

# Lansing Spoof Journal

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## WHAT ROAD?

It was recently revealed that the street known as Harrison "Road" in East Lansing is actually Harrison Avenue.

But the problem became bigger when it was discovered that Harrison was actually Abbot Road, with multiple spellings and vice versa.

"How does this stuff happen?" one council member asked.

"We can just change the signs again like we did with Abbot/Abbott, but if anyone brings up changing the speed limit signs on Grand River yet again, I'm outta here."

When an intern spoke up and said that research also showed that Grand River Avenue was originally named Red Cedar Avenue, the council member ran out the door screaming.

## Right to Twerk protests blur lines

By Twerk d'Solei  
Lansing Spoof Journal

With the growing bans on "twerking" following an over-the-top display at the Video Music Awards, supporters and opponents of the controversial Right to Twerk proposal gathered by the thousands at the Capitol lawn to protest. "Shake it, don't break it," opponents chanted while crying for Twerker's rights. "Stop ... please ... really, please, just stop," chanted supporters of the ban, who carried recycled tobacco protest signs that exclaimed "No butts allowed" while calling for the rare community-supported governmental-sponsored "coverup." As a response, Twerkers just stuck out their tongues.

"I don't know what to say," one state legislator said. "This is really getting silly. I think I'm going to just go back into my office and crawl



under the desk like I do with all controversial issues. Geez, I miss the Right to Work protest days."

A wrecking ball being

used in support of the Twerkers also was shut down by law enforcement officials for being too dangerous. "Well, we don't want it hitting any-

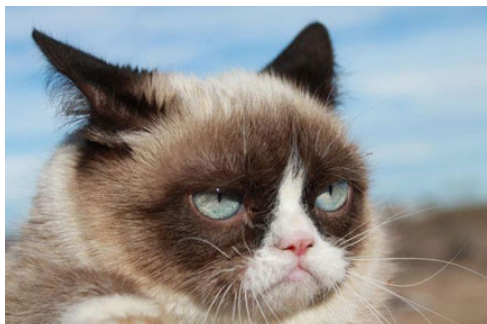
body and, as you know, some of the buildings around here are already kind of crumbly," one official said.

Others feared even

bigger problems.

Said one scholar: "If the goal of this is to take us a step closer to the end of civilization, it's twerking."

Keep calm and twerk on: "What are we teaching our kids? I mean, come on, didn't you see that one video of the girl who caught fire? Twerking is clearly dangerous!" one protester said. In response, a twerk-it-if-you've-got-it supporter lifted her gaze from her iPhone long enough to discredit the notion: "That was a hoax, dude."



I had cold paws once, it was awful.

Every donation to Old Newsboys helps buy boots and shoes for area kids in need.

# CHA-CHING!

Casino plans haven't folded after all

By Mike O'Hue  
Lansing Spoof Journal

Plans for a Lansing casino have been revived, using a new link with a local tribe.

A City Hall spokesman announced that the Tumba people will own the casino, which "will proudly reflect the traditions of the Tumba nation."

Asked what those traditions are, he hesitated. "You know — bows and arrows and camping and stuff. And growing maize, I think."

Research shows that the Tumba nation consists entirely of Sean O'Clancy, his sons Paddy and Paitric and, via marriage, his wife Erin.

"Until recently, I thought we were Irish," O'Clancy admitted.

Then came extensive work by the mayor's office, to find a tribe for the casino project; the family's native link was discovered.

"That's cool," O'Clancy said. "I've always wanted to be good at archery."

There currently is no Tumba reservation, but the O'Clancys do have a nice corner lot in south Lansing, near a MIyers.

In the plan, that will be designated as a reserva-



The city that will never sleep: "You thought downtown was hopping before, you just wait!"

tion, then will be switched with a Michigan Avenue site where the casino will be built.

The mayor — temporarily changing his name to Virg Burned Arrow

in a show of support — will introduce the plan and the casino's slogan: "You Didn't Really Need That Money Anyway, Did You?"

In addition to slot

machines and ATM machines, O'Clancy said, the casino "will have top Indian ... uh, Native American like me, performers. Is Jay Silverheels still around?"



## Congress for rent

From governmental mis-communications

The General Accounting Office has put up a "For rent" sign on Capitol Hill.

"It was really a simple decision to make," said GAO spokesman Fuhzywuhzy Wazee.

