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Thought for the Week: Help others get ahead. You will always stand taller with someone else on your shoulders. Bob Moawad

BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Warren Public Library will have a \$1.00 a bag used book sale, Saturday, April 1 from 10am to 2pm. Bags will be provided by the Library.

There will be selections of non-fiction, fiction, children's books, tween books, teen books, graphic novels and DVDs.

The Library is located at 123 E 3rd St, Warren. The phone number of the Library is 375-3450.

ART COMPETITION

Rep. Jim Banks (IN-03) announced his office is now accepting submissions for the 2023 Congressional Art Competition.

This competition is open to all high school students in Indiana's 3rd District. The artwork that wins the district competition will be displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol. The winner will receive two tickets to Washington D.C. from Southwest Airlines to attend a reception, the date of which is to be determined.

The 2023 Contest Theme is Indiana. Indiana is the feeling of Hoosier satisfaction, devotion and attachment to the United States. Students should try to think outside of the box when deciding what Indiana means—and looks like—and show that in their artwork submission.

All submissions are due by 5:00PM on Monday, April 24, and participants should email their submission to RepBanks.Art@mail.house.gov or schools can call the office to arrange for a pickup of entries before the deadline.

The email submission should contain the following attachments:

* A clear, high-resolution picture of the students' artwork uploaded in a PDF, JPEG, or PNG file.

* A scanned, signed copy of the Student Information & Release Form, complete to the best of the student's ability, and uploaded as a PDF.

The subject line of the email should read "2023 Congressional Art Competition Submission."

The email body should include:

- Student's Name
- 1. School's Name
- 2. Art Teacher's Name
- 3. Student's Grade Level
- 4. Name of Artwork
- 5. Medium Used
- 6. Description of artwork.

Student should make sure to write why they think their piece captures this year's theme, and what the image means to them personally.

For additional details on the competition rules & guidelines, visit the Congressional Art Competition page on Congressman Banks' website.

PITCH HIT & RUN

The City of Marion Parks Dept. is excited to announce that we have been chosen to host the Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit & Run program www.mlb.com/pitch-hit-and-run in Matter Park on May 20, 2023 starting at 10 am. This Event is FREE and anyone can participate.

Participants (male or female) will compete in either 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, or 13-14 age divisions. They will be tested, and their measurements will be

recorded for points. Based on their scores, they will advance from a local event to a Team Championship and then to the National Finals hosted at the World Series.

On the day of your competition, please make sure to bring a copy (or digital photo) of a valid birth document for your participant(s) age verification purposes. If you are interested and have more questions please contact Rose Cadena at rcadena@cityofmarion.in.gov.

If you would like to register for this event please click the link below. You must register to participate.

<http://pitchhitrun2023.leagu eapps.com/events/3695985-city-of-marion-parks-dept>

HOOSIER HOMESTEADS

Area legislators are recognizing the latest local recipients of the Hoosier Homestead Award, which recognizes farms owned and maintained by the same family for 100 years or more.

Represented by State Sen. Andy Zay (R-Huntington), State Rep. Craig Snow (R-Warsaw), State Rep. Ann Vermillion (R-Marion) and State Rep. Lorissa Sweet (R-Wabash), four locally owned farms were honored at the Statehouse:

* The Albright farm in Wabash County received a Sesquicentennial Award;

* The Harner farm in Grant County received a Centennial and Sesquicentennial Award;

* The Philip W. Corey farm in Grant County received a Sesquicentennial Award; and

* The Thorne farm in Huntington County received a Centennial Award.

The Hoosier Homestead Award Program honors families who have made significant contributions to Indiana agriculture. Instituted in 1976, the program recognizes the impact these family farms have made on the economic, cultural and social advancements of Indiana. In the past 47 years, more than 5,800 farms have received the honor.

"Family-owned farms are the reason Indiana has received so much recognition across the nation in the agriculture industry," Zay said. "Indiana would not be highly regarded if it were not for these dedicated families who have continued the tradition of farming."

