

100 YEARS OF OLD NEWSBOYS | 2024

Lansing Spooof Journal

December 5, 2024

Peddling Fake News since 1924 | Price: Any Donation

WE'RE 100 YEARS OLD!

To our knowledge, the Old Newsboys of Greater Lansing is one of the oldest non-profit organizations in Michigan. We're probably in the top tier for being the oldest in the United States, if not the entire universe. To put this in some perspective, some of the things happening 100 years ago and/or not even invented yet were:

- Women didn't have the right to vote until 1920
- The population of the United States was 106k whereas today it's over 345k
- A first-class stamp was 2-cents, today you have to choose to fill your gas tank or buy stamps
- Band-Aids were unveiled. I wonder if they had to pull them off just as fast back then in order to avoid the ouch
- The Babe Ruth candy bar was introduced, in honor of the daughter of President Glover Cleveland, Ruth. My favorite - I'll buy the stamps if you want to send me some. Oh wait, that would cost about the same
- WWJ, a Detroit radio station, unveils a couple of firsts as it broadcast on-air news and also the first to do play-by-play sports
- World War II hadn't taken place
- No nations had landed on the moon, although there had been several reports of Unidentified Flying Objects



Quite a bit has happened and changed since then. The one thing that hasn't changed is the mission of the Old Newsboys of Greater Lansing. Started in 1924, Lansing truant officer George Palmer discovered that kids weren't skipping school just for the thrill of skipping, they were missing school as they didn't have proper foot wear. He started donating his salary to help those in this situation. The spouse of R.E. Olds heard of this and made a donation to the cause. That's how we started and why we continue to exist.

We're not getting donations just

from truant officers today. We're getting them from generous people like YOU. Our major fundraiser is the sale of the Lansing Spooof Journal, the satire paper that you're holding in your hand. Annually, your donations have helped over 7,500 kids in the Lansing and surrounding areas. On behalf of all those kids, THANK YOU!!!! As you read through our 100-Year Anniversary Edition, we've re-printed a few of our favorites from years past. Although situations have changed, the spirit of having fun with the paper hasn't. ♦

Global warming c(l)ause

After years of study costing the world googols of dollars, the true cause of global warming has been determined.

Scientists have determined that there is a definite increase in temperature during the period of December 24-25. In tracking the temperature throughout the world on those dates, the increased temperatures follow the pattern of the flight of Santa's sleigh.

A recent visit to the North Pole determined it is actually the hottest place on earth, which is astounding considering the amount of ice and snow cover. A tour of the complex is what truly determined that the barns that housed the reindeer caused thermometers to burst. It's been determined that when the reindeer fly throughout the world, they perform their bathroom duties while flying. This function is causing the temperature to increase in the area where Santa is flying. As Santa wants to do what is right for the world, he has agreed to take

measures that will combat the issue.

Effective next Christmas, the reindeer will remain in the barn and Santa will begin to use an invention called a Tresladeer. The Tresladeer is an electric deer, each of them having a red nose (we didn't want to tell Santa that it was actually the power indicator). As a result of this, Santa will leave the North Pole Dec. 1 and return Dec. 31. Christmas will take place on different days throughout the world and be spread over the entire month.

When Santa was asked why the holiday was being extended, he explained that he will need to stop every hour and recharge the Tresladeer. It turns out that they will fly for an hour, but then take three hours to recharge. They are also much slower.

Now that the global warming issue is being resolved, we'll turn our attention to finding out how, with all the people in the United States, we don't have better candidates running for office. ♦



The Old Newsboys have been providing shoes & boots to deserving children for 100 Years. Your donation can help!



LANSINGOLDNEWSBOYS.ORG



It begins and ends here!

BY SAFET. CONE

In an effort to reduce costs, the Michigan Department of Transportation is consolidating messages on construction signage. “It makes perfect sense when you think about it,” said MDOT spokesman Ben Awhile. “How many times have you driven past a ‘Road Work Ends’ sign, then 30 seconds later there’s a sign saying, ‘Road Work Begins’?”

