

THE LANSING JOURNAL

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Looking back at news highlights from 2019

Five writers for The Lansing Journal choose their personal favorite assignments of the year

JOSH BOOTSMA The Carriers



In the summer of 2019, the Lansing Journal staff agreed that we should write something about the Lansing post office. I agreed to take on the story, and got in touch with Aldo Sulli and Paul Schultz, both Lansing residents who had given decades of their lives to the United States Postal Service. As I called and emailed contacts at the USPS (most of whom were very helpful), it eventually became clear that they did not care to be part of the story. In hindsight, I'm glad it turned out that way because the piece became less about the work of delivering mail and more about Aldo and Paul.

"The Carriers" is a long read—I think the longest story The Lansing Journal has ever published. But it takes more than a few words to summarize some 60+ years of combined service. Learning some of the history of the Post Office, the average day on the job, how the vacation worked, how the job changed over the years—all of these details aren't just interesting for their own sake—they were the daily reality for Aldo and Paul.

This was my favorite story of 2019 not because of the facts I learned about the post office but because of the lives I was able to step into. And I hope readers do the same, because at the end of the day, it's not just some nebulous, complicated system that delivers your mail. It's a person.

Make sure you receive quality writing from Josh Bootsma and our other contributors each morning. Scan this QR code or visit: www.thelansingjournal.com/news/subscribe



MELANIE JONGSMA March 6 issue



I'm choosing an entire issue as my news highlight of 2019—the March print issue.

In this issue, we gathered basic information from all the candidates in the April 2019 election—Village Board, Lansing's three School Boards, the Lan-Oak Park Board, the Library Board, and the South Suburban College Board. We explained what each office does, listed the candidates, and provided information about when and where to vote. We organized all the information in a way that would be helpful to voters as they faced their ballots in March and April.

This was the first time that Lansing residents had a voting guide they could review before heading to the polls.

In fact, the Early Voting officials at the Lansing Public Library kept the March issue of The Lansing Journal available for voters who had questions. We had to restock their supply of that issue—they kept running out because so many people found it so helpful.

In April, we printed a bonus issue summarizing the election results. That bonus issue was possible because of donations people made during a fundraising campaign earlier that year.

Covering elections is difficult work for any newsroom, and The Lansing Journal's team of journalists put in long hours and extra meetings to do it well. We worked together to compile and verify important information, and to present it in a fair and accessible way. It was rewarding to see people make practical use of that information to participate in our democracy. And it was exciting to be able to report the election results in print because of readers who gave generously.

I'm proud of both the March 6 and the April 10 issues because they represent real news and real community, the best of what a community newspaper can be.

Local news is important and practical. Subscribe to the Daily News email: www.thelansingjournal.com/news/subscribe

JENNIFER YOS Block Party



As a reporter for The Lansing Journal, I attend more activities and events happening in Lansing throughout the year than I might otherwise endeavor as a senior Lansing resident. One event I covered on June 8 of 2019 turned out to be a pleasant surprise and a personal favorite—the Lansing Public Library's Block Party. I confess that prior to covering this event, I was unaware it has been an annual event for the past 11 summers!

What took my attention when I first arrived was the impressive crowd of Lansing residents—young, old, and every age in between—happily milling about and engaging with one another on the library's front lawn and on Indiana Avenue.

Children were playing a variety of kid-friendly lawn games, teens were line dancing in front a video/music dance truck, while older residents sat in chairs arranged conveniently close to the library doors listening to live folk music.

I saw families interacting with Lansing fire fighters, EMTs, and police, who gladly assisted children in exploring their fire, ambulance, and police vehicles. Village officials and trustees greeted residents with handshakes, and local restaurant vendors provided block party food.

What was so compelling about this particular event, so skillfully organized and graciously hosted by Library Director Debbie Albrecht and her staff, was that it captured a friendly and relaxed spirit that every community desires—neighbors enjoying a perfect summer evening block party together.

Yes, in this issue of our print edition, we are encouraging readers to also become email subscribers. News about community events like this appears every day in our digital edition. Subscribe to receive a short email each morning: www.thelansingjournal.com/news/subscribe

KATIE ARVIA 'Lansing's story'



This year I had a multitude of exceptional opportunities. In January, I visited Thornton Distilling and Brewing Co. in neighboring Thornton and was given a rare behind-the-scenes tour of the building. I was able to bring along my dad, who remembers when the building was home to Widow McCleary's, one of his former haunts.

I listened to Miguel Cervantes, star of Chicago's *Hamilton*, and his wife Kelly speak at Munster's Theatre at the Center to raise awareness of epilepsy on behalf of their daughter Adelaide. (Plus, I met Miguel and Kelly outside in the parking lot!)

On a cold and rainy Community Clean-up Day, I traveled around Lansing and met residents from all walks of life who were actively improving our town, despite the poor weather.

I interviewed Dominique Harness, a mother working to instill creativity, empowerment, and motivation for girls of all ages.

I met real-life royalty at St. Archangel Michael Orthodox Church and the Serbian Social Center in June, and even received some words of encouragement from Princess Katherine of Serbia. I met some spectacular folks from LARC at Fox Pointe while they volunteered at the Dick Diamond and the Dusters concert.

I spent time with my friend Jackie Protsman, owner of Fashionette, at the Theatre at the Center while she sold pajamas at a fun dinner-theater event.

And in December, I learned about Lansing's Meals on Wheels program and how it went from nearly shuttering for good to receiving a huge wave of new volunteers, showing just how incredible the Lansing community is.

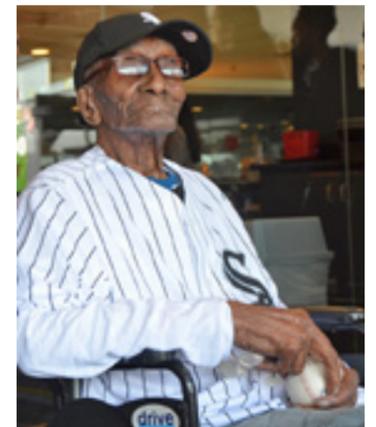
So I think my favorite story from this year is Lansing's story. The numerous occasions that I have seen our community rally together. Opportunities for people of all walks of life to come together at events. The fact that Serbian royalty visited and spoke highly of one of Lansing's churches. And incredible individuals who work every day

to improve our community. I want to extend a very heartfelt thanks to all of Lansing's residents for making 2019 an amazing year. I can't wait to see what stories 2020 brings.

PS: I also loved Jamilyn Hiskes's story covering the beard and moustache competitors who visited Lansing in October. I was able to tag along while she interviewed and photographed them, which was a fun opportunity for me to sit back and see the journalism process from a different perspective. Jamie is a great writer, and the beardos had a great time visiting our village!

Want to keep up with Lansing's story, as shared by Katie Arvia our other contributors? Subscribe to our Daily News email: thelansingjournal.com/news/subscribe

CARRIE STEINWEG CP Crawford



It's now been 20 years since I published my first piece and became a freelance writer. Each year I have the opportunity to write about a diverse range of topics for different audiences. Some of the most enjoyable articles I've written have been about local people and events in my community for The Lansing Journal. The definite standout topic from 2019 was the 112th birthday of CP Crawford, a resident of Tri-State Nursing Home (2500 175th Street).

I first covered his birthday gathering at the nursing home, which was attended by Village officials and community activist/Dolton Trustee Andrew Holmes. Several Chicago television news stations also showed up to get footage. As I did research later that evening, it seemed that CP wasn't only the oldest resident of Lansing, but also the second oldest person in Illinois, and the oldest living male in the country, although his age was

See "Highlights," page 15

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“THEY NEED TO SEE THAT THIS COMMUNITY WANTS THIS NEWSPAPER”

How do you like your Lansing news?



BY MELANIE JONGSMA,
MANAGING EDITOR

LANSING, Ill. (January 1, 2020) – If you rely solely on the print version of The Lansing Journal for local news, you are missing out.

We publish an average of 103 stories every month. Fewer than half of those end up in the monthly print edition. A printed newspaper has a limited number

of pages and a limited amount of space, so we have to make choices about what we include in each print issue.

I'm not saying that digital is better than print. I'm saying you need both. I'm inviting you to add the daily digital version of The Lansing Journal, and receive it along with your monthly print edition.

Doing this will help you, but it will also help me. How? The Lansing Journal needs to reach at least 5,000 email subscribers in order to request help from News Revenue Hub, a business whose mission is to “help local news organizations build financial sustainability—because the public deserves access to quality journalism.”

QUALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

We have been providing our readers quality journalism since we launched in 2017, but we are not yet a financially sustainable newspaper. We are at best “slightly profitable”—mainly because much of the work I and others do is volunteer.

If you value receiving the print edition of The Lansing Journal and would like to see our work continue and grow, please subscribe to the Daily News email and encourage others to subscribe—even if you prefer the print edition.

THE DIGITAL DIFFERENCE

The digital edition is free and conveniently accessed through your email. And though you may feel perfectly content with the monthly print edition, please know that the digital edition has advantages too.

For one thing, as I mentioned, we publish far more content online than we can fit in print. We publish 2–5 digital articles every day, and fewer than half of those make it into print. Sometimes we have to shorten the stories or eliminate the photos to make a story fit. But there are no space limitations online, so we can publish more news articles, and include more photos, more information, and even videos in our daily digital edition.

Also, our online stories are interactive. The links are clickable, so you can directly enroll in programs, apply for jobs, or send emails. And we include buttons that make it easy to share what you're reading. When you recognize someone in a photo, or read about an event your friends might be interested in, or want to respond to issues raised by our Village Board, Park Board, or School Boards, the online version of an article is easy to email, forward, share, and re-post.

But the main benefit we hear from our digital subscribers is simply that they like receiving local news every day. They don't want to wait a month to find out what's going on in our community; they want to see the new headlines each morning.

SUBSCRIBING TO THE DIGITAL HELPS THE PRINT

If we reach our goal of 5,000 new subscribers, and News Revenue Hub accepts us as a client, the assistance we receive will help sustain not only the daily digital edition, but also the monthly print edition. The print edition is our main source of revenue through advertising and readership contributions, but it is also our biggest expense:

- It costs \$1,449 to print 10,000 copies of a 24-page paper each month.
- It costs \$1,596 to mail each print issue to 9,000 Lansing homes and to deliver the remaining 1,000 to local distribution points.

That totals \$36,540 every year for print production and distribution.

Compare that to our digital costs:

- \$19.99/month to host our website
- \$21.24/month to distribute our daily email
- \$19.99/month for PayPal, a system that makes it safe and easy for people to give us money online.

That totals just \$734.64 per year for digital publishing and distribution.

That kind of efficiency is why News Revenue Hub chooses to focus on helping digital newspapers. But the revenue they can help us generate will support our print edition too.

If you value the monthly print editions as tangible keepsakes and as handy reference guides for community information, please know that your digital subscription will help sustain your monthly

printed newspaper.

If we do not reach our goal of 5,000 new subscribers and are unable to show News Revenue Hub that people care enough about local news to subscribe to a free email edition, they will not help The Lansing Journal. They need to see that this community wants this newspaper.

It's up to us.

SHOW THAT YOU WANT THIS NEWSPAPER

If you would like The Lansing Journal to be part of the community for many more years, this is your chance to help make that happen: Sign up for the Daily News email. Here are three ways to sign up:

1. Visit www.thelansingjournal.com/news/subscribe and follow the instructions to complete the form.
2. Send me your email address, and I will personally sign you up: mjongsma@thelansingjournal.com
3. Use the QR Scanner app on your smartphone to



scan this funny square. That will open up the subscription form on your phone.

TO SUM UP—

The Lansing Journal needs your help, and it will take you only a minute, will cost you

nothing, and will reap benefits for us and for you.

I'd like to reach 5,000 email subscribers as soon as we can because I know we need help fast. We need you—as well as your family, co-workers, and friends—to join The Lansing Journal's email list.

If all of you who say you love The Lansing Journal will sign up for the Daily News email, we can easily reach our goal.

Let's do this!

Subscribe!

“The main benefit we hear from our digital subscribers is that they like receiving local news every day. They don't want to wait a month to find out what's going on in our community.”

