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“No bans, no bounties”

Illinois remains committed to abortion access

HUMAN RIGHTS | Rachel Otwell

Kodi Smith, a 22-year-old paramedic student from Taylorville, joined a protest outside the federal courthouse in Springfield on Sept. 9. The demonstrators were speaking out against a major win for anti-abortion advocates – the ban in Texas that makes it next to impossible for those seeking abortions to do so legally in the state. “I believe every woman should have the right to choose what she does with her body. And that should be no one else’s choice or business,” said Smith.

The ban in Texas, which makes abortion illegal as early as six weeks into pregnancy, makes the issue a civil one, not criminal. Individual citizens can serve as plaintiffs and stand to win at least $10,000 per lawsuit filed against those who help someone obtain abortion, including providers. Opponents of the law refer to it as a bounty system, due to the incentive for private citizens to turn each other in for monetary gain.

“It’s a bit obscure,” said Jason Pierceon – political science professor at University of Illinois Springfield – about the Texas measure. He said it was designed with the purpose to evade court challenges.

Earlier this month, the majority-conservative Supreme Court refused to block the Texas law. And a Mississippi case before the court challenges Roe v. Wade, the 1973 law that protects the right to abortion without excessive government interference.

“If Hillary Clinton had won the 2016 election and been able to appoint three Supreme Court justices, it would not even be a question as to whether or not these laws were unconstitutional. They would be deemed unconstitutional,” said Pierceon.

Pierceon added the current abortion battle is leading the courts into unusual territory. “Justice Breyer called the Supreme Court decision on the Texas law a very, very, very large mistake. That is almost unheard of, for a sitting Supreme Court justice to be that critical of his colleagues publicly.”

Meanwhile, Illinois remains a place in the Midwest where abortion is accessible. In 2019, the governor signed the Reproductive Health Act. It was crafted to thwart the Supreme Court potentially overturning Roe v. Wade. “It certainly means that for the foreseeable future, abortion rights will be strongly protected in Illinois because of that law,” said Pierceon.

In Granite City, the Hope Clinic for Women is prepared to help an influx of clients. “About 60% or more of the patients that we see are currently coming from other states outside of Illinois,” said Alison Dreith, deputy director of the clinic. The clinic is on the border of Missouri, where there is only a single abortion clinic in the entire state. Dreith said abortion funds are helping Texas women travel to other states for care.

“We were seeing patients traveling to us from Texas at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Dreith. That’s because the Texas governor all but halted abortions, citing a need to preserve medical equipment as the reason.

“We started this journey around 2019, preparing for a bad Supreme Court outcome,” said Dreith. She said the clinic has increased its staff in anticipation of a growing need for care. The clinic was built for around 10,000 patients per year, and currently is only seeing about half of that, she said.

“We’re really lucky to be in this state that is taking women’s health and autonomy seriously,” said Dreith. She added her heart is broken for the patients and providers in Texas “and the bounties that are on their heads now.”

Smith, the paramedic student, said she volunteers as an escort at an abortion clinic in Springfield. There, she said, patients often face extreme rhetoric when entering the building. Anti-abortion protestors “get very aggressive. They address you directly and tell you you’re going to hell. They’re very antagonizing,” Smith said.

For those who oppose a person’s right to have an abortion, the Texas ban is a major victory. They hope the law in Texas will lead more states to follow suit. But even those in the so-called Right to Life movement admit such a law is far from feasible in Illinois, due largely to its political makeup.

Brigid Leahy, senior director of public policy for Planned Parenthood of Illinois, led the rally in Springfield last week. From a megaphone she chanted, “No bans, no bounties.”

“This kind of vigilante enforcement is very dangerous,” Leahy told Illinois Times. Some providers in Illinois are already seeing people travel from Texas to seek access to care, she said. But not all people seeking abortion will have the same ability to travel. The law is especially harmful to those from already marginalized communities.

Leahy said work to bolster abortion access in Illinois is ongoing. A measure before the state legislature would make it so minors who want abortions but lack approval from an adult family member no longer have to go before judges in court to seek permission. Efforts to repeal the Parental Notice of Abortion Act are supported by the governor.

Leahy said given the latest wins for those who seek to limit access to abortion, it is increasingly important not just that abortion is legal in Illinois, “but that it is also accessible and is accessible to everyone.”

Contact Rachel Otwell at rotwell@illinoistimes.com.

Editor’s note

I believe Springfield has a connection to about any place in the world, so global stories are local stories, but connections sometimes take a while to find. While looking for local angles on today’s Afghanistan, we were reminded that Springfield is deprived of the opportunity to host Afghan refugees. The federal Office of Refugee Resettlement now has a rule that refugees must be resettled within 100 miles of an ORR affiliate office, and the only Illinois offices are in Chicago. If this isn’t a horse-and-buggy rule, it is at least pre-internet. Feds may not believe it, but people in Springfield can even get to Chicago if they really need to go. Before this rule went into effect, Springfield welcomed refugees for most of its history. Not long ago we helped Vietnamese, Eritreans, Russians and others get established. What better place could there be to start a new life in a foreign land? —Fletcher Farrar, editor. Contact him at editor@illinoistimes.com.
Council approves hotel tax hike
City to provide $30-$35 million in tax abatement to new sports complex

DEVELOPMENT | Kenneth Lowe

All Springfield hotels will see a 1% tax increase under a number of ordinances passed by the Springfield city council last week and effective immediately. As a result, the sports complex planned for the land near Scheels along South MacArthur Boulevard will benefit from an estimated $30 million to $35 million in tax rebates.

The council approved ordinances increasing the city’s hotel and motel tax to 8% from 7%, as well as a 2% hotel tax rebate for the planned Legacy Pointe Sports Complex, along with sales and property tax rebates. The sales and property tax rebates will apply to the complex itself, while the 2% tax rebate will be drawn from all Springfield hotel tax revenue. All told, tax abatement for the project is slated to be about 50% of its total cost, said Mayor Jim Langfelder.

The push for an additional sports complex in Springfield began in 2019 after the city requested an analysis from Sports Facilities Advisory, which provided market analysis showing Springfield could support another facility. The resulting studies proposed a project that promises a sprawling new multiuse campus, with basketball, volleyball, baseball and other entertainment and fitness facilities with a $66 million price tag, according to a feasibility study.

City council members Shawn Gregory, Roy Williams Jr. and Joe McMenamin voted “no” on the measure, which passed 6-3. Gregory said he opposed the plan because it failed to incorporate citywide benefits, citing the existing sports facilities on the city’s north and east sides which will not see any tax abatement.

“We could’ve affected three sides of the city,” Gregory said. “I believe there was a way we could have helped our existing facilities. We could have spread the wealth more.”

Speaking prior to his vote, Williams expressed concerns that the city had not built in assurances that the development’s revenues would benefit Springfield Public Schools and that the plan did not benefit all parts of the city.

Ward 8 Ald. Erin Conley argued the incentives inherent in the agreement push the developers to ensure the projects are built within the bounds of Springfield, a factor she said was crucial to her support of the measures.

“The tournaments themselves are going to have to be designed to attract people to our Springfield hotels so [the sports complex] can get their money back, because otherwise the site won’t do well,” Conley said.

Langfelder said the city’s next step is to extend the agreement for a special service area focused on the complex. He said that assurances about the development being placed within the Springfield public school district’s taxable area will be included in it.

“This makes Springfield a multi-day stay community,” Langfelder said. “That’s been one of the nuts that’s been hard to crack. When it comes to fruition, it’ll put us on a new level.”

Local hoteliers seem to be in favor of the ordinance. The Springfield Hotel and Lodging Association (SHLA) spoke out in support, citing the feasibility study in a letter to city council, which found that the sports complex would bring about $25 million in direct economic impact to the city annually.

Darin Dame, acting president of the SHLA and general manager of SpringHill Suites, a hotel near the development site, said the group’s goal has always been that all hotels in town will benefit from the arrangement.

“We feel this will be a way to have more revenue that is citywide and will help all the hotels,” Dame said. “We look at this [the sports complex] as another engine that’s going to fuel the hospitality and restaurant industry.”

The move represents a major step forward for the Legacy Pointe area, which has grown slowly in the decade since the city set its sights on building it up. Sporting goods store Scheels and a few other businesses operate in the area. The ambition to have full outlet malls, residential subdivisions and restaurants has fallen short, however.

The city’s next step, extending the special service area, is slated to come up for a vote in October.

Contact Kenneth Lowe at klowe@illinoistimer.com.
Jesse Sullivan enters governor’s race

Petersburg native has already raised $11 million

POLITICS | Scott Reeder

Jesse who? He’s raised how much? Is there any chance he could win?

Those were questions being asked across Illinois last week when Jesse Sullivan announced he was seeking the Republican nomination for governor.

Sullivan, a venture capitalist who has invested in high-tech startups in Silicon Valley, has raised $11 million to launch his campaign. That’s an impressive amount, said Kent Redfield, an expert in campaign finance and a retired political science professor from University of Illinois Springfield.

But Redfield added $11 million doesn’t go as far as it once did in funding a statewide campaign. He noted that both Bruce Rauner and JB Pritzker self-funded their gubernatorial bids and spent tens of millions of dollars.

Sullivan, a Petersburg native, made his announcement Sept. 9 at Lincoln’s New Salem State Historic Site with a statue of Abraham Lincoln as a backdrop and an audience of friends and family before him.

Like most candidate announcements, it was long on down-home charm but short on specifics. The state’s unfunded pension obligations never were mentioned, perhaps a surprising omission from someone with a background in finance. The pandemic also didn’t rate a mention.

During the past 50 years, only four individuals from outside the Chicago area have been major party nominees for Illinois governor. And just two, Jim Edgar and George Ryan, have been elected.

This begs the question: Can a relatively unknown downstater win?

“ar, he can’t win. Pritzker is too popular, too well-funded and the state is trending too Democratic,” said Charles Wheeler III, a retired journalism professor at University of Illinois Springfield and a longtime observer of Illinois politics.

But Mike Lawrence, who once headed the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute in Carbondale and also was a senior adviser to Gov. Jim Edgar, said he believes someone like Sullivan can win.

“He doesn’t have to match (Pritzker) dollar for dollar, but he does have to raise enough to get his name out there and be heard,” Lawrence said. “I think Pritzker is vulnerable. And I’m not a Pritzker-basher. I may even end up voting for him. But he has made a lot of decisions concerning COVID that have been controversial. And usually when there is controversy, the people who are angry are more motivated to vote than those who are happy with you.”

Former State Rep. Jeanne Ives, of Wheaton, narrowly lost the Republican gubernatorial nomination to Rauner in 2018. She believes Sullivan will have trouble winning the Republican nomination.

“Afer Bruce Rauner, Republicans in this state are very skeptical. They expect candidates to show them what they can do,” she said. “Missouri is the ‘Show-Me State.’ But we are now the ‘Show-Me Party.’”

Ives said Sullivan has not held political office before or been helpful to Illinois Republicans running for lesser offices.

But Sullivan bristles at comparisons to Rauner.

“He was a businessman who had done work in finance and venture capital, private equity,” he said of the similarities to Rauner. “Outside of that, you can see I’m from small town, Illinois. I’m one of eight kids. My dad’s a PE teacher, not a private equity professional. I’m not a billionaire from Chicago. I’m a downstate guy who grew up working on a farm.”

There are three other Republicans seeking the nomination: state Sen. Darren Bailey, of Xenia; former state Sen. Paul Schimpf, of Waterloo; and suburban businessman Gary Rabine, of Bull Valley.

So what sets Sullivan apart from his rivals?

“He’s conservative, but he’s certainly not a Trump-type,” said former state Rep. Rich Brauer, R-Petersburg. “I see him as being much closer to being like (former Gov.) Jim Edgar. They used to call him ‘Governor No,’ because he would say ‘no’ when he thought the legislature wanted to spend too much. That is what the state needs. . . . I don’t see him being combative like Trump.”

Brauer noted that Sullivan, 37, has four children with his wife, Monique, and that he is pregnant with their fifth.

“She could be a great asset for him. She’s Hispanic, and that could help him in various parts of the state,” Brauer said. Monique Sullivan also was a field officer for Obama for America, helping coordinate get-out-the-vote efforts in Albuquerque, New Mexico, for five months in 2008, according to her LinkedIn account.

Sullivan raised $10 million from just three out-of-state supporters in the five days leading up to his announcement. The donors who made seven-digit contributions all live in the San Francisco metropolitan area.

The $11 million already raised by Sullivan is more than five times the combined amount the three Republicans already in the race have taken in this year. But it’s less than one-third what Pritzker already has in his own campaign coffers – $35 million from his personal bank account.