"I mean, it's not exactly like anyone was using it. So, we thought we'd make a few bucks for the treasury and rent it to any country who needs a government."

The government-less nation of Somalia was considered a front-runner to lease Congress.

However, a Somalian spokesperson downplayed that.

"We already have a country that isn't working. Why would we want to add a government that isn't working?"

### Congress: World Peace 'Good'

In a non-binding resolution, Congress on Wednesday declared that world peace is good. Predictably, the vote broke along party lines, with Pea Party conservatives declaring that America cannot afford world peace.

Meanwhile in Rome, the pope declared the congressional action a miracle.

"Congress accomplished something," said the pope. "If that's not a miracle, what is?"



\*Not bunny ears

## BWL GOES TO THE DARK SIDE

Lansing's Bored of Water & Light announced Wednesday it will build a \$30 gazillion plant to generate dark light.

Dark light technology uses really fancy machines that fool people into thinking it's light out when it's not.

"Electricity is so 20th century,"

said Bored General Manager Je Pierre L'ark.

"Does it really make any difference whether electronic devices or refrigerators are operating if customers THINK they're working? I don't think so. People want the illusion of comfort, and dark light pro-

vides that." Asked how dark light actually works, L'ark spoke candidly (a first).

"You really don't want to know, but if you did, we couldn't explain it because it's too complicated for anyone like you to understand."

— Staph Infektion



# Taxes, mannn...

By Mike O'Hue  
Lansing Spooof Journal

For local marijuana-advocates, celebrations have ended and new worries have begun.

"Bummer," warned Snake, an herbal entrepreneur in Colorado. "I'm drowning in paperwork."

Lansing recently passed a referendum to no longer prosecute the use of small amounts of pot in homes.

At the same time, Colorado passed a larger proposal, aimed at taxing

pot. "Don't get to be like us," groaned Carl, a Colorado customer.

"Life used to be so easy. I'd go down to the corner and give Snake a twenty; it took five minutes, tops. Now he's got all these forms."

In his backpack, Snake now carries tax forms and credit card machines, plus a pistol to frighten gangs of marauding tax accountants.

Worse, he said, people are skipping him and ordering via:

**Phone:** "I hate that," Carl said. "It's disconcerting to hear someone say, 'If you wanna be really mellow, man, press 1.'"

**Internet:** In a rush to start, officials inadvertently hired the computer people who had been fired by Obamacare. "It took me five hours to order," Carl said. "When I finished, they said: 'Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.' I can't take any more legalizing. Besides, now I'm pretty sure the drones know where my stash is."



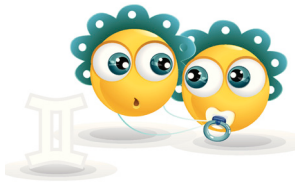
Marijuana advocates can find themselves in a taxing situation.

## Horrorscopes



### Aries

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity will appear today. However, you will be too busy figuring out the new TV remote to notice.



### Gemini

You will hear a strange buzzing sound. Don't worry. It's just the electronic tether your probation officer makes you wear.



### Leo

Today, your life begins like that line from the musical "Oklahoma": "There's a bright golden haze on the meadow..." Sadly, the haze is a toxic plume spewing from a tanker that just crashed on the other side of the meadow.



### Libra

You're a kind and giving person, but a bit too trustworthy. That explains why you sent your life's savings to a Somalian prince who just needed a little cash while waiting for his billion-dollar inheritance.



### Sagittarius

Nothing will happen today. Absolutely nothing. Consider it a miracle that you're still breathing. Hello...? Hello...?



### Aquarius

The song is absolutely right: "This IS the dawning of the Age of Aquarius. Harmony and understanding, sympathy and trust abounding." Oh, wait. That's in the alternative universe. Here, it's the same ol' crap.



### Taurus

Today is a time of new beginnings. Avoid the same old routines. Simplify your life by getting rid of clutter. Invite that creepy neighbor over for coffee. You might also want to dismantle that meth lab in your basement.



### Cancer

Most of the time, your paranoia is completely irrational and unfounded. Today is different. The Feds are on to you.



### Virgo

There is an odd and nauseating smell emanating from the vegetable bin in the fridge. Don't look. Consider donating the refrigerator and its contents to your old employer, who shafted you on your severance pay and who deserves a stinking, rotten surprise. Jerk.



