

Grand Ledge High School's

The Comets' Tale

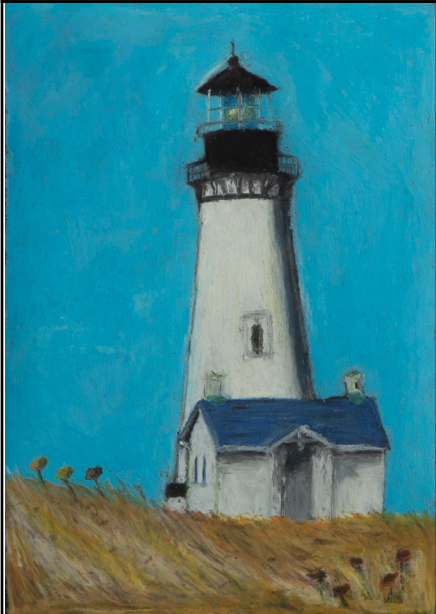
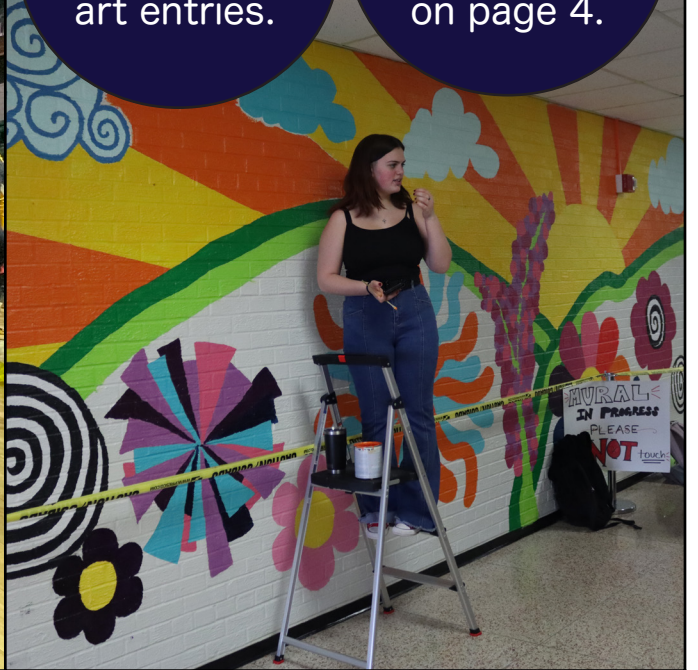


See new Pom State Champions on page 6.

Check out page 12 to see other art entries.

Learn more about the new mural on page 4.

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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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An Acapella Constellation Shining Bright



Ada Wilcox
STAFF WRITER

In the vast world of highschool extracurriculars, one group stands out for their vocal prowess and dedication: Orion's Belt. This talented group of individuals from Grand Ledge High School makes waves in the music scene, grasping audiences with their harmonies and performances.

Founded during the 2022-23 school year, Orion's Belt has since become a powerhouse in the world of acapella. Under the guidance of their music teacher, Mr. Daniel Dade, the group has developed a connection that separates them from the rest.

"My favorite part of Orion's Belt is meeting new people," said Caleb Wilcox, a freshman member of Orion's Belt. "I have made so many new friends during Orion's practice and competitions due to our similar interest in singing."

Competitions are a big part of the acapella community. Wilcox emphasizes the challenges of preparing for competitions.

"It is a fun experience, but this year is especially difficult because we have a lot of first year members," Wilcox said.

Orion's belt has many ways of practicing music and making sure their performance is top tier. "We make sure we get enough practice by rehearsing with the group after school, or using practice tracks and sing-

ing at home," Wilcox said.

Orion's Belt is known for singing pop music. By performing songs like Evergreen by Yebba, or Venus in Gemini by Dezi, Orion's Belt is able to reach audiences of all different ages.

"My favorite song we've sung is Venus in Gemini," says Lucy Ackerman, a senior member of Orion's Belt. "It is a very upbeat song and everyone seems to enjoy being together when we sing it."

Although this acapella group excels at everything they do, the group has one main goal: To win ICHSA. Taylor Javoroski, a senior member of Orion's Belt, shares, "The group went to Ohio on February 24th for their first competition."

Just like any other competition, there are levels.

"After the first competition, there are semi-finals. If Orion's Belt makes it past them, we get to perform in the final round," Javoroski states.

Being able to compete and perform in competitions is a dream for any aspiring singer, and the members of Orion's Belt make it look effortless, the way their voices merge together.

The students of this acapella group work tirelessly to perfect their performance. It is inspiring to see how far Orion's Belt has come since first starting out. With their talent, dedication, and glowing spirit, are taking their talent to competitions all over Michigan, the students of Orion's Belt have undoubtedly left a mark on the world of high school acapella.



Sarah Bovee, Logan Hansbarger, Tori Berk, Caleb Wilcox, Taylor Javoroski, Emma Thornton, Lily Pettit, and Brayden Bosworth practice their performance one last time before ICHSA.

Photo by Ada Wilcox/The Comets' Tale

The Absence of the Spring Musical



Jay Boulter
STAFF WRITER

GLHS Students and Staff, do you feel something is missing? It's probably because GLHS isn't having a spring musical for the first time in 10 years. This announcement has led to many student reactions.

"I'm upset there is no musical because it is a lost opportunity for me and other students," sophomore, Anastazia LaGarde, said.

Many have begun to wonder why Mrs. Clark has decided not to put on a musical this spring. Sophomore, Audrey Sefton, expressed her opinion, "I think she's really busy because she's a teacher and directing a musical is gonna add to the stress."