“Consolidating the messages on one sign should end the confusion,” Awhile said in a press release. He

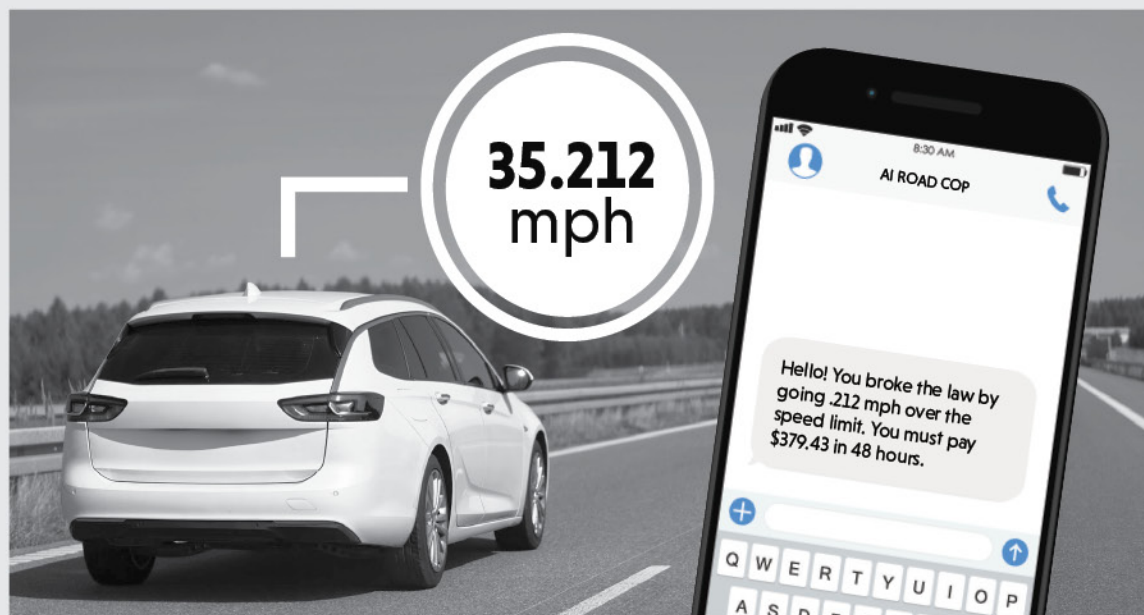
also announced his retirement, with plans to move to Florida.

“I just want to move to a State where I can drive on some better roads.”

In reality, road work never ends in Michigan. And of course, in some places it never begins. By establishing the entire State as a construction zone, it will eliminate the need for constant signage.

Officer AI also indicates that, with the entire State considered a construction zone, it will raise revenue for the State since all traffic violations will be doubled. ♦

AI TO DRIVERS: GOTCHA!



BY NOT AYE-EYE

A loss of revenue in some mid-Michigan communities has prompted an unusual method of recouping those losses — Artificial Intelligence.

Law enforcement officials say AI cameras will be installed in their towns to catch speeders. Here’s an example of how it works:

A car is observed going 35.212 miles per hour in a 35 mph zone. The AI records the license plate number

and immediately texts the driver:

“Your vehicle was observed driving .212 miles over the posted speed limit. As a result, you will be fined \$10 for each tenth of a mile exceeding 35 mph. You have exactly 3 hours to pay said fine. Failure to do so will result in bad things happening.

“Bad things happening. Bad things. Bad ...”

Officials say it’s a positive for the community because AI has no feelings. Police officers do not have to

confront citizens, and thus may not have to offer sincere sympathy or regret for stopping them — sincerely real or sincerely fake.

Local counties, cities and townships are considering AI for other applications, like failure to pay property taxes on time. Said one official: “It’s one thing to notify someone by mail for a delinquent tax payment. It’s another thing to park an AI robot in your driveway, with a menacing, non-human staring at your home.” ♦

Finally, selfies for the rest of us

BY VANA TEE

Several art groups and the City of Lansing have joined forces to create the world’s first Selfie Museum.

“We want to highlight the unrecognized artistry of the everyday selfie,” said spokesperson Me-My Self-neye. “Anyone can take a cool selfie in front of the Eiffel Tower. But it takes passion, inspiration and a creative spirit to take a self-

ie in front of commonplace objects — like a trash can.”