And there is the rub. Pritzker is a scion of the Hyatt Hotel fortune who Forbes estimates has personal wealth of $3.6 billion. During his time in office, Rauner estimated his net worth at $500 million. Both men self-funded their campaigns.

This begs the question, can someone without that type of personal wealth win the Illinois governorship? Ives said a non-wealthy candidate could prevail but the candidate would need to have the support of major GOP donors.

Sullivan did not answer questions regarding his own personal wealth.

Scott Reeder is a staff writer with Illinois Times. Contact him at sreeder@illinoistimes.com.
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SIU MEDICINE
GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE
After nearly a decade on the market, the State Journal-Register building was put up for auction this week. The remaining staff will relocate elsewhere in Springfield, according to editor Leisa Richardson.

2021 Jacqueline Jackson

quackery poem #1

hey senior do you have a plan
to know the junior of your clan
if flummoxed I have news for you
this is what you need to do–
go buy an item quite demonic
found on shelves called electronic
take some time to learn to use it
(or don’t bother; you’ll abuse it)
place your gizmo facing his
where his ending of this story

2021 Jacqueline Jackson

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

STILL A READER
Thanks for Scott Reeder’s piece on the State Journal-Register and how its functions have been scattered to the four winds as a sacrifice to the money gods (“State Journal-Register building up for auction,” Sept. 9).

Although the SJ-R staff is stretched thin, it is still strong enough to produce some decent local coverage. I remain loyal to the print edition, maybe because I’m an old fuddy-duddy, or maybe because my dad was a newspaper reporter.

But what I think is most troubling for the Springfield community is the reduction of the SJ-R op-ed page to just one page, two days a week. Losing this community discussion verges on the unconstitutional, and I don’t see how it saves a newspaper one slim dime to purge readers’ voices from a public forum.

It’s a blessing that Illinois Times still maintains a robust commitment to opinion and commentary and to see this paper add both Reeder and Kenneth Lowe to an already strong stable of writers.

It might be that the future of journalism will come down to following new business models like that of FT, or like Capitol News Illinois, which is supported by foundation money.

But let it never be forgotten that the voice of the people is essential to every journalistic enterprise, as well as to democracy itself.

Jeffrey Hobbs Springfield

GAVE IT UP
The State Journal-Register has lost so many subscribers because of relocating printing to Peoria and not maintaining local news reporters. Now they keep outsourcing the news, using USA Today stories and jacking up the prices for the remaining subscribers. It’s like they are purposely driving the paper out of business; it’s barely worth looking at online these days. I would only sign up again if they brought back local coverage and stopped charging me twice a month for a monthly subscription.

Pam Fliege Lazar Via illinoistimes.com

TEACHING ABOUT RACISM
What a powerful article to be Scott Reeder’s first as an official staff writer for Illinois Times (“CRT: Critical of race teaching, Sept. 9”). The examples of his first and ninth grade experiences point to the need to do a better job of sharing reality. The big question is, has much changed in our telling the real story of systemic racism?

I will look forward to his sharing and challenging us to rethink how we pass on the story of our history.

Congratulations on Scott’s new position as staff writer. You made another very good choice in bringing him on as a regular contributor.

Sister Marilyn Jean Runkel Springfield

PERSONAL SACRIFICE
This past weekend, the whole country commemorated the loss of thousands of innocent lives at the World Trade Center, a field in Pennsylvania and the Pentagon. In addition, we memorialized and honored those first responders who, with little thought for their own safety, rushed into the burning towers in order to try to save the lives of strangers trapped inside. They were, and are, heroes. They sacrificed their lives for the common good.

And what about today? With a viral pandemic that has taken 660,000 American lives – more than 220 times that attack – too many of us are not willing to simply wear a face covering in public spaces. Or endure a couple of nearly painless needle sticks carrying a remarkably safe and effective vaccine, all in the name of personal freedom.

As long as many people are not willing to make a small sacrifice for the common good, we’ll have this pandemic. And, our common freedom we all cherish will be a long way off.

David W. Trout Springfield
All sides come together to pass energy bill

POLITICS | Rich Miller

“This is what decentralized, collective leadership looks like,” declared House Speaker Chris Welch’s spokesperson Jaclyn Driscoll not long after the chamber approved the climate-energy bill on an unexpectedly lopsided 83-33 roll call on Sept. 9.

The vote was without a doubt a spectacular victory, especially considering the Senate was not able to put together its own package that could pass both chambers and be signed into law.

Not only did all but one House Democrat vote for the bill after starting the day miles from that point, but 11 House Republicans ended up on board even though House Republican leadership had said the day before that there was “nearly zero” support for it and only two Senate Republicans had voted for their chamber’s version.

The House Black Caucus has for years specialized in blowing up important bills in order to pry concessions loose for their constituency. So, Speaker Welch put Assistant Majority Leader Marcus Evans, an African-American South Sider, into the lead negotiator’s role after the Senate punted the issue to his chamber. And when the Black Caucus expectedly demanded more concessions, Leader Evans was able to make some changes and then convincingly explain to the caucus how Black folks were getting a decent deal.

Speaker Welch probably could’ve tried to strong-arm the climate-energy bill through the House with the absolute bare minimum of 71 votes (a three-fifths majority), and he might have been successful. Instead, Welch told Gov. JB Pritzker that he had to finally come to terms with Assistant House Majority Leader Jay Hoffman, who had been relentlessly advocating for an approach that would bring the state’s two municipally owned coal-fired electricity plants to a neutral bargaining position. Hoffman was one of Pritzker’s earliest supporters in the 2018 campaign, but the Metro East Democrat’s strong advocacy for coal-related jobs had put him on the outs.

Hoffman had made his pitch to Welch, but his cause was aided by House Republican Leader Jim Durkin. Welch needed votes and he asked Durkin for help but was turned down because Durkin opposed the bill. The Republican did, however, say that coal was a big issue for his caucus. At Welch’s behest, Pritzker immediately dispatched his point-person, Deputy Gov. Christian Mitchell, to Rep. Hoffman’s office. The Senate Democrats

claimed for months that Mitchell was the main obstacle to closing a deal, but Mitchell and Hoffman were able to fairly quickly work out an arrangement.

Assistant House Majority Leader Robyn Gabel, Welch’s third point-person on the climate-energy bill and the most liberal of the bunch, listened closely to the enviros and effectively communicated their wants and had the political savvy to turn those wants into a double reality. Her strong credibility also ensured that the enviros stayed in line when a deal was cut that was not close to everything the greens wanted. Leader Gabel’s role cannot be understated. This simply doesn’t happen without her.

So, yeah, Driscoll was right. This was a collective win. But Welch still deserves an enormous amount of credit for masterminding this thing across the finish line. And, frankly, for all the moaning about how Mike Madigan would’ve sealed the deal earlier, I don’t think there’s any way the former House Speaker could’ve ever gotten that many votes on a bill like this. It’s a new day and a new way.

The governor, too, played his cards right in the end. As we all know, Pritzker and Senate President Don Harmon still have, um, issues, so the two men apparently couldn’t bring themselves to make a deal with one another when the bill was in the Senate. Harmon finally accepted that reality and agreed to kick the ball to the House, where Pritzker was obviously more comfortable and willing to do whatever it took to work with Welch, including taking a deal that he might possibly have rejected if it had been made by the Senate (some insist the House bill wasn’t as strong as Harmon’s best effort last month).

Also, in retrospect, it was probably a good thing for the governor that talks with the Senate broke down at the end of May. If the bill had passed back then, the entire focus would’ve been on the huge bailout for Exelon’s nuke plants. Instead, the public conversation shifted to coal and climate change, which is a far more politically advantageous spot for Pritzker.

Whatever. It’s over now. Harmon graciously accepted the terms, and we won’t have to deal with this issue again until the inevitable “cleanup” bills surface.
Innocence lost

WEEKLY REEDER | Scott Reeder

I find myself grieving for someone I’ve never met every Sept. 17 – for the past 31 years.

Back in 1990, I was working as the night police reporter for the Quad-City Times when I was dispatched to a fire at a school playground at 9 p.m.

I was one of the first on the scene. I walked to where I saw smoke rising from some tall weeds on the edge of the playground, looked down and was met with the body of a child that had been doused with gasoline and set on fire.

I staggered backwards gasping for air. I could feel the bile rise in my throat and my knees go weak. It was the last thing I expected to find on a crisp autumn evening in Davenport, Iowa.

I was there when the firefighters, the detectives, the medical examiner and a horde of reporters arrived.

And I stood a few feet from the smoldering remains wondering: Who would do such a thing? What evil lurked in the shadows that committed such an act?

We later learned that the victim was Jennifer Ann Lewis, a pugnacious tomboy from Rock Island’s west end. She was last seen buying gum from a neighborhood store.

She never came back. Year after year, I’ve learned a bit more about this girl. And the more I learn, the sadder I become. I’ve wondered what her life would have been like if she had lived.

A teacher’s aide told me how Jennifer liked to twirl around in frilly dresses hiking the hem higher and higher as she spun. Her best friend told me how they played with My Little Ponies together. Her mother recalled her daughter’s sweet disposition, how she loved her newborn baby brother and her dog, Bowser.

We name buildings after wealthy benefactors, bridges after politicians and streets after celebrities. But our collective recollection of children who die at the hands of others fades.

A granite monument funded by the community was placed on the playground where Jennifer’s corpse was found. A while back, I went looking for it only to learn that vandals long ago destroyed it.

Even in death, she isn’t accorded the respect her life was due.

No one that night walked away from that schoolyard unchanged.

One former police lieutenant froze on a witness stand years later as he suffered a flashback to that horrible night. A police sergeant, who I knew well, had a fit of rage years later when Jennifer’s name was evoked. A corporal at that scene descended into alcoholism.

For me, slumber was elusive for weeks following that fateful night.

Another reporter who was there confessed to her teenage sons, decades later, that it is the one image from her journalism career that she can’t erase from her mind.

Despite the past five years, I spent much time researching the case. I’ve found myself interviewing vagrants beneath underpasses in New Orleans, knocking on doors of rural Mississippi shacks and wading through thousands of pages of Iowa court documents.

I now know much more. But am I any closer to understanding? Well, I certainly don’t understand what would possess someone to commit such evil.

I produced a podcast on the case, and Jennifer’s name is now known by many. I want to write a book. But each time I sit down to write, I’m met with the image of a bucktoothed smile and the unassuming brown eyes of a child who never turned 10.

That photo haunts me.

To this youngster, whom I’ve never met, I can only promise: Your memory will not be lost.

A man is serving a life sentence for her murder. He’s been tried four times for the same crime – three convictions and one hung jury. His appeals continue.

Although three juries have found him guilty, when I think of Jennifer, I prefer to think of innocence.

I think of a child without guile who was raped, strangled and burned. I think of a youngster who ran down school hallways telling teachers and classmates alike about her upcoming birthday.

She just didn’t know that was the day she would be buried.

Scott Reeder is a staff writer with Illinois Times. Contact him at sreeder@illinoistimes.com

Jennifer Lewis, age 9.
OPINION

For those trying to understand homelessness

An experienced advocate responds to “How did these women get this way?”

GUESTWORK | Diane Nilan

The headline, “How did these women get this way?” (JT Sept. 2) evoked my curiosity (as an author of multiple books on homelessness) about both this book, The Least Among Us, by James Traveler, and what Len Naumovich, the reviewer, thought. As an Illinois woman with a long history in advocacy and providing services for adults and children experiencing homelessness, familiar with Springfield homelessness, I came away with several thoughts.

Naumovich’s remarks underscore the challenge those of us in the advocacy world face: sticking up for a much-maligned population who seldom garner compassion, for whom the misconceptions about their circumstances ratchets up society’s dismissal, if not outright contempt, while grappling with scarce resources (to say the least). He, at least, didn’t express contempt.

I’ll offer a few areas that typically don’t get considered when trying to figure out the causes, systemically and personally, of homelessness. These are issues I’ve grappled with in my 35 years of working in this world of homelessness.

“Choice” is a biggie. Even those living on the streets will blame their plight on their “bad choices.” True, on the surface, but stopping at that point does a terrible disservice. Nothing is simple when it comes to homelessness, but a few benchmarks apply.

Probably every person on the streets, and most of the rest of us, have experienced some levels of trauma. While mental health professionals have somewhat paid attention to the role of trauma as it impacts our ability to function, its connection to homelessness has only recently begun to enter the mainstream.

Very little substantive help is available from social services agencies to give a woman a chance to deal with trauma and housing loss. We’ve made it almost impossible for a woman to access housing if she’s had an eviction, or her credit is bad, much less if she lacks adequate income. Even getting essential health care – physical or mental – is nigh unto impossible. Getting a job without a permanent address, forget it. Family bridges may have been irreparably burnt.