This not only affected the people who participate in the musical, but also the people that come and see it. "I was looking forward to seeing the spring musical but there wasn't one so my family and I couldn't go," sophomore, Teresa Herrera, said.

It wasn't only entertainment, some people bonded over the experience. "Producing 2 musicals in



The Playbill posters hung up in Ms. Hengesbach's room.

Photo by Jayda Stocker/The Comets' Tale

one school year (in addition to our Musical Theatre workshop for 3-7th graders and our Alumni Cabaret in May) is quite a bit of work. Most schools only do 1 musical a year... While I love having the option to do 2 musicals a year, it is a lot of work and time. Specif-

ically, it is mentally and creatively draining for me. Everything you see on stage has to be dreamt up and figured out," Mrs. Clark, the director said. GLHS can only hope we get our 2 musicals during the 2024-2025 school year.

Diving Into Dr. Wright's Instagram



Kayla Taylor
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Ken Wright, the principal of Grand Ledge High School, started an Instagram account last June. "One of the things that I wanted to do was almost offer a window into the positive things that happen in this school," Wright said. "I think it's easy for people to dwell on the things that may appear to be problems or negative things but there are just so many good things."

Wright wants to use this platform to highlight different parts of the Grand Ledge experience, "I've always wanted to support different groups and teams and individuals but this is kind of pushed me to make sure that that's being represented at least a little bit more on that Instagram page too," Wright explained. "We have so many different student activity groups and a lot of the times there are groups that want to be able to get information

out or increase traffic at a fundraiser. Many times they'll want me to do something silly or goofy and so I think that allows me kind of an opportunity to be goofy a little bit for a good cause or a fundraiser for different groups... anything that is involving our students is where I wanted to focus."

Wright explains how he is able to post consistently, "I did kind of have to decide on some parameters to use so for me just to even stay on top of Instagram... because it's not significant but it is a little bit of a time commitment to put things out there."

Dr. Wright also tries to connect to the student body in other ways, "one of the things that I've done is standing out in front of the school at the beginning of the morning which has been great for me because it's all just kind of positive good morning things," Wright explained. "I try to be out in the halls and be at events for whether they're sporting or group activities," Wright said. "I try to know as many students as possible to get as decent pulse on what's going on that the students do"



Dr. Wright snaps a selfie with Winkey. The principal has been known to use the same pose in every Instagram post.

Photo by Brionna Abbruzzese/The Comets' Tale

Art Hallway Mural



Brionna Abbruzzese
STAFF WRITER

As many students have seen, there is a new mural being painted in the art hallway. The creative mind behind the mural is senior, Elle Bonds. With help painting from Isabel Aguilar, Olivia Dodge, and several others. Elle has multiple other paintings hung up around the school and has helped with the GLHS mural that is outside of student services.

"She has always been very artistic," senior, Olivia Dodge said. "I know she has always done artistic kinds of things."

Mrs. Coulon was the teacher that got the mural approved. She was really interested in a student lead painting. When she proposed the idea to Dr. Wright, he was very happy to say yes.

"Dr. Wright is very supportive when he heard a student designed it and was going to paint it," art teacher Sarah Coulon said. "He approved it right away."

This mural is meant to brighten up the space and bring some happiness to the building. The mural features designs such as swirls and flowers. These are very simple everyday things that can bring joy to someone as they pass by the mural.

"I love the idea for it," Olivia Dodge said. "This school is so dark and all the walls are the same, and it's going to add a lot of color."

This mural will bring creativity and positivity to the school halls. Having the mural shows how the school supports the arts program and student ideas.



yo yo yo joe
Photo by Garrison Briggs/The Comets' Tale

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Mall Safety in Lansing



Erin McGinnis
STAFF WRITER

How should one take safety precautions at the Lansing Mall or malls in general? A recent armed robbery took place at a jewelry store at the local Lansing Mall. The robbery was confirmed on Jan. 22, 2024. Lansing itself has a crime rate of forty per one thousand residents.

Grace Parker, a junior at Grand Ledge High School, who works at the new Zap Zone XL located in the Lansing Mall, shared her experience of the armed robbery that took place on Jan. 22.

"We had to shut our doors and I was notified by our group chat." Parker's boss sent a message confirming everyone was okay.

Taking safety precautions going into public spaces is beginning to be normalized. Crimes committed could list from robberies, physical violence, offenses, and vehicle-related. One should always walk into a mall

aware and prepared.

Having awareness, a backup plan, parking spot, and personal protection are things to keep in mind while entering a populated center such as, for example, The Mall of America. One could bring a friend or family member to lower fear and anxiety. Parking under a fluorescent light, up front near the entrance of a store, or near a crosswalk/sidewalk are great ways to stay safe during the day or night time. Awareness and creating an emergency plan may seem extra, but can come in handy entering new malls or stores. If shopping with a group, a meeting place is a smart way to account for everybody and to evacuate safely if possible. Meeting areas might look like a food court, larger stores, the center of the mall or by the restrooms. Mall safety is just as important as safety anywhere else. An individual should walk into a store and feel at peace, not living in fear of the what-if scenarios.



Center of the Lansing Mall in the lounge area. The mall has been up and running since May of 1969.
Photo by Erin McGinnis/The Comets' Tale

Grand Ledge Alumni Reaching Forbes

The Forbes' annual 30 Under 30 list has become popular for spotlighting the brightest young people across various industries. In this year's list, one name stood out among the others: Haley Kluge, a graduate of Grand Ledge.