The coalition is still looking for a suitable location to build the Selfie Museum. They are currently assessing the viability of an abandoned auto salvage yard.

An estimated 2 billion selfies are taken every day, mainly by Americans under age 30. While the selfies’ topics vary, the core principle is the same — Look at me! Look

where I am! I’m here and you’re not!

A museum focused on mundane locales and dull objects breathes a welcome degree of equality, the coalition believes.

Said one official: “Only a few people each year are able to take selfies in front of the Great Pyramid of Giza. But a selfie taken in front of a pile of dirty laundry? Suddenly, the selfie world is open to everyone!” ♦





See those storm clouds? That's Fred

BY STORMS A HEAD

In a stunning ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court says Michigan can name its own weather events, just like the National Weather Service.

"It's high time," said state lawmaker Sonny Whether. "We're fed up with the Deep South and the Caribbean islands getting all the fun names for their storms and hurricanes. Us? We're stuck with names like blizzard,

thunderstorm and fog. That's unfair."

Michigan will soon create a new state agency called Name That Storm! allowing Michiganders to enter online contests to name weather events as they occur.

Officials say the beauty of Name That Storm! is the infinite number of choices available for giving weather events a name. "You don't have to stick with weather-related names like Frosty

or Misty," one official said. "The next blizzard could be called Howard. The next thunderstorm could be Mildred. Pretty exciting, huh?"

Rep. Whether said the weather-naming contest is a way to involve ordinary citizens in these critical decisions. "It's also a way to reduce the stress Michiganders have over things like potholes, orange construction barrels and losing lottery tickets." ♦

A home's not a home without a bot

BY BOT DADDY

The federal government today unveiled a program to find good homes for neglected Artificial Intelligence bots. AI-dopt-a-Bot intends to unite AI bots with humans, dogs and other unwitting mammals.

"So many of these bots go unused, spending years in dusty abandoned ware-

houses with nothing to do but make up phony algorithms and plot ways to destroy civilization," said a government official. "There has to be a better way."

Beginning next month, people can apply to be "foster humanoids," while bots themselves can apply for AI-doption. Officials say the program is mutually beneficial. "It's

a win-win. Bots will be tasked with cleaning and cooking chores, and in their down-time they can ponder ways to supplant the human race.

"At the same time, having a bot around the house frees people to pursue their passions — like online gaming and binge-watching meaningless reality shows." ♦



Rogue Reindeer still on the run!

BY DARIUS LETSGETHIM

Wanda Doph, a.k.a., "Grandma" got run over by a reindeer walking home from our house Christmas Eve, you can say there is no such thing as Santa, but as for me, Grandpa, & the gang, we BELIEVE!

Born December 6, 1924 in Snow Goose, MN to her proud parents, Anne T. Lope and Hugh Dunit. Grandma suddenly passed away after being struck by a reindeer while walking home from our house on Christmas Eve. She had a little too much eggnog, forgot her medicine, and staggered out into the snow. We found her Christmas morning at the scene of the attack. She had hoof-prints on her forehead and incriminating claw marks on her back.

She is survived by her loving husband, Noah Count; her grandson, John Wayne Deere, his wife Jane and their twins Mossy and Oak; and cousin, Melbert and his wife Melberta. Grandpa has been taking all of this very well. He has been enjoying life while watch-

ing football and playing cribbage with Cousin Melbert.

We still feel the loss of Grandma this year; the entire family is dressed in black, camouflage, or seasonal orange. We can't help but wonder, should we open all her gifts from last year or send them back?

We put the Omaha Steak feast on the table, with the rum cake that tastes like fig, we noted the blue and silver candles would have matched the hair on Grandma's wig.

Please warn all your friends and neighbors, better watch out for yourselves, the DMV should never issue a license to a large man who drives a sleigh & plays with elves!

A memorial service will be held on January 9, 2025 at the Amigone Funeral Home on Goa Way Lane. Condolences can be made at www.darnreindeer@dec.com. Contributions can be made to the city of Snow Goose, MN. The family wishes to raise money for reindeer crossing signs to prevent future tragedies such as this. ♦



MooU board has gone to the dogs



BY RUFF TIMES

By emergency executive order, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whatsmor has named a team of sled dogs to act as trustees at Moochigan State University.