Thank You

The Lansing Journal is an award-winning community newspaper that publishes local news online every day and in print once a month. Both the digital and print versions are FREE because we want local news to be accessible to all. Paid advertising from the business community and contributions from generous individuals are our only source of revenue. **Please solicit the businesses whose ads you see on these pages.** And please join us in thanking this month's contributors:

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THE LANSING JOURNAL

ABOUT US
The Lansing Journal serves the Lansing, Illinois, region with community-building news and information. Our partnership with The Shopper, which has served the South Holland region since 1957, combines professional journalism, community values, and local publishing. We offer advertising opportunities for local businesses, byline opportunities for local journalists, and learning opportunities for local students. Content appearing in The Lansing Journal—in print or online—is subject to copyright laws.

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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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Lansing writer Marlene Cook sheds light on church graveyard

Newly published *History and Mystery in First Church Graveyard* available now

BY CARRIE STEINWEG

LANSING, Ill. (January 2, 2020) – If you’ve ever been stuck at a red light on Burnham Avenue and Ridge Road, you have probably peered out your window at the graveyard on the northwest corner of the intersection. And maybe you’ve noticed a grave marker with the name of Minnie Kooy, 1896–1917.

If you’ve wondered what happened that ended Minnie Kooy’s young life, you aren’t the only one. Several years ago Lansing resident Dan Bovino had that thought. He asked around to see if anyone had answers.

That’s when Marlene Cook, who has been a member of First Church PCA for 25 years, got interested. “It went up on Facebook, and people started giving me information, and I thought, ‘I wonder what the stories are of the other people that are buried there?’” she said. Bovino provided Cook with photos of all the graves that had names that could still be read. “I started researching and then got obsessed and then decided to write a book.”

History and Mystery in First Church Graveyard was published in late December. It took about three years to put together the 51-page book that accounts for those with headstones in the church’s graveyard as well as many without headstones. Cook noted that in looking at the aerial photo on the cover, it appears that space remains, but there are many graves without markers, so in reality the graveyard is full, having reached capacity in the 1960s. Cook also noted that the terms graveyard and cemetery are not one and the same. A graveyard is actually a type of cemetery that is connected to a church.

So, why was it so hard to find out what had happened to Minnie Kooy and those who lie near her? A



Marlene Cook’s *History and Mystery in First Church Graveyard* was published in December 2019. (Photo: Carrie Steinweg)

previous structure that had housed the church was destroyed by fire in 1945, and records of the burials were reduced to ashes. That meant that Cook had quite a job ahead of her. Information came from conversations, records provided by family of the deceased, newspaper obituaries, online archives, genealogy websites, and other sources.

The land for the church was purchased in 1860, and it had a number of names over the years—first known as North Creek of Thornton Holland Reformed Church, then Lansing Church, and later First Reformed Church of Lansing. Today it is known as First Church PCA. The burial ground was known as the Lansing Cemetery, which is how it was referred

to in newspaper obituaries.

To further confuse matters, at one point all but two of the church members left and started a new church further east on Ridge Road—it is now the Munster Christian Reformed Church—but the graveyard beside that church was also referred to as Lansing Cemetery. So when she’d come across an obituary, Cook would also spend time in Munster combing through burial records to determine which “Lansing Cemetery” individuals were actually buried in.

One person she talked to in doing research for the book was Pete Jansma, who dug that final grave back in 1965 (the first burial there was in 1864). He’s still a member of the church and recalled the difficulty they would have in digging down into sand. For those who were buried there, the plot was sold for \$5 and it cost \$1 to dig a grave, or 50 cents for a child.

In *History and Mystery* readers will also learn about how the graves even extend beyond the graveyard and beneath the pavement—something that was discovered during construction in the 1970s. “There are graves under the roads, and the people buried there are known only to God,” said Cook.

Cook was fascinated by learning how many of the members were farmers who worked that land along Ridge Road, and how many of their descendants still worship at the church, some being six and seven generations down the line.

History and Mystery in First Church Graveyard is available for purchase at the First Church PCA office for \$12, or Cook can be contacted at marcook@com-cast.net for a copy.

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SSC announces development of Barber College

Pending approval from Illinois Community College Board

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY SOUTH SUBURBAN COLLEGE

SOUTH HOLLAND, Ill. (December 24, 2019) – The South Suburban College (SSC) Board of Trustees unanimously approved the establishment of a new Barber College at its December 12 Board Meeting. SSC’s goal is for the Barber College to launch its first class during the Fall 2020 Semester. The program has been submitted to the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and is pending approval. Construction for a new, fully equipped barbering facility has already begun in a highly visible first-floor location at the college’s main campus in South Holland.

“We are extremely pleased by the response from the community as we researched several new programs that will be coming to South Suburban College,” said Dr. Lynette D. Stokes, SSC President. “Barbering can be a lucrative career that provides entrepreneurial opportunities. This new educational track will be much more accessible and affordable through our community college than the alternative options available to our constituents.”

Dr. Stokes said the barbering program was established in part by a Workforce Equity Initiative (WEI) grant that SSC received through the ICCB, which included funding for several new in-demand programs. The WEI project is designed to create, support, and expand short-term workforce training opportunities in high need areas within SSC District #510. Through expanded access, opportunity, and support services, the project is anticipated to yield impactful outcomes for individuals, families, communities, and local businesses.

WEI provides wrap-around services including comprehensive financial assistance and academic support to participating students within five program areas



SSC President Dr. Lynette D. Stokes (left) and Matt Beasland, Dean of Adult & Continuing Education, helped kick off construction for a new Barber College at South Suburban College in mid December. (Photo provided)

providing stackable credentials including Nursing and Patient Care Technician (PCT), Basic Nursing Assistance Training Program (BNATP), Community Healthcare Worker (CHW), and Certified Production Technician (CPT) in addition to the barbering program. Students who are not selected to participate in the grant will still benefit from the opportunity to enroll in the following new programs.

ABOUT THE CURRICULUM

The Barbering curriculum is a 12-month credit program leading to professional certification. SSC will be offering a 50-hour Barber Technician (BT) Certificate and a 65-hour Associate of Applied Science Degree in Barbering track for students seeking a college degree as a part of the program. Both

tracks will include preparation and testing for National Barbering Written Licensing Examination, which is essential to applying for licensure in Illinois.

“South Suburban College’s Barbering program will be the only active public Barber School in the state,” added Matt Beasland, Dean of Adult & Continuing Education and administrator over the Barber College. “It will provide our students with quick access to a career credential that can lead to family-sustaining wages.”

CAREER PROJECTIONS

According to data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average salary for a barber in Illinois is \$42,930, or \$20.64 per hour, with an increase in demand of 9% by 2026. In the southland area, there are currently 286 new job openings for barbers.

The Barbering program at SSC will offer programming and support

at a fraction of the cost to attend area proprietary institutions. More information about the Barber School and the WEI programs at SSC is available:

- Call 708-596-2000, x2413
- Email workforceequity@ssc.edu
- Visit www.ssc.edu/wei

ABOUT SOUTH SUBURBAN COLLEGE

South Suburban College is a community college located in South Holland, Illinois, serving 21 communities, including parts of the Chicago Southland and northwest Indiana. SSC provides a variety of support services and leadership opportunities to its students in addition to a wide range of academic program options. More information about SSC is available at www.ssc.edu.

Village of South Holland's
MARTIN LUTHER KING CELEBRATION
"A Love That Unites"

Saturday, January 11
 10:00am

First Reformed Church
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Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,
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Reception to follow.

southholland.org

Cover art by South Holland artist DaJuan Marshall

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- 708-474-1700
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LANSING CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
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OBITUARIES

BESSER

A funeral service for David H. Besser will be held Saturday, January 4, 2020, at First Reformed Church in South Holland, Illinois.

Mr. Besser was born April 3, 1961, and passed away December 16, 2019. Husband of Deanne Besser, nee Witvoet. Father of Chandra (Ray) Besser Ondrejka, Amber (Joey) Fransen and Briana Besser. Grandfather of Jeffrey and William Fransen. Brother of Doug (Dawn) Besser, Diane (Jeff) Shipley, and Dorene (Mark) Perkins. Son of Gerald and Judith Besser. Son-in-law of Harry Witvoet and the late Shirley Witvoet, nee Ritsema. Brother-in-law of Dean (Laura) Witvoet, Shary (Jim) Leonard, and Layna (Andrew) Witvoet-Van Ermen. Arrangements entrusted to Smits, DeYoung-Vroegh Funeral Home – South Holland, Illinois.

BRUNO

A Visitation for Gerald J. "Jerry" Bruno was held on December 30, 2019, at Thornridge Funeral Home.

Mr. Bruno was born August 15, 1958, and died December 26, 2019. He was the son of the late Peter "Frank" and Lucy Bruno nee Angelo; brother of David and Linda Bruno; uncle of Brigitte and Tyler; nephew of Caroline Shervino, Mary Angelo and Evelyn Angelo.

Inurnment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to Thornridge Funeral Home (Janusz Family Funeral Service), 708-460-2300 or thornridgefuneralhomes.com.

CALHOUN

A funeral service for Denise Calhoun was held Saturday, December 28, 2019, at Smits, DeYoung Vroegh Funeral Home in South Holland, Illinois.

Ms. Calhoun was born November 1, 1954,

and passed away December 18, 2019. Mother of Rachael (Daryl) Stevens. Sister of Lavonne G. (Craig) Pittman, Addie Mae (Charles) Burnette, Tommy (Phyllis) Porter, and Otis F. Porter. Sister-in-law of Bessie Porter. Grandmother of D'Mauri F. Stevens. Preceded in death by one sister, Rachael Porter, and two brothers, Nathaniel Curtis Porter and Thomas Leroy Porter. Arrangements entrusted to Smits, DeYoung-Vroegh Funeral Home – South Holland, Illinois.

KAMSTRA

A funeral service for Lindsey R. Kamstra was held Thursday, December 19, 2019, at Spirit of God Fellowship in South Holland, Illinois. Ms. Kamstra was born September 17, 1987, and passed away December 14, 2019. Mother of Jayden. Daughter of Brian and Patrice (nee Tarabori) Kamstra. Sister of Kara Kamstra and Christopher Kamstra. Arrangements entrusted to Smits, DeYoung-Vroegh Funeral Home – South Holland, Illinois.

PROVENZANO

A Memorial Service for Elia May "Mary" Provenzano will be held on January 6, 2020, at Thornridge Funeral Home with Deacon Tim Springer officiating.

Mrs. Provenzano (née Clark) was born February 13, 1925, and died December 21, 2019. She was the wife of the late Ralph S. Provenzano; mother of Jo Ann (Manfred) Schwandt, Paulette Barbick, Steve Provenzano, and Debra (Rich) Lapis; grandmother of 10, great-grandmother of 17, and great-great grandmother of 4; aunt of many nieces and nephews.

Inurnment Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to Thornridge Funeral Home (Janusz Family Funeral

Service), 708-841-2300 or thornridgefuneralhomes.com.

VANDEMERT

A funeral service for Elloise H. Vandemerkt, nee Minneman, was held Friday, December 13, 2019, at Redeemer Lutheran Church in South Holland, Illinois, with Rev. Mary Appelt-Graves officiating.

Mrs. Vandemerkt was born December 20, 1927, and passed away December 8, 2019. Wife of the late Herbert W. Vandemerkt. Mother of Christine (Daniel) Geisler, Thomas (late Nancy) Vandemerkt, and Susan (Mark) Warner. Sister of Jackie (Eldon) Buss. Preceded in death by her parents Rev. Harry and Liddy Minneman, and two sisters, Joyce Emily and Ann (Edwin) Suhs. Interment First Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery - Alsip, Illinois. Arrangements entrusted to Smits, DeYoung-Vroegh Funeral Home – South Holland, Illinois.

YOCUM

A Visitation for Gordon W. Yocum was held on December 28, 2019, at Thornridge Funeral Home.

Mr. Yocum was born April 29, 1937, and died December 23, 2019. He was the husband of the late Sharon K. Yocum (nee Miller); father of David Yocum, Barbara Yocum (Bill Vanderborg), Karen (Rickey) Patterson, Cathy (Dan) Merek, the late Beverly Vavercan, and Linda Jenkins; grandfather of 15; great grandfather of 13; uncle of Kenny Yocum.