Kluge currently lives in Los Angeles and was named the youngest creative director of a major magazine brand, Variety. At the age of 29, Kluge has achieved significant milestones that many professionals aspire to reach. Her path to success is a testament to her goal setting.

"I was nominated for the Forbes list sometime early last year. During the summer, they reached out and told me I was identified as a potential candidate. There were no other progress updates. And then after Thanksgiving, I woke up early on the West Coast to an email notification and Twitter mention that I had made the media list," Kluge said.

Kluge is in charge of a team of employees, responsible for designing the Variety magazines and making them look professional. She has worked with several Hollywood stars such as Lizzo and Scarlett Johansson.

Kluge has a strong work ethic as well as an unwavering drive for success, yet she encounters multiple challenges along her work path. When she first got the creative director job she thought she was unqualified for it.

"I think everyone at some point in their life feels intimidated or struggles with imposter syndrome. I know I've had my fair share of it. There's a lot of rooms I felt underprepared to be in. But the reality is,

I wouldn't be in those rooms unless someone thought I deserved to be. I'm grateful for the people that have championed me to be in those rooms," Kluge said.

With Kluge's many achievements she is undoubtedly a name to watch in the business industry, and someone for many Grand Ledge residents to keep an eye out for in the magazine section.

Zoe Yaney
STAFF WRITER



The magazine section located in the Lansing Mall's Barnes and Noble. Magazines are frequently switched out.

Photo by Zoe Yaney/The Comets' Tale

Hockey Seniors Slide Into The Rink



Kaysen Strohaber
SECTION EDITOR

On Feb. 9, 2024, the Capital City hockey team hosted a senior night at the East Lansing Ice Cube hockey rink. The team includes players

from several schools including Grand Ledge, Dewitt, Mason, and Howell. Seven seniors were recognized with the attendance of their parents on the hockey rank during the senior night including two seniors from Grand Ledge High School, Caleb Chenault and Patrick Waterman. The team lost 1-2 against the Kalamazoo Eagles, but the Capitals did not go down easily.

"We played a good game, we just couldn't get the win. It was a good team and we fought hard, we just couldn't get back up," said junior Roman Barnes.

The hockey arena was packed with people from the Lansing area showing their support for the team and the seniors. For the majority of the game, the Capitals and the Eagles were tied 1-1 until they went into overtime and the Eagles scored the final point securing the win.

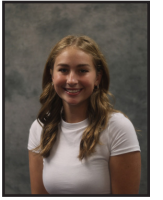
At the beginning of the hockey season in November, the Capitals started strong with 3 wins against Fenton, Midland Dow, and Kalamazoo United. Since then, the capitals have been very up and down with their winning streak but overall, have more wins than losses. "I think the season has been pretty good so far. We have beat teams that our program hasn't



Grand Ledge senior, Caleb Chenault waits as the Capital City defenseman brings the puck to the opponent's side so he can score. This game was against the Kalamazoo Eagles at the East Lansing hockey rink on Feb. 9, 2024.

Photo by Kaysen Strohaber/The Comets' Tale

Olivia Campbell
STAFF WRITER



beaten in a number of years so that is definitely a highlight. There are some games we wish we could have back, but overall happy with how the regular season went" said junior CJ Panich.

The Capitals currently have a record of 12-10-3. They lost to Northville on Feb. 14, 2024 at the Novi Ice Arena to finish their regular season. They will go on to play Jackson at regionals on Feb. 20, 2024 at the Munn Ice Arena.



The Capital City hockey team lines up to do the national anthem before beginning their game against the Kalamazoo Eagles. This was right after the seniors were recognized with their parents on the hockey rank. Photo by Olivia Campbell/The Comets' Tale

Pom Takes State Title

On Feb. 11, 2024, the Grand Ledge Varsity Pom (GLVP) team competed at the Mid-American Pompon State championship at Eastern Michigan University. With a score of 469, the GLVP team won the competition making them the D2 state champions. This marks the first time the GLVP team has ever won a state title.

"It was really bittersweet because it's my senior year and we had never gotten champs before for that competition so it was really sweet to actually make history," said senior Emma Botek.

To get to the state championship, the team had to win a regional title. They competed at the Michigan Pom Association Competition, which was held at Saginaw Valley State University on Feb. 4, 2024. The team placed first with a score of 274. They beat their opponents in second place by 12 points, which secured them a spot at the state championship.

Winning the regionals was also a first for the GLVP team, which was the first time in Grand Ledge history

that the GLVP team won a Class A title. Making it past regionals was already just a win for the team.

"They always announce the winner last and all I remember is hearing last year's winners get called and I realized all our hard work was paying off," said junior Natalie Townsend.

Before the state championship, the team was hit with the stomach flu and some injuries which left the team concerned about how they were going to perform at the competition.

"We didn't have a practice until the day before the competition because girls were sick and hurt, but when we would start working on the routine we all locked in and worked hard," said Townsend.

Botek was injured prior to days before the competition but continued to work hard for her team.

"I rolled my ankle a couple of times, We worked a lot harder than we normally would due to having people sitting out and my injury, so it caused us to just be more eager," said Botek.

This first-ever state win for GLVP will be remembered by the team and many girls to follow.

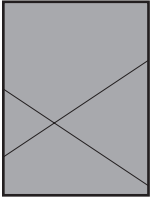
"This definitely encourages us to work harder in the next few years because who doesn't want a back-to-back title," said Townsend.