### Scorpio

Remember that little fib you told on your 2012 federal tax return? It's on page 57 of the Congressional Budget Office's report, "Why the National Debt is Growing."



### Capricorn

Prepare for some disappointing news. It turns out that Angelina Jolie really isn't leaving Brad for you.



### Pisces

It's time to brush up on your Homer Simpson imitation. Women really dig that. Seriously. Would we lie to you?

— I'min Sane

# Mysterious mystery: Why are they famous?

By Mike O'Hue

Lansing Spoof Journal

**TONIGHT'S MUST-SEE:** "Mysteries of the Universe" debut, 10 p.m., PB&J.

Each week, scientists and scholars will ponder life's most difficult questions.

Tonight: What is a Kar-dash-ian and why do we care? Guests include Stephen Hawking and Maya Angelou.

**TONIGHT'S MUST-SEE II:** "Downer Abbey" debut, 9 p.m., TAMC.

This cable adaptation starts where the third season of "Downton Abbey" ended, with Matthew's death in a car crash.

Then it goes in new directions.

Matthew returns to the Abbey, now, of course, as a zombie.

Lady Mary still likes him, but she's also been dating a vampire; being British, she's very attracted to a ghostly white pallor.

And lately, she's been drawn to a hunky were-wolf; being upper-class



We're not entirely sure why we're trying to keep up.

British, she had never seen a physique.

Also, Tom's involvement with Irish revolutionaries is becoming more strident.

**SPOILER ALERT:** This episode ends with a giant mansion explosion.

The second hour will have a lot more zombies, albeit well-dressed and well-spoken ones.

## Other choices include:

"Crossingfire," 6:30 p.m., SeeNN.

Actually, we don't know what tonight's subject is.

Neither do they.

They'll all talk at the same time anyway.

"A Big Loser," 8 p.m., NopeBC.

Weeping and weighing. Also, wailing.

"Snark Tank," 9 p.m., Easy As ABC.

An environmental edition focuses on fresh inventions designed to cut the use of oil.

Ideas include a lamp fueled by kerosene, a mill powered by the wind, a wagon pulled by a mule and a line from which

clothes can be hung, to be dried by solar heat.

That last one is considered expensive – it comes in designer colors – but promising.

"The Real Housewives of the Bayou," 9 p.m., Take a Bow Network.

This is a little like the Miami and Atlanta editions, except that nobody throws champagne in

anyone's face.

In the opener, someone throws an alligator.

"Star Trek: The Extended Generation," 9 p.m., Nerd Channel.

After escaping the Borg-Warner and the Cardassians, the crew is captured by the Kar-dashians and forced to go to parties.

Disputes arise: Picard dates Kim, Riker prefers Khloe, O'Brien points out that Robert is kind of cute.

Kirk (guest star William Shatner, in a time-travel twist), of course, dates all of them.

"The Deadliest Catch," 10 p.m., Not Quite a Discovery Channel.

After concluding the current story (salmon-fishing in Alaska), the show turns to a new task (purse-shopping in the mall on the day after Thanksgiving).

"Mysteries of the Universe: Special Edition," 11 p.m., PB&J.

A panel of Nobel laureates is convened to ponder: Why Snooki? Why "Jersey Shore"?

Where did I put my remote?

## Third grade is busting at the seams

By Caffeine Lavee

Lansing Spoof Journal

Michigan third-grader Iwanna Read-Good fidgeted in her desk, her knees sticking out on either side.

The 19-year-old is in her 11th session of third grade, thanks to Michigan law that says kids who can't pass the reading portion of the fall MEAP test must stay in third grade until they do.

"The math is getting kind of boring," she ad-

mitted.

"I know my multiplication tables backwards, forwards and sideways."

Iwanna says she enjoys gym class, although she and her 12-, 15-, and 17-year-old classmates have to hold back at kickball for fear of harming their 8- and 9-year-old classmates.

Meanwhile, Iwanna's brother, Ican Read-Good, is preparing to graduate from high school.

"I think high school would be a lot more fun

if there were more kids, here," he said, looking around at the empty corridors of North West High School, where he and his nine classmates are taught by a single teacher.

"I dreamed of playing varsity football, but all the kids who would have made up our defensive line are still in third grade."

