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# ANTI-MORMON SLURS AND VIOLENCE PERSIST



Members of the Grand Blanc, Michigan, congregation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints embrace after a meeting with an elder of the church Sept. 30, following a deadly shooting and fire that claimed four lives and injured others. PROVIDED BY INTELLECTUAL RESERVE INC.

## Mass killing, other incidents highlight long-standing discrimination

Dinah Voyles Pulver  
USA TODAY

A day before a shooter killed four people and set fire to a Michigan church in September, students at a football game in Colorado chanted vulgar slurs against the same religious organization. The two events spurred sweeping conversations about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and lingering prejudice against its members, often called Mormons. The University of Colorado’s chancellor and athletic director quickly condemned the students’ behavior, but it was at least the third time in the past year that chanting by student fans at college games against Brigham Young University took on a darker tone. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints owns and operates BYU. Less than 24 hours later, on Sept. 28, police say Thomas Jacob Sanford drove his pickup truck into the Michigan meetinghouse where more than 100 members had gathered for Sunday services.



Flowers sit near the scene of a mass shooting at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Grand Blanc Township, Michigan, on Sept. 29. RYAN GARZA/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Eyewitnesses told authorities Sanford got out of his truck shooting at church members with an assault rifle, then set off an inferno as terrified congregants rushed to get everyone out of the building. The assault left four mem-

bers dead and numerous others injured – some from gunshots, others by smoke inhalation and still others gashed and bleeding from shrapnel

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## Almanack continues publishing despite uncertainty

Julie E. Greene  
The Herald-Mail  
USA TODAY NETWORK

When the Farmers’ Almanac announced Nov. 6 it was ceasing publication, Charles “Chad” W. Fisher Jr. started getting texts from folks asking about the Hagers-Town Town and Country Almanack. The local Almanack has been printed for 230 continuous years and was started by Fisher’s great-great-great-great-great-grandfather, John Gruber. And it’s still open for business, said Fisher, the Almanack’s editor, though he acknowledged its future is “uncertain.” No one can predict expenses and the economy, Fisher said. But the Almanack team works to provide a quality product and values its loyal readers, he said in a phone interview. “Our Almanack has been handy. It’s relevant in a lot of peoples’ households, especially in the Mid-Atlantic region where it is mostly sold and distributed,” Fisher said. The Almanack includes weather prognostications through December 2026, a Farm and Garden column, health hints and an offer to help readers use an astrological formula to predict the sex of their next child, but not their first born. Fisher said he encourages Farmers’ Almanac readers to try the Hagers-town almanac. “We’re a little more down to earth,” than other almanacs, Fisher said. Fisher said the Hagers-Town Town and Country Almanack isn’t trying to sell folks something — other than the almanac itself. The editorial team focuses on trying to improve readers’ lives by providing thoughtful and entertaining advice on how to manage life in the 21st century, he said. After the Farmers’ Almanac announced its last edition would be the 2026 publication, The Hagers-Town Town and Country Almanack issued a release saying the local Almanack was “saddened to see them retire from the field of competition” and “applauds them for their astonishing record and many achievements over the years.” The Farmers’ Almanack was in business for 208 years. The Hagerstown almanack, established in 1797, is the second oldest continuously published almanac in the U.S., behind The Old Farmer’s Almanac, Fisher said. The Old Farmer’s Almanac began in

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## Veterans Day proclamation honors Franklin County’s heroes

Janis Reeser  
AI-assisted reporter  
The Record Herald  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Franklin County Commissioners have proclaimed Nov. 11, 2025, as Veterans Day, honoring the county’s 10,804 veterans, according to a com-

munity announcement. The proclamation highlights the service, courage and sacrifice of veterans. “We all owe a deep debt of gratitude to the men and women who have selflessly served in the American armed forces, defending our freedoms and safeguarding our way of life,” Franklin

County Commissioner Chairman Dean Horst said in the announcement. The proclamation draws attention to the courage veterans have displayed in facing foreign adversaries and the hardships they have endured. It also acknowledges the sacrifices made by veterans’ families and loved ones.

Franklin County has 10,804 veterans According to 2023 U.S. Census data, there are 15.8 million veterans in the U.S. Pennsylvania is home to nearly 700,000 veterans, the fourth-largest

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