This was the last competition of the whole season and it was a very emotional win, especially for the seniors. The anticipation to hear the outcome was what many of the seniors remember the most and it was very nerve racking just sitting there all together waiting.

"It wasn't until they had announced third place when I started crying. When what felt like the longest pause in between announcing the second place winners, I heard the other teams name get called and all I could do was throw my body all over the place while screaming and crying. The moment was surreal," said senior Rhiana Russel.

Boys Basketball Season Struggles

Braelyn Jackson-Pointer
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



This 2023-2024 boys varsity basketball team's season is coming to an end. They are 8-19(not including tournaments) with a nine game losing streak as of their last regular season game against Everett which they lost 58-60. This season the boys varsity program has seen numerous changes. They recently moved up Luke Charter from freshman coach to varsity with the firing of previous coach Travis Schellhammer.

mer.

Another change came recently when a key player was dismissed from the team due to academic issues. Senior Landon Birchmeier added his opinion on the matter, "Obviously it stinks but we're working through it. We have to pick up the intensity as we approach the end of the season. We obviously have a lot of talent but I think we can pull it together as we go to the end of the season."

Comets' fans also have their own opinions about the way this season is going. "I think the season is not going great," senior Landon Pilcher said. "I have noticed that there have been less students attending."

Even with their recent losing streak players were still optimistic about the season to come. "It's obviously never easy to lose that many games in a row but we've really been working in practice," junior Grady Millbrook said.

Fans are also feeling optimistic about the remainder of the season. "I think they can make a comeback and hopefully be successful in the playoffs," Pilcher said.

The Comet's regular season ended with a game against Lansing Everett on Feb. 23. The Comets finished the season with 8 wins and 19 losses. Districts start Feb. 26 and play offs continue after. Grand Ledge will be hosting Districts for district 11 and the Boys Varsity team played Lansing Eastern in their first round of playoffs also on Feb. 26.

The team (won or lost) their district game against Lansing Eastern." quote"

When asked about their upcoming/already happened playoff game "quote from whoever" said "quote."



Sophomore Braden James goes up for a rebound. The Varsity team went to lose to the Warriors 62-57.
Photo by Braelyn Jackson-Pointer/The Comets' Tale



Comet student section fans cheer after a good play. The student section theme that game was Adam Sandler.

Photo by Braelyn Jackson-Pointer/The Comets' Tale



Freshman Kingston Nixon goes for a ball on the floor. It was later called a jumpball.

Photo by Braelyn Jackson-Pointer/The Comets' Tale

Aadhi Sudhakar nicknamed "President" for a reason



Carson Lemon
STAFF WRITER

Aadhi

Sudhakar is a Grand Ledge High School senior who, according to many, needs no introduction. Sudhakar is involved in GLHS organizations such as PALS and Comet's Landing, plays on the Varsity Soccer

team, and serves as the senior class President for Student Council, the President of AASU, sits on the board for PALS, and is the Vice-President for the Grand Ledge chapter of NHS.

Although many students may know about Sudhakar's more public life, he also runs a small photography business called Flixbyaadhi, and worked a part time job at E.W. Sparrow Hospital.

"I had to quit that for soccer and college applications, but I was working in the radiology lab, the x-ray department, I did a lot of miscellaneous stuff. I cleaned the rooms, I restocked, assisting with patient care. A little kid would come in with half his face burned, and I'd be responsible for talking to him, and hanging out with him," said Sudhakar.

"I really enjoyed that, I want to be a doctor someday myself. At times it wasn't easy to be there, to watch people scream in pain, but I found it very rewarding, like, my actions here are directly contributing to making people's day better."

Not only is Sudhakar recognized for his work around the school, but also by teachers and advisors alike. Jason Westra-Hall, the GLHS AP Language teacher and Yearbook Advisor praised Sudhakar for his hard work, in academics, and in his community.

"Aadhi is very creative, he works super hard, he does a lot of community events and all sorts of

different things. On top of that, he tends to maintain high grades, high academics, he achieves high AP scores, so I think he's a very well rounded individual that is deserving of many accolades," Westra-Hall said.

With so many different jobs and student groups to run, juggling all these responsibilities can be a lot of work, "I think I keep myself motivated because I like doing what I do. When I was at my busiest, back in the fall with soccer, student council, Sparrow, and college applications, I do it because I enjoy it," Sukhakar said.

"I don't do anything I don't enjoy, and I think that's the big thing. If your schedule is booked every single hour of every single day, you're just having fun."



Sudhakar presents to the club boards of Diversity Club, Asian American Student Union, Women's Equality Club, Gender and Sexuality Alliance, and Black Student Union about his new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Board Initiative. The new board is just one of many clubs and activities Sudhakar has been involved with at the school.

Photo by Carson Lemon/The Comets' Tale

On the Mat: Journey of Star Wrestler Logan Tollison



Ben Whisler
STAFF WRITER

Sophomore Logan Tollison's love for wrestling started a decade ago when he was in kindergarten and on a flag football team. A coach at the time was looking for players to

join his wrestling team.

Now a seasoned veteran of the mat, Tollison fights in the competitive 215 lb weight class. In his eyes, Tollison's greatest accomplishment was placing in the top 12 in a prestigious Grecko-Roman wrestling tournament.

This year, Tollison has been unstoppable, holding a record of 42 wins and only 3 losses. Recently, he has swept the board, winning first place in individual regionals and being one of three Grand Ledge State qualifiers this year. Looking ahead to the State Championship, Tollison is resilient in his pursuit of greatness.

"I think I am going to make it to the finals but there is a really really good kid from DCC [Detroit Catholic Central] that I am neck and neck with," Tollison said.