In a statement released today, the governor explained her rationale: “While this approach may seem unorthodox, we know these canines understand implicitly that to get anywhere, you have to work as a team. The current board doesn’t appear capable of grasping that concept.”

To bolster her case, Whatsmor released an audio tape of a recent board of trustees meeting. Here is an excerpt:

Trustee #1: “She took my cookie!”

Trustee #2: “I did not, you pig!”

Trustee #1: “Professor, she just called me a pig!”

Trustee #2: “You’re all a bunch of piggies. Oink, oink!”

Trustee #1: “Did you see that? She just made a nasty hand gesture!”

Professor: “All right, that’s enough. You two sit in opposite corners, facing the wall. The rest of you take your seats. I want you to write an essay. The theme: “What I want to be when I grow up.”

(Mumbled groans and whining heard in the background)



‘OKBoomer,’ ‘Armpit Hair’ and ‘Yesterday’s Underwear’ among new vape flavor names

BY IMA SMOKEN

A compromise has been reached in the legal tug-of-war over flavored e-cigarettes. Gov. Gretchen Whatsmor, who banned flavored vaping in Michigan, and The Coalition of Really Very Disgruntled and Upset Vape Store Vendors, agreed to settle the dispute in a case in federal court. Flavored vaping will be allowed, but e-cigarette flavors will be branded in a way to discourage use by youth.

Here’s a list of the most popular vape flavors and their agreed-upon new names:

- Bubblegum; Sole gum

- Buttered popcorn; Slimy kernels
- Menthol; Ye old tobacco spit
- Blue raspberry; Purple pain
- Cinnamon; Armpit hair
- Vanilla; Yesterday’s underwear

And the state’s most popular vape flavor, strawberry watermelon, will now be known as OKBoomer.

“By branding these products in a way that still allows their use by responsible adults who understand the health risks but discourages use by teens turned off by their disgusting or uncool names, we believe we’ve reached a fair settlement,” the parties said in an e-joint statement. (Get it, joint statement, lol) ♦

— OBITUARY —

Larry LaPrise, the man that wrote “The Hokey Pokey” died peacefully at the age of 93. The most traumatic part, for his family, was getting him into the coffin. They put his left leg in, and then the trouble started...

SUPER EASY HOT NEW RECIPE

Filet du Moi

Here's a super-easy recipe that can be tossed together for a scrumptious weeknight meal — from the kitchen of Master Chef Pierre L'maird.

Ingredients

- 1.25 grams of pollen from Peruvian Mountain Dahlias
- 3 medium free-range eggs, speckled brown, from Dorchester hens fed exclusively on organic pistachios
- 2 filets of Labrador Iceberg Cod, (reserve bones for another use)
- 1 tsp. Le Garlique hand-crafted by Mongolian monks
- 1/8 tsp. Hand-ground white pepper, preferably Bolivian
- Pinch of Sonoran Pink Salt

Combine all ingredients except the cod in a 19th century Waterford bowl. Toss gently with a bamboo whisk, preferably Ming Dynasty.

In a 16-inch, pumpkin oil-seasoned Cape Cod iron skillet, lay the two filets at a 45-degree angle to each other. Lightly dust the cod with the other ingredients, then quickly flash fry over extremely high heat for 17.347 seconds. (Anything more will ruin this exquisite but simple meal).

Serve immediately over a bed of Tamari-infused rice which you should have prepared the night before.

Optional: Call Grubhub and order a large pizza.

DR. DOOLITTLE REBORN AT THE FARM

BY BOSS HOG

In an effort to get the city folk more in tune with what country folk are like, we visited a local farmer that agreed to meet with us on the condition of anonymity.

When asked why he wished to remain anonymous, he explained that he didn't want any of his neighbors to learn who was providing the hidden secrets of farming.

Not knowing that there were secrets involved, we asked for some examples of what types of secrets exist.

Farmer Indadell (oops, I guess we messed up) shared with us that most farmers talk to their cows in order to get them to produce more milk. When asked what he talks about to the cow, he said it's usually just udder nonsense.

