

Lansing Spooof Journal

December 4, 2025

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Mackinawckh Bridge roundabout slated for 2026 construction

BY ITSA CIRCLE

In a groundbreaking move sure to confuse GPS devices and delight local seagulls, the Mackinac Bridge Authority is thrilled to announce the construction of the world's first roundabout on a suspension bridge. Starting April 1, 2026, this audacious project promises to bring both traffic innovation and mild chaos to Michigan's iconic overpass.

The Visionary Plan

The Mackinac Bridge, affectionately known as the Mighty Mac, will soon become home to a state-of-the-art roundabout, strategically placed at the bridge's midpoint. This circular wonder will add a touch of whimsy to the otherwise straight-forward journey between Michigan's Upper and Lower Peninsulas.

Why a Roundabout, You Ask?

Inspired by the timeless charm of European traffic circles and the dizzying effect they have on drivers, the roundabout aims to:

1. Enhance Scenic Views: Drivers will enjoy a 360-degree view of the Straits of Mackinac, providing ample time to ponder life's mysteries or simply admire the water below.

2. Encourage Social Interaction: The roundabout is designed as a meeting point for drivers to exchange pleasantries, honks,



and maybe even a friendly wave.

3. Boost Local Economy: With the anticipated traffic congestion, enterprising locals can set up snack stands, selling bridge-themed souvenirs and artisanal fudge. In an effort to help Dollar Generoo meet their goal of having a store every seven miles, a store will be built inside the circle. This will also help consumers pick up those last minute items they forget to pack – you know, s'more supplies, a tote bag for fudge and butterfly floaties for their swim in Lake Superior.

Engineering Marvels

Constructed with the finest materials

and an impressive disregard for practicality, the roundabout will feature:

- Traffic Calming Potholes: Strategically placed to keep speeds at a leisurely pace.
- Seagull Observation Deck: Perfect for birdwatching enthusiasts and seagull photographers.
- Centerpiece Fountain: A nod to classical roundabouts, complete with synchronized waterworks and LED lighting for nighttime drama.

It's unknown if the circle will be paved or made entirely of the metal grid material that we love to drive on.

see **ROUNABOUT** on page 2

It's not a construction zone. It's a park

BY LESLEE NOPE

Road construction zones have become part of the fabric of life, so much so that some residents are now organizing to preserve them.

In Lansing, folks are likening them to urban parks – not really green spaces, but more like dust bowls. “We can envision traffic cones repurposed as flower pots, and heaps of old asphalt and concrete shaped into sledding hills,” said one leader of the Save the Orange Barrels! coalition.

“I used to think construction zones were a nuisance. But you know, after several years, well, they sort of grow on you. Now, I'd miss 'em if they just disappeared.”

Experts say this new-found fondness for construction zones is similar to the Stockholm Syndrome, when hostages gradually learn to like their captors. Said one psychologist: “After years of repeated exposure to road closures, detours and reduced speeds, it's actually quite common for people to mentally “adopt” these construction sites. I guess it gives new meaning to the term Adopt A Highway.” ■



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



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ROUNABOUT

continued from page 1

Public Reactions and Preparations

Public response has been predictably varied. Enthusiasts are already planning roundabout tours, while skeptics are stocking up on Dramamine. Driving schools are rushing to update curriculums to include “roundabout etiquette,” and local radio stations are preparing to provide live traffic updates and comedic commentary.

Future Plans

Engineers are investigating if they will make exits off the roundabouts to extend the bridge to Beaver Island and to Mackinac Island. As you can imagine, there are a few boat companies that are objecting to this plan. Ms. Ima Gonna Float, a spokesperson for Gougers Ferry Service, is relying on an agreement with Mackinac Island authorities to keep automobiles off the island. To combat that argument, MDOT is investigating plans for the worlds first floating parking lot. Ms. Float states that may be acceptable if her company would be allowed to collect the parking fees (which ironically would be the same rate at the ferry ride).

In Conclusion

The Mackinac Bridge roundabout project is more than just a construction venture; it's a bold step into a future where bridges are more than mere connectors, but destinations in themselves. ■



Penguins go home!

