

THE LANSING JOURNAL

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Lansing prepares for Census 2020

BY JENNIFER PALLAY

LANSING, Ill. (November 6, 2019) – A tradition that started in the United States in 1790 and has continued every decade since will again take place next year. Lansing residents have the opportunity to participate in the 2020 United States Census starting April 1, 2020.

Lansing Village Clerk Vivian Payne serves as chair of Lansing’s Complete Count Committee, also known as the CCC. Lansing Public Library Director Debbie Albrecht is the leader of the group, which is an official outreach of the Census Bureau. The committee will

work to encourage participation and provide information about the upcoming census. The committee’s members represent the Park Board, food pantry, current administration, senior population, Chamber of Commerce, school districts, Spanish-speaking population, faith communities, and more.

“Several of the goals for the CCC are to educate the public about the importance of being counted, inform the public about the facts regarding privacy and confidentiality of census data, motivate community members to self-respond, and increase overall response rate in our community,” Payne

said. Outreach efforts will include developing informative fact sheets and promotional materials to distribute at community events, as well as providing information to Lansing churches and schools and via the local cable channel, social media, local papers, inserts in water bills, and Looking at Lansing newsletter.

“Lansing’s CCC will serve as ‘trusted voices’ to act as census ambassadors in our community, and we are motivated to achieve the highest percentage of response rate this Village has ever had,” Payne said.

Lansing Journal Managing Editor Melanie Jongsma is also a CCC member.

“In our committee meetings I’ve learned how important it is for Lansing to get a complete count of the members of our community,” said Jongsma. “I’m also learning some of the fears and misunderstandings people have about the census. I’m hoping that as The Lansing Journal provides accurate information, people will see the value of participating in Census 2020.”

Jongsma believes knowing the facts can alleviate resident concerns about the census. One concern is “What happens to my information?”

“The Census Bureau and the federal government are two separate entities. Participating in the census does not provide your information to the government,” said Jongsma.

Another concern is “How long will it take?” Jongsma was surprised to learn the census is only 10 questions, and she believes more people will participate once they realize that it does not take long to complete.

“I think it’s exciting to be part of the 2020 Census. There are many times when I need to reference Lansing’s demographic information for articles I’m writing, for example, and I know the

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Quick Facts

- The 2020 Census is only 10 questions.
- The Census Bureau does not share information with the U.S. government.
- Census results help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into states and communities each year.
- Census results help determine how many seats in Congress each state gets.
- In 2010, Lansing’s participation in the census was 76 percent. The Complete Count Committee’s goal is to reach 95 percent in 2020.
- Lansing loses \$1,400 for every person who is not counted—and that amount is lost per person, per year until the next census in 2030.

Semper Fi

A story of three Lansing Marines and their legacy of loyalty

BY JAMISON KOOI



From left: Marines Philip Martini, John Aylmer, and Ryan Hensley. (Photo provided)

LANSING, Ill. (November 2019) – November is a time for remembering our nation’s veterans—November 10 is the Marine Corps birthday, and November 11 is Veterans Day (originally Armistice Day). And Lansing’s annual Veterans Day Service on November 10 at 2:00pm will give us an opportunity to recognize our local heroes with special ceremony at the Lansing Veterans Memorial.

Those traditions take on extra layers of meaning when the people honored are more than just names engraved in granite. In preparation for Veterans Day, I’d like to share the story of three Lansing veterans who served their country and our community.

THREE FRIENDS

The story begins back in the 1990s. John Aylmer, Ryan Hensley, and Philip Martini are sons of Lansing. Aylmer and Hensley are the same age and attend St. Ann CCD together. Martini is three years older, but he and Aylmer are neighbors. With Aylmer as a connection, Hensley and Martini get to know each other, and soon the three become best friends. Even today their families can recall countless stories of them doing the things boys do living life in Lansing.

See “Semper Fi,” page 9



From left: Phil Martini, John Aylmer, and Ryan Hensley enjoying good times in Lansing before joining the Marines together. (Photo provided)



Volunteers from a variety of Lansing networks form the Complete Count Committee. All but three were available to attend an October 9 training meeting led by the Census Bureau. Back row, from left: Ernst Lamothe, Veronica Reyes, Melanie Jongsma, Rick Pierce, Bert Rivera, Darvel Stinson, Miguel Gutierrez, Richard Podgorski, Mike Fish. Front row: Vivian Payne, Kim Morley, Karen Adams, Martha Vargas. (Photo: Cory Stevenson, Census Bureau)

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The Lansing Journal wins multiple advertising and editorial awards

BY JENNIFER PALLAY

LANSING, Ill. (October 12, 2019) – Competing against more than 760 publications, The Lansing Journal recently won multiple awards in the 2019 Independent Free Papers of America (IFPA) Advertising and Editorial Contest.

The publication, which is Lansing's only newspaper and offers local news and advertising, received two second-place awards and a third-place honor.

THREE AWARDS

The May 2018 issue of the paper, which included articles about the Lansing Chamber of Commerce Good Neighbor Day Parade, and the April 3, 2019, issue that highlighted how Torrence construction would impact local business, garnered the newspaper second place for local business coverage.

The September 2018 editorial titled "A newspaper for all of Lansing," which was written by Lansing Journal Managing Editor Melanie Jongsma, won second place for editorial original writing. This award is presented to the best editorial on a subject of local community interest, which personifies strong hometown allegiance and fearless expression of opinion.

The paper's feature called The Lansing Journal Journeys won third place for self promotion, being honored for promoting the use of the paper by advertisers or acceptance by readers.

REACTIONS

"It's nice to be able to tell people we are an award-winning paper that offers award-winning business coverage," said Jongsma. "I like our advertisers to know they are supporting a professional publication, and they are receiving award-winning coverage in return."

Lansing Chamber of Commerce executive director Amy Todd said the recognition for The Lansing Journal is fantastic. "The paper is high quality and what they are able to do for our business community as far as a Chamber standpoint is amazing," she said. "They offer affordable advertising for our local businesses, and the ads are designed well, the colors pop—and the great thing about the Journal is that it is direct mailed to all the homes in town."

ABOUT THE CONTEST

The IFPA (ifpa.com) contest included 763 entries from publications in the United States and Canada. Judges from Middle Tennessee State University and Columbia State Community College were impressed with the diversity and imagination they saw as they pored over all the entries, according to the IFPA. The organization aims to help independent publishers compete in a fast-changing world.

ABOUT THE PAPER

To subscribe to the daily digital version of The Lansing Journal, complete the online form at thelansingjournal.com/news/subscribe.

To advertise in a community newspaper that provides award-winning local



Left: Melanie Jongsma's September 2018 editorial won second place in the Original Writing – Editorial category. Right: The Lansing Journal won second place for local business coverage as evidenced in the May 2018 and April 2019 issues. The Lansing Journal Journeys feature (see pages 12–15) won third place in the Self Promotion category.

business coverage, email info@thelansingjournal.com. To help cover the costs of writing, printing, and mailing award-winning news, visit the secure Support page: thelansingjournal.com/news/support. Or mail a check to The Lansing Journal, PO Box 742, Lansing IL 60438.



The Lansing Journal is an award-winning community newspaper that is FREE to Lansing residents because we want everyone to have equal access to Lansing news. Generous contributions from these people make that possible:

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SUBMISSIONS
The Lansing Journal is a community newspaper. We need help making sure our full community is represented in all its demographic diversity. If you have story ideas, photos, or articles you'd like to send us, email info@thelansingjournal.com.

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The Lansing Journal is a member of the Illinois Press Association, Independent Free Papers of America, and the Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce.







From left: Garey Faulkner, MJ Johnson, Natali Johnston, and Andrew Mattson took time out of their busy schedules to chat with The Lansing Journal about the world of beard and moustache competitions. Kristine O'Connor hosted the photo shoot at her salon, Classy Cuts, 3365 Ridge Road in Lansing. (Photo: Jamilyn Hiskes)

'People and adventure': the world of beard and moustache competitions

Bewhiskered celebrities include Lansing in promotional tour

BY JAMILYN HISKES

LANSING, Ill. (October 23, 2019) – Walking down Ridge Road on a Monday morning isn't usually a grand affair. But when you're accompanied by a man with a curled, pointed, foot-wide moustache, heads are bound to turn.

The owner of the moustache is MJ Johnson, a husband, father, and World Beard and Moustache Champion. He is preparing to compete in the 2019 National Beard and Moustache Championships in Tinley Park in November, and was joined by three other competitors: Natali Johnston, Garey Faulkner and Andrew Mattson. While Mattson and Faulkner had their glossy goatee and beard on display, respectively, Johnston was wheeling hers behind her in a cube-shaped suitcase.

"My beard is manufactured, so it can take anywhere from a couple hours to a couple days to style," Johnston said. "Depending. The styles just pop in my head."

They had interviews lined up with the likes of WGN News Radio and ABC-7



The four facial hair competitors take a few moments to pretend preen in front of the Classy Cuts mirror. (Photo: Jamilyn Hiskes)

News the next day, but the four competitors visited Troost Coffee and Tea (18155 Roy St. #2) to talk with The Lansing

Journal about their work and the upcoming competition. They even had an informal photo shoot at Classy Cuts (3365 Ridge Rd. #4), which thoroughly entertained owner Kris O'Connor.

GETTING COMPETITIVE

Johnson said he entered the world of competitive facial hair after seeing photos online and immediately "connecting with it."

"The goal at the beginning was just to compete in one contest, one time," he said. "But then I went there, and it was awesome. The people are awesome, and you always see something you've never seen before. From that point, I was hooked."

Johnson, Faulkner, Mattson, and Johnston, have all traveled across the country—and in some cases, the world—to compete in almost every beard contest they can get to.

"The beard became kind of a passport for meeting new people and going to new destinations," Johnson said.

WOMEN, WHISKERS, AND WARS

Johnston said she started competing after coming upon a TV show called "Whisker Wars" with her husband in the early 2010s. When they visited a local competition in Charleston, SC, and she saw women competing there, the idea sparked.

"When I saw that women could do it, I was like, 'I can do this,'" Johnston said. "So I started competing. And once you start, you get a bug, and you just want to keep doing it."

Mattson also watched "Whisker Wars" and was curious about it from the start. He checked out a beard and moustache club in Minneapolis, went to a competition, and got the bug himself.

"The community and the family aspect is so huge that I'm 40 competitions in now after just 2 years," Mattson said. "It's become kind of an obsession for me. Now it's almost every other weekend that I'm

somewhere [to compete]."

Faulkner said he started growing his long auburn beard, which can be curled, painted and styled in whatever fashion he comes up with, to win a bet. He didn't shave for a year, and when he was introduced to beard competitions by his friend Matt Bischoff—a well-known figure in the facial hair world—he was hooked. But he doesn't travel as much as he used to.

"For a while, it was like I was in a new city every week," Faulkner said. "I had to remember I had a life back home."