Especially in COVID-caused turmoil, those in social services have found themselves and their agencies beset by unfathomable challenges. Whatever may have worked before – well-intentioned outreach, congregate shelters, soup kitchens – has been upended. So, our standard response – turn to homeless shelters or social service agencies – has been rendered moot.

Humane responses required humongous systemic resources, which at least has been instigated by the Biden administration’s comprehensive assistance programs. But those are slow to be implemented, and will be of little help to those swirling tonight in the vortex of homelessness.

Factor in the extreme discomfort of life on the streets, in its various iterations. Temperatures, storms, lack of hygiene facilities, no privacy, harassment, vulnerability – those are just a few disconcerting realities.

Naumovich, despite his obvious efforts to comprehend this conundrum, falls into the trap that trips up so many good people. Why is she not like me? All those resources out there to help.

He tilts toward exceptionalism, being awed by amazing stories of those who had rough lives but ended up living “beautiful lives.” I would point out that our differences – experiences, opportunities, support and many more variables – cause people to end up different. And who’s to say any of the women in the book will not at some point rise to live “beautiful lives.” The author’s title, The Least Among Us, strikes me as dismissive of these women’s lives from the get-go.

Naumovich ventures back to a more enlightened point as he references violence and lack of respect and protection for children. But he veers back to the “choices” judgment. We all can grow from our current state into a more enlightened, compassionate existence. It requires openness and learning, among other things. Asking the right questions would be a good place to start.

Diane Nilan is president of HEAR US Inc. in Naperville, an organization “giving voice and visibility to families and youth experiencing homelessness.” Her new book, Dismayed and Driven – My Look at Family Homelessness in America, is available at www.hears.us.
Why I moved back to Springfield

GUESTWORK | Julia Cain

I couldn’t wait to leave Springfield. Cloaked in palpable angst and ready to throw my graduation money toward an apartment anywhere else, I loaded up a haphazard Jeep and moved in 2008 before I solidified a plan. At 18 years old, Springfield was the obvious villain, the cause of a problem I couldn’t pinpoint. And now at 31, it’s my perfect solution.

The “I’ve got to get out of this town” cliché felt so real at the time I was certain I’d continue jumping from metropolis to metropolis, never looking back. In reality I found good work and good friends only 100 miles away, so I planted roots in St. Louis. But while I loved this adopted home, the higher cost of living combined with lack of nearby family made staying there seem less appealing after my husband and I had our first baby in 2020. Living near a favorite bar suddenly mattered less to me than living near a retired grandparent.

The pandemic made us think about what we prize most, and our answer was quality family time together. Springfield could offer us that.

And so I loaded up a different – more practical, family-oriented, arguably less cool – car and returned back to where I started. Exactly where I started, actually, as we bought my childhood home from my ready-to-downsize mother.

The experience has been equal parts comforting and confusing. I’ve appreciated the conveniences, like Springfield Clinic’s network of connected professionals, and felt lost on some of the changes. (They moved Urgent Care?) I think I know where I’m going, and then I see something I don’t recognize. I have trouble updating my language; Hy-Vee is not the old K-Mart anymore, and calling AMC 12 the “new” movie theater seems like a stretch. And that doesn’t even cover the weirdness of moving into a house you already know.

Despite these confusions, nothing has baffled me more than the hometown welcome wagon.

Moving back to a city is a topic that changes based on your tone. Is it an endearing relocation, focused on family, or is it glorified backsliding? My husband – a fellow Springfield native, whom I met after we had both left – and I debated this topic for most of 2020. Missouri’s response to the pandemic made it an easy state to leave. The quirks of our mid-century home I’d previously adored switched to stressors while pregnant. The cozy neighborhood I grew up in became more appealing when we imagined the overtime required to afford our dream family home in St. Louis.

When we made the announcement, we expected our St. Louis friends to question the decision. Few did. Instead, the larger negative reaction has come from those currently living in Springfield. They’d hint at the massive events and cultural institutions they love in St. Louis. I’d feel my teenage self fume when I’d counter: annoyances like high crowds and bad parking started to outweigh my fun, so my attendance at these mainstays had dwindled for years. Taking a child to Springfield’s equivalents sounded easier. Nicer. Not nicer for everyone, but nicer for us.

People hid their opinions less than I anticipated. While plenty have been happy to see us return, or at least shared normal pleasantries, the bad responses have ranged from verbal judgment to audible laughter. “Ugh, I’m sorry” is one of the most frequent. “It’s way worse now” recently stood out.

The problem is twofold. Sure, it doesn’t feel great to have your decisions insulted. But more importantly, the unnecessary negativity can’t be helping Springfield. I’m not here to say it’s the ideal spot for everyone, and I’m aware relocating isn’t a luxury available to all. I also wouldn’t argue it’s a perfect place. We’ve been out of the loop for years, and I’m sure we’ll discover a slew of complaints, much like you would in any location.

What feels toxic is the “this place is so boring” attitude we see from many of those questioning our return. Ones who aren’t taking advantage of what’s available to enjoy here, or anywhere, and instead add drops of poison to the collective well of community attitude.

What’s the old line, if you’re bored you must be boring? Because the only thing keeping us from a full calendar is pandemic safety – and the fact that I still need to finish unpacking.

The parts of Springfield I most admired have only grown since I left. Shows inside sandwich shops evolved into new mainstays, like Dumb Records or Downhome Fest. There are more new-to-me boutiques downtown than I could fit into a single shopping trip before the baby needed her nap. There are eateries, public art and community organizations connecting this city in a way I couldn’t see through the clouded vision of my youth, but I can tangibly feel now.

And I want to be a part of it.

Julia Cain is an award-winning writer based in Springfield. She runs the lifestyle site, OhJuliaAnn.com.
Butterflies drift lazily over the gardens, bees hum while pollinating flowers and birds feed on petals and at a feeder while the sweet smells of milkweed blossoms drift through an open window – these are the joys of front yard rewilding.

Rewilding is an environmental effort involving the repair of damaged and degraded ecosystems and allowing nature to regain its natural equilibrium. Large-scale domestic rewilding projects include dam removal in the Pacific Northwest and in the Northeast to facilitate the return of several endangered species of salmon, as well as reintroducing wolves to Yellowstone National Park, which stabilized and reinvigorated the ecosystem.

While we may read about and appreciate these grand projects, we can actually promote rewilding in our own neighborhoods. A few years ago, while reading about prairie restoration, I learned that an urban area planted with enough prairie patches can actually function as a prairie for its native species.

While none of us expect to see bison roaming down Sixth Street any time soon, the plantings of prairie patches throughout our city, both in public parks as well as in our front and back yards, have gone a long way to support endangered species like monarchs, as well as a plethora of other pollinators.

Using natives as landscaping plants benefits more than just pollinators, though. Native plants tend to require less water once established, as they have evolved to thrive in our climate of variable rainfall where we may see five inches of rain in July, followed by a completely dry August. Deep-rooted natives access water well below the surface during times of drought, and these roots also help to reduce soil erosion in times of intense rains.

Blazing hot sun does not faze prairie plants, making them suitable for harsh environments like a yard that faces west and receives full sun. Once established, prairie plants need minimal care. Pests do not seem to bother prairie plants as much as other less-hardy landscaping plants.

A partnership among the Springfield Park District, Springfield Parks Foundation and volunteers led by Susan Helm and Francy Cobern have established pollinator pockets in six public parks: Vredenburgh, Stuart, Bunn, Comer Cox, Kennedy and Washington Park, with more coming in 2022. These plantings have been inspiring for those dreaming of front yard meadows, and volunteers offering free milkweed plants throughout the past year have helped many get a start on their own pollinator pockets.

I am slowly converting my own lawn from resource-draining grass to a beautiful prairie pocket. A dozen species of flowering native prairie plants draw all kinds of butterflies and other pollinators, including monarchs and swallowtails. A variety of birds visit the feeder, and the seeds scattered from it have produced their own spontaneous garden, which the birds love. While the marigolds and zinnias blooming in my yard are not native prairie plants, they do provide additional nectar sources, plus bring visual delight to a yard that is not yet fully converted.

Planting prairie pockets is not the only kind of rewilding urban dwellers can do. Planting trees in urban areas also provides benefits such as reducing soil erosion; reducing the heat island effect by shading homes, streets and sidewalks; and providing nectar and other food sources for animals (including ourselves).

Our small actions may not seem like they could make much of a difference, but when woven together, they can have a huge impact on the wildlife that share our urban landscapes. Our actions increase the resiliency and vibrancy of our ecosystem for a variety of species, including birds, butterflies, bees and other insects. This not only benefits urban wildlife, but us as well. We’re all in this together, biological life flourishing in balance, sharing urban spaces, in a cycle as sacred and holy as life itself.

Carey Smith loves the concept of rewilding, especially rewilding her own self.
Armyworms invade Sangamon County

GARDEN | Karen Ackerman Witter

Patches of brown grass are visible in yards all over Sangamon County, and they get larger every day. This area is experiencing an infestation of fall armyworms. Jack Robertson, owner of Robertson Lawn Care, 3441 Constitution Dr., says in his 45 years in business he hasn’t seen this problem here.

Armyworms aren’t really worms; they are the larval stage of a moth. They get their name because they march through an area like an army, vociferously devouring blades of grass. In just a couple of days they can turn an entire yard brown.

Robertson first noticed the problem around Aug. 23; they have exploded since then. Armyworms are native to the U.S. and more common in the South. Illinois winters are typically too cold for them to survive. The moths overwinter in southern states and migrate north, east and west throughout the warmer months.

Dr. Nicholas Seiter is a research assistant professor in field crop entomology at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He says fall armyworm problems became widespread in Illinois over the last couple of weeks in August, with the problems generally larger the further south you go. The eastern U.S. is experiencing the same thing, and it seems to be the worst year for fall armyworms in many years. Seiter says it can be a major problem for pastures, forage and a variety of crops, in addition to lawns.

University of Arkansas entomologist Gus Lorenz said, “it’s epic,” and the biggest outbreak of fall armyworms that he’s seen in his career, impacting pastures, rice, soybeans and grain sorghum.

Fall armyworms can fly up to 300 miles or more. Wind and storms aid their flight, and consistent and significant air patterns likely helped push moths northward this year. They have been arriving in Illinois over the past month. The larvae take two to three weeks to develop. Armyworms chew on the blades of grass, but don’t eat the roots and crown. They feed rapidly as they grow before metamorphosing into moths. They don’t kill the grass immediately, but make it more vulnerable to heat stress and other problems. They are especially prevalent in Bermuda grass and appear to avoid Zoysia grass. Treatment with an insecticide labeled for armyworms, along with moisture and cooler temperatures, provide the best chance for the turf to recover. Fall armyworms are not expected to survive our cold winter.

One way to check for armyworms is to pour soapy water on the turf. This will bring the armyworms to the surface. (It will also bring out nightcrawlers). Armyworm larvae vary in color from dark greenish-brown to black, and the body is punctuated with dark spots. At maturity they are about 1 ½ inches long. An upside down Y on the head capsule is a distinctive characteristic.

Lawns typically turn brown this time of year due to lack of moisture, and many people may think that’s what’s happening this year. If this were a typical year, the evidence of armyworms may not have been as apparent. However, given the amount of rain we’ve had, lawns are greener than usual in August, making it easier to spot the contrasting brown patches, which expand rapidly.

It’s not clear what is causing the significant infestation this year. It raises the question of climate change as a factor, or if climate change will make armyworms a bigger problem in the future.

“It’s too soon to tell, since this is a record-breaking year, which means that a lot of factors are likely at play,” said Dr. Terri Billleisen, extension associate at North Carolina State University. “In general, we have seen insects continue to spread as a result of changing climate in the U.S., so it is possible and likely that it could be a contributing factor.”

“One would expect migratory pests like this to become more of an issue if climatic temperatures grow warmer,” said Seiter. “We have not seen a trend toward more fall armyworm issues in recent years in Illinois. This year is pretty remarkable; hopefully it’s a one-off.”

For more information, visit https://ncturf-bugs.wordpress.ncsu.edu/2021/08/31/fall-armyworm-qaf/.

Karen Ackerman Witter has a master’s degree in ecology and enjoys being outdoors. She recently learned about armyworms after seeing large patches of brown in her yard. She confirmed their presence after pouring a bucket of soapy water at the edge of a brown patch and later spotting a moth in the grass.
If you find yourself daydreaming about practically living outdoors next summer so that you don’t miss a moment of sunshine, then you also need to be dreaming about what your outdoor living space will look like. It can range from a fire pit to a full kitchen with a wine cooler, fireplace and furniture.

