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Police in trouble over divisive social media posts

12 POLICING | Mary Hansen, NPR Illinois
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EOE
Here’s your hat, what’s your hurry?

ALPLM rids self of foundation

Even before the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum opened in 2005, its foundation created in 2000 has acted as if it owned a place paid for by taxpayers.

When executive director positions for the public institution have come open, the private foundation has paid for searches, then helped pay the chosen person’s salary. Six years ago, the ALPLM warned that it might have to close due to lack of money as it launched a probe of contracts covering concessions, the gift shop and catering services that the foundation oversaw. Instead of the state selling tickets, money collected at the door has gone to the foundation, which greeted museum visitors and sold foundation memberships that came with free admission.

Over the years, the foundation has realized nearly $79 million in revenue, according to Internal Revenue Service filings, while maintaining that it can’t retire debt for stuff that may or may not be genuine.

“(It) is our decision to do what makes the most sense for the ALPLM,” the late Tolbert Chism, then foundation director, wrote in a 2007 email to then state historian Tom Schwartz, ‘spaining that once the foundation wrote a $23 million check to foundation board member Louise Taper, since departed from the board, for artifacts including a certain hat, an appraisal establishing worth to Internal Revenue Service filings, while maintaining that it can’t retire debt for stuff that may or may not be genuine.

Publicity came last week, when the ALPLM evicted the foundation from state premises and declared that a new foundation might be formed. The fate of foundation-owned relics hasn’t been decided.

The Taper Collection, owned by the foundation and bought from an insider with a loan from an insider (Chism worked for a corporation that runs the bank that acquired the note in 2012), includes gloves Lincoln carried to Ford’s Theater, a cipher book the future president used while learning arithmetic and assorted other treasures aside from a hat with questionable provenance – I think that it is fashioned from pug hair, but who knows for sure. The collection is the largest asset of an outfit with a board that includes bigwigs ranging from former Gov. Jim Edgar to historian Doris Kearns Goodwin to Pat Coburn, former publisher of the State Journal-Register to Julie Cellini, an SJ-R First Citizen. They all, I’m guessing, attended Chicago galas where the foundation, having invented the Lincoln Leadership Prize in 2006, bestowed it on such bedfellows as Sandra Day O’Connor, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Tony Blair, Steven Spielberg and the Little Rock Nine. Gary Sinise, an actor born in Illinois, won this year.

Meanwhile, treasures became hostages as the foundation a few years ago threatened to sell artifacts absent a state bailout, then set up a GoFundMe page that raised $35,000 before being quietly retired.

As with any divorce, property division is paramount, but possession is nine-tenths of the law, and the foundation’s relics reside in the ALPLM’s vault under an agreement that expires in 18 months. Nothing but shame would seem to prevent the foundation from carting off Lincoln’s bloody gloves and Mary Todd’s jewelry – the same stuff the foundation threatened to auction when it cried for a state bailout a few years ago – once the agreement expires, but that doesn’t seem necessary. The foundation’s most recent IRS filing shows that the charity as of last summer had $2.2 million in cash and temporary investments and another $5.9 million in publicly traded securities, which together would nearly cover debt, most if not all for the Taper Collection, of $8.7 million. The Taper Collection excluded, total assets exceed liabilities by $152,000, according to the filing. If necessary to zero out the foundation’s books, find a few folks in need of tax deductions to quietly donate a couple hundred thousand dollars contingent on the entire collection being signed over to the ALPLM and everyone goes home.

IRS filings don’t contain details, and that’s what the ALPLM says it was never able to get from the foundation, which the museum says refused to disclose how it spends and raises money. In a message prepared for staffers, museum brass predicts life will go on much as it always has: “Our in-depth research reveals that the foundation raises very little money for day-to-day operations at the ALPLM. Our programs and services will not suffer without the foundation.”

After calling the state unreasonable, inconsistent, threatening, heavy-handed and punitive, the foundation in a written statement last week called for reconciliation with the help of a mediator. That appears to miss the crux. This isn’t a marriage where spouses have equal power. A museum foundation should be auxiliary to the institution. The ALPLM doesn’t need the foundation nearly as much as the foundation needs the ALPLM, and if the foundation didn’t know that until last week, it should know it now.

Editor’s note

In the minds of mid-April gardeners, this year’s garden will be the best ever. So far there are no weeds, no bugs, no heat or drought, no mistakes or regrets. Only seeds and great plans. This could be the year to plant more community gardens, to grow a crop of new gardeners and fresh friends. And to teach children beets are better when you pull them yourself, and to get adults to appreciate okra and turnips. In April anything is possible. Let the adventure begin. –Fletcher Farrar, editor and CEO

Contact Bruce Rushton at brushton@illinoistimes.com.

continued on page 4
EASTER EGG FAIL
I enjoyed Ashley Meyer’s article on deviled Easter eggs (“Deviled Easter eggs,” April 1). It brought to mind a hilarious experience of attempting to make brightly colored deviled eggs in my early years of cooking. My idea was to add food coloring to the filling, but the result was a morbid Army green. Kathryn Rem, food writer for the SJ-R at that time, featured my story in her column — no doubt on cooking disasters! It makes me laugh to this day.
Carol Mullen
Springfield

DO BETTER
I was very disappointed to see the gratuitous slur against Housing Choice Voucher participants in your April 1 cover story, “Reimagining Downtown.” As what I had always considered the progressive alternative in the seat of our state government, Illinois Times should be better than that.
I recognize that you were quoting someone, but exchange “Section 8” for any racial group and you would not have published the quote. When you assume that any group of people, because of their membership in that group, will “run the whole area down,” you are showing your prejudice.
These discriminatory attitudes are why my organization and more than 50 others formed the Illinois Coalition for Fair Housing to support the passage of HB 2775, which will extend fair housing protections to tenants based on their source of income, including child support, veterans’ benefits and participation in the Housing Choice Voucher program.
Finally, the program was renamed the Housing Choice Voucher program more than 20 years ago. Continuing to call it Section 8 is ignorant or worse.
Michelle Gilbert, legal and policy director
Lawyers’ Committee for Better Housing, Chicago

COMPLAINT POEM #6
(by Mitch Hopper with slight tweaking by Jackie Jackson)

We’re at your mercy, young turks! you see us old turds as old jerks! with your buzz words throughout us nerds never doubt your language is made up of smirks.

It gives us ol’ seniors the blues to do more than survive is you can’t even tie your own shoes! It makes me laugh to this day.

We’re at your mercy, young turks! you see us old turds as old jerks! with your buzz words throughout us nerds never doubt your language is made up of smirks.

With your buzz words throughout we're at your mercy, young turks! with your alarm clocks, your smugness, yourisse.

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COURTS | Mayor defends employment decisions

Mayor Jim Langfelder overruled his staff and didn't fire a water meter reader, prompting a federal civil rights lawsuit from a former meter reader who was terminated and now accuses the city of disparate treatment based on race.

In his lawsuit, Andrew Dunlevy, fired in 2018 after supervisors found that he'd falsified meter readings, says that he was treated differently than Tour Murray, a City Water, Light and Power meter reader who stayed on the payroll after supervisors determined that he'd been taking two-hour lunch breaks and otherwise not performing assigned duties for three or more hours each day. Murray also lied on his job application, grounds for termination, saying that he hadn't been convicted of a crime despite having pled guilty to residential burglary.

Dunlevy is white; Murray is African American. They were hired within days of each other, with fates determined by the mayor as one-year probationary statuses came to an end. Murray's probation was extended for six months, but he was not disciplined. He remains on the city payroll at a salary of $42,323, nearly $10,000 more than he made three years ago, when Langfelder overruled his staff and ruled CWLP supervisors. The city also says that there's no proof the mayor knew the issue involved being 15 minutes late from lunch breaks and could be resolved with additional training.

CWLP supervisors who reviewed GPS tracking data determined that Murray, who was expected to start reading meters by 8 a.m., started as late as 9:40 a.m. and quit as early as 2:40 p.m. when the work day was supposed to end at 3:30 p.m. Supervisors determined that Murray had taken lunch breaks as long as two hours and was absent for about three hours each day over a two-week period while meter readers had between 80 and 90 minutes of down time each day as they traveled between routes. Murray, a probationary employee, was not disciplined; CWLP chief utility engineer Doug Brown testified that a union member would have been suspended.

“(T)he magnitude that it was explained to me, it was 15 minutes or what have you,” Langfelder testified. “I remember the discussion being that 15 minutes extended lunch time, and that was the extent of it. Again, I had not seen the details of the write-up.” Murray also had lied on his job application, saying that he hadn't been convicted of a crime. Murray pleaded guilty to residential burglary in 2010 and served 53 days in the Sangamon County jail.

