

Grand Ledge High School's

The Comets' Tale



Volume 54 Issue 4 April 2022 820 Spring St. Grand Ledge, MI
517-925-5848



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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 another print publication. Our staff has been working hard to cover news stories and updates in print, as well as over on our website, glcometstale.com. This is our second to last print publication, with one more coming your way at the Class of 2022's graduation!

Keep an ear out for our podcast, The Comet Cast, for more local news and events, as well as exclusive interviews with members of the community. Now that spring appears to have finally decided to make an appearance in Michigan, get outside and enjoy the warm weather!

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 or 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).

I-96 and I-496 Will Be Experiencing Construction



Garrett Callison
STAFF WRITER

The interstate that flows throughout Michigan is going to be experiencing construction that may last into the summer. This project will take some time and could cause traffic back ups due to detours needing to be taken.

Over in Western Michigan, near the Muskegon area, the bridge that goes over Hile Road will be getting maintenance, and Norris Creek's I-96 bridge will also require maintenance that will lead to lane closures in the Norris Creek area. In Ingham County, I-496 will be having two miles of roadways, Lansing Road to Grand River, experiencing construction as well. The freeways, interchanges, and 17 bridges will be the areas experiencing maintenance. The Muskegon construction is estimated to take until over the summer and into October. I-496's construction is expected to take until late 2022 to 2023.

Both construction projects are for maintenance and are meant to improve roadway safety. Multiple accidents have occurred, especially on I-496. Recently on April 18, there was a large accident on I-496

around the interchange near Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Five cars were off the road and a total of fifteen cars were involved in the accident. Multiple fire trucks had to report to the scene.

The I-96 bridges will be receiving substructure repair (supports), new expansion joints (to hold road pieces together), approach work (shoulder lanes and curbs), and steel beam repair. I-496 will be having an \$80 million rebuild of the freeway, interchange ramps, and other operational improvements around Lansing Road and M-99. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard will have upgrades to its service drives, and there will be preventive maintenance on seventeen bridges in the area. The construction will help improve safety and mobility. Since this is an important commuter route in Michigan.

This construction, considering it will take years to finish, will cause multiple traffic problems throughout the summer and the school years to come. Detours have been planned for the construction with Muskegon having detours using Airline Rd, Sternberg Rd, and Harvey St. It will lead to back-ups considering it is near the Muskegon Airport. I-496 will use Malcolm X St as a detour. Westbound I-496 will use Saint Joseph St at the Grand Avenue exit as a detour, and a minimum of two lanes will be

open for the roadways.

Even though this may be an inconvenience, it is ultimately for the roadway safety of the state of Michigan. The construction will be beneficial for the state of Michigan for years to come.



Interstates and bridges are being fixed state-wide. Roadway safety has been a concern and was a reason for construction.

Photo by Garrett Callison/The Comets' Tale

The School Board has Three Different Lawsuits in 2022



Andrew Powers
NEWS EDITOR

The Grand Ledge Public School Board has come under fire recently as they are the defendants of three concurring lawsuits.

Some may know of the oldest lawsuit from former superintendent Brian Metcalf related to his termination in September of 2020. Metcalf sued the school board after being "denied access to the records necessary to defend himself against charges seeking his dismissal and the ruination of his career," two weeks before he was officially fired his attorney claimed.

Metcalf was fired for making claims on social media in May of 2020 that George Floyd was at least in part responsible for his death at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer. Metcalf's lawsuit pertains to 16 requests he made to produce records of texts and emails between board members regarding Metcalf and his termination as it was being decided.

While the Eaton County Circuit Court judge ruled that there was not enough proof that the school board violated the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), a Court of Appeals judge disagreed, claiming that the Grand Ledge School Board must produce all 16 records Metcalf requested.

Metcalf's attorney, Eric Delaporte, claimed that they have received the requested records and more prior

to the upcoming arbitration hearing in mid to late May which will determine whether there was just cause in Metcalf's termination.

Eric Delaporte is also representing a parent of former Grand Ledge High School students, who is suing the school board as well. This mother is suing the school board as a whole and six of the members individually for allegedly violating FOIA by giving her a redacted version of approved and denied mask exemption requests that left only the title columns readable. The school board denied a later request to view a less censored version of the document, claiming that it would have violated Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which is an act saying that schools cannot release personally identifiable information of students.

In early March, in response to the lawsuit, the school board did provide the woman with an unredacted version of the document that included names and reasons for requesting an exemption. The lawsuit is still ongoing with no court date set as of yet.

Lastly, the father of Malachi Williams, who was tragically and unfortunately fatally struck by a school bus on his way home from school last year, is suing the school district and the bus driver for his son's death and the pain it caused his family. The Williams' attorney claims they reached out to the school district in June of 2021 to attempt to resolve the matter but were required to file a lawsuit to bring resolution and closure to the family.



School Board meetings are held at the Sawdon Building across the street from Grand Ledge High School. Previously held meetings were recorded and are available to watch on the school district's website.

Photo by Andrew Powers/The Comets' Tale

"My family wakes up every day with the pain that my son Malachi was taken from us. It is clear from the GLPS Board's silence that they are unwilling to take responsibility for our son's death. We filed this lawsuit to ensure that the school is held accountable and to force the school to make changes to ensure nothing like this ever happens again," Malachi's father, Eric Williams, stated in a press release.

