

# OBITUARIES

## John E. Plesko

John E. Plesko, 90, of Pontiac, died Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2016, at 10:06 p.m. at Tjardes Health Care Center at Evenglow Lodge. Calvert & Martin Funeral Home, Pontiac has charge of arrangements.

## Douglas A. Smith

Douglas A. Smith, 55, of Pontiac, formerly of Flanagan, passed away at his home at 4:55 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22, 2016, with his loving wife and family at his side.

Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday at the Ruestman-Harris Funeral Home in Minonk. Cremation rites will be accorded and a private family service will be held at a later date.

He was born Oct. 24, 1960, in Bloomington, a son of Dale E. and Dorothy R. (Miller) Smith. He married his high school sweetheart, Karen Chambers, on April 7, 1979, in Minonk. She survives.

Also surviving are his three daughters, Brianne (Greg) Herrman, Gridley, Jennifer (Rene) Hernandez, Volo., Lindsey (Matthew) Cooksey, Minonk; one son, Daniel (Sonya) Smith, Flanagan; his grandchildren, Gabe and Callie Herrman, Anna and Ryan Hernandez, Douglas and Kylee Smith; one special grandchild on the way; one brother, Craig (Robin) Smith of The Villages, Fla.; and one sister, Connie (Bill) Rahn of Schaumburg.

His parents preceded him in death.

Doug's passion was farming. He had the pleasure of farming alongside his father, Dale, and then his son, Daniel. He owned and operated K & D Service and Repair and K & D Landscaping in Flanagan.

Doug served as a member of the Nebraska Township Board, the Livingston County Board and was active in various committees while serving on those boards.

He was also a member of the First Baptist Church of Minonk. He was a devoted Christian and man of God, who lived his life to the fullest. He maintained his strong faith until the very end.

Doug loved vacationing with family, riding his Harley Davidson and spending time with his grandchildren.

He was loved by many and will be missed dearly.

Memorial contributions may be made to OSF Hospice Eastern Region at 211 N. Landmark Dr., Suite D3, Normal, IL 61761.

Online condolences may be left at [ruestmanharrisfuneralhome.com](http://ruestmanharrisfuneralhome.com).



Mr. Douglas Smith

# Lifestyle

## PUBLIC RECORD

**POLICE BRIEFS** covering accidents, arrests, associate court news, court cases and fire department calls are information the Daily Leader receives from the respective agencies. The **Daily Leader** also welcomes reader-submitted items such as club meetings, students in college and family reunions. **ITEMS WITH PHOTOGRAPHS** are also welcome. Items may be emailed to the Daily Leader at [ldrnews@mchsi.com](mailto:ldrnews@mchsi.com) or may be faxed to 815-842-4388.

QUESTIONS? Contact Paul Westermeyer at 815-842-1153 or at [pwestermeyer@pontiacdailyleader.com](mailto:pwestermeyer@pontiacdailyleader.com)

## Snow-covered Abe



The bronze Abraham Lincoln statue near the Livingston County Historic Courthouse was covered in snow Wednesday morning, giving it an almost ghostly appearance. LUKE SMUCKER/DAILY LEADER

## Banquet to be held March 10

The Pontiac Area Chamber of Commerce's 99th annual banquet is being held March 10, at the Pontiac Elks Lodge.

To receive the early bird pricing of \$30 per person, turn reservations in by Friday, Feb. 26. Reservations received after that date will cost \$35 per person.

The evening kicks off with a social hour at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6 p.m.

After dinner, a short annual meeting will be held before the presentation of awards honoring business person of the year, agribusiness person of the year, volunteer of the year and the scholastic awards for top students from Pontiac schools, which feed into the high school.

## VERMILLION PLAYERS

# 'Game Show' tickets go on sale in March

Vermillion Players next dinner theater production at The Eagle Performing Arts and Conference Center will be "Game show," a interactive play written by Jeffery Finn and Bob Walton.

Dinner theater reservations for the production will open to the General Public on Tuesday, March 1 and can be made by calling the Eagle Box Office at 815-844-1187 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, or by stopping at the Pontiac City Hall.

The show will run for two weekends, April 1 to 3 and April 8 to 10 with Friday and Saturday evening performances and Sunday

matinees.

The production is set during a live broadcast of a fictional, long-running TV game show and places the theater audience in the role of the TV studio audience.

Audience members are picked as the contestants to play the trivia-based game and win prizes.

In addition to watching and playing during the broadcast — where anything can and does happen — the audience also witnesses all the backstage, backstabbing antics "behind the scenes" that go on during the commercial breaks of "Game Show."

The production is directed by

Julie Peterson and co-produced by Michele Barnett and Mary Jones.

Doors open at 6 p.m. for Friday and Saturday evening shows.

Dinner service is from 6:15 to 7 p.m. and the show begins at 7:30 p.m.

Doors will open at 12:30 p.m. for Sunday matinee shows with dinner service running from 12:45 to 1:30 p.m. and the show beginning at 2 p.m..

The cost is \$35 for adults and \$25 for children. Groups of 20 or more can receive a discount. Catering is provided by Bernardi's II.