Instead, he and the other students in his class get personalized instruction in individual sports such as tennis, golf and

squash.

"I kinda miss my sister and my friends," he said. "Plus they said the third-grade desks are really uncomfortable, and the water fountain is kind of low."

Ican noted a silver lining to keeping teenagers back in elementary school, though.

"Michigan used to have a terrible dropout problem," he said.

"Now nobody even makes it to high school, so they can't drop out."



Even the Welcome sign is now blank.

## Did Potterville go 'POOF?'

Authorities tell the Lansing Spoof Journal that sometime in the past three weeks, the entire village of Potterville vanished without a trace.

"Normally, we just drive by it on the interstate, since there's no reason to stop unless you want a big plate of fried chicken gizzards," said Eat-in County Sheriff Duncan Donutz.

"But one of our deputies had a flat, so he rolled into Potterville ... and it was gone."

Donutz declined to launch a massive search for the missing village.

"Oh, I think it will turn up one of these days, safe and sound. No need for the whole county to get in an uproar over one missing town."

# Wolverines feeling bleu

By Little Brother

Lansing Spoo Journal

Another Sparty-Wolverine battle, another instant classic.

This time, with one second remaining and all hope seemingly lost for the Green and White, a plane appeared above Sparty Stadium. In seconds, the skywriter stunningly had spelled out GO BLEU. Many on the Wolverine sideline stood with pride, some not sure if it was spelled right or not. The Sparty crowd was shocked at the sight of the words above their

turf. Meanwhile, with all eyes skyward, the crafty Sparties quickly ran a play, scoring the winning touchdown on an unopposed 90-yard run.

As the stadium erupted, the amaized and now really blue coaches chased down the departing officials, screaming "Hey, hey, wait a second!" But it was too late.

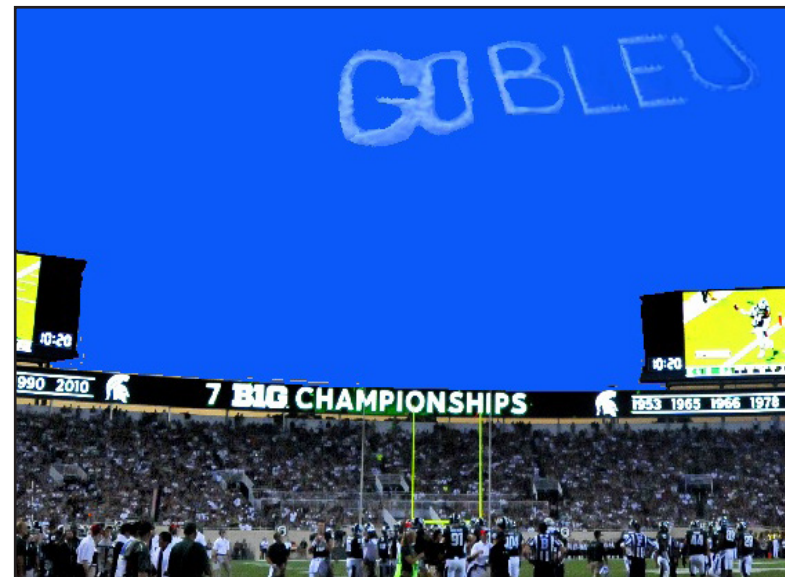
"Wait a second?" the referee replied snarkily. "Seems like 10-12 years ago when you were here you didn't want to wait a second. Too bad. Game over."

Meanwhile, the Sparty

coach, with his trademark just-pulled-a-fast-one smirk/ smile spoke to a TV reporter amidst the bedlam.

"We call that one "Feeling Bleu," he said of the trick play. "Or maybe it was "Bleu Cheese," or "Tangled up in Bleu."

"I'm not sure, but it worked," he said while resetting his U-M countdown clock to next year's game. There was no official comment from the losing school, although one player, as he left the field, was heard to be muttering, "Big bullies."



Nothing but Bleu Skies from here on out ...

# Pitchers: Slo-pitch requirement UNDERHAND

By Diamond King

Lansing Spoo Journal

In order to increase safety and boost the offensive production in what is supposed to be the post-steroid era, baseball announced that beginning next season all pitchers will have to pitch slo-pitch softball style. "It's a win-win-win-win-win situation," said one baseball official. "It's safer, no more beanballs, no more arm injuries, home runs galore and more souvenir baseballs for fans."