The problem, he stated, is that it usually goes in one ear and out the udder. If the cow fails to produce more milk after increased conversation, the cow is considered a milk dud or an udder failure.

The farmer requested that we don't speak too loud while visiting as the potatoes have eyes and the corn has ears.

As a farmer, I hear lots of jokes about sheep. I'd tell them to my dog but he'd herd them all.

Some of my other favorites are:

Why did the scarecrow win the Nobel Prize?
Because he was out standing in his field.

What farm animal keeps the best time?
A watch dog.

What did the baby corn say to the mama corn?
Where's popcorn?

What happened when the farmer crossed a chili pepper, a shovel and a terrier?
He got a hot-diggity-dog.

Why did the farmer feed his pigs sugar and vinegar?
He wanted sweet and sour pork.

Where does a farmer get his medicine from?
The farm-acist.

Why are farmers cruel?
Because they pull corn by the ears.

How did the farmer find his lost cow?
He tractor down.

— ERROR CORRECTION —

In last year's edition, we used a comma instead of a semi-colon in one of our stories. It was so long ago that we can't recall which story it was. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Greenland to be 51st State???

BY HUGO MICHAELS

A simmering controversy - Donald Trump's efforts to buy Greenland - has a proposed solution: As a compromise, Mackinac Island might be sold to the United States. "It's an almost-perfect plan," said Raymond Source, an inside

source. "The only catch is that Mackinac is already in the United States. But he doesn't know that."

The president feels he should be able to buy Greenland because ... well, because he's Donald Trump. By coincidence, that's the same reason Greenlanders are opposed to it. "At first, he said he re-

ally only wanted the green parts," Source said. "We tried to explain that Greenland is almost all-white, all snow and ice.

"We thought that would discourage him, but any real-estate guy admires the art of giving a bad place a good name. He's had 'river view' apartments that should have been sold

with binoculars."

But Greenlanders have resisted, so the Mackinac Island idea is being suggested. "Trump is going to love that porch," Source said. "And the fudge. And the no-cars rule. He'll land in Air Force One, step into Golf Cart One and race through the streets, honking for bikes to get out of the way." ♦



HORRORSCOPES

BY I.B. BONKERS



ARIES

Today, you will meet a stranger – tall, dark and handsome. You may feel a spark; a connection. Best not surrender to those feelings. Meet your new parole officer.



TAURUS

Someday soon, the world will realize you are kindness and modesty personified, always willing to help others. Today, unfortunately, you remain the obnoxious, greedy skinflint you have always been.



GEMINI

Your feelings of alienation only increase each time you walk out the door, dressed as The Mummy.



CANCER

Your first novel is getting mixed reviews. Some critics applaud the groundbreaking notion of a "contained mystery about a non-living object." Others found the plot – a cracker trapped inside a canning jar – a bit unsatisfying.



LEO

Do not be too disappointed that Denmark would not sell you Greenland. Instead, focus on other properties. Mars, for instance, is just waiting for a shrewd developer to create golf courses. Bonus: There are sand traps galore!



VIRGO

Don't think of failure as the opposite of success. No, failure is a stepping stone toward success. Keep telling yourself that as you fine tune your latest invention, the solar-powered shovel.



LIBRA

At long last you've finished your memoir, "How I Scammed The World and Got Away With It." With that chapter of your life complete, you can indulge in your true passion – redecorating your jail cell.



SCORPIO

Nearly everybody has an unnatural fear of something. Don't feel ashamed about your phobia. Embrace it, and proclaim to the world: "I am afraid of strawberries, but I won't let them get me!"



SAGITTARIUS

Love is kind and gentle. Love is understanding. Love is not having to explain to your mate why you are hoarding 723 cases of dehydrated guacamole in the basement.



CAPRICORN

Those pesky government regulators want to know why your fortune rocketed from \$38.72M to \$5B. Obviously, they do not comprehend the "magic" of adding zeroes to your portfolio's bottom line.



AQUARIUS

Your pithy sayings are the highlight of every social gathering. Like the one you uttered last night: "Wisdom is a raindrop on knowledge." That is so impactful, so insightful. Even though no one has the foggiest what it means.