In recommending that Dunlevy be fired, CWLP supervisors prepared a memo documenting instances in which he'd fabricated meter readings. Homeowners, including the owner of a vacant house, got unexpectedly high water bills as a result, testified Donald Ott, retired CWLP superintendent of distribution and general services. “You don't have to bend down,” he answered when a lawyer during a deposition asked what motive a meter reader would have to make up numbers.

Langfelder terminated Dunlevy, but overruled a CWLP recommendation, received about the same time, that Murray be fired.

The mayor testified that he hadn't read a memo prepared by CWLP supervisors who documented hours of missed work by Murray. Langfelder in his deposition testified that he believed the issue involved being 15 minutes late from lunch breaks and could be resolved with additional training.

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“Once someone is hired, you know, this is 2010, you know, time was served and you move on from there,” Langfelder testified.

Ott testified that an employee told CWLP managers that Murray had shown someone a gun in a city parking lot. The matter was not pursued. Ott said, because the employee wouldn't make a formal complaint. Langfelder testified that he never was made aware of any concerns about firearms.

The mayor testified that the decision to keep Murray was mutual between himself and CWLP, but he did not name anyone at the utility who agreed with him. Baker, the plaintiff's attorney, writes in a court motion that Brown and retired electric division manager John Davis should be dismissed as defendants because documents turned over since the lawsuit was filed show that they recommended both Murray and Dunlevy be fired and so did not discriminate.

The city says that Murray's conduct was different than Dunlevy's conduct that resulted in termination, and so comparing the two cases isn't proper.

“Mayor Langfelder offered a reasonable and honest reason why he treated the two differently,” Rahn writes in asking that the case be dismissed. “Plaintiff was accused of dishonesty in the performance of his job, i.e. entering false meter readings. Murray was accused of misusing his time.”

Dunlevy, hired by the state Department of Corrections as a prison guard in 2019, now earns $57,700 per year, more than he made while working for the city. He is asking for $27,254 in lost wages, plus punitive damages, attorneys' fees and compensation for emotional distress.

Contact Bruce Rushton at brushton@illinoistimes.com.
The Arbor Day Foundation last month named Springfield a 2020 Tree City USA and granted it a Growth Award for the community’s commitment to urban forest management. More than 150 Illinois towns and cities were granted the title last year. The recognition means the capital city has a public body dedicated to trees, a tree-care ordinance, an annual budget of at least $2 per capita for community forestry as well as an Arbor Day proclamation or observance.

Jeff Reim has worked in Springfield as the city’s arborist for more than five years. Arborists are like tree doctors. Springfield residents can call the city to report a sick or broken tree and Reim goes out to the location and gives his prognosis. Then he writes a city work order based on what the tree needs. Reim also approves permits for landscaping in Springfield. But tree removal is the “last resort,” said Reim during a University of Illinois Springfield (UIS) webinar March 31.

“What it boils down to is looking at the location before trees are planted,” said Reim. Tree selection is important as well. For instance, Reim said Springfield has more than 2,000 ash trees, which are considered undesirable. That’s because emerald ash borers, a type of beetle that feeds and lives under the bark of ash trees, causes the trees to die. “All the ash trees are being hit by the emerald ash borer disease so they are all being taken out at this time,” said Reim.

The Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) collaborates with Reim and Springfield’s Department of Public Works to preserve and expand urban tree and shrub growth on public property, said Jan Von Qualen, the chair of Springfield’s UFC. UFC commissioners are volunteers appointed by the mayor. The commission was dissolved for nearly 10 years, but was reestablished in 2019.

More trees in a community can improve mental health, boost creativity and spur business activity, said Von Qualen. “Cities have both gray and green infrastructure and people tend to focus on the gray infrastructure,” but the green is just as important, she said. So “part of the UFC’s role is to advocate in favor of the forest.”

A conservationist from Chicago also spoke during the UIS webinar and focused on the long list of benefits trees bring to urban areas. Concrete traps heat in cities and creates hot spots. Shade from trees can cool houses and buildings. Forests can slow runoff from rainfall and capture water, decreasing the chance of flooding and overwhelmed sewer systems.

Springfield Mayor Jim Langfelder praised community members and UFC for their ongoing commitment to conservation. “The Urban Forestry Commission has been working diligently for the last year and a half with Public Works to enhance the city’s efforts regarding tree preservation, planning and beautification,” the mayor said in a press release.

The UFC has partnered with UIS, Reim and others to host events sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts’ “Big Read.” The events are tied to themes in Hope Jahren’s book, Lab Girl. Free copies of the book were handed out at different locations in Sangamon County and local libraries have copies available for checkout. More information on NEA events this month can be found at tinyurl.com/ktdf5v2w.

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Opioid deaths rise in Illinois

Experts say fentanyl and pandemic have worsened drug epidemic

"In all my years I have never seen anything like fentanyl," said Marnell Brown. He is the founder of a harm reduction organization focused on drug use and violence prevention in Chicago. Brown has been in recovery for nearly two decades, and said he has been working in prevention for about the same amount of time. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that’s 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine. Brown testified during an Illinois Senate hearing March 30.

The number of opioid-related deaths in Illinois jumped 30% last year compared to 2019 and about 83% of opioid deaths were attributed to fentanyl, according to preliminary numbers from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).

Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that treats pain, is legally prescribed in small doses, in the form of a shot, lozenge or skin patch. Other forms of the drug – pills, powder, eye drops and nasal sprays – are illegally produced in labs. Even small doses of fentanyl can be deadly and illegal forms of the drug can be easily mixed in with other drugs as a filler. Brown said some dealers are unaware that drugs they sell are cut with fentanyl. Fentanyl overdoses cause hypoxia, a condition that stops oxygen from reaching the brain. Narcan is the brand name for a device that delivers naloxone, a drug that instantly reverses overdose effects and saves lives.

Brown also said the number of people affected by addiction and fentanyl has been hidden by COVID-19. Brown’s organization, called To Walk in My Shoes, has an outreach team that monitors police scanners and helps assist in overdoses and drug-related deaths in Chicago. Brown also allows community members to set up funeral donation boxes at the clothing store he owns for those who have died from overdoses. Since COVID-19, the outreach team has heard less over scanners, said Brown. But the number of opioid-related deaths and funeral donation boxes are increasing.

Brown said the overdoses have gone increasingly unnoticed, because people have been more isolated during the pandemic. He also believes coroners sometimes fail to rule fentanyl as the cause of deaths, accidents and overdoses.

Brown has found that some substance users have no idea they are ingesting fentanyl, and experience accidental overdoses and deaths as a result. His team worked with a man this year who thought he’d purchased and ingested PCP, a hallucinogenic anesthetic, but it was laced with fentanyl and he overdosed. The team was able to intervene and administer Narcan. "So he came through," said Brown at the hearing. State Sen. Patricia Van Pelt, D-Chicago, said during the health committee hearing that a former business partner of hers was not as fortunate. He had purchased unregulated cannabis in Ohio. It was laced with fentanyl and the man died.

IDPH data analyst Leslie Wise said at the hearing that the number of opioid-related deaths rose 27% for African Americans and 48% for Latinx populations across the state in 2020. Brown said occasionally To Walk in My Shoes has access to fentanyl-testing strips. The organization gives the strips to drug users and dealers to prevent overdoses and deaths. Brown said he has found African American people are receptive to using the tests, but others coming to Chicago from other counties or suburban areas of the city are dismissive of the strips and some are actually actively seeking fentanyl.

Brown said in his neighborhood, he finds more predominantly white and younger individuals are knowingly seeking and using fentanyl. "It has become a problem of humanity," said Brown, "not just an African American problem..."

Advocates like Brown say more funding and increased public awareness are needed to prevent deaths. With a well-informed community and rapid-response teams in place, lives can be saved and treatment can be provided, he said.

During the hearing, others advocated harsher penalties for drug dealers and manufacturers of illicit drugs cut with fentanyl. In DuPage County accidental drug-induced deaths are referred by the county coroner to the state’s attorney for further investigation. Since 2015, 17 cases have been pursued and 13 led to drug-induced homicide convictions. One case was dismissed and three are pending. That’s according to Bob Berlin, DuPage County state’s attorney. Some advocates seeking justice for drug-related deaths were in support of the state adopting the same model for investigations.

Those at the hearing recognized the importance of extended-recovery services and addiction treatment. When people are admitted to hospitals due to an overdose, some are released and leave the hospitals under a 48-hour observational period. A bill extending in-patient and safety-net coverage was approved by the Illinois Senate health committee March 31. The bill would require hospitals to offer in-patient treatment for up to two days after a person is admitted because of an overdose.

Contact Madison Angell at mangell@illinoistimes.com.
Sangamon County Sheriff Jack Campbell says that he remains committed to bringing an armored vehicle to the sheriff’s department despite opposition from the Faith Coalition for the Common Good.