"Maintaining and running farms takes a tremendous amount of dedication," Snow said. "These families work long days and nights to make a living, and it's great to see their efforts being recognized."

"These families have contributed so much to our communities and economy over the years," Sweet said. "They are deserving of this recognition, and I hope to see them continue their families' legacies well into the future."

"Maintaining a family farm for a century is an incredible accomplishment and it's an honor to help recognize their efforts and their longstanding commitment to Hoosier agriculture," Vermillion said. "It's humbling and inspiring to think about all the challenges that generations of farm families have faced to make their living off the land."

To be named a Hoosier Homestead, farms must be owned by the same family for at least 100 consecutive years and consist of more than 20 acres or produce more than \$1,000 of agricultural products per year. The award distinctions are Centennial, Sesquicentennial and Bicentennial – for 100, 150 and 200 years, respectively.

To learn more about the program or to apply for a Hoosier Homestead Award, visit www.in.gov/isda/2337.htm.

SUICIDAL VETERANS NEED OUR HELP

by John Grimaldi
As President Calvin Coolidge put it, "the nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten." It's why we take the time to remember the selfless sacrifices of our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines on Veterans Day. But is one day of remembrance in November enough of a commemoration. Not only have valiant service men and women given their lives to protect our freedom, bear in mind that each year thousands of former service men and women commit suicide due to service related trauma.

According to the American Addiction Centers [AAC], "suicide rates have been historically high among young veterans and older veterans as well. In the 20 years between 2001 and 2020, the suicide rate among veterans between the ages of 18 and 34 increased by 95.3%. During that same time period, the suicide rate among veterans between the

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Kudos, Kicks & Karats



Trevia's
Recipe Box
 by Trevia Flemming

I managed to get some recipes tested this past weekend. For some reason I just had to get some baking done, I was just in the baking mood.

I made a honey oatmeal bread which was actually a bread maker recipe but tried the dough setting and then tried to oven bake the bread, it was a flop which I figured it would. But we ate it anyway and I'm living to tell about it.

I also made a batch of no bake cookies. John doesn't care for no bakes but thought I might have him at the chocolate and the cherries, which he said they were ok, but between all of us including Cassidy we decided they need more cherries

So here is the recipe for the Cherry No Bakes, I think I might try them at the State Fair in that category just for giggles, you never know, I might win the judges heart with them.

Cherry No Bakes

- 2 c. Sugar.
- 1/2 tsp. Vanilla
- 1/2 c. Butter, cubed.
- 1/4 tsp almond extract
- 6 T. Milk.
- 3 c. Quick cooking oats
- 3T. Baking cocoa.
- 1-10 oz jar Maraschino Cherries, drained & chopped
- 1 c. Peanut butter

In a large saucepan combine sugar, butter, milk and cocoa. Bring to a boil and stirring constantly, cook for 3 minutes.

Remove from heat stir in peanut butter and extracts until blended. Stir in oats and cherries. Combine well. Drop by tablespoon onto waxed paper lined baking sheets. Refrigerate till set. Store in airtight container.

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 Sunday School Classes 9:30 am
 Sunday Adult Bible Study 6:00 pm
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AREA NEWS

MORE PAGE 1
 ages of 55 and 74 rose 58.2%. From 2019-2020, however, the suicide rate for older veterans decreased while the suicide rate among veterans in the 18-34 age group increased."

The AAC report explains that the chief causes of veteran suicides are depression, social problems, money troubles and engaging "in impulsive, high-risk behaviors." Mental disorders and substance abuse, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and traumatic brain injury (TBI) also can play a role.

However, the Center for Deployment Psychology [CDP] says it also has a lot to do with relationship problems, legal issues and workplace troubles. The CDP notes that "other medical conditions that are associated with an increased risk for suicide include traumatic brain injury (TBI), chronic pain, and sleep disorders. These conditions can contribute substantially to increased suicide risk in affected individuals. The most common method for suicide in the DoD is firearms, accounting for over 60 percent of all suicide deaths in the military." The CDP also notes that while veterans are only 8.5% of the U.S. population, they account for about 18% of all adult suicides. "This means that approximately 20 veterans die each day by suicide [or about 7,300 veterans a year]. Like Service members, the most common method for suicide among U.S. veterans is firearms, accounting for over two-thirds of all veteran suicides."