Patty Brockmeyer, owner of Designer Landscapes, 4110 Morrisonville Ave., Farmersville, said fire pits are very popular and are available in three options: traditional wood-burning, gas and smokeless flame. Many people like the idea of a gas-burning fire pit; it is easier and very convenient, but it does cost more. Depending on where you live, running a gas line to the location of the fire pit can be expensive; however, Brockmeyer said Designer Landscapes has built and installed plenty of gas-burning fire pits this year.

With people spending more time outside than they used to, Brockmeyer highly recommends adding features such as an outdoor couch and television. “Create a comfortable place to hang out,” she said.

Ted Galassi, owner of Artisan Stone Products, 2475 Peerless Mine Rd., offers a variety of fire pits from very basic ones that people can assemble themselves to custom fire pits with attractive stone options. Options include fire boulders that look like natural boulders; when the flame is lit, it glows with beautiful color and creates a nice atmosphere.

And, if you want to cook over the fire pit, there are grill top options to suit any taste. Galassi said the staff at Artisan Stone Products can create anything someone would want in a fire pit. “If a customer finds something they like on Pinterest, or they have a unique vision, we can make it happen,” he said.

For people who have allergies and are bothered by the smoke of a fire pit, Brockmeyer suggests the smokeless fire pit. The additional cost averages about $500-$750 more, but can be worth it for the enjoyment without the aggravation.

And if you want to kick it up a notch, you can even cook dinner on a complete outdoor kitchen. Brockmeyer said many more people are cooking outdoors these days, but noted that outdoor kitchens require plenty of planning. The advantage is “You can start with something simple, such as a grill top. At a later date, build a stone surround with an island and add a nice countertop, and then the next installment could be an outdoor pizza oven. It doesn’t have to be done all at once,” she said.

Galassi has two fully functional outdoor kitchens on display at Artisan Stone Products. He understands that not everyone can imagine what something will look like without actually seeing it first, and that is why he has built a 12,000-square-foot walk-through display of products, stone and just about anything else he carries.

He said, “One of the kitchens on display is a complete outdoor lifestyle kitchen with a cedar pergola for shade, a fireplace, refrigerator, grill and pizza oven.” Like Brockmeyer, he also noted that outdoor kitchens can be done in phases.

At the other end of the spectrum is a kitchen system that Galassi started carrying this year. It is high-quality simulated cast stone that comes in panels and is designed for simple installation. When the pieces are put together with stainless steel hardware, it looks like stone. Galassi said a person who is handy can do it without having masonry experience. It comes in four different size options and only requires simple tools for installation.

Galassi emphasizes that whatever your vision might be, he and his staff can make it happen. But if you’re hoping to improve your outdoor areas, it would be a good idea to start making plans now, as many contractors are already booking jobs for 2022. The pandemic has caused people to want to spend more time outdoors, especially for family gatherings and entertaining, and there is no indication that this industry will slow down any time soon.

Holly Whisler is a freelance writer from Springfield who enjoys spending time in her backyard.
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HOME | Lana Shovlin

When our family first moved to Springfield, we were greeted by amazing neighbors who, seconds after introducing themselves, informed us that we had bought a house on the most popular street in town for trick-or-treating. Each Halloween, our entire block of Glenwood Avenue is barricaded off to accommodate hundreds of trick-or-treaters, and we were advised to start stockpiling candy immediately.

Even though it was only the beginning of September, we heeded their advice and began buying enormous bags of candy whenever we went to the store. Over the next few weeks, I watched as the beautiful homes on our street made the slow transformation into haunted, decrepit-looking houses. Everywhere I looked, I saw bushes covered in sticky cobwebs, terrifying ghouls dangling from trees and gray zombie hands reaching menacingly up out of the ground.

On Halloween evening, I was astonished by the constant parade of trick-or-treaters. As promised, people from all over Springfield came to celebrate, and we had an enormous turnout.

Later that evening, after my kids had washed the caky Halloween makeup off of their faces and changed into their pajamas, they dumped their enormous trick-or-treat bags onto the table and started trading their candy. I was shocked by the sheer volume of sweets each of them had collected, but I realized their goal for Almond Joys. I couldn’t help but notice something else. Nestled amongst the giant piles of candy were tons of plastic spiders, rubber witch fingers and burned-out glow sticks. When I asked my kids what they wanted to do with these things, they said it was fine to just throw them away.

My children aren’t wasteful or unappreciative, but the truth is, there was nothing else we could have done with those things. Tossing the items into the garbage, I felt guilty knowing that it would all end up in a landfill somewhere and, most likely, be around long after I’m gone.

My first tip is that when it comes to decorating, you should steer clear of dollar stores. Sure, they might have some cute decorations and the low prices are enticing, but when it comes to quality, you definitely get what you pay for. Two of my friends hilariously refer to dollar stores as “Ocean Plastic Stores,” and they’re right. Items purchased at these stores rarely make it through an entire season without having to be pitched in the trash, and most of them are made from unrecyclable materials. A good tip is to buy quality items that can be stored away and used year after year.

In the days following Halloween, retailers rush to roll out Christmas decorations and drastically mark down the prices of Halloween items. I love using this wicked window to stock up on the terrifying goodies.

Another Halloween item I like to avoid is bagged, stretchy spider webs. Not only are they a pain to put up and take down, synthetic webs are a hazardous obstacle for birds and all other small animals. Several years ago, news of a great horned owl getting entangled in fake webbing made national news. Luckily, the owl made a full recovery and was able to be released back into the wild, but it definitely makes you wonder if those webs are worth it.

Hopefully you’re feeling inspired to rethink your Halloween decor choices, but you shouldn’t stop there. Each year, it’s estimated that Halloween costumes alone generate 2,000 tons of plastic waste. That’s equivalent to 83 million water bottles. When I first read that staggering statistic, it freaked me out more than the groaning zombies did in the “Thriller” video.

Knowing I didn’t want to contribute to those overwhelming numbers, I decided to start buying all of our costumes at secondhand stores. Since most Halloween costumes are only worn once, everything I’ve purchased has been in excellent shape and costs a fraction of what it would if I bought it off the rack. If you’re feeling creative, you can even skip shopping altogether and use clothes from your own closet to create stunning and memorable costumes.

Another spooky statistic I stumbled upon was that every year, Americans spend roughly $2.6 billion dollars on candy, and nearly all of the packaging will end up in the garbage. I already have a love/hate relationship with sweets because they turn my children into bug-eyed little monsters, but knowing that it causes such a negative impact on our environment really made me rethink what types of candy I handed out on Halloween night. Now, instead of buying plastic-wrapped candies, I look for confections that come in tiny cardboard boxes or chocolates that are wrapped in aluminum foil. I also hand out pencils, individual pieces of sidewalk chalk and tiny erasers shaped like ghosts, all of which have been met with more enthusiasm than any plastic witch finger could ever conjure up.

All of these changes require minimal effort and fit well into any budget. With a few small tweaks, you’ll see that it’s possible to have the Halloween of your dreams without having a werewolf-sized carbon footprint.

Lana Shovlin is a freelance writer who lives in Springfield. She enjoys the occasional Almond Joy and loves helping her kids create epic Halloween costumes at the very last minute.
Recently, there was a meme floating around on social media that said, “School is back in session, so we can eat dinner at 4 p.m. or 9 p.m.”. As a parent of three children, two of whom are involved in multiple extracurricular activities, this simple sentence resonated deeply with me. When it comes to meal planning, I spend way too much time trying to figure out what and when to feed my kids, and I’d wager a lot of money that I’m not alone in that struggle.

In the past, extracurricular activities often took place immediately after school, and there was rarely – if any – traveling involved. Kids were able to safely ride their bikes home from practice, where they would join their family for a home-cooked meal right around supper time. Sadly, much of that has changed over the past decade, and family dinners have become almost obsolete. Instead of slowing down and reconnecting over a leisurely meal, many parents find themselves frantically passing out burgers and fries in the car to overscheduled children and wondering how life got so hectic.

Like many people, I miss those seemingly simpler times and I often wonder how other families connect over nutritious meals with the insane amount of pressure and time constraints we are all under. At the start of every school year, I find myself asking my friends what they feed their families for dinner. I ask them to share their easiest recipes, and I hold out hope that one of them is going to give me some advice that makes me feel like this giant, meal-centric riddle has been solved. Instead, I’m often met with answers that echo my own dinner dilemmas and a chorus of groans over the impossible task of feeding people who all are on different schedules.

I often turn to Google for advice, but instead of feeling like things have been simplified, I’m met with hundreds of “easy” meals that leave me feeling completely overwhelmed. Plus, many of these online, weeknight recipes rely heavily on meat that can be cooked in a slow cooker for hours on end. This is a great option if your family is a carnivorous bunch, but if you’re trying to cut back on the amount of meat you consume, these recipes aren’t always very helpful. Realizing that the needs of my family weren’t being met by my online searches, I decided to create a few meals that are a cinch to prepare and rely on easy-to-find, real ingredients. Below are some incredibly tasty meals that are in heavy rotation at our house. They can be made ahead of time, require minimal cooking and prep, pack a hefty nutritional punch and can be customized to please everyone who gathers around my kitchen table. Rarely are there any leftovers, but if there are, all of these meals keep well in the refrigerator and travel nicely in school lunchboxes.

The first (and quite possibly my family’s favorite) meal is sesame noodles. Here, cooked soba noodles (or whole grain spaghetti) are paired with soy sauce, mirin, toasted sesame oil and sliced scallions. This dish is great served immediately, but it’s even more delicious served cold, alongside cucumber slices or stir-fried vegetables. These noodles never get mushy and actually taste better the longer they sit, so they are a great option when you have kids that are coming and going at all different times.

Another go-to dinner at our house is something my family lovingly refers to as “Stuff on a Plate.” This meal originated when I was pregnant with my son and my morning sickness was so intense that the thought of cooking anything sent giant waves of nausea rolling over me. At the time, my husband was working in another city, and I knew that unless I wanted my young daughters to survive on cold cereal for months, I had to come up with something we could throw together in a jiffy and that kept me far away from the stove.

Stuff on Plate is exactly what it sounds like. It’s basically a lazy mezza and a carefree charcuterie. Normally, what I like to do is whip up a big batch of homemade hummus (it’s easier than you think!), warm up some pita, and raid the refrigerator and cupboards for anything that needs to be used up. That random half block of cheddar cheese hanging out in the crisper? Cut it into cubes and toss that stuff onto the plate. The apple that someone took one bite out of and threw back into the fruit bowl? Chop it in half, toss the half-eaten part to the squirrels and turn the good half into apple slices. Other foods that go well on Stuff on a Plate are olives, nuts and lightly steamed vegetables. Honestly, though, just use the foods that
your family enjoys eating. This is a total crowd pleaser, and if you serve it on paper plates with tiny toothpicks everyone will think you’re a total rock star.

The final, easy weeknight meal that I want to share with you is soup. My husband loves to make fun of me because I could easily eat soup every single day, even when it’s unbearably hot outside. I firmly believe that if you have a few good soup recipes in your back pocket, dinnertime will always end up being effortless and enjoyable.

In the summertime, when garden vegetables are at their peak, I love making a giant pot of minestrone, which is a versatile, delicious soup that highlights whatever vegetables are in season. I love adding beans or chickpea pasta to my minestrone for a little protein and extra nutrition because they add incredible flavor and texture, but they are totally optional.

In the wintertime, I make all sorts of meatless stews, chowders and bisques. These soups are creamy, hearty and unbelievably satisfying. Plus, they freeze and reheat beautifully, which means that if you double your recipe, you’ll always have a stash of soup on hand, just waiting to be warmed up and served alongside a loaf of crusty bread or a crisp green salad.

If you’re in a cooking rut, I encourage you to give some of these simple meals a chance. They are perfect for busy families who are trying to find easy ways to enjoy the benefits of stress-free family meals.

Please don’t be too hard on yourself, though, if you hit up the drive-thru every once in a while. We’re all doing the best we can, and sometimes there’s nothing better than a hot, salty French fry.

Sesame Noodles (serves 4)
Ingredients:
¾ pound soba noodles or whole wheat spaghetti
cup regular or low-sodium soy sauce
3 tablespoons mirin
3 tablespoons toasted sesame oil
3 scallions, thinly sliced

Preparation:
Cook the noodles according to package directions.

While the pasta cooks, whisk together the tamari, mirin and toasted sesame oil in a large bowl.

When the noodles are ready, drain, rinse with cold water and add directly to the bowl with the sauce; toss to combine.

Top the sesame noodles with sliced scallions and serve.

Easiest, Creamiest Hummus
Ingredients: 
1 can garbanzo beans, drained; liquid reserved
¾ cup tahini
1 garlic clove, minced
Juice from 1 lemon
Salt (optional)

Preparation:
Add drained garbanzo beans, tahini and garlic to a food processor and blend until the ingredients start to come together. Slowly add the reserved garbanzo bean liquid until mixture achieves your desired consistency. Add lemon juice and salt (if using) and serve.

