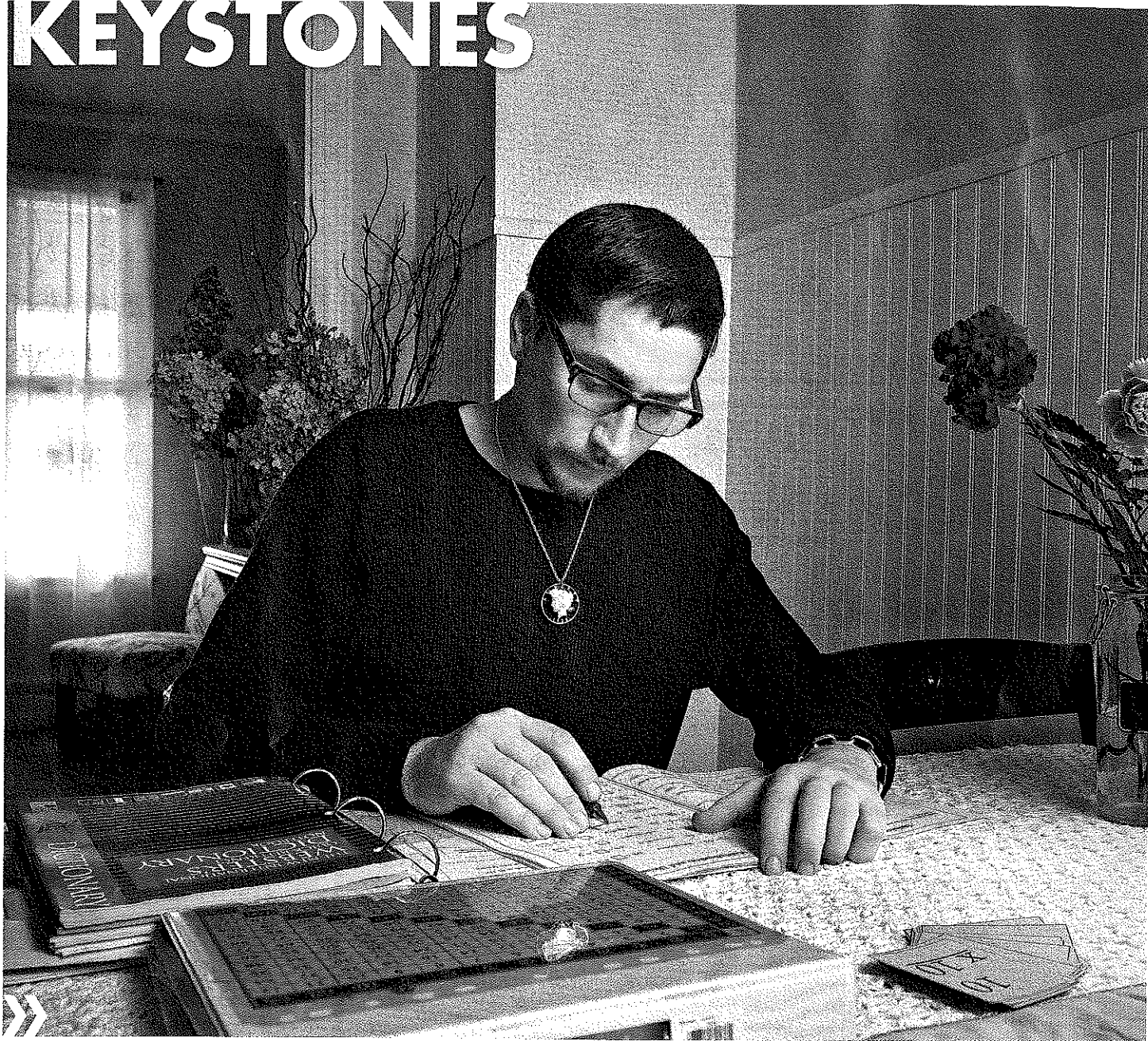


KEYSTONES



TURNING THE PAGE

BY CAROLYN KIMMEL

Noah Ludwig and reading never really got along during school. His mind would wander off long before the last period of the paragraph. The Lebanon native dropped out of school midway through ninth grade, but he always wanted to earn his diploma. After working menial jobs and spending some time homeless, Ludwig, now 30, decided it was time to “get out of this rut.” He sought help at the Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon, where he began to learn the structure of a sentence, the difference between an adverb and an adjective and when to use “too” versus “two.”