“This is an important issue to me because I’m afraid the vehicle will be used against peaceful demonstrators and deaths may result,” Susan Allen, a coalition member, told county board members at a March board meeting. “I’ve seen news coverage of these vehicles advancing toward protestors, and it’s frightening. It reminds me of a totalitarian regime.”

Campbell says that he’s spoken to members of the coalition and Black Lives Matter about his plans. “We’ve had several conversations,” Campbell says. “We just have a difference of opinion. I believe our intent is not to patrol with this or use it against peaceful protestors.” The department currently doesn’t have a vehicle capable of stopping a round from a high-powered rifle, he said.

“This is for protecting the people of the county and protecting our deputies,” Campbell said.

Campbell has his eye on an Army surplus armored vehicle that’s designed to withstand mine blasts. The department sent someone to Nevada last year to look at available models and settled on one that weighs about half what the department once had. The department’s previous vehicle, also designed to protect occupants from mines and gunfire, was acquired in 2014 and disposed of in 2016, after the late Wes Barr defeated Campbell and became sheriff. The vehicle is now owned by the LaSalle County sheriff’s office, which says that it’s handy for rescuing folks from floods, barreling through blizzards and responding to shots-fired calls.

“This is a rescue-and-deliver vehicle,” Campbell says. In Sangamon County, Campbell says, an armored vehicle would be used for such purposes as delivering phones to barricaded gunmen and keeping cops out of harm’s way. The sole deployment of the county’s previous vehicle came when a man with a gun threatened people at a Riverton-area mobile home court. “He would step out of the mobile home and point a gun,” Campbell recalls. “We tried to negotiate with him.” The man surrendered when the armored vehicle bearing deputies pulled up to the edge of the mobile home’s yard, Campbell says.

That such incidents happen infrequently shows that the department doesn’t need an armored vehicle, says Shelly Heideman, Faith Coalition executive director. “If that happens once in a blue moon, why can’t you call the National Guard?” Heideman asks. Campbell says that would take too long.

“They’re not available at the drop of a hat,” the sheriff says. “Everyone knows there’s a lot of red tape with the military.”

Campbell says that he would not have deployed an armored vehicle in response to protests in Springfield last year after the death of George Floyd. “It would be an extreme situation before we would deploy it in a situation like that,” the sheriff said. “The only reason would be a viable threat of someone firing shots.”

Appearances in parades, also, would be a possibility. “I think I would be in favor of that,” Campbell said. “It lets the public see it.”

Campbell says he doesn’t know when the county might acquire a vehicle. The one in Nevada that the department covets must be moved to a different location before the sheriff’s office could pick it up, Campbell said. Costs would be limited to transportation expenses. In the case of the vehicle acquired in 2014, the department paid $6,400 in transportation costs. The vehicle was, essentially, brand new, with 764 miles on the odometer. It arrived in Springfield still bearing a window sticker showing the original purchase price as $733,000.

Such a vehicle, Heideman says, undercuts efforts to build trust and community policing. “We should be building relationships with the community, not riding around in an armored vehicle trying to intimidate people,” Heideman says. “I think there’s too big an opportunity for it to be misused.”

A bill passed this year and signed by Gov. JB Pritzker restricts police departments from acquiring armored vehicles from the military, but the restrictions don’t apply to vehicles with wheels as opposed to tracks and vehicles that don’t have affixed weapons, and so the vehicle sought by the sheriff isn’t covered.

Contact Bruce Rushton at brushton@illinoistimes.com.

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Full speed ahead
Sheriff pushes for armored vehicle

LAW ENFORCEMENT | Bruce Rushton
ISBE: This is no time to drop school aid reform

Education advocates call on governor to increase budget for schools

**EDUCATION | Rachel Otwell**

Gov. JB Pritzker has proposed no increase in funding for education for the 2022 fiscal year, which begins in July. That’s a result of increasingly limited state dollars due to the pandemic. Education dollars did not see an increase for the current fiscal year either. But education advocates and officials say more is needed. Through a law adopted in 2017, the state promised to follow a formula for more equitable education funding, and proponents for it say skipping another year would have long-term costs that can’t be justified by short-term savings.

During an April 1 hearing, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) advocated a funding increase of $406.5 million. “We strongly believe this budget recommendation is necessary to provide the resources our schools, educators and students need to continue to recover equitably from the COVID-19 pandemic,” ISBE chairman Darren Reisberg told legislators at the hearing, as reported by Capitol News Illinois.

Most of the increase requested would go toward the so-called evidence-based funding (EBF) formula from 2017, which promised to bring all districts in the state up to 90% adequate funding over the following decade. The formula calls for the state to increase its EBF contribution by $350 million per year. The formula makes clear that there have been deep disparities in dollars spent per student by local school districts, based on factors like location, family income and race. Under the new state school aid formula more dollars are supposed to flow to the most cash-poor districts.

Adequate funding is based on a formula that considers what districts need to provide a high-quality education. Costs like instructional materials, employee benefits and student activities are factors. Schools are largely funded by property taxes and, as a result, less is spent on students in poorer districts, leading to systemic inequity. The formula is meant to account for those differences, by making up with state funds what is lacking in local funds.

Despite the state’s commitment to pay into the EBF formula and reach 90% adequate funding across the state by 2027, the formula was already “flat-funded” by the state for the current fiscal year due to the pandemic. Advance Illinois, a nonprofit that lobbies for education reforms, released an April report on the EBF model that uses data to show how gaps will widen if school funding remains the same for a second year.

In its first years, the EBF formula was working to close funding gaps. But a lack of funding would set progress back, according to Advance Illinois. Its report found that 50% of public school students statewide, and the “vast majority” of Hispanic/Latinx and Black students, are in school districts that need more than 30% more funding to provide high-quality education.

The pandemic has also meant schools have greater funding needs, from more staff to updated ventilation systems. Chuck Lane, superintendent for Centralia High School in southern Illinois, said extra pandemic relief from the federal government is going toward necessary costs. “It’s not like we don’t appreciate the amount of federal dollars flowing to our school, it’s just that we know that’s not sustainable.” For instance, Lane said federal relief money can go towards hiring new teachers to help address pandemic-related learning challenges, but if the state chooses not to fund EBF, he questions how he would be able to keep those teachers in the long term.

The Advance Illinois report argues the state should honor investments promised before the pandemic, and give at least a $350 million increase to the formula each year. “The cost of fully funding EBF is high,” said Melissa Figueira, with Advance Illinois. She said in all, up to $7 billion is needed to close the gap and reach the full amount of funding needed. “But the cost of failing to adequately and equitably fund the formula is far higher.” Costs could include increased failures to meet students’ needs and hikes in local property taxes, she said. The failure to increase spending could also mean Illinois jobs in education are less attractive.

“State investment, we believe, is needed to ensure that our students who were hardest hit by the pandemic have the increased access to learning time, support, staffing and opportunities that they need to recover,” ISBE’s Reisberg told legislators April 1. A final budget vote is likely still several weeks away.

Contact Rachel Otwell at rotwell@illinoistimes.com.
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Facebook posts by two Springfield police officers last year harmed police operations and community relations. That was the conclusion of internal affairs investigations by the city police department, as well as reactions from capital city activists working to improve the relationship between law enforcement and the people they serve.

In a widely reported incident last May, Officer Andrew Barnes criticized the city’s two Black city council members. In a post on his personal Facebook page, Barnes called Ald. Shawn Gregory a “fucking idiot.” Barnes was pushing back on comments made by Gregory and then-Ald. Doris Turner in which the two criticized how police responded to block parties in Gregory’s majority-Black ward.

Springfield Police Department internal affairs documents show Barnes wasn’t the only officer in trouble over use of social media at the time. In a previously unreported incident, Officer Todd Schwehr responded on Facebook to an image of demonstrators blocking a truck on a highway. Schwehr encouraged violence against the demonstrators, according to documents obtained by NPR Illinois through a public records request.

“We talk about building trust all the time, and those particular statements did not build trust,” said Robert Moore, a retired U.S. marshal and chair of the criminal justice committee for the Illinois NAACP. While the post by Schwehr was not reported by the media until now, the situation with Barnes took the efforts toward better police-community relationships a step back, said Moore.
Following the internal affairs investigations, the police department suspended Barnes for 15 days and mandated he undergo anger management and community-relations training. The department suspended Schwehr for four days.

The Police Benevolent and Protective Association #5, the union that represents Springfield police officers, declined to comment on behalf of Barnes and Schwehr. A spokesman for the police department declined to answer questions on the incidents, saying they are personnel issues, but did offer that the department is committed to improving community relations.

The officers made the Facebook posts during a time when Black Lives Matter demonstrators were taking to the streets in Springfield and around the country after the police killing of George Floyd, a Black man, in Minneapolis on May 25. Derek Chauvin, the white police officer who kneed on Floyd’s neck, currently stands trial on charges of manslaughter, second-degree murder and third-degree murder. And once again, the public is debating how to improve police-community relations as well as the responsibility of police to de-escalate situations before they turn deadly. Attorneys who follow police discipline and First Amendment issues say scrutiny of public comments by officers is heightened during times of civil unrest, such as last spring and summer when protests were ongoing and many demonstrators were met by police brutality.