BY IMA WADDLIN

President Grump today signed an executive order to deport all penguins living on American soil. “Whether they are in zoos or people’s backyards, I’m sending them packing,” Grump said.

The reason for deporting penguins? Their native country — a small island near Antarctica — refuses to pay U.S. tariffs.

The island nation of Penguinia has no human population, produces no goods for export, and only makes one thing — penguin poop.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the penguins we spoke with are actually happy to be deported. Said one: “Sure, it’s cold back home and there’s not much to do but eat little fish and waddle across icebergs. But we have one thing your country doesn’t have. Sanity.” ■

GRUMPY OLDSTERS: 'MAKE ECLIPSES MORE CONVENIENT!'



BY CHASIN ZEES

A coalition of Lansing senior citizens has petitioned Congress and the United Nations to schedule lunar eclipses before their bedtime — no later than 9 p.m.

“Most of us miss a lunar eclipse because of the odd hours they occur. Who in his right mind stays up until 3 a.m. to watch the moon go dark?” said Joe Geezer, president of the Grumpy Old Men Club.

Geezer says mandated early eclipses can have a positive impact on the economy. Restaurants could host special “Luny Bird” buffets for seniors, so they could have dinner at 4 p.m., get home by 6 and be in their patio chairs in time to watch the sun set and the moon ... disappear.

Some elected officials scoff at the idea of scheduling early lunar eclipses.

But others, courting the growing “Grumpy Vote”, are exploring

the possibility.

Said one: “I understand their point. I’m 76 years old and I think I’ve earned the right to see a lunar eclipse when it’s convenient, instead of some unknown celestial bureaucrat deciding willy-nilly when’s a good time.”

An unnamed source indicated that since the government controls setting the clocks forward and backward, they may set the clock back six-hours to make people think it’s earlier than what it is. ■



Michigan's state bird may be a spy

BY BYRD R. REAL

The federal government has deployed a new weapon to secretly spy on Americans: Birds. Thousands of birds, many of them robins, are being implanted with tiny “spy chips” that allow them to record untold millions of videos. The secretly-filmed videos are transmitted to a federal “birdcage” operated by the CIA (Cuckoo In America).

The purpose of all this spying is unclear, but the advantages are obvious, one official said. “Hiring a spy robin is a lot cheaper than building a drone. And they’re a lot quieter, except during mating season.”

Bob “O’Link” Sparrow, president of Buy & Bye Birdie, says millions of birders are outraged that the government is “drafting” birds into spy activities. “And I hear this is just the beginning. They’re planning to rig butterflies with spy chips. They’re calling them Spyster Flies.” ■

Time to charge Canada for all that smoke

BY IFYOU GOTEM

The United States is set to impose a 50 percent tariff on smoke from Canadian wildfires. Americans overwhelmingly agree on the tariff. The reason? Prevailing wind patterns send the smoke into the states, but those same headwinds don’t allow the U.S. to “export” smoke into Canada.

“It’s unfair!” bellowed Congressman Woody Burns. “We’re losing thousands of jobs because all that smoke is being pro-

duced by another country. It’s time we level the burning field ... um, play-ing field.” Details on the new tariff are being worked out, including who, exactly, will be charged for all that smoke rolling into the U.S. One option is to bill Canada’s counterpart to America’s Smokey the Bear — Burny the Beaver.

Michigan in particular is feeling the brunt of all that tariff-free smoke, and many Michiganders are demanding changes. Said Detroit resident Will Gagitup: “It’s about time Canada started sending us something we can use, like hockey players.” ■



It’s history! (Well, sort of)

BY MR. HISTRY

Local communities hoping to boost tourism have come up with a novel idea — erecting dozens of historical markers to attract visitors. That’s even if nothing historical ever happened in those towns. But town leaders argue it doesn’t have to be “big history” like they teach about in school. It can be smaller events that may have es-

caped the notice of historians. For instance:

— In 1957, a Dansville man ate three peanut butter and jelly sandwiches in just 15 minutes.

— In 1967, a Potterville woman erected a giant sign in her front yard. But the sign was blank, causing folks to stop by and ask her when she was going to fill in the blanks.

— In 1921, Williamstun’s town council voted to continue using Wil-

liamstun as the town’s name.

