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The sometimes stark differences in views among candidates seeking the Republican and Democratic nominations for the new 13th Congressional District seat are on display at a public forum June 7 in Springfield.

When it comes to issues ranging from the minimum wage to gun policy, the economy, health care and abortion, Republicans Regan Deering and Terry Martin generally parted ways with Democrats Nikki Budzinski and David Palmer during the candidate forum, sponsored by the Faith Coalition for the Common Good, and held at Lincoln Library.

Two other Republican candidates for the seat – Matt Hausman, 42, a farmer and former aerospace engineer from Peotone, and Jesse Reising, 32, a Decatur lawyer – were invited to the event but didn’t attend.

Winners from the parties in the June 28 primary will face off in the Nov. 8 general election.

Whoever is elected to the 13th District seat in the U.S. House will represent a district that snakes across central Illinois and includes all or most of the communities of East St. Louis, Springfield, Decatur and Champaign-Urbana.

Political observers say Democrats who control the Illinois General Assembly and drew the state’s new map for U.S. House districts redrew the 13th District to favor a Democratic candidate.

When asked whether the minimum wage should be raised, Deering, 46, who identifies herself as a community activist and serves on the board of Northeast Community Fund in Decatur, said she doesn’t support a national minimum wage because it is stifling for employers.

She said she wants to see more money appropriated for job-training efforts and less government regulation to help small businesses thrive and expand employment.

Deering said she also wants to see Congress reform the welfare system, rather than pass Democratic President Joe Biden’s Build Back Better social-services infrastructure plan, to get people “off the sofa and back to work.”

“Government has provided so many handouts that families find themselves sliding back,” Deering said.

Budzinski, 45, a Springfield resident and former labor activist who was a high-level adviser in the administration of Gov. J.B. Pritzker, a Democrat, said she helped pass a minimum-wage increase that will hit $15 an hour by 2025.

She said she supports Congress passing a $15-an-hour national minimum wage and noted that the current national minimum wage is $7.25.

Palmer, 35, an insurance broker from Champaign, said a $15 national minimum wage is the “bare minimum” that’s needed.

“The minimum wage nationally is appalling,” he said.

Martin, 67, a Springfield journalist who is executive director of the Illinois Channel, said he doesn’t want to see the state or national minimum wage increased.

“You’re trying to be generous with other people’s money,” he said. “When you get a job, it is an education, and that education can put you on the road to prosperity.”

When asked whether the 2020 presidential election results were decided fairly, Budzinski and Palmer said Biden was properly elected, defeating Republican incumbent Donald Trump, while Deering didn’t answer the question and Martin wouldn’t answer.

“What happened that day was a tragedy on so many fronts,” Deering said about the election. “I don’t think we’re getting the full story. We have Biden as president. He is destroying this country.”

Palmer said many Republicans waver when they discuss the election results to avoid the ire of Trump and his supporters.

“If we don’t uphold our democracy … we will lose our way of life,” Palmer said.

“We’re placating one man in a party. That is ridiculous.”

Budzinski said the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol by supporters of Trump demonstrated the “fragility of our democracy,” and she was disturbed by GOP efforts to minimize the insurrection.

“There needs to be accountability for what happened that day,” she said.

When it comes to reducing gun violence, Palmer, who said this is his top issue as a candidate, favored more restrictions on sales at gun shows and closing the “boyfriend loophole.” Federal law prohibits domestic abusers from having guns, but there is a loophole if the partners have not been married or had a child together.

Budzinski said she backs more “commonsense gun-safety measures” such as universal background checks and “red flag” laws. “We can’t accept inaction” as the number of people murdered in mass shootings grows, she said.

Martin, however, supported efforts to “harden” schools, enforcing existing gun laws and improvements in mental-health services.

Deering said she wanted to see existing gun laws enforced more rigorously but was intrigued by reforms being discussed in Congress. She said she would reserve judgment until any proposed legislation is made public.

Deering said her No. 1 priority in Congress would be to improve the economy. “We have a government that’s not working for us,” she said.

“Affordable energy is Martin’s top issue. He said the nation can expand the use of clean energy, but not at the expense of fossil fuels.”

He said the middle class “is just being crushed … by President Biden’s attack on fossil fuels.”

Budzinski said she wants to focus on getting inflation under control and protecting Americans’ pocketbooks.

She said she supported temporary suspensions of a scheduled increase in the state gasoline tax and the 1% state sales tax on groceries. Those measures were approved by the legislature and signed into law by Pritzker this year.

For the long term, she said she wants to reduce “our overreliance on a global supply chain” and avoid “shipping jobs overseas.”

On health care, both Palmer and Budzinski said they supported the federal Affordable Care Act, former President Barack Obama’s signature legislative achievement.

Palmer, who said the former president, a Democrat, is his favorite politician, said he would work to enact a “single-payer, Medicare-for-all” system.

“It’s a system that provides a lot of assurance for people,” he said. “That’s the only way to go forward.”

Budzinski said she doesn’t support moving to a single-payer system but wants to see the price of prescription drugs reduced by giving the federally funded Medicare system the ability to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies on drug prices.

Martin said he would favor price caps for some drugs, such as insulin, and “more transparency” in the rates charged by hospitals.

Deering said the ACA isn’t the “best solution” because of high premiums that businesses are forced to pay.

Instead, she said she wants to expand services by federally qualified health centers such as Central Counties Health Centers. She also said she wants expanded access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

On the contentious issue of abortion, Budzinski said she is “100% pro-choice” and has been endorsed by Planned Parenthood.

Decisions about abortion only should be made by a pregnant person and her doctor, Budzinski said.

Palmer said he also is pro-choice and called the Supreme Court’s 1973 Roe v. Wade decision “settled law.”

Martin said the option of abortion should be limited to victims of rape or incest. “I think we ought to be elevating the value of life in our society,” he said.

Deering would like abortion outlawed except to preserve the life of the mother or in cases of rape or incest.

“I understand it’s not a black-and-white issue,” she said.

Dean Olsen is a senior staff writer for Illinois Times. He can be reached at dolsen@illinoistimes.com or 217-679-7810.
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Kent Gray challenges Tim Butler

Both seek GOP nomination for the 95th House District, no Democratic candidate

POLITICS | Scott Reeder

State Rep. Tim Butler, R-Springfield, faces a challenge in the Republican primary from Kent Gray, a candidate with more baggage than Samsonite.

Both men are seeking the GOP nomination for the 95th House District. The race in the Republican-leaning district will almost certainly be determined in the primary. In fact, there is not yet a Democrat on the ballot, although party officials can place someone in the spot before the November general election.

Gray, 52, is a Springfield-area lawyer who had his law license suspended for one year, beginning in December 2018. He owes back property taxes for his Leland Grove home. And by his own admission, he’s behind on child-support payments for his two children.

“The Illinois General Assembly already has enough ethical challenges without electing someone like this,” Butler said of his opponent.

Gray said the Sangamon County Republican Party establishment hates Donald Trump and consequently is opposed to him because he supports the 45th president and once managed his Illinois campaign. He added that his opponent is a “Never Trumper.”

Butler said, “I don’t know where he gets that. I voted for Donald Trump both times. I think he (Gray) is just looking for some wedge issue to use in this race.”

Butler, 55, has served seven years in the Illinois House.

Gray served three terms as a Lincoln Land Community College trustee but was defeated in 2017 when seeking to be reelected to the unpaid post. He also has run unsuccessfully for state representative, circuit judge and Christian County state’s attorney.

Both men identify as pro-life. Butler said he would make an exception for abortion for those who are victims of rape or incest and when a mother’s life is in danger. Gray said he would not make any exceptions.

Gray said he is offended that Butler voted in favor of increasing gasoline taxes, but Butler said the revenue increase was necessary to repair roads and bridges throughout the state.

“Our state desperately needed those improvements and the state constitution doesn’t allow for money to be diverted from the road fund. We could be assured the money was going to go where it was supposed to go. So, I supported it. That said, it’s pretty hypocritical for (Gray) to be criticizing me for raising taxes. During the time he was on the Lincoln Land board they raised property taxes by 86%,” Butler said.

Ward 7 Alderman Joe McMenamin, a longtime Springfield political observer, said the race boils down to Gray wanting a political rebirth.

“He is hoping for a miracle, and he has it all hinging on his connections with Trump,” he said. “I think fair-minded, independent Republicans will see past that. … Also, there have been issues in Kent Gray’s personal and professional lives.”

Gray does not live within the confines of the newly redrawn 95th district, which encompasses much of Springfield. If he were to win the race, he would need to move to the district.

Gray, who lives in Leland Grove, said, “My response is rather Palinesque. I can see the 95th District from my front yard.” Former vice-presidential candidate and Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin once falsely claimed to be able to see Russia from her home.

Gray said the back taxes for his home were purchased at auction. He said he views the situation as more of a loan than a transgression, noting that he just has to pay

the person owning the debt back at a 9% interest rate.

“I’m in a situation where I’m cash poor but asset rich,” he said.

So, how did he get in such a predicament? He points his finger at his ex-wife and her attorney. His license suspension stems from his divorce case.

“A global pandemic and a one-year suspension on one’s legal license are pretty detrimental to one’s earning potential,” Gray said.

The disciplinary arm of the Illinois Supreme Court recommended that Gray be suspended from practice for one year for lying in court and practicing law without a license.

The Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission found that Gray lied in 2015 when he told former Sangamon County Associate Judge Steve Nardulli that he was unable to obtain transcripts of federal tax returns for five tax years dating from 2010 to 2014 because of a glitch in the Internal Revenue Service’s transcript retrieval system.

Nardulli, who has since retired, presided over Gray’s divorce case. The judge found there were no tax transcripts available because Gray hadn’t filed state or federal income tax returns for five years, nor had he paid any state or federal income taxes. So, the judge in 2015 reported him to the ARDC.

“This court is alarmed that a practicing attorney has not filed income tax returns or paid income tax for a five-year period,” Nardulli wrote in a court order.

In an interview June 13, Gray said today he owes nothing in income taxes. He added that the Internal Revenue Service owes him money.

Gray admitted that he is behind in paying child support for his two children who are 12 and 16, but he added that he hopes to have a judge adjust how much he needs to pay because his former wife’s income has gone up, while his has gone down.

“I’ve paid my lovely ex-wife hundreds of thousands of dollars. I am a little behind on the last of maintenance and the last of the child support. We have been in an ongoing legal battle over what the proper amount is for child support. And, we’ve actually got a court hearing in July on what that amount should be,” he said.

Scott Reeder, a staff writer for Illinois Times, can be reached at reeder@illinoistimes.com.

King’s Daughters grants help seniors

CAP CITY | Karen Ackerman Witter

Community organizations that serve senior citizens in Sangamon County recently received a total of $185,191 in grants from the King’s Daughters Organization Fund at the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln. Over the past 15 years, the King’s Daughters Organization Fund has provided more than $2 million in grants for programs that improve the lives of seniors.

Funds will be used to provide seniors with hearing aids and glasses, medical prescription assistance, health and safety equipment and supplies, equipment and training for the visually impaired, guidance in accessing resources, critical home safety repairs, wheelchair ramps and numerous other services.