**“WIDE OPEN THROTTLE”**

On June 2, Officer Schwehr responded to a post on Facebook that showed a group of demonstrators on a highway in front of a truck. Disrupting traffic is a protest tactic that has been used during civil rights uprisings for decades, such as the Selma to Montgomery marches in 1965. Schwehr wrote the following:

**“THIS has GOT TO stop! This is terrorism. What the hell is this driver supposed to do. His choices are. Stop and possibly die. Murder everyone. Wtf. My current employment keeps me from commenting. But as a friend of mine once said. WIDE OPEN THROTTLE.”**

Schwehr was written up the next day. The ensuing internal affairs investigation took two and a half months to complete, and it noted he was on duty when he made the comments. The police department determined Schwehr had violated its social media policy and the post “impaired” the work of the department. The department suspended Schwehr for four days in late August and early September, which he used “comp time” for, according to the documents.

That the police department has a social media policy that it’s enforcing is a good thing, said Moore, who meets with Springfield police leadership throughout the year as part of his work with the civil rights organization, NAACP. “Without (media) coverage, without having meetings about it, or without it even being brought to our attention, they voluntarily took the action that was necessary and I applaud them for that,” Moore said of police officials.

Sunshine Clemons, co-founder of Black Lives Matter (BLM) Springfield, said she was disappointed that a police officer would share sentiments as violent and divisive as what was posted on Facebook by Schwehr. She agreed that it was good the post was turned in and said she hopes the discipline deters other officers from making similar social media posts. But she said if anti-racism training was not also a part of the response from the police department, “that was a genuine missed opportunity.”

On May 31, days before Schwehr made his Facebook comment, BLM Springfield organized a procession with thousands of cars that went around the county building and into the city’s east side to protest the killing of Floyd in Minneapolis and systemic racism. On June 1, high school students led a march and rally in front of the state Capitol. Several thousand residents attended the events. Though there were intelligence reports about potential violence in Springfield and police urged people to stay at home, the looting and violent police interactions that happened in other cities last year didn’t occur in Springfield.

Police officers’ behavior is scrutinized more closely during times of unrest like what happened last spring and summer, said Will Aitchison, an attorney who represents police and firefighter unions in the Pacific Northwest. Aitchison also heads an information service for public safety unions.

Officers “believe that their profession has come under attack wrongly, that the public dialogue generalizes from the specific to everybody in a way that is inappropriate,” Aitchison said. “And they want to defend their profession and their co-workers.”

Aitchison said this need to defend themselves combined with confusion about their First Amendment rights as public employees – as well as nonexistent or poorly defined social media policies from their employers – are reasons some police officers post to Facebook or Twitter in ways that get them in trouble.

After explaining that, as public employees, police officers have narrower First Amendment rights to comment publicly on current events, Aitchison said he encourages officers to think twice about what they share on social media.

“Ask yourself before you make a post, do I really need to be saying this? Think about what the consequences of that post might be,” he said of the advice he gives law enforcement. “Public safety employees are going to be more susceptible to discipline than any other type of employee. They better know that, they’d better understand that.”

**Facebook fallout**

A Facebook post that came under public scrutiny last spring was a comment by Officer Barnes that disparaged the Black members of city council. He made it in reaction to criticism over how police were regularly trying to disperse impromptu parties on the city’s east side.

Around the same time police were regularly intervening over the gatherings on the city’s majority-Black part of town, police on May 20 closed down streets for the majority-white protestors demonstrating against Gov. JB Pritzker’s stay-at-home order to curb the spread of the coronavirus. A few hundred demonstrators marched with a police escort from the Bank of Springfield Center, where members of the Illinois House were meeting, to the Statehouse, where the Illinois Senate was in session. Many noted the stark contrast of treatment when compared to law enforcement breaking up outdoor gatherings on streets and in parks in Ald. Shawn Gregory’s Ward 2.

“The feeling in my community is, ‘Well, dang, our police officers come and block off the streets for people who ain’t even from Springfield, Illinois, and make us go home,’” Gregory said at the May 26 council meeting last year.

Gregory said he didn’t condone the parties, but residents were asking for “equal application of the law.” The criticism was repeated by Ald. Kristin DiCenso and Ald. Turner.

Turner broadened the criticism and said she’d heard reports of parties and gatherings throughout the city, but police were only giving dispersal orders on the east side of town. This was at a time when rules put in place to address the pandemic banned gatherings of more than 10 people. “We cannot continue to in one breath hold ourselves up as the city of Abraham Lincoln and everything that that stands for, but not stand up and take a stand when this type of inequity is going on,” Turner said at the May 26 council meeting.

Police Chief Kenny Winslow defended the police response, saying the protests were constitutionally protected. “This is different from people parked in the middle (of the) road, getting out, partying, drunk,” Winslow said at the time. “They’re just two totally different things.”

Hours later, Barnes – a 15-year veteran of the department who often patrolled the east side – posted to Facebook: “Shawn Gregory is fucking idiot.” In the post, he said the block parties had turned violent, partiers threw things at officers and that crowds in the street could have blocked emergency responders. In the comments of the post, Barnes suggested sending partiers to Ald. Doris Turner’s ward. Turner represented parts of the east and north side before taking an appointment to the state Senate earlier this year.

Gregory and Turner said the vitriol over their criticism of law enforcement spilled over from public posts to their personal lives. Gregory said he received threatening messages. For instance, one person sent an anonymous message telling Gregory, “man my knee is cold … need some nice warm garbage flesh to press it against” – according to a screenshot reviewed by NPR Illinois. Gregory said he shared comments from the
Can cops say that?
continued from page 13

person with the police chief and detectives. Both Gregory and Turner said they bought additional security cameras for their homes.

Amid mounting tension, Springfield Mayor Jim Langfelder, the police chief and other top brass met with Turner, Gregory, Moore and other faith and community leaders to listen to and address some of the concerns the same week Barnes posted to Facebook. Gregory said he wanted city leaders to understand that calling out the two African American city council people at that time, the way Barnes did, could lead to “serious outrage” from the Black community.

Langfelder and Winslow promised to research cultural competency training for officers and to meet with a wider group of community leaders about ways to improve police-community relations. City officials acknowledged Barnes’ post on Friday, May 29, and announced he had been put on desk duty pending further investigation.

“On behalf of the men and women of the Springfield Police Department, I’m deeply sorry for what my officer did. He messed up and I will hold him accountable,” Winslow said at the council meeting the following Tuesday, June 2.

Winslow also gave an impassioned speech in defense of police that night, in response to both the outrage over the Facebook post and weekend protests. “We’re not perfect. Our community’s not perfect, but we’re damn good,” Winslow said during city council. “We have a damn good police department.” Winslow also voiced his disapproval of the killing of Floyd by Chauvin.

A spokesman for the police department declined to answer recent questions from NPR Illinois about if or when Barnes returned to patrol duty on the east side or elsewhere.

Social media stumbling

Police officers from across the country have gotten into trouble for what they say or share on social media. A joint investigation of Injustice Watch and Buzzfeed reported on a database of verified Facebook accounts of police officers in eight cities created by a group of Philadelphia attorneys. The investigation examined racist and violent posts by officers that the attorneys said undermine trust in law enforcement. Police resignations over controversial social media posts have made repeated headlines.

The Springfield Police Department instituted a new social media policy in January 2018. Officers can express themselves on social media “as private citizens,” the policy notes, “to the degree that their speech does not impair working relationships of this department, impede the performance of duties, or impair discipline and harmony among co-workers.” The policy prohibits Springfield police from using “obscene or sexually explicit language, images or acts and statements or other forms of speech that ridicule, malign, disparage or otherwise express bias against any race, religion, or any protected class of individuals.” The rules bar officers from using photos of uniforms or department logos without explicit permission from the chief’s office. Breaking the rules can lead to “progressive discipline.”

Springfield's union has challenged the discipline case against Barnes, which is pending, according to Deputy Chief Joshua Stuenkel, a spokesperson for the Springfield Police Department. The union declined to answer questions about why it disagrees with the discipline and what outcome it’s seeking.

Officers or unions can sue over discipline over social media posts as a violation of officers’ constitutional rights to free speech. But both Aitchison, the lawyer who represents police unions on the west coast, and Andrew Geronimo, director of the First Amendment clinic at Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Ohio, say it is very difficult to win those cases.

“The general test is that government employees have First Amendment rights to speak on what are called matters of public concern, as long as they’re speaking as a private citizen, and it doesn’t affect the functioning of their office,” Geronimo said. “Then, the court weighs the value of the speech against the harm the speech does to the functioning of the department.

