


McLeansboro Gazette shared that when a customer puts in their Assumed Name (legal new business) for three weeks (required by law), they call them to be included in their special "Our New Businesses" page. It can be any size and they always put in color and share the color cost.

Submitted by: Brenda Tarlton
mclgazetteads@gmail.com

## Corona Carry-Out Conquest



Village Voices was looking for something to not only bring in revenue, but also help the restaurants and bars in the area. They came up with the "Corona Carry Out Challenge".

Patrons had a month to order carry out food a total of ten times from at least eight different participating restaurants/bars that were included on the page. They saved their receipts and once they had ten - they were able to turn them in for a free t-shirt with the logo on it. (We got a local t-shirt company to do the shirts at a reduced rate.) Advertisers were only charged a nominal fee to participate. They were give the option of dropping off if they did not get much of a response - no receipts were being asked for - which did not happen with any of them. So while there was a "free" option, everyone ended up paying. Overall it helped bring in revenue for Village Voices- while also setting us apart as the "good guys" newspaper that was looking to help.

Submitted by: Dan Stevens
villagevoices@aeroinc.net


Promotion is called 'The Fortune Phrase' and is done by The Mendota Reporter every July.

The idea was conceived by the advertising manager at the paper in the early 1980s and it has run in the paper every year since then.

The Fortune Phrase is a month-long promotion in which the advertising department sells the ads for the promotion and then we come up with a phrase. The words of the phrase are then hidden in the ads, one word per ad. Some ads might not have a hidden word depending on how many words are in the phrase. Participants then have to find the hidden words in the ads and make those words into the phrase.

This promotion is done every year because it gets very high participation and is a nice revenue source for the paper. Participants have a chance to win a prize and the advertisers love the promotion because it requires reading each ad closely in order to find the hidden words.

The result is reoccurring revenue each July from this promotion.

Submitted by: Kip Cheek
mendotareporter.com


Curbside Bingo. This was created with the idea of helping local restaurants/businesses with their 'curbside' model. It was NO cost for a business to participate. They only needed to submit a gift card. The business at the bottom of the bingo card paid for the ad. They received both a front page banner the day that the bingo card ran AND the ad at the bottom of the bingo card. We ran this separately in several of our newspapers. I have included one week's bingo card and a bingo overview.

Devan Vaughn dvaughn@localsouthernnews.com


When the local high school (Oak Park and River Forest High School) announced that they would not have an in-person graduation we connected with the high school staff and created an EXTRAVAGANZA to give businesses, parents and the community a way to honor the graduates. Here is what we produced:
https://issuu.com/wednesdayjournal/docs/wjoprfgraduationextravaganza061020
They mailed it to EVERY graduate (regardless of whether or not they subscribed) - the high school paid for the mailing and paid for most of the pages of the graduates.
Here is the letter that they sent out:
Thank you Oak Park and River Forest business people. The response has been strong since we announced Wednesday that the Journal is celebrating OPRF's very odd, very wonderful graduation with our 2020 OPRF Graduation Extravaganza on June 10.
If you're reopening, if you're declaring your future in these villages send that message with an ad in this section and its replica digital edition.
The prices are low because we know cash is tight.
$1 / 4$ page for $\$ 200,1 / 2$ page for $\$ 400$, Full page for $\$ 500$
Every ad is in color. The paper is upgraded. And as a bonus, we're mailing a copy of the Extravaganza (with the complete Journal inside) to every graduate.
Reach out to Marc Stopeck, Lourdes Nicholls or Mary Ellen Nelligan. Time is short. These kids have to get graduated!
Dan Haley
Submitted by: Lourdes Nicholls
lourdes@oakpark.com

## Scavenger Hunt \& Trivia Contest



This was created as a socially distanced event. It was a Scavenger Hunt Trivia contest. Basically people had to preregister for the free event. Day of the event they went to all the checkpoints to find a sign with a trivia question. A list of locations was available in our newspapers. The list was actually a DT with paid advertising and a list of locations. The answers were submitted via Survey Monkey. Extra points were available for 'selfies' submitted for certain tasks. Winning team won a family pack of tickets to Holiday World in Santa Claus, Indiana. This was one of our first events as a group AND definitely the first 'virtual/distanced' event! One team answered all the questions correctly AND did a selfie challenge and made their own collage. I have included a sales flyer, our DT page and the winning team with their selfies.