Grant recipients include AgeLine (Area Agency on Aging for Lincolnland), Contact Ministries, Educational Center for the Visually Impaired, Greater All Nation Tabernacle Church, Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County, Illinois Presbyterian Home, Illinois Symphony Orchestra, Loami Area Community Pantry, MindsEye Radio, Senior Services of Central Illinois, Springfield Housing Authority, The James Project, The Joy of Movement, The Parent Place and The Springfield Salvation Army Corps and Community Center.

For over 100 years, the King’s Daughters Organization operated a home in Springfield to provide housing and care for elderly women. When the home closed in 2007, the King’s Daughters Organization joined with the Community Foundation to continue its mission through grant awards that aid older people. There are currently nine King’s Daughters Circles of Friendship with members engaged in a wide range of volunteer service. For more information, go to www.kdspringfield.org.

PHOTO COURTESY CFLL

PHOTO COURTESY KING’S DAUGHTERS

PHOTO COURTESY CFLL

PHOTO COURTESY CFLL
The Sangamon County state’s attorney wants the Illinois Department of Human Services declared in contempt of court because of months-long delays by DHS in accepting jail inmates who need mental health treatment before they can stand trial.

Department officials say the COVID-19 pandemic is to blame for an “unprecedented backlog” of about 150 people sitting in county jails throughout the state after being declared temporarily unfit for trial and waiting for a bed at Springfield’s McFarland Mental Health Center or one of the state’s six other psychiatric hospitals.

“The backlog has been exacerbated by the pandemic’s impact on hospital operations, increasing referrals, limited capacity and severe workforce shortages,” DHS spokesman Patrick Laughlin said in a statement.

Sangamon County State’s Attorney Dan Wright has asked county judges to declare the state in civil contempt — a potential finding that could lead to fines — in four separate misdemeanor and felony cases.

Four men who have been in jail for up to 25% to 30% of jail inmates on the waiting list, she said.

DHS also is working with county jails and court systems to transfer patients whose mental fitness has been restored back to jail quicker, thus freeing up more beds, she said.

Coleman said the increased isolation brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic likely made mental health issues worse for some people. The operations of community mental health providers also were affected by the pandemic.

Those factors resulted in more people being arrested, entering the criminal justice system and needing treatment from DHS to attain mental fitness, DHS officials said.

Sangamon County Sheriff Jack Campbell said the county jail sometimes has housed inmates for five or six months after they were declared unfit before a bed at a DHS facility became open.

Delays in transfers add to the jail’s overcrowding problem, he said, noting that the jail is designed for 314 inmates but routinely houses more than 350.

The jail is housing more and more people with mental health problems, he said. The situation can lead to fights among inmates and risks to jail workers, though no deaths related to mentally unfit inmates have occurred, he said.

“We’re not a mental health facility,” he said. “We’re a detention facility.”

Jim Kaitschuk, executive director of the Illinois Sheriffs’ Association, said: “There is a huge void in both inpatient and outpatient services for mental health across the state, and according to my conversations with law enforcement, this has been going on for decades when many inpatient facilities were eliminated.”

“Sheriffs from everywhere have been pleading for appropriate services to get these folks the much-needed help they require, and for many, it is not safe to have them in the communities without the appropriate care,” Kaitschuk said. “But it is also not appropriate to have them in the jails where, in many cases, they further deteriorate.”

Dean Olsen is a senior staff writer for Illinois Times. He can be reached at dolen@illinoistimes.com or 217-679-7810.
A Kansas-based housing developer has given up on its plan to renovate the Myers Brothers Building in downtown Springfield for affordable rental housing.

“It’s unfortunate,” Chris Elsey, founder and chief executive officer of The Prime Company in Manhattan, Kansas, told Illinois Times.

He said he decided not to proceed on his option to buy the 10-story, 106,000-square-foot building on the west side of the Old State Capitol Square because he couldn’t secure the necessary financing.

Prime Co. originally planned to convert the building – currently used for office space and less than half full – into 114 rental apartments with rents at below-market rates.

As part of a potential $31 million deal that would include purchase and renovation of the building, the apartments would have been geared toward tenants with an annual household income of $36,000 or less.

But because Elsey needed financing through the Illinois Housing Development Authority, which offers low-interest loans and grants, he required support from city government officials for a successful application.

Mayor Jim Langfelder said he would like to see 20% of the proposed units being rented at below-market rates and 80% reserved for market rent.

Langfelder and Elsey didn’t see eye-to-eye on the need for below-market-rate apartments downtown, and Elsey said the reduced financing available from IHDA for Langfelder’s scenario would leave Elsey $8 million short in financing for the project.

“The mayor says he wants a diversity of income downtown,” Elsey said. “I can’t agree with that. … You need to get warm bodies downtown. You need to have people living there.”

Langfelder defended his stance, saying, “We’re ripe for development, but we want to make the right decisions when it comes to the mix … for a thriving downtown.”

The mayor said it’s unlikely IHDA would set aside any more financing for Springfield projects this year anyway.

Richard “Dick” Myers, chairman of the executive committee for Myers Family Real Estate of Springfield LLC, said he was disappointed that the deal with Prime Co. fell through.

“I think it was a good project for the city and for the downtown,” said Myers, a former Springfield resident who lives in California. “This was a very good developer.”

Dean Olsen is a senior staff writer for Illinois Times. He can be reached at dolsen@illinoistimes.com or 217-679-7810.
About Your County Board Member

Rose is a life-long resident of Springfield and Sangamon County. Prior to retiring, she was employed by Springfield Township Road District as an Administrative Assistant and has served the Township by meeting the needs of the constituents and working diligently throughout the community. Rose is working with an ongoing Program dealing with dangerous and abandoned residences. She united various government agencies, local businesses and unions to demolish and clean up these properties.

Rose is married to George E. Ruzic; they have 4 children, three granddaughters and 3 grand dogs

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LETTERS

We welcome letters. Please include your full name, address and telephone number. We edit all letters. Send them to editor@illinoistimes.com.

WILL MISS MARK

Excellent write-up by David Blanchette about Mark McDonald and “Illinois Stories” (“The last Illinois Stories,” June 9).

WSIU’s precipitous cancellation of “Illinois Stories” is a calamity for those who appreciate intelligent television, creative people, interesting places, unique things and this region that defines all that is good about Middle America.

Maybe a miracle will occur: that WSIU will recant its sinful error, reinstate Mark and “Illinois Stories,” and then proceed to tee up somebody worthy to carry on indefinitely his creation.

If this reversal is not to occur, at the very least the audience is entitled to a final episode that should be about Mark McDonald and “Illinois Stories,” and then to see him at his best.

Good memories:

Mark McDonald has been the only host of the Public Television series “Illinois Stories” since its inception 19 years ago, taking viewers into various central Illinois locations. However, production of the show, and his employment, will end on June 30.

GOOD MEMORIES

Many years ago, Mark came to my home to interview all of the remaining Shadid siblings. My mother was one of them. I was able to watch the entire interview and will forever be grateful to Mark and Public Television for this wonderful story.

Susan Naufel Hines
Via Facebook.com/illinoistimes

CHANGING PLEDGES

As someone who has appeared on a number of the “Illinois Stories,” I am extremely saddened to read of the end of the program. But it also angers me that the WSIU administration has handled the termination of Mark, Tony and numerous other staff involved. Perhaps in the future, I will need to subscribe to Wills pledge drive instead!

Kim Matthew Bauer
Via illinoistimes.com

VOTE FOR REISING

With our country still reeling from the effects of a global pandemic, Americans need to feel secure now more than ever. But this isn’t happening in our community or at our borders.

Law enforcement plays a vital role in addressing these issues and combating violent crime. However, there has been no support for our courageous men and women in uniform from our president, Joe Biden, or Democrats in Congress.

Jesse Reising’s decision to run for Illinois’ 13th Congressional District comes with his promise to change that (“Jesse Reising runs for Congress,” June 9). Jesse has served our nation as a federal criminal prosecutor. He fully acknowledges and respects the work law enforcement officers do to protect our communities.

I believe Jesse Reising is the best person to advocate for our community and those who protect it. I will be voting for Jesse Reising for Congress. He has my complete and total support.

Jack Campbell
Sangamon County sheriff

observes poem #1

when I was a wisconsin kid we celebrated lincoln’s birthday and washington’s birthday on separate holidays memorial day labor day were holidays too and on november 11 at 11 am we stood at our desks for three minutes of silence for war’s armistice which occurred before our births of course we were off classes for christmas, new years, easter – we studied u.s.history in 8th grade, 12th memorized the gettysburg address – back on the farm an indian laborer looked like anyone else so i didn’t know; scandinavian workers we had two a year they talked with a lilt; a black routeman andy delivered cottage cheese cream butter to blacks whites alike; our town had one chinese family they took our milk we ate chow mien at their shop – yes, we did learn much in school and out involving our history culture but never a word about juneteenth its significance, my ignorance: now a most honored national remembrance, holiday!

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Alderman
Shawn Gregory
WARD 2

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Happy Juneteenth

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The Illinois Republican Party has successfully avoided being dragged into the hard-right camp at the state level for decades. Those days may be over.

With relatively liberal Republicans Jim Thompson, Jim Edgar and then George Ryan as governor, the state never embraced the sweeping policy changes which emerged from the “Reagan Revolution” and defined the national party for decades. The Illinois AFL-CIO endorsed Thompson’s last reelection bid. The National Abortion Rights Action League endorsed Edgar’s first gubernatorial run. Ryan campaigned to the left of his 1998 Democratic opponent on guns, abortion and gay rights. They were all from the “governing wing” of the party, eschewing the rabble on the far right and occasionally batting them off like flies.

While Bruce Rauner defined himself by his rabidly anti-union stances, he was pro-choice enough to sign a bill that provided Medicaid funding for abortions. He never supported Donald Trump, even though the two shared several personality traits.

That distance from the far right helped statewide Republicans win general elections in moderate-to-liberal Illinois, particularly after the state leaned harder Democratic when Bill Clinton was elected president in 1992.

But if a recent Sun-Times/WBEZ poll is even close to accurate, those days may finally be behind the party. And, consequently, their statewide fate will likely be sealed without a sea change in Illinois political behavior and demographics.

The new poll has Sen. Darren Bailey trouncing the establishment’s choice, Richard Irvin, by 15 points, 32-17. Bailey not only leads among Downstate Republicans by 24 points, he’s also ahead in the suburbs. Another 27% were undecided, with Jesse Sullivan the only other candidate polling in the double digits (11).

This is the second poll in a row showing a Bailey lead. Hard-right activist and radio host Dan Proft released a poll at the beginning of last week showing Bailey with a seven-point margin.

What has happened to Irvin and his $53 million war chest, most of it supplied by the state’s wealthiest resident Ken Griffin? One huge factor is that Gov. Pritzker, the Democratic Governors Association and Darren Bailey along with his big-money backer Dick Uihlein, have so far managed to turn this race into the same sort of “traditional” GOP primary like other, more conservative states have seen for years and years, but that Illinois has generally avoided. They have reshaped the playing field and it has become untenable for the more moderate Richard Irvin.