A GROWING COMMUNITY

As strange a career as competitive beard and moustache styling may seem, it hasn't been without its successes. Johnston is one of the most decorated "whiskerinas"—as the female competitors are called—of all time, with three best in shows, 31 first places, 30 second places, 15 third places, and 2 titles. Faulkner has been in commercials and films and was interviewed by talk show host Jimmy Fallon after a past victory at the National Beard and Moustache Championships. As for Johnson, he's been on countless talk shows and is a beard model for Remington Beard Boss shaving appliances. In addition, all the competitors have been able to raise money for charities with their stylized scruffs, as the National Beard and Moustache Championships donate to local charities.

With Mattson's luxuriously long goatee, Johnston's curled and coiffed gray glue-on whiskers, Johnson's unmistakable beard-stache, and Faulkner's long ginger beard, it's easy to see how fascinating the world of beard and moustache competitions can be. But the best part, according to Johnson, is the community aspect.

"When you grow out your beard, it's very personal at first," he said. "But then you go to a beard contest, and it flips over. All of a sudden you're part of a big group. I like to say it's about people and adventure."

Mattson echoed that sentiment.

"When I'm around the small town that I'm from, I'm 'the bearded guy,'" he said. "I stand out.... But when I go to a competition, I'm just a part of a group of people. We're all there for a common purpose. I'm not an outsider. We're all the same."

"You can literally be a stranger and be accepted in this community," Faulkner added.

ABOUT THE 2019 CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2019 National Beard and Moustache Championships are at the 350 Brewery's Insanity Factory (7144 W. 183rd St.) in Tinley Park November 8-9. The competition will be streamed live.

For more information, visit www.nationalbeardchampionships.com.

Annual Veterans Day ceremony scheduled at Lansing Veterans Memorial

Sunday, November 10, 2:00pm



INFORMATION PROVIDED

LANSING, Ill. (October 31, 2019) – This year's Veterans Day Service at the Lansing Veterans Memorial will feature Lansing Trustee Maureen Grady-Perovich as the guest speaker. She will share information about Honor Flight—an opportunity for our nation's veterans to spend a day in Washington DC, where they are treated as honored guests. Grady-Perovich will encourage veterans to apply for the free program and discuss the requirements for participation.

A performance of patriotic songs will be offered by the South Holland Master Chorale.

The traditional Veterans Day service is a meaningful recognition of those who have served or are now serving in our Armed Forces both in peacetime and in time of war. The Lansing Veterans Memorial Ceremonial Honor Guard hosts and leads the service.

The service will take place regardless of weather, moving into the Ford Hangar if necessary. Lawn chairs are suggested.

The Lansing Veterans Memorial is located at the southeast corner of Burnham and Glenwood-Lansing Road.

License plate recognition cameras planned for three Lansing intersections

Lansing Police to use cameras to track suspects more effectively, not monitor traffic violations

BY JOSH BOOTSMA

LANSING, Ill. (October 26, 2019) – In the next few months, Lansing residents will see cameras being set up at three intersections throughout the village. These cameras will not document traffic violations but rather will be used to help catch criminals passing through some of Lansing’s most heavily used intersections.

The intersections at 173rd and Torrence, 176th and Torrence, and Ridge and Wentworth will be equipped with the cameras, which are specially designed to identify license plates and other characteristics of vehicles passing through.

“It’s going to make a significant difference on identifying vehicles of interest that are coming in and going out of town,” said Deputy Police Chief Steve Roberts, who oversaw the grant process that secured the necessary funding for the project.

CATCHING CRIMINALS

Each camera will be pointed at a lane of traffic and is designed to recognize cars and license plates based on criteria entered by the Lansing Police Department (LPD). Police can receive alerts via phone or email if a license plate that they are searching for appears in any of the cameras. They can also search by the year, make, and model of a car. For example, if the LPD knows that a blue Honda Civic was seen fleeing a crime scene with a license plate that starts with the letter G, they can place a search for any vehicles matching that description and receive notifications if any such cars pass through the aforementioned intersections. The software can also be used to search for vehicles that may have traveled through in the past.

The software used to collect, store, and help share this information is provided by Vigilant Solutions,

which Lansing has already benefited from because many surrounding communities including Hammond, Munster, and Calumet City already use it.

In a series of home invasions two years ago in Lansing and Hammond, one of which involved a criminal sexual assault, the suspect’s vehicle was identified using license plate recognition cameras, and he was taken into custody in Gary. Roberts said this case was solved “because of these cameras.”

“When another town’s searching for something, [saying], ‘Hey I need this car, it’s in Lansing,’ we’ll have that data for them. We’ll be able to get the pictures. This is such a great tool,” Roberts said.

FUNDING

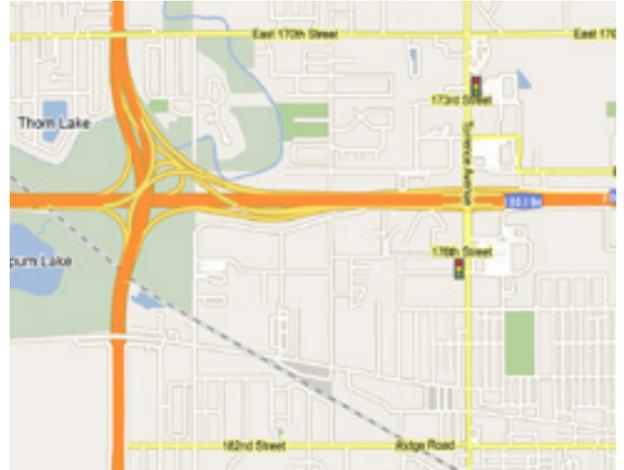
The grant for the project was awarded by the Cook County Department of Homeland Security in the amount of \$301,169, which will cover the cost of purchasing and installing 16 cameras, as well as five years of service. The Village Board of Trustees waived the typical process of collecting bids for such a project at their October 1 meeting, as Vigilant Solutions is the software company used by all of the surrounding communities and best allows for information sharing. Brite Computers will be installing the cameras.

POLE PLACEMENT

The traffic light structures along Torrence Avenue are owned by the Illinois Department of Transportation, which has restrictions on what can be placed on their poles. As such, new poles will be installed to host the cameras along the Torrence intersections at 173rd and 176th. The cameras will monitor only north/south traffic at these intersections. The Ridge and Wentworth cameras will be placed on the existing village-owned poles and will monitor east/west



The intersection of Ridge and Wentworth is one of three locations that will be equipped with license plate recognition cameras. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)



Two other license plate recognition cameras will be installed on Torrence Avenue, at 173rd and 176th.

traffic. These locations were chosen because of their heavy use and proximity to the interstate (Torrence intersections) and state line (Ridge and Wentworth intersection).

Roberts assured that the cameras would not be used as speed cameras or red-light cameras.

“Hopefully by the end of the year, we’ll be up and running,” he said.

The Lansing Police Department is located at 2710 E 170th Street.

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Mayor, five Trustees approve letter of support for Cal City casino

BY MELANIE JONGSMA AND JOSH BOOTSMA

LANSING, Ill. (October 27, 2019) – Lansing Mayor Patty Eidam read a five-page prepared statement at the October 15 Village Board meeting in favor of Resolution #1139: “supporting the granting of a gaming license to operate a gaming facility in the City of Calumet City.” The resolution passed with one dissenting vote.

Village Administrator Dan Podgorski introduced the resolution by explaining that Calumet City had informed Lansing of its intent to apply for a casino license. “Recognizing that the casino—if they should receive it—will have an impact on traffic and other services to Lansing,” said Podgorski, “they pledged to include us in their intergovernmental revenue sharing agreement if they’re awarded such a license. And we discussed here the need to preserve our ability to share in any potential revenues, feeling that it may be in our best interest to support Calumet City’s efforts to obtain that license...”

REVENUE SHARING ALREADY STIPULATED

Governor Pritzker’s Gaming Expansion Law already includes a provision stipulating that surrounding communities will receive 3% of adjusted gross revenue from the host community. The provision reads (beginning on page 706):

“An amount equal to 5% of the adjusted gross receipts generated by a riverboat... shall be remitted monthly, subject to appropriation, as follows: 2% to the unit of local government in which the riverboat or casino is located, and 3% shall be distributed: (A) in accordance with a regional capital development plan entered into by the following communities: Village of Beecher, City of Blue Island, Village of Burnham, City of Calumet City, Village of Calumet Park, City of Chicago Heights, City of Country Club Hills, Village of Crestwood, Village of Crete, Village of Dixmoor, Village of Dolton, Village of East Hazel Crest, Village of Flossmoor, Village of Ford Heights, Village of Glenwood, City of Harvey, Village of Hazel Crest, Village of Homewood, Village of Lansing, Village of Lynwood, City of Markham, Village of Matteson, Village of Midlothian, Village of Monee, City of Oak Forest, Village of Olympia Fields, Village of Orland Hills, Village of Orland Park, City of Palos Heights, Village of Park Forest, Village of Phoenix, Village of Posen, Village of Richton Park, Village of Riverdale, Village of Robbins, Village of Sauk Village, Village of South Chicago

Heights, Village of South Holland, Village of Steger, Village of Thornton, Village of Tinley Park, Village of University Park and Village of Worth; or (B) if no regional capital development plan exists, equally among the communities listed in item (A) to be used for capital expenditures or public pension payments, or both.”

Lynwood and Homewood are also applying for a casino license, and they did not request a letter of support from Lansing.

The letter of support had been discussed during the October 1 Committee of the Whole meeting, and at that time Trustee Jerry Zeldenrust voiced his discomfort with supporting gambling. As reported in an October 6 article, Zeldenrust explained to his fellow Board members, “I have a hard time signing off on a letter that allows us to benefit from what I know is going to negatively impact the town that gets this casino.”

STATEMENT FROM THE MAYOR

In her statement, Mayor Eidam referenced a 1999 report prepared by the National Gambling Impact Study Commission (NGISC), the same report that Zeldenrust referenced in his October 6 comments. “Gambling advocates and those against gambling immediately began selectively choosing the aspects of the report that seemed to best suit their positions,” said Eidam, describing the country’s response when the report was first released.

Eidam also referenced a Government Accounting Office (GAO) report released in 2000 that reviewed the NGISC’s findings. She listed a handful of economic benefits associated with casinos listed in the report, including employment, tax, and infrastructure benefits. She also referenced areas in the report that state how difficult the social effects of gambling and casinos are to measure.

Eidam made a point of repeating the first sentence of the NGISC report’s first chapter, which reads: “Today the vast majority of Americans either gamble recreationally and experience no measurable side effects related to their gambling, or they choose not to gamble at all.” She did not read the second sentence, which says, “Regrettably, some of them gamble in ways that harm themselves, their families, and their communities.”

Before sharing her opinion on the issue, Eidam declared, “This, ladies and gentlemen, is not a moral issue, it is about economics and facts.”

Eidam thanked citizens for the emails she had received regarding the letter of support: “I respect the six people that emailed me on this topic. I thanked them for taking the time to write to me. None of the email messages were more than two sentences, and they all revolved around someone else’s opinion.”

