



[Insert non-offensive religion neutral non-specific seasonal greeting here.]  
Yep. I came up blank, too!

# THE WITTE TIMES



The Newsletter That Will. Not. Die.

Volume 21 (*The Witte Times* is legal now), December 2018

very slightly down and to the left of Lansing, Michigan



Jake, Joy, Linds, me, Caty, Junior, Allie and Seth

to our first grandson, DeVonte Dominique Leggett, Jr. Junior is an absolutely wonderful little boy. He is perennially cheerful and has a smile a mile wide. He lights up every time he sees me and it just warms me to my core! He frequently comes to visit

Grandma and Grandpa and it is always a pleasure.



When DeVonte and Caty are at work, Joy gets to babysit and she and Junior have an awesome time together.

Caty and DeVonte got their own apartment at the beginning of the year, and Caty has been working for me providing clerical assistance at the office. I really enjoy being able to see her regularly throughout the week.

This fall, DeVonte came over to help blow the leaves while Caty and Junior hung out inside the house.

While here, Caty recorded a beautiful track on the home audio studio we have set up. I'm hoping we can make a video of the song

## Off we go!

Yet another issue of the Witte Times is being handcrafted by artisan elves in the workshop of Witte Clause. (No, the "e" is not a typo. It's lawyer humor.) We hope you enjoy what is likely the only Christmas gift you get this year not made by robots. (I, for one, welcome our robot overlords, but I digress.) On with the show!

## New addition

May 23, 2018 was a momentous day.

On May 23, 2018, Caitlin, with her boyfriend DeVonte, gave birth





Jake is congratulated by Judge Collette

this year and share it with everyone. I am also hoping she and I can do more recording together. It's something I truly treasure.

### New position

May 23, 2018 was a momentous day.

On May 23, 2018, Joy and I had the honor of moving Jake's admission to the Michigan State Bar.

Now, a few of the more astute readers might just have noticed that that was the same day that Caty gave birth to Junior. While she didn't make the ceremony, Caty was gracious enough to have the baby early in the afternoon so that Joy and Lindsey could stop and see him before heading to the courthouse.

Jake was admitted to the bar by now retired Judge William Collette in the same courtroom in which Joy and I were married in 1989. Jake is now an associate attorney with Fahey Shultz Burzych Rhodes PLC in Okemos.

They specialize in municipal and franchise law, and they're a great firm.

Lindsey continues to work nights as a nurse at Blodgett

Hospital Emergency Department in Grand Rapids.

hot Grand Rapids real estate market.

After making offers on eleven houses, they were able to secure their first home and closed this fall. It is a charming and unique house, sitting on a hillside near the Thornapple River in Cascade Township.

Busy with their new careers, Jake and Linds don't get much time off, but they did have the opportunity to take a camping trip to the UP this summer, celebrated their first wedding anniversary,

and Jake's firm had a retreat in Florida to celebrate its tenth year. Jake and Linds had a blast. We get to see the newlyweds fairly often and that always brightens our day.

Every time I see Jake and Linds together they are happy. Isn't that just how it should be?



Linds and Jake

### Glenn graduates

Our four years with Glenn Ha came to an end this

After Jake graduated this January (third in his class), he and Linds started looking for a house in GR - no easy task in the blazing



Glenn, his mom, and Andy

June when he graduated from Lansing Christian School. It also marks the end of an era for our family, as Glenn was our last exchange student. For the first time in 22 years, we're not driving to Lansing Christian every morning and afternoon.

Glenn's graduation was attended by his very charming mother and his brother Andy, who also lived with us for a year.

Glenn is now studying computer science at Pennsylvania State, the same university from which Seunghee Park, our second exchange student, graduated. Glenn will be entering the Korean military soon. We hope he's enjoying his time in State College; we certainly miss him.

### Seth is motorin'

Seth's been at AEV (American Exploration Vehicles) as a product designer for over a year now and



Bison.