Active duty military personnel are also experiencing high levels of suicide. Executive Director,

Elizabeth Foster, of the Pentagon's Force Resiliency Office reported a few months ago that year-to-year active duty suicides have dipped. She reported that the active duty suicide rate fell by 15% between 2021 and 2020. However, as she put it, "while we are cautiously encouraged by the drop in these numbers, one year is not enough time to assess real change. The year-to-year trend provides helpful preliminary insight, but there is still a gradual increasing trend for suicide in the military over a 10-year period, and we need to see a sustained long-term reduction in suicide rates to know if we're really making progress."

If you have a friend or family member with mental issues, they may be in need of professional care. But, says Seamus Callahan at the White Light Behavioral Health, "one of the most important ways that friends, family members, and communities can support veterans in recovery is by advocating for access to quality mental health and addiction care. Unfortunately, many veterans face significant barriers to accessing care, including long wait times, lack of resources, and bureaucratic obstacles within the VA system."

For more information about dealing with this critical issue confronting veterans at risk, organizations such as the Association of Mature American Citizens can also help. The AMAC Foundation's dedicated Veteran Outreach Program provides online access to resources available for the men and women who have served our nation.

ARIZONA TRIP TO FLORENCE, GLOBE, & SALT RIVER CANYON

by Larry Ryan
 My wife, son, and I left our rental home at Sun Lakes, AZ at 9:30 am for a south and east day trip away from Phoenix. The morning was cool with 75% clouds and enough sprinkles of rain to spot the car's windshield. My son was added to the rental car, driver's list so the older generation could enjoy the scenery during the day's travel.

Motoring south on Highway # 87 we passed the Santan and Sacatan exits. We were in Indian Territory. The latter community is an Indian village. For a while we were parallel to railroad tracks and a developing water channel which were both heading toward Tucson. Mountains approached; first on the east and then from the west. The columnar, tree-like saguaro cacti became more


prominent. Much of the adjacent land was flat, no trees, and various-shaped sage bushes. A few areas had plowed fields and others contained hay.

We entered the town of Florence, with its large, white "F" painted on a nearby mountain, at 10:25. The Old Western Town Museum and a closed, out-dated Rexall Drugstore were viewed as we ventured down Main Street. The Visitor Center with its wrap-around porch caught our attention. Several rooms were complete with historical information. Along with a replica of an old western town and an updated, model railroad track encircling it, and belt-driven drill assembly. Both my son and I were interested in this associated, professional equipment. Have photos.

Also of historical significance was a room dedicated to Ernest William McFarland an Arizona attorney, judge, US senator, governor, and justice of the AZ supreme court. As a US senator he met with Winston Churchill and advocated for a strong military during WW II. He was also instrumental in challenging California for Arizona's fair share of water from the Colorado River and lobbying for the Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944 (G. I. Bill of Rights).

Upon leaving Florence at 11:15 via Highway # 79 North we passed the Pinal County Justice building and the River Bottom Grill. The day was mostly sunny and devoid of the rain forecast. A lonely cotton field bordered our route on the right side of the


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Community Calendar

Items listed here are open to the public. If there is an admission charge or items are for sale or a donation is necessary, there is a one-time \$5 fee to be listed. Events can be listed for as long as 6 months. (If an event is canceled, please notify WW.) Only event, place, time, and sponsor, for events in Warren, and the surrounding area will be listed.