Mayor Eidam concluded her comments by saying, “We should be careful and avoid compromising any possibility of revenue sharing should Calumet City be successful in their bid for the casino license. If I was voting on Resolution 1139, I would vote yes!” (A mayor typically does not participate in Board votes except to break a tie.)

A PDF of Mayor Eidam’s full statement is available through a link in the online version of this story.

STATEMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Trustee Mike Fish

also read a prepared statement in which he thanked the people who had contacted him about the casino issue and expressed support for Cal City’s casino bid because of the economic benefits. “If a Calumet City facility can keep millions of casino revenue within our state,” said Fish, “that means additional tax revenue for our state.” A PDF of Trustee Fish’s complete statement is also available through a link in the online version of this article.

Trustee Mike Manno also voiced support. “Whether we agree or not, if Calumet City gets it, we could all vote no on it tonight, they’re still gonna get it,” he said. “If they get it, it does us no good at all because we all voted no. So I think to be a good neighbor and to help them out..., I will be for it.”

Trustee Brian Hardy thanked all the Lansing residents and fellow Trustees who expressed their opinions via email, phone calls, and conversations. “I want the Village of Lansing and its residents to know that we have done our homework diligently on this matter,” he said.

Trustee Jerry Zeldenrust expressed his appreciation to his fellow Board members for their willingness to discuss the matter and exchange views. In closing, he shared a piece of information he had found while doing his own research of the issue. “Back in 2004, Lynwood was goin’ for a casino, and the Village of Lansing drafted a resolution against the proposed casino,” he shared. “One of the paragraphs of that Board and that Mayor stated..., ‘The Village Board of Lansing on numerous occasions received information, literature, and verbal input from citizens who were opposed to the casino facility currently under consideration in Lynwood—(this was 2004)—and this information supports the belief that casinos have negative effects upon the communities in which they’re located and their surrounding communities, and that there is evidence gambling leads to increases in divorce, financial hardships, addictions, crime rates, and may have a negative impact on the local economy.’ That’s what the Board wanted to put in part of their several-page proposal at that time, and I support that idea, I support those findings, and that’s why I can’t support this letter.”

Lansing’s Mayor in 2004 was Dan Podgorski.

THE VOTE

Village Administrator Dan Podgorski then called for a motion on Resolution #1139, supporting Calumet City’s application for a gaming license. Trustee Manno so moved, and Trustee Fish seconded. With no further questions or discussion, Village Clerk Vivian Payne called the roll:

Trustee Mike Manno – Aye
Trustee Mike Fish – Aye
Trustee Saad Abbasy – Aye
Trustee Brian Hardy – Aye
Trustee Grady-Perovich – Aye
Trustee Zeldenrust – Nay

A PDF of Resolution #1139 is available through a link in the online version of this article.

The following other links are also provided in the online version:

- “What you need to know about Illinois gambling expansion” (a June 2019 Q and A by the Illinois Policy Institute)
- “Gaming expansion: Illinois bets big” (a July 2019 article by Chicago attorneys Peterson Johnson Murray)
- “Trustee Zeldenrust asks Board to consider effects of gambling on community” (October 6 Lansing Journal article)
- “Dozens of questions asked at Homewood Public Hearing for proposed casino” (October 11 Lansing Journal article)

Visit www.thelansingjournal.com/news and search for “Cal City casino” to find this article and helpful links online.

Free White Christmas tickets available

Munster Theatre partners with The Lansing Journal to build support

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

MUNSTER, Ind. (November 1, 2019) – Munster’s Theatre at the Center has provided eight pairs of complimentary tickets to *White Christmas, the Musical*, which begins showing on November 14. The Lansing Journal is offering these tickets to the first eight people who sign up as monthly supporters online. Supporters can choose the amount they contribute each month, and those who win the free tickets can choose the date of the performance they want to see. Complete instructions are printed on the ticket vouchers.

Because of the popularity of the show, it is anticipated to sell out. The complimentary tickets can be used only during the first week of performances and the last week of performances:

- November 14, 15, or 16
- December 18, 19, or 20

Theatre at the Center is the only professional theater in northwest Indiana. The cast for *White Christmas* was announced in October and includes Matt Edmonds as Bob, Justin Brill as Phil, Casiena Raether as Judy, Erica Stephan as Betty, and Neil Friedman as General Waverly. (See full story on page 21.)

The Theatre has been a regular advertiser in The Lansing Journal, as well as a source of news content. Their marketing team credits this partnership with increased attendance at their productions and other events.

Tickets for *White Christmas* are also available directly from Theatre at the Center. Individual ticket prices range from \$42–\$46. Group discounts are available for groups of 11 or more. Student tickets are \$20, and gift certificates are also available. To purchase tickets, call the Box Office at 219-836-3255.

To win free tickets by signing up as a Lansing Journal supporter, visit thelansingjournal.com/new/support.

Completing the Support form will automatically generate a notification email with a date and time stamp, so The Lansing Journal will be able to verify the first eight supporters. We will contact those people to deliver the ticket vouchers.

Theatre at the Center is located at 1040 Ridge Road, Munster, Indiana. It is an accessible venue with plenty of free parking.



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OBITUARIES

CAPRIGLIONE

A Funeral Mass for Helen T. Capriglione was held on November 4, 2019, at St. Francis of Assisi Church with Rev. Art Sowa officiating.

Mrs. Capriglione was born September 24, 1927, and passed away October 30, 2019. She was the wife of the late Peter; mother of Mary (John) Szabo, Peter (Claudia), Paul (Colette), Alice (Rich) Rzeszutko, Laura (Michael) Smith and Ralph Capriglione; grandmother of 9 and great grandmother of 5; aunt of many nieces and nephews.

Interment was at Assumption Cemetery. Arrangements were entrusted to Thornridge Funeral Home (Janusz Family Funeral Service).

DEKKER

A Celebration of Life Service for Regina S. Dekker (nee Pilkins) will be held Saturday, November 9, 2019 at Hall of Justice in Crown point, IN.

Mrs. Dekker was born June 12, 1949 and passed away October 29, 2019. Wife of Cornelius "Cos" Dekker. Mother of Donna (Anthony) Amadio, and Janet Littleton; Step-mother of Michael Dekker, Blair (Karen) Dekker, Kathy (Brian) Middleton, and the late Craig Littleton. Daughter of Ruby and the late William Pilkins. Grandmother of 9.

Arrangements are entrusted to Smits Funeral Home, Dyer, IN.



RAYMOND D. JANSSEN
JUNE 04, 1931 – OCTOBER 12, 2019

Raymond Duane Janssen age 88 of Lansing, Illinois, was called home by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Saturday, October 12, 2019.

Raymond was preceded in death by his beloved wife Luanne (nee Sweet), daughter Renee Janssen, and parents John D. & Helen K. Janssen. He was the loving father of: James and Deborah (Rodriguez) Janssen, Theodore and Linda (Steiner) Janssen, Manuel and Sylvia (Janssen) Luna. Proud grandfather of: Matthew J. Janssen, Rachel R. (RJ) Young, Daniel R (Hana) Janssen, Benjamin G. (Lauren) Janssen, Curtis R. (Jessica) Janssen, Tyler R. Janssen, Lilah J. (Tobijah) Bazarte, and Hillary J. Luna. Cherished great grandfather of: Grace, Luke,

Jeffrey, Oliver, and Micah. Raymond was preceded in death by his siblings Johann, Kenneth, Henrietta (Oliver), Eilert, Esther (Gaskill), and survived by brothers Herman, Harvey, and Harry. He was a wonderful uncle to many nieces and nephews, as well as an amazing friend to everyone he met.

Friends visited with the family prior to the service on Saturday, October 26, 2019, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2505 Indiana Ave., Lansing, Illinois. Pastor Gary Schmidtke officiated the service. Raymond was laid to rest at Oak Glen Lutheran Cemetery, Lansing, Illinois, at a private ceremony.

Raymond was a Lansing resident for the past 6 years, formerly of Englewood, Florida; Chicago (Hegewisch), Illinois; and Mattoon, Illinois. He was a Korean veteran of the United States Army from 1952 to 1953, and Illinois Guard member from 1951 to 1957. He was also a past member of the American Legion Post 113 of Englewood, Florida. He retired from Republic Steel in Chicago, Illinois, after 40 years and was a member of the United Steelworkers Union. After his retirement he volunteered as a FISH driver for over 20 years. Raymond was loved by many, and he will be truly missed. Anyone who knew Raymond will tell you that he was truly a good man and a good Christian.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Raymond's name to Trinity Lutheran Church, 2505 Indiana Ave., Lansing, Illinois 60438, or the Alzheimers Foundation of America, 322 Eighth Ave., 16th floor. New York, NY 10001.



KENYON JOSEPH KOSELKE

NOVEMBER 11, 1968 – OCTOBER 9, 2019

Kenyon Joseph Koselke, age 50, of Whiting, Indiana, formerly of Lansing, Illinois, passed away October 9, 2019.

He is survived by his parents Joseph and Linda (nee Romanovich) Koselke and sister Kara Jensen.

Family and friends celebrated his life on Saturday, October 19, 2019, at Castle

Hill Funeral Home: 1219 Sheffield Avenue, Dyer, Indiana, with a Memorial Gathering from 10:00am until 2:00pm and a service officiated at 1:00pm.

In lieu of flowers, memorials to Green Peace or Save The Whales are appreciated. For information, call 219-864-0170 or visit castlehillfuneralhome.com to view the online guestbook.



STEVEN SCOTT LYZENGA
APRIL 11, 1961 – OCTOBER 25, 2019

Retired Major Steven Scott Lyzenga, age 58 of Newport News, VA, formerly of Lansing, IL, passed away on Friday, October 25, 2019.

A loving husband to Kim and step-father to Kyle Seaman and Kate Schilling. Beloved son of Marvin and Nancy Lyzenga of Munster, IN. Also survived by his brother Dan (Julie) Lyzenga of Lansing, IL; sisters Sandy (Bill) Vree of Lansing, IL; Kristy (John) Crider of Dyer, IN; and Barb (Paul) Bakker of Lansing, IL. He is also lovingly survived by his mother-in-law Marklyn Boucher and father-in-law Robert Hermes, and grandchildren Kyleigh Seaman, Tristin, Hudson, Elle Schilling, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Friends may view a photo presentation honoring Steve's life at 6:45pm on Friday, November 8, at Bethel Church, 3500 Glenwood-Lansing Rd in Lansing, with a memorial service directly following at 7:00pm. Rev. Joel Nederhood will officiate the service, and cake and coffee will be served afterward, giving family and friends an opportunity to share memories. Steve will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

Steve's military background included Marines, Air Force, and most recently Army Guard. As an Air Force F-16 pilot and on later mission trips he visited 63 countries. He spent his life in service of God and country, and he is now at rest in the arms of his heavenly Father.

It is the desire of the Lyzenga family that you keep them in your prayers.

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The Lansing Journal runs full obituaries with photos for \$100. Interested families can contact The Lansing Journal directly, or ask your funeral home to do so.