You can also top this hummus with sliced cucumbers and halved cherry tomatoes. Drizzle with olive oil and serve with warm pita slices.

Lana Shovlin is a freelance writer who lives in Springfield with her husband and three children, all of whom love eating vegetables. She’s always trying to make healthy food choices and wholeheartedly agrees with Julia Child that when it comes to meals, “You don’t have to cook fancy or complicated masterpieces – just good food from fresh ingredients.”
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The readers' nomination votes are in and here are their top picks that made it to the runoff round. Vote online at illinois-times.com or by paper ballot. Best of Springfield Results will be published in the October 28, 2021 issue.

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Arts, Culture & Entertainment

Abraham Lincoln historic site
Abraham Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site
Abraham Lincoln's National Historic Site
The Lincoln Tomb
The State Capitol

Tourist spot in Springfield not related to Abraham Lincoln
Lincoln Log Drive
Lincoln State Fair
Lincoln Home Museum
Lincoln Tomb Museum
Washington Park

Museum
Abraham Lincoln State Museum
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum
The Museum
Springfield Art Association Center for Visual Arts and Central Illinois African American History Museum

Radio personality or team Name and station
Jim Lush - WMAY
Mike & Dana - 101.9 The Wolf
Jim Baldwin - WMAY

Radio personality or team Name and station
Jim Lush - WMAY
Will ALL TIMES CONSIDERED - WILL

Virtual/Gluten-free theater performance - female lead
Whitney Reid
Mary Kate Smith - Songs for a New World
Campbell Caterer
Betti Butler - Music Revue
Betti Butler - Spirit of Lincoln

Virtual/Gluten-free theater performance - male lead
Dick Durrant
Dunham Kaplan - Songs for a New World
Tony Young - Spirit of Lincoln
North Broadway - Spirit of Lincoln

Dundie Award Winner - Best Community Event
Dundie Award Winner - Best Community Event
Dundie Award Winner - Best Community Event
Dundie Award Winner - Best Community Event
Dundie Award Winner - Best Community Event

Director of local theater
Scott Richardson - The Legacy Theatre
Craig Williams, Jr.
Bill Gehman
Glenda Hoagland - Hoagland Center for the Arts
Cynthia Higgins

Place to see a play or musical indoor
Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War
Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War
Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War
Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War
Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War

Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War
Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War
Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War
Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War
Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War

Visual artist
Jeff Williams
M.JSON
Ken Sheets
Melissa Susanne
Kevin Lawson

Public art mural (building or interaction)
Macy Love Gifts
Clyde's Poppen's BBQ
Artist James Bond, The World of Monkey Paw on McArthur & Outer Park
The Alamo
Jeff & Joie, Inc.

Place to see local art
The Art of Licking
An Art of Licking a Fair Art - Forgotten
Dad Memphis Tobacco Company

Free entertainment
Cape Inn
An Art of Licking a Fair Art - Forgotten
Dad Memphis Tobacco Company

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Dundie Award Winner - Best Community Event

Director of local theater
Scott Richardson - The Legacy Theatre
Craig Williams, Jr.
Bill Gehman
Glenda Hoagland - Hoagland Center for the Arts
Cynthia Higgins

Place to see a play or musical indoor
Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War
Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War
Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War
Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War
Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War

Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War
Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War
Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War
Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War
Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War

Visual artist
Jeff Williams
M.JSON
Ken Sheets
Melissa Susanne
Kevin Lawson

Public art mural (building or interaction)
Macy Love Gifts
Clyde's Poppen's BBQ
Artist James Bond, The World of Monkey Paw on McArthur & Outer Park
The Alamo
Jeff & Joie, Inc.

Place to see local art
The Art of Licking
An Art of Licking a Fair Art - Forgotten
Dad Memphis Tobacco Company

Free entertainment
Cape Inn
An Art of Licking a Fair Art - Forgotten
Dad Memphis Tobacco Company

Food delivery
Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site

Nonprofit serving the local community
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26 | www.illinoistimes.com | September 16-22, 2021
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September is prime season at farmers markets across the Midwest. School may be back in session and the leaves beginning to show a slight hint of ochre, but for farmers and gardeners this is the time when the bulk of summer produce is at its peak. While it’s true that sweet corn and peaches are done for the season, the rest of the season’s bounty is in full swing. Hot weather fruits like eggplants, tomatoes and peppers have finally had enough hot days and sunlight to really give forth, and the cooler nighttime temperatures mean that more heat-sensitive vegetables like radishes, spinach, arugula and lettuce are back on the menu. Mild weather also yields sweeter tasting root crops and cruciferous vegetables like carrots, beets, turnips, kale, collard greens and Brussels sprouts, which will begin popping up in the next few weeks. Concord grapes can be found from time to time, in addition to other orchard fruits, including apples, pears and my personal favorite – damson plums. All this in addition to the delightful deluge of winter squash that has already begun.

This summer seemed to fly by particularly fast and I’m looking forward to finally doing some canning and preserving over the next few weeks. I’m excited to try my hand at hot pepper jelly for the first time, as well as some beloved family recipes like plum jam, sweet bread and butter pickles and Nana’s Chili Sauce. A friend gave me a jar of green tomato chutney last year and I enjoyed it so much that I’m going to attempt to replicate it. The Old Capitol Farmers Market is open in downtown Springfield on Wednesdays and Saturdays through the end of October. Suttill’s Garden and Jeffries Orchard are open through Thanksgiving, and the Apple Barn in Chatham is open year round. Below are two market-inspired recipes that manage to be at once cozy and light, perfect for enjoying on a warm autumn afternoon.

### Roasted Beet and Delicata Squash Salad
Serves two as a main course

- 2 medium beets, scrubbed
- 1 delicata squash
- 1-2 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- salt and pepper to taste
- 4-6 ounces arugula (two large handfuls)

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Line a baking sheet with foil or parchment. Peel the beets and cut them into ½-inch dice. Toss them lightly with olive oil and season with about ¼ teaspoon salt. Arrange the beet cubes on half of the baking sheet and transfer to the oven for 10 minutes.

While the beets are roasting cut the ends off the delicata squash and then slice it in half lengthwise. Scoop out the seeds in the middle then cut the squash into 1/4-inch slices. Toss the slices with olive oil, season with salt and pepper. After 10 minutes of baking, remove the beets cubes from the oven and arrange the squash slices on the other half of the baking sheet. Return to the oven for an additional 15-20 minutes, until the beets are tender and the squash is beginning to lightly brown.

While the squash and beets finish cooking, make the dressing by combining all the ingredients in a jar along with a splash of water and whisking or shaking vigorously.

Arrange large handfuls of arugula in the center of a shallow bowl or plate. Divide the Roasted Beet and Delicata Squash Salad

### Mediterranean Stuffed Peppers

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees and line a baking sheet with parchment or foil. Cut the eggplant and zucchini into ½-inch dice and roughly chop the onion. Toss with two tablespoons of olive oil and season lightly with salt. Arrange in a single layer on the baking sheet and bake in the hot oven for 25-30 minutes, stirring once, until beginning to turn golden brown.

While the vegetables are roasting prepare the peppers and the rest of the filling. Char the skin of the peppers over an open flame, then transfer to a bowl and cover until cool enough to handle. Remove the charred skin without tearing the pepper, then remove the stem and scoop out the seeds, keeping the pepper whole for stuffing.

Combine the chopped anchovies or fish sauce, chopped tomato, herbs, minced garlic and breadcrumbs or quinoa and mix well. When the vegetables in the oven are done, transfer them to the mixing bowl along with the tomato mixture and toss to combine. Taste for seasoning and adjust as needed.

Stuff the peppers with the eggplant-tomato mixture and arrange in an oiled baking dish. Top with cheese if desired and drizzle with the remaining 2 tablespoons of olive oil. Bake for 25-30 minutes. Serve warm or at room temperature. Keeps well in the fridge for up to 3 days.

Ashley Meyer lives and writes in Springfield with her husband, two kids and numerous pets. Ever the undaunted gardener, she’s planning to spend the weekend pulling out failed cucumber and zucchini plants and sowing autumn veggies like watermelon radishes and spinach, with fingers crossed for a late frost.
I am not a scientist nor a lab technician, yet here I was on a Sunday afternoon filling test tubes in the laboratory at the Nipper Wildlife Sanctuary nature center. My interest in the natural environment is deep, but rather than delving into the technicalities of environmental science, I have typically sought the 19th century-type contemplations of nature writers such as Henry David Thoreau: "Only that day dawns to which we are awake." But these days science – from which both knowledge and wonder can spring – has been pulling me in another direction.

The lab at Nipper, which is approximately 12 miles southwest of Springfield in Sangamon County, is of a makeshift variety. But all the necessary components are present in the cramped space that barely allows for two workers. Fill pipette with sampled water, transfer to test tube, shake, wipe with a special tissue, insert into analyzer, record data. I was acting as a volunteer assistant to Charlene Falco of The Friends of the Sangamon Valley, testing samples gathered earlier at the site for a wetland hydrology and water quality study. The Friends, on behalf of the Nipper Foundation, have undertaken this study to determine the effectiveness of the five stair-step wetlands created at the sanctuary, not only for their ecological value, but also for their ability to capture chemicals and sediment that may run off from the adjacent farm fields. This runoff eventually discharges into the South Fork of Lick Creek, which is within the Lake Springfield watershed.

Restoration of the site began in the late 1990s with the reestablishment of tallgrass prairie, and knowledge gained here will inform future restorations. Outside of the nature center lab are 120 acres of privately held habitat that, along with prairie, includes a floodplain forest and emergent wetlands. When walking the trails of sanctuaries such as Nipper, the role science has played lurks out of sight like the immense prairie roots burrowing deep into the ground. More likely we consider the manpower – the digging, the planting, the invasive species removal, the creation of trails. And rightly so, these are monumental efforts. But where would we be without the researchers and their studies and models and databases that compile a history of life and help us put the pieces back together in these efforts?

From tables and graphs come critical habitats, clean watersheds and a diversity of species.

PIPETTING WATER INTO A TEST TUBE with rubber-gloved hands seems the ultimate representation of what people dislike most about science and scientists – the possible detachment caused by the lab work and paperwork and computers that separate the scientist from that with which they are studying; the unraveling of diverse habitats into their unrecognized pieces; the reduction of living beings into quantifiable elements. Worse, they dislike science itself because it constantly challenges assumptions. Yet it is scientific research that underlies the most incredible, almost fantastical knowledge of our world.

Writing about how mind-boggling scientific findings can be, the famous physicist Richard Feynman reminded us of the basic fact that all of us are stuck “by a mysterious attraction” to a spinning ball that has been “swinging in space for billions of years.” He states: “It shows that the imagination of nature is far, far greater than the imagination of man.”

Because of scientific study, we know that it is gravity that keeps us from flying off our planet. And, through identification and categorization of species, through careful and sustained observation and documentation, through tables of numbers meticulously compiled decade upon decade, we continue to amass information about life’s connections. It is only recently that research dedicated to birds, the long-acknowledged bellwethers of environmental health, has revealed surprising similarities between our species. As described in The Genius of Birds, scientists have discovered that chickadees have one of the most sophisticated and exciting systems of communication of any land animal; that.

Through these studies we begin to know a species more intimately – as colleagues rather than strangers – we can better understand their likes and dislikes, their quirks and bad habits, and the other species they associate with. We build from individual relationships to communities. We build to the science of ecology, a form of study that has its roots in Illinois.

In 1887, the chief of the Illinois Natural History Survey, Stephen Forbes, presented a paper now considered one of the founding documents of the science of ecology in the United States. It is called “The Lake as a Microcosm,” in which he detailed the idea of an “organic complex.” He explained that it would be impossible to make a complete study of any species without factoring in its relationship to other species, that it is necessary to know the whole to understand any of the parts.

Forbes’ idea seems so fundamental today. But that’s the thing about science – we tend to forget that at one time we did not know that we are stuck to the spinning Earth by gravity, or that the concept of ecology, which relates organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings, was once groundbreaking. We don’t often stop to consider why we know what we know. And because the fundamental role of science is to build upon findings of the past and to never, ever, assume that we have uncovered all there is to learn, studies of critical habitat and species often proceed unnoticed like structural beams that keep the roof from falling on our heads.

In 2019, the National Audubon Society released a climate science report called “Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink.” The report presents information about 604 species compiled from a whopping 140 million bird records and more than 70 data sources. The report found 64% of North American species “were moderately or highly vulnerable to climate change.” Using various rise-in-temperature scenarios and computer modeling, the climate science team looked toward what the future may hold for the birds – and for us. “They are nature’s early indicators of harm to the environment that is also our life-support system.”...” the report states. And in case you think that climate-related bird losses will occur only somewhere far away,
the team has created a “Birds and Climate Visualizer” that allows the user to enter a ZIP code to learn the vulnerability of birds in the user’s immediate area. Yet the report ends with a note of optimism. There is still time to change course. “Audubon is translating these scientific findings into an action plan for bird conservation and public policy change.” We can help.