Seth makes it home just about every weekend and frequently for one evening a week. We spend a lot of time out in the barn with Seth's friend Ben Von Ilten and our crew gets a lot done (by my count we did four engine pulls and six installs, including a full cradle drop on the Fleetwood, and two transmission pulls and installs). The year started with a huge project with Ben's lifted '92 Olds Ninety Eight. Other projects included a lot of work on a '99 Civic Seth had for a while and an '87 Conquest that is probably being sold this week.

We have also been putting time in finishing the A-Cord (one of two '88 Accords Seth has). The power train is in the car, mostly, and there is a long way to

the job suits him very well. The longer he is there, the more AEV products bear his mark. A number of his designs were present on the two JL Jeeps that AEV took to the international Specialty Equipment Manu-



go, but it will be a very slick ride when he is finished. Seth gave the other Accord, the B-Cord, a quick paint job and now it's serving as his daily driver.

Seth was quite the traveler this year. He spent a weekend running out to New Jersey with his friend Spencer to deliver a truckload of Viper hardtops, he drove

factors Association show in Las Vegas. His work was extensively featured in the Jalopnik website's review of the new Chevrolet/AEV Colorado XR2



Seth wearing his grandfather's shop coat



Allie with Nimitz the cat perched on her shoulder

to Los Angeles with his friends Lucas and Jordan (and fell in love with the city), he flew to New York City to visit friends, he flew to Las Vegas for a bachelor party, and he made a number of other short trips to Ohio, Indiana and Wisconsin.

I know eventually he'll settle down with some lucky gal and I won't see as much of him but until then, I sure enjoy our time together. We make a great team.

### Allison, center of the storm

Allison is continuing to crush law school at Cooley. She's aiming to graduate in January 2020

Court competition on Cooley's behalf in Chicago, and made it to the quarter finals. She



Allie (center) skating with friends in Chicago

represented Cooley on the ABA negotiation team, serves on the executive boards of two legal fraternities, continues to serve as a graduation marshal (practically handing Jake his diploma in January), earned four book awards this year (which are given to the student with the highest grade in the class), continues to make honor roll and dean's list every semester, serves as a grade appeals magis-

and making the most of her time there.

For the record: she participated in the Jessop International Law Moot

trate, served as a teaching assistant for legal advocacy, was trained as a civil mediator, and just completed a semester working two days a week in the public defender's office in Ann Arbor, making court appearances through Cooley's PD clinic program.

Whew.

In her spare time, she passed the 25,000 follower mark on her Marvel fan blog, sells art to her loyal fan base around the world,



provides seasonal window art around the house, and usually remembers to take out the trash.

So, pretty hohum year for Allie. She wants to be a

prosecutor when she gets out of law school and I think she will take the phrase "vigorously prosecute" to a whole new level.

### Joyful, Joyful, we adore thee

Joy remains the light of my life. Every year just gets better with her. Let me demonstrate: for our 29<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, with the help of some strapping young men, she totally surprised

me with a 50-year old car: a '68 LeMans, hidden inside the new barn. Yeah, guys, eat your hearts out.

primary in-court attorney for our busy landlord-tenant practice. She's on the road a lot and does a great job with clients, tenants and courts alike.

and gives him the best care she can. She really loved our decade of diapers.

She put in plenty of miles running our back roads this year and enjoys kayaking the Grand River.

Joy spent a long weekend in Florida with her sister Gay Ellen attending an annual meeting for Wycliffe Bible Translators; Gunzie sits on their board. It was a very enjoyable trip.

Joy and I also combined business with pleasure and went to San Diego for a long weekend this fall. We stayed in the same resort we visited on our honeymoon in 1989 and had an amazing time there.

We have so much fun traveling together! I hope we get to do much more of that.