Devan Vaughn
dvaughn@localsouthernnews.com

## Spring Sports

An unforgettable season


Spring 2020: What might have been


Boys Track \& Field


The Sidell Reporter covers only one school district. Preceding each sports season we do a preview with team photos, coaches' comments, rosters, schedules and an outlook on what is expected to come. We had our spring sports preview about ready to go to press when the governor shut down the schools. We waited until mid April when it was evident the schools weren't going to open and sports would not be played. To keep from losing that revenue from our eight sponsors, we changed our spring sports "preview" to a sports recap. We had had several years of awesome spring sports, had gone to state in all three of them in previous years and were a contender for the state title in track again this year. Such a cheat for our students to have it taken away. So, thanks to my great sports writer who is just a stringer but oh-so-talented (he used to be a newspaper editor!) he put together stories on the teams, highlighting the talent that this year's seniors had and what "might have been" by looking at what they had done their 3 years in high school.

With fall sports mostly done away with, we are doing a similar thing for fall, looking at the two lesser sports that are playing - golf and cross country - and spotlighting what might have been in football, volleyball and soccer.

Submitted by Rinda Maddox
editor@thesidellreporter.com


With the world struck by COVID and schools closing and sports being halted, I couldn't imagine what we would find to fill our paper. We make our one school a huge part of our news coverage. Our first thoughts by April 1 is that we would not be able to generate enough news to fill our pages. And, at the same time, the advertisers were dropping off. So, we thought we'd try a puzzle section, which we had not ever done. We called businesses to see if they'd be a sponsor, stating the puzzle page would help people keep entertained as they were locked up at home. We thought we'd run 8 weeks with one $\$ 60$ sponsor each week. My ad rep, who only does phone/email contacts one day a week, sold 10 ads immediately. Since she didn't stop at the 8 I had in mind, I told her we'd need 6 more and would do two ads a week. Before we were done she sold enough to run three ads a week under the puzzles for nine weeks. Our advertising rates are $\$ 5.50$ a column inch. To add $\$ 180$ a week for the puzzles was quite a boost for us.

Submitted by Rinda Maddox editor@thesidellreporter.com


## Hearst Media - Telegraph/Intelligencer

Heroes Unmasked Campaign Recognizing Local Heroes!
There are many local heroes within our communities that deserved recognition throughout the COVID Pandemic. These heroes are teachers, business owners, nurses, delivery drivers, grocery store clerks, etc. that put aside their personal agendas to reach out to others during this crisis.
We are the newspaper of the community and we wanted to recognize those who were our Local Heroes.
Our goal was to create Community Partnership. We allowed our advertisers to share in this partnership to honor the heroes. With that, they had the opportunity to place an ad in our print publications and on our websites to let the community know they care.
We joined together Editorial and Advertising to create a team to get the job done. A Roles and Responsibilities spreadsheet was created to keep commitments organized. Packages for our advertisers were created and priced. We created a PowerPoint presentation and presented it to our advertising team for thoughts and ideas. We formed teams amongst the Sales Department to create enthusiasm around this project. We then shared this idea with fellow Hearst Midwest Communities.
This was a three-part campaign that created revenue in three periods. The three parts were:

1. Advertising Period 2. Tab including all submitted stories 3. Event online

For the Advertising Period, the packages included print ads, digital ads, and signs spread throughout the community recognizing the businesses as supporters of our Local Heroes.
On the websites, people had the opportunity to nominate a Local Hero that had gone above \& beyond by helping others during this trying time. The Editorial Department interviewed many heroes during this time and their stories were in our newspapers, as well as on our websites. MANY stories were published about the Local Heroes within our community!
The end goal of this project, was to remind the community that we support them as their local source for news, their local businesses support them, to recognize those who had gone above \& beyond, and to generate revenue at the same time.
It was a successful revenue campaign, recognized the local heroes, and gave our local businesses a chance to show their recognition!
Submitted by : Kim Manoogian Kristine Ressler Kristine.Ressler@hearst.com


For Wednesday, Journal's 40th anniversary they offered clients a sale with the $\$ 40$ theme.... They ended up with a 68 page newspaper (normally about 28 pages) - and got advertising from clients who had never placed an ad!