From tables and graphs come predictions, warnings and a call to action.

THE FIRST STAGE OF STUDY at the Nipper Wildlife Sanctuary is complete, and the next stage is now underway. The 2019 initial-stage report presents findings regarding the effectiveness of the wetland restoration efforts in removing chemicals from field runoff. I read such lines as: “This data establishes a solid baseline allowing characterization of the seasonal patterns and ambient conditions of water levels and numerous water quality parameters.” I stifle a yawn and proceed. This is no eloquent nature contemplation, but I remind myself that it is only because of scientific research and the accompanying reports that we understand runoff patterns and the potential dangers of chemicals in our water.

Now I get to exciting part: “Results from the study indicate...the wetlands are reducing key non-point source pollutants and thereby contributing to water quality enhancement within the Lake Springfield watershed.” The wetlands are working.

On a crisp fall day I spend time outside the Nipper lab wandering the trails, listening to the rattle of the wind in the drying prairie plants, admiring the rush of goldenrod and appreciative butterflies, and snapping photos of the stately architecture of dried blossoms that provide for numerous birds and pollinators. I lean over the rail of the bridge near the nature center that crosses the first of the series of wetlands being sampled for the study. The water is now depleted in this wetland, but I enjoy playing Find the Hidden Frog, staring intently at the shallow puddles and muck until suddenly a frog that only moments before had blended completely with its surroundings suddenly and inexplicably, like an image in a hidden-picture puzzle, becomes discernible – as does another – and another.

It is typical at such times for my thoughts to turn to the romanticized musings of writers extolling the wonder of nature. But instead my thoughts turn to science and a suggestion made by Rachel Carson, the biologist and conservationist who saved countless birds from decimation by DDT with the science she compiled and reported in her 1962 book, *Silent Spring*. She said: “One way to open your eyes is to ask yourself, ‘What if I had never seen this before? What if I knew I would never see it again?’” And, really, Thoreau and Carson are telling us the same thing – pay attention.

From tables and graphs come awareness, success stories and hope.

Jeanne Townsend Handy of Springfield holds an M.A. in Environmental Studies and is a member of the Society of Environmental Journalists. As a freelance writer, she enjoys exploring the science and dedication underlying habitat restoration and protection efforts. Contact her at jthandy@comcast.net.
We Don’t Just Throw Any Event
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The devil comes to Illinois
You’ll recognize the places, and some people

BOOK REVIEW | Karen Ackerman Witter

Jake Brosky, the crack detective for the St. Louis World, is back in Taylor Pensoneau’s third novel, Devil on the Prairie. Set primarily in Illinois, this is the third novel in Pensoneau’s trilogy. The fictional story is infused with historical events and actual places from small towns in Illinois to the streets of Paris, hotels in Madrid and the Italian countryside. Pensoneau, of New Berlin, says his literary style is to bring in people and events to give his stories a sense of reality and authenticity. The real people and places woven into his stories are never in a negative context. The main characters and protagonists, and places described in a negative manner, are all made up.

In Devil on the Prairie, a Nazi officer who was at Dachau has made a new life in southern Illinois working for the KH Tractor company. Someone in Illinois recognizes him from a stint during the war and later ends up dead, reportedly by suicide. Unconvinced, Brosky sets about to uncover what happened and why.

The Sangamo Club, Lake Club, Old Lux and the Mill are familiar Springfield places with references in the story. Mother Jones, Toulouse-Lautrec and Ernest Hemingway are just a few of the diverse characters that make it into Pensoneau’s latest novel. The Spanish Civil War and coal mine fatalities and labor issues are examples of the range of historical events referenced in the story. Settings and establishments are reflections on places Pensoneau has visited. For example, when the Nazi officer meets his girlfriend in Italy, the scenes and locations are based on Pensoneau’s own travels.

Some characters from the first two books – Summer of ’50 and Falling Star – find their way into Devil on the Prairie, such as the blond bombshell from southern Illinois, a former Illinois governor who is now president and a gangster from southern Illinois. Astute readers will guess who Pensoneau had in mind when describing the fictional Illinois governor, Elijah Sanderson, and the fictional gangster, Harry Fontaine.

While Falling Star left the reader a bit uncertain about the outcome, there is closure to the story in Devil on the Prairie. Although this is the end of the trilogy, Jake Brosky isn’t finished. He will make another appearance in Pensoneau’s next work of fiction which he is currently writing. The working title is Corruption Incorporated, fictionalized stories about his own investigations when he was a reporter. Pensoneau is a former Illinois political writer for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and former president of the Illinois Coal Association. These experiences are evident in all of Pensoneau’s novels.

Pensoneau, 80, is the author of numerous nonfiction books including biographies on former governors Dan Walker and Richard Ogilvie and books about downstate gangsters. He has no intention of writing another nonfiction book. Pensoneau says it is so much easier to write fiction than nonfiction. Nonfiction requires a different level of responsibility to be precise and play it straight, conducting interviews, researching archives and traveling. Pensoneau says writing fiction “lets my imagination run wild. It’s just fun.”

Pensoneau will be signing books at Capone’s Hideout in New Berlin on Sunday, Sept. 19, 12:30-3 p.m. Devil on the Prairie is available at Books on the Square in Virden and Springfield or downstatepublications@mchsi.com.

Karen Ackerman Witter first met Taylor Pensoneau when she was director of the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources and Pensoneau worked for the Illinois Coal Association. She previously wrote a review of Falling Star for Illinois Times.
Hey there folks, saddle up for a big ride this weekend as there are more things happening than you could shake several sticks at, if you were ever so inclined to do such a thing.

Let’s begin with the three-day celebration of 3Sixteen Wine Bar’s fourth anniversary featuring — what else — live music to enhance and enrich the party. The inimitable Micah Walk performs on Friday night (6–9) and the Buddy Rogers Jazz Trio with Jose Gobbo and Ben Taylor improvises the jazz on Saturday (6–9), while Rhodes and Battles play in sweet harmony on Sunday (4–7). Congratulations on the four years, and thanks for keeping the music going.

On Friday night, a world-class, platinum-selling, heavy-hand band for the ages, Saliva, takes to the outdoor stage at Danenberger’s Family Vineyards. This is a real-deal, world-renowned band and anyone who’s heard them gets it. Inner Outlines, Influence and John Kennedy & the Multiple Shooters complete the loaded lineup, so visit the DFV website and get your tix now before you miss out.

Next up, there’s a BuzzFest Squared Oktoberfest happening this Saturday at the Buzz Bomb Brewing Co. in downtown Springfield. The all-day street fest starts at 2 and goes on into the wee hours in part to salute Buzz Bomb buzzing around for some three-and-a-half years. For the second part of the celebration, our very own homegrown band, Square of the Roots, plays a release party for their recording debut, “Unincorporated,” while incorporating some very special guests for this very special occasion. Chicken Wire Empire headlines on the street stage, along with performances by Joshua Reilly, Peaches & Bacon and Randy Charles, plus Colt Ball plays inside after the outdoor festivities conclude. Go to the brewery website for the buzz on VIP seating, regular tickets and scheduling.

Fans of the now decades-old alt-country scene will be familiar with Wales, UK native and longtime Chicago resident Jon Langford of the Waco Brothers, the Mekons and other bands. On Saturday, Jon, joined by John Szymanski, will do two acoustic sets (11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.) at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in the main indoor plaza. The show is included with your museum admission fee.

There’s another ALPLM show next Thursday, Sept. 30, when the Red Prairie Ramblers, a traditional, old-time folk and country band dedicated to playing and preserving rare southern and central Illinois songs and fiddle tunes, plays a ticketed event in the Union Theater. All this compliments the current museum exhibit, “The State of Sound: A World of Music from Illinois,” which focuses on the history of music made in the Prairie State.

At Weebles, on Saturday, Sleeping Dogzz – after only 25 years of playing (haha) – are retiring to the doghouse, and this is the farewell gig. The current lineup welcomes three previous members to the stage for one last hurrah during this momentous occasion. You’ll get only two more chances to catch these Dogzz, Oct. 17 at Weebles for a Crimestoppers benefit and Oct. 29 at Koo Koos 2 for the final gig, so get to going.

On Saturday, friends of pets unleash the Chatham Paws-a-Palooza in Community Park for a “pet-friendly (on leash) and family-friendly event” with plenty of live music, plus the St. Louis Disc Dogs, a pet/owner costume contest, animal shelters with adoptable animals, refreshments and other fun stuff. Groove Daddies go at 1 p.m., Dave Littrell is on at 3 and Wolf Crick Boys hit at 5:30 p.m. Oh, did I mention the big kite festival, too?

Well now, who says, there ain’t nuttin’ to do in this ol’ town?
LIVE MUSIC
Live music within 40 miles of Springfield. Dates, times and locations are subject to change, so we suggest calling before attending an event.

Attention bands, bars and musicians: submit your shows and photos online at www.illinoistimes.com or by email calendar@illinoistimes.com.

Thursday
Sep 16

Frank Foster
Boondocks, 7pm

Me, Myself and Schy
Boone’s, 6-9pm

Buckhart Road
Curate, 6:30pm

Jeff Young and the Bad Grandpas
The Stadium Bar & Grill, 6-10pm

Birds of a Feather
Third Base Sports Bar, 7-10pm

Ultraviolet
Weebles Bar & Grill, 6:30-10:30pm

Saturday
Sep 18

Buddy Rogers Jazz Trio
3Sixteen Wine Bar, Chatham, 6-9pm

Jameson Freeway
The Blue Grouse Pub, 6:30-10:30pm

Groove Daddies, Dave Littrell, Wolf Crick Boys
Chatham Community Park, Chatham, 1-6:30pm

The Remix
Crows Mill Pub, 6:30-10:30pm

Off the Wall
Curve Inn, 6:30-9:30pm

Cocktails
Harvest Market Farmhouse Brews, 6-9pm

Al Kitchen
Jelleybean Bar and Gaming, Mechanicsburg, 7-10pm

Ryan’s Way
Locals Bar, Pawnee, 6-10pm

Ink Cloud, Awkward, Artificial Light
Main Gate Bar & Grill, 9pm-12am

Positively 4th Street
Sangamo Brewing Co., Chatham, 7:30pm

Wowie Zowie with Eva Hunter and Piano Mar
Sheedy Shores WineGarden, Loami, 4-7pm

Car Pool and Damned Torpedoes
Sherman Village Park Amphitheater, Sherman, 6:30-10pm

Rockhouse
The Stadium Bar & Grill, 6:30-10:30pm

Jason McKenzie
Third Base Sports Bar, 8-11pm

Ella Gibson
Walnut Street Winery, Rochester, 6-9pm

Sleeping Dogzz
Weebles Bar & Grill, 6pm

Sunday
Sep 19

Rhodes and Battles
3Sixteen Wine Bar, Chatham, 4-7pm

Johnnie Owens
The Alibi, Rochester, 5-8pm

Joel Honey
Brewski’s Pub, 2-5pm

Lil Higgy and the House Rockers
Brookhills Golf Club, 3pm

Live jam
Curve Inn, 5-9pm

Tom Irwin
Harvest Market coffee bar, 10am-1pm

Schy & Jonathan
It’s All About Wine, 3-6pm

Tom Beverly and Geoff Ryan
Trails End Saloon, Curran, 5-8pm

Curt Smith
Vixen Hill Winery, Palmyra, 2-5pm

Brandy Kristin & The Revival
Weebles Bar & Grill, 6:30-9:30pm

Monday
Sep 20

Amanda Fish
The Alamo, 7pm

Al Kitchen
The Stadium Bar & Grill, 6-9pm

Tuesday
Sep 21

J.C.B. Entertainment Karaoke
The Alibi, Rochester, 6pm-12am

Open mic with The Tangents
George Rank’s, 7-10pm

Wednesday
Sep 22

Open mic
Boone’s, 6-10pm

Al Kitchen
Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill and Museum, 6-9pm

Open mic with Jim Ackerman
Wings Etc, 6-9pm
THE CALENDAR

Send us your events! Deadline: 5pm Fri. Submit online at: www.illinoistimes.com. Email: calendar@illinoistimes.com.

Dates, times and locations are subject to last-minute changes, so we suggest calling before attending events.