Apr 5	Noon	W - Chamber of Commerce Luncheon @ KBC
Apr 5	7:00p	V - Town Council @ Town Hall
Apr 7		GOOD FRIDAY
Apr 8	10 am	W - Easter Egg Hunt @ KBC
Apr 9		EASTER
Apr 10	6:00p	W - Town Council @ Assembly Hall
Apr 11	6:30p	W - SSF Meeting @ KBC
Apr 17	6:30p	W - KBC Board Meeting @ KBC
Apr 19	7:00p	V - Town Council Meeting @ Town Hall

Bread of Life Food Pantry - Wednesdays - 2 - 4:00pm at KBC;
 Bargain Basement - Friday & Saturday - 9 - 4 at KBC
 These Events Can Also Be Found at www.warrenweeklyindiana.com



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AREA NEWS CONTINUED

MORE PAGE 3
road. Fifteen minutes later we were heading east on Highway # 60 towards Globe, AZ. Soon, Tonto National Forest was entered and a winding, elevating highway faced us. Various mountain configurations and colorations were observed. One area had rounded pillars of rock stacked upon one another. A small amount of snow and ice was present on the north side of other mountain sides. Mountain ranges surrounded us all day.

We motored past Superior, Miami, and Claypool before entering Globe, AZ. It was 12:20 pm and a Jr. Whopper meal was enjoyed. This community of 7,000 population was founded in 1875 as a mining town. It gained its name from the globe-shaped silver nuggets that were discovered. Presently, there are four, working copper mines. It lies 75 miles east of Phoenix, but 88 winding, highway miles.

A helpful restaurant patron refreshed my memory about the scenic Salt River Canyon to the north. Since it was only 1:10 pm, the adventure continued for another forty-five minutes on Highway # 60/77 with never-ending curves and switch-backs. We had reached 5,000 feet above sea level. Looking down as we descended into the canyon from our elevated view point was exhilarating.

My son, the driver, didn't think so! An older bridge served as an observation venue for photos of the river and rapids 150 feet below. The Salt River empties into the Roosevelt Lake to the southwest.

The return trip to our rental home was uneventful but crowded with automobiles as we approached Phoenix at rush hour. My son was glad to separate himself from the steering (stirring) wheel!

WHY EARLY DETECTION OF LUNG CANCER IS SO IMPORTANT

(StatePoint) Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in the United States. While early detection can vastly improve a patient's chances to lead a full and healthy life, the majority of those who are high risk are not getting screened.

The American Lung Association, which is committed to defeating lung cancer and supporting those with the disease, is sharing vital information to help more people learn their risk and connect them to screenings and other life-saving resources:

Preventable Deaths
According to the 2022 "State of Lung Cancer" report, a mere 5.8% of Americans eligible for a low-dose computed tomography (CT) scan were screened. A low-

dose CT scan is a special kind of X-ray that takes multiple pictures as the patient lies on a table that slides in and out of the machine. A computer then combines these images into a detailed picture of the lungs. Studies estimate that if even just half of the approximately 8 million Americans identified as high risk for lung cancer were screened with a low-dose CT scan, over 12,000 lung cancer deaths could be prevented. In fact, since low-dose CT scans started to be used for screening, it has reduced cancer deaths by 20% and it has reduced deaths from other causes by almost 7%.

Risk Eligibility
Many people who are at risk for lung cancer and are eligible for screening are not identified and are not referred for screening. Under the most recent lung cancer screening guidelines, those ages 50-80 who have a 20 pack-year smoking history or who have quit smoking in the past 15 years should get screened for lung cancer.

The American Lung Association offers a helpful

tool for determining your eligibility for screening, found at www.SavedByTheScan.org.

Fighting Barriers
Despite the fact that lung cancer screening is extremely effective at improving life expectancy and has the potential to dramatically improve lung cancer survival rates, many patients are not getting

screened, even when they have a referral from their doctor to do so. The reasons for low screening adherence range from practical concerns, such as financial and transportation barriers, to more elusive issues like distrust of the medical system and lack of awareness regarding the seriousness of the disease.

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GENEALOGY REPORT

JOHNSON

Rebecca "Becky" Louise Johnson, 69, of Ossian, passed away early Sunday morning, March 19, 2023, at her residence, surrounded by her loving family.

Becky was born March 28, 1953 in Bluffton to Raymond "Bus" & Theo (Shimer) Musser. She graduated from Bluffton High School in 1971.