## CENTRAL GRADE SCHOOL

# Reading, feeding book fair event March 1-3

The Central Grade School book fair and community outreach committees are teaming up to make a difference. During the school's Scholastic Book Fair, the community outreach committee will be on hand taking non-perishable donations for local food pantries.

The book fair and food drive collection, held in Central School's gym, will take place on March 1-3 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Plans for the book fair week include a "My Monster Story" project. Working together with their family, students submit a short story and picture of their monster creation.

The stories will be on display in the gym for all to read when they visit the book fair. Students are encouraged to come to school dressed like a monster or their favorite book character on Tuesday, March 1.

Students will also receive a visit from Clifford the Big Red Dog and a storyteller who will be reading each class a short story.

Any students who come to the fair will be entered in a drawing to win a prize. The crafting area will feature monster crafts with parent volunteers on hand to help.

After making their monster creation, parents are invited to take photos of their student with the monsters teachers have created to decorate the fair.

There will be a monster basket shooting contest where each basket made — limit of 10 attempts — earns the student another entry into the attendance drawing.

Outreach committee members are asking book fair attendees to bring non-perishable food items when they come to the fair. Each item brought will give the donor an entry into a prize drawing with three winners receiving reading-themed items and books for the family.

The community is invited to participate in the food drive as well by dropping off donations at the Central School office weekdays between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. through Friday, March 4.

Food pantry donations typically fall off sharply after the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. The Outreach committee, with the assistance of families and the public, are hoping to have a positive impact with this event.

Suggested donation items include: pasta, pasta sauce, canned vegetables, canned fruit, cereal, juice, canned soups/chili/stews, rice, instant meals that require adding water only, toilet paper, soap, shampoo and toothpaste.

Book fair customers can help build classroom libraries by purchasing books through the classroom wish list program. Classroom wish lists are created when teachers choose books available at the fair that they would like to add to their student classroom library.

Customers may then purchase any of those books for their student's classroom. All profits earned from the book fair are used to purchase needed items for classrooms and books for Central's library.

The book fair offers specially priced books and educational products, including popular series, award-winning titles, new releases, adult bestsellers, and others from more than 100 publishers. There are books available to meet the reading needs of any age, preschooler to adult.

# Grandmother has a history of snide remarks

**Dear Annie:** I've been married for 32 years to "Conrad," and we have two terrific adult sons.

My mother-in-law will be 87 soon, and Conrad is her only child. I have never had a good relationship with her in spite of all my efforts.

She chose not to attend our wedding reception because it was hosted by her late ex-husband's second wife. Instead, she told us that she stayed home, drank champagne and "cried all night." She has a long history of making snide remarks when nobody is there to witness them.

My husband and I are in Maui for a month. Prior to our departure, I provided a list (in a large font) of all contact information for family members, physicians, dentists, etc., and clipped it to a magnet on her refrigerator.

While we've been gone, her condo has developed a basement leak. My husband and I have been on the phone with her daily regarding insurance, repair work, etc.

During one call, she commented that she had no one to phone while we were away. My husband reminded her that she can call our sons, who live



Annie's Mailbox

nearby, and she replied, "No, your wife told me not to bother them." This was a complete lie. He told her that I would never say that, but she insisted that I had.

My first reaction was to call her out on it, but I want my husband with me as a witness when I talk to her.

I want to be sure I am courteous when we see her. But how do I get her to stop lying? — *Annoyed DIL*

**Dear Annoyed:** If Mom is still looking to discredit you after 32 years, it isn't likely to change. We would also add that, as she gets older, some of this behavior may get worse.

You and your husband need to politely, firmly and repeatedly correct Mom whenever she does this, so she knows she isn't

fooling anyone. Write it down, if necessary, so that when you are vacationing, there is a record.

Also inform other family members of any instructions you have given Mom. You will be less aggravated knowing that others are aware of what's going on.

**Dear Annie:** I read the letter from "The Ones Left Behind," who said that she and her husband raised her three kids with no help from their birth father.

Now that the kids are grown, the bio-dad is back in the picture and the kids are hungry for his attention. She feels they are leaving her in the dust.

I was like her children. At one point, I felt I needed to establish a relationship with my father so that I could be at peace.

I did it for my own well-being and hoped my mother would understand, but she was upset

and hurt. She took that anger to her grave. It saddens me to think about it.

Please tell "Left Behind" that a relationship with their father is probably very healing for her children. It has nothing to do with her.

If she can joyfully support them in this effort, it would be the greatest gift she could give. — *Been There*

**Dear Been:** Thank you for presenting the other side. We hope "Left Behind" sees this and understands.

**Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, long-time editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to [anniesmailbox@creators.com](mailto:anniesmailbox@creators.com), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254.**

**Pontiac Elks Trivia Night**  
**Friday, February 26**  
**7:30 pm**  
 Teams up to 10 People  
 Entry Fee \$2 Per Person  
**Please call and register your team**

**Gift Certificate for Winning Team**  
 Elks Members & Guest Welcome

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