But one veteran pitcher harshly disagreed.

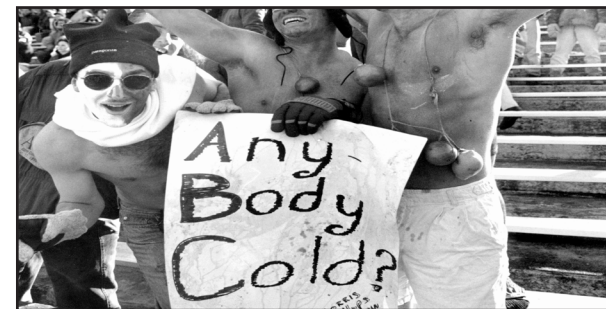
"I'd say it's a win-when? situation," he said. "No more 20-win seasons or \$20-million-a-year pitcher contracts. No more no-hitters, unless you're playing the Astros. It's really underhanded."

Baseball purists suggested a double asterisk on all the new records in the record book, following the single asterisk for the steroid era.

Officials said they expect game times will likely increase to about five to six hours, giving it that old-fashioned double-header feel, while fans will be invited to join players after the game at local watering holes for a beverage and a slice to give it that rec softball feel.



"My stats are going to plummet," said one unnamed major league pitcher. "An 8-year-old could do this. How do you throw a fastball now?"



Spartying on in the stands: Despite dropping temps, a group of Spartans refused to leave the stadium.

## Just. Go. Home.

By Whatsa Matta

Lansing Spoo Journal

Almost four months after refusing to leave the Sparty Stadium stands during a dangerous thunderstorm, a group of students was still refusing to leave, even with winter approaching.

Unable to get the rebellious group to cooperate, the university brought in a popular coach to see if he could get them to budge.

"Hey, the regular season's over guys," he said.

"You know, no more games here until next year.

"You're going to freeze. Bare skin on metal in winter is no

good. I'm from the U.P., I know."

But the students, still dressed for 80-degree temps, again refused to leave.

"I don't get it," the coach said.

"When it's 80 degrees and sunny, we can't keep 'em in the stands after halftime, now when it's 20 degrees out and snowy we can't get them to leave."

Finally, school officials stepped in and brought in some former "Idols" to sing the Michigan fight song — over and over and over.

"It was either that or tear gas," one official said as the crowd ran for the gates at a record pace.

"We took the more drastic measure."

# Big Ten+ **expansion** on hold

By **Y Jack Pot**

Lansing SpooF Journal

**CHICANERY, III.** — The Big Ten (Plus One, Plus One, Plus Two) has halted plans to expand to 16 teams by 2016, suspending discussions with University of Beijing and Bombay State.

The league, best known for its volleyball and wrestling success, could resume expansion talks at any time, Commissioner Jim Delirious said.

“We’re not closing the door on China, India or any other market that

is served by Vereyezon and Calmcast,” Delirious said. “Our institutions face tremendous financial pressures besides my \$3 million-a-year contract.”

With Missouri in the SEC East and West Virginia in the Big 12, the B14 feels no obligation to remain true to its geographic roots. The only nation that appears to be safe from the conference’s geographic sprawl is Dubai.

“We’re perfectly content to stay at 11 ... er, 12 ... I mean, 14,” Delirious said. “If there’s ever a system where players are compen-

sated one-tenth as much as our coaches, we may have to look at expansion. But we don’t want to go beyond 48 teams. Tradition matters in the Midwest.”

That momentary freeze in membership came as a surprise to the University of Akron, which was upset by Michigan this year in Ann Arrogance.

“A lot of people thought they’d be joining our conference,” Wolverines Director of Athletics and Air Traffic Control David Branding said. “I was the CEO at Domeeno’s. I know

good rubber when I see it. And I was looking forward to our association with Goodyear. A lot of our football teams could use one.”

Michigan State seems fine with the status quo, after expecting to have more football teams in its league than it had points vs. Purdue. The big concerns were whether further expansion would affect plans to schedule a basketball game with the Miami Heat on Mars and whether the Spartys would be allowed to fire cannons at halftime.