Interment Chapel Hill Gardens South Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to Thornridge Funeral Home (Janusz Family Funeral Service), 708-841-2300 or thornridgefuneralhomes.com.

LOCAL CHURCHES

(To be added, email ericaw@myshopper.biz)

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FB: Oak Glen United Reformed Church

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Evening Worship..... 5:00pm

IDFPR announces military liaison to help military families obtain professional licenses

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

CHICAGO, Ill. (December 29, 2019) – IDFPR announced it has hired its first military liaison, a position designed to help military members and their spouses obtain professional licenses.

The liaison will directly help service members and their spouses navigate the licensure process and will work with Department staff and military officials to enhance communication and improve the overall application process for service members and spouses.

Starting January 1, 2020, professional and occupational license applications from service members and their spouses will be expedited for review and determination of licensure within 60 days of IDFPR's receipt of all necessary documents. Additional licensing information for service members and their spouses may be found here.

"We want to ensure that military members and their families are provided with licensure resources they need to begin working in their chosen profession or occupation in Illinois," said Deborah Hagan, Secretary of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

Gov. JB Pritzker signed the law creating the military liaison position and the expedited application review process for service members and their spouses on August 9, 2019.

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Help Wanted

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WANTED: Diabetic Test Strips Freestyle Lite One Touch Accu-Chek Contour and Others, Must be sealed, unopened, unexpired, unused boxes. 708-474-3941

WANTED: Don't throw it away! I am buying old stuff. Toys, signs, advertising, oil cans, and much more. Please call or text Doug. 219-616-9342

Autos and Vehicles

Jeep Cherokee 1999. V8, Black, factory bought, One-owner, fully loaded, original miles 28,300mi. Mint condition, garage kept, no rust. Asking \$5,000, black leather seats. 708-786-4927

2009 Chevy Cobalt LT, 4dr. good miles, \$3200; 2005 Chrysler Pacifica Sunroof \$220; 2003 Oldsmobile Alero 4dr. \$1500. Call 708-474-0957

For sale: 2014 Toyota Yaris, 2dr. Silver 70,000 miles, \$7000. Great condition, new tires, brakes, battery, belts and more. So. Holland. 708-381-9646

2014 Chevy Malibu LS, Gold, \$6,987. Call Bob 855-949-6000

For sale: 2015 Chevy Cruze LTZ Red, \$10,587. Call Bob 855-949-6000

For sale: 2017 Chevy Sonic LT Dark Pewter Titanium \$12,587. Call Bob 855-949-6000

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For sale: 2012 Ford Escape XLS Red, \$8,987. Call Bob 855-949-6000

Misc Items For Sale

Sale. Sale. Sale. All new factory to you Furniture sale. Mattresses: twin \$88, full \$98, queen \$138. Bunk beds, futons, day beds \$178. 5 pc dinette \$179. Sofa LV \$495. 4 pc. bdrm \$495. Lamps, rugs & more. EZ credit \$3,000, 90 days same as cash. Free layaway. 708-371-3737, www.factorybeddingfurniture.com Like us on facebook

Ski/fishing pole container for car roof, Thule brand, paid \$400, sell for \$200. 708-418-0725

Ethan Allen wing back chair \$70; Ethan Allen old sofa \$100 obo; heavy duty universal bed frame \$15. 708-481-6907

Full size futon mattress cover (new) \$10. 708-481-6907

White tear drop store shelving, 54" high, 48" long with two 15", 17", 19", 22" shelves per unit with white peg board backing, \$20 a section. Bob 708-339-1708

Solid maple side table \$30; occasional squire 26" dark wood table, 2 tier \$50; assorted decorative mirrors \$12-\$25. 708-481-6907

Estate Sale: Furniture: dining room \$400; sofa \$75; occasional chairs \$50 ea; wood tv stand \$50; tables \$20 ea; coffee table, leaded glass \$75; recliner. 708-717-6134

Oak kitchen/ dining table, 60x24 with 6 chairs and 2 leafs, table pads included, exc. cond. Please leave message 219-227-9788

Nordic Track Pro Exerciser, like new \$200. 312-218-0893

Oxygen, acetylene, tanks, torches, hose, on cart, new \$350, sell for \$150 obo. 708-837-9814

Wooden pallets 48" x 40", good cond., all 6 for \$15. 773-785-7247

Decorative old fashion lamp post, 6 ft. tall, black plastic, electric light \$15. 773-785-7247

mens steel toe boots. size 9. brand new. \$55.00 amazon has them for \$90.00 219-895-0001

For sale: 2 Gold slipper chairs, new must go, any reasonable price accepted. 708-339-2412

Vento one Llanta Nueva para cadillac 1995 ring 15 80 Conpro camara para sacar peliculas VCR. 708-418-3354

Womens 2 piece gown, XL (size 18) beaded jacket, long satin skirt, never worn, tag say over \$200. \$30. 708-862-5323

3 piece bedroom set, headboard (twin), footboard and mirror. 847-293-9300



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For Sale: Xmas heavy duty icicle lights, 14 sets new&used. 4 candle lights & 6 sets mini lights. 708-474-9495

BEDROOM SET: Full-size dresser \$200, Mirror \$50, Chest \$100, Night stands \$50 each, Headboard \$35. 708-333-2164

For sale: Full length gray beaver coat, size 12. Good condition, asking \$230 paid \$3800 very warm. Palos Hills. 708-974-1674

A&W root beer, large mug \$5, rare baby size A&W mug \$5; Nascar racing clock 10 in. diameter \$7. 708-837-9814

Free cut firewood, wood must be loaded and picked up. 708-717-6134

For sale: Oak bedroom set, dresser, chest, night stands, king bed with mattress springs included. Exc. cond. Leave msg. 219-227-9788

Vintage license plates 1950 through 1975 \$4 and up, make a deal for all. 708-837-9814

Generator 1000 watts, new never opened in box, new \$125 sell for \$80 obo. 708-837-9814

PORTABLE TV STAND: Black, Brass trim, 2" Wheels, 28"W x 17"D x 21-1/2"H, 1-Door. Solid & durable. \$25 o.b.o. 708-333-2164

SOFA END & SIDE TABLES: Three, Dark brown, 26"W x 26"D x 20-1/4"H, 2-Doors, Solid & durable. \$100 o.b.o. 708-333-2164

For sale: Lawn tuts looks new garanty \$50; two spring garage doors, new \$105. 708-418-3354

For Sale: Sunbeam 7 speed heavy duty food processor \$15.00, 2 16lb. Columbia 300 bowling balls exl. cond. \$15.00ea. 708-474-9495

Large over the dresser mirror \$15; Ethan Allen maple chair (desk or kitchen) \$20; folding walker with wheels \$20. 708-481-6907

Decorative fireplace screen with winter scene, 38" tall, three sections wide, very nice \$20. 773-785-7247

COCKTAIL TABLE: Medium brown oak frame, curved legs, decorative beveled glass top, 42-1/8"W x 42-1/8"L x 17-3/8"H. \$50 708-333-2164

Bath chair \$20; colonial braided rugs \$10-\$30; assorted luggage \$5-\$10 ea. 708-481-6907

Michelin Defender tire 225/60 R16 mounted on Ford 16" rim, 10,000 miles on tire, exc. cond. \$75. 773-785-7247

HEADBOARD: Full-size, white tubes 1-1/2" & 3/4", brass ball ends, 60"W x 39"H \$35 708-333-2164

1000's of Dollar Store items, great for flea market 35 cents to 40 cents ea. pc., sold by the skid. Bob 708-717-6134

"Morse" model FA-630 free art deluxe sewing machine \$25; vintage side table by "John Widdicob" Co. \$35 obo. 708-481-6907

Toro electric snow shovel, model S-120, 12 inches wide, perfect for small area and steps \$35. 773-785-7247

Toro power curve electric snow blower, model 38-25, exc. cond. \$70. 773-785-7247

Tire P205/70 R15 used only 5,000 miles. Mounted on Dodge/ Chrysler wheel, \$35. 773-785-7247

Automobile tire P205/ 75R14 white wall, mounted on rim brand new never used \$27. 773-785-7247

Assorted rugs, different sizes, \$10-\$60; medical scrubs, uniforms, \$2 ea. pc. 708-481-6907

3 pc. Fiesta canister set \$30 obo; assorted colors Fiesta dinner ware \$3-\$5 ea. pc. 708-481-6907

Early Pyrex dishes (pastel colors) \$3 ea pc; Pyrex bowls and bake ware \$3-\$5 ea pc.; Assorted Corning ware \$3-\$5 ea. pc. 708-481-6907

Johnsons Bros. white English Ironstone set of dishes (64 pcs) \$40 obo; Villeroy & Boch hotel plates (white): 4 charger plates, \$3 ea, 9 dinner plates, \$2 ea. 708-481-6907

Champagne and wine glasses (crystal) 6 for \$10; small kitchen appliances: Keurig coffee maker, juicer, toaster, blender, etc. \$5-\$10 ea. 708-481-6907

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LANSING VOICES

Making schools safer



BY ELVIS SLAUGHTER, MSCJ

On December 12, 2019, I was fortunate to attend the conference “Preparing for and Responding to Active School Threats” held in Dallas, Texas. The School Safety Advocacy Council (SSAC), Frontier Commu-

nications, and Police Chief Tim Enos of the Sarasota County School District Police provided the training. Common Sense School Safety, Safer Schools through Technology, and Preparing for and Managing Tragedy were three topics presented through lecture, presentation, PowerPoint, and technology displays.

It is impossible to stop and prevent all incidents. Creating a comprehensive targeted violence prevention plan, which would greatly reduce the opportunity of a violent attack, is an invaluable common-sense school safety priority. Other considerations to mandate are fostering a climate of respect and trust through a pro-social relationship, building trusting relations between adults and students, and promoting an environment in which students feel comfortable sharing information. A threat assessment team should be formed and maintained strictly according to US Homeland Security recommendations, using their templates and surveys. Because of limited resources, schools must be creative and take advantage of public funding and grant opportunities local, state,

and federal agencies offer.

Frontier Communications, offering technology to help K-12 and higher education meet key safety challenges, introduced emergency notification systems and emerging technology. One key item was a modern emergency notification system that can notify your entire staff, emergency responders, students, and parents with a click of a button. This system is preprogramed and can send text, phone calls, and information to TV screens and billboards. They also offered cyber security protection and school security access control systems that can detect unlawful entry by sex offenders and criminals to school grounds. There are also cameras with facial recognition and a technology system that can detect and describe the weapon a person is concealing.

Preparing for and managing tragedy was a key part of the conference training. The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting incident in Parkland, Florida, was a valuable teaching lesson. It took law enforcement up to 12 minutes to enter the building where Nikolas Cruz shot and killed 17 students and staff. A school security officer observed Mr. Cruz entering the building through an unlocked gate and unlocked school door with a large black bag. No alarm was sounded or code red called. People were killed on the first floor and third floor. The second floor was spared because after hearing gunshots, they locked themselves in classrooms. Mr. Cruz had made threats by social media and telling colleagues he would shoot up a school. He also made a video outlining his plan. The FBI was notified about Mr. Cruz’s social media posts, but the ball was dropped, and Mr. Cruz carried out his plan. This could have been prevented if a threat assessment team were active and proactive.

Conclusion: One safety goal is to slow the bad person down, speed police response, and use the best defense available. Technology and training are available to help

achieve those goals. Florida created State Law SB7030 in response to the Parkland school shooting. This law requires all schools in Florida to have an armed person on school grounds while school is in session. Monthly active shooter training and many other items, including technology designed to enhance school safety, are included in this lengthy law. According to Police Chief Enos, 72% of students bullied are more likely to bring a gun to school. Therefore, a strong anti-bullying policy must be in place and strongly enforced. The SRO, threat assessment team, and administrators must take corrective actions immediately.

The SSAC has partnered with many organizations, including the US Secret Service and the FBI National Academy, over the years. No training in school safety is a fatal problem, and the wrong training can be a much bigger problem. Evidently, from interaction with educators, more people believe than disbelieve a shooting will not occur at their school. Maintaining a safe learning environment is everyone’s responsibility, including the school board, administrators, educators, support staff, and the community. With that in mind, I congratulate Dr. Teresa A. Lance, and TFD215 school district for recently forming a threat assessment team.