She worked at the Wells County Courthouse from 1988 to 2018, when she retired. She was the Harrison Township Deputy Assessor for many years. In October 2006, she was elected as the Harrison Township Assessor. Becky and her late husband, Paul worked together for the Bluffton News-Banner as rural motor carriers for 23 years. She was a member of the Friends of Ouabache State Park, Bluffton Republican Women's Club, Franklin Electric Quarter Century Club, and a member of the Liberty Center Community Church. In October 2005, Becky was the GOP Woman of the Year for Wells County. She enjoyed embroidery, crocheting, knitting, doing decoupage, and traveling.

For 46 years, Becky was a devoted and loving wife to Paul E. Johnson, whom she married September 29, 1973. He preceded her in death May 18, 2020.

Survivors include her brothers, Monty (Penny) Musser of Fremont, Ind., and Michael "Mick" (Sue) Musser of Salem, S.C.; her brother-in-law David (Debra) Johnson of Bluffton; and her treasured nieces and nephews.

Becky is preceded in death by her husband, Paul, and her parents.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 15, 2023, at Liberty Center Community Church with an hour of visitation prior to the service.

Memorials may be made in Becky's memory to Elara Caring Hospice, Friends Who Care Cancer Relief Foundation, Wells County

Friends of the Shelter, or Save the Manatee Club.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

PENNINGTON

Jueldine "Judy" Delight Pennington, was born July 26, 1924, went



to be with the Lord on Thursday, March 23, 2023.

She was born in Farmland, Indiana, to Robert Barker and Dorothy Longabaugh Wall.

She was married to Eugene Pennington for 56 years. The couple were owners of Pennington Appliance in Marion for 17 years. She was a member of Marion First Church of God for nearly 73 years and active in all programs.

Judy loved to sing, especially where she has lived for the past 25 years, Heritage Pointe in Warren. While the halls at Heritage Pointe will be a little more quiet now, she will be singing in the streets of heaven. Judy loved to tell funny stories about her life, and play cards with friends and family. She enjoyed her grandchildren and doing crafts. She loved to entertain and was a wonderful cook. She was loved by many.

The family would like to thank all of the staff at Heritage Pointe for all of the love and care they have given, all of these years.

She is survived by her children, Connie Pennington of Chico, CA, Rita (Edward) Yeager of Marion, IN, grandchildren, Robert Woodcox Jr., Michelle Woodcox, CA, Heather (John) Hughes, NV, Chris (Katrina) Woodcox, CA, Angie (Brad) Luzadder, Marion, IN, Troy (Stephanie) Yeager, Valparaiso, IN, Michelle (Mike) Price, Jonesboro, IN, and David (Karen) Herring, great-grandchildren, Kreitin Woodcox, CA, Craig McInteye, Indianapolis, IN, Emily Hughes, Justin Hughes, NV, Avery Woodcox, CA, Riley


Marshall, Marion, IN, Hunter Luzadder, Marion, IN, Barton (Kasey) Price, IN, Derek (Jess) Price, OH, Christen (Matt) Stebing, Fort Wayne, IN, and Courtney Herring, Fort Wayne, IN, and 8 great great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Eugene Pennington, brothers, Charles and Richard Flatter, sisters, Elizabeth Fannon, DeNelda Mungorean, granddaughter, Pam Herring, and great great grandson, Harrison Price.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember for a graveside service at Grant Memorial Park, located at 1606 W. 26th St. Marion, IN 46953, on Friday, April 14, 2023, at 11AM with Grandson, Brad Luzadder officiating.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Glancy-H. Brown & Son Funeral Home in Warren, Indiana.

WEST

Eulis PeeWee West,  90 of Bluffton, passed away early Saturday

morning, March 25, 2023, at River Terrace in Bluffton.

PeeWee was born on March 5, 1933 in McCormick, Arkansas to Jess Lee & Alice (Owens) West. He left Arkansas to serve his county in the United States Army from 1953 to 1955, during the Korean War. Shortly after he was honorably discharged, he moved to Bluffton. He worked as a truck driver for General Electric and other local transport companies, where he drove over 1 million miles accident free.