— In 1939, the village of Eaton Rapids bought its first snowplow, and named it “Snowplow No. 1.”

While such examples may seem mundane, town officials argue that erecting historical markers is their legal right. Said one: “We can’t all boast about being the site of the Battle of Concord. But we had a bar brawl back in 1972, and that ought to count for something!” ■



RESTAURANTS' REVENGE GATHERS STEAM

BY DANNY BALONEY

Lansing-area restaurants are retaliating against county health inspections, calling the intense scrutiny pure bureaucratic overreach. Or in technical terms, "Picky, picky, picky!"

Officially, the restaurant coalition labels the inspections as "One big, beautiful baloney." In symbolic protest, restaurants are sending health inspectors boxes of day-old doughnuts.

Some prime examples of in-

spection baloney:

- A mouse was spotted less than a block from the Rodentia Taqueria. The mouse insisted he was just "passing through" but the restaurant was cited anyway.

- In the Burp Barrel Bar & Grill, the temperature of chilled bean sprouts was .000023 degrees higher than the acceptable limit.

- In The Crumbling Affair, a grain of rice was spotted on the floor less than 10 feet from a clean table setting.

- At Lick the Plate Family

Restaurant, employees failed to sanitize the entire dining area after a customer sneezed into his pepper goulash.

- At the Old Fogey Buffet, the county seating code was violated because six customers were seated at a table meant for five.

The Baloney Coalition says it's time to return to simpler, saner times. Said one restaurant owner: "I miss those days when a stray hair on a dinner plate was considered a 'down home touch,' just like Mom used to serve." ■



Penny Bridge and Andee Shore I'll Take Your Money

BY BEN CHOMPIN

Since 1928, several things have changed. The cars, trucks and trailers have become bigger. The one thing that hasn't, the height of the bridge on Pennsylvania Avenue. A Google search for "Penny The Truck and Trailer Eating Bridge" will return the result of a picture of a truck, stuck under the Pennsylvania Avenue bridge. If you've been by the bridge, you'll notice that it now has eyes and teeth.

Andee Shore Will Take Your Money, Mayor of Lansing, was asked why the city

hasn't either lowered the road or increased the height of the bridge, Mayor Money states that he refuses to do so. "There isn't much to do in Lansing, so I'm leaving the bridge as-is in order to continue to provide entertainment. Besides, if it rains enough, we can provide a swimming area for the kids."

He also stated that he has entered into contract negotiations with Bet the Grand Rivers gambling platform to create betting of how many vehicles will be eaten by the bridge. There will be an over/under bet on the number of vehicles to be eaten as well as a "guess the height of the biggest vehicle to be destroyed."

There was going to be a bet related to guessing the gender of the stupid driver, but we know that most will be men as they don't use maps to learn of the bridge issue, so that would be a losing bet for the house. Says Mayor Money, I'll be purchasing the rights to the Beatles song and revising the lyrics to "Penny Bridge is in my ears and lines my pockets." ■

Tarriff for Breathing



BY BREE DEPTH

Tired of tariffs? President Grump is proposing a new tariff for people that use oxygen. Yes, that would be all of us. So that he isn't upsetting people in States that gave him the Presidency, the tariff would only be imposed on people that reside in "The Blue States." When challenged what will happen to people that don't pay the tariff, Grump states that their oxygen will be taken away. He'll be building a dome where all of the oxygen has been sucked out and non-payers will be placed inside the dome. "When they start turning blue from not having oxygen, maybe they'll change their mind and become red." ■



Local Meteorologist Uses Dungeons & Dragons to Predict Michigan Weather

BY PALLY DIN

In an interview on the local news station earlier this week, lead meteorologist Draco Androids admitted that the office D&D group is often a source of inspiration for the upcoming week's weather predictions.

"For example," said Androids, "last week a giant remorhaz attacked our party and we rolled really poorly. I'm talking Georgie, our moon druid, our absolute powerhouse - rolled a TWO. It got me thinkin, ya know, maybe it's gonna be snowy next week, since we couldn't beat him and he was throwing a lot of ice damage our way."