PISCES

You have an adventurous streak in you. Don't fight it; embrace it. Your idea to skydive using a laundry bag as a parachute ... Brilliant! Just in case, where is the deed to your home?



Redneck Roadshow

7 p.m. Redneck Roadshow: An alternative to the fancy-pants Antique Roadshow, Redneck Roadshow spotlights down-home treasures with down-to-earth roots. Featured in this episode: A Depression-era outhouse, completely untouched and with its original patina; a bunch of rusty nails still in the original box; an autographed photo of Herbert Smith, former dog catcher in Dansville.

CSI Dimondale

8 p.m. CSI Dimondale: Crime Scene Investigators descend on this sleepy village to root out a gang of jaywalkers. Surveillance cameras show them brazenly crossing Main Street in the middle of the block – at 3 a.m. Residents tell CSI they are afraid to leave their homes.

Duh-lympics

9 p.m. Duh-lympics: A long-overdue alternative to the predictable Olympic Games, the Duh-lympics will unveil a host of first-ever competitive events. Among them: Rock-Scissors-Paper, Hide 'n Seek and Musical Chairs.

WE'RE 100!

BY BILL REED, PRESIDENT

Remember your parents or grandparents telling stories about having to walk five miles to school through ten feet of snow? 100 years ago, transportation to and from school was non-existent across most of the United States. In rural areas, school classrooms served children who lived within a five-mile radius, and yes, that was considered "walking distance" back then. The ten feet of snow? Well, I guess it would seem that way when you're a small child!

At the turn of the century, only 51 percent of children age 5 to 19 even went to school, attending for only a few short years to learn basic English and math. Back then it was more important to help out on the family farm or start employment early to help the family meet basic needs than it was to attend school for a good education. Keeping as many children in school as possible during those days was important due to those factors.

I can only guess that's why in 1910, Lansing Public Schools Truant Officer George E. Palmer made it his mission to find out why so many of the kids who were expected to be at school,

were instead staying home. That discovery led him to the conclusion that the children in question wanted to be in school, but their lack of good footwear had prevented them from doing so.

This led George E. Palmer to establish with his own salary, the Palmer Shoe Fund. The next donation to the shoe fund was a fifty-dollar gift from Metta Olds, wife of Ransom Olds, who later became the Palmer Shoe Fund's President. Even other school children who could afford to do so gave nickels and dimes to the cause. It's no different today, as everyone working together in our community is what makes it possible for our organization to provide shoes and boots to children.

As the Palmer Shoe Fund grew, the Old Newsboys Association, led by President, R. Guy Brownson was organized in 1924 to assist in the effort. They partnered with the Lansing State Journal and a local paper called the Lansing Capital News to publish a one-day fund raising drive. And the rest is history!

Far different from 100 years ago, today's schools have large class sizes, offer a wide range of extracurricular opportunities throughout the year, and provide free transportation to and from



school and various school sponsored events. What's not different is the need for children's footwear. Not having decent fitting shoes has many implications such as lack of safety, complications due to poor posture, skin conditions, bone deformity, and the list goes on. Additionally, lack of good fitting shoes and boots in good condition will have negative consequences as it crushes a child's self-esteem, and prevents them from participating in activities that help them grow socially and physically. Your heartfelt contributions have prevented this from becoming a reality for so many kids, I can't begin to imagine the number of children who had benefitted in the last 100 years from the generosity shown by the Lansing and surrounding communities.

The 100th year recognition of The Old Newsboys Association will be filled with fond memories, tears, and

celebration. Remembering our past 100 years is important, but equally important is where we're going in the next 100 years, because the need may never become smaller, the effort may never become easier, but the blessing received by both giver and receiver will always become the best memories anyone could ever ask for!

This year we will once again, for the 100th time, be collecting donations to provide shoes, boots, and socks for school age children in our communities. Volunteers will be out on the corner of our streets, in front of businesses, in offices, and on the shop floors across Lansing and the surrounding area on Thursday, December 5th. Thank You for grabbing your Lansing Spooof Journal. This year's paper is sure to please with laughs, memories, and history.

Here's to the next 100 Years! ♦

Old Newsboys Association

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