Elvis Slaughter
Lansing, Illinois

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. Send your submissions to The Lansing Journal with “Voices” in the subject line.

Lansing Voices is our version of “Letters to the Editor.” The opinions posted here are those of the writer, and posting them does not indicate endorsement by The Lansing Journal.

EXCLUSIVE CONTENT FOR DIGITAL SUBSCRIBERS

Unique video released as part of ongoing police-teen relationship-building

BY JOSH BOOTSMA

LANSING, Ill. (December 2019) - A video entitled “What To Do When Stopped By The Police” will be making its debut at TF South High School in 2020, the final step in a collaborative process between the Village, the Lansing Police Department, and TF South that started in July of 2018.

The video was an item specified in the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Village of Lansing, the Lansing Police Department and the Lansing Community Coalition. The video exhibits best practices for dealing with real-life police interactions

and includes an open discussion between Lansing police officers and TF South students.

The Lansing Journal will be publishing a story about this video—as well as a link to view it—online in the next few weeks. Because of the nature of this story, it will be digital-exclusive content and will not appear in any future print editions.

To be sure you don’t miss this important piece of Lansing news, subscribe to our Daily News emails. Subscribing is easy, and accessing important content like this is even

easier—it will appear every morning in your email inbox!

Scan the QR code at right or visit www.thelansingjournal.com/news/subscribe to ensure you get the latest on Lansing’s community policing video and other important Lansing news.



The cast of Lansing’s new video, “What to do When Stopped by the Police,” includes actual Lansing police officers and actual students from TF South High School. Sequanaka McKinney, who graduated last year, introduces the video.

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Isaiah 43:19: “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

Sauk Village student awarded four-year Yale scholarship

Marian Catholic student John Hatcher among those chosen from nearly 15,000 applicants

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY MARIAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

CHICAGO HEIGHTS, Ill. (December 25, 2019) – Marian Catholic High School announced that senior John Hatcher of Sauk Village, Illinois, is one of only 1,127 top high school seniors selected to receive a full four-year scholarship and admission to the nation's top colleges through the Questbridge National College Match Program. Out of 14,926 applicants, Questbridge selected 5,842 finalists for consideration for the Match Scholarship. Of those finalists, 1,127 outstanding students were selected as this year's Match Scholarship Recipients, including Hatcher, who was awarded a scholarship to Yale.

Match Scholarship Recipients are admitted early to QuestBridge college partners with full four-year scholarships that are provided by the colleges and universities, ensuring that education at a top college is affordable for high-achieving, low-income students and their families. QuestBridge's 40 college partners include liberal arts colleges such as Amherst, Pomona, and Williams; and exceptional research universities such as Columbia, Duke, Rice, Stanford, and Yale. The Match Scholarship is offered as part

of a generous financial aid package provided by the college, which covers the full cost of attendance, including tuition, room and board, books and supplies, and travel expenses.

"This year's record number of Match Scholarship Recipients truly reflects the commitment of our college partners to support all students, regardless of their family's financial background," said Ana McCullough, CEO and Co-Founder of QuestBridge. "As a result, highly deserving, low-income students can dream big and reach their full potential."

A member of Marian Catholic's speech team, Hatcher has distinguished himself as an advocate for those in need and an activist against the injustice he sees. In the fall of 2018, in front of city officials and citizens, Hatcher spoke at the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's ON TO 2050 event to share his perspective on how Chicago could become a more safe, secure, and just place. As one of his teachers noted, "John uses his education as a vehicle to share his passions and insights with the world. Everything he does has a specific purpose and intent: make the world a better and more understanding place.... I know John is destined for greatness."

All finalists who ultimately matriculate to



John Hatcher (Photo provided)

QuestBridge college partners join the QuestBridge Scholars Network, which provides ongoing support and engagement opportunities. The QuestBridge Scholars Network and Alumni Association now includes over 16,000 current college students and graduates worldwide.

Marian Catholic High School is located at 700 Ashland Avenue in Chicago Heights, Illinois.

Illinois EPA removes more than 1,200 tons of waste tires from A & V Tire Recycling

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

CHICAGO HEIGHTS, Ill. (December 25, 2019) – Illinois EPA Director John J. Kim announced the completion of a forced used tire removal action at A & V Tire Recycling, located at 739 East 217th Street in Chicago Heights, an Environmental Justice area in Cook County. Illinois EPA has authority under the Illinois Environmental Protection Act to carry out forced removals when an accumulation of used or waste tires poses a threat to public health or the environment. The forced removal action, completed in cooperation with the Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability, began on November 14 and was completed on November 26, 2019. A total of 1,244.85 tons of used/waste tires (the equivalent of 110,650 passenger tires) were removed from the property at a cost of \$541,121.27.

"Improperly stored waste tires are a fire hazard and can serve as a breeding ground for disease-carrying mosquitoes, creating environmental and public health threats," said Director Kim. "The Illinois EPA will continue to regulate the proper storage and management of used tires in Illinois and will continue to conduct forced removal action when used or waste tires threaten residents and our environment."

The site's operators, Wilmer Cruz and Victor Ramires, and the site owner, ROLLCO Inc., allowed the accumulation of used or waste tires at the site in anticipation of operating a commercial used tire processing facility. However, no permit application was filed with the Illinois EPA, and the owner and operators did not respond to a Violation Notice issued by Illinois EPA. The Illinois EPA issued a removal notice pursuant to Section 55.3(d) of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act to the site owner

and operators providing them the opportunity to undertake the necessary corrective action prior to the Illinois EPA conducting the forced removal. In addition to conducting the forced removal action the Illinois EPA may seek to recover costs associated with the forced removal.

Although the owner and operators did not respond to the removal notice issued by Illinois EPA, the property owner did voluntarily sign a Consent for Access to Real Property, allowing the Illinois EPA voluntary access to the property to conduct the forced removal action. This is the second forced removal action completed by Illinois EPA in the past two years. In 2018, the Illinois EPA completed a forced removal of more than 4,600 tons of waste tires at S.T.A.R. Used Tire Disposal in Rockford.



A total of 1,244.85 tons of used/waste tires were removed from A & V Tire Recycling, 739 East 217th Street in Chicago Heights. (Photo provided)

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December news from the Lansing Police Department

Armed robbery suspects apprehended and charged

LANSING, Ill. (December 11, 2019) – On December 9, 2019, at approximately 6:18pm, the Lansing Police Department responded to the Subway located at 17749 Torrence Avenue for the report of an Armed Robbery that had just occurred.

Officers learned that two African American males entered the store with handguns and took an undetermined amount of money from the business and fled on foot. A Hammond K-9 officer responded to the scene and assisted in a track that led to the 2800 block of 179th Street. Further investigation led officers to an address on that block where they established a perimeter and negotiated the surrender of two suspects. Recovered from the scene were proceeds from the armed robbery including weapons and the cash drawer.

After working with the Cook County State's

Attorney, the following subjects were charged with armed robbery:

- Wanya Webb (08/29/99), last address: Chicago
- Anthony Owens (07/18/98), last address: Chicago

Shots fired at Hooter's restaurant

LANSING, Ill. (December 27, 2019) – On December 26, 2019, at approximately 9:30pm, the Lansing Police Department responded to reports of shots fired inside and outside Hooter's restaurant located at 17060 Torrence Ave.

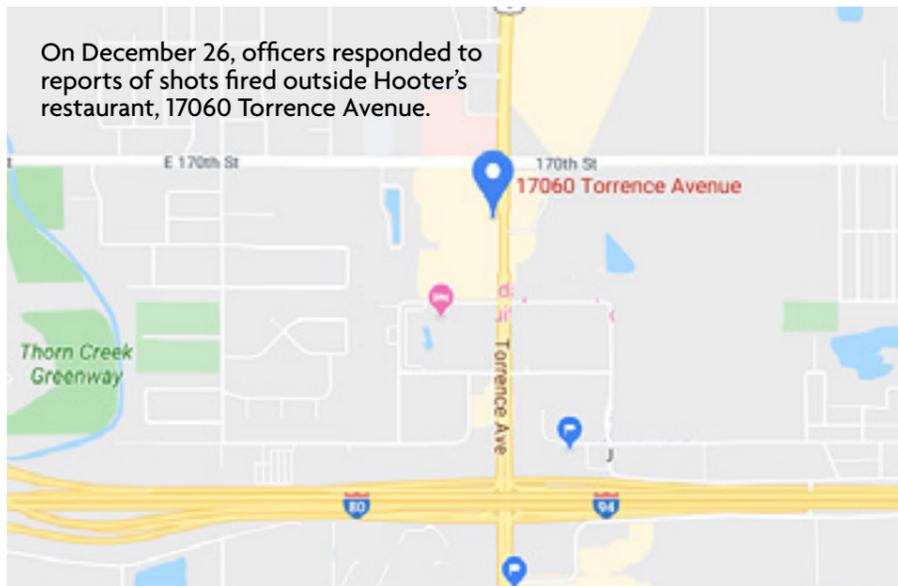
As officers arrived on scene it was learned that the incident had occurred in the parking lot and not inside the restaurant. Further investigation revealed that an unknown offender

began shooting at two subjects as they exited the restaurant. One of the subjects, who has a valid carry and conceal permit to carry a firearm, returned fire at the offender. A brief exchange of gunfire took place before the offender fled in a silver vehicle.

The Lansing Police Department's Criminal Investigations Division is investigating this incident. At this time, the preliminary investigation has revealed this as an isolated incident, and no one was injured.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Lansing Police Department's non-emergency number at 708-895-7150.

The Lansing Police Department is headquartered at 2710 E 170th Street, Lansing, Illinois.



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Department of Recreational Services

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The South Holland Department of Recreational Services is accepting applications for the following part-time positions:

- Juice Bar Attendant
- Maintenance
- Fitness Center/Gym Attendant
- Lifeguard
- Summer Camp Counselor
- Rental Associate
(Bi-lingual skills preferred)

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- Ability to carry out oral and written instructions

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Employment applications are currently available at the Village of South Holland Personnel Services, 16226 Wausau Avenue, South Holland, 9:00am-5:00pm – Monday through Friday.

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El Censo 2020 beneficia a los hispanos de Lansing

Los miembros del comité trabajan para disipar mitos y explicar los beneficios

POR JENNIFER PALLAY (TRADUCCIÓN PROPORCIONADA POR MARTHA VARGAS)

LANSING, Ill. (1 de enero, 2020) – Al igual que muchos residentes de Lansing, los hispanos de Lansing pueden no estar familiarizados con el proceso del censo y no tienen claro el por qué los datos del censo son tan importantes. Además, algunos hispanos pueden que tengan que lidiar con las barreras del idioma y la preocupación sobre preguntas acerca de su estatus legal.

Los miembros del Comité de conteo completo de Lansing, incluidos Miguel Gutiérrez, Martha Vargas y Verónica Reyes, están trabajando en formas de tratar con estos temores y comunicar la información correcta sobre el censo. Tres puntos importantes que quieren enfatizar son:

1. La información del censo estará disponible en docenas de idiomas, incluyendo el español.
2. No se harán preguntas sobre su estatus legal.
3. Los datos recaudados del censo no pueden ser compartidas con instituciones migratorias.

La agregación de una pregunta de ciudadanía al censo apareció en los titulares de noticias nacionales hace varios meses, pero la Corte Suprema votó para bloquear la adición de dicha pregunta. Gutiérrez dijo que la noticia todavía no ha llegado a muchos en la comunidad.

"Hay temor sobre el uso de los datos con tantas noticias acerca de las deportaciones," dijo Reyes.

"Yo les diría a las personas que no tengan miedo," dijo Gutiérrez. "No hay nada que perder, pero hay mucho que ganar."

OTRAS PREOCUPACIONES

Adicionalmente, los residentes pueden que estén acostumbrados a la corrupción en algunos de los países latinoamericanos y no comprender la importancia de obtener los datos precisos durante el censo, dijo Gutiérrez. "No saben cómo esto les beneficia. Creo que necesitamos informarles sobre cómo esto nos ayudará a todos".