A Happy Warrior

The Comet's Tale staff interviewed Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin after Eaton County was added to her district



Megan Reynaert
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"A woman in politics has to be a Happy Warrior," Representative Elissa Slotkin remarked as she told her inspiring story of how she got to where she is today. Elissa Slotkin is

a United States Representative, representing the 8th district of Michigan. This district includes Ingham, Livingston, and North Oakland Counties as well as parts of Eaton County.

"A man doesn't have to be a Happy Warrior, a woman has to be a Happy Warrior," Rep. Slotkin emphasized again along with the fact that she had always worked in male-dominated fields. The Comet's Tale Staff interviewed Rep. Slotkin after Eaton County was added to her district in 2022.

Before she was known as Representative Slotkin, she attended Cornell University for her undergraduate degree, and went on to attend Columbia for her Masters.

"All of my friends were either going to [the University of] Michigan or Michigan State University. I was one of those students that wanted to do something different, try something new," Rep. Slotkin commented.

Going into college, she didn't know exactly what she wanted to do with the rest of her life. She had always really liked history, was involved in student government, and was active in a lot of clubs within her school. Her family had been involved in the hot dog business for many years. Rep. Slotkin knew that she did not want to join her family on such a path, she wanted to forge her own way.

During her very first week of graduate school at Columbia University in New York, the 9/11 terrorist attacks took place. She stated that these horrific attacks were the very reason she decided to go into national security.

Rep. Slotkin ended her story by stating that COVID-19 is this generation's 9/11, in terms of events that shape each generation.

Out of college, she ended up in the CIA working to protect the United States from security threats. Representative Slotkin completed three different tours in Iraq as a militia expert, learning many important life lessons. She held multiple different positions in the White House as well as the Pentagon, serving as Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs.

One of the biggest lessons Rep. Slotkin learned while in Iraq was that if you have something positive to tell someone, don't wait, because that could be the last time you see them. She met up with a friend for lunch on a Friday, and they unfortunately passed away the

following Sunday, a mere 48 hours later. After her tours in Iraq, she knew that she always wanted to have a job with a mission.

"Having a mission means that there is something more important than you," Rep. Slotkin emphasized.

Before becoming a US Representative, Rep. Slotkin had always been very apolitical, proudly working for both Democrats and Republicans. During the 2016 presidential election, she noticed more anger and division between the parties than ever before. She mentioned that she probably would not have run for office if it wasn't for that election.



Elissa Slotkin represents the Eighth District of Michigan, including North Oakland, Livingston, and Ingham counties, as well as parts of Eaton county. She has been a Representative for almost five years now.

Photo provided by Elissa Slotkin's Communications Team

Representative Slotkin's Recent Activity

- March 25, 2022: Introduced bill to continue local law enforcement training program
- March 14, 2022: Introduced bill to restrict Putin's access to gold
- February 24, 2022: Introduced bipartisan bill to ensure fair treatment of migrants
- February 18, 2022: Co-sponsored bill to suspend federal gas tax

"If we hadn't had that turn into such anger between the parties, I probably would never have run for office, that was not in my career plan," Rep. Slotkin continued.

The 2016 Presidential Election featured Republican candidate Donald Trump and Democrat candidate Hillary Clinton. Even though Hillary Clinton won the popular vote, Donald Trump won the presidency. This election is considered one of the greatest upsets in history.

"I never remember having a problem with sexism - because I was the master of my portfolio, I knew my stuff," she stated when asked if she faced any challenges due to her gender. Politics tends to be a very male-dominated field; women are rare in higher military or political positions.

In her transition from the CIA to being a Congresswoman, she was shocked when she learned how few people actually read the bills they vote on. She told herself that she would always read them. She would know the details of what she was voting on.

With the recent redistricting in Michigan, Eaton County, which GL is a part of, is now included in Rep. Slotkin's district. The district nearly doubled in size, meaning there are now many new people for her to meet.

In early February, Rep. Slotkin and her team kicked off a 'Snow Boots on the Ground' tour, which she shared parts of on her Instagram page, @elissa.slotkin, to assist in getting to know the voters of the counties she now represents. She visited Brickhaven Brewing in Grand Ledge as the first stop on this tour. She also stopped at Cancun Mexican Grill as well as Flour Child Bakery while she was in town. On day two, she popped into Foster Coffee Company as well as Brumley and Bloom, a plant shop, both in Owosso. Finishing out the first weekend of this tour, she ended up in South Lyon.

Rep. Slotkin mentioned that she knows the voters of Holly and what that city needs, since she grew up in Holly, Michigan. With the redistricting, it means she now has to learn what the voters of Grand Ledge need, along with all of the surrounding areas. The redistricting changed the way she will approach the job now that there is much more area for her to cover and represent.

Women's Equality Club



Isabella Dionise
STAFF WRITER

This year, the Grand Ledge High School Women's Equality Club was founded by a few students in the Junior class in late February.

The club is "here to empower, educate, and provide support to women. All are welcome" according to the banner on the Google Classroom.

"The importance of the Women's Equality Club is to have a safe space to welcome women and gender non-conforming people who have faced gender inequality. Breaking enforced stereotypes and stopping discrimination through this club allows the club members to have a voice in our community. It's also a place to appreciate and bring light to important women throughout history and in our society today who have inspired many young women to stand up for themselves." one of the board members, Jaidyn Miller said.

The club discusses topics like women in media, women throughout the decades and women's health.

"The Women's Equality Club has already reached many great achievements thanks to the people inside our community who have lent a supporting hand. I am genuinely very excited to see what else we will be able to achieve in the future. We hope to become more involved with the community for sure!" Miller remarked.