After months of Irvin pounding Darren Bailey for being some sort of closet Democrat, the Democrats, Bailey and Dan Proft spent millions to prove without a shadow of a doubt that Bailey was a solid Trumpster. And by deriding Bailey for being “too conservative” for Illinois, the Democrats have also apparently managed to so far convince many rank-and-file Republicans that they aren’t actually trying to advance Bailey’s candidacy (even though the Democrats are clearly doing that very thing).

The Irvin campaign claims that the Democrats are on pace to spend $32 million against their guy, although their numbers show that the Dems have “only” spent $15+ million so far. Uihlein has contributed $17 million to Bailey and Proft’s “People Who Play by the Rules PAC,” more than he’s ever done here. Uihlein’s big spending and the willingness of the Democrats to literally spend whatever it took seems to have caught Irvin’s team by surprise.

Another factor could be that voters finally caught on to a big Irvin lie. Darren Bailey is one of the most far-right legislators in the state. Once voters saw through Irvin’s game, everything else he said could be disregarded. And Pritzker has come on strong in recent days with two very hard-hitting ads trumpeting some opposition research on Irvin that clearly left deep marks.

Irvin spent $3.6 million on advertising during the last week of May. By the first week of June, that spending had dropped to less than $800,000. The Irvin campaign allowed all of its Downstate broadcast TV ads to expire last week. They’re now focusing solely on the Chicago media market.

The story from inside is that “regular” Downstate Republicans are already with Irvin, so they want to focus on city, suburban and exurban Republicans with more Illinois-style Republican messaging. But the party has clearly changed. They have only one narrow path out, and it’s pretty rocky and steep.

Irvin has taken to repeating a mantra that Pritzker is backing Bailey because he knows Bailey can’t win. But by doing so he’s essentially making the Democrats’ own case that Bailey is “too conservative” for Illinois. And that risks firing up the hardcore base even more.
OPINION

Mass shooting is not a mental health problem

GUESTWORK | Stephen Soltys, M.D.

Included in the training that every psychiatrist receives is the subject of forensic psychiatry, the intersection of psychiatry and criminal law. Some choose to specialize in this area. I am a psychiatrist. Though I did not choose to specialize in forensic psychiatry, I have served as a residency-training director and then department chair, whose responsibility it was to assure that residents at SIU School of Medicine learned the basics of this area from forensic psychiatrists. And as a medical resident (1980-1984), I learned about forensic psychiatry by experiences that included treating patients under faculty supervision at the Logan Correctional Center.

One thing I learned was that many people do terrible things in the absence of mental illness. Fueled by a sense of entitlement, hate or a sense that they had been disenfranchised by society, they stole, cheated or harmed (even killed) others, knowing full well what they were doing was wrong.

There were people who had a mental illness but it did not influence their decision to commit crimes. Yes, they were depressed or anxious, but they knew that stealing was wrong, cheating was wrong, assaulting another was wrong. They decided to commit crimes anyway. This was regardless of mental illness, not because of it.

Finally, there were those few individuals, suffering from delusions, hallucinations and impaired insight, who committed criminal acts that were truly due to their mental illness.

I also learned a fact that has been consistent from 1980 until now: People with mental illness are, in general, not violent. They account for only 3%-5% of violent acts in the U.S. (MentalHealth.gov) as of Feb. 22, 2022, and are 10 times more likely to be victims of violence than the general public.

Which is why it irritates me to no end when, right after our national weekly mass shooting, some sanctimonious politician says, with no psychiatric input, “What we have is a mental health problem.” This statement is just a smokescreen for the real problem we have in the U.S.

What we have is a national problem with extremely lethal, high-capacity, rapid-firing weapons that can be bought in endless quantity by almost any person who wants them.

In most Western countries you can own pistols, sport rifles and shotguns after a careful background check with proof of training to operate them safely and the ability to store them safely. These countries have lower violent crime rates and lower gun-related deaths. You just can’t have weapons designed to kill a lot of people quickly.

What we need are politicians who, in addition to sharing their thoughts and prayers, take action to pass sensible gun control laws. What we also need are citizens who vote against any politician who doesn’t have the common sense to realize that significant gun control laws are way overdue.

Stephen Soltys of Springfield is a retired psychiatrist who now teaches medical students on a volunteer basis.
The impact of overturning Roe v. Wade

GUESTWORK | Amy Armstrong Green and Rebecca Grummon, American Association of University Women, Springfield

According to a leaked draft of a U.S. Supreme Court decision, the 50-year period of reproductive freedom in the country may be coming to a close. Since 1973, pursuant to Roe v. Wade, a nationwide, constitutional right to abortion services could not be restricted substantially by individual states. If Roe is overturned, as the court is expected to do sometime this summer, U.S. states could severely restrict or prohibit abortion. Although Illinois women will retain their reproductive freedom, it’s thought that 26 states would take some action to limit abortion rights — some of these outright bans.

What do women lose when their reproductive freedom is restricted? First and foremost, women without access to abortion lose the right to plan their lives and careers. According to the Guttmacher Institute, 45% of all pregnancies in the U.S. are unplanned. That’s almost 3 million of the 6.4 million annual pregnancies in the country. And the average age of first-time mothers is 26, women at the beginning of their careers. An unintended, unplanned pregnancy affects a woman in a variety of ways, including her education, career choices and financial status. Reproductive freedom, including access to birth control and abortion, improves women’s socioeconomic status. A recent study showed that access to free and low-cost birth control goes up, the percentage of young women who leave high school before graduating goes down by double digits. The percentage of young women who leave high school before graduating by 14%.

The sheer number of women affected by an overturn of Roe is staggering. Today, abortion is a widely shared experience in the U.S. Women of all different ages, races and religions have abortions in the U.S. In 2017 about 860,000 abortions were provided in clinical settings in the United States. Currently, nearly 40 million U.S. women aged 13-44 (58% of the total number in the country) live in states that have demonstrated hostility to abortion rights. In contrast, 26 million women of reproductive age (almost 38% of the U.S. total) live in states that have demonstrated support for abortion rights. Access to abortion also varies by geographic region. As many of the hostile states are clustered in the Midwest, the South and the Plains, a woman may not be able to get the care she needs, even by traveling to a neighboring state.

The overturn of Roe would hurt some groups more than others. The women most affected by nearly 1,300 current abortion restrictions are those already facing overlapping systems of oppression. Restrictions disproportionately impact those who have limited resources to overcome financial and logistic barriers. This includes young people, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ people, people with low incomes and those in rural areas, as well as Black, Indigenous and other people of color. It’s critical to remember that the majority of women who get an abortion are already struggling to make ends meet. Some 75% of abortion patients have low incomes, and the majority are already parents. In 2014, Black patients accounted for 28% of abortion patients, Hispanic patients for 25%. This means the majority of people who have abortions are also facing structural racism that is exacerbated by every logistic hurdle.

Those seeking abortions will find them more expensive and difficult to obtain. Abortion restrictions are typically designed to make the procedure too expensive or logistically challenging for an abortion provider to provide care, or for a patient to obtain an abortion. The average cost of an abortion at 10 weeks is around $550, and the cost goes up significantly later in pregnancy. This creates a vicious cycle in which someone might have to delay getting an abortion to raise the needed funds, only to have the cost increase. The Hyde Amendment prohibits federal funding for abortion, preventing people enrolled in Medicaid and other public programs in most states (not Illinois, thankfully) from using their health insurance to cover abortion care. In addition, 11 states have restrictions that keep people from using their private health insurance to pay for an abortion, and 25 states restrict abortion coverage in plans offered through the Affordable Care Act’s health insurance exchanges. If a person has to travel a long way to get an abortion, she may have to arrange for time off work, find and pay for transportation and child care, and pay for food and lodging.

One of the country’s legal principals, stare decisis, means “to stand by things decided.” Fifty years ago, the Supreme Court established a constitutional right to abortion. Overturning Roe would affect plans women have made and will make in their lives. Even women in states retaining abortion rights will have their plans affected, if they have an educational or career opportunity in a state without abortion rights. Losing a constitutional right to abortion will affect women’s opportunities and ability to plan their lives, and it will be devastating to women around the country.

Amy Armstrong Green and Rebecca Grummon are both co-presidents of the Springfield Branch, American Association of University Women.
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He was a tough-as-nails-prosecutor who rose to become a two-term Illinois Attorney General.

But despite his success at the ballot box, he was not a natural politician. He hated the glad-handing part of retail politics. When reporters interviewed him, he was often stiff and uncomfortable.

But more significantly, Jim Ryan suffered from the hubris of not wanting to admit a mistake.

His life was filled with so much woe that shortly after his June 12 death his own family issued a press release comparing him to the Biblical character Job.

He lost a 12-year-old daughter, Anne, to an undiagnosed brain tumor in 1997. His 24-year-old son, Patrick, killed himself in 2007. His wife suffered from heart disease. And Ryan himself battled multiple bouts of Type 2 Hodgkin's lymphoma.

"From the time I met him until his death, Jimmy always was striving to do the right thing and to help people," his wife of 54 years, Marie, said in a prepared statement. "That was who he was and he was very successful at it."

When I read those words, I just cringed. He didn't always strive to do the right thing. The Jim Ryan I knew sent two innocent men to death row.

And even when evidence began piling up that a mistake had been made, he just ignored it. The men's names were Rolando Cruz and Alejandro Hernandez. They were convicted in the 1983 abduction and killing of 10-year-old Jeanine Nicarico.

"I thought there was evidence that the two were wrongly convicted. I suggested that we try to do this new thing called DNA testing to see if it would match them to the crime. But he wasn't interested, and he refused to go along with it. If he had agreed to it, this case would have been resolved years earlier than it ultimately was."

That wasn't the action of someone driven by a desire for truth – or justice. Nor was it, as his widow claims, a desire to "do the right thing." He was blinded by the arrogance of power.

It was the biggest case of his career, and he protected that conviction and used it as a foundation to build a political career. As he sought higher office, two innocent men languished on death row for a crime they had nothing to do with.

I last spoke to Ryan in 2002 when he dropped by my office to chat and discuss his run for governor. Even then, he was unwilling to admit he made a mistake. And after more than a dozen men on Illinois' death row had been found to have been factually innocent, he still clung to the idea that society should be able to kill its own citizens.

That arrogance of not admitting a mistake may well have cost him a chance to be governor.

In 2002, he was the Republican nominee for governor facing Rod Blagojevich. The Chicago Tribune relentlessly criticized his handling of the Nicarico case.

"They said being governor is all about judgement," lawyer Hanlon said. "And if his judgement was this poor in the biggest case of his career, how good would it be as governor?"

Ultimately, Blagojevich won the race. But his judgement didn't prove too great, either.

Suffering is the mother of empathy.

In the years following his return to the political wilderness, I often wondered about Ryan. Did he reflect on his mistakes and rethink his own political positions in the wake of his son's death and his own declining health?

There is reason to think so.

In 2010, he again made an unsuccessful bid for governor. But he failed to capture the Republican nomination. For the first time, he apologized for his role in the wrongful prosecutions. He said he "acted in good faith and still came up with the wrong result." He added, "The system and I failed to achieve a just outcome."