Here is the issue online and the letter I sent to clients below:
https://issuu.com/wednesdayjournal/docs/wednesdayjournal 072920
Hi ,
July 29th is Wednesday Journal's 40th Anniversary and we are having a huge sale on advertising!
Print ads in our Anniversary issue are as low as $\$ 40$ !
Promote your business
Offer up a coupon
Send a message to the community
Blowout Advertising rates:
1/8th page - \$40, 1/4 page -- \$80, Half page -- \$160, Full page -- \$320
(All ads are black \& white. Add $\$ 50$ if you want color.)
Want an online ad? Get 50,000 impressions for just $\$ 100$ (reg. $\$ 500$ )
Let me know if you want to reserve a spot!

Submitted by: Lourdes Nicholls
lourdes@oakpark.com


The Sidell Reporter has found serial stories to be popular. They provide the story and sell sponsorships. The advertisers use a theme that coincides with the story. Gets the kids reading the newspaper.
Submitted by Rinda Maddox
editor@thesidellreporter.com

## Community Marketing Grant



Shaw Media created a grant program of up to $\$ 1,000,000$ in matching advertising credits to assist locally owned businesses. The credit could be used toward print or digital advertising. It was open to locally owned and operated businesses impacted by the Coronavirus. Grants were available for a minimum of $\$ 200$ and a maximum of $\$ 10,000$ of matching credits each month. Grants were awarded on a monthly basis. The matching grant must be used within the month.
Submitted by: Jason Hegna
jhegna@shawmedia.com


Shaw Media created digital school calendars. They partner with local high school to develop a digital school calendar that they can keep readers up to date with the latest events which they promote through print and email blasts. The calendar is used by students, parents, grandparents and anyone interested in high school. It is sponsored by local businesses. Link: https://www.newstrib.com/hallhighschool/ Submitted by: Jeanette Smith jmsmith@shawmedia.com

## Women's VIRTUAL Expo Week



To reserve your sponsorship, or for more information,
please contact your Account Executive đirectly or call 815.223.3200.


NewsTribune Women's Virtual Expo brought attendees aspects of an in-person expo online. Vendors, videos and topics such as Health, Fashion, Beauty, Shopping, Crafting, Investing, Cooking and Parenting were featured each day for women of all ages. Plus all guests received a digital goody bag with great offers from sponsors!!
We had 5 Corporate Sponsors and 24 Featured Vendors participate.
We were very excited with the success of the EXPO. We have over 500
registrations. Our first every virtual goody bag had over 730 page views. Our daily email blasts had a 10\% open rate and 1\% click through rate. And overall the EXPO had a $46.5 \%$
Visit Rate. Link: https://www.newstrib.com/wvexpo2020/
Submitted by: Jason Hegna jhegna@shawmedia.com Jeanette Smith jmsmith@shawmedia.com

## Buy True Local Movement



## Buy True Local

## Supporting our Local Businesses!

We saw a need to support our local businesses. Buy True Local is a movement, an initiative, to help the community realize the importance of shopping local.
This campaign entailed a print ad, twice a week in the Intelligencer in the Buy True Local section, as well as a print ad in our bi-weekly publication, the Edge of the Weekend. Customers can choose from impressions on our websites, or Facebook Sponsored ads to be packaged with the consistent print ads.
Participants also received an online listing in our Open for Business Directory, on our websites. Window decals were distributed to participating businesses signifying their support for the campaign.
In the first 6 months, an increase in NEW Business was generated due to this campaign! Feedback from BTL participants has been wonderful and it is exciting to see the window decals around town.
This campaign was about helping to educate on the importance of shopping local. With that ... came print and digital advertising!
This campaign is a win win all the way around!
Submitted by: Kristine Ressler
Kristine.Ressler@Hearst.com


SENIOR to SENIOR - Words of Wisdom Through the Ages
A Special Celebration for Graduating Seniors During the COVID Pandemic!
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic Graduating Seniors weren't allowed to have a formal graduation ceremony. We wanted to celebrate the seniors in a special way during this trying time in their life. Our IDEA was to contact Senior Living Communities and have their residents write personal notes of wisdom to the Graduating Seniors. Why did our customers love this TAB:
Target Audience (targeting Seniors, Graduating Seniors, \& Parents of Graduating Seniors) exposure, and community awareness for our advertisers. Engaging and compelling piece Graduating seniors needed all the sage advice and recognition during this pandemic A meaning project that Senior Citizens from Senior Living Communities can participate in and feel that they are contributing.
It's a keepsake piece that the graduating seniors and their parents will cherish and keep The end goal of this project was to celebrate Graduating Seniors during a time when they couldn't celebrate with their graduating class and to give Senior Citizens a project to work on when they were confined to their rooms during the pandemic.
Testimonial from one of our readers "Senior to Senior was a beautiful publication, I cried when I read the "Notes of Wisdom"
We heard from several of our Senior Communities, they can't wait until next year's Senior to Senior, they have some creative ideas for the Senior Notes! RAVE REVIEWS FOR THIS PUBLICATION!
Submitted by Kim Manoogian
kimberly.manoogian@hearst.com