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ComEd utility poles undergo inspection, treatment throughout Lansing

Crews from Osmose Utilities Services work their way from 159th in South Holland to 188th in Lansing

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (October 23, 2019) — Adrian Garcia pointed out the silver tags on a cedar utility pole near the corner of 188th and Ridgewood. Underneath the new one he had just pounded in, an older one read "OSMOSE INSP.1996." Ideally, says Garcia, utility poles are inspected and treated every 10 years, but this particular pole had last been visited 23 years ago. Though today's technology makes it easier to track Commonwealth Edison's inventory of utility poles, inspecting and treating them still requires a personal visit by a crew of people.

Garcia is leading crews from Osmose Utilities Services, a company contracted by ComEd to inspect and treat utility poles all over the country. They begin in northern areas throughout the summer and fall, working their way south as the seasons change. They have been in Lansing for several weeks, spending 20–40 minutes on each pole. The poles along the street are inspected and treated fairly quickly, but the process slows down when crews have to access poles that are in homeowners' back yards, for example. Contacting the homeowner, explaining the procedure, and bringing the equipment around can double the time needed.

Inspectors look for pole defects, and they pound the pole to listen for hollow or decayed areas. In some cases, inspection will determine that the entire pole needs to be replaced, but in most cases the poles can be treated to extend their health. Replacing a pole costs about four times as much as treating it.

The crew begins by removing 18 inches of dirt from around the base of the pole, and chipping the weathered wood away. A chemical mixture is applied to the base of the pole to protect it from decay, and then the mixture is wrapped with Osmoshield to prevent the chemicals from dissolving into the soil.

Additionally, holes are drilled in the bottom three feet of the pole, and the chemical mixture is injected. A plug is then hammered into each hole.

Inspectors from any service company add tags to the poles they work on. The tags are dated, so the history of inspections and treatment is documented.

Most of the utility poles Garcia and his team have been treating are cedar, which is considered a premium wood because it is naturally resistant to decay and insect activity. Newer utility poles are typically some kind of pine, which is strong despite its light weight.

Osmose Utilities Services is headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, and provides services throughout the United States, with additional offices in Buffalo, New York;

Syracuse, New York; and Boston, Massachusetts.

Commonwealth Edison is a unit of Chicago-based Exelon Corporation (NASDAQ: EXC), a Fortune 100 energy company with approximately 10 million electricity and natural gas customers. ComEd serves more than 4 million customers across northern Illinois, or 70 percent of the state's population.



A worker from Osmose Utilities Services applies a chemical mixture to the base of a pole to protect it from decay. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)



A tag near the base of the pole indicates the prior inspection, by a different company—in 1981. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

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Nursing Home Violations for Q3 2019 include three local facilities

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (October 27, 2019) – The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced that the 2019 Third Quarterly Report of Nursing Home Violators is now posted on IDPH's website. The report contains additional information about the violations.

Three local nursing homes were included on the list of facilities cited for "A" violations, which pertains to a condition in which there is a substantial probability that death or serious mental or physical harm will result, or has resulted:

- South Holland Manor Health & Rehab, a 216-bed skilled care facility located at 2145 East 170th Street in South Holland, was fined \$25,000 for failure to follow its policy to have two staff members present when using a mechanical lift.
- Countryside Nursing & Rehab Center, a 197-bed skilled and intermediate care facility located at 1635 East 154th Street in Dolton, was fined

\$25,000 for failure to prevent a cognitively impaired resident from being sexually coerced.

- Windsor Estates Nursing and Rehab, a 200-bed skilled care facility located at 18300 South Laverne in Country Club Hills, was fined \$25,000 for failure to supervise and implement interventions for a resident with a history of falls.

Twenty-two other facilities were cited for type "A" violations:

1. Alden Town Manor Rehab & HCC in Cicero, Illinois
2. Amberwood Care Centre in Rockford, Illinois
3. Aperion Care Cairo in Cairo, Illinois
4. Avantara Long Grove in Long Grove, Illinois
5. Belmont Village Oak Park in Oak Park, Illinois
6. Bethalto Care Center in Bethalto, Illinois
7. Bridge Care Suites in Springfield, Illinois
8. Elmwood Terrace Healthcare Ctr in Aurora, Illinois
9. Gardenview Manor in Danville, Illinois

10. Generations at Regency in Niles, Illinois
11. Generations at Rock Island in Rock Island, Illinois
12. Good Samaritan Home in Quincy, Illinois
13. Grove of Evanston L&R in Evanston, Illinois
14. Grove of Fox Valley in Aurora, Illinois
15. Meadowbrook Manor in Bolingbrook, Illinois
16. Oak Brook Care in Oak Brook, Illinois
17. Regency Care of Sterling in Sterling, Illinois
18. River Bluff Nursing Home in Rockford, Illinois
19. Rosewood Care Ctr in St. Charles, Illinois
20. Royal Oaks Care Center in Kewanee, Illinois
21. Villa at Windsor Park in Chicago, Illinois
22. Villa Health Care East in Sherman, Illinois

Two facilities were cited for "AA" violations:

1. Aperion Care Forest Park
2. Lexington of Lake Zurich

An "AA" violation is cited when there is a condition or occurrence at the facility that proximately caused a resident's death.

Neighbors shaken by car explosion at 176th and Holiday Court

Wednesday, October 16, 10:07pm

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (October 16, 2019) – At 10:07pm on Wednesday, October 16, an explosion could be heard and felt on Holiday Court, just north of 176th Place. Neighbors looked out their windows to see flames roaring out of a late-model Yukon in the street.

As black smoke filled the sky, police and firefighters began to arrive. Popping sounds punctuated the air, and onlookers speculated about whether they were hearing firecrackers that had been setting on the front seat, or ammunition that may have been stored in the glove compartment, or simply parts of the vehicle bursting in the heat. No official explanation was given.

Running the license plates, police contacted the vehicle's owner, who informed them the car had been stolen the previous night. He arrived on the scene to confirm the SUV was his.

A lighter was found near the burning vehicle.

No injuries were reported as a result of the explosion or the fire.

By 11:00pm, the burned-out Yukon was completely extinguished, and neighbors were waiting for the all-clear to return to their homes.



A car explosion occurred on Holiday Court, north of 176th Place, just after 10:00pm Wednesday, October 16. (Image: Google maps)



Lansing firefighters arrived quickly to battle the deep orange and yellow blaze. Extinguished once, it reignited, but by 11:00pm the flame was completely out. (Photo: Patty Grigutis)

Lansing Voices

The Lansing Journal is a community newspaper. We welcome input from fellow residents who have thoughtful things to say about topics that are important to our community. The opinions posted here are those of the writer, and posting them does not indicate endorsement by The Lansing Journal.

Team Phenomenal

THOUGHTFUL COMMENTS FROM ELVIS SLAUGHTER

Since joining our great Thornton Fractional Township High School District 215 one year ago, Dr. Teresa Lance and her phenomenal team have raised the bar by adding more AP courses, an early warning system to provide early and frequent intervention for students, Restorative Justice Practices, Naviance, Tyler systems, EQUITY215, One Book One District. The school district is also now ALICE-trained as part of a response plan to an active school threat.

And the students are provided high-quality effective instruction with embedded instructional absolutes. The graduation and attendance rates continue high, while suspension and expulsion rates decline.

Wow! Dr. Lance and her team did this in one year. What a phenomenal job!

Dr. Lance's lasting impact on the lives of so many over the years has been rewarding, while sowing seeds of goodness, kindness, and compassion. Whenever you see her, she is smiling, polite, and rolling up her sleeves to give a hand. Her community volunteerism must also be applauded.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Superintendent Dr. Teresa A. Lance and our outstanding school board, administrators, teachers, and support staff. You all deserve a standing ovation for being part of a phenomenal team.

Team Phenomenal's major goals and objectives have centered on the success of all students, regardless of their learning ability, behavior, background, race, or sexuality, while trying to provide all staff a desirable and quality environment.

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education." (Dr. Martin Luther King)

Fall cautionary (October 2019)

THOUGHTFUL COMMENTS FROM MICHELLE FORD

The Halloween (October 31) and Dia de los Muertos (November 2) season can bring anger and turmoil, particularly Halloween, offering up extra ways to offend under the guise of fun.

On college campuses in particular, someone typically hangs a noose on a tree or elsewhere, even putting a realistic figure or scarecrow in the noose. I once saw a replica of the bottom half of a human hanging out of a dorm window (I work on a campus)—that kind of depiction can be a trigger for people who have experienced real violence.

In September 2018, after a Halloween incident in Lansing, I said to co-workers, "How does someone living in America not know that a replica of a human being hanging from a tree is offensive? Or what the symbolism of a noose means?" I realize some schools do not have a curriculum that includes African-American history and that the American or U.S. history classes will only go so far in how the Civil War is covered. If you are in upper middle school or high school reading this, look up the history of lynching and internment camps in America. America is great and will continue to be, but there is also an ugly history in this country's shadow.

So my well-intended suggestions for Halloween—and all year round—would be to first think, "Is this going to be offensive in any way?"

And ask yourself, "How much do I trust the people I party with?" There is always a cell phone camera present. Would you want pictures or videos to come back to bite you 20 years from now? Your dream job comes along, and your infamous photo or selfie surfaces—kiss dream job good-bye. Individuals and companies will not want the association. Even if they agree with you privately, in public it will be you in your sheet flapping in the wind...alone.

Someday you may be friends or colleagues with people of color. If you tell them your youthful, offensive behavior was a joke, they will not think it's funny. Even if those individuals are still cordial, they will think of you in a different way. Is it worth that risk? No matter your beliefs, think about the people around you.

For the most part, decorations throughout Lansing neighborhoods have been creative and fun this year. I want everyone to be safe, carry flashlights, and wear reflective clothing. I hope all our costumed little people get lots of good candy, and please check all treats before eating them. I hope those celebrating Dia de los Muertos will use lots of pretty colors commonly applied to skeletons and skulls as they remember lost family and friends. Motorists, drive extra careful through your neighborhoods—some pedestrians will be harder to spot crossing streets and possibly darting out between parked cars.

Whenever I see news trucks headed south on the Bishop Ford expressway, I hope they're going to cover a good story. My fellow Lansing citizens, let's not be "that" town this year.

Be sensible, be safe, have fun.

Send Lansing Voices submissions to info@thelansingjournal.com with "Voices" in the subject line.

Semper Fi, continued from page 1

THREE RECRUITS

Martini graduates from TF South in 2000. Aylmer and Hensley graduate in 2003, and all three enlist in the Marine Corps. The three friends attend boot-camp together in San Diego in 2003, but they are split up into different platoons. They occasionally see one another during training evolutions, and they communicate with a nod of the head or quick eye contact. All three know that the Marine Corps is not interested in allowing recruits to socialize—they are being prepared for the deadly serious war in Iraq. Drill instructors remind them constantly of the legacy of Marines who have fought before them, a legacy that demands solemn respect.