## What are we, animals?

Rights group sets sights on ‘liberation’ of beloved team critters

By **I.B. Lion**

Lansing SpooF Journal

DeTROI**T** — Animal rights advocate PIPTA (People Interested in the Polite Treatment of Animals) has launched a campaign to banish the use of animals as mascots for sports teams.

At a press conference in Detroit earlier this week, spokeswoman Cat O’Clysm called animal mascots “derogatory and insulting to the non-humans with which we share our planet.”

“The attitude that humans can denigrate animals at will — that we can objectify them — simply because the animals can’t speak up has gone on long enough,” O’Clysm said.

“Our goal is to eliminate animal mascots one at a time, beginning with the Tigers and Lions.”

O’Clysm held up a poster-size photo of the Detroit Tigers logo. “Look at those fierce eyes and bared fangs,” she said.

“Looking at this, you would get the distinct impression the tiger is some kind of ... predator at loose in the jungle.” When a reporter pointed out that tigers are jungle predators, O’Clysm, replied: “Maybe, but that’s only one side of them; have you ever



What does the fox say? “The fox is a squirrely little dude who doesn’t say much, actually...” according to Bernie Nero, the bear.

seen a mother tiger with her kittens ...?”

Turning to the Detroit Lions logo, O’Clysm, struggling to remain calm, told reporters: “Look at this ... depiction ... Paws in the air ... Spoiling for a fight ... Should that be the defining

characteristic of a lion — combative-ness?”

Next on PIPTA’s list: the Chicago Cubs. Shaking her head sadly, O’Clysm said, “Lovable losers’ — is that a fair way to think of juvenile bears?”



BRIEFLY INTERESTING

## Should they be ‘committed’?

By **T.H. Isnuts**

Lansing SpooF Journal

Complaints are increasing as younger athletes, even in middle and grade schools, are now verbally committing to colleges in the craziness that is athletic recruiting.

And a report in Alabama recently found college football coaches visiting maternity wards looking for the “8- or 9-pounders” who showed that “special skill set.”

Asked what that “special skill set” meant, one coach said, “Well, I think it’s pretty obvious. Gotta get by that diaper thing pretty quick. We don’t want to be dealing with that later on, although sometimes we still do.”

Meanwhile, a court case in Texas is still trying to determine if when an infant grabs a Texas or Texas A&M toy in a crib if it can be considered “committing.”

Another court case in Florida is trying to determine if it is possible for a fetus kicking inside the womb to be considered a “verbal” commitment.

Asked if things had gotten out of hand, the coach smirked and said: “Never too early to get commitments. It’s like we say, it’s all for the kids.”

# Your generosity warms hearts

2012 efforts helped provide footwear for 5,800 kids in need

By Mark Nixon  
Old Newsboys Media Director

I'm an Old Newsboy, in more ways than one.

Beginning in 1973, I was one of the LSJ reporters and editors who each year wrote fictitious, and hopefully funny, stories for the Lansing Spoof Journal.

I'm retired now — but not from Old Newsboys. Today, I'm part of the all-volunteer Old Newsboys Association, which this year celebrates its 90th anniversary.

**Real story!**

That amazes me. Throughout the Great Depression and World War II, during the peaks and valleys that Michigan's economy is prone to, Old Newsboys has soldiered on.

The mission has never changed: Provide shoes and boots to deserving schoolchildren in our community.

Last year, we raised more than \$182,000, which allowed us to buy footwear for more than 5,800 children.

That wouldn't happen without your generosity. The newspaper you hold in your hand is the most visible and



ROD SANFORD/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

recognizable part of Old Newsboys' efforts. It's sold just one day every year to raise money for our footwear fund.

We never put a price on the spoof journal. "Any donation" or "Whatever you can afford" is all we ask.

I can't imagine mid-Michigan without the Old Newsboys Association, or the annual holiday sale of

this make-believe newspaper. It's a heart-warming tradition that reminds us all of the goodness — some might say greatness — that is the true character of Greater Lansing.

Thank you for your generosity and support.

To learn more about us, please visit our website, [lansingoldnewsboys.org](http://lansingoldnewsboys.org). Happy holidays, everyone!

## Thank you donors!

Every donation, large and small, helps put shoes and boots on kids' feet!

Mike Sich, a Lead District Manager for Speedway gas stations, recently presented a check for \$1,000 to Lansing Old Newsboys board members. We thank Speedway and its employees for their generosity!



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