Between April 11th through the 22nd, the women's equality club had a period product drive, collaborating with an organization called Helping Women Period.

"Helping Women Period is a non-profit organization that helps prevent period poverty by providing free menstrual products to those in need. The Women's Equality Club is working with them to collect more products throughout Grand Ledge by arranging drop-off boxes around town in local businesses where people can donate clean menstrual products" Miller stated.

People found the boxes in local Grand Ledge businesses such as Flour Child. The collection was massively successful, it collected many varieties

The board also features a woman of the week every

other week, highlighting strong and influential women over a multitude of time periods. This has included women like Marilyn Monroe and Lia Thomas.

For those interested in joining the club, they meet every other Thursday in room 225. The code for the Google Classroom for more information is yff5sbw, and the Remind code is fc3ke2f.



Pictured is a Woman's March attended in 2017. They marched to support women's rights and protest inequality.

Photo by Maddy Gooley/The Comets' Tale

Giving Back to the Earth



Marisol Macias
STAFF WRITER

As spring weather begins to touch Grand Ledge, more are eager to get outside for sports practices, bike rides, and just to enjoy the fresh air. These activities aren't enjoyable

with trash and pollutants about, which is why it's important to celebrate this year's Earth Day.

The first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970 after figures like Rachel Carson, author and environmentalist began to notice man-made wounds in the environment. The day was full of energy and was labeled as "the world's largest civic event." Ever since then, people across nations have kept the attitude going with one ultimate goal: to sustain the health of the planet with the generations that live on it.

In fact, the Grand Ledge community has pursued this goal during their annual Earth Day cleanups. These voluntary events included picking up garbage on Island Park, in Jaycee Park, and during the main event at Oak Park on Saturday the 23rd of April.

Saturday's event consisted of raking leaves, underbrushing, cleaning up litter, and laying mulch on the paths (a whopping five city dump trucks' worth!)

The other two cleanups did much of the same and encouraged people to join using social media hashtags #EarthDayGL and #PlantedinGrandLedge

to post pictures of the events.

As chair of the Grand Ledge Parks and Recreation Commission, Mr. Logel describes the cleanup's impact on the city and the people who volunteered.

"The great part about it is that many hands make life work, right?... We're able to see, in real time, the difference between the before and the after... you can see your work when you leave, you can see the five dump trucks full and know that you did something on that Saturday; that you made a difference. When you do that with others... when it's all volunteers, it builds a sense of neighborhood," Logel stated.

Keeping that sense of neighborhood is essential for community members after a year like 2020. As Eaton County continues to float away from pandemic protocol, its long-term impact was evident at Saturday's cleanup. The dependency on disposable items is heavily associated with this era of time, especially single-use masks.

"I mean, you can't walk down the street without seeing a discarded mask somewhere...It's unfortunately a sign of the times because it represents so many things. It represents our human carelessness...[and] the pandemic itself..." Logel said.

It's taken group efforts like this to climb these mountains. Along with action, educating is the number one way to know what the public is up against and what to do about it. Whether that is done on personal time or through the GL school curriculum, its impor-

ance is clear.

"Our [Grand Ledge High School's] Geko Program does recycling two days a week, but since Covid hit, we're now only recycling paper. Prior to COVID, we were recycling paper, plastic, cardboard... I think we need to bring that back and actually implement the stuff into the curriculum itself, yes. I think it can also be done cross curriculum, so that when we're doing current events... [they] can also be tied to studying... non-fiction units on climate change, on the impact of global warming, and on sustainability," Logel said.

As it's been said, action and education are the formula to making a difference on our planet. There doesn't need to be an organized cleanup to do something kind for the Earth. Put it into practice. Pick up that piece of trash. Start a compost. Talk to others about living life eco-friendly. Give back to the planet which has raised civilizations. Besides, who wouldn't want to take care of humanity's only home?

An image of the clean-up can be seen on the cover of this publication.

THE COMETS' TALE PAGE 6 ADVERTISEMENT

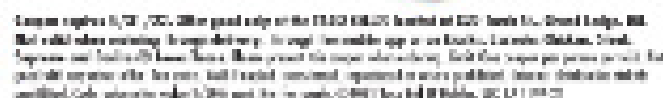
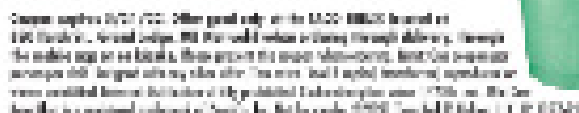


WHAT ARE YOU CRAVING TODAY?



At present, the following is the only available information on the use of the *in vitro* test:

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The Beauty of Thinking Differently



Olivia Schelling
CO-EDITOR

Humans are all unique in their own way. Everyone is different, and that's okay. Humans were programmed not to be the same as the person next door. Evolution plays a huge role in this. If humans evolve through the years, everyone is bound to be a little bit different.

April is Autism Awareness Month. Now, this month is not to shed a slight light on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). That will soon be forgotten. This is a month to bring the spectrum into the spotlight and show the world how normal it may be. ASD Awareness Month is characterized around bringing inclusion and the best possible outcome of life for all humans with this ability. The Autism Society of America defines ASD Awareness Month as celebrating neurological differences among everyone.