THREE MARINES

It is November 2003 when Aylmer, Hensley, and Martini all graduate from bootcamp as Marines. Their families come to San Diego for the graduation ceremony. While Marine graduation is an occasion marked with joy and pride, the celebration is shadowed with the awareness of what these new Marines are graduating into—our nation's war in Iraq.

The three Lansing friends are given orders to the School of Infantry (SOI), and after SOI they are assigned to their units. Ryan Hensley is assigned to 1st Battalion, 7th Marines (1/7). John Aylmer is assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines (3/5). Philip Martini is assigned to 1st Battalion, 1st Marines (1/1).

Split up again, the young men from Lansing manage to stay in contact via cell phones. Aylmer's and Martini's units are both stationed at Camp Pendleton, California, so they occasionally get together socially. But Hensley is 136 miles away at Marine Corps Base Twentynine Palms. Due to operational tempo, training for upcoming deployments to Iraq, and the lack of a car, the only time all three friends are together is Christmas leave in 2005.

OPERATION PHANTOM FURY

In 2006, all three Marines are in multiple places conducting operations, but at some point they all end up in or around Al Anbar Province, Iraq, participating in Operation Phantom Fury—the second battle for Fallujah. Aylmer had fought in the first battle of Fallujah in 2004, and in 2006 he is on his second deployment to Iraq. His battalion—the 3/5—is running patrols and combat operations out of Camp Fallujah and spending a lot of time in Abu Ghraib. Hensley and the 1/7 are to the northeast near the Syrian

border. Martini and the 1/1 are in Karma.

On April 8, 2006, Philip Martini is killed in action while on patrol.

FAMILY

Martini's family is notified, and the news begins to travel through Lansing. A Chicago Tribune news article describes the fallen hero as "popular and loved," and the community is stunned by the loss. Back in Fallujah, when Aylmer returns to camp from an operation to Abu Ghraib, he makes a call home on a satellite phone. His dad answers and is the one to let his son know that his friend has made the ultimate sacrifice.

Aylmer recalls that while he was in Abu Ghraib he witnessed an intense firefight in the vicinity of Karma, but at the time he wasn't aware that his childhood friend, Phil Martini, was conducting combat operations just to the north of him.

Aylmer tells his dad to send a Red Cross message, which is an emergency communications service the Red Cross provides to military families. He wants to give his family something specific to do, and he hopes this message will provide a way for him to attend Martini's funeral, though he knows this is not likely.

Around the same time, Hensley makes a phone call home to his family in Lansing from his location a little further northeast on the Syrian border. Hensley's family notifies him of Martini's death.

And just as Aylmer did, Hensley tells his family to send a Red Cross message, hoping in some way to be able to honor his fallen friend.

BROTHERHOOD

The Red Cross messages set off a chain of events. Each Marine's command is notified of Martini's death and learns of the three Marines' history of enlisting together. Aylmer's unit commander authorizes and encourages him to attend Martini's memorial service at Camp Fallujah. Because Aylmer is already in Abu Ghraib, he only needs to catch a convoy ride back to the camp and link up with 1/1. He finds 1/1's command post, but Martini's unit is out on patrol, so Aylmer has to wait for their return. It is night, so he settles in to get some sleep.

Meanwhile, Hensley has also begun his trek to Camp Fallujah for the memorial service. In contrast with Aylmer's straightforward convoy, Hensley has to cobble together wheeled vehicles and helicopter rides. Al Anbar is an active combat zone at that time, and utilizing military assets for non-combat operations is a challenge. After a long night's travel, a disheveled Hensley walks into 1/1 command post at Camp Fallujah to find his friend Aylmer waiting in the same place.

For the first time since their 2005 Christmas leave in Lansing, the friends are together again—this time awaiting the 1/1's return from combat operations. When 1/1 returns that evening, Aylmer and Hensley are able to meet Martini's Marine brothers.

MEMORIAL

The next day a makeshift altar draped in white is prepared, and

Martini's photograph is placed upon it. Near the altar, Martini's rifle with a fixed bayonet is stuck into the ground, bayonet first. Martini's helmet is placed on top of the rifle. His boots are placed at the position of attention at the base of the rifle. The American and Marine Corps flags are crossed behind it to form a memorial backdrop.

Martini's unit gathers near the display for roll call. Names of Marines are called out, and they respond one by one, yelling, "Here First Sergeant!" Martini's name is called—and nothing but silence comes from the group.

After roll call the commanding officer speaks about Martini's military service. Then Martini's Marine brothers from 1/1 are afforded an opportunity to make remarks on their friend. Finally, Aylmer and Hensley are invited to speak. They tell Martini's unit about their lifelong friendship dating back to their days in Lansing.

The three friends are only three months into their deployment at the time of Martini's death. Aylmer and Hensley head back to their units to fight for another four months before reuniting again in Lansing after their deployments to Iraq are complete.

REMEMBERING

John Aylmer and Ryan Hensley remain close friends and are active in the Lansing community today. They have dedicated their lives to keeping Philip Martini's name and memory alive.



Philip Martini (Photo provided)

Philip Martini is memorialized at the Lansing Veterans Memorial, which is located at the southeast corner of Burnham Avenue and Glenwood-Lansing Road. The Memorial is open 24/7, so members of the public can visit any time and find his name etched in the polished granite of the memorial wall.



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Aylmer and Hensley attend Martini's on-field memorial service. (Photo provided)

Thornton Fractional District 215 students acknowledged for achievements on 2019 Advanced Placement Exams

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY DISTRICT 215

CALUMET CITY, Ill. (October 22, 2019) – Students and former students of TF North and TF South High Schools were acknowledged for their success on 2019 Advanced Placement (AP) exams by the District 215 Board of Education at the board meeting on October 22. Passing Advanced Placement exams in high school can allow students to earn college credits or skip introductory college courses.

AP SCHOLARS WITH DISTINCTION

Students who passed three AP exams in 2019 received the district's AP Scholars with Distinction Award.

TF South students receiving this award at the October Board of Education meeting include:

- Anthony Diaz-Rubalcava
- Joshua Gann
- Matthew Grafenauer
- Joel Herrera
- Jady Newnman
- Logan Rosinia-Cowan

TF North students receiving the AP Scholars with Distinction Award include:

- Omar Magallanes
- Melannie Sanchez

AP SCHOLARS WITH HONORS

Students who passed two AP exams in 2019 receive the district's AP Scholars with Honors Award.

TF South students receiving this award at the October meeting were:

- Aidan Antonelli

- Isabella Bonifazi
- Mateo Duran
- Skylar Gertonson
- Tatiana Gutierrez
- Jeremiah Manio
- Angel Mclemore
- Edward Olaley
- Jomareun Richardson
- Austin Ver Wey
- Haley Ward

TF North AP Scholars with Honor include:

- Natalia Guzman
- Sa'eedat Idris
- Israel Oluwole
- Victoria Richardson
- Maria Rodriguez
- Daniela Saavedra
- Jonathan Silva-Melendez

District 215 students who passed one AP exam in 2019 will be acknowledged by the Board of Education at the November board meeting on November 26.

ABOUT THORNTON FRACTIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 215

District 215 serves the students of Burnham, Calumet City, Lansing, and Lynwood



TF North and TF South High School students were acknowledged for their success on 2019 Advanced Placement (AP) exams by the District 215 Board of Education at the Board meeting on October 22. (Photo provided)

at Thornton Fractional North High School, Thornton Fractional South High School, Thornton Fractional Center for Academics and Technology, and Thornton Fractional Center for Alternative Learning.

The mission of District 215 is to provide diverse learning opportunities that inspire all students to become life-long learners who contribute to their community.

TF South US History students learn about early development of Chicago area

BY CARRIE STEINWEG

LANSING, Ill. (November 3, 2019) – Students in Matthew Tiffy's Advanced Placement U.S. History Class took a recent field trip to the Naperville and Oak Brook areas. They began with a tour of Naper Settlement, a 12-acre history museum that consists of a collection of 30 historical buildings and gives a glimpse into what Naperville was like in the 19th century. Students watched a blacksmith demonstration and learned about the operation of the area's early post office.

The class then arrived at North Central College in Naperville for a campus tour and a presentation by Dr. Ann Durkin Keating, a history professor and expert in Chicago history. Keating has authored several books, including *The World of Juliette Kinzie: Chicago Before the Fire*, *Building Chicago: Suburban Developers and the Creation of a Divided Metropolis*, and *Rising Up from Indian Country: The Battle of Fort Dearborn and the Birth of Chicago*. Her talk covered Illinois development that included the I & M Canal and development of townships and roads.

The final stop was at Graue Mill and Museum, located on Salt Creek in Oak Brook. Students learned about the water-powered grist mill that was built in 1852 and its role in the Underground Railroad.

The APUSH class is one of several Advanced Placement courses currently offered at TF South. In the spring, following a successful score on the Advanced Placement Exam, students who have completed the course will receive college credit.

TF South High School is located at 18500 Burnham Avenue in Lansing, Illinois.



TF South students watched the blacksmith demonstration at Naper Settlement in Naperville. (Photo: Carrie Steinweg)

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<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Walt's "All Natural" Fresh</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Whole Frying Chicken</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">99¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Lb.</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Indiana Kitchen "All Natural" Pork</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Boneless Center Cut Pork Roast</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$2.19</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Lb.</p>
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<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Best Choice/Dutch Farms</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Butter</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">• Regular • No Salt 1 Lb. Qtrs.</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">2/\$5</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Dutch Farms</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Orange Juice</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">1/2 Gallon</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">3/\$5</p>
<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Dean's Premium</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Ice Cream</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">48 Oz.</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">2/\$5</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Lean Cuisine or Stouffer's</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Entree</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Selected Varieties 9 - 12 Oz.</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">5/\$10</p>
<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">• 7Up • Dr. Pepper • A&W • RC • Canada Dry</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">2 Ltr.</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">88¢</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Rinaldi</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Pasta Sauce</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Selected Varieties 24 Oz.</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">99¢</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Limit 4 Total, Add'l. \$1.69</p>

Lansing welcomes two Vietnam vets home from final Honor Flight of 2019

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (October 14, 2019) – Honor Flight Chicago's last flight of the 2019 season was Wednesday, October 16, and two Lansing veterans were aboard. Marine veteran Dennis Kranc and Army veteran Kenny Janowski spent the day in Washington, DC, being honored for their service in Vietnam.

Whenever a Lansing resident is on Honor Flight Chicago, the American Legion Riders from Edward Schultz Chapter 697 volunteer to escort that veteran home at the end of the day. The September Honor Flight included Lansing WWII veteran Otha Brownlow, but the Riders were unable to contact him ahead of time to get his approval for the escort. "We don't want to force it on anybody," explained Legion Rider President Nick Grigutis. The escort involves sirens and flashing lights, often at a late hour of a long day, so not every veteran prefers to accept it.

The last opportunity the Legion Riders had to escort a Lansing veteran was in June of this year, when Frank Schuster, a Navy veteran of the Korean War, returned home from his Honor Flight experience.