Geronimo said if an officer’s account clearly identifies them as law enforcement, for example with photos in uniform, then the court may not see the post as coming from a private citizen. He said an example of a strong claim for protected speech would be if an officer had a personal account with no indication he was in law enforcement, and posted about supporting a particular political candidate. If a department disciplined the officer for that, the officer would likely win a court challenge of the discipline. Outside of those circumstances, Geronimo said it would be difficult to make a case.

Policing should be fair and nondiscriminatory, said Rebecca Glenberg, a senior staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois. And if an officer posts something racist or misogynistic, “it certainly creates a perception in the community that they are not capable of enforcing the law fairly and equitably.” That harms the ability of the police to do their jobs, and would therefore not be protected speech under the First Amendment, said Glenberg.

Still, Aitchison said the media and public’s “laser-like focus” on officers’ social media has, among other factors, led to a recruitment and retention crisis in law enforcement. He pointed to a Northern Illinois University survey of law enforcement officers that found they were much more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety and depression than the general public. It also found that the majority of officers surveyed said they would not recommend the profession to their children. “The more that we make that job unattractive, including the whole issue of restricting social media posts or whatever it might be, the worse that crisis is going to get,” said Aitchison.

Reforming police-community relationships

The Springfield Police Department has made strides in recruiting and hiring more officers of color. Moore said – which is one needed step in the right direction. The number of police officers who are people of color has increased from 17 in 2013 to 29 in 2021, according to city numbers. Moore consulted with the department in 2016 and 2017, in part on how to make the department more inclusive. And he said the commitment by police leadership is solid, but there’s still work to be done.

“We need the community to have a better relationship with our officers that patrol our cities, and our precincts, and our roadways,” Moore said. One of the 10 Shared Principles, released in 2018, which he helped create with the Illinois NAACP and the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, is developing relationships on a “street level” and having police officers interact with the community outside of instances where they are responding to alleged crimes. Moore said he’d like to see a similar commitment from the police union to building better relationships.

“Community relations involves every officer and some of the best examples include our officers who go out on their own to meet with members in their communities,” said Stuenkel, on behalf of the city police department, in an emailed statement. He said in addition to police officers walking neighborhoods and talking to residents, the department encourages officers to serve as mentors in schools, while the police union holds events like a toy drive for kids at Christmas.

While the police union declined to answer questions sent by NPR Illinois about the Facebook postings by officers Barnes and Schwehr, the dispute over the disciplinary case against Barnes is still pending.

Mary Hansen of Springfield is a reporter for NPR Illinois.
Missionaries of masa
Making corn good again

FOOD | Peter Glatz

A while ago I was cleaning out my pantry, and I found an unopened package of tortillas that I had purchased last year, at the beginning of the pandemic. My forgotten tortillas looked as good now as they did when I first bought them. This freaked me out. A food that never goes bad is a Frankenfood. Last week I had the opportunity to taste authentic tortillas made from freshly milled heirloom corn. The flavor and aroma was amazing. It made me realize that the tortillas we usually eat bear little resemblance to the real deal.

The ancient Mesoamerican diet was plant-based and predominantly corn. With limited sources of animal protein, this pre-Hispanic culture developed a process known as nixtamalization as a way to make otherwise indigestible plant proteins more bioavailable. Adding wood ash to water raised the pH, making it alkaline. Boiling dry corn kernels in alkaline water made essential proteins, vitamins and minerals more digestible, turning corn into a nutritionally complete staple food. Nixtamalized corn could then be ground with volcanic millstones into a dough known as masa, which could be flattened and griddled into a tortilla. Nixtamalized corn is the reason the Aztec empire was able to thrive on a diet with minimal animal protein.

Nixtamalization changes the flavor and aroma of corn in ways that are addictive and almost impossible to describe. When a tortilla made from fresh masa is being griddled on a cast iron comal, it gives off a toasty aroma, like fresh popcorn. There’s also a minerally aroma from the volcanic-rock millstones used to grind the corn. Tortillas made from masa smell fresh and grainy.

Nowadays, most tortillas found in restaurants and Hispanic markets are made from masa harina, a dehydrated, processed corn flour. Compared to fresh masa tortillas, tortillas made from masa harina only have a mild corn taste and are much less nutritious. It’s like the difference between Wonder Bread and fresh bread from a bakery. Real masa must be made fresh daily because the dough dries out and sours quickly. Commercially packaged tortillas made from masa harina rely on acidulants, preservatives, emulsifiers, gums and flavoring compounds to improve their appearance, flavor, texture and shelf life.

Molino is a Spanish word meaning “mill” and in México, a molino is a place where corn is ground to make masa for tortillas. Before industrialization, tortillas were made fresh on a daily basis to be consumed that day. Just like in France, where people would line up to buy their daily bread from a local boulangerie, people in Mexico would line up at a tortillería to buy their daily tortillas. Today, small molinos are reviving this tradition and making fresh masa for tortillas from heirloom corn, using traditional methods.

On a recent trip to Brooklyn, I visited For All Things Good, a boutique molino and café selling masa, tortillas and masa-based traditional dishes. Their name is derived from the famous Spanish drinking expression about mezcal, a form of tequila: “Para todo mal, mezcal, y para todo bien, tambien” which means “For all things bad, there’s mezcal. For all things good, the same.” It was founded a year ago by Matt Diaz and Carlos Macias, two friends who met in Buenos Aires during college. Matt had a bachelor’s degree in anthropology and was studying winemaking. Carlos was studying architecture. They remained in contact after college and 10 years later they both ended up in New York. Because they were unable to find authentic tortillas as good as they had enjoyed during their time abroad, they decided to open their own molino. “Store-bought tortillas aren’t very good,” Matt explained. “So we asked ourselves ‘How could we make them ourselves?’ You need masa, but we couldn’t get masa. You could only get masa harina, nixtamalized GMO corn that’s been treated to have a longer shelf life. We asked ourselves, ‘What would you need to make real masa?’ You need heirloom corn and mill it with volcanic stones.”

With a background in anthropology and the fervor of an evangelist, Matt continued: “Corn right now has a horrible reputation. It’s over-processed and it’s in everything. But corn is a beautiful crop. It’s one of our longest cultivated crops, if not the longest in human history, with up to 10,000 years of cultivation. We are at a crossroad where the beautiful elements of corn could just get lost. It only takes a few generations of farmers not wanting to do this anymore and a whole portion of this crop will disappear. There’s families who have planted the same corn in the same fields for generations. So much of this could get lost and nobody cares.”

“Our main goal was to create awareness, so that people would say: ‘This is what a real tortilla should taste like,’ and go to their favorite taco spot and ask, ‘Why don’t you use heirloom corn?’ In a lot of cases, they probably wish they could, but it just doesn’t make economic sense. It’s time-consuming. You nixtamalize the corn the night before and the next morning you spend three hours milling it. You can see why people don’t want to commit if there’s no demand for it. So for us and other active molinos around the country, the objective is to educate people to think about masa, and remember that corn isn’t always bad. It’s something our cultures have lived on for thousands of years.”

“There are tortillerias in New York that are just mixing water with corn flour. Why would you do that? You spent all this money on machinery…. and you’re just gonna use corn flour? I don’t want to blame anybody. There’s just no demand for it. Our direction is from the bottom up. Get consumers educated. Let’s get them asking questions.”

Even when the daytime temperatures in Brooklyn were hovering in the low 30s, the sidewalk outside of For All Things Good was always crowded with people eating at cafe tables and waiting for their carryout orders. After only a year, and in the midst of a pandemic, Matt and Carlos have become the Missionaries of Masa and their congregation is growing rapidly.

After spending a year as a wandering nomad in a school bus, Peter Glatz is heading to Minneapolis to be a bread baker and pasta maker.

Blue corn tortillas. PHOTO BY MATT DIAZ

Fun Fact:
Ministers of masa are a Spanish term meaning “ministers of masa.” The term is used in Spanish speaking countries to describe people who are dedicated to the production and promotion of freshly milled masa, tortillas and masa-based traditional dishes. The term has been adopted by the Missionaries of Masa, a group of food artisans who are dedicated to the revival of traditional masa production and the promotion of authentic masa-based traditional dishes. The term is used to describe people who are dedicated to the production and promotion of freshly milled masa, tortillas and masa-based traditional dishes. The term has been adopted by the Missionaries of Masa, a group of food artisans who are dedicated to the revival of traditional masa production and the promotion of authentic masa-based traditional dishes.