After he retired from trucking, PeeWee, obtained his real-estate brokers license and auctioneer license and worked as a real estate broker and auctioneer for Bob Frantz Reality, Oswalt Reality and the Steffen Group. He attended the First Baptist Church in Bluffton.

On June 8, 1956, in Bluffton, PeeWee married Karen F. (Kreigh) West.

Survivors include his wife of almost 67 years, Karen F. West of Bluffton and children; Mary Alice (Bruce) Miller of Liberty Center, Kathy (Keith Masterson)

Musco of Poneto and Abigail West of Bluffton, along with 5 grandchildren; Nick (Cheris) Miller, Mike (Shannon) Musco, Matt (Angela) Musco, Shelby Boyle, Megan Boyle and 8 great-grandchildren, along with nieces and nephews.

PeeWee is preceded in death by his parents and a sister Thelma Anders, and brothers, Chester & Vester, Paul, Ray, Carl, Johnny West.

Funeral Services will take place 11:00 A.M. on Thursday (March 30, 2023) at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Entombment will follow at the Fairview Cemetery Community Mausoleum. Military Honors will be performed by the United States Army Honor Guard and the American Legion Post #111 of Bluffton Honor Guard.

Visitation will be held from 2 P.M. to 6 P.M. on Wednesday at the funeral home and for one hour prior to the service on Thursday.

Memorials may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.



2023-2024 Kindergarten Registration

Southern Wells Elementary School

Tuesday, April 11, 2023 7 AM – 6 PM

Tours of the building will be available 3:15p-6:00 pm
Stop in the elementary office (Door #20) anytime on April 11 to sign up for testing and pick up an information packet.



Please bring the following:
* Student's birth certificate
* Student's immunization

AREA NEWS CONTINUED

MORE PAGE 4

Emerging resources are helping eliminate these barriers and are making it easier for people to assess their screening eligibility, locate screening centers, schedule appointments, and receive financial assistance if they don't have insurance or transportation. Free tobacco cessation resources and other lung health resources also exist to help people to reduce their risk. To learn more, visit www.lung.org/lung-health-diseases.org or speak directly to a nurse or respiratory therapist by calling the Lung Helpline at 1-800-LUNG-USA.

When lung cancer is detected and treated in its earliest stages, more positive outcomes can be expected. That's why it's so important that everyone learns their risk and connects to resources to help them get screened.

4 TIPS TO GROW CASH FLOW FOR YOUR SMALL BUSINESS

(StatePoint) As every small business owner soon learns, growing sources of revenue and cash flow are key to survival, particularly during a venture's first few years. While this is easier said than done, small businesses can focus on attracting new customers, building partnerships and scaling up sustainably to improve cash flow.

To get you started, Wells Fargo is sharing actionable tips for entrepreneurs, along with information about how to leverage helpful resources:

1. Create an action plan: Don't just make a business plan, put it into action. Tech tools can help. For example, the Silver Lining Action Plan, a data-driven software service from the American Small Business Growth Program, provides wide-ranging support and structure so you can develop behaviors and drive actions that lead to long-term, sustainable growth. The program also offers the opportunity to

build capital, lending money to business owners based on their behavior in the program, not their credit history. With Wells Fargo philanthropic funding, the program is expanding and is now available in Spanish.

"Having access to a trusted expert in business and financial planning can be a game-changer for any small business owner to get their initial footing and grow for the long-term," said Jenny Flores, head of small business growth philanthropy at Wells Fargo. "We are very intentional about funding non-profit organizations that can help guide small business owners through goal setting and improving their profitability."

2. Expand your network: Expanding your network can be a powerful path to attracting new customers, contracts and cash flow. In addition to joining your local chamber of commerce, consider opportunities like Wells Fargo's Connect to More program, which through the Nasdaq Entrepreneurial Center, places women entrepreneurs from across the country into "circles" that receive virtual and in-person peer and professional coaching over 12 weeks, plus the support of a growing network of fellow business leaders. Since its inception, the program has empowered more than 1,200 entrepreneurs in 47 states to grow their business through a wider network of engagement.