Vargas dijo que completar el censo en

De izquierda a derecha: Miguel Gutiérrez, Martha Vargas y Verónica Reyes son miembros del Comité de conteo completo de Lansing. Se reunieron en La Michoacana Compi (19283 Burnham Avenue) para discutir las razones por las cuales los hispanos podrían ser reacios a participar en el Censo 2020. (Foto: Jennifer Pallay)

México no tiene la misma importancia que en los Estados Unidos. En los Estados Unidos, el gobierno federal utiliza los resultados del censo para determinar cómo fluyen miles de millones de dólares en fondos a los estados y las comunidades cada año. Si las personas en Illinois eligen no completar el censo, el gobierno creará que nuestra población es más baja, por lo que designará menos fondos para nuestro estado.

AYUDANDO A LOS NEGOCIOS

Las grandes empresas utilizan los datos del censo para tomar decisiones sobre dónde abrirán nuevos negocios. Si un pueblo como Lansing muestra crecimiento, es más probable que las empresas vengan aquí. Y los datos específicos de la población, como la edad, los ingresos y origen étnico, pueden afectar los tipos de negocios que eligen abrir y cerrar.

Los dueños de negocios hispanos pueden no darse cuenta de que ellos también tienen acceso a estos datos del censo y que esto puede ayudarles, dijo Reyes.

"Los hispanos nos vamos más por datos visuales que por números", dijo. Por ejemplo, si un residente hispano está considerando abrir un negocio, buscará clientes potenciales en el vecindario en lugar de mirar los datos del Censo.

INCREMENTANDO SERVICIOS

La información demográfica recopilada a través del Censo 2020 incluye información de edad y género. Esto es importante para los hospitales cuando, por ejemplo, están determinando si agregar más salas de maternidad o geriatras.

Los datos del censo pueden ayudar a Lansing a planificar más viviendas para los de 55 o más y viviendas

unifamiliares. Y, relacionadamente, los datos pueden ayudar al Distrito de Parques de Lan-Oak a tomar decisiones sobre cuáles de los parques de Lansing necesitan equipos de juegos y cuáles necesitan senderos para caminar o áreas de picnic accesibles para sillas de ruedas.

AYUDA A LAS IGLESIAS A AYUDAR A OTROS

Las iglesias de Lansing pueden usar los datos del censo para garantizar que sus programas satisfagan las necesidades reales, para planificar nuevos programas o para encontrar voluntarios. Los datos del censo pueden mostrar, por ejemplo, una población significativa de personas mayores que viven solas, el aumento de familias jóvenes, o el aumento de hogares con dos ingresos, lo cual indica una posible necesidad de programas extraescolares.

AGREGA PERSONAL BILINGÜE

Los datos del censo también afectan a las escuelas. "Creo que las escuelas son uno de los servicios más importantes que se nos ofrecen", dijo Gutiérrez. "[Los datos precisos del censo] podrían significar más servicios bilingües para ayudar a los padres". Mientras que las escuelas de Lansing han realizado grandes mejoras en esta área en los últimos años, aun se necesita más asistencia.

Si el censo registra con precisión la cantidad de hispanohablantes en Lansing, eso podría significar más trabajadores bilingües en los campos de emergencia en la aldea, tales como los despachadores del 911, los oficiales de policía y los técnicos de emergencias médicas, dijo Reyes.

INCREMENTANDO LA PARTICIPACIÓN

Los residentes de Lansing tendrán la oportunidad de participar en el Censo de los Estados Unidos 2020 a partir de finales de marzo de 2020. El Comité de Conteo Completo está discutiendo ideas sobre la celebración de una Fiesta del Censo bilingüe para hispanos y otras personas que prefieran completar el formulario en compañía de amigos y vecinos. La Biblioteca Pública de Lansing tendrá personal y computadoras disponibles para ayudar a las personas a completar el Censo 2020 en línea.

From left: Miguel Gutierrez-Vargas, Martha Vargas, and Veronica Reyes are members of Lansing's Complete Count Committee. They met at La Michoacana Compi (19283 Burnham Avenue) to discuss the reasons why Hispanics might be reluctant to participate in Census 2020. (Photo: Jennifer Pallay)



Census 2020 can benefit Lansing Hispanics

Committee members work to dispel myths and explain benefits

BY JENNIFER PALLAY

LANSING, Ill. (January 1, 2020) – Like many Lansing residents, Lansing Hispanics may be unfamiliar with the census process and unclear on why census data are important. In addition, Hispanics may deal with language barriers and suspicions about citizenship questions.

Members of Lansing's Complete Count Committee—including Miguel Gutierrez, Martha Vargas, and Veronica Reyes—are working on ways to address these fears and communicate correct information. Three important facts they want to stress are:

1. Census information will be available in dozens of languages, including Spanish.
2. There will be no citizenship questions asked.
3. Census data is not shared with immigration institutions.

Adding a citizenship question to the census made national news headlines several months ago, but the Supreme Court voted to block the addition of such a question. Gutierrez said that news has not reached many in the community.

"They fear what the data will be used for with so many news stories about deportation," Reyes said.

"I would tell people to not be afraid," Gutierrez said. "There isn't anything to lose. There is only to gain."

OTHER CONCERNS

In addition, residents may be accustomed to corruption in Latin American countries and not understand the importance of having accurate data gathered during the census, said Gutierrez. "They don't see a benefit to them. I think we need to get the information out about how this will help them and help all of us."

THE BENEFITS OF DATA

Vargas said completing the census in Mexico does not have the same significance it does in the United States. In the US, the federal government uses census results to determine how billions of dollars in funding flow into states and communities each year. If people in Illinois choose not to complete the census, the government will believe our population is lower, so they will designate fewer funds to our state.

HELPING BUSINESSES

In addition, large businesses use census data to make decisions about where they will open new stores. If a village like Lansing shows growth, businesses are more likely to come here. And specific population data—such as age, income, ethnicity—can impact the types of businesses that choose to open and close.

Hispanic business owners may not realize that they too have access to census data and it can help them, Reyes said.

"Hispanics go more by visual data than numbers," she said. For example, if a Hispanic resident is considering opening a business, he or she will look around the neighborhood for prospective customers rather than looking at census data.

INCREASING SERVICES

The demographic information compiled through the 2020 Census includes age and gender information. This is important when hospitals, for example, are determining whether to add more maternity wards or geriatricians.

Census data can help Lansing plan more 55+ housing or single family homes. And, relatedly, data can help Lan-Oak Park District make decisions about

which of Lansing's neighborhood parks need playground equipment and which need walking paths or wheelchair-accessible picnic areas.

HELPING CHURCHES HELP OTHERS

Lansing churches can use census data to ensure their programs are meeting actual needs, or to plan new programs, or to find volunteers. Census data might show, for example, a significant population of senior citizens who live alone, or an increase in young families, or an increase in households with two incomes—indicating a potential need for after-school programs.

ADDING BILINGUAL STAFF

Census data affects schools too. "Schools I believe are one of the most important services offered to us," Gutierrez said. "[Accurate census data] could mean more bilingual services to help parents." While Lansing schools have made big improvements in this area the past few years, assistance is still needed.

If the census accurately records the amount of Spanish-speakers in Lansing, it could mean more bilingual workers in the emergency fields in the village such as 911 dispatchers, police officers and EMTs, Reyes said.

INCREASING PARTICIPATION

Lansing residents have the opportunity to participate in the 2020 United States Census starting in late March 2020. The Complete Count Committee is discussing ideas about having a bilingual Census Fiesta for Hispanics and others who might prefer to fill out the form in the company of friends and neighbors. The Lansing Public Library will have staff and computers available for helping people complete the 2020 Census online.



License plate recognition cameras will be installed at 173rd and Torrence, 176th and Torrence, and Ridge and Wentworth (shown above). The Lansing Police Department has benefited from these cameras in other municipalities and hopes installing them in Lansing will make it easier to catch criminals passing through three of Lansing's more heavily used intersections. The cameras are designed to read license plates and capture car descriptions and will aid Lansing Police in identifying vehicles of interest that are leaving or entering Lansing. They will not be used to monitor traffic violations. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

License plate recognition camera installation delayed

BY JOSH BOOTSMA

LANSING, Ill. (December 19, 2019) – On October 1, the Lansing Village Board of Trustees approved the Lansing Police Department's request to purchase and install license plate recognition cameras at three Lansing intersections, with hopes to install the cameras before the end of the year. During the Village Board Committee of the Whole meeting on December 17, Police Chief Dennis Murrin shared that the installation of the cameras has been delayed, but is still expected to occur in the next few months.

The cameras are designed to read license plates and capture car descriptions and will aid Lansing Police in identifying vehicles of interest that are leaving or entering Lansing. They will not be used to monitor traffic violations.

According to Murrin, the cause for the delay is a form from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) that the department was unaware of. The form is the Environmental and Historic Preservation Screening form, which helps FEMA determine the effects of various projects on the environment and historic properties.

Murrin said on Tuesday night that the form had been submitted, but will likely take 30-45 days to be approved.

"We do have the equipment coming in, so we should be able to hit the ground running once we get that [approval]," Murrin told the Board of Trustees.

Cameras will be installed at 173rd and Torrence, 176th and Torrence, and Ridge and Wentworth. The Lansing Police Department has benefited from these cameras in other municipalities and hopes installing them in Lansing will make it easier to catch criminals passing through three of Lansing's more heavily used intersections.

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Lessons learned through Lansing's first year with Fox Pointe

Podgorski: "That venue is going to keep Lansing relevant"

"It's such a beautiful venue," said Hairbanger's Ball keyboardist and vocalist Polly Pantz during the first Wednesday Night Concert of 2019. The weather cooperated beautifully that night. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma, 5/29/19)



BY JAMILYN HISKES

LANSING, Ill. (December 31, 2019) – "We're in the concert business now," said Village Administrator Dan Podgorski in a conversation about Fox Pointe and its first full season. "We're in the entertainment business. That's a unique position for a municipality to be in. We're learning right along with everybody else, and we're interested in the feedback. The operational policies are still being formed, and they probably always will be."

"We went into this ambitiously," added Village Communications Director Ken Reynolds, who has been deeply involved in the planning and execution of Fox Pointe's vision since its conception. "A lot of venues when they start up don't go out and book two dozen or more events, so that was either incredibly foolish or incredibly smart depending on your perspective. We think what it did was give us 25 trial runs."

CONCERNS IDENTIFIED

The two main concerns for Fox Pointe's first season that were identified after Autumn Fest 2018 were parking and noise levels—particularly for the venue's immediate neighbors. But Reynolds said he was pleased when there were "very, very" limited calls to complain about parking and "overwhelmingly positive" feedback regarding noise.

"We clearly have enough parking with the crowds we're having, and it'll get better with the new lots we've established," Podgorski added.

Fox Pointe Director Tony Troncozo said the most frequent complaints he heard throughout the season were about the length of lines at the concessions building and the price of drinks. Improvements to that building, as well as potentially eliminating tickets as a form of payment, should help to streamline that process going forward.

PROTECTING THE VENUE (AND THE PEOPLE)

However, most of the Village's concerns involve better protecting Fox Pointe like the multi-million-dollar investment it is. That goal is one of the main things being worked towards for the venue's future.

Security footage from the venue shows kids and teenagers skateboarding on the stage and climbing up the rails. As a result of incidents like those, security enhancements have been added—additional cameras and removable fencing to enclose the venue's perimeter.

Podgorski said that while he wants to maintain the community aspect of Fox Pointe, there are limits.

"Now that we're seeing that people think it's a park, we're trying to convey that it's not," he said. "You wouldn't be able to roll up to Hollywood Casino Amphitheater in Tinley Park and just hang out there. There's a lot of these things we're still talking through, because this is our first year."

Reynolds added that this doesn't mean these "perimeter enhancements" will be imposing or close off Fox Pointe entirely when there isn't an event taking place. Posted public hours, similar to those at a forest preserve or other public park, are being discussed

so community members would still be able to take morning jogs through the venue or stop at the pavilion to eat lunch during their break from work.

"We're not going to be out there with armed guards," Reynolds said. "Still, it's important to try and maintain what the vision was of this place, that it's open to the community in hours where it can be regulated."

THREE OTHER GOALS

More marketing, permanent signage, and the development of an official logo for Fox Pointe are three more big goals the village will be working towards. Reynolds mentioned the potential installation of a sign on Ridge Road near Henry Street, as well as a deal in the works for billboard space along I-80. An identifying sign at the main entrance, as well as a streamlined street corner signs with the current week's event are also being discussed.