In an extended interview he joked that on weeks when they have to cancel their session, he will just write down a list of weather outcomes and roll dice to see how likely they are to occur. No one believed he was joking. ■

Resident writes best-selling book waiting to turn left

BY BEEP HONK

Lansing native Pickles McArty made sweet tea out of sweet potatoes by writing a series of short stories that were later put in a collection that won an award (not an award anyone reading this paper

has likely heard of, but still).

Every story included in his collection titled, 'Stranded at Mt. Hopeless' was written while waiting to turn left at an intersection that desperately needs a left turn arrow, a sentiment expressed in the fourth short story in the

collection, 'Green Arrow Through My Heart.'

The collection can be found at your local library, or if you hate free community services, you can purchase it on the internet and help line the pockets of billionaires without having to leave the house. ■

TV Schedule

Due to the many complaints related to new game show hosts, producers have been forced to change hosts and formats of two popular game shows.

7:00 – 7:30
WEDGE OF MIS-FORTUNE
(previously known as Wheel of Fortune)



Viewers have complained that Ryan Secret does not have the same quirky sense of humor and inappropriate mannerisms that former host Pat Staljack had. As a result, Ryan will be replaced by Bozzo the Clown. When asked why Bozzo, producers replied that the last two have been Bozzo's, so why not have the real one. Letters will still be guessed when dollar amounts are landed on, with that money growing as each contestant correctly guesses a letter. All monies go into a bank. The bank money is only awarded when someone lands on Bankrupt or Lose a Turn. When landing on those wedges, contestant's will be forced to try to solve the puzzle. If they do so, they are awarded the amount in the bank.

7:30 – 8:00
DUMMIES WANNA KNOW
(previously known as Jeopardy)



Nobody can ever replace the beloved Alex Truebeck and that's certainly been the case with current host, Ken Jammings. In his place, fan favorite, Mayim Baylike will be the new host. Many viewers have complained that some of the questions are so "out there" that a common person would never know such things. In many instances, it's caused viewers to stop watching as they felt like a dummy. The format of the category columns and dollar amounts will remain the same. The questions used will be those submitted by viewers asking questions that common folks want to know. Examples include "Who Shot JR" and "Which Came First, The Chicken or the Egg and why did it then Cross The Road."

8:00 – 9:00
LITTLE SISTER
(previously known as Big Brother)



Fans are tired of the likes of Rachel Really on the show and having to see her again and again. Similar to the Big Brother/Little Brother rivalry, the show allows contestants to suit up in full football gear, pick a reality "star," and tackle them with all their might. Although Rachel Really is at the top of the list for many of the contestants to tackle, Kim Kardasma is a close second.

HORRORSCOPES

BY I.B. BONKERS



ARIES

It's time for you to say "no" for once in your life. You have two part-time jobs, seven pet raccoons, belong to three reading clubs and have a baby-sitting job on the weekend. You are proof that Aries may be short for Airhead.



TAURUS

In high school, you were voted the most likely to succeed. Your classmates were not referring to Mario Kart. It's been long enough; it's time to move out of your parents' basement.



GEMINI

It's time for you to stop thinking that you're entitled to a free roller coaster ride at Cedar Point simply due to having something in common with its name. The only thing that you're entitled to is to pay the admission price if you want in.



CANCER

Going on the reality show "Big Brother" is not an answer to getting free rent for the summer. It's also not a way to trace your family tree.



LEO

Instead of therapy this year, type all your problems into an AI chat box. Therapists have their own issues to deal with and are tired of laughing at yours after you leave.



VIRGO

It's 2025 Virgo. That means it's time to get rid of your Beta video players and even your Sony Walkman. You're old enough to know that the pain in your shoulder is from continuing to carry around your too big boom box.



LIBRA

Stop collecting receipts from every purchase you make just so that you can see how much you're paying in sales tax. You're too poor to afford a high-end item, so taking the general tax amount on your taxes works to your advantage. Besides, leaving them in that box in the window fades the ink so you can never read them anyway..



SCORPIO

Math is hard sometimes. When the customer gives you \$5.05 for that \$4.05 bill, give them back a dollar bill, not three quarters, a dime, two nickels and five pennies.



SAGITTARIUS

Your ability to multitask will reach new heights this month as you handle your to-do list with the precision of a synchronized swimmer in a shark tank. Be ready to defend yourself with confidence when you end up accidentally replying to your boss with a "not another stupid meeting that could have been an email" meme.