I doubt those words provided much solace to either Cruz or Hernandez after spending years on death row. But at least he said them.

His spirited defense of capital punishment dimmed over the years as well. Ultimately, he said he had "grave concerns" about the institution.

If even a hard-as-nails prosecutor can change his mind, perhaps there is hope for us all.

Scott Reeder, a staff writer for Illinois Times, can be reached at sreeder@illinoistimes.org.
Committed to an inclusive and diverse culture.

Republic Services is committed to creating an inclusive and diverse culture where all employees feel welcome and accepted as part of the team. Inclusion and Diversity initiatives add value to our organization by helping to attract the best people who provide the best service to our customers.

In 2018 we established our first Business Resource Group (BRG), a way for employees to network and support each other. Our BRGs, which anyone can join, are an intentional effort to make the company a more inclusive workplace. Today, we have BRGs supporting women, Black and Latinx employees, veterans and active military employees.
The origins of Juneteenth

The newest official holiday in Illinois has a long history

JUNETEENTH | Pamela Savage

Juneteenth, or Freedom Day, is the nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. On June 19, 1865, Union Army General Gordon Granger announced the freedom of more than 250,000 enslaved Black people in Galveston, Texas. This was one of the last groups of people to be freed from institutional slavery in the United States.

Illinois made Juneteenth an official state holiday in 2021 when Governor JB Pritzker signed a bill to recognize the anniversary of June 19, 1865. This legislation was signed into law in Springfield at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (ALPLM). Christina Shutt, a historian and director of the ALPLM, provided some insights about the history of Juneteenth as it relates to the ALPLM, as well as the larger Springfield community.

While Juneteenth has its origins in Galveston, Texas, various emancipation celebrations have been held in Illinois and elsewhere throughout the latter half of the 19th century. Some African Americans began to celebrate the commemoration of the date that Britain outlawed slavery in its colonies via the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833. Following the Civil War, African American communities began recognizing and celebrating the signing of both the Emancipation Proclamation on Jan. 1, 1863, and the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, which was issued 100 days earlier, on Sept. 22, 1862.

According to Shutt, in 1906 Springfield’s African American weekly paper, The Forum, began publishing invitations for the community to attend emancipation celebrations featuring games, performances and picnics, as well as a reading of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Over time, interest in Juneteenth locally and nationally struggled due to fear of violence and racial terror, and there were very few places for Blacks to celebrate, as many cities had barred them from being in public spaces.

Shutt said that following the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968, there was a resurgence of looking back to the days of Abraham Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation to celebrate how far the African American community had come, as well as an interest in wanting to celebrate and acknowledge the struggles of Black people in the United States. This led to more modern Juneteenth celebrations appearing throughout the 1960s and 1970s, all with roots in honoring the emancipation commemorations that had been marked in previous years.

This weekend, Juneteenth Inc. will host Springfield’s four-day Juneteenth celebration, and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum will also commemorate the holiday. The ALPLM plans to put the Emancipation Proclamation on display to the public from June 17-30. The Proclamation will be on display in the library, with no admission charge, fulfilling one of the missions of Shutt and the ALPLM to return historical documents to the people. The library is open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The ALPLM will be open during the Juneteenth holiday.

In addition, Shutt said she is excited to speak at the Juneteenth Inc. rally, and she and the staff of the ALPLM will have historical and educational resources available to anyone in the community seeking to know more about Springfield’s involvement in this important holiday.

Pamela Savage is a freelance writer living in Springfield.
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Garvey-Tubman Cultural Arts and Research Center

Garvey-Tubman Cultural Arts and Research Center is well ahead when it comes to providing support services to the whole family throughout Springfield. “We are the only organization in Springfield providing services based on cultural, emotional and educational support,” said Executive Director Shatriya Smith.

Moreover, the support services Garvey-Tubman provides are crucial and unwavering. Recently, after settling into their new space and making Springfield’s east side their home, Garvey-Tubman staff and volunteers are gearing up for a summer of community-building.

“We’ve got people that live in duplexes, and the only people who know each other are the kids. But the adults don’t even know each other’s names and won’t even speak to each other,” said John T. Crisp, Jr., co-founder of the organization.

During June, Garvey-Tubman will partner with Motherland Gardens for a community support initiative and door-knocking campaign to share with neighbors its plans to plant a new future and assist with community-building. The goal is to learn more about their surrounding neighbors and understand their desires regarding having a voice in the neighborhood, about security and safety, and how to connect to services such as home repairs.

“We hope to gain traction so that people can come to us if they have questions about how they can access grant funding to get their homes renovated,” said Smith. “We can assist with job searches, and although we don’t have our summer program this year, we do have access to scholarships from other summer programs we can assist families with securing.”

“Garvey-Tubman is a concierge to services that have not been available to our low-income families,” said Smith. “One of the things I appreciate doing is introducing our kids to the same things that people come from all over the world to see right here in Springfield.”

Additionally, Garvey-Tubman will launch its Sharing Wonderful Artistic Gifts, or S.W.A.G Bag season, this June. Volunteers and staff will provide community members with hook bags containing a variety of art supplies, snacks and juice. The goal is to make this service available monthly throughout the summer. The number of bags distributed and the frequency will depend on the organization’s monetary and in-kind gifts.

“What most people do with $100, we can get three times as much bang for our buck,” said Smith. “We know how to use the funding we receive to make the most bang for the buck in the community and to make sure the kids are getting services that will last them.”

These programs and services include Garvey-Tubman’s Recycled Arts program for youth. The goal is to assist youth in developing entrepreneurial skills while also supporting environmental initiatives by creating art from recycled material and teaching them the skills to sell the final product.

“We’re teaching littles how to be entrepreneurs in the community, how to use their inside and outside voice, how to use the right words to make sales, how to count money, how to engage with people,” said Smith. “We are teaching them how to express themselves with a vernacular that will be accepted by all people.”

Garvey-Tubman volunteers and staff invite the community to come and try the Recycled Arts program at White Oaks Mall 4-6 p.m. on Fridays in July.

Ultimately, Garvey-Tubman staff and volunteers are looking to expand its footprint throughout Springfield. They want to ensure its economic empowerment programs and support services are fully accessible to families.

“I told the mayor I need a warehouse because we do things that other organizations don’t do or are scared to do,” said Crisp. “The art program just in itself demands a lot of space, but we are also a communal group that helps the whole family.”

The goal is to secure multiple locations throughout Springfield, so the organization can effectively deliver services to families while building stronger communities.

Over the years, Springfield’s Black community has been scattered and relocated. “We have taken groups of people and relocated them to the west side – breaking up families, diminishing their voices and voting power, and begging the question why would they speak up in a neighborhood association that doesn’t look like them,” said Smith.

And safe spaces matter. “You can take our little Black babies, and you say these are the expectations that you can live by, and then you can make them so rigid – as so many spaces and programs are doing – that they feel out of place,” said Smith. “Yeah, we know you are Black, but let’s not talk about Black history. These programs are not talking about Black history, specific cultural needs, or emotional generational trauma. We are living under the guise of a strict environment that does not facilitate our needs. We need to be able to talk about things.”

“Garvey-Tubman provides that space, a safe space,” said Smith.

Jamila Wicks is a freelance writer who lives in Decatur and works in Springfield. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in journalism from the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Georgia.
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Citywide Juneteenth celebrations

Although Juneteenth has been celebrated in Springfield for over 20 years, it did not become an official state holiday until last year when Gov. JB Pritzker signed a bill to commemorate June 19, 1865, as the date when the last enslaved Black people in the U.S. learned that they were free. It is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States, and early celebrations of the event were mostly church-centered community gatherings. Today, it is celebrated in most cities and many smaller communities with food festivals, parades and historical reenactments. Here in Springfield, this week is packed with events that highlight African American cultural contributions with live music events, art exhibitions, presentations and just plain fun stuff to do.

The official start of the celebration is on Thursday, June 16, with a performance by Natu Camara on the Y Block as part of the Levitt AMP Springfield Music Series. Camara, a New Yorker with Guinean roots, brings her new-found American edge to Afro-steeped pop, and many of her songs are sung in English, French and her native Susu. After the performance, head to the Truth Lounge, 11 W. Old State Capitol Plaza, for the official after-party beginning at 8 p.m.

Celebration activities will keep getting warmer on Friday afternoon at Corner Cox Park with a family day at the park, sponsored by the Springfield Housing Authority. DJ Jones will keep the sounds going while you check out the Kid Zone bounce house and activities, community resource tent, free health screenings, Entrepreneur Square and free food. Later in the evening, grab a blanket or some lawn chairs to watch a free showing of Space Jam, part of Springfield Park District’s Movies in the Park series.

Also on Friday, the Illinois State Museum (ISM), in collaboration with the UIS Center for Lincoln Studies and Juneteenth, Inc., will present “Cause and Effect: Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation” as part of the Juneteenth lecture series. Presenters include Dr. Edna Greene Medford, who specializes in 19th century African American history, and Dr. Holly Pinheiro Jr., whose research focuses on the intersectionality of race, gender and class in the military from 1850 through the 1930s. You’ll have an opportunity to view a rare, signed copy of the Emancipation Proclamation in the library at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. The copy is one of about two dozen that survive and was signed by both Abraham Lincoln and Secretary of State William Seward. It will be displayed on June 17, June 19-24 and June 27-30, and both admission to the library and access to the document display are free.

Back at the ISM, be sure to visit “NOIR II: The Migration,” an exhibition of Black art by people of color depicting the migration of Black Americans. It tells the story visually, provoking viewers to think and talk about what freedom looks like for people of color in the United States.

Afterwards, join in the Freeish Block Club Party on the museum patio, where you will find entertainment and a lot of food. It will be an especially spirited party as it replaces past years’ rallies at the State Capitol calling for the date to become an official state holiday. The party will wrap up just in time for you to hop over to the BOS Center to catch the ultimate Bob Marley experience, One Drop Redemption on Friday evening at 7:30 p.m.

The celebration continues on Saturday with the 28th Annual Unity Parade which begins at 10 a.m. at Brown Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, and heads north to Comer Cox Park where the festivities will be hitting their stride. Expect to find over 20 vendors at the park along with food trucks, pet adoption opportunities, a community resource and job tent, a lineup of local talent and a full day of celebration fun.

Also on Saturday, the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum will host a History Comes Alive: A Juneteenth Celebration presentation at 1:30 p.m. It will feature a Juneteenth timeline beginning with the arrival of the first Africans to Virginia in 1619 through 2021, when the date became recognized as a state and federal holiday. A walk through the timeline will explore the developments in race relations on the national, state and local levels.

At Comer Cox Park on Sunday morning, Clemence Ahiable of Créme De La Clem Fitness will lead the Fitness in the Park event with a variety of fitness routines, including Afro-beat dance workouts. Afterwards, Larry Hemingway will host an outdoor revival and Gospel Explosion.