Autism is a complex, lifelong developmental disability that typically appears in early childhood and can impact a person's social skills, communication, relationships, and self-regulation. Autism can be defined as a set of behaviors and is considered a "spectrum condition" that affects all people differently and to varying degrees. Unfortunately, there is no known cause of autism, but an early diagnosis can be beneficial in the long run.

Grand Ledge High School offers a Peer-to-Peer class, LINKS, to help students with Autism Spectrum Disorder with daily school tasks. This class is monitored by Mrs. Howard. General education students involved with this class are paired with an ASD student for one hour to help with the completion of work, note-taking, modeling how to act, and so much more.

"The program is designed for an inclusive model so that everyone is having an authentic high school experience," Mrs. Howard commented.

The goal of the LINKS program is to develop



The GLHS LINKS program is a Peer-to-Peer course for general education students to learn more about Autism Spectrum Disorder. The program consists of 70+ students this last school year.

Photo by Mrs. Howard

tolerance and acceptance within the general education population. It also teaches general education students about students with ASD and about specific information about classmates with ASD. General education students in the LINKS program work with ASD students as role models, being inclusive and modeling what it is like to be a teenager.

Autism Spectrum Disorder affects all students differently. People with ASD may fall anywhere on the spectrum.

"I don't know how to describe it because everyone is different. We all behave and learn differently, and because I work with all different types of students it is sort of indescribable," Mrs. Howard stated.

With this being said, students throughout the school may have ASD, and others may not even know it.

"Having autism can be challenging at times, and can impact everyone differently. For me, it makes it difficult to interact with people" Sophomore Avery Zann remarked. "I constantly don't know how to respond to questions or certain phrases, and often take things literally. I tell people my most honest opinions, not knowing that it could hurt them in the process, and sometimes not understanding how I hurt them. It's

also difficult for me to understand jokes or sarcasm sometimes, and I often have to ask people to explain what they mean."

In the future, Howard hopes to see the LINKS program grow. She wants to be able to teach young adults life skills and to keep building inclusive interactions with all students.

LINKS and friends put on a spirit week at the end of April for Autism Awareness. The days included crazy socks day, tie-dye day, western day, Disney day, and green shirt/Autism Awareness shirts. Ending spirit week, LINKS and friends will hold a sensory-friendly prom for students with disabilities. This is a way for special needs kids to enjoy the joy of dressing up and attending a school dance.

Prom 4 You, is the sensory-friendly prom put together by the GLHS LINKS program. This prom will include Waverly High School's LINKS program. Prom 4 You will be held May 1, 2022, at Hidden Creek Farms in Charlotte.

April is not just a month to raise awareness of students and people with ASD. Autism needs to be recognized every month. Students should take a moment to recognize their differences and celebrate them!

The Puzzle Piece

Most people associate Autism with a puzzle piece. The puzzle piece is supposed to show the complexity of the spectrum. However, there is a lot of controversy regarding the puzzle piece. To some people, the puzzle piece may seem like a missing piece to a puzzle, almost like people with ASD are incomplete.

"We mainly don't like the puzzle piece symbol because it was made by Autism Speaks, which is essentially a hate group who think that [people with ASD] need to be 'fixed.'" Zann mentioned. "We also don't like it because it essentially means that there is a piece 'missing' from us like we're broken because of something we were born with."

Due to this conflict, humans with Autism came up with a new symbol, the infinity sign. The infinity sign is meant to show the entire spectrum. It rep-

resents the neurodiversity movement, which includes both neurodivergent and neurotypical people. This indicates that neurological differences are a natural occurrence in the world.

"The rainbow infinity sign was made by autistic people, for autistic people. It basically means that the spectrum is infinite and that everyone is different. It means that autism is filled with diversity, that it doesn't matter what anyone's race, gender, sexuality, or ethnicity is, they can still have autism," Zann said.

The infinity sign is meant to include everyone. It allows the spectrum to come together. Autism is a normal occurrence, not a missing piece. Differences are okay, and everyone is unique.

"Being on the spectrum does not mean we have some 'superpower' like most people were often told.

Sure, we see the world a bit differently, but at the end of the day, it's still the world that everyone else lives in. Just because we're a bit different than you, doesn't mean some of us can't have the same interests as everyone else. We're all human, in the end, we make mistakes, we get hurt, we all cry. If you meet someone with Autism, try and have a conversation with them, and if you happen to have a common interest, good news! You just made a new friend who will talk your ear off about said interest! We love talking about our special interests, and most of the time you can't get us to shut up. Just be patient if they don't talk to you at first though, it can take us a bit to warm up to people," Zann remarked.

Lets Play Ball!



Grant Dorland
CO-EDITOR

One of the hardest things in all of sports is hitting a baseball. However, that's not the case for Grand Ledge! Following one of the best years in school history, people are wondering how well Grand Ledge Baseball can do after losing so many important players.

The Comets' had their top four hitters from a season ago graduate and move on to play baseball at the collegiate level. Although this is a different-looking team, there's a lot of varsity experience on the roster. Players like Cole Mance and Thomas Kerrigan have been varsity players since their sophomore year and have contributed to the success of the program during their tenure. Others like Caleb Estrada, a Junior, and Nathan Droste, a Senior who will be playing in the middle infield have already developed the chemistry that is important to any team. With solid defense and experienced hitting, big things are expected for this team.