The financial impact of Fox Pointe on the nearby Ridge Road businesses and the village as a whole is an unavoidable topic as well. The potential for Fox Pointe to be an economic driver and an attractor of new, modern businesses—such as wine bars, microbreweries, and restaurants—is huge.

"The old TV-video store at 3414 [Ridge Road] to me is screaming for a wine bar or restaurant of some sort," Podgorski said. "It's got the flower pots and the benches outside, and it leads right into Fox Pointe. How could you not want to put an eatery there? Some people might choose to sit and watch the concerts from there. ...It just takes a couple businesses to transform the way people look at [Ridge Road]."

IMPACT ON BUSINESSES

The changes have already started. Troncozo said he's personally seen and heard about the venue's impact on local businesses.

"I was talking to a bartender at Kilroy's, and he's depressed now because his Wednesdays are dead," Troncozo said. "He said this is the best summer he's seen in the five years he's been there."

Resident Kim Foster attended the November 5 board meeting and outlined her plans to completely revamp the former CJ Frank building (3425 Ridge Road) into a new business because of Fox Pointe.

"I really wanted to do something that complements the clock tower and Fox Pointe," she told the Village Board.

Podgorski said he has high hopes for what Ridge Road can become in support of, and as a result of, Fox Pointe's impact.

"You get that couple from Orland or Naperville or

Crown Point that drives through here and they have a great time at Fox Pointe," Podgorski said, "and they walk up to Ridge Road and see One Trick Pony and all the places you can stop and hang out, and they go home and say, 'Hey, Lansing's kind of cool. Let's go back.'"

A GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION

Reynolds expanded on that metaphor by illustrating the importance Fox Pointe and Ridge Road could have on the first impression someone gets of Lansing as a village.

"[Fox Pointe] looks and plays like a premiere destination, which is what we want it to be, and we still have work to do" Reynolds said. "If Joe Smith from Frankfort comes to an event, when he leaves, we want him to say, 'Wow, you've got to go check out Fox Pointe in Lansing.' We get one shot at that."

PAID CONCERTS AND FREE CONCERTS

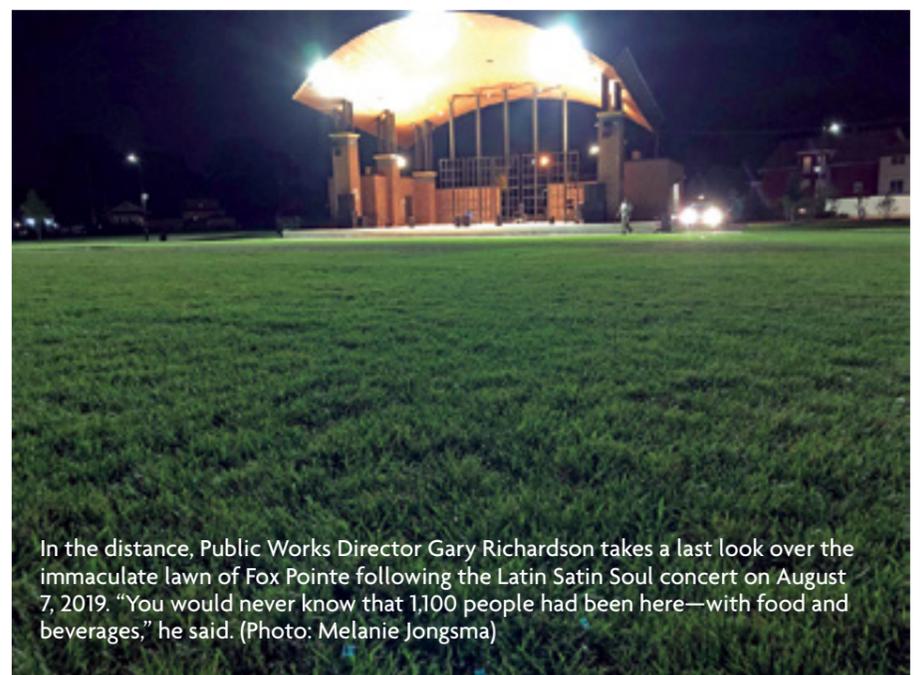
And what better way is there for a venue to draw in patrons than booking well-known acts? While Troncozo won't officially reveal the names of any of summer 2020's Fox Pointe acts until he has a contract with them, he maintains that national acts the likes of REO Speedwagon and Melissa Etheridge aren't entirely out of Lansing's grasp.

"I went and saw REO Speedwagon the other night at the Silver Creek Event Center—4,500 people, and the seats up front were \$200," Troncozo said. "We could do a general ticket for \$45 or \$50, and people will pay that. I'm hoping somewhere down the road we'll be able to facilitate an act or two a year of that caliber, once everything's in place."

Troncozo confirmed that ticketed events are in Fox Pointe's near future. But the Wednesday night concerts, he said, will still be free.

"That's our community thing, and that's going to stay our community thing," he said. "I'm hoping

continued, next page



In the distance, Public Works Director Gary Richardson takes a last look over the immaculate lawn of Fox Pointe following the Latin Satin Soul concert on August 7, 2019. "You would never know that 1,100 people had been here—with food and beverages," he said. (Photo: Melanie Jongsma)

continued from page 12

those Wednesday concerts are always going to be free for the community."

Ticket sales can only help Fox Pointe, however. From concessions alone, the venue made around \$100,000 during its first season, according to Podgorski. That revenue, teamed with the revenue from a few thousand \$25 concert tickets, could help the venue afford bigger acts, purchase more equipment, and maintain and renovate the grounds, among other things.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sponsorships could also generate funds, Podgorski said.

"This time last year, it would've taken a leap of faith for a sponsor to jump in," Podgorski said. "But now, we have photos and videos, and we can say, 'Here's an overhead shot from Woodstock Fest,' and I think sponsors will realize they have a good opportunity here."

"I was very pleased by how much our patrons took ownership of keeping the place clean," Reynolds said. "On multiple nights, there would be people commenting, 'There's nothing left on the lawn.' And that was from a small crowd of 500 up to a 1,500-person crowd. It was a great testament to our patrons—it took care of itself."

INTANGIBLE BENEFITS

If there's one thing that can be said about Fox Pointe's inaugural season, it's that Lansing definitely took ownership of its new premiere event location. Every Wednesday night for three months, hundreds of Lansing residents gathered to laugh, talk, eat, listen to music, and be a community. And the value of that isn't something that can be written into a village budget.

"How do you even measure what it does for your town?" Troncozo said. "It all has to count—not just fiscally, but in the mindset of the community. That venue being there has upped the game for our downtown strip."

"Now, we have photos and videos, and we can say, 'Here's an overhead shot from Woodstock Fest,' and I think sponsors will realize they have a good opportunity here," says Village Administrator Dan Podgorski. (Photo provided)



It's too soon to say for certain whether Fox Pointe lives up to the vision cast for it years ago. There have been lessons learned, and there are still plenty to be taught. But if the past is any indication, the future certainly looks bright.

"One thing's for sure: that venue is going to keep Lansing relevant for a long time," said Podgorski.

Latino Parent Group welcomes new SSC Vice President with Posada Navideña—and bids adiós to Art/Design Professor

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

SOUTH HOLLAND, Ill. (December 8, 2019) – The MB Financial Room at South Suburban College (SSC) was festooned with seven-point piñatas and intricate hand-made paper stars in preparation for an evening that would combine elements of a traditional Mexican posada with an administrative welcome and a faculty farewell.

The December 6 Posada Navideña was hosted by Latino Parents United for Success, a group that collaborates with the Latino Center at South Suburban College to ensure success particularly for Hispanic students. Group member Liliana Nuñez emceed the event and explained that by helping families navigate the registration process and other paperwork, and by organizing events that feature familiar traditions, the group provides a safe environment for Hispanic students and helps promote Latino culture to the broader community.

EXPLAINING THE POSADA

Lansing resident Martha Vargas is a member of the Latino Parent Group, and she introduced guests to the various elements of a traditional Mexican posada, using a slide presentation.

"The Posadas are popular festivals of Mexican origin," Vargas explained. "These festivities remind people of the pilgrimage of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem, where they looked for a place to stay and wait for the birth of Jesus."

In Mexican neighborhoods, people reenact that pilgrimage, standing at the door of the posada host and singing

to request posada, or lodging:

*En nombre del cielo (In the name of heaven)
os pido posada (I ask you for lodging)
pues no puede andar mi esposa amada
(because my beloved wife can't go on)*

The host then responds with a verse, first denying the request:

*Quí no es mesón (There is no lodging here)
sigan adelante (keep going, move along)
yo no puedo abrir (I cannot receive you)
no sea algún tunante (You might be a robber or scoundrel)*

The full ritual involves several verses of request and denial before the host finally realizes who is at his doorstep and grants them welcome. In previous generations, particularly in smaller villages and rural communities, the ritual would be carried out nine times, on the nine nights before Christmas, with nine different homes serving as host.

Vargas also explained the symbolism of the seven-pointed piñata—the seven points represent the seven deadly sins. Children beat the piñata to defeat sin and receive the blessings (candy).

GUESTS OF HONOR

Following the introduction to the traditional posada, Liliana Nuñez returned to the podium to introduce Estefania Sevilla, a Graphic Design student at SSC, and a student of special guest Professor Sergio Gomez. An instructor in the Art and Design Department, Gomez is retiring from teaching after 14 years at South Suburban College. "We will miss him very dearly," said Sevilla, "but we are so proud of him because he is going

to pursue his art career full time. He represents what we all want out of art—a full-time profession."

Professor Gomez expressed his appreciation: "It's been a pleasure for me to work with so many students and seeing them grow and get on their path to success."

Latino Liaison Enrique Gutierrez then introduced Dr. Deborah Baness King. King became Vice President

of Student and Enrollment Services at South Suburban College in July of 2019, after 13 years in various roles at Triton College in River Grove, Illinois.

"I very much appreciate being included and having the opportunity to be part of this night," King told the group. She acknowledged that the evening was particularly meaningful because it brought back memories of the years she lived in New Mexico, raising her young family and teaching at the University of New Mexico.

The evening ended with generous portions of classic Mexican fare, enjoyed with conversation around the tables.

South Suburban College is located at 15800 South State Street in South Holland, Illinois. Information about the Latino Center is posted on the SSC website.

View the online version of this article for photos of the presentations, guests, and food: thelansingjournal.com/news

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The Lansing Journal *journeys*

Nashville

SUBMITTED BY MAUREEN GRADY-PEROVICH



When the Tennessee Titans played the Houston Texans in Nashville on December 15, the game included a family rivalry. "My Texan nephew and my Titan nephew played against each other," said Lansing Trustee Maureen Grady-Perovich (right). She was at the game with her husband Tony (left) and her nephew Marine Sargent Patrick Russell, "The 12th man on the field." (Photo: probably the Marine's mom, Colleen Russell)

Breceda sculpture

SUBMITTED BY MEGAN HARVEY



Megan, Zachary, and Cameron Harvey posed in front of a sculpture by Ricardo Breceda in Borrego Springs, California. The Harveys visited family and enjoyed viewing many of Breceda's works displayed through the desert. (Photo: Janet Johnson)

Keep those Journals journeying!

The Lansing Journal is a community newspaper, and we look for opportunities to involve our community in its pages. The Lansing Journal Journeys is an award-winning feature that showcases people bringing The Lansing Journal to creative locations.

Contributors are invited to email photos to info@thelansingjournal.com with the following three pieces of information: (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.



"Signed up from day one. Like knowing what's going on, especially when rumors abound!"

-Irene Sepiol, Daily Email subscriber

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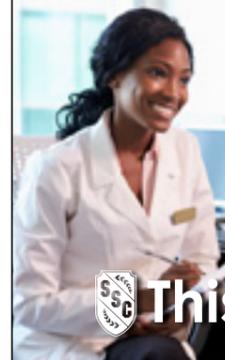
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Highlights, from page 1

marked as "unverified."

A few weeks later I got an email from a member of the Chicago White Sox PR staff whom I'd worked with in the past. He'd come across my article on CP online and invited me to cover a birthday party the team was throwing for him. It was quite an afternoon watching him get the royal treatment from his favorite team.