A Juneteenth Gala will cap off the weekend. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Mu Delta Lambda Chapter and Charitable Foundation will host the gala at the Wyndham Springfield City Centre where singer-songwriter Terisa Griffin and comedian Kevin D. Williams will headline. Tickets for the gala are available on Eventbrite and at Union Baptist Church.

Lincoln Land Community College was able to stretch the celebration into next week with the “Know Your History” Juneteenth event scheduled for Monday, June 20, the purpose of which is to not only celebrate freedom, but to increase knowledge about the historic event of 1865. A reading of the Emancipation Proclamation is scheduled, along with a display, free haircuts compliments of the University of Spa and Cosmetology Arts, music by DJ Yinka and some great food. Check the Facebook page for historical highlights leading up to the event.

This newest state holiday is a 157-year-old celebration of freedom. It has a lot going for it this year, and rightly so. Get out there and celebrate.
Many projects underway for The Springfield Project

Dominic Watson, executive director of The Springfield Project, has started working to redevelop, revitalize and uplift the Southtown neighborhood since securing funding earlier this year to purchase the building at 1100 South Grand Ave. East.

The Springfield City Council allocated $179,235 from a Community Development Block Grant to purchase the former beauty supply store at the southeast corner of 11th Street and South Grand Avenue East, with the goal of opening a social innovation center focused on minority entrepreneurs.

In the meantime, The Springfield Project is hosting community pop-ups, summer youth programming and small business support services. Amid bare rooms and floors sectioned off with masking tape, there is a beam of light shining inside. Watson recently launched community pop-ups, allowing organizations to utilize the space until the build-out is complete.

“It’s really a melting pot of resources that traditionally aren’t targeting our communities — the Black and Brown community — and aren’t necessarily centralized in areas that we reside in,” said Watson.

The first pop-up, a weekly community satellite location sponsored by Lincoln Library, is open for anyone to check out books, obtain or renew library cards and connect to virtual resources every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The Springfield Project has been in existence since 1996. Watson assumed leadership of the organization in September 2021 and also serves as president of the Springfield Black Chamber of Commerce.

TSP’s summer youth employment and empowerment program, now in its 13th year, will start in July.

Watson said the eight-week program has served 600 middle and high school students who receive paid-on-the-job training at minimum wage, professional development training and access to employers.

“This program is essentially a steppingstone to employment opportunities that they can acquire on their own,” said Watson.

The program has been primarily funded by the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln and other community partners. Last year, Watson partnered with the Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance, the Springfield Airport Authority and Sangamon County State’s Attorney Dan Wright’s office.

“It’s an empowerment opportunity,” said Watson. “So oftentimes, what we’ve come to understand is not just Black and Brown youth — but underserved, or those who are underrepresented — lack access to resources that those who are represented have.”

Watson plans to expand into a year-round model to create a path to long-term employment. “The goal is not just to focus on one particular area, but providing skills to increase employability.”

Set to launch this fall, the Community Access Project (CAP) 1908 is a comprehensive social innovation center. Using a co-working model, the center will house shared offices, equipment, leadership development and essential business services for a nominal fee.

“There will be some built-in value, such as access to programs and training that are built around incubating businesses and accelerating them,” said Watson.

By adding an atrium to connect to the adjoining building, Watson said he is creating a business complex that will also include the former Southtown movie theater and 20,000 square feet of space behind the buildings.

“We want to be able to influence that entire block, whether it’s working with developers or actually taking the lead,” said Watson. “We’re coming up with a comprehensive strategy to address a lot of the challenges for those who are seeking employment, or those who are looking to further their career.”

Watson said programming partnerships with University of Illinois Springfield and Innovate Springfield are also in the works.

“We’re always looking for additional partners that may be interested in coming in and providing various services to the community that we’re trying to serve.”

Jacqualine Simone Jarju moved to Springfield to pursue a Master of Arts degree in Public Affairs Reporting at University of Illinois Springfield. She has a professional background in public and community affairs journalism, program development and social justice.

Work begins on Taylor House

The Springfield Project has a second major renovation project in the works. Last December, the Springfield City Council authorized $217,720 in funding to renovate the historic Judge John Wickliffe Taylor House at 902 South 12th St.

Built in 1857-58, it became the Ulrich Home for Fallen Women. Starting in 1901, the property housed the Ambidexter Industrial and Normal Institute for African American children, which provided education and training in the skilled trades.

Work is currently underway to repair the foundation in order to keep the home from collapsing. Part of the funding came from the Cannabis Business Assistance Grant Program, funded with Illinois cannabis sales taxes and allocated by local governments. In Springfield, the funds provide monies for businesses and homeowners to renovate or improve properties in Wards 2 and 3.

The grant program was created by a Springfield City Council committee earmarked for improvements specifically in Wards 2 and 3 in order to “reflect the social justice component of the state legislation which focuses on improving neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by war on drugs,” said Ward 8 Ald. Erin Conley, who co-authored the ordinance along with Senator Doris Turner, who was serving as Ward 2 alderwoman at the time.

The legislation passed in 2019, just before Illinois launched the sale of recreational cannabis. -Jacqualine Simone Jarju
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Name</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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Colorado artist’s work is bold and deep

Paintings by Sally Elliott on exhibit at Springfield Art Association

ART | Karen Ackerman Witter

Betsy Dollar, executive director of the Springfield Art Association (SAA), is committed to engaging local citizens in the arts in a myriad of ways. Summer art camps for youth, adult art classes, exhibitions of work by local artists, community art projects and the Edwards Place Fine Art Fair are just a few examples. Showcasing high-quality work by artists from outside our area is another way the Springfield Art Association brings art to the Springfield community. A stunning solo exhibition of paintings by Colorado artist Sally Elliott, Dissonant Harmony: A Life in Art, is on display at the Springfield Art Association through July 9.

“I am thrilled to finally have Sally’s work featured in the M.G. Nelson Gallery,” Dollar told Illinois Times. “Sally is a friend, and we have been discussing this retrospective for five years.” Elliott was at the SAA for an opening reception June 3 and also gave a two-day workshop while here. Elliott is a native Coloradan who taught at the University of Colorado in both Denver and Boulder. Dollar first met Elliott in Boulder when Dollar was pursuing her MFA from the University of Colorado. That evolved into a longtime friendship. As a fellow artist, Dollar admires the powerful conceptual nature of Elliott’s work.

“Sally’s work is bold, graphic, beautifully composed across multiple panels, and deep with meaning,” says Dollar. “On first glance it is fun; the longer you look at it, the more you see and derive. It has many layers of experience for the viewer.”

A video at the entrance to the gallery provides insights to the artist’s techniques and a glimpse into her home and the surrounding environment that inspires her work. She resides in the foothills above Boulder, encircled by nature. Elliott has been an artist her entire life; both her mother and grandmother were artists. She says that her paintings reflect images from her dreams, personal experiences and places she has visited. She collects things—art from other artists, family heirlooms and furnishings. These provide inspiration for her artistic style. Objects of personal significance are reflected in her paintings.

Elliott paints in bold colors, using gouache, which is opaque watercolor. The brightly colored paintings, adorned with butterflies, birds, feathers and other aspects of nature, are inviting and draw the viewer to take a closer look. Upon closer inspection the paintings reveal discordant themes of beauty and fear, memory and regret, exposure and concealment. Elliott notes that her compositions are generally unplanned, and the images have a stream-of-consciousness quality as she continues to add things as she paints. She may take three hours to paint a single feather. She’s been painting like this for more than 30 years.

Elliott paints for herself, not the viewer. She lost her son to a sudden heart attack. As part of her healing, she started adding hearts to her paintings—whole hearts, broken hearts, separated hearts.

“The human heart represents our soul, our passions and pain,” says Elliott. Painting is spiritual for Elliott, and her paintings are extremely personal. Yet, her work is highly accessible and engaging, inviting viewers on their own unique journey.

Dissonant Harmony: A Life in Art is open to the public for free Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m. through July 9, Springfield Art Association, 700 North Fourth Street, Springfield.

Karen Ackerman Witter is a frequent contributor to Illinois Times. As a former associate director of the Illinois State Museum and longtime member of the Springfield Art Association, she appreciates the many ways Betsy Dollar provides opportunities for the community to experience the visual arts.

Corazon Rosa Rossado con Hortizales, Flores, y Frutas, gouache on paper. Photos courtesy of the artist, Sally Elliott
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Roger Whitacre, a member of the Sangamon Valley Radio Club (SVRC), has been a ham radio operator for 64 years, having earned his license when he was only 11. The SVRC, one of the oldest clubs in Illinois and an affiliate of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), will celebrate its 75th anniversary next March. Members are radioing up for the annual Field Day, when millions of ham operators, called “hams,” across the United States and Canada will participate at a site in their local area for a 24-hour round-the-clock ham radio emergency communications exercise and competition.

To be held in Rochester June 25-26, the event is open to all. There visitors may see exhibits, watch as the operators connect with others across the country, either through voice or by using Morse code, ask questions, and learn about a hobby that attracts people of all ages. In fact, the youngest “ham” in the U.S. is only five years old.

In a May 2022 proclamation, Gov. JB Pritzker declared June as Amateur Radio Month.

Amateur radio operators know the importance of honing their practice and learning new skills. “In a crisis where all communication systems might fail, the amateur radio operators would still be able to communicate. Practicing how to reach groups like the Red Cross and others is essential,” said Vicki Whitacre, who helped the state organization in pushing for the governor’s proclamation.

“During Hurricane Katrina, the first communications was through ham radio since no cell towers were operating,” said Mitch Hopper, a 25-year ham operator.

A crisis would require ham operators to go into action, but their skills are called upon throughout the year. They help at many events: an Honor Flight (to help direct traffic), the recent Lincoln Memorial Garden’s 8K race, the Boy Scout Lincoln Trail Hike from New Salem to Springfield, and the Fight for Air Stair Climb. If someone is hurt and needs assistance, the operators can quickly communicate the situation and get help.

Practicing quick communication and training for a crisis occur two times a year through simulated emergency exercises that help the operators learn what to do in case of a tornado or other emergency. Field Day is the big event where operators learn new techniques and compete for who can contact the most operators during the 24 hours. They learn from each other about ways to power radios, types of radios, etc. Hopper says, “You never know what you will see at Field Day. One year, there was a bicycle-generated system; one guy pedaled a bike generating power for the operator who connected with someone on his radio.”

Roger Whitacre says, “Someone who becomes licensed then asks, ‘So what do I do?’ There is no one way. You can choose your area of interest.” Some focus on refurbishing old equipment. Some develop new ways to power their radio. Some people focus on using Morse code, once required for licensing, but now considered a badge of honor if a ham knows and uses it.

Each person has a code to sign in and start reaching others. One never knows who might answer. Hopper says, “Years ago a friend ended up talking to King Hussein of Jordan who was a ham operator.” There are special ham groups such as Summits on the Air, operators who climb to tops of mountains to make contacts.

Ham operators must be licensed by the FCC, which requires studying, taking a class, and passing an exam, for each of three levels: Technician, General level, and Extra level.