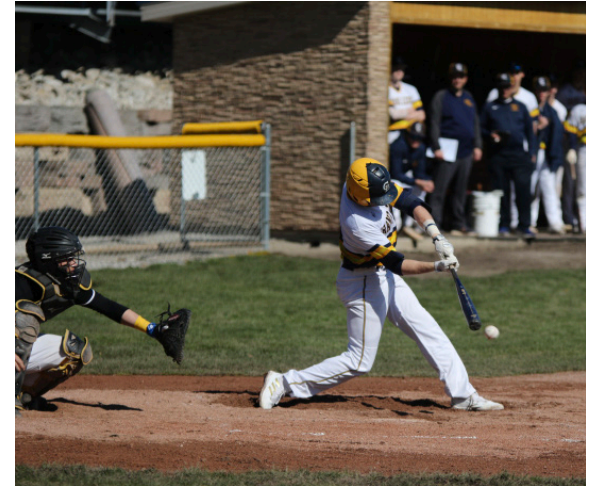
"We definitely have all the guys to win the confer-

ence this year and that's what we expect of ourselves" Senior, Alex Maguire said.

Even though they have a lot of big hitters, the pitching staff is the strongest part of the team. Players like Junior, Andrew Konieczny, and Senior, Carson Winans who both throw from the left side are going to be important pieces in the strategic matchups that come into play for close games late in the season. Senior, Will Maher, and Junior, Nathan Roskamp will be reliable starters who can go deep into games. The Comets are off to another phenomenal start this year and have already beaten conference rival Waverly Warriors in their first doubleheader against the Warriors this year. They won the first game 5-1 and the second game 12-2.

As the Comets head into the middle part of their season, they play multiple conference games in a row including matchups against Dewitt, Haslett, and East Lansing. Winning two or three of those games is a must if the Comets hope to clinch the top seed in the district.

Make sure to come out and support the team! You can find the schedule with dates and times at max-preps.com. Go Comets!



Senior Alex Maguire hits a double into the gap to lead off the inning. The Comets' went on to win the game 5-1 against the Waverly Warriors.

Photo by Grant Dorland/The Comets' Tale

Girls Soccer Kicks Off



Braelyn Jackson-Pointer
STAFF WRITER

Girls soccer kicked off on Wednesday, March 23 against Lansing Christian. Unfortunately, the Lady Comets ended with a 0-2 loss. They made up for their loss by defeating Lansing

Catholic, 5-0, on April 5. There was another win for the Lady Comets against Waverly 6-0 on April 13.

"I think that we have proven ourselves that we can go farther than we have gone in the past seasons... Even when we lost those games we were still putting on lots of pressure," Senior, Jordyn Wilbur, stated.

Soon, the underclassmen will dominate the program with six seniors leaving. The seniors include Ava Brownfield, Olivia Buchweitz, Cecilia Guild, Zoe Langenfeld, Sarah Lawrence, Gracin Patterson and Jordyn Wilbur.

"I'm looking forward to mentoring the younger girls to help the program continue to grow. All the seniors are in a high position where we are laying the groundwork," Wilbur commented.

The team is really excited about the upcoming season and ready to relive some moments like their win against Lansing Catholic in 2019.

"One of my favorite team memories was when we won the CAAC championship against Lansing Catholic my freshman year," Wilbur said.

Junior Becca Foster, blocks a Lansing Catholic player. Grand Ledge went on to win that game 5-0.

Photo by Nicole Jolley /The Ledge Yearbook

They have also started to become active on social media trying to get the word out about their team, while also having a little fun with it. You can check them out @glsoccerstuds69 on Instagram.

"Recently I bought a mic and we're gonna start miccing people up at practice," Wilbur said. On their Instagram is where the those videos will be. Even with their 2-3 record they have a chance to make they're season great with all the hardwork that their putting in. The girls play next on April 30 away against Howell High School.



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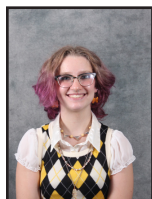
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Quizbowl Buzzes Their Way To Atlanta



Madeline Gooley
STAFF WRITER

Grand Ledge High School's very own Varsity Quiz Bowl team will be competing at the National Academic Quiz Tournaments (NAQT) high school National Championship in May!

The team consists of Zack Zulewski, Jason Thieu, Kiera Haver, Rose House, and Maddy Gooley. They each have their own area of specialties that benefit the team while competing.

Zulinski specializes in social studies and sports, Jason in science and math, Haver in politics, pop Thieu, and Earth sciences, Gooley in pop culture, literature, and fine arts, and House in mythology and history.

The team has worked hard for this achievement and all members are super excited about.

"I think it's an amazing step for the quiz bowl program, and for our school competing on this level is nothing," Zulewski, Quiz Bowl team captain said. "We've never done anything like this before, and I'm really honored to be one of the first people from Grand Ledge to do this."

In 2017 the Quiz Bowl team qualified for nationals but chose not to go because they were all seniors and

did not want to miss their last few days of school.

This exciting new adventure takes a lot of planning and organizing. However, thorough planning is not new to the team. This past March, the team hosted and planned one of the largest in person tournaments of this year, The Capital City Quiz Bowl Clash.

"I feel like the tournament was definitely a learning experience. Since of course, we made mistakes, but I feel like this is a really new opportunity for what we can do as a team, like what we can organize," Thieu said.

The Capital City Quizbowl Clash raised about \$1000 for the Quizbowl team, just over the amount they needed to pay to register for the national championship tournament.

Fundraising has been the team's top priority within the past month. The team held a bake sale at the high school March 17 and 18 and raised over \$450.