A LANSING WELCOME

It has become a tradition for members of the broader Lansing community to join the Legion Riders in welcoming veterans home from Honor Flight. Notice is often last-minute, and flexibility is required, but

Dennis Kranc (right) greets the entourage, while Ken Janowski snaps photos of the welcome. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)



turnout has been good. Sunrise Health Foods (17650 Torrence Avenue) serves as the meeting place because it is close to the highway and an easy right turn off Torrence. Legion Riders and other wellcomers begin gathering at 9:30pm and receive updates via text as the guests of honor land at Midway, disembark, meet their families, and finally load into their cars and head toward Lansing. It is not uncommon for them to arrive at the meeting spot well after 10:00pm.

THE HEROES' ARRIVAL

Kranc and Janowski turned in to the Sunrise parking lot close to 11:00pm on October 16. Their day had begun at 4:00am when they checked into Midway Airport, but in spite of the early start and the busy day, the men were chipper and talkative to the small crowd who had gathered to meet them, express thanks for their service, and escort them home.

The Lansing Police Department and the Lansing Fire

Department assign any available staff to provide the veterans a hero's escort—with sirens, lights, and entourage—to their homes or to the American Legion. On this particular night, a 10:00pm car explosion demanded the attention of several officers and firefighters, but the escort was still celebratory.

Kranc and Janowski chose to be delivered to the American Legion, where they enjoyed drinks and stories with the Riders and other Legion members before heading home.

Honor Flight Chicago flies once a month from April through October. Honor Flight volunteers notify Trustee Maureen Grady-Perovich whenever a flight includes a veteran from Lansing. Grady-Perovich then works with the Legion Riders and the veteran's family members to make arrangements.

Information about Welcome Home gatherings is published in the daily online edition of The Lansing Journal and shared via Facebook. Anyone who wishes to join the welcome is invited to meet at Sunrise Health Foods. No RSVP is required.



Marine veteran Dennis Kranc and Army veteran Kenny Janowski (center, in caps) were welcomed back to Lansing by dozens of fellow residents after their October 16 Honor Flight. (Photo: Patty Grigutis)



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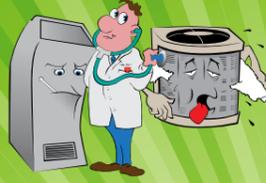
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VETERANS EDITION

The Lansing Journal *journeys*



On September 18, 2019, The Lansing Journal covered the 94th flight by Honor Flight Chicago. Over 100 veterans—from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War—were aboard that flight. Spending time with them gave us an opportunity to explain The Lansing Journal Journeys feature and invite people to participate. The day began at 4:00am at Midway International Airport, where we had two hours to meet people during processing and boarding. The veterans spent a full day in Washington DC, visiting the various war memorials and participating in ceremonies to remember the fallen. After 6:00pm, they returned to Dulles International Airport for the flight home.

Otha Brownlow

ARMY



Otha Brownlow is a Lansing resident and a World War II Army veteran. He was happy to see his hometown newspaper covering the Honor Flight experience. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

Mark Brickell

MARINES



Mark Brickell, a Marine veteran, lives in Maryland and serves as an Honor Flight Guardian, as denoted by the green polo shirt. Each veteran is assigned a guardian during their day in DC. Some guardians provide medical attention as needed; most serve as personal assistants and help shepherd the group from one site to the next. (Photo: Allen Jongsma)



IL Brownlow

ARMY

Otha's brother I.L., a Chicago resident, is also a World War II Army veteran. He served stateside as a medic. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)



Jerry Raczak

ARMY

Jerry Raczak is a Vietnam Army veteran from Chicago. He worked with medevac choppers, unloading wounded and KIA in Qui Nhon. Honor Flight gave him an opportunity to finally experience the welcome home he didn't receive during the protests of the 1960s. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

Allen Jongsma

MARINES



Former Lansing resident Allen Jongsma served as a Marine during the Vietnam era. Because Honor Flight prioritizes veterans based on age and health, the 2019 season is the first time Honor Flight Chicago has been able to begin flying Vietnam veterans. (Photo: Mark Brickell)



Clelia Ginay

NAVY

Clelia Ginay (seated) was a Navy nurse during World War II. Her caregiver, Julie Lyzenega (left), is a Lansing resident and was able to serve as guardian for Clelia on this Honor Flight. They are pictured here with Honor Flight volunteer Mike Padgen. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)



Joel Nederhood

ARMY

Former Lansing resident Joel Nederhood served during the Korean War. The Honor Flight experience brought back a lot of memories and renewed appreciation for God's plan for his life. (Photo: Allen Jongsma)

To read the full story about the September 18 Honor Flight, search for "A Day of Honor" at www.thelansingjournal.com/news.

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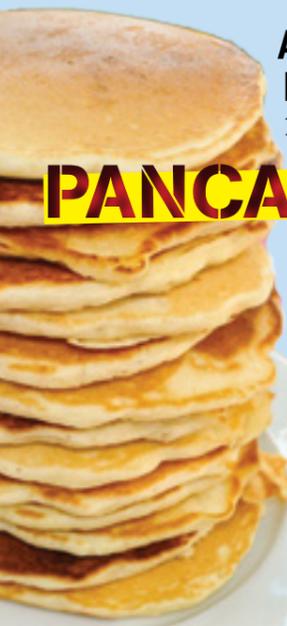
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Autumn Fest 2019

SUBMITTED BY LAURIE CROSBY

The Lansing Journal *journeys*



Heather Dede (right) was the first customer at Autumn Fest 2019, when Mike Gaffney of LACE sold her the event's first beer. Autumn Fest opened October 11 to cold, gusty rain, but volunteers greeted fest-goers warmly. (Photo: Leo Valencia)

Chateau Chenonceau

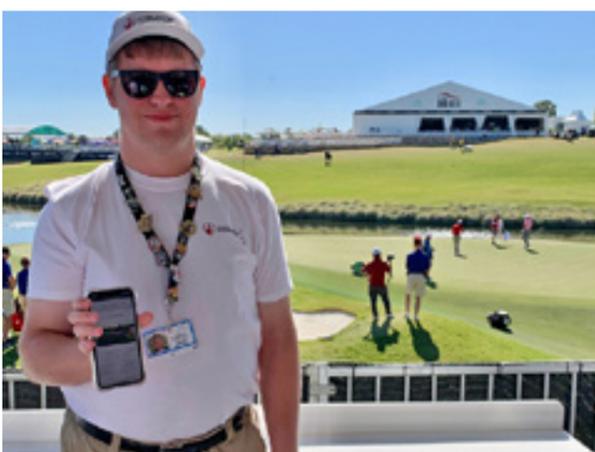
SUBMITTED BY NORA AND DENNIS STANCZAK



Nora and Dennis Stanczak, 44-year residents of Lansing, took The Lansing Journal on a Cooper's Hawk tour of the Loire River Valley chateau region. They are pictured here at Catherine de Medici's 16th-century Chateau Chenonceau. Other sites included the Normandy beaches, Monet's home and gardens, the Palace of Versailles, and The Louvre. (Photo: Tom Koenigsberg, Cooper's Hawk)

Shriners Open

SUBMITTED BY JENNIFER POLLEY



Griffin Polley served as a Shriners Standard Bearer ambassador, representing the Chicago Shriners Hospital at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open, a PGA Tour event in Las Vegas. Griffin's responsibilities did not keep him from remembering his digital Lansing Journal. In the background are professional golfers Peter Uihlein and Isaiah Salinda, practicing their putting. (Photo: Jennifer Polley, Griffin's mom)

Covered Bridge Festival

SUBMITTED BY SAMANTHA TRUDGIAN



Christie Trudgian traveled to the annual 10-day fall festival held throughout Parke County Indiana—the Covered Bridge Capital of the world. The festival showcases arts and crafts, food, and fall activities. She posed with The Lansing Journal near one of the many covered bridges. (Photo: Samantha Trudgian)

Antigua/Barbuda

SUBMITTED BY DR. JAY GULOTTA



Dr. Jay and Fran Gulotta recently enjoyed an 11-day southern Caribbean cruise on the Celebrity Equinox. On October 19, they stopped in Antigua/Barbuda to pose with their October issue of The Lansing Journal. (Photo: Tourists nearby)

Valley of the Temples

SUBMITTED BY SUZANNE LONG



From left: Suzanne Long, Joanne Corcoran, and Sandy Werner remembered to bring their Lansing Journal to the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento, Sicily. (Photo: unknown random tourist)

Branson, Missouri

SUBMITTED BY ALICE BANACH



Alice and Jerry Banach and Barb and Ron Raczak took The Lansing Journal on their recent bus trip to Branson, Missouri. "We spent four days in Branson and took in seven fabulous shows," says Alice. Barb and Alice are members of the Lansing Women's Club. (Photo: Steve Bochnick, Schererville, Indiana)

Keep those Journals journeying!

Send us your photos of The Lansing Journal in unique places near or far. Email them to info@thelansingjournal.com, and include: (1) the names of any people in the photo, (2) the name of the person who took the photo, and (3) information about the location or situation.

Santa Rita, Guam SUBMITTED BY TINA FUNCHION



"I sent my daughter a gift subscription to The Lansing Journal so they could keep up with what is going on in Lansing while they are stationed in different ports," wrote Tina Funchion. "Their current station is the USS Frank Cable in Guam. My daughter sent me a copy of my grandson reading The Lansing Journal."

Grandson Jackson Fleischer is two years old and already an obviously well informed little man. (Photo: Erin Fleischer, 9/13/19)

St. Louis Cathedral SUBMITTED BY THE SMITH FAMILY



As part of a family vacation and 13th wedding anniversary celebration, the Smith Family—from left: Michelle, Autumn, Malcolm, and Andy—visited the St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans, Louisiana. The St. Louis Cathedral is recognized as the oldest cathedral in North America. (Photo: random guy walking by)

Tower of London SUBMITTED BY MARIE LIMBACK



Marie Limback writes: "At the end of September, my husband and I took a vacation in the UK, with my sister from the Netherlands. We drove around England and Scotland for several weeks, checking many items off our bucket lists! This photo of us with our Lansing Journal is at the Tower of London, with the Tower Bridge in the background. From left to right are Lansing residents Marie Korringa Limback and Norman Limback with Carol Korringa—from Alkmaar, the Netherlands. The photo was taken by an unknown visitor at the Tower of London."

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TF South Rebel players rehearse a song and dance number from the musical *Chicago*. (Photo: Jennifer Yos)

TF South Drama presents high school edition of *Chicago*

Evening performances November 14, 15, and 16; matinée November 17

BY JENNIFER YOS

LANSING, Ill. (November 4, 2019) – At the opening of the musical *Chicago*, the narrator informs the audience that they are “about to see a story of murder, greed, corruption, violence, exploitation, adultery, and treachery.” With such adult content, how can a high school drama club present this musical appropriately for a general audience?

TF South Musical Director Doug Schlessler explains, “[Our production of] *Chicago* is a high school edition. Samuel French, the publisher, does not lease the rights to the full edition [of *Chicago*] to a high school for a correct reason.” According to the Samuel French website (samuelfrench.com), the high school edition of *Chicago* removes adult language and overly sexual references. “There are some risqué moments still,” adds Schlessler, “but it’s not the full version.”