I wrote an article on CP's day at Guaranteed Rate Field and dug further, doing a phone interview with Robert Young, Director of Supercentenarian Research and Database Division with the Gerontology Research Group, and Senior Consultant for Gerontology for Guinness World Records. Young told me that there was a "good chance" CP was the oldest living male in America. However, he wouldn't be listed as so without a request by family and documents to confirm his age. The most I could find was that he was listed in a 1910

census report, but it's likely he never had a birth certificate since his home state of Mississippi didn't start a statewide registry until 1912.

After the article printed I stopped by the nursing home to drop off copies to Activity Director Sheila Huff—along with a case of CP's favorite soda, Orange Crush. (I reached out to the company, too, to tell them about their oldest customer. They responded that they'd be sending him some product and swag.) I gave Huff some contact info to pass on to CP's family with the hope that his age could be verified, which would keep him in the records after he passed away. Unfortunately, with no family in the area to request verification, it didn't happen. CP passed away in November, two months after his 112th birthday.

It was great to have the opportunity to write about our local celebrity and his longevity—a man who never attended school and began working in cotton fields at age 4; who lived through the Great Depression, segregation, two World Wars, and much more; who became a

supercentenarian who always rooted for the White Sox, drank Orange Crush whenever he could, and decided that minding his own business was the way to live.

Holmes help raised funeral funds, and the White Sox covered the rest of the cost for his December 19 memorial service and burial. CP was buried in the custom White Sox jersey he'd received this past summer along with the foul ball that was given to him at the game by a fan sitting nearby.

Carrie Steinweg is an example of the kind of relationship-building journalism that sets The Lansing Journal apart. We report on our community because we care about our community. Subscribe to our Daily News email to receive community reporting from Carrie Steinweg and our other contributors each morning: www.thelansingjournal.com/news/ subscribe or scan the QR code at left.



Village Board discusses cannabis in Lansing

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (December 10, 2019) – "Discussion of this issue tonight is not meant to convey that the Village is pushing us to adopt cannabis zoning," said Village Administrator Dan Podgorski at the November 19 Committee of the Whole meeting. "It's just meant to initiate discussion."

As an example of why such discussion is necessary, Podgorski let the Board members know that Lansing is already receiving calls from cannabis dispensary owners looking for potential business locations, largely because of Lansing's easy access from the expressway and proximity to the Indiana border.

THE NEED TO TAKE ACTION

Village Attorney Matt Welch added that because the state has mandated that possession and private use of cannabis will be legal as of January 1, 2020, Lansing does need to take some kind of action. "If we do nothing," said Welch, "there are no regulations; it's going to be a permitted use. So it's not something we can stick our head in the sand. It's something that needs to be explored and figured out what's in the best interest of this community."

Welch listed some regulation scenarios the Trustees might consider. For example, if the Board agrees that limits should be put on cannabis dispensaries in Lansing, there are a number of ways to define such limits:

- Cannabis dispensaries could be limited to specific geographic zones.
- Cannabis dispensaries could be prohibited within a certain distance from other types of businesses (schools, for example).
- The Board could limit the total number of cannabis dispensaries permitted in the Village, as has been done with salons, massage parlors, and other types of businesses.
- The Board could require that cannabis sales require a special use permit.

In addition, according to state law, each municipality does have the right to decide to completely prohibit the sale of cannabis.

IMPACTING LAW ENFORCEMENT

Attorney Welch also reported that the January 1 legalization of cannabis will impact law enforcement, particularly because there are currently no technologies in place that police can use to reliably determine whether someone is driving under the influence of cannabis. "There's a lot of false positives with the current technologies," Welch told the Board, "so what you're left with is taking someone in for a blood test, which can tell whether it's in your system, but it doesn't necessarily tell you if you're currently intoxicated."

The Trustees asked a number of questions for clarification about available options and about the deadline by which a decision should be made. Welch provided answers and examples.

At the end of approximately 20 minutes of discussion, Administrator Podgorski invited the Trustees to digest the information and then give feedback to himself or Attorney Welch.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION

Discussion continued at the December 3 Committee of the Whole meeting. Attorney Welch had provided Trustees with a sample ordinance adopted by another municipality prohibiting the issuance of a business license to any adult-use cannabis business establishment.

"No adult-use cannabis business establishment will be eligible to receive a business license," explained Welch. "Therefore they will be ineligible to operate in the village."

Adopting such an ordinance now would give Lansing Trustees additional time to consider and potentially develop more specific regulations about zoning or limits if they decide later to allow cannabis-related businesses within the village but want specified controls over the granting of licenses.

After a few more questions and answers, Trustee Saad Abbasy said, "To have time to sit on this and see how it shakes out, to see what our residents feel, to see what other villages experience—it seems like a wise approach."

"I think this is a smart way for us to move," agreed Administrator Podgorski. "Would the Board be comfortable having Attorney Welch draft a similar ordinance which would regulate the business licenses and prohibit the issuance of any business licenses for adult-use cannabis at this point in time? And then in a year, or 18 months, or two years, or whenever the Board feels it's time to revisit the issue—if they feel that way—after some of the legislation settles in and we see how other municipalities are dealing with it, then the Board could take up the zoning issue at that point in time."

With the Board's assent, Podgorski and Welch agreed to work together on a Lansing version of an ordinance for Trustees to review.

Notice of Public Sale

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PUBLIC NOTICE

District 215 School Board to change meeting schedule in 2020

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY DOMINIQUE NEWMAN, RECORDING SECRETARY FOR THE DISTRICT 215 SCHOOL BOARD

LANSING, Ill. (December 23, 2019) – Notice is hereby given that the Board of Education of Thornton Fractional Township High School District No. 215, Cook County, Illinois, will hold the following meeting schedule in 2020:

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

- 2nd Wednesday of the Month at 5:00pm
- T.F. Center for Academics and Technology

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

- 4th Tuesday of the Month at 6:00pm
- T.F. Center for Academics and Technology



The Center for Academics and Technology (pictured above) is located at 1605 Wentworth Avenue in Calumet City, Illinois.

The District 215 Administration Center is located at 18601 Torrence Avenue in Lansing, Illinois.

nartoon by Jim Siergey

As 2019 limps off the stage, bruised and battered with toilet paper stuck to the bottom of its sandal, nartist Jim Siergey offers no apologies for this first nartoon of the year. He holds it up as a symbol of optimism that things can only get better from here on.

“In my opinion, the biggest sign of a great town is a newspaper. Be it digital, print, or both. (Next, new schools, and last but not least, people that care about their town.) The Lansing Journal is certainly leading the charge with fantastic stories, covering community events, and keeping our residents informed.”

—Mary Beth Palka, Daily News email subscriber

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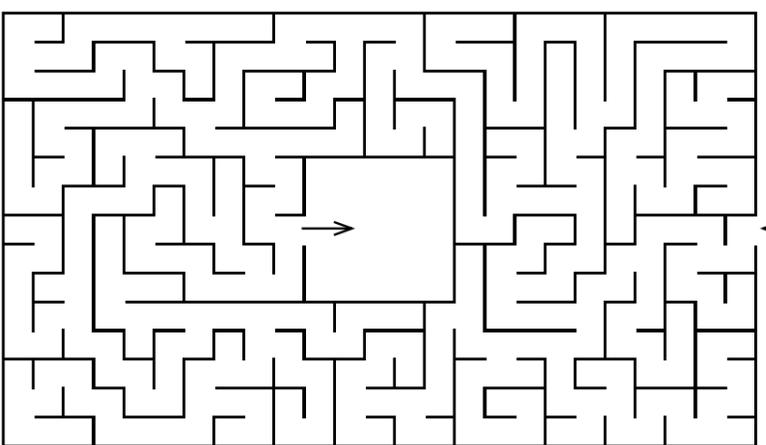
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ACROSS

- Cigarfish
- Long coarse nap
- Hyrax
- Walk through shallow water
- Where the heart is
- A resin used in incense
- Ancient Biblical kingdom
- Slender woodwind instrument
- A single-masted sailing ship
- Mistaken
- Small cities
- An emperor of Japan
- Send payment for
- Make amorous advances
- Entangle
- Something used to tie
- Native tent
- Object of worship
- Instruct
- Close by
- Reached the highest point
- Male chickens
- Type of sausage
- Lyric poem
- Loaded
- Food consumer
- Mar
- A poisonous Eurasian herb
- Reddish brown dye
- Wicked
- Anagram of "Sire"
- Group of 8
- City in Nevada
- Hemispherical covering
- Not those
- Walk heavily
- French for "State"

DOWN

- Sugary
- A nucleus of personnel
- Decorate
- Devil
- Footwear
- Vagabond
- French for "Love"
- Ganders
- Fate
- Apportionment
- Cat sound
- An Egyptian deity
- Small sharp bites
- Zero
- System or plan
- Exceeded
- Mineral bearing rock
- Sword
- Scorch
- Not his
- What you kiss with
- Concept
- Objective
- Substances that neutralize acids
- Hearing organ
- Murmur lovingly
- Issue forth
- Perceives visually
- Pitchers
- Written fictional story
- Put up with
- Fortune telling card
- Bowel cleansing
- Adjust again
- Fired a projectile
- Technician (abbrev.)
- Initial wager
- Linoleum (abbrev.)
- Whip

Go off on a tangent

This phrase means to suddenly diverge from the point of a conversation to go in a different direction, leaving the original topic behind. This is often done deliberately to avoid an unpleasant discussion. The phrase has its origin in geometry, where a line grazes the edge of a circle, but then continues away.

SOLUTIONS

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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.

Artist Jim Siergey to exhibit 'It's Surreal Thing' at Towle Theater

Inked imagery exhibit opens January 11, continues through March 8

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY BIG SPLASH PR

HAMMOND, Ind. (January 1, 2020) – South Shore Arts in Northwest Indiana presents "It's Surreal Thing" at the Towle Theater beginning January 11 and continuing through March 8, 2020. The exhibit, featuring the inked imagery of Jim Siergey, opens on January 11 and 12 as part of the theater's 2020 Season Previews.

Siergey is well-known in the underground art scene, and his comic strip "Cultural Jet Lag" ran for 20 years in many alternative press publications. Siergey first encountered surrealists Magritte, Dali, Tanguy, Ernst, DuChamp, and Man Ray on a grade school field trip to The Art Institute of Chicago. "These Surrealists became another perverse influence on my young life," says Siergey. "I had already been tainted by TV viewings of the anti-establishment antics of The Marx Brothers and Bugs Bunny—how could I be expected to look at anything logically or take anything seriously ever again?"

Before moving to Munster, Indiana, in 2018, Siergey lived in Chicago working as an illustrator,



SAFE AT HOME



PABLO & SAL HAVE DINNER WITH RENE



Above, right, and far right: Original inked images by Jim Siergey

character animator, and cartoonist. His portfolio includes gigs for Time magazine, USA Weekend, The Field Museum, TV commercials, educational films, and an animated "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" 7th-inning stretch video for the White Sox Jumbo-Tron. Paperback books, bubble gum cards, greeting cards, and art gallery exhibits are other places where his work can be found. Since moving to the suburbs he has exhibited his work at the Promise You Art House in Highland and the Paul Henry Studios in Hammond as well as in group shows in Griffith.

Opening receptions are scheduled for Saturday,

January 11, from 7:00–9:00pm, and Sunday, January 12, from 1:00–3:00pm. An Artist Reception for "It's Surreal Thing" will be held Friday, February 21, from 6:00–8:00pm, prior to the Opening Night performance of Towle Theater's production of "Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End".

The Towle Theater is located at 5205 Hohman Avenue in downtown Hammond, Indiana. For information about the gallery, or to view the exhibit by appointment, call 219-937-8780.

Steve Cooper Orchestra to perform at Lansing Public Library

Friday, January 3, 2020; 6:30pm

BY MELANIE JONGSMA

LANSING, Ill. (December 24, 2019) – The first After-Hours Concert of the new year will bring celebrity-level ballroom band music to Lansing. The Steve Cooper Orchestra will set up on the main stage of the Lansing Public Library on Friday, January 3, 2020. Doors will open at 6:00pm for a one-hour concert that will begin at 6:30pm. Admission is free, thanks to sponsorship by the Friends of the Lansing Library.