The team also started a GoFundMe, asking for any help from the community, which raised over \$2000. They were surprised by the generosity of their community.

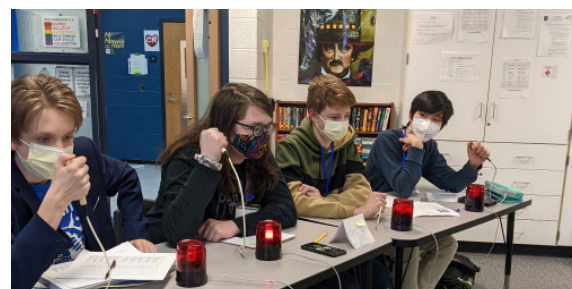
"I think it shows that the community really does recognize what we're doing is remarkable and I think it further shows the success that this program is being able to achieve," Haver said.

And all of their other fundraising efforts have helped

to get their name out into the community as well.

"I think [the tournament] did a lot to kind of show the legitimacy of Grand Ledge as a program," Zulewski said.

The Varsity Quizbowl team has raised a lot of money for their trip, but they are always gracious for more! Check out their GoFundMe (<https://gofund.me/37d-c1a87>) and make sure to check out their instagram (@glhsquizbowl) for any other fundraising events.



The Capital City Quiz Bowl Clash brings people from around the state to compete in person for the first time in the past year. The GLHS Quiz Bowl team organized and competed in the tournament.

Photo by Madeline Gooley/The Comets' Tale

Grand Ledge Boys Volleyball Is Here!



Madison Bartlett
STAFF WRITER

Boys volleyball is finally making a return to Grand Ledge for the 2022 season! This year, the boy's volleyball team will be coached by Andy Reynaert, and will be playing in the

Michigan Boys Volleyball League.

Grand Ledge volleyball had tried to start a boys volleyball team a couple of years ago, but was unsuccessful, when COVID-19 hit the Grand Ledge area, all sports were put on pause. Now with things being reopened again here in Michigan, Grand Ledge has been able to create a boy's volleyball program for the spring 2022 season.

"I'm most excited to continue and develop my skills at volleyball," Caleb Curry said. "My favorite part has been the new connections I have made with my teammates."

This season the boys roster is Malachi Benjamin, Ben Diebel, Aiden Chamblee, Brady Smith, Evan Robinson, Eldis Govin, Austin Chamblee, Caleb Curry, Ryan Reynaert, Colton Austin, Kyle Robinson, Nathan Rosalin, and Luke Lundie.

"I've been on the team the past 2 years that we were trying to play, and so I tried out again this year since



Number three Austin Chamblee, jumps up to get the kill. Grand Ledge Played Lansing Christian in their final game.

Photo by Madison Bartlett/The Comets' Tale

we were finally able to play," Benjamin said

The first boys volleyball games were on April 11th. They participated in a quad at Lansing Christian, with Jackson Northwest and Calhoun Christian. The first match was against Jackson Northwest, winning the game two sets to one. The second game was a hard-fought battle against Calhoun Christian, losing two sets to zero, which put them 1-1 in the quad.

"I have wanted to play on a boy's volleyball team for a long time, and this is the first chance I got. I also hope more students start to show up to cheer us on!" Ryan Reynaert stated.

The Grand Ledge Boys club team had played in another quad on April 18th at Eastern High School. To kick off the night, the team played Lansing Public at 5:30. The first set, GL lost 20-25 in a tough battle. In the second set, Grand Ledge beat Lansing public 25-22, to tie up the sets. For the last and final set, Grand Ledge lost 9-15, now losing the game two sets to one.

After the first game, the boys played again right after at 6:30 against Lansing Public's JV team. After the first set, Grand Ledge Lost 16-25, putting them 0-1 in the game. In the second set, Grand ledge started off strong, but ended up falling short to Lansing Public 20-24 in the final set.

To end off the night, the team played Lansing Christian in their final game. The first set ended 14-25 after Lansing Christian found their way to the top. The second set ended after Grand Ledge fought their way to the top, but ended up falling short once again to Lansing Christian 22-25.

To find more information about boys volleyball, make sure to check out the boy's volleyball Facebook page (@GrandLedgeBoysVolleyball) and Instagram (@glboysvball).

Prom Makes a Comeback



Katie Schupbach
STAFF WRITER

Easily one of the most important events of the school year, Prom is right around the corner. This year, Juniors and Seniors will have the opportunity to attend Prom.

Grand Ledge High Schools Prom will be at Hidden Creek Farms in Charlotte on May sixth from seven to ten PM.

"We chose this location because the venue was stunning and it had the perfect feel for our desired theme. It also was a small business that was run by a Grand Ledge family, and we were ecstatic to support their business and work with them." Grand Ledge High Schools Senior Class President Emersyn Truong said.

Being the first year back from quarantine makes this year's prom extra important. Prom last year was restricted to only Seniors and was held in the parking lot, so this year will be a step up.

"We are still following all COVID protocols and our

venue is considered outdoor because it's an open air barn, all of our food is single serve, but other than that everything is the same as it was pre-covid" Truong explained.

Even though everything will be a little more "normal" this year, precautions are still being taken to ensure everyone's health and safety.

"We've seen from the turnout of events this year that students want more than ever to have the "typical" high school experience and for us to provide that experience for our Seniors and Juniors increases the importance for our Student Council events this year" Truong stated.