ART | Springfield Art Association

Join the Springfield Art Association on its historic campus for the 33rd annual Edwards Place Fine Art Fair. For the past 30 years the lawn of historic Edwards Place has been transformed into an outdoor art market. Many favorite local artists are returning to the fair this year and plenty of new artists will also be in attendance. In all, over 50 artists from across the Midwest will display and sell their works including ceramics, metalwork, glass, wood, fibers and jewelry, along with photography, paintings and prints. Visitors can watch artist demonstrations, check out the selection of used art books for sale or try some hands-on art activities. Several local bands will provide live entertainment. Food vendors will be on site, and a beer and wine tent will be open. The event is pet-friendly and admission is free. springfieldart.org.

[Image 54x290 to 70x306]

[Image 54x234]Dave Shaw and musical director Steiner in partnership with designer by HCFTA Board President Leigh and its major fundraiser. Directed Hoogland’s annual gala event magical streaming event is the 36 |

Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth St., 217-523-2631

THE CALENDAR


Enos Park Historic Home Tours Sat., Sep. 18, 1-5pm. Tour historic homes in various stages of renovation. Tickets available at the booth at the Edwards Place Fine Arts Fair.$10. 217-553-4629.

Spinning event Fri., Sep. 24, 12-6pm and Sat., Sep. 25. This informal event offers an opportunity to observe experienced spinners and to practice on various wheels, even if you have never spun. Leave for meals or bring a brown bag. Register by Sep. 20. $20-$40. Jubilee Farm, 6760 Old Jacksonville Road, 217-787-6927.

Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 S. Sixth St., 217-523-2787.

Food & Drink


History


Interview with President/General Ulysses S Grant Wed., Sep. 22, 7pm. Fellow Illinoisan Ulysses S Grant is one of the least understood of our American heroes. Played by Larry Werline, Grant will be interviewed with no question off-limits. Hosted by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation. Register for the Zoom link at alplm.org. 217-557-5610.

Faith & Philosophy


Yom Kippur Thu., Sep. 16, 10am Morning Service, 5pm Healing Service, 6pm Memorial Service, 6:30pm Ne’ila. Services available on the YouTube channel or call to request in-person service attendance. templebrittholom.com. Temple B’rith Sholom, 1004 S. Fourth St., 217-525-1360.

Fairs & Festivals

Abraham Lincoln National Railsplitting Festival Sat., Sep. 18, 9am-6pm and Sun., Sep. 19, 10am-4pm. Working crafts, pioneer village, children’s activities, displays, live music, food. Ptoville Courthouse State Historic Site, Lincoln, 914 Fifth St, 217-732-8900.

Buzzfest Squared Sat., Sep. 18, 2pm. In true Oktoberfest fashion, this festival highlights local and regional breweries, live music, games for all ages and food trucks and craft vendors. Come spend the afternoon or evening with the family as this is an all-ages event. In collaboration with Elderbeard Musicwerx. Buzz Bomb Brewing Co., 406 E. Adams St.


Fall Festival Sep. 18-19, 9am-4pm. Music, food, children’s activities, crafts, artisans, reenactments and tours. Clayville Historic Site, Pleasant Plains, Route 125, 217-481-4430.

100 Year Open House Sat., Sep. 18, 1-4pm. Come celebrate MJ Kellner’s 100 years in the community. Food trucks, buildings tours, music and more to say thank you for your support through the years. MJ Kellner Foodservice, 5700 International Pkwy., 217-483-1700.


Friends of Lincoln Library Fall Book Collection Sat., Sep. 18, 9am-12pm. Accepting gently used books, CDs, DVDs, and vinyl. Drop off in the northside alley. Hosted by Friends of Lincoln Library. Lincoln Library, 326 S. Seventh St., 217-753-4900.

Junior League Sanga-Run 45-Mile Challenge Oct. 1-30. A virtual event to support the league’s mission of addressing food insecurity in the community. Get moving at least 1.5 miles per day for the entire month of October, in doing so you will travel virtually roughly the distance across Sangamon county. Register by Sep. 22 to receive swag. 30.

Children’s Corner

Talk Like a Pirate Day Sat., Sep. 18, 11am-12pm. Ahoy, scallywags and sprogs alike! It’s Talk Like a Pirate Day, so celebrate with some tales from the high seas, a craft fit for Davy Jones himself, and of course some tooth rot (pirate speak for sugar). Free. Lincoln Library, 330 S. Seventh St., 217-753-4900.

Nature, Science & Environment

Curiosity Week Sep. 18-24. Express your curiosity and wonder throughout the natural history exhibit, Changes, by posting questions and comments on the exhibit itself. The comments will then be posted on social media throughout the week. illinoisstatemuseum.org.

The Dogs of Chernobyl Tue., Sep. 21, 7pm. Thirty-five years after the nuclear accident, Stephen Quandt participated in a research campaign of the dogs that were descended from those left behind after the disaster. He

36 | www.illinoistimes.com | September 16-22, 2021
**THE CALENDAR**

**Clayville Fall Festival**
Sat.-Sun., Sept. 18-19, 9 a.m.
Clayville Historic Site
Route 125
Pleasant Plains
217-481-4430

**Festivals | Pleasant Plains Historical Society**

The Pleasant Plains Historical Society will host the annual Clayville Fall Festival this weekend. The Broadwell Inn, the oldest brick building in Sangamon County, will be open for tours. See the other log cabins, schoolhouse and agricultural museum where blacksmiths, tinsmiths and other period artisans will demonstrate their work and you can see what life was like as an early settler in Illinois. Visit with fur traders and backwoodsmen, and listen to Thomas Lincoln’s son, Abe, talk about his youth and riverboat days. While you check out the wares of the craft vendors, the kids can join in some activities that have been planned especially for them. The Templetons and Chris Vallillo Music will provide some musical entertainment that will fit right in with the festival scene. Food will be available all weekend. Admission is free, but donations are always welcome. clayville.org.

- **FALL BASH**
  - **Backyard Bash**
    - **Saturday, October 16, 2021**
      - **6:00 PM | Piper Glen Golf Course**
      - **Entertainment by: Nick Creek**
      - **AND FEATURING FOOD TRUCKS FROM:**
        - Allen Concessions | Azteca | Cheesed Out
      - **Brought to you by these awesome sponsors:**
        - [Company Logos]
      - **Tickets can be purchased at the door. For more information contact: BCEFEvents@gmail.com**

**Bulletin Board**

**Antique show and sale**

**The Architecture of Place and Sound**
Tue., Sep. 21, 11:30am. In this online program David Finnigan will discuss his research of the history and gardens of Allerton Park. Dr. Paula Pugh Romanaux will discuss Andrew Carnegie’s Organ Benefactions. Part of the UIS Lunch and Learn Series. Call for more information. UIS Student Union, One William Maxwell Lane, 217-206-6058.

**The Breakfast Club**
Wed., Sep. 22, 7:30-8:15am. Join a conversation over coffee with Superintendent Jennifer Gill who will discuss moving District 186 beyond the COVID epidemic, focusing on student learning and ongoing facilities improvements. Hosted by the Springfield Public Schools Foundation. A hybrid event. Call for info to join online. Donations are welcomed and appreciated at any level. INB Conference Center, Fourth and Jackson, 217-525-4408.

**Fall Bird Fair**
Sun., Sep. 19, 9am-4pm. Birds, bird toys, cages, bird food and more. Hosted by the Illini Bird fanciers, Inc. Admission is $3, children 12 and under are free. Located in the J. Ag Building, Enter through Gate 11 on Eighth Street, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-691-5344.

**Holiday Food Drive**
Mondays-Fridays, 8am-5pm. Senior Services of Central Illinois will begin scheduling appointment to help seniors understand their Medicare Part D options. Open enrollment is from Oct. 15-Dec. 7. Senior Services of Central Illinois, 701 W. Mason St., 217-528-4035.

**Health & Fitness**

**Medicare Part D Open Enrollment**
Mondays-Fridays, 8am-5pm. Senior Services of Central Illinois will begin scheduling appointment to help seniors understand their Medicare Part D options. Open enrollment is from Oct. 15-Dec. 7. Senior Services of Central Illinois, 701 W. Mason St., 217-528-4035.

**Holiday Food Drive**
Mondays-Fridays, 8am-5pm. Senior Services of Central Illinois’ RSVP program is accepting donations of food items for holiday baskets to be given to seniors in need. Senior Services of Central Illinois, 701 W. Mason St., 217-528-4035.

**Rally for the Arts**

**Antique Auto Show**
Sat., Sep. 18, 9am-4pm. Join a conversation over coffee with Superintendent Jennifer Gill who will discuss moving District 186 beyond the COVID epidemic, focusing on student learning and ongoing facilities improvements. Hosted by the Springfield Public Schools Foundation. A hybrid event. Call for info to join online. Donations are welcomed and appreciated at any level. INB Conference Center, Fourth and Jackson, 217-525-4408.

**Health & Fitness**

**Medicare Part D Open Enrollment**
Mondays-Fridays, 8am-5pm. Senior Services of Central Illinois will begin scheduling appointment to help seniors understand their Medicare Part D options. Open enrollment is from Oct. 15-Dec. 7. Senior Services of Central Illinois, 701 W. Mason St., 217-528-4035.

**Antiq show and sale**

**NIGHT BASH**

**Backyard Bash**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2021**

**6:00 PM | PIPER GLEN GOLF COURSE**

**Entertainment by: Nick Creek**

**AND FEATURING FOOD TRUCKS FROM:**

**Allen Concessions | Azteca | Cheesed Out**

**Brought to you by these awesome sponsors:**

- [Company Logos]

**Tickets can be purchased at the door. For more information contact: BCEFEvents@gmail.com**

**The Owls of Forest Park**
Thu., Sep. 16, 6-7:30pm. Mark H.X. Glenshaw is an award-winning naturalist. He will discuss how he found great horned owls in Forest Park, basic facts about the species and the different behaviors he has been able to see and document with photos and videos. Presented by the Springfield Audubon Society. Adams Wildlife Sanctuary, 2315 E. Clear Lake Ave., 217-544-2473.

**Theresa Caputo**
Sat., Sep. 18, 7:30pm. Theresa Caputo, a practicing medium for over 20 years, will share personal stories about her life and explain how her gift works. She helps individuals find closure by delivering healing messages. $39.75-$89.75. BoS Center, 1 Convention Center Plaza, 800-745-3000.

**Jacksonville Cruise Nite**
Sat., Sep. 18, 10am-5pm. One of the largest cruise events in Illinois. Come to the car show during the day and stay for the cruise that evening along Morton Avenue with Hardees serving as the headquarters. This event brings in classic and antique autos for a day of fun for the whole family. Jacksonville Community Park, Jacksonville, 1201 S. Main, 217-473-1122.

**Fall Bird Fair**
Sun., Sep. 19, 9am-4pm. Birds, bird toys, cages, bird food and more. Hosted by the Illini Bird fanciers, Inc. Admission is $3, children 12 and under are free. Located in the J. Ag Building, Enter through Gate 11 on Eighth Street, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., 217-691-5344.

**Holiday Food Drive**
Mondays-Fridays, 8am-5pm. Senior Services of Central Illinois will begin scheduling appointment to help seniors understand their Medicare Part D options. Open enrollment is from Oct. 15-Dec. 7. Senior Services of Central Illinois, 701 W. Mason St., 217-528-4035.

**Clayville Fall Festival**
Sat.-Sun., Sept. 18-19, 9 a.m.
Clayville Historic Site
Route 125
Pleasant Plains
217-481-4430
Real Estate Foreclosure

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY—SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC
Plaintiff,
vs.
Shane Holbrook; Meghan H. Holbrook aka Meghan Holbrook
Defendants.

CASE NO. 19 CH 294
11 Corn Silk Lane, Divernon, Illinois 62530
NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE
Public notice is hereby given that in pursuance of a judgment of said Court entered in the above-entitled cause on December 4, 2019, I, Sheriff Jack Campbell of Sangamon County, Illinois, will hold a sale on October 26, 2021, 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, or so much thereof as may be sufficient to satisfy said decree, to wit:

Commonly known as: 11 Corn Silk Lane, Divernon, Illinois 62530
P.I.N.: 35-21.0-276-039

First mortgage Lien Position; Single-Family Residence; Judgment Amount $169,736.89

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

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

For bidding instructions, visit www.dallegal.com 24 hours prior to sale.

Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC
1771 W. Diehl Rd., Ste 120
Naperville, IL  60563-4947
630-453-6960 | 866-402-8661 | 630-428-4620 (Fax)
Attorney No. Cook 64727, DuPage 293191, Kane 031-26104, Peoria 1794, Winnebago 3802, IL 03126232
MidwestPleadings@dallegal.com

THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR.
You have the right to remain in possession for 30 days after entry of an order of possession. After that time, if you do not vacate, the Court may order you to vacate and sell the real estate at the rate of $1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed $300, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/95(g)(1) and (g)(4). If you are the mortgagor (home owner), you have the right to remain in possession for 30 days after entry of an order of possession, in accordance with section 15-1701(c) of the Illinois Mortgage Foreclosure Law.