The musical takes place in Chicago during the roaring twenties. Chorus girl Roxie Hart—played by junior Natalie Dominiac—murders her cheating lover and convinces her husband Amos to take the rap for her. That is, until he discovers her duplicity, and her consequential confession sends her to Cook County Jail. Vaudeville performer Velma Kelly—played by senior Angel Mclemore—is already an inmate there, and with the help of the cellblock Matron “Mama” Morton—played by sophomore Stefanie Marin—as her booking agent, and her lawyer Billy Flynn, Roxie hopes to make a big vaudeville comeback after an acquittal. Roxie and Velma compete against each other for media attention while in prison, hoping to sensationalize future prison-released careers.

The original Broadway production of *Chicago* opened in 1975 and was revived in 1996, becoming the longest running American musical in Broadway history. The 2002 film version won the Academy Award for Best Picture. TF South Director Schlessler anticipates the audience will enjoy seeing student actors portray these iconic roles and make them their own. “Something that I really believe in



From left: Angel Mclemore plays Velma Kelly, Natalie Dominiac plays Roxie Hart, and Stefanie Marin plays Matron “Mama” Morton in TF South’s upcoming production of *Chicago*. (Photo: Jennifer Yos)

is not being a carbon copy of a movie or a Broadway actor, but creating a role for yourself,” he explains.

TF South Drama Producer Ann Wolpert is also enthusiastic about this year’s production, especially with the help of TF South Choir Director Samantha Elliott and choreographers Nikki Dizon and Jake Ganzer. “We’ve got some great voices, the music sounds awesome, and the choreography is just off the hook. It’s really, really good because we’ve got kids who got trained last year from these folks doing *Legally Blonde*, so they got a year under their belt of having this kind of training, and now they’ve got it again, which is awesome.”

Opening night is Thursday, November 14, at 7:00pm at TF South’s Dr. Henry L. Hertz Auditorium. Evening performances continue Friday and Saturday, November 15 and 16, at 7:00 pm. The show closes with a Sunday matinée on November 17 at 2:00pm. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults, \$7.00 for students and seniors, and \$5.00 for kids 13 and under. Patrons can bring two canned goods to be donated to the Lansing Food Pantry and receive \$1.00 off their ticket price.

TF South High School is located at 18500 Burnham Avenue in Lansing, Illinois. The auditorium entrance is on the east side of the building.

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"Here are three of Lansing's finest," said Illiana History teacher Jeff White in an October 25 Facebook post. "Tavares VanKuiken, Grace Pederson, and Nate Bakker are representing the Illiana senior class by laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unkown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery."



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nartoon by Jim Siergey

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Note from the artist: This month's nartoon is a tip o' the beret to the artist whose work is currently being presented in a special exhibit at the Art Institute of Chicago. Hurry on over as it may only be there for 15 more minutes.

Dia de los Muertos exhibit at TF South teaches about Day of the Dead traditions

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (October 30, 2019) – “Remember me and I will live forever,” declared the large signs near the entrance to the fifth annual Day of the Dead exhibit at TF South. Students from the Spanish Class, Latin Dance Crew, and Dreamers hosted the exhibit on Wednesday, October 30, from 4:00–6:00pm. Admission was free, and authentic Mexican food was available for purchase from Taqueria la Soga.

In Mexico, Dia de los Muertos is a multi-day celebration of family and friends who have died, and a remembrance of their spiritual journey. Originally a summer event, the tradition gradually became associated with the Catholic observance of All Hallows’ Eve (Halloween), All Saints’ Day (November 1), and All Souls’ Day (November 2).

As a way of safeguarding Day of the Dead traditions and affirming their cultural significance, in 2008 UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) declared Dia de los

Ofrendas are a visual way to remember the dead, using photos, flowers, and favorite foods. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)



Left: Carla Martinez served as a docent at the Dia de los Muertos exhibit. Above: Decorating skulls (calaveras) is another way to show creativity and personality, similar to the Halloween tradition of carving jack-o-lanterns. Students had decorated these small skulls, and guests were invited to vote for their favorites. (Photos: Melanie Jongsma)

Muertos part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Mexico. Intangible Cultural Heritage includes practices, objects, food, dance, oral history, and other elements of cultural identity that are conveyed from one generation to the next.

The October 30 exhibit at TF South included guided tours of ofrendas,

or altars, created by the students. Ofrendas are central to Day of the Dead traditions, and provide a way for families to honor and remember loved ones, celebrities, or other deaths that have impacted a family’s life.

TF South is located at 18500 Burnham Avenue in Lansing, Illinois.



Sons of Serendip to play in Munster Friday, November 15, 7:00pm

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY LAKESHORE COMMUNITY CONCERTS

MUNSTER, Ind. (November 1, 2019) – Munster High School Auditorium will host a concert by Sons of Serendip on Friday, November 15, as part of the Lakeshore Concerts series.



The Billboard Charting quartet consists of a harpist, cellist, pianist, and lead vocalist. The quartet was a finalist on Season 9 of America’s Got Talent, gaining popularity by offering fresh interpretations of popular music.

Since the talent competition, Sons of Serendip has toured nationally, performing stirring arrangements and original compositions. Performances include the Creative Arts Emmy Awards and collaborations with Cynthia Erivo, the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, and Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops. Tickets are available at www.LakeshoreConcerts.org.

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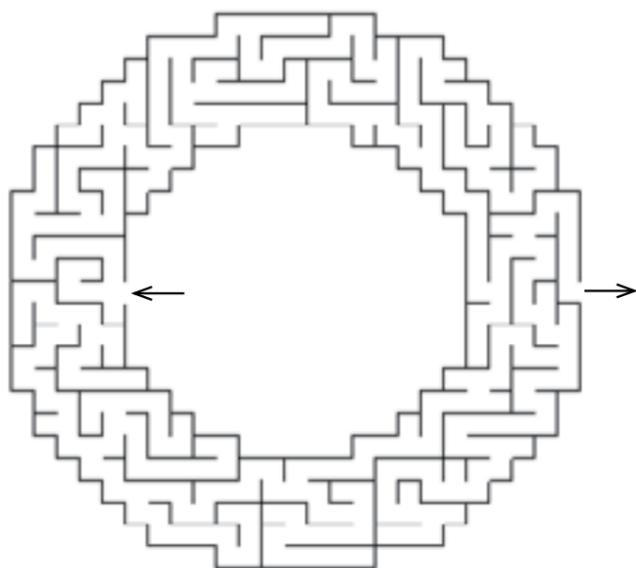
WORDSEARCH

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Currency

Afghani	Dollar	Krona	Peso	Shekel
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Baht	Euro	Mark	Quetzal	Taka
Boliviano	Florin	Metical	Rand	Vatu
Cedi	Franc	Naira	Real	Won
Cordoba	Guilder	Ouguiya	Ruble	Yen
Dinar	Hryvnia	Peseta	Rupee	Zloty

SOLVE THE MAZE



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69						70				71				

ACROSS

- Fate
- Young women entering society
- Feeling reverence and wonder
- Chieftain
- French for "State"
- Played on horseback or in the water
- A passenger ship
- Nimbus
- Leave out
- Modelling
- A young abandoned animal
- Female sibling
- Acquired deservedly
- A rough shelter
- Corroded
- Small island
- TTTT
- Chose
- Celestial being
- Perceive visually
- A stage
- Prepared
- Probabilities
- A vaulted recess on a building
- Coils
- Not awake
- Environmentalists
- Urge a dog to attack
- Adult male sheep (plural)
- Offend or outrage
- Decreases
- A midwestern state
- Loaded
- Cain's brother
- Dud
- Fearful anticipation
- Neat
- An Ivy League university
- Aquatic mammals

DOWN

- Brown seaweeds
- Genus of the dogfish
- Lease
- Encounter
- Apprehend
- University administrators
- Pocketbook
- Farm building
- Platforms for plays
- Of questionable authenticity
- Adult female
- Strike out vowels
- Showered with affection
- Violent demonstration
- At the peak
- Teller of untruths
- Anglo-Saxon slave
- Seaweed
- Unnecessarily
- Tall woody perennial grasses
- "Previously enjoyed"
- Employee Stock Option Program
- Adhesive strip
- Nature of being
- Profound
- A city in east-central France
- Uttered aloud
- Become bony
- Burns with hot liquid
- Fantastic
- Jewish teacher
- Implant
- Potter villain
- Pepsi or Coke
- Absent Without Leave
- Roman household god
- Concept
- Ardor
- Completes

Don't look a gift horse in the mouth

This old proverb means to be gracious when you receive a potentially undesirable gift. Looking at a horse's teeth gives an idea of its age and condition; critically appraising a gift is rude to the giver. The phrase is sometimes said to refer to a checking racehorse's number, which was tattooed inside its lip, to see whether the horse is a winner or loser. But the phrase is much older than the practice of tattooing racehorses, appearing in print as far back as 1546.

SOLUTIONS

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9	8	6	2	5	7	4	3
1	7	4	8	3	6	9	5
5	2	3	4	9	1	6	7

Announcements are free and run in The Shopper each week. They are accepted by e-mail at general@myshopper.biz, or at the front counter. Deadline is Friday at 4:00 p.m. for the following Thursday's edition. The Shopper reserves the right to edit all content.

Theatre at the Center announces cast for Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY BIG SPLASH PR

MUNSTER, Ind. (October 18, 2019) – Theatre at the Center (TATC) Artistic Director Linda Fortunato has cast Matt Edmonds as Bob, Justin Brill as Phil, Casiena Raether as Judy, Erica Stephan as Betty, and Neil Friedman as General Waverly in Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, a musical based on Paramount Pictures' 1954 film of the same name. The well-known film starred Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, Vera-Ellen, and Dean Jagger.

Additional cast members include Raegan Smedley as Susan, Denzel Tsopnang as Sheldrake, Ann Delaney as Rita, Allyson Graves as Rhoda, John Gurdian as Ezekiel, Glory Kissel as Martha and Tessie, Andrew MacNaughton as Mike, with Maggie Malaney, Matthew Huston, Lance Spencer, Victoria Newhuis, and Matthew Weidenbener also part of the ensemble. Fortunato is the director and choreographer, and William Underwood is the music director.

Previews begin November 14, with Opening Night November 17 and continued run through December 22.

Based on the heartwarming and timeless film, the musical adaptation of Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* premiered in St. Louis in 2000 and opened on Broadway in 2008, followed by a national tour. The book is by David Ives and Paul Blake, with music and lyrics by Irving Berlin, teamed for the story of veterans Bob Wallace and Phil Davis, who have a successful song-and-dance act following World War II. Drawn to romance, the two follow a duo of beautiful singing sisters en route to their Christmas stage show booked at a Vermont lodge, which just happens to be owned by Bob and Phil's former army commander. The dazzling score features classic songs like "Blue Skies," "I Love A Piano," "How Deep is the Ocean," and the perennial holiday favorite and title tune "White Christmas."