## Getting People Back in the Doors of our Local Businesses!

Everyone loves Bingo!
During the COVID-19 pandemic many small businesses and restaurants were forced to close their doors, fearful they wouldn't have the resources to reopen. Once the restrictions were lifted and they were able to reopen, we wanted to provide a way to get people back in their doors. That's why BINGO was created.
Here is how it works:
We will publish a Bingo card for your local market
We will Insert those cards into the Telegraph and the Intelligencer
We will Insert cards into The EDGE of the Weekend
Printable Bingo cards were featured on thetelegraph.com and theintelligencer.com for for six weeks
The end goal of this project, was to remind the community that we support them as their local source for news by helping them get customers back in their doors.
It generated good revenue and a .HUGE WIN FOR OUR SMALL BUSINESSES!
Submitted by Kim Manoogian
kimberly.manoogian@hearst.com


During this COVID pandemic, I have found that our customers are not readily spending on just any Special Section. Now more than ever, they are holding onto their advertising budget for something that is narrowly focused to a specific target they are trying to reach at this particular time. We targeted college students and their parents.

There were two main reasons our advertisers wanted to be in the section:
They knew the parents of college students would be reading this section and that's who they are trying to reach. Demographics age, college aged children, financial resources.
Some of our advertisers wanted to target the college students directly. For instance, one of our Credit Unions target college students, they want to start building a banking relationship early. Women's Health Practice, wanted to target college age women to also begin a relationship early as well.
Submitted by Kim Manoogian
kimberly.manoogian@hearst.com


In March when the pandemic first started we were scheduled to do our March Madness Bracket in which Kurt had revenue he was against for the previous year. Not only did Kurt come up with a brilliant idea to substitute our normal NCAA Teams with local carryout Restaurants that were struggling and needed the business that this generated for them, he also surpassed his last year number by increasing 10\%\% over prior year revenue.
Submitted by Regina Harbison for Kurt Ferguson rharbison@thetelegraph.com


Once again in August Kurt had a great save. We always print our High School Preview Football tab at the end of P-8. With high school football on hold in Illinois, we had to save the revenue we have traditionally always had. The idea of creating a tab of Cardinals Baseball Greats was born. Kurt took the idea and made up over $50 \%$ of lost revenue from the Football tab. This was a special section which featured Baseball cards with all the important stats for our retired Cardinals greats and then what they had done since retirement. Kurt sold half page ads to match up with half page baseball cards of the advertiser's choosing. The advertiser's loved it as well as the readers. Submitted by Regina Harbison for Kurt Ferguson rharbison@thetelegraph.com


High School MVP
Prior to the pandemic we were planning a High School Super Starz event to honor the high achieving high school athlete in the area. Of course, the pandemic put a stop to the event. However, to still garner revenue we did a High School MVP series and teamed with the Editorial Sports Department to pull it off. Each day a different area athlete was featured and Kurt sold strip ads under the article. This series proved to be with new revenue.
Submitted by Regina Harbison for Kurt Ferguson
rharbison@thetelegraph.com


Many of you are Metro Creative Graphics Subscribers. The Holiday Advertising Service this year includes a Giving Thanks that is about greetings and thanks from the area's merchants. that can be purchased a la carte. It also includes 4 Holiday sections this year besides the Giving Thanks, Home for the Holidays, Holiday Fun \& Games, Holiday Songbooks, and Christmas Coloring Book. These can easily be done in paper as a series. Metro is a creative, editorial \& ad development resource specifically designed to make publishers money with their print, web, social \& mobile efforts.
Jennifer Steiner Metro Creative Graphics Sales Director, jsteiner@metro-email.com

# Our Hometown Matt Larson Mcl@our-hometown.com 



Matt Larson is going to talk with us about using FB live as a new platform for sharing the news and sponsorship programs.

# Thank you to all our idea submissions and congratulations to our four \$50 winners. 



Please submit your ideas year round to Sandy Pistole at spistole@illinoispress.org Thank You!