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Concrete Cowboy and Made for Love are timely, but Breath falls short

Chuck Koplinski

Concrete: A familiar, yet vital story
Sadly, Ricky Staub’s Concrete Cowboy contains a story that’s all-too-familiar. Cole (Stranger Things’ Caleb McLaughlin) is an angry young man, always in trouble, whose mother sends him to live with his father, Harp (Idris Elba), in Philadelphia. This is not a situation either of them welcome, the young man’s anger towards his father for having left him obvious. However, they bond over an unexpected source – horses. Harp belongs to a small, proud community that cares for and rides horses in the City of Brotherly Love, staunchly holding on to a part of the city’s heritage and history that’s in danger of being forgotten. You’ll recognize many of the plot points on display here as Cole and Harp take a one-step-forward, two-steps-back approach to one another. However, the sincerity the two actors bring in realizing their character’s respective sense of pain is genuinely moving, while the real-life setting – there is a real horse culture in Philadelphia – grounds the film, making it feel timely and real. There’s an urgency to this tale, the vibrant nature of its telling making it vital, necessary viewing. Streaming on Netflix.

Made for Love too timely for comfort
Having impressed in the Andy Samberg, Groundhog Day-inspired fantasy Palm Springs, Cristin Milioti returns in Made for Love, a sci-fi satire that has a comedic sheen that belies its vicious social commentary. Set in the very near future, the mini-series focuses on Byron Gogol (Billy Magnussen), a megalomaniacal tech innovator who takes great satisfaction when the release of his latest gizmos cause riots in the street due to high demand. A control freak of the first order, he’s constructed an enclave called the Hub where he and his wife Hazel (Milioti) live. Having everything they need, they haven’t left in 10 years…that is, until Hazel, tiring of her husband’s controlling ways, decides to go on the lam. Problem is, he’s inserted a tracking chip in her brain so he can track her wherever she goes. A cautionary tale about the ever-invasive quality of modern technology as well as a timely “Me Too” statement, Hazel struggles not simply to escape her abusive husband but be heard by a society that’s marginalized her. How she manages to find the freedom she craves and what compromises she’ll have to make to do so, remains to be seen. Streaming on HBO Max.

Breath suffocates on stupidity
Vaughn Stein’s Every Breath You Take is a film of the most frustrating sort, a movie that sports a talented cast and begins with an interesting premise. Yet, a sense of stupidity slowly creeps in during the second act, the seemingly well-constructed plot revealing itself to be nothing but a collection of narrative tropes that were showing their age some 30 years ago. Casey Affleck is Phillip, a psychiatrist who adapts an unorthodox approach in treating a young woman in his care, sharing intimate details about his life, not even his wife Grace (Michelle Monaghan) knows. Revealing this approach at a university conference, this causes quite a stir, even more so when his patient commits suicide days later. When the victim’s brother, James (Sam Claflin), shows up looking for answers, things take a dark turn. Before you know it, he’s seducing the good doctor’s wife and daughter (India Eisley) just before revealing a big, big secret. Initially intriguing, this thriller requires its characters to act stupidly in order to move the plot along, an approach that not only insults the viewer but alienates them from the characters as well. Lazy and predictable, the lesson I took from this hot mess is beware the therapist who overshares. Through Video-on-Demand.
April music showers

NOW PLAYING | Tom Irwin

Here comes a hearty and hopeful welcome to music fans everywhere. We’re still not at full force, but what a weekend we have upcoming in the Springfield music scene. Let’s keep on the sunny side, always on the sunny side, and be careful, thoughtful and safety-minded to remain on the upward climb out of the dark valley of the pandemic and back into the light of normalcy. As we wind up the action again, this would be a good time to take a brief pause to remember those we lost during the pandemic, acknowledge those still succumbing to the virus and remember life from a year ago.

A look back to the Now Playing for April 2, 2020 has me suggesting folks stuck at home dig around and find that musical instrument you once played, or once always wanted to play, and take the time given as an opportunity to learn to make music. We were also well into looking up the livestreams that were just beginning to proliferate across the internet as musicians searched for alternatives to in-person performances just to keep sane by playing music and make a little scratch as well. Now a mere year later, here we are looking at a good selection of local, live shows and anticipating a growing slate by the week, with our summertime, possibly and hopefully, chock-full of safe and sound shindigs.

It looks like it’s still going to be awhile before large gatherings happen without some kind of social distancing rules in place and those out on the road touring now are basically solo or duo acts, including one Addison Johnson. Perhaps you’re not familiar with the name of this North Carolina native, Americana act, but his new record debuted at #3 on the iTunes Country Charts somewhere between Willie Nelson and Chris Stapleton. And, wouldn’t you know it, Jeb out at The Backroom Lounge in Riverton (217-629-9493), has Addison coming in this Saturday night as the intrepid singer-songwriter and interpreter of country classics makes his way back out into the world of music travels.

Looks like the Curve Inn would be a good campout spot this weekend with a full, three-day lineup going on. Friday gives us the fairly new, area band of Springpatch Serenade with a very special guest, the terrific twosome of JackAsh (deepest condolences to Ashley in the recent loss of her father), and on Saturday, The Get Down takes up the spectacular soundstage.

While checking on TGD’s Facebook page, I couldn’t help but agree with the comment, “Oh my! Things are looking up,” as they posted several upcoming shows in April. On Sunday, a day at the Curve reserved for unique shows, Dysfunctional Family, a “mostly original heavy metal band” fronted by Lick Creek guitarist Tyler Landess, does some deep dark dancing with friends and musical guests Master Bastard. For a full disclaimer, the guitarist and bassist (also singers and songwriters) of MB are my nephews, Alex and Josh, so the Irwin family sends best wishes for a smashing good gig. In other music mixes, Weebles gives up the goods with Springfield’s own Tom Petty tribute band, Damned Torpedoes, on Friday and their top-rated and high-charting, original blues group, Mary Jo Curry Band on Saturday. Lime Street Cafe presents the ever-popular and extremely enjoyable Angel Brown Trio both Friday and Saturday nights, while the Blue Grouch opens its grand Band Garden with the always-ready Off the Wall (happy birthday to Kip) on Saturday night.

Be safe and enjoy yourselves as we keep on working through it all.
THE CALENDAR

Walk, Hike and Bike History April 10 through mid-November Various locations 217-524-3971 Free

Bulletin Board | History, hospitality and health
Reignite your appreciation for the people and places in Illinois that shaped the meaning of freedom and the character of our country by taking part in a series of tours of historic sites hosted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The fun and educational outdoor experiences will help you make meaningful connections between yourself and the must-see museums and monuments, such as Springfield's first Black firehouse, Oak Ridge Cemetery and the Aristocracy Hill area. Tours will be guided by history education interpreters from IDNR, with each tour ranging in duration from one to two hours. Reservations, which will be required, can be made through the IDNR website. The capacity of all experiences will be limited and follow health and safety guidelines outlined by the Illinois Department of Public Health. All tours are free, and donations in support of local historic sites will be welcomed. Call for the tour schedule or visit the State Historic Sites at Springfield, IL. Facebook page.

THE CALENDAR
Send us your events! Deadline: 5pm Fri. Submit online at: www.illinoistimes.com. Email: calendar@illinoistimes.com Dates, times and locations are subject to last-minute changes, so we suggest calling before attending events.

Special Music Events

Farm to Folk Sat., April 10, 7pm. A performance by the Illinois Symphony Orchestra Chamber Orchestra featuring Eleanor Kirk, principal harp. Enjoy some dinner, grab a drink and tune in to the concert online at ilsymphony.org. 800-401-7222.


Books & Authors

Behind the Book with Melinda McDonald

Mon., April 12, 6:30-7:30pm. Local author Melinda McDonald will discuss her research and inspiration for her new book, Dot’s War, a novel set in 1940s Springfield and the Sangamon Ordnance Plant. Online. lincolnlibrary.info. Free. 217-753-4900.


Theater & Comedy

Mark Sweeney Fri., April 9, 8pm and Sat., April 10, 7:30, 9:30pm. Tickets available online only. Walk ins are welcome if seats are available. Public health guidelines will be followed. donnets.com. VFW Post #755, 2211 Old Jacksonville Rd., 217-546-9515.

Art & Architecture

Friday Create Night Fridays, 6-8pm. Bring your own materials and make artwork. Slots open on the porch as well as inside. Masks required. Visit the Dim Art House Facebook page to RSVP for this socially distanced art event. dimarthouse.com. Dim Art House, 1613 S. MacArthur Blvd.

Restoration of the Dana-Thomas House Tue., April 20, 7-8:30pm. Mike Jackson, the restoration project manager, will tell the story of the effort to return the house to its 1910 architectural character. Hear about the project, the people and the collective effort that makes the Dana-Thomas House one of the finest Wright houses in America. $5-$10. 217-788-9452.

Second Saturday Open Studio Second Saturday of every month. Watch pharmacy member artists at work, ask questions to learn about their process and also see the exhibit, Transformation. Masks and social distancing are required. Free. The Pharmacy Gallery and Art Space, 623 E. Adams St., 801-810-9278.