Matt Edmonds (Bob) was last seen at TATC as Sparky in *Forever Plaid*, as L.M. in *Pump Boys and Dinettes*, and as part of the ensemble in *Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. He also appeared in *It's A Wonderful Life: Live in Chicago* at the American Blues Theatre, *Murder for Two* at Marriott Lincolnshire, and *Death of a Salesman* at Redtwist Theatre, a role which

earned him a Jeff Nomination for Best Supporting Actor in a Play.

Justin Brill (Phil), was previously seen at TATC in the role of Jimmy Winter in *Nice Work If You Can Get It* and as Dennis in *All Shook Up* (a role he also played in the original Broadway production). In recent years, he has appeared as Amos in *Chicago* and Bert in *42nd Street* at the Drury Lane Theatre.

Casiena Raether (Judy) was seen at TATC as Fraulein Kost in *Cabaret*, and she also appeared at TATC in *A Wonderful Life*. Previous work includes the role of Cassie in *A Chorus Line*, the Woman in *Sherlock Holmes and The Precarious Position*, Jackie in *Mauritius*, and Ruby in the Artists' Ensemble Theatre production of *Jeeves Takes a Bow*. She also played Belinda in *Noises Off* and Kitty in *The Drowsy Chaperone* at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center.

Erica Stephan (Betty) last appeared at TATC as Billie Bendix in *Nice Work If You Can Get It*. Chicago credits include the role of Belle in *Beauty and the Beast* and the role of Irene in *Crazy for You* at Drury Lane Theatre. She appeared in *Wonderful Town* at the Goodman Theatre, as Cosette in *Les Miserables* at the Paramount Theatre, and in *The Little Mermaid* at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre.

Neil Friedman was seen at TATC last year as Kris Kringle in *Miracle on 34th Street* and in *A Wonderful Life* in 2017. He is a Jeff Award recipient and his Chicago credits include Goodman Theatre, Paramount Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, and Chicago Shakespeare Theatre. He most recently appeared in *The Adventures of Augie March* at Court Theatre and *Newsies* at Paramount Theatre.

Linda Fortunato is in her fourth season as Theatre at the Center's Artistic Director, where her most

recent credits include directing *The Pajama Game*. She also directed and choreographed *Dames at Sea*, *Miracle on 34th Street: The Musical*, *Ghost: The Musical*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Big River*, *The Tin Woman*, *Cabaret*, *Annie Warbucks*, and *A Christmas Story*. Fortunato was choreographer for TATC productions such as *Spamalot*, *Big Fish*, *A Christmas Carol: The Musical*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Crazy for You*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. She has been nominated for five Joseph Jefferson Awards for her work as a choreographer



(From left) Casiena Raether as Judy, Neil Friedman as The General, and Erica Stephan as Betty in *White Christmas The Musical* at Theatre at the Center in Munster, Indiana. (Photo: Guy Rhodes)

and director, and she received both the Equity and Non-Equity Jeff Awards for Outstanding Choreography in the 2013-14 season, garnering Theatre at the Center's first award for her choreography of *42nd Street*.

The creative team for *White Christmas* includes Scenic Designer Jack Magaw, Lighting Designer Denise Karczewski, Sound Designer Barry G. Funderburg, Costume Designer Brenda Winstead, Prop Designer Melissa Geel, and Wig Designer Kevin Barthel. Stage manager is Jessica Banaszak. Linda Fortunato is teamed with TATC General Manager Richard Friedman and Ann Davis, TATC Head of Production.

Performances are:

- 2:00pm Wednesdays and Thursdays
- 7:30pm Fridays
- 3:00pm and 7:30pm Saturdays
- 2:30pm Sundays

Individual ticket prices range from \$42-\$46. Group discounts are available for groups of 11 or more. Student tickets are \$20, and gift certificates are also available. To purchase tickets, call the Box Office at 219-836-3255.

Theatre at the Center is located at 1040 Ridge Road, Munster, Indiana.



Casiena Raether (left) as Judy and Justin Brill as Phil star in *White Christmas The Musical* at Theatre at the Center in Munster, Indiana. (Photo: Guy Rhodes)

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Irving Berlin's **NOV 14 - DEC 22**

White Christmas

The Musical

Actors Erica Stephan and Casiena Raether. Photo by Guy Rhodes.

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Save big with groups of 11+

Turn Two for Youth program accepting donations of baseball equipment

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE CHICAGO SOUTHLAND CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

LANSING, Ill. (October 19, 2019) – Turn Two for Youth is once again accepting donations throughout the Chicago Southland in the form of baseball equipment. Turn Two for Youth is a nonprofit, charitable organization that was formed to help collect and distribute baseball equipment to underprivileged children around the world. It is the official charity of the American Baseball Coaches Association and is a proud supplier to Miracle League.

Originating in North Carolina, the desire to donate has spread throughout the United States, including the Chicago Southland area. For the past four years, the Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau (CSCVB), headquartered in Lansing, Illinois, has hosted a Turn Two sports drive. In its first three years, the CSCVB collected over 5,000 items for the charity. This year, the CSCVB will collect donations until November 18.

Donations can be brought to the CSCVB office in Lansing (2304 173rd Street) or dropped off at the New

Lenox Park District, Mokena Park District, or Hoosier Sports in Dyer, Indiana. Fielding gloves, bats (wood and aluminum), batting helmets, baseballs, uniforms, belts, catcher's gear, catcher's mitts, equipment bags, cleats, sets of bases, batting tees, and pitching machines will all be accepted.

After the equipment is collected, it is shipped to Charlotte, NC, where it is cleaned, refurbished, and stored until a complete container of gear can be shipped to a pre-qualified area. Turn Two for Youth carefully selects credible volunteer organizations to ensure that the equipment is delivered and distributed as intended. Typically, churches and baseball organizations are central to the distribution process.

"Turn Two for Youth is an excellent charitable organization, and we are thrilled to be partnering with them again in 2019," said Jim Garrett, President/CEO of the CSCVB. "We are proud to bring the gift of baseball to kids around the world, and we are lucky to have outstanding partnerships with the New



Turn Two for Youth is accepting donations of baseball equipment. Donations can be brought to the CSCVB office in Lansing (2304 173rd Street) or dropped off at the New Lenox Park District, Mokena Park District, or Hoosier Sports in Dyer, Indiana.

Lenox and Mokena Park Districts and Hoosier Sports in Dyer."

The Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau is located at 2304 173rd Street in Lansing, Illinois. More information is available at VisitChicagoSouthland.com.

Park district adds three trees to dog park

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (October 13, 2019) – Paws 'n Play dog park was closed for a few hours on October 9 for maintenance, according to the sign on the gate. When members returned the next morning, they found three new maple trees planted in the one-acre park. One maple tree was added to the small dog area, and two were added to the large dog area of the park. All three trees are more than 20 feet tall and will add more shade to the park as they grow. The maples join an existing lotus tree, which is a favorite shade spot for dogs during hot summer afternoons. In addition, an awning near the entrance provides shade for dog owners when the sun is directly overhead.

Paws 'n Play dog park is located on the west side of Bock Park, 175th and Chicago Avenue.



(Photos: Melanie Jongsma)



The 2019 Lansing Santa House

Come visit Santa Claus!

18106 Henry Street, Lansing, IL

Opening Night: Saturday, November 30, 6:00–8:00pm
(Immediately following the Village tree-lighting ceremony)



Wednesdays

December 4, 11, 18

6:00–8:00pm

Fridays

December 6, 13, 20

6:00–8:00pm

Saturdays

December 7, 14

1:00–3:00pm

For more information, call 708-895-7208.

Bring your camera—
new 2019 photo op!







Memorial Junior High baseball team advances to sectional championship for first time

BY CARRIE STEINWEG

LANSING, Ill. (October 30, 2019) – Memorial Junior High School's baseball team, comprising 6th, 7th and 8th grade students, accomplished a first for the school this year. After an undefeated regular season, the team advanced to the regional championship for the first time in the school's history. The Mustangs then defeated Flossmoor's Parker School in the regional championship by a score of 8-2 to advance to the sectional championships, where their season finally came to a close after a loss to Homer Glen.

In the regular 10-game season, they played five different area teams twice, scoring double digits in

all but one of their games. In their biggest win, they defeated Flossmoor Parker by a score of 23-4.

"The team scored over 150 runs while only allowing 34 runs to be scored against them," said Jeremiah Faughn, Boys' Baseball Coach. "Eight of these games were won by 10 runs or more." The team is also coached by Nicholas Barclay.

"Our core group of 8th graders have been on the team since their 6th grade year. It has been great to see their skill and knowledge develop over this time period," said Faughn. "This team came together and had each other's backs. When one person made an error, someone else stepped up and made the next play. In both regional games, Memorial was down

early, but did not let that get them down. They rallied together as a team and won both games."

The baseball team was recognized at the October District 158 School Board Meeting for their efforts. This was the 9th season for the school's baseball team, which was established in 2011.

"To say that the boys in the Memorial baseball team had success this season is an understatement," said Shawn Walsh, Associate Principal. "Many people don't know, but the baseball season starts long before the school year starts. The boys spent the last days of their free time this summer practicing in order to accomplish these achievements. In practice and gameplay, these boys exemplified what being a team means. When one player was having a rough game, another player stepped up and made the big plays."

The Memorial Junior High baseball team roster includes:

- Christopher Gales
- Jack Starcevich
- Tyler Earmsmuth
- Jake Stachelski
- Moises Mata
- Rodrigo Arceo
- Hugo Rincon
- Ryan Marnell
- Javarie Williams
- Jayden Preston
- Logan Kapocius-Contreras
- Torrence Tate
- Anthony Gianoli

Memorial Junior High School is located at 2721 Ridge Road in Lansing, Illinois.

Each player was presented a certificate, and then the team posed while proud parents snapped photos. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)



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VS.



CHICAGO BEARS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2019
DOORS OPEN AT 11:30 AM
KICKOFF AT 12:00 PM

KACEY'S BANQUET HALL
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LANSING, ILLINOIS

TICKET PRICE: \$50
Food, beer, wine, and soda will be provided.

Please bring a non-perishable item to be donated to the Lansing Food Pantry.

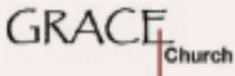


LANSING VILLAGE VOICE PARTY

For additional details, please call (219) 789-7741 or visit www.LansingVVP.org

[f](#) Lansing Village Voice Party
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Paid for by Village Voice Party. A copy of our report is or will be on file with the State Board of Elections, Springfield, IL.





The Power of Belief: Knowing and Defending Your Faith
November 3, 10, & 24, 10:00am
Message Series

Joint Community Thanksgiving Praise & Worship Service
November 24, 5:00pm
Hosted by the Lansing Ministerial Association
Held @ Grace Church
Nursery provided ~ refreshments follow the service

Thanksgiving Eve Service
November 27, 6:30pm
A special Thanksgiving offering will be taken for missionaries to Cambodia and Kenya.

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Blessings

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Community Outreach Specialist
Cook County Assessor's Office

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