The history of ham operators goes back to Guglielmo Marconi, who in 1901 broadcast a wireless transatlantic radio signal. In the 1920s, Springfield High School’s Radio Club was the largest club at the school, and included women. During WWII and WWII, a radio blackout was mandated for security protection. After WWII there was extra equipment which spurred many to take up the hobby and build new ways of communication. The peak of ham operators occurred in the 1950s.

The work differs from big-time broadcasters that rely on fixed towers for power. Ham operators can be in a middle of a field with a radio using a nine-volt battery. Hams are quick to point out they are not CBers, and somewhat take offense at being called “amateur” since there is a lot that goes into knowing and learning the skill.

It is believed that the term “ham” came from early years of telegraph. An inexperienced operator who made a mistake would be called “ham-fisted.” Many of the hams today are not ham-fisted but are experts in their hobby. They welcome newcomers and want to showcase their skill during Field Day.

Cinda Ackerman Klickna of Rochester is a frequent contributor to Illinois Times.

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The taste of Juneteenth
Celebrating freedom with food

FOOD | Ashley Meyer

On June 19, 1865, General Gordon Granger arrived with federal troops at the far reaches of what was then the settled boundary of freshly united United States of America. The reading of General Order No. 3, that all enslaved persons were now free, sparked the great jubilee tradition we now know as Juneteenth. As Springfield historian Kathryn Harris put it, “What could be more of a cause of celebration than freedom?”

The reason it took so long for the news to reach Texas is often debated. “When General Order No. 3 was read in Galveston, the Emancipation Proclamation had been in effect for almost two years,” Harris pointed out. “Some say the messenger was killed, but I’ve also heard stories that the reason the news took so long to reach Texas was because folks wanted to get in one more harvest before their free labor was gone.”

This time of new-found freedom was a dangerous one for the formerly enslaved, according to the article, “What is Juneteenth?” by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. As one might imagine, not everyone in Galveston was pleased about the order, and that first anniversary, on June 19, 1866, as a day of jubilation was a powerful act of grassroots defiance.

In the generations since, Juneteenth has evolved into a deliciously food-centric holiday. In her book, Rituals and Celebrations, the late caterer and model Barbara Smith wrote that “Juneteenth feasting has traditionally centered around the barbecue. The idea is to soak up the same flavors and aromas that the freed slaves would have experienced during their first celebrations.”

In addition to barbecue, red food and drink became important holiday traditions. “Red is one of the colors on the African American flag, symbolizing the blood shed for our freedom,” Harris explained, “so things like strawberry pop and red velvet cake are big on Juneteenth. B. Smith’s red velvet cake recipe is the one I make most often. It’s really good.”

This year’s celebration kicks off on Thursday, June 16, with a Levitt AMP series concert on the Y-block in front of the Governor’s Mansion, with an art exhibit and block party at the Illinois State Museum on the following day. Sunday features fitness in the park and an outdoor revival. The heart of the celebration happens on Saturday, with a parade in the morning, music, games, activities for kids, and yes, delicious food.

Ebony Pilgrim runs Tick’s BBQ with her husband, Maurice, and is returning to the event after a successful run last year. “Last year’s event went so well we sold out of food!” she said. “We specialize in barbecue, primarily ribs, wings, Polish – that kind of thing, and my husband makes his own homemade barbecue sauce. We’re excited to come back and keep on feeding the people!” This year the event will feature over 10 food vendors and well as free food giveaways. In addition to barbecue and other soul food classics, items like jerk tacos, vegan nachos and a variety of desserts will be on offer.

Delicious food is a cornerstone of any Juneteenth celebration, and with good reason. “Food is one of the greatest unifiers of all,” Douglass pointed out. “When you sit down to a good meal, ‘Thanksgiving for example, how does that even happen? Because of food! Most meetings are well attended when you serve food. Food is vital, not just for sustenance, but for community,” she emphasized. “This is a freedom celebration for all, not just Black people. I feel like this is a really good time, especially with what’s happening across the water in Ukraine, to show the understanding of freedom for all, and what that looks like.”

Maurice Pilgrim of Tick’s BBQ.
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NOW PLAYING | Tom Irwin

Hello everyone, and welcome to mid-June meanderings of the music scene. We can definitely say, the happenings are hot this weekend, if not downright sizzling. All weather-related kidding aside, please be mindful of the high temps and hefty humidity levels if you’re listening to music outside in the heat. There’s plenty to get fired up about, so let’s burn it.

First, we invite one and all to Mark Kessler’s Celebration of Life event on Sunday (3-7 p.m.) at the Curve Inn. Anyone who knew Mark, knew of his incredible interest and far-reaching, deep attraction to music — especially the loud, explosive, hard-hitting, rock ‘n’ roll kind. Owning a record store (for the uninitiated, before his untimely passing in April, Mark co-owned the venerable Recycled Records in downtown Springfield for decades with his brother Gary) rather implies that such a person would be a fan of recorded music, but Mark also dug a good, live, rockin’ band as much as anyone and more than most.

Along with attending countless shows and concerts, Mark, through his capacity at Recycled Records, financially and physically supported many festivals, events and organizations around town that hosted live music. So how fitting it seems to enlist some of his many musician friends to rock out as we celebrate the extraordinary life and times of Mark Kessler. Rick Mari, one of our finest musicians, vocalists and guitarists, plus a dear comrade of Mark’s for a long, long time, organized this event with a lineup of Irwin & Son, a Hipbone Sam Reunion, the Rick Mari Band and a Rolling Stones tribute to Mark’s finale. Please join in as we give it up to Mark one more time, just as he gave his all for a lifetime in music.

Let’s backtrack to Friday night (8-10:30 p.m.) when Dim Art House presents Spontaneous Combustions, a cool concert concept that combines improvisational expressionistic music makers with visual artists simultaneously doing impromptu art work. National touring act ACTUAL/ACTUAL (led by the sax stylings of Rent Romus of San Francisco) joins forces with free-form favorites from here, End Times Trio, to provide the music, while artist Christopher Tice, along with a couple TBA art folks, contribute the visual art creations. That just sounds like a wild and wonderful time of artistic exploration and experimentation transpiring in space.

Here’s a fine and fun thing to do helping nature live while hearing live music, when Hope MacGregor and Buckhart Road supply the musical support for the Lewis Solstice Celebration fundraiser for the Lewis Park and Trails on Koke Mill Road from 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturday. There will be a food truck, craft vendors, a drum circle with Dennis Maberry and sound bath by Peggy Patty, plus a bags game contest, and it’s all to fund taking care of the bridges and trails at this wooded, privately maintained, exceptional park area open to the public. I’m all in.

For nearby town activities, over in Decatur at the spectacular Devon Amphitheater, on Friday our friends in Off the Wall open for Marshall Charloff and the Purple Experience, who Kip Nelson of OtW claims is “the best Prince tribute band on the planet,” and I’m going with that.

Down in Taylorville on Saturday at the Funky Monkey, Positively 4th Street, hot off a successful Sheedy Shores summer festival last weekend, hosts a CD release party for a batch of original P4S-performed, Tom Beverly-penned tunes.

And don’t forget, over in New Berlin, the Sangamon County Fair is in full swing starting on Thursday with Grandstand and beer tent entertainment galore and more.

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  Buzz Bomb Brewing Co., 7-10pm
- **Kruisin’ Marrs**
  Caseys Pub, 5:30-8:30pm
- **JackAsh**
  Curve Inn, 6-9pm
- **Jackpot Karaoke with Debbie Cakes**
  Curve Inn, 7-11pm
- **J.C.B. Entertainment Karaoke**
  La Fiesta Chatham, 7-11pm

**Friday June 17**

- **Broken Stone**
  Anchor Boat Club, 7-11pm
- **Jeremiah Johnson**
  The Blue Groucho Pub, 6:30-10:30pm
- **Friday Night Jazz - Johnnie Owens**
  Boone’s, 5:30-7:30pm
- **Chicago Farmer**
  Broadgauge, Petersburg, 8-10:30pm
- **J.C.B. Entertainment Karaoke**
  Bunkers Bar, Illiopolis, 8pm-1am

**Saturday June 18**

- **Joel Honey Jams**
  Maddy’s Tavern, Divernon, 9pm-12am
- **The Cocktails**
  Mowie’s Cue, 8-11pm
- **Brazil Cafe**
  The Pharmacy Gallery and Art Space, 6-9pm
- **White Lightnin’**
  VFW 10302 Northenders, 7pm

- **The Tangents**
  The Crowbar in Decatur on Saturday.

**Sunday June 19**

- **Irwin & Sons**
  Brookhills Golf Club, 4-7pm
- **Fantastic Folk Jam**
  Buzz Bomb Brewing Co., 6-9pm
- **To Mark Kessler**
  Curve Inn, 3-7pm

**Monday June 20**

- **Jack Whittle**
  The Alibi, 7pm
- **Open mic with Joel Honey and Silas Tockey**
  Whiskey Jack’s Sports Bar, 8-11pm

**Tuesday June 21**

- **J.C.B. Entertainment Karaoke**
  The Alibi, Rochester, 8pm-12am
- **Karaoke with Debbie Cakes**
  The Blue Groucho Pub, 7-11pm
- **Open mic with The Tangents**
  George Rank’s, 7:30-10pm
- **Songwriter open mic with Tom Irwin**
  It’s All About Wine, 6-9pm
- **Fiddle-Sax Fusion Brian Stark**
  The Pharmacy Gallery and Art Space, 7pm
- **Michael Burnett**
  Sky Lounge, 6:30pm

**Wednesday June 22**

- **Open mic**
  Boone’s, 7-10pm
- **Karaoke**
  Clique, 9pm-1am
- **Karaoke**
  Crow’s Mill Pub, 8pm
- **Jet Trio**
  Obed and Isaac’s, 6pm
- **The Kitchens**
  Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill & Museum, 6-9pm
- **No Backup Plans**
  Sangamo Surf Club, 6-9pm

**Attention bands, bars and musicians:**
Submit your shows and photos online at [www.illinoistimes.com](http://www.illinoistimes.com) or by email calendar@illinoistimes.com.
that captures the American experience of three diverse families and follows them as their lives intertwine at the turn of the 20th century. Reserved seating $20. Lawn seating $13. Children 5 and under are free on the lawn. 314-534-1111. metroix.com.

**Music | Concert season**

Municipal bands are a tradition in many towns and cities nationwide, and Springfield is fortunate to have one. In fact, the Springfield Municipal Band has been providing summer entertainment for devoted followers and fans for over 80 years. The band is managed by Ken Pratt, who has a bachelor’s degree in music theory and jazz studies, and is a 23-year band member. Tom Philbrick, who has a master’s degree in music education, has conducted the band for over 10 years. Although you will find the band at Duncan Park most Tuesday evenings and many Sunday evenings during the summer, they also perform at a variety of outdoor venues throughout the concert season. On Friday, June 17, they will be entertaining Abe and Mary Lincoln and other guests at the Edwards Place ice cream social as part of the History Comes Alive program. The event is free.