This showcase of self-confidence and determination is unique compared to other players on the team.

Before games in any sport, having a pre-game ritual is prevalent; for Tollison, this is no different. "I am blasting suicide boys before every match I have," said Tollison. Many players view their pre-game ritual as essential to a good performance.

Outside of Wrestling, Tollison has goals of becoming a professional cage fighter, showing his dedication to the world of combat sports. When he is not training, Tollison finds time to do other things he enjoys, "Outside of combat sports I like to hang out with friends and play video games like Rainbow 6 Siege," Tollison expressed.

As Tollison continues to wrestle throughout high school, one thing made clear is his journey is far from over. His determination and skill have left an incredible mark on Grand Ledge High School and has inspired other student-athletes to follow in his footsteps.

Alayna Armstrong: An Influential Girls Varsity Basketball player



Ava Delaney
STAFF WRITER

Alayna Armstrong is a senior at Grand Ledge High School, who has been playing basketball since 2nd grade and has been on the girls Varsity team for all four years of high school. She has not yet committed

but plans on playing at Lansing Community College or Adrian College.

The girls basketball team started off with a few rough patches in the beginning of the season, but according to Armstrong they are making improvements as a team.

"My senior year started off not great with us being 0-8, but we overcame that and have been playing better," Armstrong said. "I am very happy with how I have been playing this year with scoring and being a team player."

Even with the rocky start at the beginning of the season, the trajectory that the team has made is evident. "I think we have grown together over this last month especially and it shows when we play," Armstrong said.

Armstrong isn't just a basketball player, she also is a runner, "I picked up cross county this year and really enjoyed it because it helped me stay in shape for the season," Armstrong said.

Being a student athlete means finding a healthy balance between school and sports. "My experience as a high school athlete during the season is very busy with practice and games, but outside of the season I like to run especially when it is warm, hang out with my friends and hopefully get into the gym," Armstrong said.

After playing basketball for such a long time Armstrong has built many memories. "My favorite memory of high school basketball was freshman year when we played Dewitt, because it was the first game I started and we won," Armstrong continued on and talked about her basketball travels "I have been playing AAU (travel) basketball since 5th grade, this has allowed me to go to Florida, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Ohio plenty of times."

Armstrong has shown to be an impactful student athlete at Grand Ledge High School, and still has the rest of the season and college basketball career to prove it.

yo yo yo joe

Photo by Ava Delaney/The Comets' Tale

Striving To Equality



Benjamin Young
STAFF WRITER

Women's Equality Club was founded in 2022 and is currently led by senior president Kayla Taylor and advisor, Grand Ledge High School English 11 teacher Ryleigh Scott. Club members meet twice a month in room 228, where members learn and discuss the challenges women face in society.

"We are a very nice group of people, and we do a lot of activities after every meeting, and we have really cool slide shows. I would say [Ms. Scott's as an advisor] is a 9.5 out of 10 as she is an amazing advisor. She really helps bring the club together, and the fact that she has it in her classroom really helps with the activities and stuff," sophomore Fern Siguarni said.

Members say the best part of the Women's Equality Club is the community and companionship the club has built. It's a place of inclusion and acceptance for anyone wanting to be informed.

"Women Equality Club is a great way to get connected with girls and other people in the school on problems women face and are working to find ways to make our school community more adaptable.

"Women Equality Club is a great way to get connected with girls and other people in the school on problems women face and are working to find ways to make our school community more adaptable. The best part about Women's Equality Club is the knowledge I have built by attending the meetings. Each meeting there is a presentation on an impactful woman a holiday or a celebration that shows the advances women have made in history and I have learned a lot about things I did not know before," senior Sarah Bovee said.

One of the presentations about period poverty ended with an activity where members made uteruses out of pipe cleaners and ovaries out of buttons. Most presentations always end with an activity where you can take what you have created home to remember



that day and its message.

Although members enjoy many different aspects of the club, how they interact to form an experience plays a role in participation as well.

"I like the environment, the people, and the friends in it. It's nice to be in a supportive group of people," senior Emma Thornton said.

Expanding Spanish Knowledge



Patrick Waterman
STAFF WRITER

The Spanish club is a Grand Ledge High School after school program that's run by advisor Becky Manore, a Spanish teacher at Grand Ledge High School. The Spanish Club was founded in 2022 by founder Kathryn Dietzel, a Spanish teacher who left in the 2021-2022 school year. The Spanish club meets once a month and partakes in fun activities to gain higher Spanish cultural knowledge that a classroom doesn't provide. "Spanish Club is a place where people come together to talk about Spanish culture and Spanish activities," junior Ben Weston said.

Spanish club is more than just a venue to study the language and culture, Spanish Club offers social opportunities to meet new people and form new long-lasting friendships. "I enjoy Spanish Club because I've made new friends and everyone is very nice," said senior Amariyana Robison.

Every month Spanish Club does exciting and knowledge expanding activities out of school. Last month the club members had a fun time as they went to the

East Lansing Ice Cube to go ice skating.

The club also does Spanish related activities out of school too, for example the club recently went to Cancun Mexican Grill to do a speaking day to practice their fluency at speaking Spanish.

Spanish club has around 30 members and are always looking for new members to join.

"Others should join Spanish club because it's fun and a very welcoming place. It's a fun time you should definitely join," Weston said.

Most people after taking Spanish 1 and Spanish 2 don't have a place to pursue Spanish at a higher level and Spanish club offers that and much more. "I enjoyed Spanish class and I excelled in it, but I never got the chance to pursue it. Spanish club gave me that opportunity and place to learn more about Spanish culture," Robinson said.