History


Fundraisers

Five-Year Celebration Sat., April 17, 10am-2pm. Items for sale include wall art, spring pillows, Mother’s Day gifts and more. Food truck on site. Masks and social distancing required. Benefits Wooden It Be Lovely, a social enterprise that hires women in need to refurbish and sell donated wooden furniture. Douglas Avenue United Methodist Church, 501 S. Douglas Ave., 217-546-4631.

Spring Cellidh Sat., April 17, 4-7pm. Traditional Scottish social gathering as a fundraiser hosted by the Springfield Area Highland Games, a unit of The St. Andrew’s Society of Central Illinois. Celebrity bartenders, live music and a silent auction. Benefits the Springfield Area Highland Games, Shepp’s Bar and Grill, New Berlin, 111 E. Illinois St., 217-704-4029.

A Walk A Mile In Her Shoes (virtual) Benefits the Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault. Register as a team or an individual, raise funds with family, friends and coworkers, then walk your mile anytime between April 1 and April 24. Take some photos and tag PCASAWALK. prairiecasa.org. $35 to sign up. 217-744-2560.

Women’s Power Night Against Cancer Wed., April 14, 6:30pm. The evening’s speaker, Dr. Sandra Lee, aka Dr. Pimple Popper, did her residency at SIU School of Medicine. Food, raffles and door prizes, remarks about cancer research at SIU. Advance tickets $40, Route 66 Drive-in Theater, 1700 Recreation Drive. siumed.org/cancer. 217-545-800.

Nature, Science & Environment

Earth Awareness Fair Sat., April 17, 11am-4pm. A family friendly event with exhibitors, animals, hands on activities, art, music, workshops, games, contests and food. Hosted by the City of Springfield. springfield.iu.edu. Free. Henson Robinson Zoo, 1100 E. Lake Shore Dr., 217-789-2255.


Virtual Star Parties Fri., April 9, 8pm. John Martin, UIS associate professor of astronomy/physics, will give tips for identifying planets and constellations and answer astronomy questions submitted live. Visit the website or call for more info. go.usi.edu/ summerstarparyes. 217-206-8342.

A Walk through the Sanctuary Thu., April 8, 5-30pm. Matt Hayes will lead a birds-eye view of spring migration. Hosted by the Springfield Audubon Society, in conjunction with the NEA Big Read, Arts Midwest and LLCC’s Academy of Lifelong Learning. Rain cancels. Adams Wildlife Sanctuary, 2315 E. Clear Lake Ave., 217-544-2473.

Bulletin Board

Rising to an Environmental Challenge Tue., April 13, 7-8pm. Via Zoom with Dr. Anne-Marie Hanson of US. Hosted by the World Affairs Council of Central Illinois. Visit mywacci.org for registration and login info. Free.

Consumer fraud and identity theft Tue., April 13, 11am-12pm. Marsha Griffin, Illinois Attorney General’s Office community outreach liaison, will share updated information on the most recent scams. Visit the website or call for Zoom information. ssooi.org. 217-528-4035.

Microsoft Word basics Second Tuesday of every month, 11am-12pm. Learn how to create and edit a document with Microsoft Word. Via zoom. lincolnlibrary.info. 217-793-4900.

Shred and food drive event Sat., April 17, 9-11am. Safely discard your out-of-date paper items and make a non-perishable food donation for the Central Illinois Food Bank. Limited to three bags of paper, Place your items in your trunk and they will be removed for you. Volunteers will be wearing masks and gloves. Free. Koch, Sylvia and Associates parking lot, 2621 NCR, 217-787-2435.

The Get Down Sat., April 10, 6-10pm, The Blue Grouse Pub.

Tulo + Eads Sat., April 10, 7-10pm, Boar’s Nest, Athens.

Angel Brown Trio Sat., April 10, 7-10:30pm, Lime Street Cafe.

Damned Torpedoes Fri., April 9, 7-11pm, Weebles Bar & Grill.

Off the Wall Sat., April 10, 6:30-10:30pm, The Farmhouse Restaurant.

Sunshine Daydream Fri., April 9, 6-10pm, The Backroom Lounge, Riverton.

Springpatch Seraudec with Jack Ash Fri., April 9, 6-10pm, Curve Inn.

Jim’s Boys Mon., April 12, 6-8pm, Sliderz Bar & Grill.

Joel Honey Fri., April 9, 6-9pm, The Farmhouse Restaurant.

Angel Brown Trio Fri., April 9, 7-10:30pm, Lime Street Cafe.

Jameson Freeway Fri., April 9, 6-10:30pm, Long Bridge Golf Course.

Tom Beverly and Geoff Ryan Fri., April 9, 8-11pm, South Fork Pub, Kincaid.

Tulo + Eads Sat., April 10, 7-10:30pm, Boar’s Nest, Athens.

Joel Honey Sat., April 10, 6-10pm, Movie’s Cue.

NCR Sat., April 10, 9pm-1am, Sliderz Bar & Grill, Decatur.

Mary Jo Curry Sat., April 10, 7-11pm, Weebles Bar & Grill.

Jeff Young and the Bad Grandpas Sun., April 11, 2-5pm, Danenberger Family Vineyards, New Berlin.

Tom’s Turtle Tank Tuesdays Tue., April 13, 8:30pm, Facebook with Tom Irwin.
Gebhart; et. al.  

**VS.**  

**ILLINOIS**  

**SANGAMON COUNTY - SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**  

**DEBT COLLECTOR.**  

THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A MIDWEST PLEADINGS LAW FIRM. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT WWW.DALLEGAL.COM.  

**Gebhart; et. al. Vs. Marine Bank**  

**ILLINOIS**  

**SANGAMON COUNTY - SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**  

**DEFENDANTS**  

CASE NO. 20 CH 173  

511 West Allen Street, Springfield, Illinois 62704  

NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE  

Public notice is hereby given that in pursuance of a judgment of said Court entered in the above ent-titled cause on February 23, 2021, I, Sheriff, Jack Campbell of Sangamon County, Illinois, will hold a sale on May 4, 2021, commencing at 9:00 AM, at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, Room 2, to sell to the highest bidder or bidders the following described real estate, or so much thereof as may be sufficient to satisfy said decree, to-wit:  

Commonly known as: 511 West Allen Street, Springfield, Illinois 62704  

P.S.: 14.33-0.451-031  

First mortgage Lien Position; Single-Family Residence; Judgment Amount  

IN ACCORDANCE WITH 735 ILS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) AND (H-2), 765 ILS 605/6(g), (H-3), AND 765 ILS 605/18.5(g-1), YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE PURCHASER OF THE PROPERTY, OTHER THAN A MORTGAGEE, SHALL PAY ANY ASSESSMENTS AND LEGAL FEES REQUIRED BY SUBSECTIONS (g)(1) AND (g)(4) OF SECTION 9 AND THE ASSESSMENTS AND COURT COSTS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (g) OF SECTION 18.5 OF THE ILLINOIS CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY ACT.  

Terms of Sale:  CASH – 10% down at the time of sale and the balance due within 24 hours of the sale. All payments for the amount bid shall be in certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Sangamon County.  

The person to contact for information regarding this property is:  

Diaz Anselmo Lindberg, LLC, 1771 W. Diehl Road, Suite 120, Naperville, IL 60563, (630) 453-8690. For bidding instructions, visit www.dallegal.com 24 hours prior to sale.  

This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.  

Attorney Name: Cook 58852, DuPage 293191, Kane 031-26104, Peoria 1794, Winnebago 3802, IL 032/126232. MidwestPleadings@dallegal.com  

THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR.  

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  

SANGAMON COUNTY - SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS  

Marine Bank  

CLAIMANT  

V.  

Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Philip Gebhart, et. al.  

DEFENDANTS  

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  

NOTICE OF SHERIFF’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE  

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 03/10/2021, the Sheriff of Sangamon County, Illinois will on April 27, 2021 at the hour of 9:00 AM at the Second Floor Boardroom of the Sangamon County Courthouse 200 South 9th Street Springfield, IL 62701, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Sangamon and State of Illinois, sell to public auction the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:  

PN 22-08-152-003  

Improved with Single Family Home  

COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 3030 1/2 Chatham Road Springfield, IL 62704  

Sale terms: 10% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated at the rate of $1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed $300, in certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate. The purchaser has the sole responsibility/obligation to verify all information.  

If the property is a condominium and the foreclosure takes place after 1/1/2007, purchasers other than the mortgagees will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILS 605/6(g-1) and (g)-4.  

If the property is located in a common interest community, purchasers other than the mortgagees will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILS 605/6(g-1) and (g)-4.  

If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee’s attorney. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after Confirmation of the sale. The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.  

The property will NOT be open for inspection and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.  

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff’s attorney: Codills & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burt Ridge, IL 60507, (630) 794-8676. Please refer to file number 14-20-04984.  