Read the small print

For more information on getting help from the Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon, visit www.getliterate.org.



ING THE PAGE

YN KIMMEL

Reading never really got along during school. His mind would wander during the last period of the paragraph. The Lebanon native dropped out of school in eighth grade, but he always wanted to earn his diploma. After working menial jobs for a time homeless, Ludwig, now 30, decided it was time to "get out of this rut." He joined the Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon, where he began to learn the structure of the relationship between an adverb and an adjective and when to use "too" versus "two."



Read the small print

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No matter how long it takes, Ludwig is determined to earn his GED and perhaps do something with his love of cooking.

"I don't want to be rich," said Ludwig, who works as a dishwasher and cook. "I just want to be comfortable."

To others who face hurdles to literacy like he did, Ludwig encourages that hard work pays off. He's says he's living proof.

Q: When did you start having trouble learning in school?

A: I am highly ADHD, and I just don't think they had the manpower to deal with someone like me. I failed sixth grade twice. I was put in the intermediate unit for a while, and I fell behind; I'm also dyslexic. I came from a poverty-stricken family so I had to work after school. I got detention for not paying attention, but I couldn't go because I had to get to work. Then I got suspended for missing detentions. I finally begged my mother just to sign me out of school.

What spurred you to go to the literacy council?

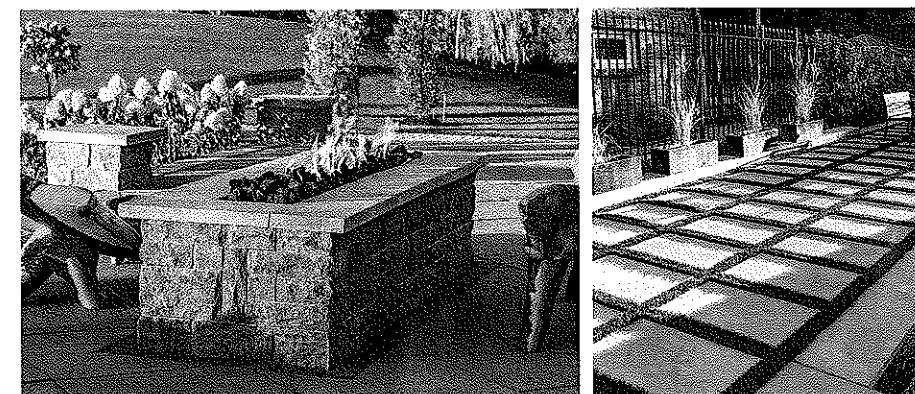
I was in a homeless shelter, and I was just tired — tired of the rut I was in for my whole life. So I asked myself, "What do I want to do to get out of it?" I'm so glad there are classes at the literacy council and people who really want to help you and encourage you. They tested me and put me in the right class. With age, maturity and practice, I'm getting better.

What's your favorite book to read?

The Bible — if you read the New International Version, it's easier. I have a problem with fear. I feel like I can't do things, and it kind of cripples me, but Jesus says not to fear. One thing I love about the Bible is it says to just walk forward and don't even worry because Jesus has your back.

How would you encourage others who have trouble reading but are ashamed to ask for help?

It is really tough, but look at your situation. Do you want to do better? If you have the drive, you can do it. It might take a while, but remember it takes people four years to graduate from high school. Study as much as you can. Keep your eye on your goal, and utilize any programs out there to help you. ■



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