**THE CALENDAR**

**MUSIC | Concert season**

**Springfield Municipal Band**

Friday, June 17, 2:30 p.m.
Edwards Place
700 N. Fourth St.
217-741-7641

**THE CALENDAR**

**MUSIC | Concert season**

**Spontaneous Compositions**

Fri., June 17, 8-10:30pm. Instruments in dialogue with visual artists doing the very same back at them. Actual Actual, a national touring act, and local free jazz group, End Times Trio, along with visual artists including Christopher Tice. $5.00-$10.00.

**DIM Art House, 319 Chatham Rd.**

**THEATER & COMEDY**

**The Absolute Best Friggin’ Time of Your Life**

Sat., June 18. The Second City comedy troupe. Witness the next generation of comedy superstars put their spin on the legendary comedy company’s greatest hits, with John Love as music director.

**Convention Center Plaza, 800-745-3000.**

**Paul Summers**

Sun., June 19, 6pm. Part of the Concerts in the Park series hosted by the Pilot Club of Jacksonville. Jacksonville Community Park, Jacksonville, 1201 S. Main.

**Spontaneous Compositions**

Fri., June 17, 8-10:30pm. Instruments in dialogue with visual artists doing the very same back at them. Actual Actual, a national touring act, and local free jazz group, End Times Trio, along with visual artists including Christopher Tice. $5.00-$10.00.

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Sun., June 19, 6pm. Part of the Concerts in the Park series hosted by the Pilot Club of Jacksonville. Jacksonville Community Park, Jacksonville, 1201 S. Main.
**THEATER** | An epic that captures the American experience

At the dawn of a new century, everything is changing and anything is possible. Set in the volatile melting pot of turn-of-the-century New York, three distinctly American tales are woven together – that of a stifled upper-class wife, a determined Jewish immigrant and a daring young Harlem musician – united by their courage, compassion and belief in the promise of the future. Together, they confront history’s timeless contradictions of wealth and poverty, freedom and prejudice, hope and despair, and what it means to live in America. In telling the story, the show also weaves in historical figures such as Harry Houdini, Booker T. Washington and Henry Ford. *Ragtime* is a musical by composer Stephen Flaherty, lyricist Lynn Ahrens and book writer Terrence McNally. It is based on the 1975 novel of the same name by E.L. Doctorow. This local production is directed by Reggie Guyton, along with vocal director Nicole Pittman and choreographer Montel Morgan. Reserved seating is $20, lawn seating is $13 and free for children age 5 and under.

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*Unity Parade*
Sat., June 18, 10am. The 28th annual parade will travel north on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive from Brown Street to Comer Cox Park.

*Fairs & Festivals*

**Lewis Solstice Celebration**
Sat., June 18, 4-7pm. A summer celebration and fundraiser to fix the trail bridges at the park. Live music, food truck, Bags for Bridges (cornhole) tournament and family fun for all. Check out the park and what it has to offer. Visit the Facebook page for more information. Lewis Park and Trails, 399 S. Koke Mill Rd.

**Summer Frolic**
Sat., June 18. Celebrate frontier heritage with period clothed interpreters demonstrating throughout the historic village. Demonstrations include blacksmithing, coopering, weaving, cooking, period games and more. Lincoln’s New Salem State Historic Site, Petersburg, 15588 History Lane, 217-632-4000.

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**Fundraisers**

**Sisterhood & Service Project**
Mon., June 20, 1-4pm. Food, fun and fellowship to benefit the Springfield Immigrant Advocacy Network. Accepting donations of diapers, wipes, diaper rash cream, Spanish language children’s books and also monetary donations. Replay Lounge, 217 S. Fifth St.

**Children’s Corner**

**Eat A Rainbow!**

**Bulletin Board**

**Family day at the park**
Fri., June 17, 12-3pm. Kid Zone bounce house and activities, DJ Jones, community resource tent, free health screenings, Entrepreneur Square, free food. A free movie, Space Jam begins at 7pm. Sponsored by the Springfield Housing Authority, Corner Cox Park, Capitol Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, 544-1751.

**Ice cream social with the Lincolns**
Fridays, 2:30-3:30pm. Enjoy ice cream with the Lincolns as they visit Mrs. Helen Edwards at her Italianate home. The Springfield Municipal Band will provide the afternoon’s entertainment. Part of History Comes Alive. Edwards Place, Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631.

**Midwest Charity Horse Show**

**Starting Your Business in Illinois**
MARKETPLACE

Books on the Square
New, Used and Rare
Call 955-5453
427 E. Washington St.
Springfield, IL 62703
217-741-1340

SPRINGFIELD CLOTH SHOP
In Rhythm with the Times
Pavilion (Lincoln Park).
Tuesdays, June 21 – July 26, 2022
Basic 6:00 – 7:00 pm
Basic Salsa 7:15 – 8:15 pm
FreeStyle 8:30 – 9:30 pm
Ron & Paula’s Ballroom
217-553-0446
www.RonAndPaulasDance.com

Real Estate Foreclosure
F0010231 USBK
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY – SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
CASE NO. 20 CH 000112
22A Dawson Circle, Riverton, Illinois 62673
U.S. Bank National Association
Plaintiff,
v.
Illinois Housing Development Authority; Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Dawson Lane
Estates Homeowner Association; Marie L. Latham
alma Minin Latham;
Defendants.
NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE
Public notice is hereby given that in pursuance of a judgment of said Court entered in the above
entitled matter on April 14, 2022, Sheriff Jack Campbell of Sangamon County, Illinois, will hold a
sale on July 19, 2022, commencing at 9:00 AM, at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South Ninth
Street, Springfield, IL 62701, to sell to the highest bidder or bidders the following described real estate,
for ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance due within twenty-four (24) hours of the sale.
No Refunds.
For bidding instructions, visit www.dallagal.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.
Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC
1771 W. Diehl Rd., Ste 120
Naperville, IL 60563 (630) 453-6960
For bidding instructions, visit www.dallagal.com 24 hours prior to sale.
This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that
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Naperville, IL 60563 (630) 453-6960
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purpose.
NOTICE UNDER ASSUMED BUSINESS NAME ACT
STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF SPRINGFIELD
TO WHOM IT CONCERNED:
Notice is hereby given that on the 2nd Day of June, 2022, the County Clerk of Sangamon County, Illinois, under the fictitious name to wit: Williams Maintenance and that they are the sole owner(s) and proprietor(s) of said business; and that the principal place of said business is located at 6811 N. State Route 29, Springfield, IL 62707

COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
MARK N. KESSLER, Deceased

NOTICE TO HEIRS AND REPRESENTATIVES
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
MARK N. KESSLER, Deceased

Case No. 2022-PR-209
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Mark N. Kessler, Deceased, on or before, Jan. 9, 2023. Any claim not filed by the 01st day of December 2022 or three months from the date the Representative mailed or delivered a Notice to Creditor, whichever is later. Any claim not filed before that date 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.

Claim Notice
Notice is given of the death of Ralph Morris Kessler, Deceased.

COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
FRANK A. FAGAN, Deceased

Case No. 2022-PR-204
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Frank A. Fagan, Deceased. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Representative, or both, on or before the 19th day of December, 2022, or three months from the date the Representative mailed or delivered a Notice to Creditor, whichever is later. 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.

PUBLIC NOTICES
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
JAMES R. LONG, DECEASED.
No. 2022-P-227
July 20, 2022

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIMS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF JAMES R. LONG, Deceased
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Case No. 2022-P-227

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate the clerk of the court.

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 service provider. Visit www.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider.

Default may be entered against you if you do not file a response before the court.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Re: the marriage of
John C. Swafford, Jr., Petitioner
And
Marcus Henri Harvey, Respondent
Case No. 2022-D-028
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Notice is given you Marcus Henri Harvey, Respondent herein, that this cause has been commenced against you in this court asking for a dissolution of marriage and other relief.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Re: the marriage of
Case No. 2022-D-062
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Notice is given you Edward William Longcore Sr., Respondent herein, that this cause has been commenced against you in this court asking for a dissolution of marriage and other relief.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Re: the marriage of
Richard Persinger a/k/a Richard P. Persinger
Case No. 2022-D-062
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Notice is given you Richard Persinger a/k/a Richard P. Persinger, Respondent herein, that this cause has been commenced against you in this court asking for a dissolution of marriage and other relief.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Re: the marriage of
Ebony Finger, Petitioner
And
Thomas Finger, Respondent
Case No. 2022-DN-133
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Notice is given you Thomas Finger, Respondent herein, that this cause has been commenced against you in this court asking for a dissolution of marriage and other relief.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Re: the marriage of
Mike A. Gonzalez, Jr., Petitioner
And
Dawn M. Thompson, Respondent
Case No. 2022-DN-134
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Notice is given you Dawn M. Thompson, Respondent herein, that this cause has been commenced against you in this court asking for dissolution of marriage and other relief.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Re: the marriage of
Dawn M. Thompson, Petitioner
And
Mike A. Gonzalez, Jr., Respondent
Case No. 2022-DN-134
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Notice is given you Mike A. Gonzalez, Jr., Respondent herein, that this cause has been commenced against you in this court asking for dissolution of marriage and other relief.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Re: the marriage of
Aisha B. Davis, Petitioner
And
Leroy Fisher, Respondent
Case No. 2022-D-062
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Notice is given you Aisha B. Davis, Petitioner herein, that this cause has been commenced against you in this court asking for a dissolution of marriage and other relief.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Re: the marriage of
Daquai Washington, Petitioner
And
Marquis Strong, Respondent
Case No. 2022-D-062
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Notice is given you Daquai Washington, Petitioner herein, that this cause has been commenced against you in this court asking for a dissolution of marriage and other relief.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Re: the marriage of
Sheena L. Sanders, Petitioner
And
Aaron Freeman, Respondent
Case No. 2022-D-062
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Notice is given you Sheena L. Sanders, Petitioner herein, that this cause has been commenced against you in this court asking for a dissolution of marriage and other relief.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Re: Mortgage
In the Petition to Probate a Will, than an Interests of the Will by filling a petition with the Court of the County of Sangamon, in Springfield, Illinois, on or before the 16th day of July, 2022, a judgment of dissolution of marriage and other relief may be granted as prayed for in the Petition.

PAMELA S. LONG, of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of office were issued on June 6, 2022, to DONALD C. CARVER, SR., Jacksonville, IL 62650

Attorneys for Estate:
By: Koert J. Brown, Attorney
JAMES R. LONG, Deceased

SANGAMON COUNTY
IN THE COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Re: the marriage of
Joscilyn Hiel, Petitioner
And
Robert P. Hiel, Respondent
Case No. 2022-DN-134
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Notice is given you Robert P. Hiel, Respondent herein, that this cause has been commenced against you in this court asking for dissolution of marriage and other relief.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Re: Mortgage
The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate the clerk of the court.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate the clerk of the court.

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 service provider. Visit www.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider.

Default may be entered against you if you do not file a response before the court.
in accordance with 75 ILCS 515/15-107(1)(h-1) and 75, 76 ILCS 605/13(1), and 765 ILCS 605/19.5(1-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the property, other than a mortgagee, shall pay all assessments and legal fees required by subsections (g)(1) and (g)(5) of section 9 and the assessments and court costs required by subsection (g-1) of section 18.5 of the Illinois Circuit Court Procedure 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 of Sangamon County.

