Theatre since the beginning of the pandemic. This was director Mung's debut to the world.

To make this film, Mung needed a lot of help from his community. Many of the actors were actually volunteers who wanted to take part in the film and some of the filming locations were given to him.

The significance of Lansing comes from Mung himself.

"I've lived in Lansing since 2010 when my family moved here from Burma," Mung said.

Thang is a Burmese refugee who left Burma to escape

religious persecution. He made this movie to honor his brother who passed away while his family was still living in Burma.

This film is the first film to be shown in the US that features Thang's native language of Zomi.

"I didn't make this movie to make history, but it did, and I thank God for that," Thang stated.

God is a very large influence and motivation for Thang's work. He says he thanks God for everything coming together and allowing everyone to help. Even this film has a large Christian influence.

Mung looks forward to writing more action movies with his wife that are centered around Christian values and has show dates lined up this month throughout the country. While currently working on smaller projects, Mung does what he can to get his name and work out there.

Locally, the film was reviewed very well.

"99% of the people who went to see the film... had great things to say," Mung said.

"The viewers felt they received the message I was trying to put out. I felt very welcomed by the commu-

nity... I thank God every day for this opportunity and allowing everything to come together."



**Thang Mung is local to the Lansing area. He chose Lansing as the center of his movie because of this connection.**

*Photo provided by Thang Mung*

# Here Comes The Sun



**Lynne Johnson**  
STAFF WRITER

With restrictions lifting and things heading closer to normal, the Sun Theatre has finally reopened. The Sun Theatre has been a staple in the Grand Ledge Community since 1931 and was missed by many over the shutdown.

The Sun reopened on Sept. 3, with the premiere of "Thorn in the Center of the Heart," a movie shot in the Lansing Area. Having this business back in the community is a welcome change for many, but going to the movies isn't what it used to be.

Movie goers may be concerned about the safety of seeing a movie with a worldwide pandemic still in full swing. Many have questioned whether seeing a movie would be worth the possibility of contracting COVID-19. But theatres are doing their best to keep audience members safe.

Many movie theaters have made an effort to focus on social distancing, electing to have movie-goers book their seats ahead of time and blocking off seats and not allowing other parties to sit near each other.

Many movie theaters are also not allowing refills. Refills could result in contamination from cups and buckets that people have touched and put their mouths on and lead to the possible spread of COVID-19.

While the movie theater experience may be different than it once was, it is nice to have a sense of normality return along with them.



**The Sun Theatre has recently reopened in Grand Ledge. Grand Ledge community members were very happy to have his business back.**

*Photo by Lynne Johnson/The Comets' Tale*



# Horror Vs. Humor Halloween

## A Happy Halloween



**Garrett Callison**  
OPINION SECTION EDITOR

Ever received a weird vibe from the house on the corner? Always in constant fear of vampires and werewolves? That one part in the horror movie ends up with the popcorn bowl being thrown? Sometimes Halloween can get too scary, and a little bit of joking around is needed. Whatever the tradition is, Halloween does not have to be scary, in fact, it can be funny.

Some believe a humorous Halloween is more fun, versus a Halloween filled with scares. Carving Jack-O-Lanterns, throwing a Monster Mashin' party, doing some pranking, and trick-or-treating are typical non-scary traditions. Things on Halloween do not need to be scary to be fun.

"I didn't choose scary because humorous to my opinion is more fun," Sophomore Justin Greiner said. "I enjoy running around with friends and messing around over the traditional scary Halloween".

Trick-or-treating is one of the best Halloween traditions! Trick-or-treating is not a scary activity, since it is just friends running around the neighborhood to over-the-top decorated houses getting free candy. Some plan their route to miss "that" house or to hit all the houses in the "rich" neighborhood for all the full-sized candy bars. High School students have been interviewed to see if they still trick-or-treat. One student, in particular, responded that she does.

"I think people our age should trick-or-treat because it's a way that we can grow and make memories with each other," Senior Leigha Pardee said.

Not only is trick-or-treating about making memories, but it is also about the sugar high and the sugar hangover the next day that you get from those ghoulish delights. If parents want to check the candy for danger, they are really just looking for their favorite candy.

The last thing to address about a humorous Halloween is that some people like the things that go into making something scary but not the scary thing itself.

"I do like learning about how they make scary movies like prosthetics and stuff but, watching scary movies, no" Senior Alyssa Shaltry said.



**Pumpkin carving is a popular tradition among students. Jack O' Lanterns can be both scary and funny.**

*Photo by Cole Bennett/The Comets' Tale*

Students seem to find it fascinating how Hollywood makeup is done and the process of special effects in horror movies. However, they are less interested in watching the jump scares and music stings in scary movies. Not to mention the characters' decisions in horror movies are kind of dumb. Seriously, following a scary noise is really the best idea? Apparently, the basement is 100% safe? A shortcut through the foggy graveyard during a full moon seems perfectly normal.

All in all, the grim grinning ghosts of Halloween should be more grinning and less grim. Halloween can be less laughing out of fright and more laughing with delight. Avoid foggy graveyards, stick to well-lit areas, and maybe carry a clove of garlic. Happy trick-or-treating and have a happy Halloween!

## A Haunting Halloween



**Liam Elder**  
STAFF WRITER

Nights are getting cooler, and leaves are starting to turn bright colors. This is the first sign that spooky season is upon us. The final send-off to spooky season, Halloween, is on its way.