217-0073-0073
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

STATE OF GEORGE L. WILLIAMS, DECEASED

In the Matter of the Estate of: GEORGE L. WILLIAMS, Deceased

Estate No. 2021-P-000163

NOTICE TO HEIRS AND NOTICE BY PUBLICATION OF CLAIM DATE

Notice is given to all known heirs of the Deceased, the late George L. Williams, of the date and time of acceptance of the Petition presented for the Admission of the Representative, and the date and time when the administration of the Estate of the Deceased is open to creditors.

The Petition is presented for the Admission of the Representative, for the purpose of being admitted to the administration of the Estate of the Deceased.

Dated this 31st day of March, 2021.

Jerald J. Mellinger, Co-Administrators,

Claimants against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62707, or with the representative or both, within six (6) months from the date of the publication of this notice, which is September 30, 2021, or within three (3) months from the date of the mailing of this notice, whichever is later, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Claims of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative(s) and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider.

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IN THE COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

STATE OF WILLARD J. MELLINGER, DECEASED

In the Matter of the Estate of: WILLARD J. MELLINGER, Deceased

Estate No. 2021-P-155

DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the Estate of WILLARD J. MELLINGER, Deceased.


Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at the Sangamon County Complex, 100 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62707.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62707, or with the representative or both, within three (3) months from the date of the mailing of this notice, whichever is later, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Claims of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative(s) and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

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NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIMS Notice is given of the death of ROBERT E. BEVILL of Sherman, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on March 18, 2021, to SCOTT D. BEVILL of 2930 Victoria Dr., Springfield, IL 62704 and JEFFREY BEVILL of 12410 Three Lakes Dr., Walker, LA 70775, whose attorney at law is RAMSEY & RICHARDSON, 241 South Grand Avenue West, Springfield, IL 62704.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62704, or with the representative, or both, within six months from the 1st day of April, 2021, being the date of first publication of this Notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exceptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Dated this 20th day of March, 2021, SCOTT D. BEVILL and JEFFREY BEVILL, Co-Executors of the Estate of ROBERT E. BEVILL, Deceased

BY: PAUL PALAZZOLO, ATTORNEY AT LAW

402 North Fourth Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

April 8-14, 2021 | Illinois Times | 21

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to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the described real estate:

SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises. The property will NOT be open for inspection and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS, Sangamon County, Illinois.

In re the application for the establishment of parentage of a child. Notice to any and all heirs of Tyrone D. Mathews, an action being brought to establish the parent and child relationship between the child and a named child, including the right to notice of any future proceedings for the establishment of parentage of said child, which may be terminated without any further notice to you. When your legal rights with respect to the named child are so terminated, you will not be entitled to notice of any future proceedings.

Cheryl Ord
Attorney for: Healthcare & Family Services
Room 309, County Complex 200 South Ninth Street Springfield, Illinois 62701 (217) 753-6395

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY Chris A. Napiar, Petitioner vs. Cheryl Buchanan, Respondent Case No: 20-CP-05 NOTICE BY PUBLICATION Cheryl Buchanan, this cause has been commenced against you in this Court asking for an Order of Protection. Unless you file your Answer or otherwise file your Appearance in this cause in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of the State of Illinois, in the Circuit Court for the Seventh Judicial Circuit Sangamon County, Illinois, whose address is 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois, within 30 days after the date of receipt of this notice, a declaration of intent stating that you are, in fact, an heir or family member of the alleged father and that you intend to retain your legal rights with respect to said child, or a request to be notified of any further proceedings with respect to the parent and child relationship, may be terminated without any further notice to you. When your legal rights with respect to the named child are so terminated, you will not be entitled to notice of any future proceedings.

Cheryl Ord
Attorney for: Healthcare & Family Services
Room 309, County Complex 200 South Ninth Street Springfield, Illinois 62701 (217) 753-6395

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY Chris A. Napiar, Petitioner vs. Cheryl Buchanan, Respondent Case No: 20-CP-05 NOTICE BY PUBLICATION Cheryl Buchanan, this cause has been commenced against you in this Court asking for an Order of Protection. Unless you file your Answer or otherwise file your Appearance in this cause in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of
Sangamon County, Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth St., Room 405, Springfield, Illinois, on or before April 22, 2021, a judgment or decree by default may be taken against you for the relief asked in the complaint.

Paul Palazzolo
Clerk of the Court
Date: April 1, 2021

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Hilda Reyes, Petitioner
vs.
George C. Williams, Respondent
Case No: 2021-OP-176
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
George C. Williams, this cause has been commenced against you in this Court asking for an Order of Protection. Unless you file your Answer or otherwise file your Appearance in this cause in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Sangamon County, Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth St., Room 405, Springfield, Illinois, on or before May 13, 2021, a judgment or decree by default may be taken against you for the relief asked in the complaint.

Paul Palazzolo
Clerk of the Court
Date: April 8, 2021

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Jeff Cleeton, Petitioner
vs.
Jason Batchelor, Respondent
Case No: 2021-OP-133
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Jason Batchelor, this cause has been commenced against you in this Court asking for an Order of Protection. Unless you file your Answer or otherwise file your Appearance in this cause in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Sangamon County, Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth St., Room 405, Springfield, Illinois, on or before May 13, 2021, a judgment or decree by default may be taken against you for the relief asked in the complaint.

Paul Palazzolo
Clerk of the Court
Date: April 8, 2021

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Thomas Hamilton, Petitioner
vs.
Leo Berry, Respondent
Case No: 2020-OP-2393
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Leo Berry, this cause has been commenced against you in this Court asking for an Order of Protection. Unless you file your Answer or otherwise file your Appearance in this cause in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Sangamon County, Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth St., Room 405, Springfield, Illinois, on or before May 13, 2021, a judgment or decree by default may be taken against you for the relief asked in the complaint.

Paul Palazzolo
Clerk of the Court
Date: April 8, 2021

Sad tunes Edited by J. Reynolds - No. 683

Across
1. Allergic reaction
2. "Cast Away" setting
3. Play in the N.H.L.
4. "Beat it!"
5. Couples
6. Cell alternative
7. "______ Like It Hot"
8. Join hands?
9. Clear, as a disk
10. Ten Braxton hit
11. "It" problem
12. Arid
13. Make a scene?
14. Pitch in
15. Hamper contents
16. Farm structure
17. Scoot sort
18. Digestion aid
19. Apple leftover
20. Elvis Presley hit
21. Flight data, briefly
22. Afflict
23. Artist's stand
24. Flipper
25. Decorated, as a cake
26. Nil degree
27. A Beatle bride
28. "I'd"
29. Back talk
30. Bill Withers hit
31. British Commonwealth member
32. "Guilty," e.g.
33. First word of "The Raven"
34. Sunday offering
35. "Lang Syne"
36. Warm, so to speak
37. Biology lab supply
38. Makeup, e.g.
39. Before, in poetry
40. Proclamation
41. NHL goalie Dominik
42. Affectation
43. Exercise
44. "Ah, me!"
45. Lushes
46. Branch headquarters?
47. Cry out loud
48. One who takes orders
49. Abominable Snowman
50. Indian bread
51. Cheese on crackers
52. Gently persuade
53. Breakfast sizzler
54. Free-for-all
55. Amount to make do with
56. Sea eagles
57. Difficult
58. Matter of debate
59. Flip-flop
60. Small band
61. Field worker
62. Security checkpoint
item
63. Peckish
64. Catch a glimpse of
65. Address
66. Gold standard
67. Biology lab supply
68. Makeup, e.g.
69. Before, in poetry
70. Proclamation
71. NHL goalie Dominik
72. Affectation
73. Exercise
74. "Ah, me!"
75. Lushes
76. Branch headquarters?
77. Cry out loud
78. One who takes orders
79. Abominable Snowman
80. Indian bread
81. Cheese on crackers
82. Gently persuade
83. Breakfast sizzler

Down
1. British Commonwealth member
2. "Guilty," e.g.
3. First word of "The Raven"
4. Sunday offering
5. "Lang Syne"
6. Warm, so to speak
7. Biology lab supply
8. Makeup, e.g.
9. Before, in poetry
10. Proclamation
11. NHL goalie Dominik
12. Affectation
13. Exercise
14. "Ah, me!"
15. Lushes
16. Branch headquarters?
17. Cry out loud
18. One who takes orders
19. Abominable Snowman
20. Indian bread
21. Cheese on crackers
22. Gently persuade
23. Breakfast sizzler

JoshJosh by J. Reynolds - No. 683

Fill the grid with digits so as not to repeat a digit in any row or column, and so that the digits within each heavily outlined box will produce the target number shown, by using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division, as indicated in the box. A 6x6 grid will use 1-6.

JoshJosh answers from #682

Sudoku answers from #682

JoshJosh answers from #682

Sudoku No. 683

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusive.

Sudoku answers from #682

J. Reynolds - No. 683

Sudoku from #682

Difficulty hard

Difficulty medium
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APRIL 18 9 A.M.-4 P.M.

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