CAPRICORN

It's time to get rid of your bell bottom pants and that t-shirt that says, "My Super Power is making alcohol disappear." Replace them with some clothes from this period and maybe you'll finally do better at that job interview that eludes you.



AQUARIUS

Reading in a fairy tale castle at sunset is not whimsical, it's called breaking and entering. "This is the evening of the dawn of Aquarius" is not an alibi. You're still going to jail, you squatter.



PISCES

Sometimes you really can solve all your problems with a comically large stick of dynamite. Call Wyle E Coyote to find out where to buy them. That's right, you can't call, you dropped your kitty cat phone in the toilet for the ninth time so have used all its lives.



Mark Nixon Tribute

Mark D Nixon
(1949 - 2025)

The Old Newsboys of Greater Lansing wish that this article was satire and not real. It's with sadness in our heart that we had to say goodbye to our friend Mark Nixon. Mark had been the media director for the organization for several years. Even after giving up that title and passing the baton to me, he continued to contribute articles for The Lansing Spooof Journal. We're honored that the wishes of Mark and his family was for the Old Newsboys to be one of the causes for memorial contributions.

Mark was a reporter, columnist, feature editor and editorial page editor for Lansing State Journal. After retiring from the Journal, he went to work as the communications director for Board of Water and Light. Did you know that the Board of Water and Light's Chili Cook-Off was born of one of Mark's ideas? How about the Adopt a River program? Yup, that was Mark's idea too. His involvements and his efforts reflected his belief that even small acts of service could ripple outward to make a lasting difference.

From Mark's celebration of life card: "We are all stories in the end, remembered by the adventures we had, the achievements we made and the people we loved. So, make sure your story is a good one." - Nishan Panwar.

Rest well my friend, your work here is done. Your story was not only good; it was great, and are blessed that we were part of it. ■

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

BY ELIZABETH HERNANDEZ

Each year as December approaches, I'm reminded how powerful it is when a community comes together for one purpose, to help children. That's exactly what the Greater Lansing Old Newsboys Association has done for more than a century: neighbors joining neighbors to make sure every child starts the season with warm, well-fitting shoes. It's a mission rooted in kindness, sustained by generosity, and renewed every single year through people just like you.

This year, our **Sales Day—Thursday, December 4, 2025**, will once again bring volunteers to street corners, businesses, and community spaces across the Greater Lansing area, holding up copies of the Old Newsboys Spoof Journal. Each smiling face and raised paper symbolize hope, because 100% of the donations collected go directly toward purchasing new shoes, boots, and socks for children in need.

We often say, "it takes a village," and in this case, it truly does. Volunteers and donors turn need into action. And the results speak for themselves: thousands of children each year step into school and life with confidence, comfort, and dignity—all because someone cared enough to give. Something as simple as a sturdy pair of shoes can protect a child's health, allow them to participate fully in school, and lift their spirits. It's not just about footwear—it's about be-



longing, safety, and pride.

We're proud to say that our work continues thanks to the generosity of local businesses, organizations, and individuals. To our loyal partners—Lansing Board of Water & Light, Auto-Owners Insurance, the Bennie Wickens Foundation, the City of Lansing, Costco Wholesale, Meijer, Two Men and a Truck, Doty Mechanical, Trailer Consignments, our local unions, and so many others—thank you for standing beside us year after year. And a special thank-you to the Lansing State Journal, our steadfast partner since the 1930s, for helping keep this tradition alive in our community.

The Spoof Journal has always mixed humor with heart. We hope the stories bring a smile to your face

while reminding you of the real reason behind it all, to make sure every child in our community can face the world with confidence and warmth.

If you'd like to join our mission, becoming an Old Newsboy is easy and membership is only \$5 a year. **You can also donate online at www.lansingoldnewsboys.org or text "SHOES" to 517-208-2788.** Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us continue putting smiles on faces and shoes on feet.

From all of us at the Greater Lansing Old Newsboys Association, thank you for your support, your compassion, and your belief in this mission. Together, we'll keep this tradition alive—one pair of shoes, one act of kindness, and one child at a time.

See you on Sales Day! ■

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