Halloween is based on traditions. Hundreds of years ago people would dress up as saints, to fend off ghosts and demons. The traditions of Halloween started with a fear of ghosts and demons and should continue to do so.

It seems that a lot of Grand Ledge students agree. From a survey of more than 200 GLHS students, the majority of students preferred a scary Halloween as opposed to a humorous one.

Junior Anna Zander says that her favorite Halloween tradition is "Watching horror movies".

Horror movies are a staple of Halloween. There is a reason that one of the most infamous horror movies of all time, "Halloween," is named after the holiday. In fact, eight individual students said that "Halloween" is their favorite Halloween movie.

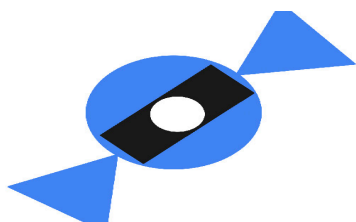
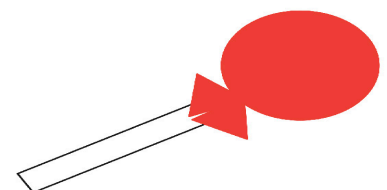
"I prefer a scary Halloween. My friend and I have a tradition of going to a different haunted house every Halloween." Junior Brendan Sochay stated.

Attractions like haunted houses exist to be scary, and who wants to go to a haunted house on Christmas? No one, that is why they are open in the fall during Halloween. Because Halloween is meant to be scary.

When asked about what he dresses up as for Halloween, Sophomore Coby Courter said, "I have grown up wearing scary costumes from zombies to slenderman, I have always gone with scary. In fact this year I plan to go as a skeleton."

Halloween is not Halloween without the costumes. You can tell the difference between people who prefer a more lighthearted Halloween compared to a scary Halloween, because they will either wear a morph suit, or a Scream costume.

At the end of the day, Halloween is truly about having fun. If your traditions are scary, hopefully they are still enjoyable. Have a frightening and devious Halloween!



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# Spooky Season Strikes Again

Students of Grand Ledge High School were polled on their thoughts about the Halloween Season



**Cole Bennett**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Sure, Grand Ledge is no Halloween-town, but residents know how to get spooky. Fake graveyards, cotton spiderwebs, and plastic skeletons decorate the town all month long. Between

the candy, movies, music, and traditions, there is a lot to celebrate during October. This year, the students of Grand Ledge High School shared their favorites.

The Comets' Tale sent out a poll to students, inquiring about their favorite Halloween traditions. The first, and clearly most important category, was candy. A kid's dream and a dentist's nightmare, candy is a staple of the Halloween season. Students voted on their favorite candies, and the results were quite scattered. More obscure candies, like Whatchamacallits and Charleston Chews, didn't receive a whole lot of love, but popular candies like Reeses' and Snickers got many votes. By far the most popular candy, with nearly 11% of the votes, was Twix.

"It's crunchy and sweet and it's a good combination of chocolate and caramel," said Anna Zander.

Another element of the season is the theme behind it all: Horror. Halloween is the inspiration behind some of the most influential movies in the horror genre, from John Carpenter's iconic slasher "Halloween", which will be receiving its 11th sequel/reboot this month, to Henry Selick's "The Nightmare Before Christmas", a stop-motion animated musical masterpiece.

When polled, it was clear that the students had a favorite film. With 13% of the votes, "Hocus Pocus", the story of three 17th century era witches who are resurrected in the modern day, is the clear favorite. The movie has become such a cult classic that it will be getting a sequel next October.

Other horror classics received some recognition from the students too. Votes went to Bernard Rose's



**Candy is a big part of the Halloween Season. The most popular candy among students is Twix.**

*Photo by Cole Bennett/The Comets' Tale*

"Candyman", Sam Raimi's "Evil Dead", and Jim Wynorski's bloody B-movie, "Chopping Mall".

"It's so bad that it's good and it's not really scary but it tries to be," said Jack Bierstetel.

Lots of media is tied into Halloween. With such a fun concept, there is a lot to work with, and music has run with that theme. Between timeless classics like Micheal Jackson's "Thriller" and the famously catchy "Time Warp", from "The Rocky Horror Picture Show", Halloween music has found an audience. As with candy and movies, the students made their choice clear. With over 30% of the votes, Bobby Pickett's "Monster Mash" is the song of the season, barely rivaled by the second most popular choice, The Living Tombstone's remix of "Spooky Scary Skeletons".

Easily the most anticipated part of the Halloween season is the big night itself, October 31st. Several students shared how they celebrate Halloween. One student that was interviewed explained some Pagan traditions behind Samhain, celebrated in the same vein as Halloween.

"With Samhain, you dress up because you want to be welcoming to the spirits," they said.

Several students shared their favorite

parts of Trick or Treating on Halloween Night, the reason for the season.

"Getting to wear a costume and show it off to everyone," said Beth Golisch.

"Free food is free food," said Alex Andritsis

Nate Lawhorn likes seeing everyone's costumes, and Alyssa Leisenring's favorite part is swapping candy at the end of the night.

"I like when everyone puts their pumpkins out and you can see everyone's different pumpkins," said Emily Crofut.

The month of October only comes once a year, and with it, a very special celebration. People across the community, country, and in some corners of the world put on a scary face and take to the streets, in pursuit of those precious Twix bars. Families and friends gather and watch scary movies, pumpkins are carved, decorations are hung, and costumes are donned. It's time to get spooky. Happy Halloween!



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