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YOUR LOCAL CONNECTION MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA

Tuesday, July 18, 2023

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Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee



T-R PHOTO BY LANA BRADSTREAM

Liver Shot Boxing Club Head Coach Luis Alejandro trains one of his students in the location in Meadow Land Mall. Even though the location was opened to experienced boxers, new students can take classes starting Monday.

Liver Shot Boxing Club opens in Marshalltown

By LANA BRADSTREAM
 TIMES-REPUBLICAN

"It ain't about how hard you can hit. It's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward."

That famous saying from fictional boxing character Rocky Balboa is on the wall of the new Liver Shot Boxing Club, and is representative of the values the coaches are teaching their students, who they regard as family.

Inside Meadow Lane Mall, head coach Luis Alejandro and coaches Adan Rodriguez and Adan Ortiz are preparing to open their new nonprofit club to the public. On Monday, they will be able to take on new students, and are prepared for all skill levels.

Right now, the coaches are training athletes they became familiar with when they were coaching at La Raza Marshalltown Boxing Club. After it closed in April, the

BOXING | A3

Christians will 'Come Together' Wednesday to pray for community



By LANA BRADSTREAM
 TIMES-REPUBLICAN

Marshalltown residents are invited to attend the annual Come Together — Worship at the Roundhouse event Wednesday evening. There is no fee to attend.

The purpose of Come Together is to gather Marshalltown Christians in one location. Founder Danielle Gudith said the event is not just for believers from Journey, Grace or the many other churches in town, but all of them, something which she called the "Big C church."

Big C church is described as an inclusion of Christians from all denominations and beliefs.

"We will be praying for our community and our school," she said. "That is where the heart lies."

In fact, it was a school tragedy which prompted Gudith to create the event last year. Specifically - the May 2022 shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas which resulted in the deaths of 19 fourth-grade students and two teachers.

"School shootings really get to me and I was praying

PRAYER | A3

'We made the right decision to rebuild downtown'



T-R PHOTOS BY ROBERT MAHARRY

Anderson Funeral Homes at 405 W. Main St., top, and Thompson True Value at 106 S. Center St., bottom, are two local businesses whose owners chose to rebuild in Marshalltown after their buildings suffered severe damage from the July 19, 2018 EF-3 tornado.

Local business owners affected by tornado standing strong in Marshalltown

By MIKE DONAHEY
 TIMES-REPUBLICAN

(Editor's note: This is the fifth in a series of stories looking back at the July 19, 2018 EF-3 tornado leading up to the fifth anniversary, but also looking forward and detailing rebuilding and revitalization efforts since then.)

Two Marshalltown business owners whose properties were severely damaged by the July 19, 2018, tornado not only repaired and rebuilt, but they have confidence in the central business district five years later.

Jody Anderson of Anderson Family Funeral Homes and Dave Thompson of Thompson True Value recently shared their thoughts with the Times-Republican.

Both are optimistic about the future of downtown Marshalltown, and

sharing in their enthusiasm is retired businessman, former county supervisor and Marshalltown native Denny Grabenbauer.

Anderson: "Marshalltown has rebounded quite well"

The tornado did

\$690,000 in damage to the large building housing Anderson Family Funeral Homes and Crematorium at 405 W. Main St. but owner-operator Jody Anderson said insurance offset the expenses.

The Marshalltown mortuary is one of three An-

derson owns, with others in Conrad and Gladbrook.

With repairs long since completed, he has concentrated efforts on growing his business and moving forward.

The businessman and U.S. Army veteran reviewed the community's response following the tornado.

"I think overall, Marshalltown has rebounded quite well five years later," said Anderson, a Clinton native who resides in Marshalltown. He has been a local business owner since 2012 and active in veterans and community affairs. He commended city and county officials, civic groups, and volunteers in the recovery efforts.

"I was pleased to see Marshalltown residents work together in the days and weeks immediately following in what was a chaotic setting," he said. "However, hats off to Alli-

BUSINESS | A3



A special commemorative series celebrating 5 years of continuous growth after the July 19, 2018 EF-3 tornado

Gilman holds 'Sunday Funday' to raise money for city park improvements

By ROBERT MAHARRY
 TIMES-REPUBLICAN

GILMAN — The good people of Gilman came together at the city park on Sunday afternoon to relax, listen to music and support a good cause — upgrades and improvements for the park where the event was held.

Laray Gunderson of the Gilman Betterment Committee said the "Sunday Funday" was the first formal fundraiser, with ice cream, lemonade, bluegrass music from the County Line Band and an opportunity to run through the sprinkler on the street with supervision from Gilman Fire and EMS. Free will donations were accepted, and a raffle for a 65" smart TV donated by



T-R PHOTO BY ROBERT MAHARRY

Local kids had fun running through the sprinkler on a hot July afternoon in Gilman as part of a Sunday Funday event to raise money for park improvements.

Partner Communications is ongoing, with tickets being sold until July 31, when the winner will be drawn.

According to Gunderson, conversations about

potential improvements started about a year ago, and some key focus areas include the bathroom, repainting the park, a handicap-accessible sidewalk,

new benches and "just making things look nice." During the Sunday Funday, attendees had a chance to

GILMAN | A3

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