3. Scaling up: From streamlining operations to adjusting the business model, there are many moving parts to scaling up a business. Look into programs that can help you develop a growth mindset and provide you with an empowering ecosystem of support needed to make it happen.

The Latino Business Action Network's Business Scaling Program, a nine-week online and in-person hybrid program at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, teaches participants about funding and capital options

and pairs them with mentors who will challenge and support them. Corporate funders like Wells Fargo make it possible for the program to offer significant scholarships to admitted participants.

4. Get certified: If you're a diverse business owner, consider getting certified with a third party, such as the Women's Business Enterprise National Council, the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce or Disability:In. Doing so can open up lucrative opportunities. For example, Wells Fargo, which is committed to working with diverse suppliers, spent over \$330 million with certified women-owned businesses in 2021 alone.

For more small business ideas that will help you take action and increase your opportunities for business success, visit <https://smallbusinessresources.wf.com>.

"As a bank that serves millions of small business customers, we know that success is hard to come by without support," said Flores. "That's why we're always trying to connect entrepreneurs to valuable resources and contacts. It's important to find the right expertise for where you are on running or growing your company."

SUPPORTING THE CHILDREN OF U.S. SERVICE MEMBERS

(StatePoint) Life in the U.S. Armed Forces can be challenging, particularly for the nearly 1.2 million children of active-duty service members.

During April, which is the Month of the Military Child, the United Service Organizations (USO) is raising awareness of both the constant change and uncertainty "military brats" are often faced with, and efforts being made to support these youngest members of the military community – who, like their parents, make huge sacrifices on behalf of our country.

"I grew up as a 'military brat' and my Dad served on active duty my entire childhood until I was commissioned in the Navy myself. The realities of military life can take a toll on children," says Alan J. Reyes, USO chief operations officer.

Here are five USO programs supporting military children:

1. Connection through reading. Sometimes there's nothing a child wants more after a long day at a new school than for their parent to read them a bedtime story. The USO Reading Program is helping deployed service members and military children connect through books. Service members can walk into a participating USO location where they are deployed, record themselves reading their child's favorite story and have that recording emailed to their child -- and a copy of the book shipped home. In turn, military children can read a book on camera, add that book to their personal collection and send the recording to their deployed family member. The program also offers story-time events, where military children can spend time with other kids their own age who are also entrenched in military life.

2. Fun activities. Many of the more than 250 USO locations worldwide offer programs and events to military children and families, including arts and crafts, family game nights, virtual cooking classes and scavenger hunts. These fun events can offer a little distraction for kids and help bring military families closer together.

3. Baby showers. Being far from loved ones and support networks can be exceptionally difficult on families during pregnancy and in the first few years following birth. To support military parents and set military children up for success, USO Special Delivery hosts in-person and virtual baby showers, which include games, local guest speakers, raffle drawings for gifts, and

a touch of home during a challenging time.

4. Entertainment. Today, USO entertainment tours and virtual programs include family-friendly events with celebrities and experts across a variety of industries, such as a live Q&A with world-renowned

conservationist Dr. Jane Goodall, a live cooking demo with Food Network's Valerie Bertinelli, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) activities with Emily Calandrelli from "Emily's Wonder Lab".

5. A "Home Away from Home." When stationed far from everything familiar, especially in distant locations overseas, military kids can turn to their local USO center where they will be surrounded by a supportive community. Designed with comfort in mind, these centers are often outfitted with plushy furniture, a kitchen full of snacks, plenty of books, and programs and services that keep the military community connected and entertained.

To learn more, and discover ways you can help support military children, visit <https://www.uso.org>.

"Although they don't wear a uniform, military kids still serve in their own way, and they deserve our support," says Reyes.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 8

10:00 a.m. Sharp!

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Warren, IN

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