The Steve Cooper Orchestra is one of the most popular ballroom bands in the Midwest, and they regularly play at the Willowbrook, Glendora House, and Chevy Chase Ballrooms. Cooper performed on The Oprah Winfrey Show when Oprah did a program about ballroom dancing, and he has played private parties for Mary Tyler Moore, Phil Donahue, Liza Minelli, Carol Channing, Steve

Allen, the cast of NBC's "Frasier," and others.

With more than 20 years of performances in the Chicago area, the Steve Cooper Orchestra has developed a sense of audiences' best-loved songs. They perform popular hits by both the Swing and Sweet Bands. They play the actual musical arrangements of Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Woody Herman, Count Basie, Sammy Kaye, Dick Jurgens, Eddie Howard, Chuck Foster, Jan Garber, Hal Kemp, Red Nichols & The 5 Pennies, Bob Crosby, and many others. A few years ago they were the only band in

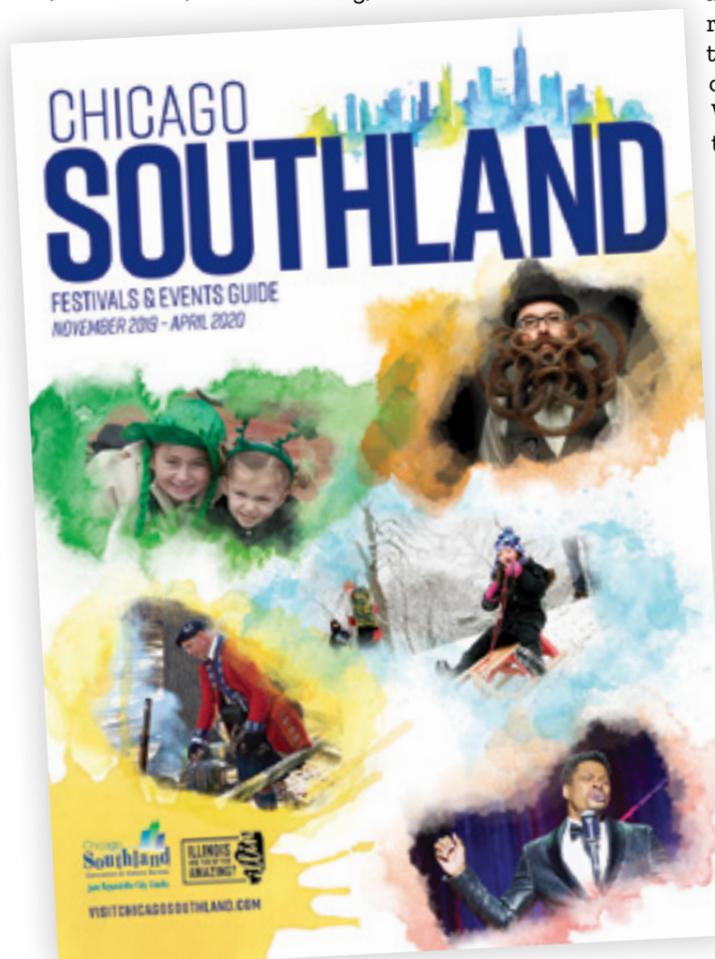
the country to receive much of the actual music of The Lawrence Welk Orchestra, music that

Lawrence Welk played on TV and ballrooms for over 50 years.

The library's After-Hours Concert series provides free musical entertainment during the winter months on the first Friday of the month. This year's series began on December 6 with a Christmas concert by local favorite Classic. The series continues through April:

- January 3: The Steve Cooper

Orchestra (ballroom band)
• February 7: The Spaniels Forever (doo-wop, R&B, gospel)
• March 6: Trillium (Celtic, folk, ragtime, bluegrass, Dixieland)
• April 3: Chez Butter (soul, funk, Motown, jazz)
The Lansing Public Library is located at 2750 Indiana Avenue in Lansing.



2019–2020 Festivals & Events Guide now available

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CHICAGO SOUTHLAND CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

LANSING, Ill. (December 7, 2019) – The Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau (CSCVB) has released their newest Festivals & Events Guide. This guide is published twice per year, and the new release lists events from November 2019 through April 2020.

With 293 event listings, the guide provides residents and visitors plenty of entertainment and activity options throughout the Chicago southland. Upcoming event highlights include:

- Skating at the Winter Wonderland Ice Rink in Orland Park (January 1–31, 2020)
- Cinderella at South Suburban College in South Holland (January 11–18, 2020)
- The Greatest Love of All, a tribute to Whitney Houston, at Governors State University Center for Performing Arts in University Park (February 2)
- A traveling exhibit, Americans and the Holocaust, at Prairie State Library in Chicago Heights (March 16-April 24).

Guides can be picked up in the CSCVB's Lansing office or requested online at VisitChicagoSouthland.com/InfoRequest. To order a supply for your business, contact the CSCVB:

- 708-895-8200
- Info@VisitChicagoSouthland.com
- VisitChicagoSouthland.com

ABOUT THE CHICAGO SOUTHLAND CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

The Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau is located at 2304 173rd Street in Lansing, Illinois. As the official destination management organization, the CSCVB markets the communities within the Chicago Southland region as a meetings and leisure destination, promoting lodging, food and beverage, attractions, festivals and events, and other visitor related businesses.



'A Tribute to Buddy Holly' coming to Munster

Saturday, January 18, 2020

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY BIG SPLASH PR

Left: Zachary Stevenson headlines two tribute concert performances to legendary Buddy Holly on January 18, 2020, at Theatre at the Center in Munster, Indiana. (Photo courtesy of Zachary Stevenson)

MUNSTER, Ind. (December 13, 2019) – "A Tribute to Buddy Holly", starring Zachary Stevenson, takes place on the Main Stage at Theatre at the Center in Munster, Indiana, on Saturday, January 18, 2020, for two performances only—3:00pm and 7:30pm.

According to the Vancouver Sun, "Zachary Stevenson's Buddy Holly nails the rock 'n roll legend in a full-throttle tribute that fires on all cylinders."

The Buddy Holly Concert at Theatre at the Center in Munster on January 18 is a two-act show featuring such hits as "That'll Be the Day," "Peggy Sue," "Oh Boy," and "Rave On." Stevenson's performance replicates the nerdy-yet-hip Texan through impressive guitar licks and superb vocals that are equally comfortable with sweet ballads and on-the-edge Rock-a-Billy songs. Stevenson even includes Buddy Holly's trademark hiccup and energetic dance moves that often bring audience members to their feet.

Tickets cost \$40 for adults, \$35 for subscribers, and \$20 for students. A cash bar will also be available.

Theatre at the Center is located within the Center for Visual and Performing Arts at 1040 Ridge Road in Munster, Indiana. To reserve tickets, call the Theatre at the Center Box Office at 219-836-3255.

Wolf Lake to host 2020 Winter Fest on January 18

Native American artifacts to be featured

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE WOLF LAKE INITIATIVE

WHITING, Ind. (December 27, 2019) – Native American artifacts in the region will be among the discussions held at the 19th annual Winter Wonderland at Wolf Lake on Saturday, January 18.

Sponsored by the Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative (AWLI), the festival will be held at the Environmental Education Center, 2405 Calumet Avenue, Hammond, from 9:00am–12:00pm. Afternoon events will begin at 1:00pm at the William W. Powers State Recreation Area, 12949 Avenue O, Chicago.

Local archeologist Les Marszalek, an archeologist for more than 40 years, will talk about some of the 100 Native American sites he has discovered. Most of these are located in the south suburbs of Chicago and have been recorded with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. Some are located in Northwest Indiana.

Marszalek is president of Gold Earth Science Club and Museum. His work has been noted by historian Mark Lawrence Mattson and cited in publications at the Newberry Library in Chicago and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. He has spoken to numerous historical societies, museums, universities and libraries in Northwest Indiana and the Chicago metropolitan area.

There will be a review of *Over the Line*, AWLI's 20-year history written by Michael Boos. That will be followed by a presentation on the 3rd annual Wolf Lake Watershed Advisory Committee meeting held in November.

Ice skating will be available, weather permitting. Skaters must bring their own skates.

Donating food to the festival will be Pete's Fresh Market, Chicago; Strack and Van Til, Whiting; and Walt's Foods, Dyer.

AWLI is a bi-state not-for-profit organization and land trust seeking to protect and enhance the Wolf Lake Watershed.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER (2405 CALUMET AVENUE, HAMMOND)

- 9:00am – Welcome
- 9:05am – Poster Contest Winners
- 9:15am – Visit exhibits and displays and tour building and trout stream
 - > Wolf Lake history
 - > Amphibians and reptiles of the Calumet Region, by Alan Resetar of the Field Museum
 - > Calumet Revisited Forum calendar
- 9:15am – Skating by John Pastirik (Bring your own skates)
- 9:30am – American Indian Artifacts, by Les Marszalek
- 10:30am – AWLI History: Review of *Over the Line*, by Michael Boos
- 11:00am – Report on the 3rd annual Wolf Lake Watershed Advisory Committee meeting, by Richard Chambers
- Noon – Lunch

VISITORS CENTER, WILLIAM W. POWERS STATE RECREATION AREA (AVENUE O AND 126TH PLACE, CHICAGO)

- 1:00pm – Welcome
- 1:05pm – Visit exhibits and displays
 - > Wolf Lake history
 - > Amphibians and reptiles of the Calumet Region, by Alan Resetar of the Field Museum
 - > Calumet Revisited Forum
 - > Native American Artifacts
- 1:05pm – Skating by John Pastirik (Bring your own skates)
- 1:15pm – AWLI History: Review of *Over the Line*, by Michael Boos
- 2:15pm – 3rd annual Wolf Lake Watershed Advisory Committee report by Richard Chambers
- 3:00pm – Concluding comments



Knights of Columbus looking for spelling bee contestants

BY JENNIFER PALLAY

LANSING, Ill. (January 1, 2020) – For more than 40 years, the Lansing Knights of Columbus Council 3540 has encouraged children to showcase their s-p-e-l-l-i-n-g skills during its annual spelling bee. This year's event will take place Feb. 1 at the Council Hall, 17800 Lorenz Ave. in Lansing.

There is no need to sign up in advance. Same day registration begins at 10:00am with the spelling bee starting at 10:30am. Boys and girls in fifth to eighth grade from all local public and private schools are invited to attend. The event is free, and light refreshments will be served.

Pete Marx, the council's financial secretary and chair of the spelling bee, said this is a statewide contest held at various councils throughout Illinois once a year.

Each child in Lansing's bee will leave with a participation certificate. The top three spellers will receive a trophy and certificate and will advance to a regional spelling competition in March. The winners of that event have the opportunity to go to the Knights of Columbus state competition this April in Springfield.

"It's a simple event," Marx said, explaining that contestants will sit in a U-shape and have a practice round before the real spelling challenges begin. The audience can sit in rows behind spellers, and judges and a pronouncer will also be present.

Words will be selected from a dictionary, and "we stress to the kids when you are given a word and you are hesitant, the pronouncer will give a definition and a sentence so you get an idea on which word and what he's talking about," Marx said.

Even though the occasional contestant gets upset when losing a round, the spelling bee is a hit with the kids, Marx said. "It seems like a nice event to run for the kids to get them out. It's also family oriented with parents and siblings."

Marx has chaired the spelling bee for about 15 years. The children who do participate tend to come back each year, and Marx hopes new contestants will join them.

For more information on the spelling bee, contact Pete Marx at the council: 708-895-7720.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. *Awakening To Greatness*

JAN
20th

MLK DAY

Celebration

South Suburban College
Kindig Performing Arts Center
15800 South State Street
South Holland, IL

Doors Open at 9:30am
Program Begins at 10:00am
FREE ADMISSION

Everyone is welcome to attend

KEYNOTE Speaker:

Dr. Chandra Gill

Founder/CEO: Blackademically Speaking

Special Performance: McKinley Junior High School Jazz Band

Event Chairperson *Loretta Wells*

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Norbert Cipowski, Trustee
Gerald "Jerry" Jones, Trustee
Stafford C. Owens, Trustee
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Cassandra Elston, Assessor, CIAO
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