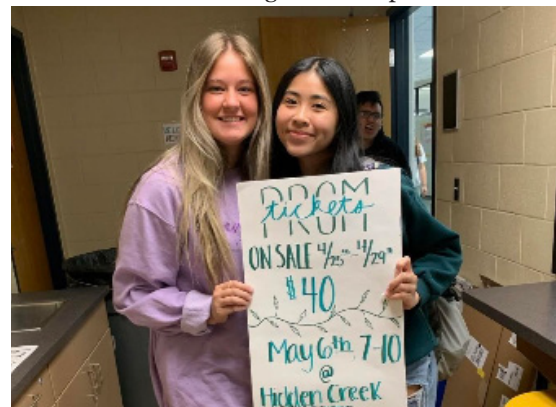
Lots of planning and time goes into setting up these types of events. Hours of work and decorations have to be put in in order to make this night perfect. Many people help to make this happen. This year, the Prom theme will be Enchanted Forest.

"We are lucky enough to have a decorator that works with us and two amazing advisors so they will do most of the day-of preparations, but as a class we decide on food, ticket sales, a DJ, etc." Truong said.

"I'm most looking forward to just seeing everyone

come together, dance, laugh, and have a good time," Truong commented.

Tickets for the dance will be on sale from April 25th - 29th for 35 dollars. Make sure to get a ticket to enjoy this once in a lifetime highschool experience!



Emersyn Truong and Ella Clements promote the sale of tickets for the upcoming prom. Prom is always the highlight of the year.

Photo by Camryn Nauta

Soak up the Sun or Have Winter Fun?



Mayra Cruz Santiago
STAFF WRITER

Summer

Did you know that summer increases mental health? Summer is arguably the best season. Pools are

open, flowers are blooming, the weather is beautiful, and outdoor activities are endless. Summer is a very enjoyable time of year not only for me, but for many others.

One of the big activities during the summer is swimming. Since it's summer, the temperatures go up and what better way to cool off than taking a nice dip in the pool. Swimming is very enjoyable, especially when you have friends with you. Swimming is not only fun, but is a great way to get good exercise.

Another great thing about summer is that you are able to travel to more places. This is the greatest time of the year to travel, because of the great weather. A student at Grand Ledge High school shared a summer location she goes.

"[Going to] The beach is probably my favorite thing," said Tory Berk, a Sophomore student at GLHS, "I go up to Grand Haven or I go to little lakes around the upper peninsula and play in the water with my dog."

Traveling is pretty awesome, but guess what is also awesome? Ice cream and popsicles! The best thing to

do after a long hot day during the summer is to get a cold ice cream or popsicle to cool off and enjoy. Other GLHS students have other thoughts whether it should be ice cream or popsicles.

"Ice cream 100%," Yamene Sathishkumar a Senior at GLHS said "I would say Mocha and Coffee are my favorite [flavor]."

Summer is right around the corner which means we can all start doing these fun packed activities. Whether you are swimming, traveling, or just hanging out with friends it is good to enjoy the nice weather and make the most of it.

Winter

Winter is a cold and snowy season, where the temperature drops and the snow falls. It is a special time of year, with a special kind of weather.

The season completely changes the landscape of northern areas it affects, covering it in layers of snow and ice. Activities such as snowboarding, skiing, and sledding are able to be performed when winter comes around. Building a snowman is also something that many people do for entertainment during the cold months. Snowmen themselves have existed since the middle ages, and they were built to find a silver lining in oppressive societies, starvation, poverty, and other life-threatening conditions.

It is nice to sit inside during a snowy day, drinking some hot chocolate and reading a book. Hot chocolate is a very popular winter beverage, with marshmallows and whipped cream on top. Sometimes



Carmen Cline
STAFF WRITER

people put designs on top with the cream, similar to coffee. It's also the time of year that a huge holiday takes place, Christmas! Christmas is a staple of the winter season, being one of

the most popular holidays of the year. It's a holiday where presents and family traditions are celebrated. Winter is a beautiful time of year.



Summer and winter are polar opposites seasons. Some students at GHLS shared their opinions on the seasons.

Graphic by Mayra Cruz Santiago/The Comets' Tale

Switchin' Up Wii Sports



Garrett Callison
STAFF WRITER

After years of waiting, it has finally been announced. Nintendo Switch Sports is coming April 29th, 2022. This title has Nintendo fans on the edge of their seats eager for the

fourth installment in the series.

The Wii Sports franchise was one of the most popular franchises for the Wii game console in 2006. While the first installment only had five sports, the next, Wii Sports Resort, would have 12 sports. Then, Wii Sports Club would introduce the online play mechanic, in which players can use internet connections to play with others worldwide. Multiple portions of each game seem to be combined for this new installment, and students are hyped for the game.

"The game does sound exciting. I have enjoyed playing Wii Sports and Wii Sports resort in the past, so it will be interesting to see what this new game will bring," Zachary Stevens, a Junior at Grand Ledge High School said.

Nintendo Switch Sports was announced at Nintendo

Direct on Feb. 9th, when it was introduced with the swinging of a Joy-Con and the iconic tennis sound effect being heard. The game, instead of taking place on the nostalgic Wuhu Island, takes place in the new location Spocco Square. Tennis, Bowling, and Chambara (Swordplay) are making a return while Volleyball, Badminton, and Soccer are being added. Also, in the fall, Golf will be added through a free update.

The Joy-Cons will also be receiving a collaboration update with the leg strap accessory for soccer. This is making potential players have eyes on this new feature.