In conclusion, Spanish Club is the place to go if you're searching for a secure setting to make new friends and advance your Spanish language skills.



**Grand Ledge Area
District Library**

131 E. Jefferson St., GL

Phone: 517-627-7014

Website: gladl.org

Hours:

Mon-Thurs: 10am - 9pm

Fri. & Sat.: 10am - 5pm

Sunday: 1pm - 5pm

Saltburn Causes a Stir



Jayda Stocker
SECTION EDITOR

Reactions to *Saltburn*, the highly anticipated movie that debuted on streaming services in mid November, have varied.

This dark comedic thriller film, directed by Emerald Fennell, tells the tale of Felix played by Jacob Elordi, a wealthy Oxford student, and his distress at his friend Olivier's played by Barry Keoghan, terrible living circumstances. Olivier accepts Felix's invitation to spend the summer holidays with him and his family at their estate after they have spent some time together. Close after, a series of unusual events take place, severely impacting Felix's family.

Actors and actresses like Rosamund Pike, Barry Keoghan, Jacob Elordi, and Alison Oliver starred in this trending movie. According to Prime Video, this movie has already received over 150 million views.

Referring back to the "unusual events," a number of Grand Ledge High School students were divided on this movie because of those specific scenarios.

"It was kind of disturbing but the overall plot was

good. I guess I'd watch it again but only if I was showing it to a friend or something," Senior Olivia Navin said.

Navin stated in the interview that she believed the movie would only appeal to those who "don't mind a surprise here and there".

When viewers were able to decipher the storyline twist involving Oliver and Felix, the two major protagonists, it was "easier" to really understand the movie according to Emerald Fennell.

"I had to stop watching after fifteen minutes. It was strange, weird, and super unsettling," Senior Lydia Beaton said.

Many people found different ways to relate to the story, even in spite of the negative reviews. Examining the issue of obsession and desire is one of the film's aspects.

Oliver has a strong longing for Felix that eventually develops into a dying obsession. According to *Saltburn*, there is more going on beneath the surface of even the most seemingly civilized people than what meets the eye. It goes further into those people's thoughts to reveal more savagery and depravity.

While the movie was taking place in Oxford and Northamptonshire, *Saltburn* in 2006, the production

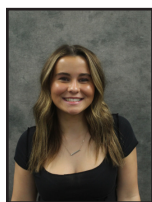
made a few over-the-hill songs go viral on platforms such as TikTok, Spotify, and Apple Music. This contains tunes like Mason & Princess Superstar's "Perfect (Exceeder)", MGMT's "Time to Pretend", and Sophie Ellis' "Murder on the Dance Floor", among others.

"My favorite thing about the movie is the soundtrack. I love the music, especially 'Time to Pretend' by MGMT," Senior Isabella Valerio said.

This sentimental soundtrack exuded a sense of elegant, vibrant nostalgia. In the film, clothing served as a strong social status and belonging indicator. The Cattons, Felix's family, dress for dinner. Felix described it to Oliver as "like, black tie". *Saltburn* is hit by 2000's fashion, creating a seductive, opulent look. This ranged from the Catton's butlers dressed in their expensive livery and vintage shoes, as well as their residents dressed in their classiest attire just to dine with family and friends.

"I personally loved the aesthetic of the film. I did not expect some of the feral scenes but the ending was also super surprising. I watched it for the plot (Jacob Elordi). Overall, definitely a watch and would watch again," Valerio said.

Tik Tok Goes Mute



Karsyn Davis
STAFF-WRITER

Tik Tok has faced a recent change that has a lot of people upset. The company Universal Music Group or UMG has backed away from their ties with Tik Tok. It has upset a lot of

people because in many videos the sounds used have been muted. This has left videos with famous audios gone such as Taylor Swift, Drake, SZA, Kendrick Lamar and many more.

Universal Music Group has licensing agreements with all of these big artists. This means that any video posted with audios from them and others are silenced. Tik Tok chose to remove all of these audios from the app in a way to clap back at the company.

UMG released a statement the day before its contract with Tik Tok expired stating essentially "Ultimately Tik Tok is trying to build a music-based business, without paying fair value for the music". The company of Tik Tok followed back saying "Despite Universal's false narrative and rhetoric, the fact is they have chosen to walk away from the powerful support of a platform with well over a billion users that serves as a free promotional and discovery vehicle for their talent." Which led to UMG's response back to them saying, "Tik Tok's influence over the

music industry has expanded in recent years as artists (and their labels) attempt to break through the platform's cryptic algorithm".

These are two big companies so it is possible there will be some repercussions. It's hard to tell what will come next for the company. Right now a lot of Tik Tokers are using different sounds whilst complaining about the removal of all these sounds. This also is affecting smaller musicians as well. Tik Tok is a great platform to get music out and advertise new songs and artists.

"Tik Tok proposed paying our artists and songwriters at a rate that is a fraction of the rate that similarly situated major social platforms pay," UMG said in the statement.

The company of Tik Tok followed back saying "UMG is putting greed over before the interest of their musicians and songwriters."