The foregoing notice of pendency of action and information regarding this property is:

Sales Department at Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC, 1771 W. Diehl Rd., Suite 120, Naperville, IL 60563, (630) 433-6890. For bidding instructions, view available documents 24 hours prior to the sale.

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

Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC
1771 W. Diehl Rd., Suite 120, Naperville, IL 60563
(630) 433-6890

Attorney for Plaintiff
P. O. Box 2459
Springfield, IL 62705
(217) 544-8491

The Circuit Court for the Seventh Judicial Circuit, Sangamon County, Illinois

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION

Notice is hereby given to Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants located in Sangamon County, Illinois, Situated in the City of Springfield, Illinois, and in the County of Sangamon, Illinois. Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 2-206, 15-1218 and 15-1502 of the Code of Civil Procedure, that the above-mentioned mortgage foreclosure suit is now pending in said court and the day on or after which a default may be entered against Defendants is July 11, 2022. Plaintiff has certified the following regarding said foreclosure action filed on May 25, 2022.

1. The names of all Plaintiffs and Case Number are as follows: United Community Bank, an Illinois banking corporation, successor by merger to Illini Bank.
2. The court in which said action was brought is as follows: Circuit Court for the Seventh Judicial Circuit, Sangamon County, Illinois.
3. The name of the title holder of record is: Veronica Babb.
4. A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows: The North Half of Thirty-Six (36) in Buckingham Place, Third Addition. Except any interest in the coal, gas and other minerals underlying the land which have been heretofore conveyed or reserved in prior conveyances, and the rights and estates in and to the use of the said coal, oil, gas and other minerals, if any. Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois.
5. Any common address or description of the location of the real estate is as follows: 66 Buckingham Road, Chatham, Illinois 62629

The property offered for sale is subject to real estate taxes, special assessments of Sangamon County and other unpaid taxes, and is subject to payment in "as is" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

The judgment against the property consists of:

Vacant Property

The judgment amount was at $78,770.75. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call Plaintiff’s Attorney, Timothy R. Yueill, ARDC #6192172, Attorney for Plaintiff, 1512 South Second Street, Springfield, IL 62702.

Pollini, Kellner, Heidrich, P.C.
1512 South Second Street, Springfield, IL 62702
217-544-8491

(217) 544-8491

efairfield@blowlaw.com
8051-924059

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION

Notice is hereby given to Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants, of the following described real estate, that the above-mentioned mortgage foreclosure action is now pending, and the day on or after which a default may be entered against Plaintiff is June 22, 2022. Plaintiff has certified the above-mentioned mortgage foreclosure action was filed on 06-27-2022, and is now pending.

(i) The names of all plaintiffs and the case number are as follows:
(ii) The name of the title holder of record is: Cynthia S. Gerlach

Note: A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows:
Lot Six (6) of W.R. Lucbridge’s Second Addition.


Defendants.

June 16-12, 2022 | Illinois Times | 41
this case has been commenced in this Court and all others, asking for foreclosure of the Mortgage held by the Plaintiff on the property located at 1309 West Adams St., Auburn, IL 62615, more particularly described as:

i. The names of all plaintiffs and the case number as follows:

- Plaintiff: First National Bank of Raymond, an Illinois banking corporation (Case No. 2022-FC-69)

The Plaintiff has certified the following action for foreclosure of the mortgage conveyed or reserved in prior conveyances, and all rights and easements in favor of the estate of said coal, oil, and gas, and other minerals, if any.


Common address or location of mortgaged premises: 802 Franklin, Pawnee, IL 62558

(v) Identification of the mortgage sought to be foreclosed is as follows:

Name of mortgagee: Charles W. Clarke
Name of mortgage: First National Bank of Raymond, an Illinois banking corporation
Date of mortgage: August 11, 2018
County where recorded: Sangamon County, Illinois

Recording document identification: Document No. 2018R17687

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

Charlestown, Illinois

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

Mary Lee Rees, Petitioner

Charlestown, Illinois

NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector.
Our File No. 14-22-03146
Winnebago #531
Our File No. 14-22-03146
NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector.

1319647

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

Estate of
MARY LEE REES,

Deceased.

No. 2021-99-209
NOTICE TO HEIRS

To: April Franklin, Savannah Franklin, and Devin Franklin, whose addresses are unknown.

Notice is given to the above who are heirs in the above proceeding to probate a will and whose names or addresses are not stated in the petition to admit the will to probate, that an order was entered by the Court on the thirtieth day of May, 2022, admitting the will to probate.

Within 42 days after the effective date of the original order of admission of any heir or legatee may file a petition with the Court to require proof of the will by testimony of the witnesses to the will or any other evidence as provided in 755 ILS 5/8-1-16, as amended.

To pay past due rent and fees call 1-217-522-3000.
Private sale will be June 25,2022 at 9AM. Sale will begin at Dixin Avenue Location. You will call to verify start location day before the sale.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, SANGAMON COUNTY - SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Nationstar Mortgage LLC dba Mr. Cooper

v.

DeWayne L. Williams, Co-Executor of the Estate of George L. Williams; DeWayne L. Williams; Shae Williams; Casey D. Williams; Shae N. Williams, Co-Executor of the Estate of George L. Williams; State of Illinois - Department of Revenue; Unknown Heirs and Legatees of George L. Williams; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants

DEFENDANTS

2020CD00008

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

YOU ARE GIVEN NOTICE TO: Unknown Heirs and Legates of George L. Williams
Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants

That this case has been commenced in this Circuit Court against you, praying for the foreclosure of a certain mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:

UNIT 46 IN CITYPLACE CONDOMINIUM AS DELINQUENT TO A DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM OWNERSHIP MADE BY THE CITYPLACE CONDOMINIUM IN THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAN OF SURVEY THEREOF WHICH IS ATTACHED AND EXHIBITS A TO DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM OWNERSHIP MADE BY THE CITYPLACE CONDOMINIUM IN THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 552257 AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME, TOGETHER WITH A PERCENTAGE OF THE COMMON ELEMENTS APPURTENANT TO SAID UNIT AS SET FORTH IN SAID DECLARATION.

CWA: 46 Cityplace, Springfield, IL 62703

PM: 22-70 to 402-067


E-Filing is mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit http://esfile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp, or talk with your local circuit clerk’s office. UNLESS YOU FILE your appearance or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Clerk of Sangamon County, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701 on or before July 18, 2022, A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED FOR IN THE CROPPING FORocolUS.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

Deputy Clerk

Charles W. Clarke

Date: June 16, 2022

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

First National Bank of Raymond, an Illinois banking corporation, Plaintiff,

v.

CHARLES W. CLARKE, CITIZENS COUNTY FIRST CREDIT UNION, UNKNOWN OWNERS, AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

Case No. 2022-FC-95
NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION

You are hereby given notice of the filing of a PENDENCY OF ACTION. See 755 ILS 5/15-1218 and 15-1502 and Sec. 2-206 that the above-entitled mortgage foreclosure suit is now pending in said court and the day on or after which a default may be entered against said Defendants is July 12, 2022.

The Plaintiff has certified the following regarding said foreclosure action filed on May 16, 2022,

(i) The names of all Plaintiffs and the case number are as follows:
First National Bank of Raymond, an Illinois banking corporation (Case No. 2022-FC-95)
(ii) The court in which said action was brought is as follows:
Circuit Court of the Sangamon County, Illinois
(iii) The name of the title holder of record: Charles W. Clarke
(iv) Legal description and common address of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty are as follows:
Lot 2 in Block 5 in Baker’s Third Addition adjoining Pawnee.

The Plaintiff hereby gives notice that the court in which said action was brought is as follows:
Circuit Court of the Sangamon County, Illinois

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

Federal Mortgage Association

42 | www.illinoistimes.com June 16-22, 2022
I think...

Across
1. Alphabet quartet
5. Blue cartoon character
10. “... my wife’s end”
14. Certain Ghomtasker
15. Out of port
16. Like takeout orders
17. “My deepest apologies”
20. Sound system
21. Sugar suffix
22. Born in Bordeaux
23. Bank patrons
26. Levelled, in London
28. 20-20, e.g.
31. “... Dinah” (Frankie Avalon hit)
32. Stomach muscles, briefly
33. Certain tribute
38. “... stupid stupid ideas”
39. Crosby, Sull and Nash, e.g.
41. “Let’s take that gamble”
44. Golden
46. Peter the Great, e.g.
47. To this point
48. Double curve
49. Chick’s sound
51. Bygone airline
52. Seasonal visitor
55. L. Yellow
57. Air hero
58. “Mumma___!”
60. Converse
64. “No idea”

68. Spelling of “Beverly Hills 90210”
69. Get the class back together
76. Toy with a tail
71. O.R. or E.R. site
72. See birds
73. Legis. meeting
74. Down
1. Lame souvenirs
2. People in charge: Abb.
3. Memo
4. Rudiments
5. Tried hard
6. “Who, me?”
7. Kind of port for a PC
8. Moves, briefly
9. Wray (of “King Kong”) and others
10. “What was __”
11. Dew times
12. Be of one mind
13. Trifled (with)
14. Entertain with a tale
15. Belgrade native
16. Beverites
18. Make over
19. Houston ballplayer
20. H.S. math
21. Infinitesimal amount
23. “... of Eden”
24. Wednesday
25. Like dessert wines
26. “Grows in Brooklyn”
27. Break in relations
29. Vidi, translated
30. Gummi fragrident
32. N.F.L. itemen: Abb.
33. Neighbor of Francisca
34. Identical
35. Delights
36. Doh speak
37. Blessing
38. Presiding
39. Approaches
40. No-cash deal
41. Links with a space station
42. About, on a merno
43. Tennis’ Nastase
44. “Darlin’!”
45. Golf ball crops
46. Big shot
47. Siurter’s need
48. “The insolant number”

Clue type: DISCHARGED PERSONAL OBLIGATION.

By J. Reynolds - No. 745

Puzzle answers from this week will appear here next week

Sudoku answers from #744

JoshJosh answers from #744

Sudoku by J. Reynolds - No. 745

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

[Grid image]

JoshJosh answers from #744

Sudoku by J. Reynolds - No. 745

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

[Grid image]

JoshJosh answers from #744

Sudoku by J. Reynolds - No. 745

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

[Grid image]
FREE EVENT!

Juneteenth Inc. Presents
JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION
JUNE 16TH - 19TH

JUNE 16TH & 17TH
LEVITT AMP SERIES CONCERT
JUNE 16TH | 6PM
NOIR 2 ART EXHIBIT | IL STATE MUSEUM | JUNE 17TH | 10AM-4PM
FREE-ISH BLOCK PARTY | 502 S. SPRING | JUNE 17TH 4PM

JUNE 18TH
JUNETEENTH PARADE | MLK & BROWN TO COX PARK | 10 AM
JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION | COMER COX PARK | 11AM-7PM

JUNE 19TH
FITNESS IN THE PARK | COMER COX PARK | 9 AM
OUTDOOR REVIVAL | COMER COX PARK | 10 AM

Contact Information: Juneteenthinc@gmail.com