"The design of the Joy-Con is genius, and there are so many opportunities" Dominic Zoglio, another Junior at Grand Ledge High School said.

Nintendo did allow many to sign up for play tests of the game Feb. 18-20, yet many have found secrets already, the game has Tourist Tips occasionally, such as "After a full day of playing sports, you'll have easy access to shopping, restaurants, and work, no matter which area you're in." There are other hints to canoes and airports making a return with equipment in the background of the arena's. People are speculating that city exploration might come soon. Character

outfit customization is an feature in the game with new avatars. The new avatars are different, but Mii's can still be used in game.

Overall, the game looks promising and many are excited. The game will be released on April 29, 2022, so anyone interested can get a copy of this new installment then.



Nintendo Switch Sports is the newest edition to the Wii Sports franchise. These games have been enjoyed by many throughout the years.

Photo by Garrett Callison/The Comets' Tale

The Future of Filmmaking in Michigan



Cole Bennett
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Batman vs. Superman, Real Steel, Red Dawn, and Transformers: The Last Knight. What do these movies have in common? They were all partially filmed in Michigan.

From 2008 to 2015, the state of Michigan offered a tax credit to filmmakers. This brought film crews to Michigan, because tax breaks made movies cheaper to film. In return, the film crews would stimulate the local economy; they would pay for hotel rooms, food, props, and more, giving income to local businesses.

"Any time you have an industry like that... there are so many job opportunities for various departments on set and during the production process, especially in a place like Michigan," Mr. Cook, Film Studies teacher at GLHS, said.

The incentive was discontinued in 2015 by former Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, but presently, a reformed version of the bill has been proposed. The new incentive would offer a tax credit of 25% and an additional five-percent for including a 'filmed in Michigan' logo at the end of a movie or show.

Previously, Michigan offered one of the most enticing incentives in the nation, offering a 42% rebate on production costs, meaning that the state would pay



Pictured is The Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum in East Lansing. The building portrayed Lex Luthor's house in *Batman V. Superman* (2016).

Photo by Cole Bennett/The Comets' Tale

that money back to the studio. The new legislation proposes a different approach, instead offering a 25% tax credit. A tax credit is essentially a discount on paying taxes. Film studios, with this tax credit, would pay 25% less on taxes owed to the state. This encourages studios to film movies in Michigan in order to reduce production costs.

"One of the biggest aspects of making a film is you gotta make money, right? That's most of the studio's goal. They can't do anything if they're not making

money, so that tax incentive is huge... You need that to optimize your profits," Cook remarked.

A perk of the incentive, aside from additional income in the economy provided by film crews, would be a potential increase in tourism. Tourism is one of Michigan's biggest sources of revenue, and featuring the state on the big screen would most likely increase the tourism draw by featuring different parts of the state. For instance, a scene in *Batman vs. Superman* highlights the beautiful Broad Art Museum in East Lansing. Several scenes in *Red Dawn* feature Grand Ledge's beautiful Fitzgerald Park. These projects feature places that people around the world never see.

"Michigan is beautiful. I mean, I would imagine that even if you're not from the state of Michigan, if you see any images from some of the destination locations around the state, I would imagine... there's an opportunity for a lot of different settings," Cook said.

A perceived downside of the proposed bill would be fewer taxes paid, but without the tax incentive, most studios choose to film in other states. If anything, this bill could very well bring more tax revenue to the state by increasing the likelihood of a studio deciding to film their movie in Michigan.

This bill is currently in the legislation phase, awaiting review and release to be voted on.

You can read more about this bill on our website, glcometstale.com

Student Spotlight

Take A Look Into Our Neurodiverse Friends Here At Grand Ledge High School.



Liam Elder
PHOTO EDITOR



Ben Lascola
STAFF WRITER



To the left: Hunter Bonney.

Some of Hunter's favorite things include Spongebob, the super power of magic, and eating fries and ranch. He wants everyone to know that having autism is very awesome and that even with it he loves to make friends and have fun in his C.I. class.



Above: Alex Karkau.

Alex has one of the most incredible journeys through highschool. His freshman and sophomore years he had a link because he struggled a lot. Junior year he was able to move away from having a link, and finally senior year he joined the links program, but this time as a link. He wants everyone to know that autism doesn't define a person and that everyone is different.

To the right: Caden Allen

Caden's favorite video game is Pogostock which is very similar to the game Getting Over It. His favorite color is blue, and his favorite thing about himself is that he is extremely intelligent.



To the left: Jacob McElroy

Jacob has lots of favorite things, his favorite character is Mickey mouse, his favorite movie is inside out, his favorite food is Mac and cheese, and his favorite super power is magic. He wants everyone to know that he is a good kid and that he can do the same things as everyone else.



Above: Sean McCann.

Sean's favorite Disney character is Mickey Mouse, and his favorite college team is Michigan State. He has good taste. He likes to watch the gaming TV show Walk of Fame. His favorite class at school is Spanish.

To the right: Conner Gay.

Conner is a big food guy. If he had to pick a favorite meal it would have to be a gourmet medium rare, tomahawk steak -with the bone in of course for presentation- a side of mashed potatoes and gravy, finished off with a serving of grilled asparagus. His one message to everyone is that people with autism are people too, and that they should be treated with the same respect as everyone else.



To the left: Maverick Kreps.

Maverick's favorite food is Pizza and his favorite color is gold. He also is a massive gamer, some of his most played games include Team Fortress 2, Garry's Mod, Roblox, and Minecraft.