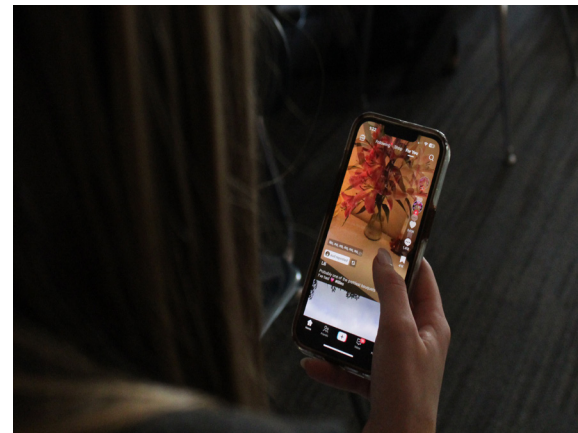
Not only are the companies upset over this dispute, the people who use the app everyday for entertainment and creation are upset as well. Some Grand Ledge students shared their opinions.

"I think that it was really annoying, because so many of my favorite videos got ruined and now are left muted or have a random song playing in the background," Junior Sophie Cook said.

"I think it's funny to see the influencers have their little kids make the sounds instead. It's cool to see their

creative side and to see all the ways they are making it normal again," Senior Ava Parker said.

It's hard to know what will be the next step for these two companies but also the people that make them what they are.



Lydia Beaton, a student at GLHS, often scrolls on Tik Tok as a form of entertainment. Students have been noticing a change.

Photo by Jayda Stocker

March Games & Puzzles



Ava Delaney
STAFF WRITER

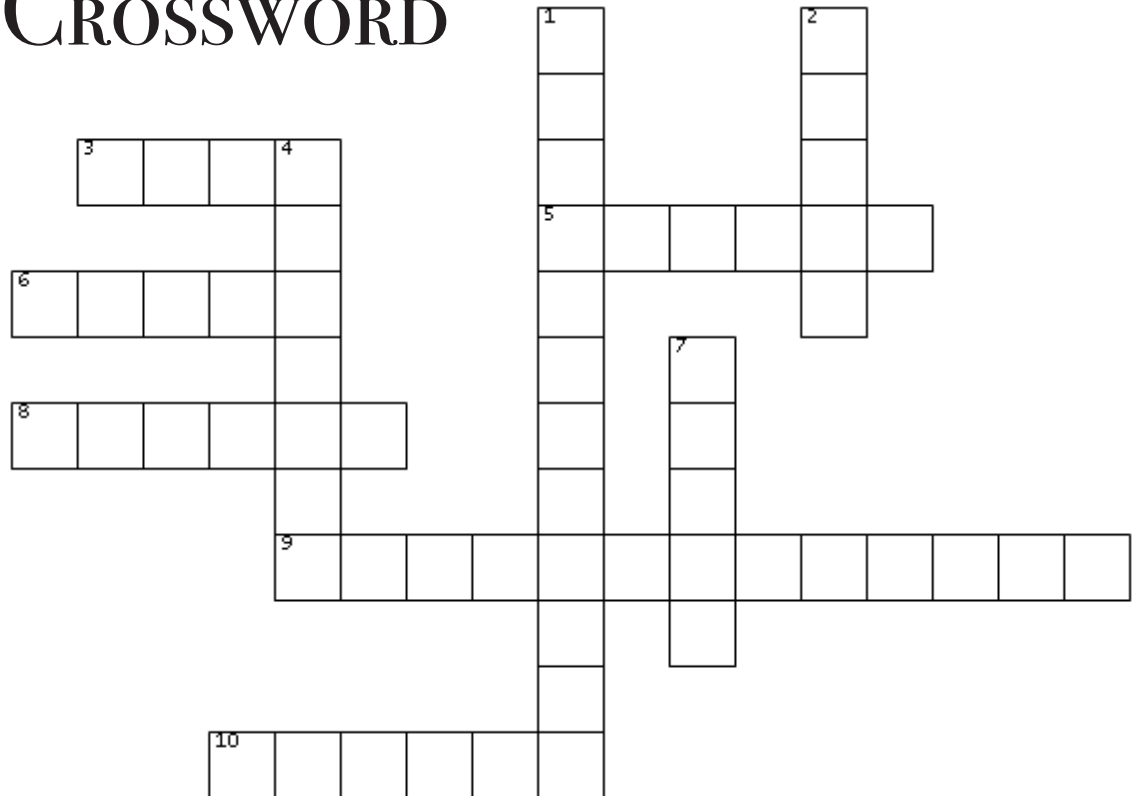
CROSSWORD

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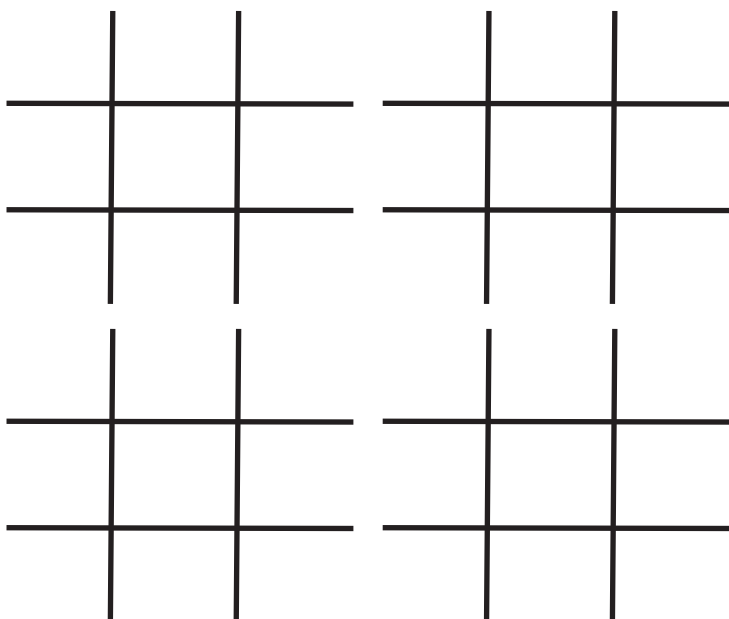
- 3. At the end of the rainbow
- 5. Four Leaf
- 6. The Second Zodiac of March
- 8. The First Zodiac of March
- 9. The name of the first day of Spring
- 10. March is ____ History Month