In the circuit court of the 7th judicial circuit, Sangamon County, Illinois. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., Successor, by Merger to Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota, National Association, as Trustee for First Franklin Mortgage Loan Trust 2003-FH2 Asset-Backed Certificates Series 2003-FH2 Plaintiff,

VS.

MISTI M. MCCLELLAR, CHRISTOPHER A. MCCLELLAR, MIDLAND FUNDING LLC, PORTFOLIO RECOVERY ASSOCIATES LLC, Defendants.

Case Number: 20 CH 175

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale within and without the State of Illinois, Sangamon County, Case No. 20 CH 175, that the Court has ordered that the above-entitled property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 1 Conestoga Drive, Auburn, IL 62615

Parcel Number(s): 34-03.0-405-001, 34-03.0-405-002, 34-03.0-405-005

The real estate is improved with a Single Family Residence, one story single family home, detached garage, carport, fence, yard, deck, sidewalk, and driveway.

The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility for paying any and all taxes levied against the subject real estate, water bills, etc., and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff and in "as is" condition.

The sale will be held in the full amount of the bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property is sold "as is", and the subject to any and all liens, taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate, if any. In addition, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which is part of a common interest community under the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 655/95(g)(1) and (g)(4).

If the property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 655/95(g)(1) and (g)(4).

If you are the mortgagor (home owner), you have the right to remain in possession for 30 days after entry of an order of possession, in accordance with section 15-1701(c) of the Illinois Mortgage Foreclosure Law.

You will need a photo identification issued by the government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County. Please refer to file number 14-17-02467. 1747416.

In the circuit court of the seventh judicial circuit, Sangamon County, Illinois. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. Plaintiff, vs. ROSE WILLIAMS a/k/a ROSIE M WILLIAMS, Defendants.

Case No. 19 CH 301

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above-entitled cause on August 25, 2021, Sheriff Jack L. Campbell, #1 Sheriff's Office, Sangamon County, Case No. 21-094384, the public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale entered in the above-entitled cause on August 25, 2021, an attorney for the Judicial Sales Corporation, 1 Conestoga Drive, Auburn, IL 62615, on October 5, 2021, at the hour of 9:00 AM, at Sangamon County courthouse, 200 South 6th Street, Springfield, IL 62701, as a public auction, shall sell at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 1 Conestoga Drive, Auburn, IL 62615

Parcel Number(s): 34-03.0-405-001, 34-03.0-405-002, 34-03.0-405-005

The real estate is improved with a Single Family Residence, one story single family home, detached garage, carport, fence, yard, deck, sidewalk, and driveway.

The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

The successful purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 655/95(g)(1) and (g)(4).

If you are the mortgagor (home owner), you have the right to remain in possession for 30 days after entry of an order of possession, in accordance with section 15-1701(c) of the Illinois Mortgage Foreclosure Law.

You will need a photo identification issued by the government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County. Please refer to file number 14-17-02467. 1747416.

You have the right to remain in possession for 30 days after entry of an order of possession. After that time, if you do not vacate, the Court may order you to vacate and sell the real estate at the rate of $1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed $300, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 655/95(g)(1) and (g)(4). If you are the mortgagor (home owner), you have the right to remain in possession for 30 days after entry of an order of possession, in accordance with section 15-1701(c) of the Illinois Mortgage Foreclosure Law.

You will need a photo identification issued by the government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County. Please refer to file number 14-17-02467. 1747416.
or a Certificate of Sale as required, which will entitle the purchaser to a deed upon confirmation of said sale by the Court. Commonly known as 316 East Madison Street, Riverfront, IL 62561.

Permanent Index No.: 15-10.0-352-014 improvements: Single Family Residential

The property will NOT be open for inspection prior to the sale and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. The judgment amount was $65,810.69. Prospective purchasers are admonished to check the court file and title records to verify this information. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGE (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For Bid Amount contact: Sale Clerk LOSS Legal Group LLP 2121 Waukegan Road, Suite 301 Bannockburn, IL 60015 INNOTICES@logs.com (847) 291-1717

Dated this 26th day of August, 2021. 

Letters of Office were issued on August 13, 2021 to Leigh Anne Van Houten, 2225 Lake Crest Drive, Springfield, IL 62712-5615 as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Alex B. Rabin. Bar, Segatto, Hoffer, Whike & Cate, LLP P.O. Box 79, Springfield, Illinois 62705. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701 or with the representative or both, on or before March 7, 2022, and any claim not filed or on before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Executor within 10 days after it has been filed. Paul Palazzolo Clerk of the Circuit Court IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS Estate of: David F. Drendel, Decedent. No. 2021-P-549 CLAIM NOTICE Notice is given of the death of David F. Drendel of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on August 26, 2021 to Kristin Drendel, 2200 Cloverfield Lane, Springfield, IL 62711, as Executor. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701 or with the representative or both, on or before March 16, 2022. Any claim not filed or on before that date is barred. Copies of the claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Executor within 10 days after it has been filed. Paul Palazzolo Clerk of the Circuit Court IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS Estate of: David F. Drendel, Decedent. No. 2021-P-549 CLAIM NOTICE Notice is given of the death of David F. Drendel of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on August 26, 2021 to Kristin Drendel, 608 Street, Springfield, IL 62702, as Executor. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701 or with the representative or both, on or before March 8, 2022, and any claim not filed or on 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. Dated this 26th day of August, 2021. Matthew J. Cate - 6272040 Barber, Segatto, Hoffer, Whike & Cate, LLP P.O. Box 79 Springfield, IL 62705-0079 (217) 544-4868 matthewcate@barberlaw.com 31408
NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE
11 Corn Silk Lane, Divernon, Illinois 62530
Meghan Holbrook;
Dated: Sept. 16, 2021
Jones to Gloria J. Wright pursuant to the
Gloria J. Wright
For change of name to
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
For change of name to
Jayden Michael Verderber
Case No.: 21-MR-1158
PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on Oct.
26, 2021 I will petition in said Court praying
for the change of name from Jayden
Michael Day to Jayden Michael Verderber pursuant to the statute in such case made
and provided.
DATED: Sept. 2, 2021
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notices of sheriff sale of 11 Corn Silk Lane,
Divernon, Illinois 62530; Meghan Holbrook;
Dated: Sept. 16, 2021
Jones to Gloria J. Wright pursuant to the
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
For change of name to
Jayden Michael Verderber
Case No.: 21-MR-1158
PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on Oct.
26, 2021 I will petition in said Court praying
for the change of name from Jayden
Michael Day to Jayden Michael Verderber pursuant to the statute in such case made
and provided.
DATED: Sept. 9, 2021
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that on Oct.
26, 2021 I will petition in said Court praying
for the change of name from Christopher
Wallace Jr. to Krishon Andre Thomas pursuant to the statute in such case made and
provided.
DATED: Sept. 2, 2021
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that on Oct.
26, 2021 I will petition in said Court praying
for the change of name from Michael Day to Jayden Michael Verderber pursuant to the statute in such case made and
provided.
DATED: Sept. 9, 2021
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that on Oct.
26, 2021 I will petition in said Court praying
for the change of name from Meghan Holbrook aka Meghan Holbrook
Defendants.
CASE NO. 19-CH-294
11 Corn Silk Lane, Divernon, Illinois 62530
NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE
Public Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of a judgment of said Court entered in the above-entitled cause on
December 9, 2019, I, Sheriff of Sangamon County, Illinois, will hold a sale on October 26, 2021, commencing at 9:00 AM in the Second
Floor Boardroom, at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701, to sell to the highest bidder for cash the
following described real estate, or so much thereof as may be sufficient to satisfy said decree, to-wit:
LOT 4, LOT 5, LOT 6, LOT 7, LOT 8, LOT 9, LOT 10, LOT 11, LOT 12, LOT 13, and LOT 14, WASHINGTON 16 NORTH, RANGE 5 WEST
OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, SAN-
GAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS AS RECORDED
with the Recorder of Deeds on May 11, 1999 as DOCUMENT NUMBER
144488 in Volume 172, Page 478-479.
IMPROVEMENTS: WHITE Vinyl Fencing, Detached one car garage
SITUATED IN SANGAMON COUNTY,
ILLINOIS
8051-91774
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY—SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee under
Pooling and Servicing Agreement
filed as dated as of July 1, 2004 MAST
Asset-Backed Securities Trust 2004-FRE-I
Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2004-FRE-
PLAINTIFF
Vs. 
Ebone D. Lott, et al.
Noticed: 11-12-2008
NOTICE OF SHERIFF’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
PROPERTY NO. 41-042-0602-0242-6966
The Notice of Sheriff’s Sale is hereby given pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on
April 10, 2009, in the Circuit Court of Sangamon County, Illinois, and in the name of
above-entitled cause on August 7, 2019, Sheriff
of Sangamon County, Illinois, Commonly known as: 11 Corn Silk Lane,
Divernon, Illinois 62530
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 11 Corn Silk Lane,
Divernon, Illinois 62530
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above case on August 25, 2021, for the
public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above case on August 25, 2021, for the
NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above case on August 25, 2021, for the
acquiring the residential real estate pursuant

acquiring the residential real estate pursuant
to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor, on the ground that the real estate, rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the subject. The property subject to auction is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is subject to all taxes, assessments, or special
taxes levied against said real estate and is subject to any lien bonds, or penalties, or levied against said real state and in lieu of any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale will be confirmed by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the court. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, or on any mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium Property Ownership Act, 775 ILCS 90/1 et seq. (the "Condominium Property Act").

If this is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser, on a Certificate of Sale or a Certificate of Sale as required, which will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate at the foreclosure sale, in the court.
Morgyn Hammonds, Respondent
vs.
Alexis Washington, Petitioner

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

Circuit Clerk
Paul Palazzolo

you for the relief asked in the complaint. A decree by default may be taken against
Day of September, 2021, a judgment or
Springfield, Illinois on or before the 30th
County, 200 South Ninth Street, Room 405,
your appearance in this case in the
Office of the Circuit Clerk of Sangamon
If you file your Answer or otherwise file your
Appearance in this cause in the Office of
the Circuit Clerk of Sangamon County,
Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth
St., Room 405, Springfield, Illinois, on or
before October 7, 2021, a judgment or
decree by default may be taken against
you for the relief asked in the complaint.

Paul Palazzolo
Clerk of the Court
Date: Sept. 9, 2021

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Morgan A. Davis, Petitioner

Ashley C. Wise, Respondent
Case No: 2021-OP-1172
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Ashley C. Wise, this cause has been
commenced against you in this Court
asking for an Order of Protection. Unless
you file your Answer or otherwise file your
Appearance in this cause in the Office of
the Circuit Clerk of Sangamon County,
Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth
St., Room 405, Springfield, Illinois, on or
before October 7, 2021, a judgment or
decree by default may be taken against
you for the relief asked in the complaint.

Paul Palazzolo
Clerk of the Court
Date: Sept. 16, 2021

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Sharon D. Heimss-Commer, Petitioner
vs.
Marquesha Davis, Respondent
Case No: 2021-OP-1101
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Marquesha Davis, this cause has been
commenced against you in this Court
asking for an Order of Protection. Unless
you file your Answer or otherwise file your
Appearance in this cause in the Office of
the Circuit Clerk of Sangamon County,
Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth
St., Room 405, Springfield, Illinois, on or
before October 7, 2021, a judgment or
decree by default may be taken against
you for the relief asked in the complaint.

Paul Palazzolo
Clerk of the Court
Date: Sept. 2, 2021

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Frank Johnson, Petitioner
and
Brandy N. Bagby, Respondent
Case No. 2021-F-2196
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Notice is given you Brandy N. Bagby, Re-
demant No. 2021R19895.
Non-record Claimants is October 11, 2021.

Tax ID Number (PIN): 22-07-183-019.
Recording document information: Docu-
ment No. 2021R19895.
Date of lien: July 21, 2021.
County where recorded: Sangamon
County, Illinois.
Common address or description of
the real estate is as follows:
3005 Clifton Drive, Springfield, Illinois.
Lot 170 of Colony West, Sixth Addition.

Name of lien creditor: City of Springfield,
County where recorded: Sangamon
County, Illinois.
Date of recording: July 22, 2021.
Date of lien: July 21, 2021.
Name of lien holder of record is:
David G. Cooley.

JoshJosh by J. Reynolds - No. 705
Fill the grid with digits so as not to repeat a digit in any row or column, and
so that the digits within each heavily outlined box will produce the
target number shown, by using addition, subtraction, multiplication or
division, as indicated in the box. A filled grid will use 1-6.

Difficulty hard

Sudoku No. 705
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains
every digit from 1 to 9 inclusive.
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