

2 seek reelection  
to school board **2A**

U.S. women's soccer  
reacts to early exit **1B**

Octopus with 9 brains  
seeks new toy **5A**

# TELEGRAPH HERALD

MONDAY

August 7, 2023 • TelegraphHerald.com • Dubuque, Iowa



Festival attracts  
young artists **2A**

WEATHER: HIGH 80° LOW 59° BREEZY, MIX OF SUN AND CLOUDS 6B

## Communication key to pandemic effort

Public health agencies say distributing information quickly and widely was critical to success.

BY BENJAMIN FISHER  
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Area public health agencies recently highlighted successes and challenges in their handling of the COVID-19 pandemic in reports that are required

in order to receive certain federal emergency funding.

The reports, known as "after action reports," gave area public health leaders the chance to reflect on their experiences during the pandemic. The reports focused on which emergency response strategies they want to retain, and what areas of need were revealed by the longest public health emergency in generations. Across the tri-states, agencies agreed that communication and information

campaigns stood out as keys to success, but also as an ongoing need for improvement.

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Dubuque Public Health Department, the Dubuque County Health Department and the Dubuque County Emergency Management Department gathered — just as they had during emergency drills of years prior — into the Dubuque County Incident Management Team. At the time, the City of Dubuque had

the infrastructure to best distribute public information, so Public Information Officer Randy Gehl assumed that role for the team.

Dubuque County Health Department Director Allie White, who took over the department in December 2022, was not part of the county-wide effort, but she did serve in public health for the Dubuque Community

School District. She said that in her previous role, the county Incident Management Team's centralized information point was crucial.

"I feel like I get to look at this all from a third-party and neutral perspective," White said. "But from the school point-of-view, we were getting different information from all over — federal agencies, the state, even parents and doctors, so having that one



Allie White

See **AGENCIES, PAGE 3A**

### biz buzz monday



JESSICA REILLY • Telegraph Herald

Owners Tia Recker (left) and Macy Joseph opened Blended on Saturday in Dyersville, Iowa.

## Blended seeks healthful niche

Co-owner says son who is allergic to dairy sparked a quest for alternatives.

BY KAYLI REESE  
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*Biz Buzz shares business tidbits from the tri-state area. In addition to this development from Dyersville, Iowa, we will share other developments in Tuesday's edition.*

A business specializing in healthier options now has a brick-and-mortar location in Dyersville.

Blended opened Saturday at 613½ 16th Ave. SE, the former location of Boji Sweet Tooth and Never Know Shoppe. The business is owned by sisters Macy

Joseph and Tia Recker.

"We're really, really looking forward to meeting a lot of new people and helping people who are looking for something healthy," Joseph said.

Joseph said she initially began Blended last year in a mobile unit.

"It was partly because my number-one favorite food is acai, and I couldn't get it anywhere," she said. "And it was also one of the only things my son (Finnley, now 3) could have. When he was three-and-a-half months old, we found out he was allergic to dairy, and it was hard to go out to eat with him."

After starting in the mobile unit, Joseph said she realized they needed a brick-and-mortar location for more space and storage. They found their location earlier this year and have since renovated the space and installed a custom bar.

### Business tips sought

Do you have an interesting story idea or news tip to share about a local business? Ideas can be shared with business reporter Kayli Reese at kayli.reese@thmedia.com or 563-588-5673.

Blended's menu, including its acai, smoothies and cold-pressed juices, is primarily dairy-free, with an emphasis also on gluten-free items. Joseph said the only menu item with dairy is charcuterie boards, which come with cheese but can be made without.

The business also sells mocktails for those who can't or don't drink, Joseph said.

They will also introduce "waffle bowls,"

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love that lasts A CONTINUING SERIES HIGHLIGHTING TRI-STATE COUPLES MARRIED 50+ YEARS

## Pre-wedding talk: 'Marriage is forever'

Sandy Kapparos' future mother-in-law told her there was a no-return policy on her son.

BY MICHELLE LONDON  
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It was the days of carhops, drive-ins and cool cars.

Sandy Kramer was a 16-year-old carhop at the Dodge Street A&W in Dubuque, and Mike Kapparos was the 19-year-old assistant manager.

"The manager didn't want any of the carhops leaving with their boyfriends," Mike Kapparos, now 77, said. "They were all young girls. So any carhops that weren't picked up by their parents, I had to drive home."

Sandy had gotten used to sitting in the middle of the front bench seat next to Mike, and maybe started to like him — just a little bit.

Sandy came to work early

### Know a long-married couple?

Love That Lasts is a series highlighting local couples who have been married for at least 50 years.

To nominate a couple to be featured in this series, contact reporter Michelle London at 563-588-5655 or michelle.london@thmedia.com. Be sure to include the couple's names, city of residence, contact information and how long they have been married.

one day, just in time to hear Mike telling some co-workers how he had been to Minnesota a few days before with friends and flipped his '61 Pontiac Tempest as they were coming home — the car was totaled, but everyone was OK.

"It was just the way he was talking, and then he reached

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JESSICA REILLY • Telegraph Herald

Mike and Sandy Kapparos met as co-workers at A&W in Dubuque and married shortly thereafter.

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Dozens rescued  
from 3 migrant  
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