DOWN

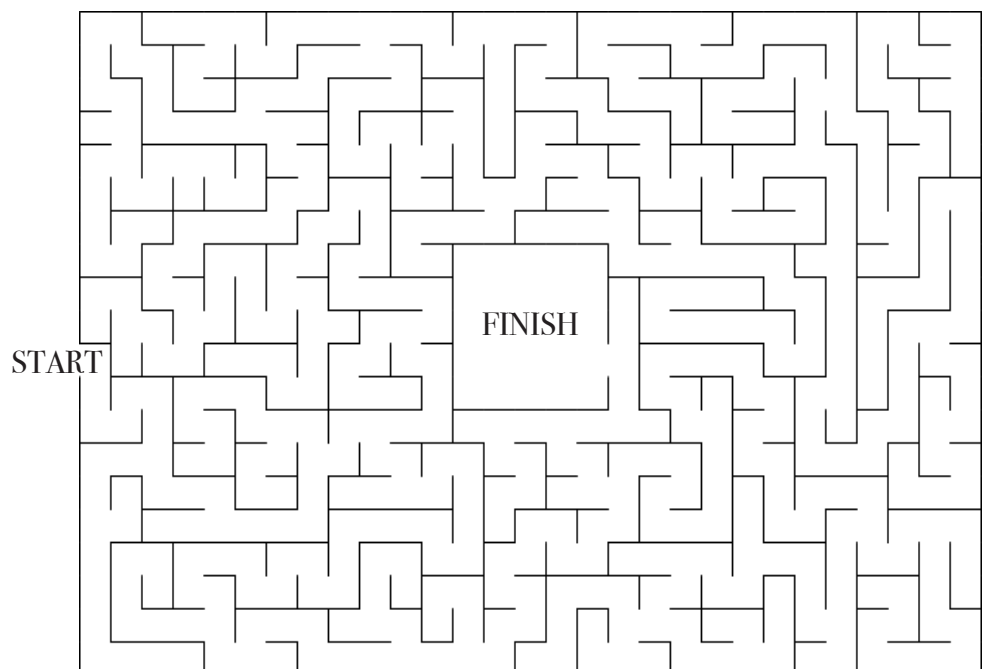
- 1. Term for basketball in the Month of March
- 2. Number of Colors in the rainbow
- 4. The Author whose birthday is in March and the reason we celebrate National Reading Month, Hint Cat in the Hat.
- 7. The lucky color to wear on Saint Patrick's Day



TIC-TAC-TOE



ESCAPE THE MAZE



MSUFCU Art Contest



Abbie Perri
Staff Writer

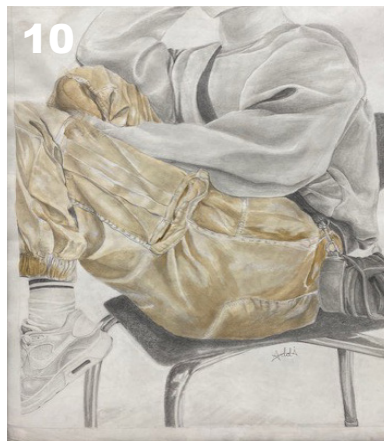
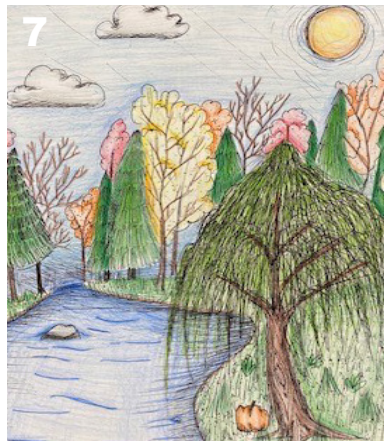
This year's MSUFCU (Michigan State Federal Credit Union) 17th annual art contest is filled with many Grand Ledge students and their art work. The art consists of paintings, drawings, and jewelry

among other media forms, and all grade levels are allowed to participate in this city wide contest. Art pieces from different schools consist of East Lansing, Everett, Williamston, Holt, and others which totals up to 19 Mid-Michigan schools.

There are two big awards, the first one is whichever school has the most votes wins the "School Spirit Award", and the other award is "The People's Choice Award" which is given to the art piece with the most votes.

Voting is from Jan. 28, 2024 to Feb. 23, 2024 and the award ceremony is Sun. March 3, 2024 at MSUFCU HQ2 Building in East Lansing.

1. Rose Colored Glasses by Ellery Curtis.
2. Wax Cast Flower & Bezel-Set Avenurine Stone by Layna Norick
3. Towers by Madison Bellet
4. Miles Morales by Piper Devereaux
5. Dulling Faces, Rusted and Stained by Kylee Campbell.
6. Michigan by Sophia Kernen
7. Bobby by Ada Norick
8. Red Dress by Samantha Collins
9. Forgotten Memory by Ella anderson
10. Coffee Spill by Addison Shamehorn
11. Sea of Dreams by Brenna Dart
- 12 Untitled by Thomas Pham



MSUFCU QR Code