### Last but not fleeced

This year started off kinda rough, got better and had some high points and low points and I think it will go out on the up-swing. So let's just talk about the



Back row: Norm, Lanae, Glenn, Leanne, DeVonte, Seth, Ben, Jake, Allison, Keith, Kristi and Joy  
 Middle row: Melissa, Caty, Lindsey, Grayson  
 Front row: Grandma Witte, Grandpa Stulp (Pop Pop), Grandma Stulp (Granny Janny), Melanie

She continues to do a thriving business selling plants from our yard and household items on Facebook Marketplace. She has probably generated thousands of dollars having other people cart away hosta plants that she was going to have to thin anyway. Amazing. In fact, the LeMans is probably hosta proceeds. Chew on that for awhile.

Joy goes to Hudsonville for overnights with her parents fairly regularly. She enjoys the time with them and I know they love to have her there. I'm glad she's able to do this, even though I miss her when she is gone.

The biggest thing for her right now is spending time with Junior. She loves being a grandma, although she looks

too young for that, in my humble opinion. She can't get enough of that baby

Joy also continues to be our



good stuff. I hate dwelling on negative things.

Wife, San Diego, LeMans. Covered all that.

The LeMans is in storage awaiting restoration. Ahead of it is the '67 Olds Delmont 88 that is nearing completion. We just started the motor we built for it and drove it under its own power again for the first time this week! When it is done, Seth and I want to focus on his Accord and my '65 Corvair Corsa coupe. Then we roll into a frame-off on the LeMans.

We aren't planning on being bored anytime soon.

My office building in downtown Lansing was heated with steam purchased from the Lansing Board of Water & Light for 95 years. That was long enough

an extensive upgrade to our HVAC system. It's expensive but it will cause a huge decrease in our

operating expenses going for-

ward, the building will be more comfortable, and we won't have any more leaking steam pipes, so that's good.

I have started composing music at home using Caty's digital audio studio. I've written and recorded twenty-plus songs now and I greatly enjoy it. I can't say that I am really a performer because I don't play well (I'm a much better editor), but I do enjoy the experience very much, as I have had a deep, lifelong love of music.

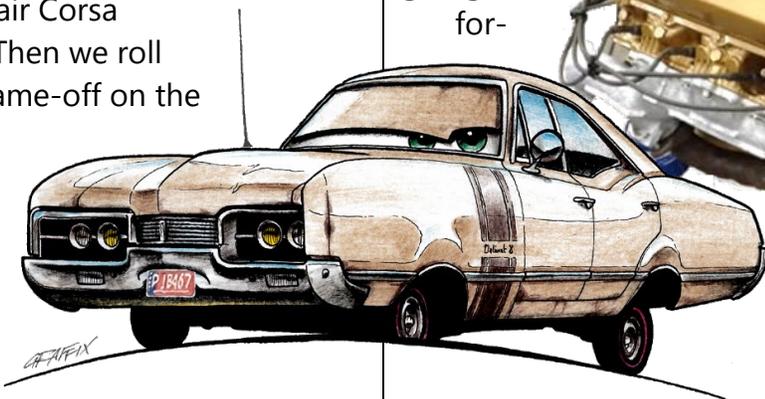
My dad's last surviving sibling, my Uncle Ron passed away a couple weeks ago. He was a kind and caring man and will be greatly missed. My mother continues to reside at Grand Haven Living Center here in Lansing. Her battle with Parkinson's disease is intensifying. We spend time with her at least every Sunday. It's hard to see her enduring this but she does the best she can.

And so our story draws to a close

I hope your family has a wonderful holiday season celebrating together. Life is full of pain and sadness, but also wonder, love and happiness. It is my wish to you that you endure the pain well, bear the sadness graciously, share childlike wonder with all around you, fill your heart with love and find happiness in those with whom you share your life.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Witte Family!

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Glenn, Seth, DeVonte, Caty, Lindsey, Jake and Allie

for the pipes, and steam has gotten very expensive, so this summer and fall we have been doing